



RESERVE BANK OF FIJI

IMPORT SUBSTITUTION AND EXPORT FINANCE FACILITY GUIDELINES

**(For the use of Commercial Banks, Licensed Credit Institutions and the
Fiji Development Bank)**

Revised 25 September 2026

Financial Markets Group



RESERVE BANK OF FIJI

Progressive and Resilient Central Bank, Trusted by Our People

1.0 Introduction

The Import Substitution and Export Finance Facility (hereafter referred to as the **ISEFF**) was established by the Reserve Bank of Fiji (RBF) to support national efforts to strengthen Fiji's balance of payments position. The Facility provides concessional financing to registered businesses engaged in exporting goods and services, large-scale commercial agriculture, renewable energy investments, and public transportation. Through this support, the ISEFF aims to enhance export competitiveness, promote import-substitution activities, and encourage the adoption of energy-efficient technologies.

The Facility is available through '**approved lenders**', being commercial banks, Fiji Development Bank (FDB) and LCIs.¹ Eligible businesses must meet the requirements stipulated by the respective approved lender and the ISEFF eligibility criteria.

The interest rate charged on these advances is 0.25 percent per annum. The approved lenders can borrow from RBF at this rate and on-lend to eligible businesses at a maximum rate of 3.99 percent per annum for a maximum term of five years. The RBF will review interest rates periodically in line with the monetary policy stance, and any changes will be communicated to lenders.² The total amount available for this Facility is **\$500.0 million**. Loans will be limited to \$10.0 million per business and allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. RBF may consider loan amounts exceeding \$10.0 million on a case-by-case basis, provided they meet the facility's overall objectives.

In August 2023, with the approval from the RBF Board, the ISEFF was suspended until further notice to allow for internal review. In February 2026, the ISEFF was reviewed to incorporate elements of the **Fiji Green Finance Taxonomy (GFT)**³ framework, which was launched in December 2025. The GFT guideline highlights the two priority sectors of energy and transport, and guides approved lenders on the requirements for processing loan applications that align with the Fiji Green Finance Taxonomy framework. Requests from other sectors will be considered on a case-by-case basis and limited to projects that generate foreign exchange (FX) or directly support import-substitution activities.

Advances to eligible businesses are at the risk of the lender with no recourse to RBF.

This Facility is effective and available for use immediately.

2.0 Approved Lenders

The following institutions may access advances under this Facility:

- i. Licensed commercial banks
- ii. Licensed credit institutions
- iii. Fiji Development Bank

¹ LCIs include Credit Corporation Fiji Limited, Merchant Finance Company Limited, BSP Finance (Fiji) Limited and Kontiki Finance Limited.

² Any changes to interest rates will apply to new loans and existing loans that will be rolled over.

³ Reserve Bank of Fiji. (2025). Fiji Green Finance Taxonomy, Version 1. Officially launched on 12 December 2025. Link: <https://www.rbf.gov.fj/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Fiji-Green-Finance-Taxonomy-FA-V5-Digital-Copy.pdf>. Specific illustration for ISEFF can be accessed on the Taxonomy User Guideline - link will be shared once available.



RESERVE BANK OF FIJI

Progressive and Resilient Central Bank, Trusted by Our People

3.0 Eligibility

Funds under this Facility will be made available to approved lenders to on-lend to borrowers (registered businesses) that meet the following eligibility criteria. Eligibility under the ISEFF is guided by the Facility's objective of strengthening Fiji's balance-of-payments position and supporting the transition to a low-carbon and resilient economy. This facility is not available to private individuals.

In alignment with the Fiji Green Finance Taxonomy, priority will be accorded to projects in the energy and transportation sectors. The facility is intended to support eligible capital investment projects. Accordingly, funding shall not be provided for working capital requirements, operational expenses, or overdraft facilities.

3.1 Priority Sectors (Primary Eligibility)

The following sectors will be prioritised under the Facility. Approved lenders must apply the Fiji Green Finance Taxonomy framework when assessing all applications in these sectors to determine eligible activities and thresholds.

