PMAC PRINCE MAHIDOL AWARD CONFERENCE 2023

PL 2

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES AND HARNESSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR HEALTH AT THE BIODIVERSITY-CLIMATE NEXUS

| BACKGROUND

Unabated biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution are the leading global health challenges of our time. Our dysfunctional global food system is at the heart of this “triple planetary crisis” and holistic multisectoral approaches to health, such as One Health and planetary health, are at the heart of solutions to bridge the persistent and growing health challenges they pose. At the same time, ecosystem-based approaches, or nature-based solutions, that embed health co-benefits offer essential opportunities to meet the adaptation and mitigation commitments set out in the Paris Agreement and post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, when combined with food system transformation, technological innovation, a green energy transition and the necessary socio-political and economic conditions to achieve equity and social justice.

| OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of sub-theme 2 will be to take in-depth look at the common drivers of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution, and the impact of these environmental determinants, coupled with social, political and economic determinants on health outcomes. It will focus both on underlying systemic challenges at this nexus and key opportunities to overcome them in the path toward sustainable transformational change. It will further seek to catalyze health leadership, from local to global levels, by drawing on existing evidence and knowledge through more coordinated, ambitious and inclusive multi-sectoral approaches to inform evidence-based policies and actions. It will also seek to identify key opportunities to maximize health co-benefits and minimize trade-offs at the biodiversity-climate nexus, and to build both social and ecological resilience, and resilient health systems and societies, in the face of global environmental change.



Panelist / Speaker

Lavetanalagi Seru

Regional Policy Coordinator

the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network (PICAN).
Fiji

Lavetanalagi Seru is an activist, and has a work background in youth development, climate change, gender & human rights, and social inclusion in disaster risk reduction. He is currently the Regional Policy Coordinator of the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network, the regional umbrella organization that brings together civil society organizations and groups that are working on climate justice issues in the Pacific. Lavetanalagi is also the Co-Founder of the Alliance for Future Generations – Fiji, the largest young people led network on sustainable development in Fiji.

In 2020, he was appointed as the Vice-Chair of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit's Track III on Boosting Nature Positive Production, and he currently serves as the Pacific's Regional Board Advisor for the Next Generation Climate Board of the Global Greengrants Fund, and Board Member of Climate Action Network – International.