



Fiji's Planned Relocation Guidelines and SOP

WIM ExCom 25

14 September 2026

Majuro, RMI

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NDC Adaptation Advisor
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change





FIJI

Republic of Fiji · South Pacific

330+

islands (~110 inhabited)

938,000

population (2026 est.)

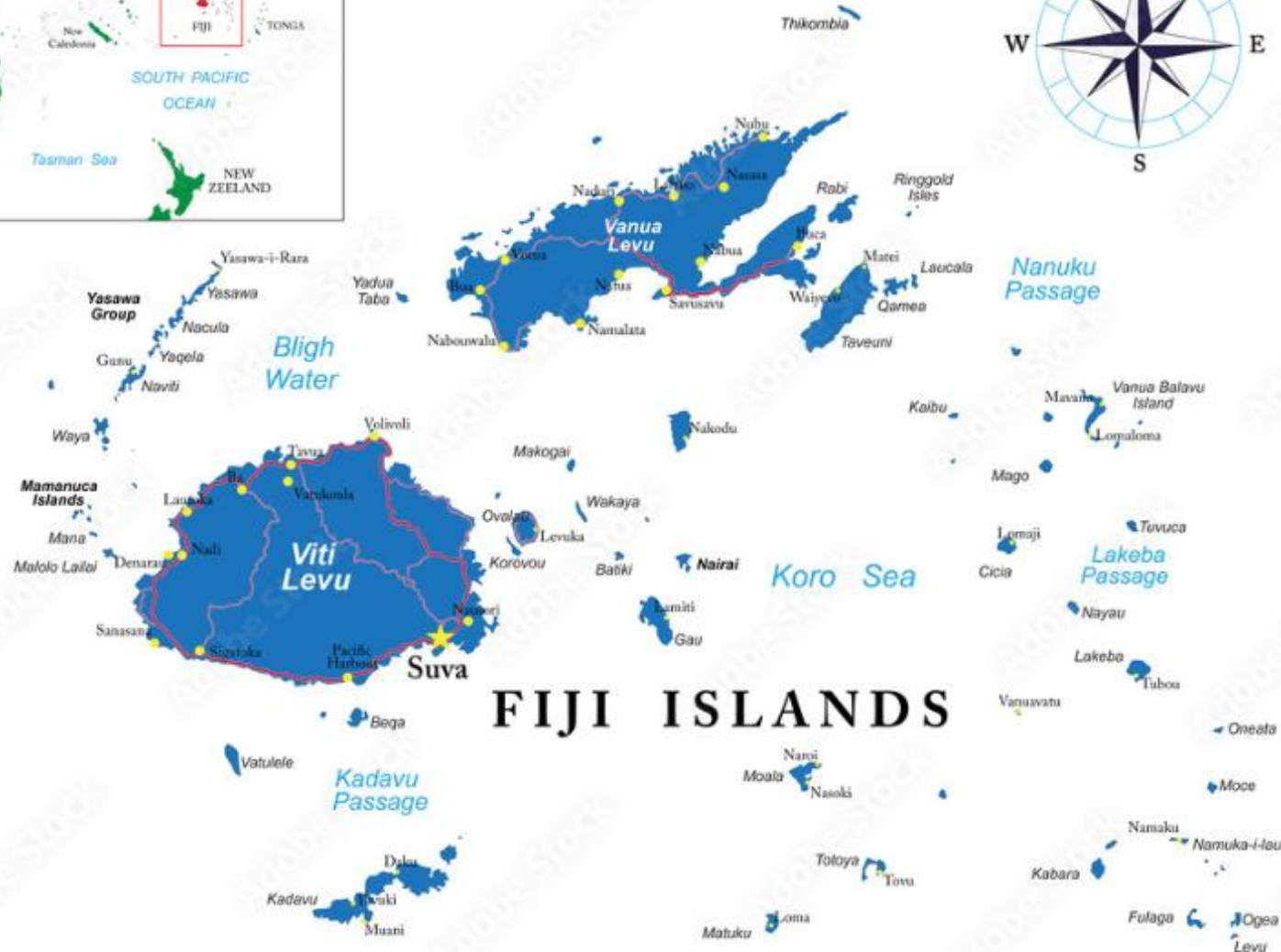
18,270 km²

total land area

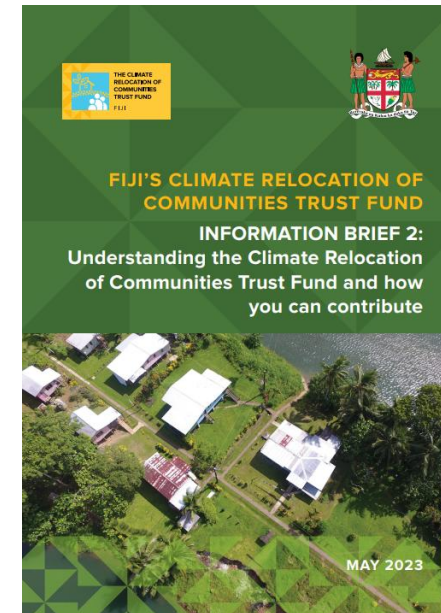
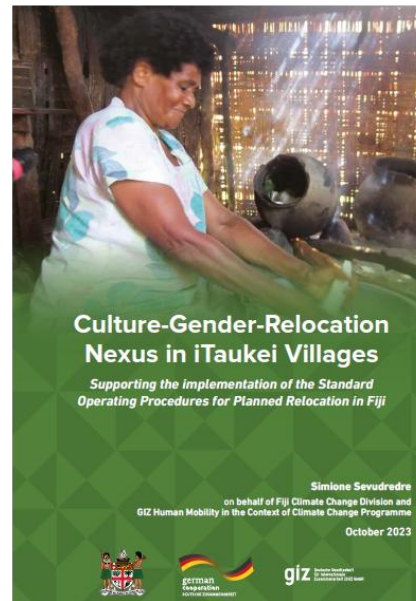
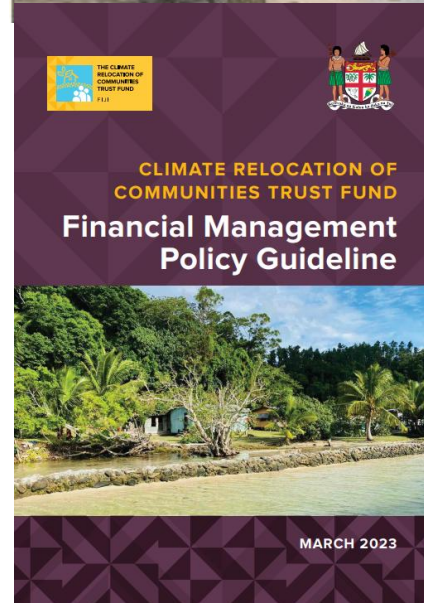
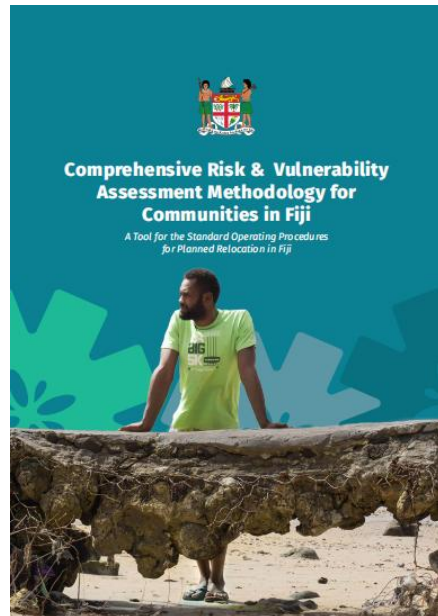
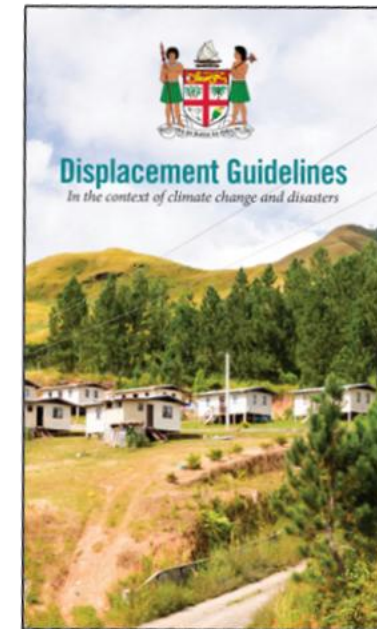
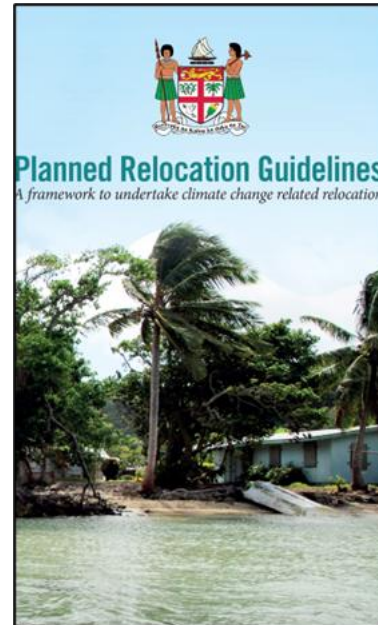
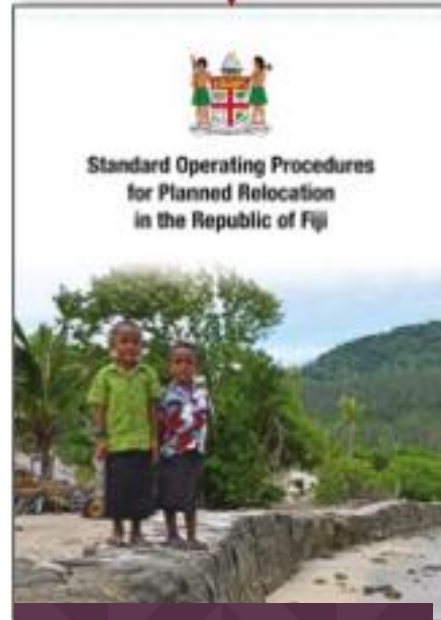
75%+