❖ **Energy**

- Projects involving the promotion of renewable energy sources and energy-efficient technologies.
- All projects must meet the eligible criteria set out in the Fiji Green Finance Taxonomy Framework.

❖ **Transportation**

- Initiatives that result in a direct reduction in the importation of non-renewable fuels and meet the Fiji Green Finance Taxonomy Framework.
- Public transport operators with a turnover of over \$1.5 million will only be considered for fleet upgrades and modernisation, thereby reducing reliance non-renewable fuel imports.
- Individual public transport operators (including taxi, minibus, and carriers) **do not qualify under this Facility**.

3.2 Non-priority Sectors (Case-by-Case)

Applications outside the priority energy and transport sectors will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, limited to projects that meet at least one of the following conditions:

- Generate sustained foreign exchange (FX) inflows; or
- Directly support import-substitution activities and reduce Fiji's reliance on imports.



RESERVE BANK OF FIJI

Progressive and Resilient Central Bank, Trusted by Our People

Eligible activities under this category may include, but are not limited to:

❖ **Exports - new or existing businesses involved in:**

- **Primary exporters:** businesses engaged in producing or manufacturing goods for export.
- **Secondary exporters:** agents and distributors acting on behalf of exporting clients.
- **Services:** Tourism and travel-related services (including airline businesses, tour operators, hospitality, business tourism, agri-tourism, eco-tourism and edu-tourism), where linked to specific projects that support the Facility's objectives, will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. These will be for new projects and major upgrades to existing establishments.
- **Selected professional services:** including architectural, engineering, maritime services and real estate businesses are **no longer eligible** under the facility unless they support the facility objectives and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

❖ **Import Substitution - new or existing businesses involved in:**

- **Production of import substitutes,** including:
 - Fruit, vegetables, root crops and rice
 - Dairy produce, beef, poultry and pig farming
 - Honey production and aquaculture

In addition, lenders are expected to support sustainable financing, including nature-based solution projects, and to integrate gender inclusivity by identifying and, where applicable, prioritising women-focused and vulnerable-group initiatives, with sex-disaggregated indicators captured in the application submission.

The RBF reserves the right to make changes to the above list at any time in consultation with approved lenders.⁴

4.0 Refinancing

Any requests for refinancing of existing loans outside of ISEFF will be considered on a case-by-case basis, provided they meet the facility's original mandate of supporting exports, promoting import substitution, and contributing to balance-of-payments stability.

While the refinancing of loans under ISEFF from one lender to another is generally discouraged, such requests may be considered in genuine circumstances. In such cases, the refinancing will apply only to the remaining outstanding loan balance.

⁴ Clarification on the above eligibility requirements can be sought from the Reserve Bank. Applicants must satisfy RBF that their business is promoting exports and import substitution, and supports Fiji's Balance of Payments.



RESERVE BANK OF FIJI

Progressive and Resilient Central Bank, Trusted by Our People

5.0 Loan Application

Under this guideline, the assessment process is not intended to determine whether a project qualifies as 'green'. Instead, it is used to evaluate and approve the use of RBF funds, based on how well the project aligns with the Reserve Bank's green objectives. The lenders must use the GFT to determine whether the project qualifies as green.

Applications from eligible businesses must be completed by the lender on behalf of the client and submitted through the lender using the attached *Import Substitution and Export Finance Facility Application Form*.

Each application for green loans should include a cover letter with supporting documents and include the following:

	Criterion	Description	Key documents to support the application/ key considerations
Step 1	Activity identification	- Client provides information – detailed description of the activity/ project - Lending institutions identification – details of core activity	- Business registration details - TIN - Ownership - EIA (where applicable) - Other supporting documents
Step 2	Is the activity within the Taxonomy's scope	The Lending Institute consults the Taxonomy	Lending Institute provides details from the Taxonomy
Step 3	Assess for substantial contribution - checklist Fig 3 & 4 of the Taxonomy User Guideline (apply Technical Screening Criteria – TSC)	- The Lending Institute assesses if the project makes a substantial contribution to climate change mitigation - The Lending Institute provides an assessment of each component of the projects based on the Taxonomy and provides comments on the TSC.	- The Lending Institute revives relevant documents that support the TSC. - Can ask for detailed reports from independent and credible local or international verifiers if applicable.
Step 4	Assess Do No Significant	The Lending Institution DNSH review focuses on general principles of the Taxonomy and potential risks of the project.	Any supporting document (e.g EIA, lifecycle emissions assessment (LCA), Site



