



Exploring the Pacific's Approach to Planned Relocation in the Context of Climate Change and Disasters

7 May 2026 • 2:00–3:30 p.m. Manila Time (GMT+8) • Virtual via MS Teams



The learning event served as an avenue to discuss and share the Pacific's rights-based and people-centered approaches towards climate mobility, including planned relocation as a last resort. The session highlighted the challenges, opportunities, and approaches, including on public administration and financing, in the Pacific. The speakers explored the role of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), as planned relocation has become an emerging development challenge in recent years brought about by increasing climate and disaster risks. MDBs like ADB can be instrumental in supporting Pacific DMCs developing member countries (DMCs) in addressing the negative consequences of displacement, including providing development finance, supporting policy dialogue, and integrating displacement solutions in the planning and design of projects.

“When you talk about resilience, we're talking about the social capital, the social fabric, the culture, the identity that keeps people together in communities.”

NACANIELI SPEIGTH

Desk Officer (Small Island Developing States),
Santiago Network

SPEAKERS



CHRISTELLE CAZABAT
Senior Researcher



NACANIELI SPEIGHTH
Desk Officer (SIDS),
Santiago Network



MODERATOR

STEVEN GOLDFINCH

Senior Disaster Risk
Management Specialist, Disaster
Risk Management Division,
Climate Change and Sustainable
Development Department, ADB



ERIN FELTON
Senior Operations
Coordination Specialist
(Fragile Situations), Fragility
and Engagement Division,
Climate Change and
Sustainable Development
Department ADB



RAHUL TIKARAM
Senior Climate
Change Officer, Pacific
Subregional Office, ADB

KEY MESSAGES

- In the Pacific, countries have been working together for over a decade to better understand and plan for climate mobility. At the center of the Pacific's approach is a recognition of the right of all Pacific peoples to stay in their homes, while promoting rights-based and people-centered approaches that considers not only planned relocation but also other forms of climate (im)mobility, including displacement, migration, stranded migrants and staying in place.
- At the national level, governments are putting in place enabling policies, and planned relocation is increasingly reflected in National Adaptation Plans and broader development strategies—clearly pointing to where future demand is heading.
- ADB has invested considerable effort in strengthening understanding of forced displacement as a development issue and the business case for investing in solutions. While progress is being made in integrating disaster displacement considerations into ADB operations, planned relocation remains an area where more work is needed.
- Development finance must be better positioned to respond to the emerging and growing demand from governments for support and financing for planned relocation in the context of a changing climate and increasing disaster risks.

“... a very interesting, yet sobering and somewhat depressing topic, but critically important, obviously, for all of us.”

BENJAMIN M. GRAHAM

Director, Fragility and Engagement Division, Climate
Change and Sustainable Development Department, ADB

FURTHER INFORMATION

- [Report on Financing for planned relocation processes in the context of climate change and disasters in the Pacific.](#)