of population and infrastructure in coastal areas

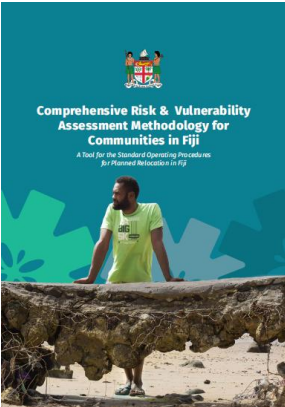
Capital: Suva · Main islands: Viti Levu & Vanua Levu



Guiding Policies on Planned Relocation and Displacement



FIJI POLICY FRAMEWORKS AND GUIDING STRUCTURES ON PLANNED RELOCATION



FIJI'S NATIONAL DEFINITION OF LOSS AND DAMAGE

Climate-induced loss and damage in Fiji refers to the manifested adverse consequences of climate change that are incurred despite mitigation and adaptation efforts, encompassing both economic and non-economic harm to Fiji's people, environment, economy and Vanua²⁷ that is either irreversible or requires economically or socially infeasible interventions to reverse or remedy.

Economic Loss and Damage: Quantifiable financial damage and losses to infrastructure and assets, lost productivity in key sectors such as agriculture, tourism, and fisheries, and the diversion of financial resources towards emergency response and recovery.

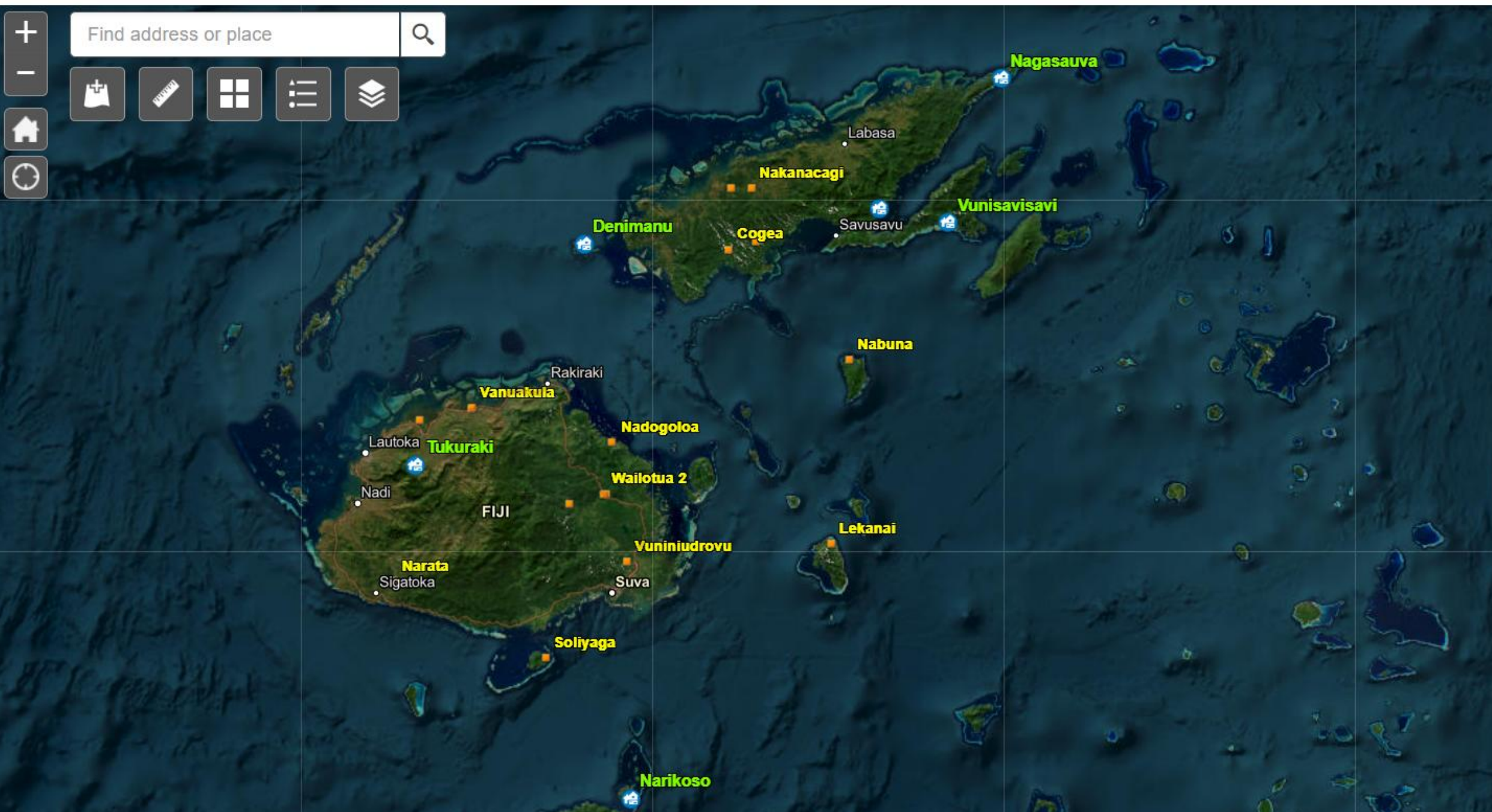
Non-Economic Loss and Damage: The irreversible and invaluable losses that are not easily quantified in monetary terms. This includes loss of life, human health, cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, biodiversity, and ecosystem services. While non-economic loss and damage may not be easily quantified in many cases non-economic loss and as a direct flow on effect to economic loss and damage (i.e. loss of coral reefs leading to fisheries decline and reduced tourism revenue).