RESERVE BANK OF FIJI

Progressive and Resilient Central Bank, Trusted by Our People

	Harm (DNSH) ⁵	Should consider the Climate change adaptation, use of resources, and disposal of waste and pollution control etc.	Specific Data/Site Selection Studies etc) The Lending Institutions comments how it assessed this DNSH
Step 5	Assess the entity's adherence to Minimum Social Safeguards (MSS) ⁶	Lending Institution's MSS review, based on Section 5.2 of the Taxonomy	Provide any supporting documents or narration of key social safeguards of the project.
Step 6	Conclude on Taxonomy alignment and loan structuring	The Lending Institution provides its assessment that the loan is Green based on the project meeting the 'Green' TSC (Step 3) and the satisfactory outcomes of the DNSH (Step 4) and MSS (Step 5).	Detailed loan offer letter once finalised

For all green loan applications, the lending institutions are required to provide data on the benefits achieved through the facility, including but not limited to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, decreased use of fossil fuels, and savings in electricity or energy costs, etc.

Activities not fully compliant with DNSH or MSS may be considered if a remediation plan (no longer than 3 years from date of assessment) is submitted. Such applications together with amber classified applications shall be subject to phased funds disbursement and monitoring requirements as outlined under the Loan Disbursement section

The RBF will assess each application by considering the lending institution's overall exposure to the RBF's facilities, as well as its exposure to the Government for lenders whose borrowings under the Facility are supported by a Government Guarantee. These requirements are necessary to ensure compliance with statutory lending limits and to maintain prudent oversight of the Bank's risk exposure. The RBF's decision on applications submitted under this Facility is final.

Applications must be submitted three (3) working days before the proposed drawdown date.

⁵ DNSH- Stipulates that while making a substantial contribution to one objective, the activity must not cause significant harm to any of the other environmental objectives. This ensures that environmental benefits in one area do not come at the expense of another (Section 5.2 and Fig 5 of the Fiji Green Finance Taxonomy Guideline).

⁶ MSS- Stipulates that the entity carrying out the activity must comply with fundamental social and governance standards, including national labour laws and key international conventions on human rights. This ensures that all "green" activities are also socially responsible (see Section 5.2 and Figure 5 of the Fiji Green Finance Taxonomy Guideline).



RESERVE BANK OF FIJI

Progressive and Resilient Central Bank, Trusted by Our People

6.0 Loan Term

The maximum loan term under this Facility is five (5) years. No rollovers of loans are allowed, as loans are to be amortised over the loan term.

7.0 Interest Rates

The Reserve Bank will charge approved lenders an interest rate of 0.25 percent per annum for all advances under this Facility. Interest on all loans is payable to RBF twice annually on 30 June and 31 December. The maximum interest rate that lenders can charge to eligible businesses is 3.99 percent per annum.

The above rate is subject to periodic review. The Reserve Bank reserves the right to make changes in line with its monetary policy stance, and any such changes will be communicated to lenders. Adjustments in interest rates will apply only to new loans and to existing loans that are rolled over.

8.0 Loan Disbursement

Upon approval of loan applications that are in the non-priority sectors and those that are fully aligned with the Fiji Green Finance Taxonomy criteria, disbursement will be credited to the approved lender's nominated account with the Reserve Bank.

For applications that are classified as 'amber', and/or applications that do not comply with DNSH or MSS requirements, disbursement of funds shall be undertaken in phases, and linked to clearly defined remediation milestones. Continued access to financing will depend on satisfactory progress toward meeting the required standards within the agreed timeframe.

