



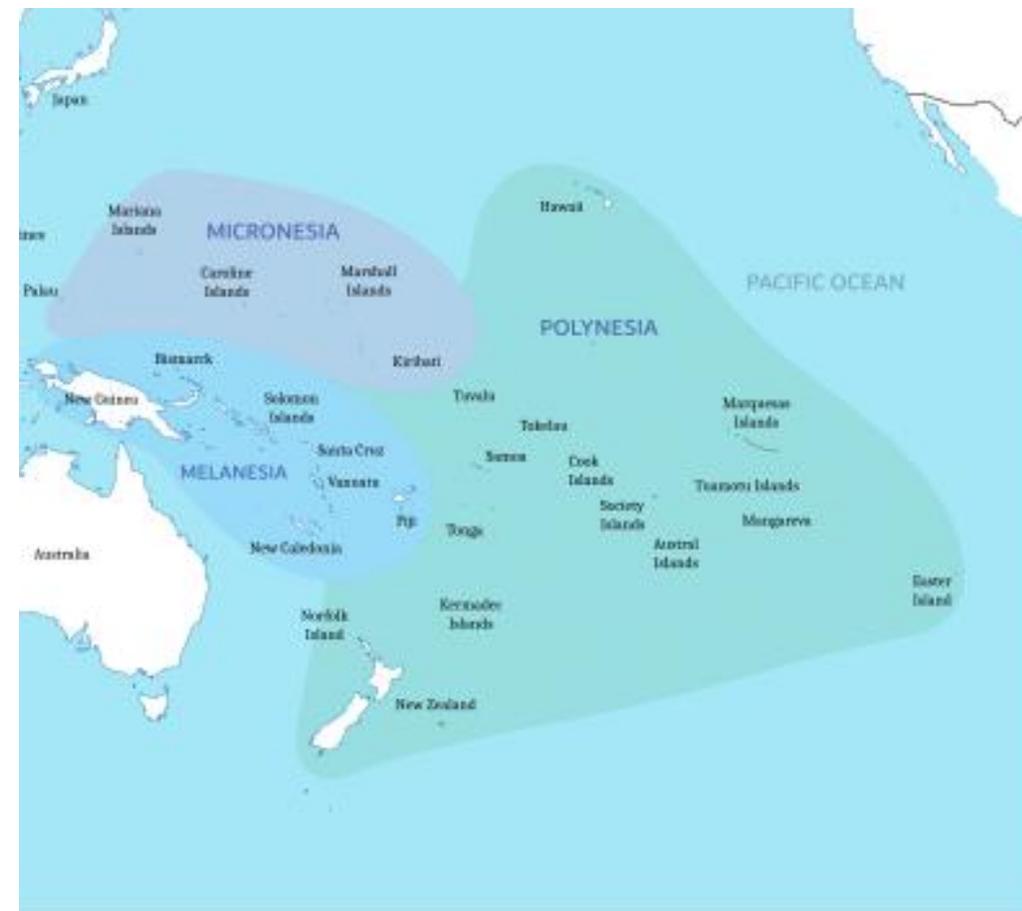
Moving Futures: Migration, Labor, and the Health of a Changing Planet

Pacific Evidence on Gendered Impacts of Climate Mobility

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Climate change: Rising sea levels in Fiji create 'ghost towns'

There's no escaping the reality that the Earth's temperature is rising, however the effects of climate change are felt more keenly in some parts of the world.

The Pacific island nation of Fiji produces less than 1% of the globe's carbon emissions, yet rising sea levels, coastal erosion and intense storm surges are having a dramatic effect on the country.

Villages near the sea are becoming abandoned as creeping tides submerge homes and resources, forcing residents to move inland to higher, safer ground.