Ongoing work on Planned Relocation

	ACTIVITY / WORKSTREAM	LEAD / PARTNER
	List of 43 vulnerable at-risk communities	FTRD TWG
	List of displaced communities	FTRD TWG
	Launch of Fiji's Comprehensive Risk Vulnerability Assessment Methodology (CRVAM) to be finalized (NELD)	GIZ HMCCC , UNDRR, PDD, NORAD
	Risk Index for Climate Displacement and the Climate(RICD) Climate Catalytic Fund – Adapting in place,	IOM Supported
	SOP training for communities - Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security Programme – PCCMHS	IOM
	Standardized housing designs for community relocations	FTRD TWG
	Cultural sensitivity checklist	GIZ HMCCC
	Complete child-safety and protection checklist and facilitators guide	UNICEF
	Psychosocial support checklist	GIZ HMCCC
	Narata and Vuniniudrovu (partial relocations, direct community grants)	GCCM
	Nabavatu Relocation (first SOP guided relocation, CROC Trust Fund funded)	CROC-MRMDDM/FTRD
	Cokonaki Cogea (NGO supported)	FCOSS
	Kitchens for Narikoso (revisit of pre-SOP relocation)	Habitat for Humanity
	Kitchens for Tukuraki (revisit of pre-SOP relocation)	FTRD TWG



Fiji Planned Relocation and Displacement



Vunidogoloa and Narikoso Village Relocation

[Pre-SOP relocations]



The new homes in Kenani have better facilities like flushing toilets and piped water. But locals still feel a strong connection to the old seaside village of Vunidogoloa. (Foreign Correspondent: Craig Hansen)



Vunidogoloa is now a ghost town and former residents have been moved to a new village 2km away. (Foreign Correspondent: Craig Hansen)



Consultations and dialogues needed at all levels



Learning from the past to plan for the future



Credits: Conciliation Resources , Transcend Oceania for Just Peace Communities



The Fiji Taskforce on Relocation and Displacement



The Standard Operating Procedures for Planned Relocation in Fiji (SOP)

- Approved by the Cabinet of the Government of Fiji 14 March 2023
- Officially launched 18 April 2023
- Paves the way for a human-centred, science-based, and climate resilient development approach for the relocation of at-risk communities in Fiji.

'Consult children' | Those U18 have right to be part of relocation decision

ANISH CHAND | 2 May, 2023, 3:06 pm



90pc must agree with decision for move to new site

ANISH CHAND | 2 May, 2023, 3:15 pm



SOP: View process as rebuilding rather than rehousing

ANISH CHAND | 2 May, 2023, 3:30 pm



Relocation is a last resort in Fiji Kamikamica

By Pita Ligaiula | April 19, 2023



Fiji deputy Prime Minister and External Trade, Manoa Kamikamica, relocation of Fijian villages something the Government the last resort in response impacts of climate change.