9.0 Repayment

All advances under this Facility shall be amortised across the term and loan repayments are to be made bi-annually on 30 June and 31 December to ensure that the repayments are spread evenly and avoid large lump-sum payments at maturity.

In the event that a borrower defaults, effects an early settlement, or refinances the facility prior to the end of the agreed term, the approved lending institution shall immediately reimburse to the Reserve Bank the full amount of funds advanced under this Facility.

Where an approved lending institution fails to reimburse the Reserve Bank within the required timeframe, a penalty charge of 10.0 percent shall be applied to the overdue amount.

10.0 Approved Lenders Responsibility

Granting of the loans is at the discretion of the approved lender where they must ensure that the businesses fall under the accepted ISEFF criteria and ensure that the loans are secured with



RESERVE BANK OF FIJI

Progressive and Resilient Central Bank, Trusted by Our People

appropriate collateral. Eligible applicants are subject to their lending institution's credit requirements since the institution bears all the credit risk without recourse to the RBF.

All loans from RBF to the lending institutions must continue to be fully secured, whether by a Government Guarantee or by balances held in exchange settlement or call accounts. The institutions relying on Government Guarantee cover must ensure that borrowing from the RBF is covered under the agreement and remains valid for the entire borrowing period. Institutions that do not have any of the above must pledge appropriate securities or collateral to access funding from the RBF.

In case of default by banks, the approved lender's account with the Reserve Bank will be debited with the total outstanding amount loaned and the interest owing.

11.0 Reporting Compliance

Lending institutions are required to submit, business export receipts or income data for ISEFF-supported borrowers, on a bi-annual basis on 30 June and 31 December each year. These submissions must be provided no later than the 10th working day following the end of each reporting period.

In addition, lending institutions shall submit an impact report on an annual basis outlining the quantified benefits generated from the green loans. This shall include, where applicable, energy efficiency savings (reduction in fossil fuel usage, saving in electricity bills etc), emission reduction and increase in export-related foreign exchange etc. Third-party verification may be required for large projects.

The Reserve Bank of Fiji reserves the right to conduct on-site inspections at any time during the term of the loan to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the facility.

12.0 Exceptions and Clarifications

The Reserve Bank undertakes to exercise reasonableness and accord due consideration in case there is any doubt or queries arising from these guidelines. Any regrettable decision, once taken, will be final.



IMPORT SUBSTITUTION AND EXPORT FINANCE FACILITY APPLICATION FORM

Application Details

Business Name	
Tax Identification Number (TIN)	
Address	
Phone Contact	Email:
Total Number of Employees	
Male Percentage: _____%	Female Percentage: _____% Management Position Held by Women: _____

Type of Business

- ☐ Existing Exporter ☐ New Exporter ☐ Import Substitution ☐ Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency
☐ Transport ☐ Tourism and Travel Related Services ☐ Professional Services

Commitment to Green Initiatives

Is the business involved in Green Projects ☐ Yes ☐ No

What is the specific Fiji Taxonomy activity: _____

Is this a whitelist or quantitative screening activity (refer to appendix A & B)? ☐ Whitelist ☐ Quantitative

What documentation is provided to prove the above: _____

What is the final classification (refer to appendix C for criteria)? ☐ Green ☐ Amber

Funding Details

Total Funding Required (\$)	
Estimated Funding Duration	
Interest Rate Offered (%)	Year 1 ☐ Year 2 ☐ Year 3 ☐ Year 4 ☐ Year 5 ☐
Proposed Drawdown Date	

Declaration of the Applicant

I hereby certify that the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Name of Contact Person: Signature:.....

Position:..... Date:.....

Declaration of the Lender

I hereby certify that the information provided has been verified and the applicant above has fully satisfied all our lending and credit requirements.

Institution Name	
Name of Assessing Officer	
Signature	Date:

Note:
1. In the event that the lender is unable to pay the RBF on the specified date, the RBF will debit the respective lending institution's ESA/Call/Advance account for the total outstanding advance, including interest accrued.
2. RBF may request for additional information when necessary, to make a decision on the application.
3. Completed forms to be submitted to Manager Domestic Markets, Tower 2, Reserve Bank of Fiji.