This content is available from News, World, Asia, UK, Business, Tech, Science, Stories, Fiji On the Climate

Lessons From Climate-Induced Planned Relocation in Fiji



Gendered barriers in relocation decision-making

Poor planning creates long-term health & livelihood impacts →
Disrupted access to essential health services

Women excluded → unsafe homes, poor lighting, no kitchens →
reduces safety & wellbeing

Intersectional experiences (youth, people with disabilities, ethnic
groups) often overlooked → Increased burdens of unpaid labour—
especially for women & gender-diverse people

In Fiji, villages need to move due to climate change

As Cyclone Gita leaves Tonga battered, neighbouring Fiji has started moving some of its villages to higher ground.



by Loes Witschge



15 Feb 2018



FOREWORD

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

1. The history of our Blue Pacific Continent is a story of mobility. Over thousands of years, our people have moved within and beyond the region in response to changing environmental, economic, political and social conditions. Our connection to land and ocean is deep and immutable, and represents the foundations of our Pacific identity and well-being.
2. Despite being among the lowest greenhouse gas emitters in the world, Pacific Island region are experiencing damaging and, at times, irreversible impacts of climate change. These impacts directly shape the ability of our peoples to remain living in their homes, where they connect to their ancestral territories, both land and oceanic. As Pacific Leaders we remain committed to strengthen regional collaboration and commitment to proactively pursue efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels and pursue increased innovative financing to address climate change and disaster risk in order that our peoples can stay in place.
3. In that regard, we will act to ensure the health and well-being of our people and human rights and human security for all. While we recognise that the drivers and scope of human mobility are multiple and complex – whether forced or voluntary, temporary or permanent, within or across borders – its urgency lies in the fact that it already is a reality in the region with serious implications for individuals, households, and communities. Irreversible changes are taking place and adopting a proactive and planned approach to climate mobility will help ensure that we respond to enhance, not diminish, our people’s resilience and well-being. This world-first Framework represents our commitment to and framing of our future decisions and such actions in the Pacific on climate mobility.
4. Dislocation from home, loss of land and cascading effects on ecosystems, livelihoods and knowledge represent some of the greatest forms of loss and damage for our people – for both current and future generations. We recognise that movement away from home can result from, be a form of, and cause loss and damage of an economic and non-economic nature. In recognition of the disproportionate costs that Pacific countries bear as a result of climate change, we welcome and encourage further international cooperation on developing and implementing mechanisms for addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, particularly to meet growing needs in the Pacific. Collective advocacy and action across the Pacific in support of international approaches to loss and damage will help secure the technical and financial support we need to successfully manage the risks and costs associated with climate mobility into the future.
5. Our adoption of the Framework is our commitment to ensure that we are resilient and ‘future-ready’ by being able to anticipate, prepare for and respond to the hazardous impacts of climate change, including in relation to mobility.
6. The Framework delivers on the Pathways in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent to ‘[e]nsure the protection and practice of the rights, cultural values and heritage and traditional knowledge of Pacific peoples in global and regional protocols for climate and disaster risk



Three pillars of climate mobility action:

1. **Staying in place** – adaptation, resilience, and global mitigation to enable communities to remain safely at home.
2. **Movement options** – planned relocation and migration as last-resort or adaptive strategies, with safeguards for dignity and livelihoods.
3. **Displacement response** – evacuation, internal and cross-border displacement, and protection for stranded migrants.

Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility on Health Impacts



- Recognises health and well-being of Pacific peoples as central to climate mobility responses.
- Calls for climate and mobility actions that uphold human rights, human security and well-being.
- Links climate impacts and loss & damage (land, livelihoods, ecosystems) to health and community resilience.
- Emphasises that planned relocation must ensure access to health care and essential services to restore and improve living conditions



Climate change forced these Fijian communities to move – and with 80 more at risk, here's what they learned

April 30, 2019 4:52pm AEST

Many houses were flattened after Tropical Cyclone Evan, leading to the partial relocation of the Fijian village Denimanu. [Rowena Harbridge/ASA/AD, CC BY-SA](#)

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The original Fijian village of Vunidogoloa is abandoned. Houses, now dilapidated, remain overgrown with vegetation. Remnants of an old seawall built to protect the village is a stark reminder of what climate change can do to a community's home.

Vunidogoloa is one of four Fijian communities that have been forced to relocate from the effects of climate change. And more than 80 communities have been earmarked by the [Fiji government](#) for potential future relocation.

Reset-Regenerate



Community, culture & custodianship



Intergenerational equity



Norm diffusion



Solidarity dividend



Regeneration of power (across intersections)



Thank you