Speaking at the official launch of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES



Human-Centred Approach

Community bottom-up perception

Interests of communities are priority

Consideration of social, cultural, gender, economic and environmental issues relating to relocation

Human- Rights Based Approach

Men, women, elderly, persons with disabilities, LGBTQI are meaningfully engaged and participate in the decision-making, planning, and implementation related to the planned relocation

Livelihood- Based Approach

Livelihoods focussed – not only relocation

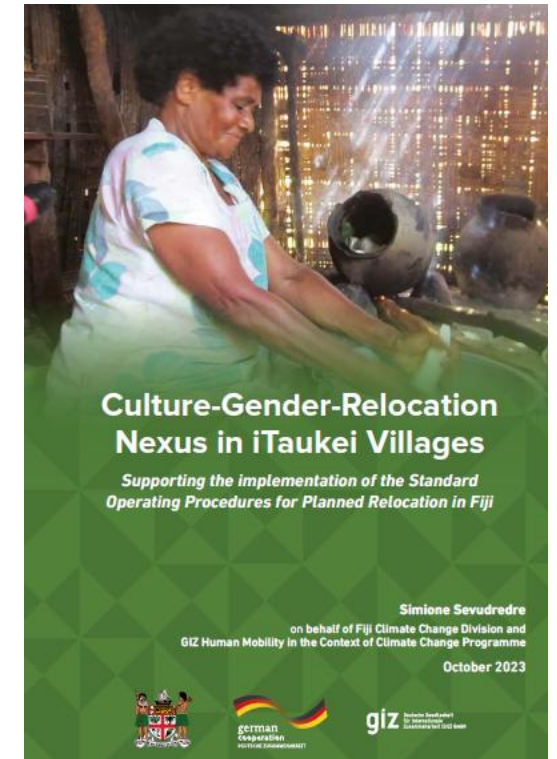
Sensitive to the specific needs of communities and households relocating

Pre-emptive Approach

Efficient response to environmental scenarios and protect the vulnerable groups on a medium and long term basis, contributing inter alia, to successful adaptive measures, decreasing potential risks and building resilience at the new destination (site).

GEDSI

***Human security** must also aim at developing the capabilities of individuals and communities to make informed choices and to act on behalf of causes and interests in many spheres of life. That is why human security starts from the recognition that people are the most active participants in determining their well-being. It builds on people's efforts, strengthening what they do for themselves.*



Required consent process – (following FPIC)

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Consent 1 | Request for the relocation assessment to take place |
| Consent 2 | Recommendations from scoping exercise to proceed to relocation or to take adaptation measures |
| Consent 3 | Identification of new site including house plans and ground layout |
| Consent 4 | Relocation of community (final decision to relocate or not) |
| Consent 5 | Relocation plan activities, including the mobility plan (movement of the community) |
| Consent 6 | Community obligations and contributions in the relocation process |

Evidence of inclusive participation & consultations – Free, Prior, Informed Consent documentation required

FTRD approves use of funds based on documentation



Nabavatu Relocation Project [Post-SOP relocation]

