United Nations
Climate Change Secretariat

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MAPPING EXPOSURE TO SEA LEVEL RISE | TONGA, SAMOA, VANUATU AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Pacific region includes some of the world's lowest-lying countries. However, most climate adaptation activities in the Pacific are not informed by the fundamental data required to identify the magnitude of, and communities at risk from, coastal flooding.

Innovative ICT solutions are helping Pacific Island countries prepare for and adapt to sea level rise brought about by climate change. The Mapping Exposure to Sea Level Rise project provides the fundamental data, skills and tools at-risk communities need to make planning decisions. It trains government decision makers to use online tools and flood maps to understand and mitigate the risks of sea level rise. Using these maps, governments can better understand and communicate climate change risk to local communities and put adaptation plans in place.

Key facts

- More than 10,000 buildings identified at high risk of inundation within 80 years including schools, hospitals and critical infrastructure
- 195 people from the governments of Tonga, Samoa, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea were trained on how to manage and use LiDAR data
- The Vanuatu Globe was a significant Open Data portal produced for the Vanuatu Government and set a new precedent for publically sharing sea level rise information
- Through the Vanuatu Globe, the project was able to help the 2015 Cyclone Pam recovery by providing critical map information which was accessed by more than 1,000 people a day within days of the cyclone

More information

Digital assets are available for download at: http://bit.ly/1MExrNR

Contact:
Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information
Jessica Pubrick-Herbst | jpurbrickherbst@crcsi.com.au | +613 8344 9180

UN Climate Change secretariat
Sarah Marchildon | smarchildon@unfccc.int | +49 228 815 1065