Appendix A: Whitelist Activities

ENERGY SECTOR

WL	Solar energy generation All solar photovoltaics, concentrated solar power, and other solar technologies
WL	Wind energy generation All onshore and offshore wind generation
WL	Marine energy generation All ocean/tidal energy generation
WL	Heating/cooling from waste heat Utilisation of waste heat to produce heating/cooling
WL	Electricity & hydrogen storage Battery and H ₂ storage (note that thermal storage is excluded)

Legend

WL	Pure whitelist under Green category
WL/Q	Whitelist under Green category (focus of this Module) Additional alignment options for Amber, based on quantitative thresholds (Module 3)

TRANSPORT SECTOR

WL/Q	Transport via railways Zero direct emissions rail
WL	Urban/suburban passenger transport Electric buses, trams, trolleybuses
WL/Q	Other passenger land transport Electric/hydrogen vehicles
WL/Q	Freight transport by road Zero-emission freight vehicles
WL	Personal mobility & cycle logistics E-bikes, e-scooters, cargo bikes
WL/Q	Sea and coastal water transport Zero direct emission vessels
WL/Q	Inland water transport Zero direct emission vessels
WL/Q	Air transport Zero direct emission aircraft
WL	Enabling infrastructure EV charging, cycling paths, pedestrian infra



Appendix B: Activities Requiring Quantitative Screening

These activities cannot be classified through whitelist alone — they require numerical evidence against specific thresholds.

ENERGY SECTOR

Hydropower <i>Green/Amber</i>	Emissions intensity (gCO ₂ e/kWh) Power density (W/m ²) Emissions intensity or power density improvement (%)
Geothermal <i>Green/Amber</i>	Emissions intensity (gCO ₂ e/kWh)
Bioenergy <i>Green/Amber</i>	Emissions intensity (gCO ₂ e/kWh) Feedstock sustainability
Renewable non-fossil fuels <i>Green/Amber</i>	Emissions intensity (gCO ₂ e/kWh)
Natural gas (existing plants) <i>Green/Amber</i>	Emissions intensity (gCO ₂ e/kWh)
Electric heat pumps <i>Green</i>	GWP of refrigerants
T&D of electricity <i>Green</i>	Emissions intensity (gCO ₂ e/kWh)
T&D of low-carbon gases <i>Green</i>	Emissions intensity (gCO ₂ e/kWh)
Heating/cooling distribution <i>Green</i>	Share of renewable energy, waste heat, cogenerated heat (%)
Thermal energy storage <i>Green</i>	Emissions intensity (gCO ₂ e/kWh)

TRANSPORT SECTOR

Railways <i>Amber</i>	Emissions intensity (gCO ₂ e/p-km or gCO ₂ e/t-km)
Other passenger land <i>Amber</i>	Emissions intensity (gCO ₂ e/p-km)
Freight road <i>Amber</i>	Top class of vehicles in Fiji (%)
Sea & coastal transport <i>Amber</i>	Annual efficiency ratio, AER (gCO ₂ e/DWT-nm)
Retrofitting vessels <i>Green/Amber</i>	Energy efficiency improvement (%)
Inland water transport <i>Amber</i>	Annual efficiency ratio, AER (gCO ₂ e/DWT-nm)
Air transport <i>Amber</i>	Share of SAF in fuel blend (%)



Appendix C: Relevant Taxonomy Criteria

1. Energy Sector

Emissions intensity thresholds (gCO₂e/kWh) for the Energy sector

- *Applies to hydropower, geothermal, bioenergy, natural gas generation*

	2025-2029	2030-2034	2035-2040	2041-2045	2046-2050
Green Activity	100	100	100	50	50
Amber Activity	286	187	137	N/A.	N/A.
Ineligible Activities	>286	>187	>137	>50	>50

2. Transport Sector

Urban and suburban passenger land transport

Green Activity	For scheduled passenger road transport, the activity complies with the following criteria: - the activity provides urban or suburban passenger transport, and its direct (tailpipe) CO2 emissions are zero. For scheduled passenger urban suburban rail transport, the activity complies with one of the following criteria: - trains and passenger coaches have zero direct (tailpipe) CO2 emissions. - trains and passenger coaches have zero direct tailpipe CO2 emissions when operated with necessary infrastructure and use a conventional engine, where such infrastructure is unavailable (bimode).
Amber Activity	N/A.
Ineligible Activities	The activity does not meet green criteria.

