



# Overview of Fiji's Climate Change Challenges and Responses

Climate Change and International Cooperation Division

Ministry of Economy

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07 October 2019

Asia-Pacific Judicial Conference on Climate Change Adjudication: Trends and Impacts



# Outline

1. Climate Science and local trends
2. Climate Hazards
3. Climate Change Impacts and Cases
4. Adaptation and Mitigation
5. Governance Arrangement's
6. Climate Change Bill

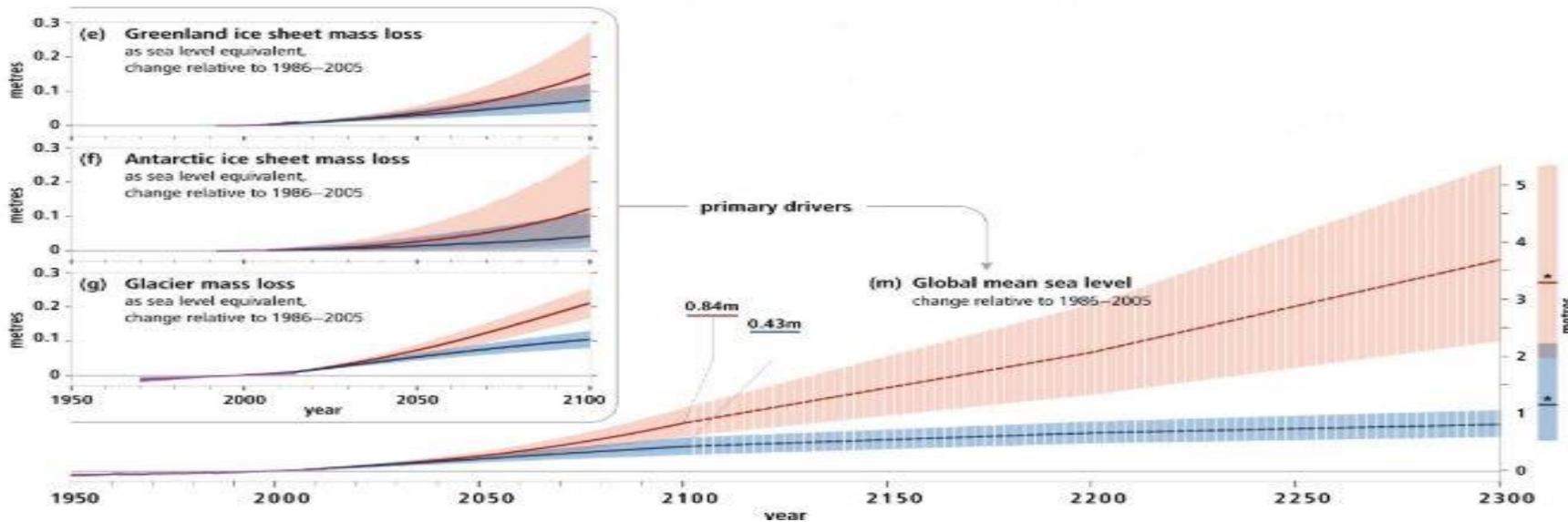


# Climate Science: IPCC

## IPCC SR1.5

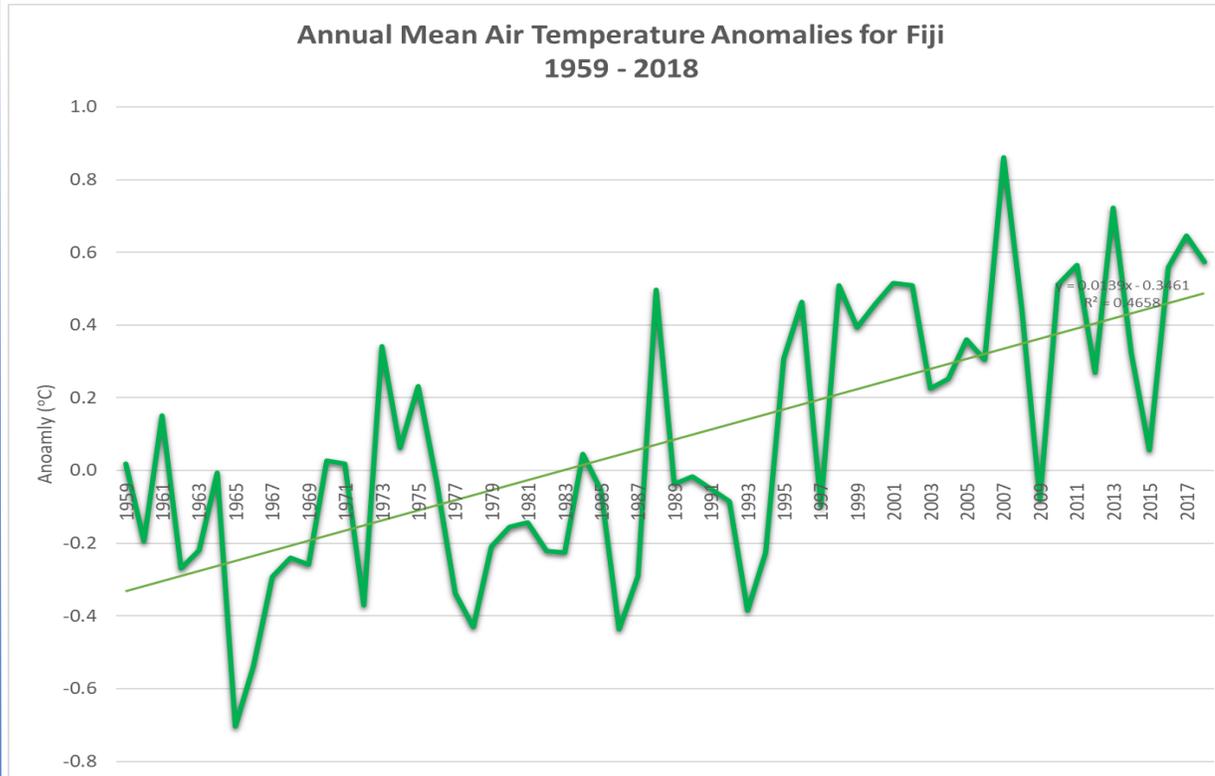
- ✓ Half a degree matters
- ✓ Each year matters
- ✓ Each choice matters

## IPCC SROCC

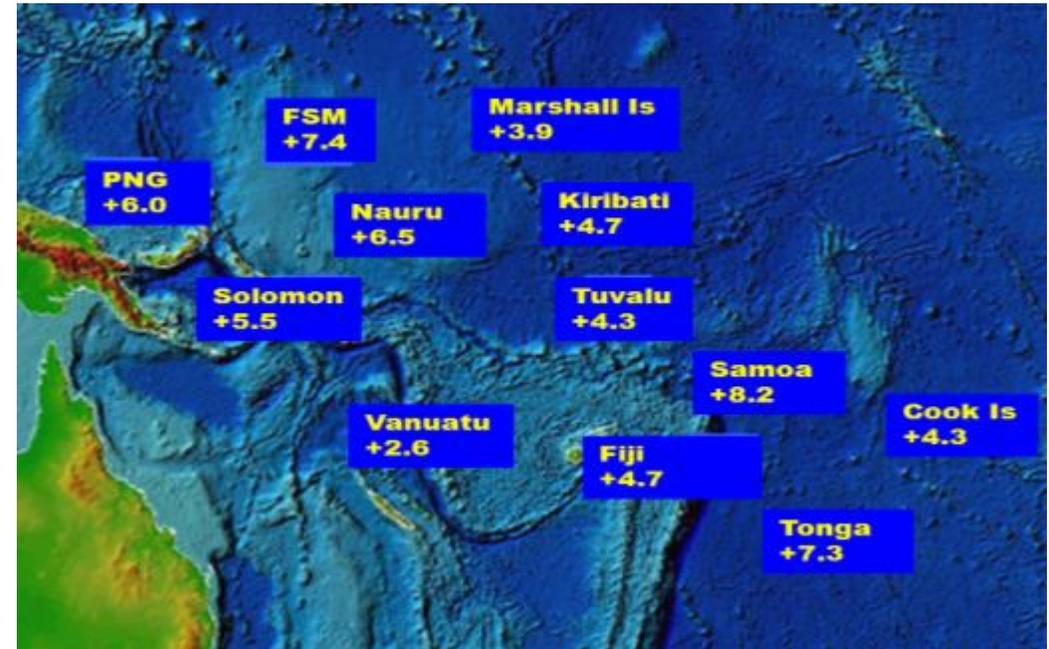




# Observed Climate Change in Fiji



Sea Level Change (mm/yr)





# Projected Climate Change in Fiji



- Annual **temperatures** and extremely high daily temperatures will continue to rise (*very high confidence*)



- Model projections indicate an increase in rainfall during the November-April season, which means Fiji's wet season will become more wetter.
- More extreme rain events (*high confidence*)



- **Ocean acidification** is expected to continue (*very high confidence*)
- **Coral bleaching risk** will increase in the future (*very high confidence*)
- **Sea level** will continue to rise (*very high confidence*)
- **Wave height** is projected to increase in the Fiji area in the dry season (*low confidence*)