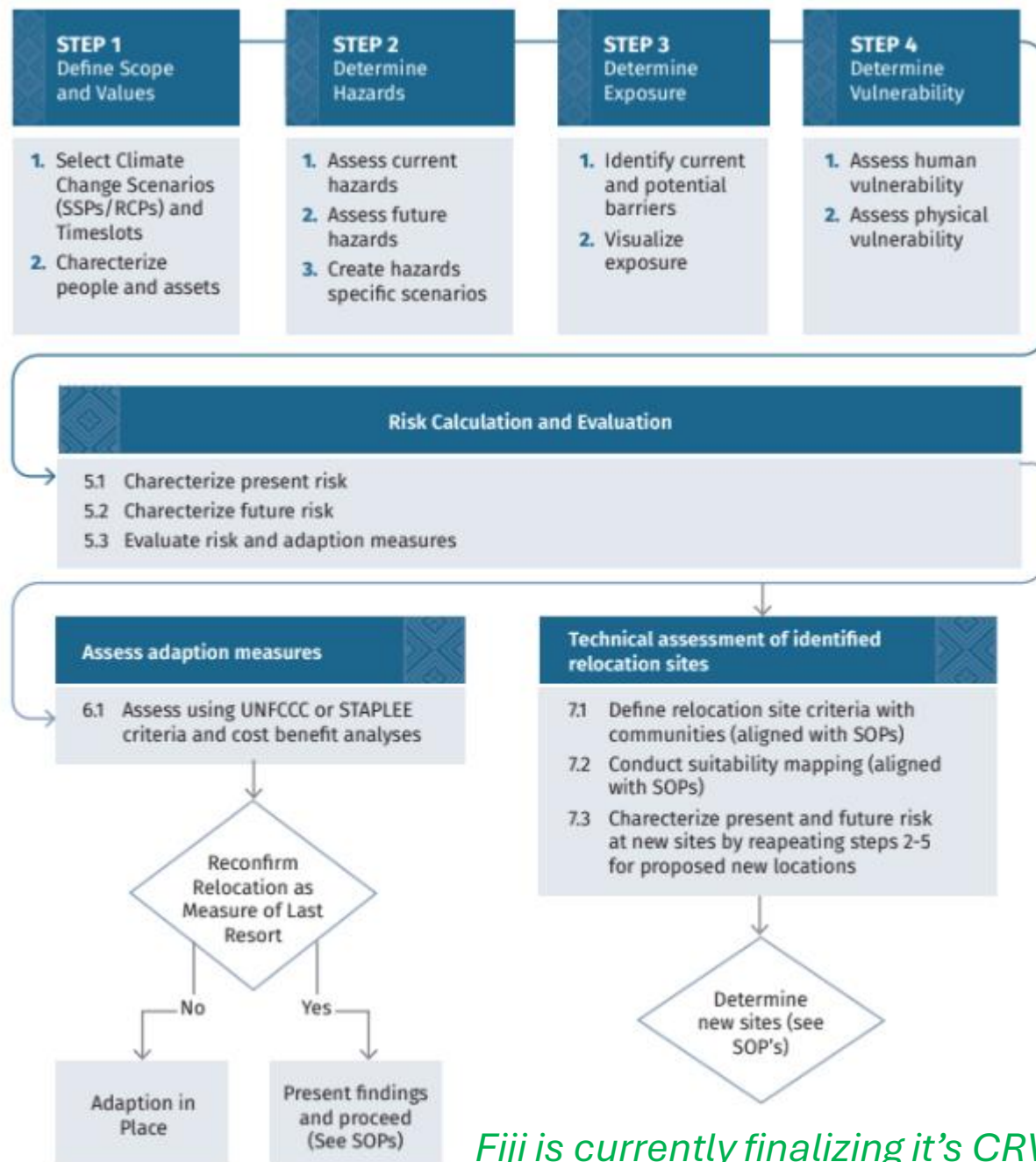


Funded by the Climate Relocation of Communities (CROC) Trust Fund



Comprehensive Risk & Vulnerability Assessment Methodology for Communities in Fiji

A Tool for the Standard Operating Procedures for Planned Relocation in Fiji



Fiji is currently finalizing it's CRVAM



Circle size reflects the total percentage of AAL (biggest: 3.25%)

Comparison of today's conditions and the end of the century



Adapting in place – averting relocation



Nabuna Village, Koro Island

Scoping assessment for a Nature-based Seawall in Nasau Village, Western Division.