Freight transportation by road

Green Activity	Direct (tailpipe) CO2 emissions of the vehicle are zero.
Amber Activity	The amber criteria is only applicable to the top 15 percent best vehicles in Fiji in terms of GHG emissions per t-km. The amber category is available until 2030, after which only the green category is available.
Ineligible Activities	The activity does not meet green criteria.

Other passenger land transport

Green Activity	Direct (tailpipe) CO2 emissions of the vehicle are zero.
Amber Activity	The vehicle has direct (tailpipe) CO2 emissions of no more than 50 grams CO2/km.
Ineligible Activities	The activity does not meet green criteria.

Retrofitting of sea and coastal freight and passenger water transport

Green Activity	Retrofitting of vessels that leads to compliance with the green threshold for the shipping sector (Annex 1).
Amber Activity	Retrofitting of vessels that leads to compliance with the amber threshold for the shipping sector with a prescribed sunset date (Annex 1).
Ineligible Activities	Retrofitting of vessels dedicated to carrying fossil fuels.

Appendix D: Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) For Fiji

Objective	DNSH Requirement
Climate Change Adaptation	Physical climate risks must be identified from the hazard classification table. A climate risk and vulnerability assessment must be conducted, proportionate to the scale of the activity and its expected lifespan. Adaptation solutions must be assessed.
Water & Marine Resources	Activity must not detract from the environmental objectives for the body of water consistent with national water and marine resource protection requirements.
Circular Economy	The activity must assess availability of and adopt techniques that support reuse, recyclability, and waste prevention, where technically feasible.
Pollution Prevention	The activity must not lead to a significant increase in emissions of pollutants to air, water, or land. Must comply with Fiji's Environment Management Act 2005.
Biodiversity & Ecosystems	The activity must not be detrimental to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems. Must comply with Fiji's Endangered and Protected Species Act 2002.

As Fiji Taxonomy V1.0 has one overarching objective (climate mitigation), generic DNSH criteria ensure compliance with international principles and Fijian law. Activity-specific DNSH may be added in later versions.

Appendix E: Minimum Social Safeguards (MSS) For Fiji

IFC PERFORMANCE STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO FIJI MSS

PS 1	Environmental & Social Risk Assessment	Environment Management Act 2005 — requires EIAs prior to development
PS 2	Labour & Working Conditions	Employment Relations Act 2007 — governs labour rights and conditions
PS 3	Resource Efficiency & Pollution	Environment Management Act 2005 — pollution prevention provisions
PS 4	Community Health, Safety & Security	Public Health Act 1935 (as amended) — community health protections
PS 5	Land Acquisition & Involuntary Resettlement	iTaukei Lands Act — protections for indigenous land rights in Fiji
PS 6	Biodiversity & Natural Resource Management	Endangered and Protected Species Act 2002
PS 7	Indigenous Peoples	iTaukei Affairs Act — recognition of indigenous community rights
PS 8	Cultural Heritage	Fiji Museum Act — cultural heritage preservation

MSS ensures activities do not generate negative social impacts. Applied at the entity level (not activity level), requiring compliance with Fiji's legislative framework and alignment with IFC Performance Standards.

Adherence to the DNSH and MSS criteria is not mandatory, yet these criteria are intentionally kept broad, incorporating sector-specific input where applicable. This approach ensures the Taxonomy maintains the necessary level of stringency, while simultaneously enhancing usability without overcomplicating reporting.

This means that even if an activity fulfils the TSC for an environmental objective but does not comply with MSS/DNSH against other objectives, it can still be considered compliant with the corresponding Green or Amber category as long as a remediation plan is submitted, no longer than 3 years from the date of assessment.