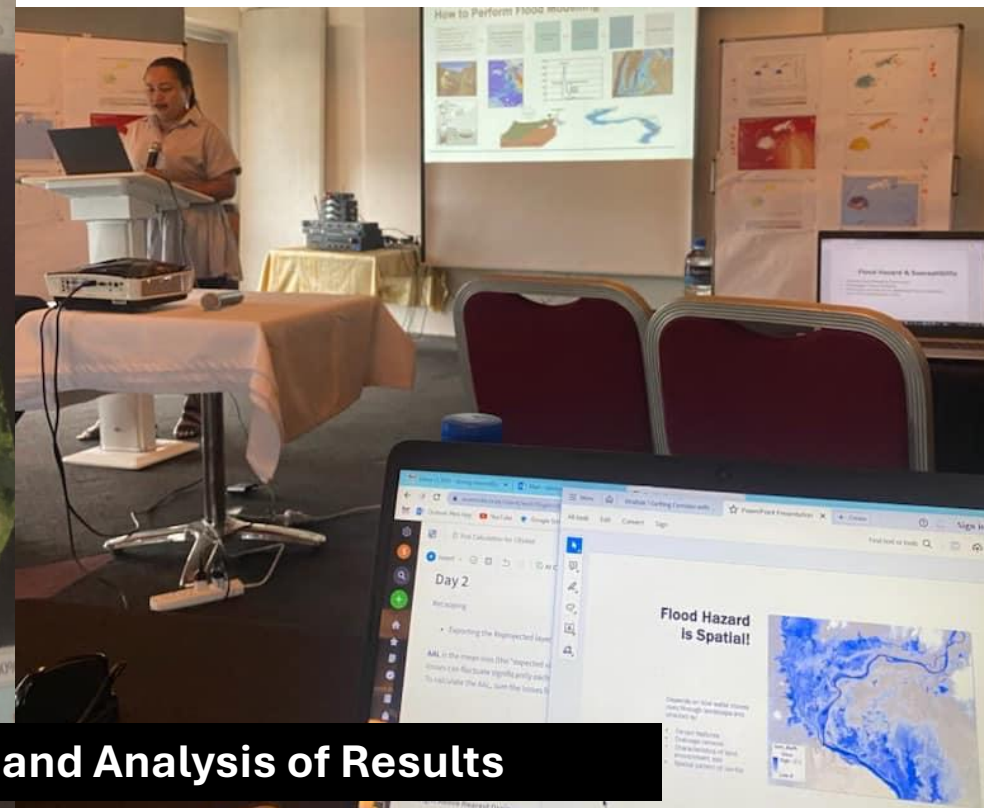
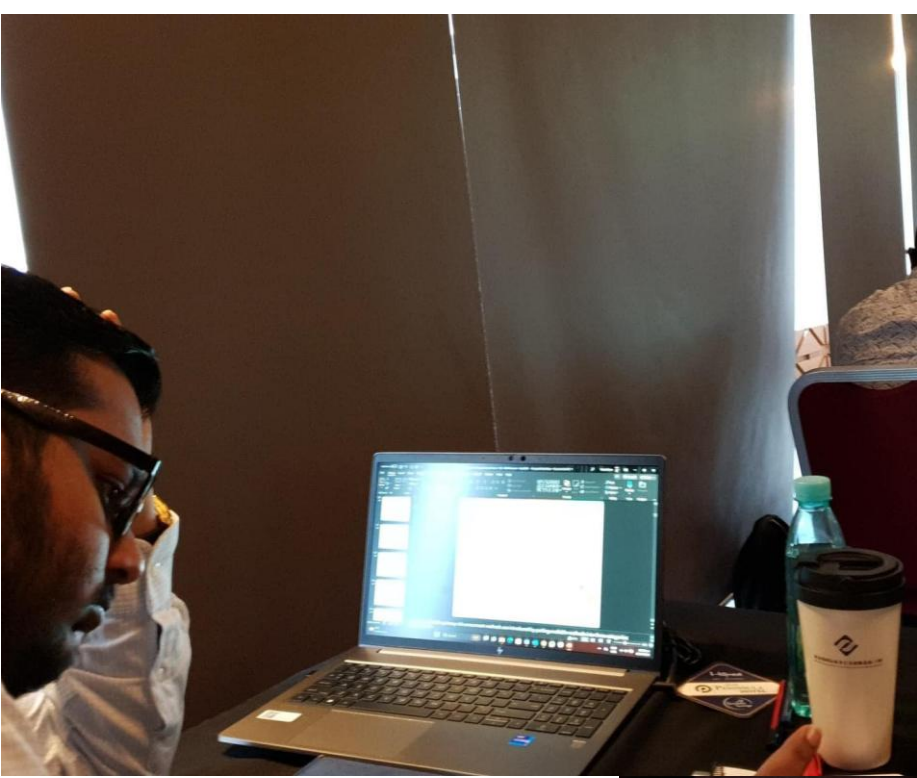


Planned Relocation Assessment and CRVAM

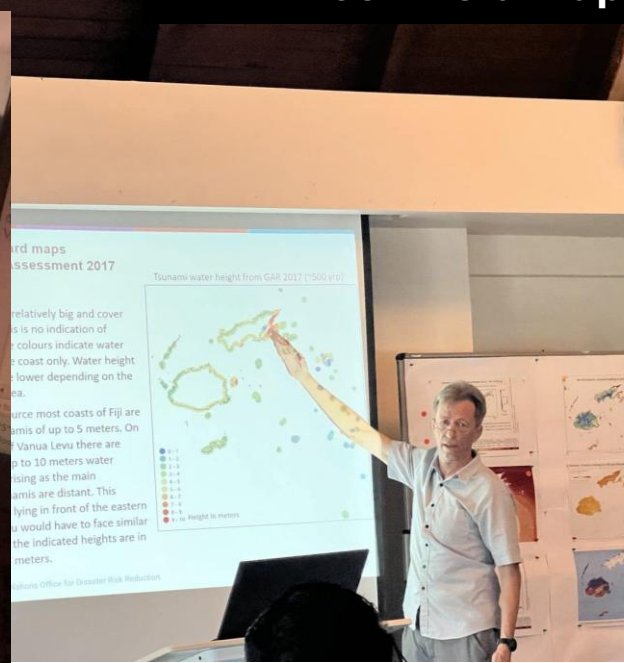
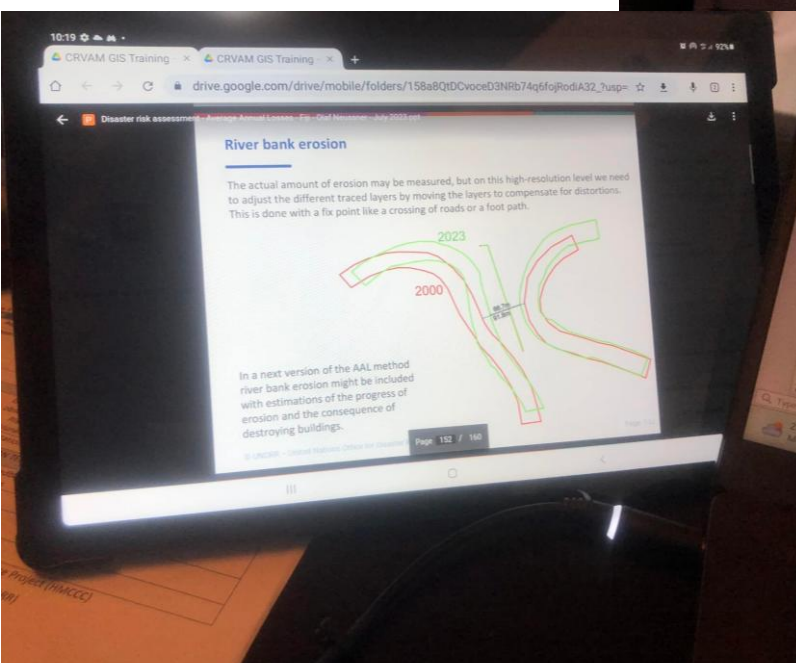


Pre-field Briefing by the FTRD Technical Working Group





Post-Field Mapping and Analysis of Results



Direct access grant to Communities

February 2026 – Global Center for Climate Mobility (GCCM)

[Emerging funding modalities]



Vuniniudrovu Village in Naitasiri



Narata Village in Nadroga

Country Peer to Peer Exchanges

- Meet implementing ministries
- Roundtable with national and regional stakeholders
- Site Visit to Relocated Community



As **climate change** reshapes the Pacific, Fiji and Vanuatu are **sharing practical lessons on planned relocation**, putting **communities, culture and dignity at the heart of every move.**

Communities need to be part of the decisions. That takes time, trust, and the right skills to communicate difficult truths.

Minnie Bani

Compliance Manager,
Vanuatu Ministry of
Internal Affairs



Regional Exchange on Climate Mobility



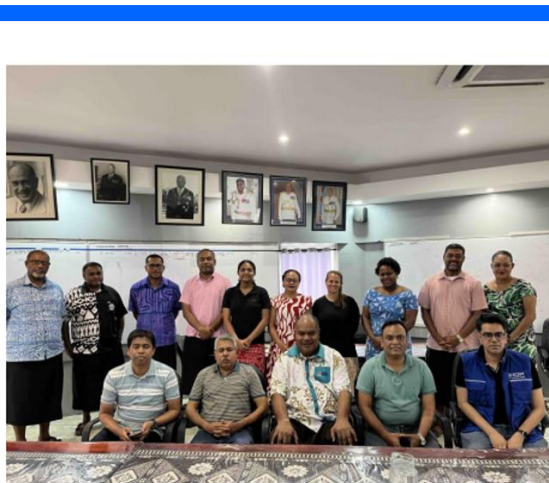
A Learning Exchange on Planned Relocation between the Government of Fiji and the Government of Bangladesh

South-South Exchange



Kumar Khoda Ashrayan Project Site





Key messages from Fiji's experience

1. **Relocation as a measure of last resort**
2. **Community participation and consent are critical**
3. **Maintain cultural connections as much as possible:** e.g continued access to original sites or culturally appropriate arrangements for the new site.
4. **Continued access to reliable water, sanitation, electricity, roads, schools, health services and communications:**
5. **Financing options:** mechanisms to sustainable funding sources, government budget, development partners, trust funds, blended finance.
6. **Whole of society approach:** Multiple ministries, agencies and partners are involved; clarity with roles, responsibilities and communication channels strengthens delivery.
7. **Learn as we go through the process:** capture lessons learnt from every relocation, support dialogues at all levels incl. peer to peer exchanges

Thank you