# Climate Hazards in Fiji





# Climate Change Impacts in Fiji

*Food Security*

Marine and coastal resources

Tourism

**Economy**

Public Health

Water and sanitation

Water resources

Biodiversity

Human settlements

Loss of Land

Infrastructure



# Case 1

## Tropical Cyclone Winston



- Struck Fiji in 2016 and the country is still recovering
- 44 people killed, 540,400 people impacted
- 1/3 of our GDP wiped out overnight
- Climate change will increase the likelihood of such events



# Case 2

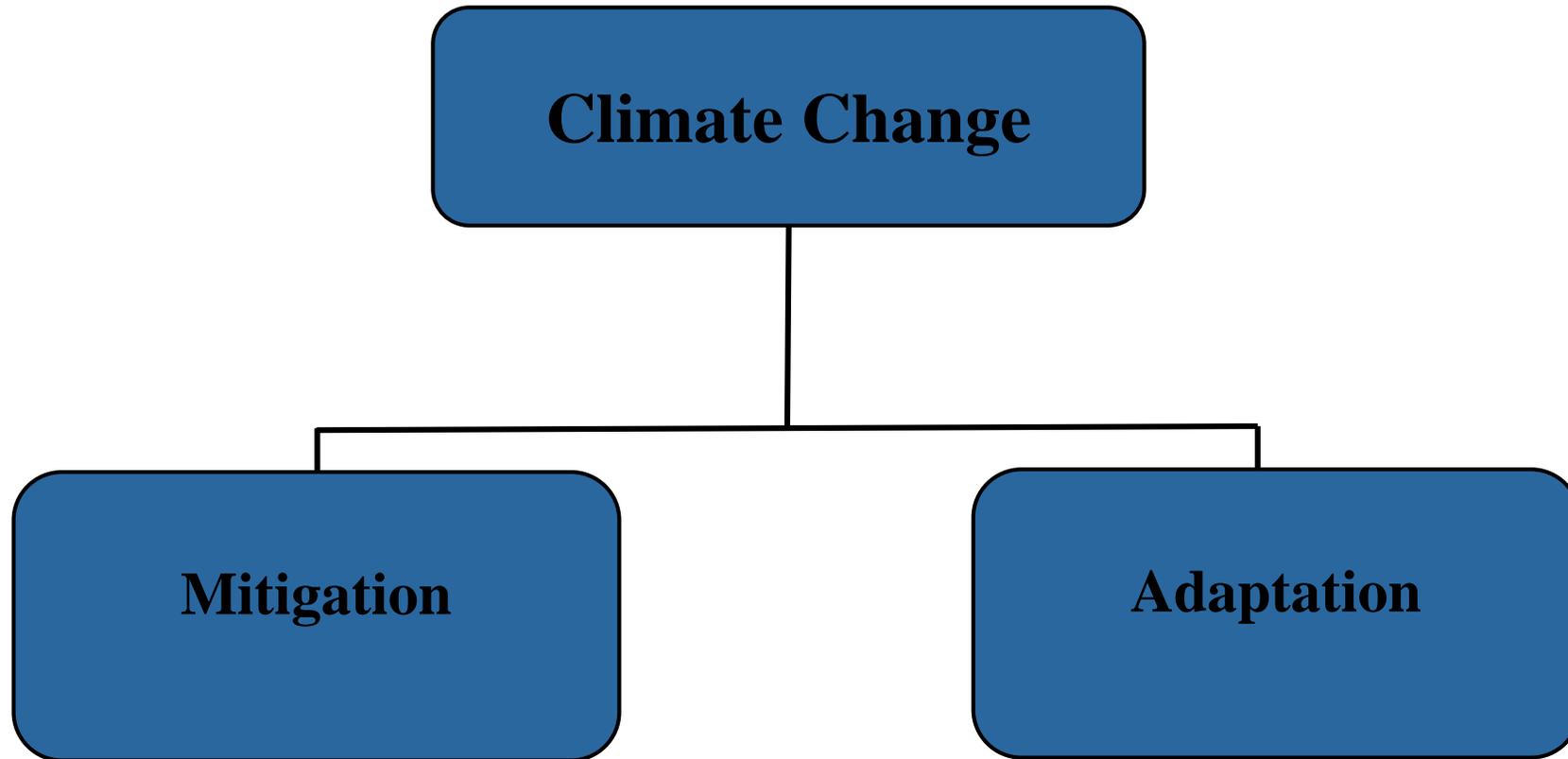
## Relocation of Vunidogoloa



- First village in Fiji to reposition, in 2014.
- Previous attempts to adapt by building seawalls failed.
- Enormously emotional and harrowing experience for the inhabitants.
- 5 communities relocated to date; many more to follow.



# Two necessary options

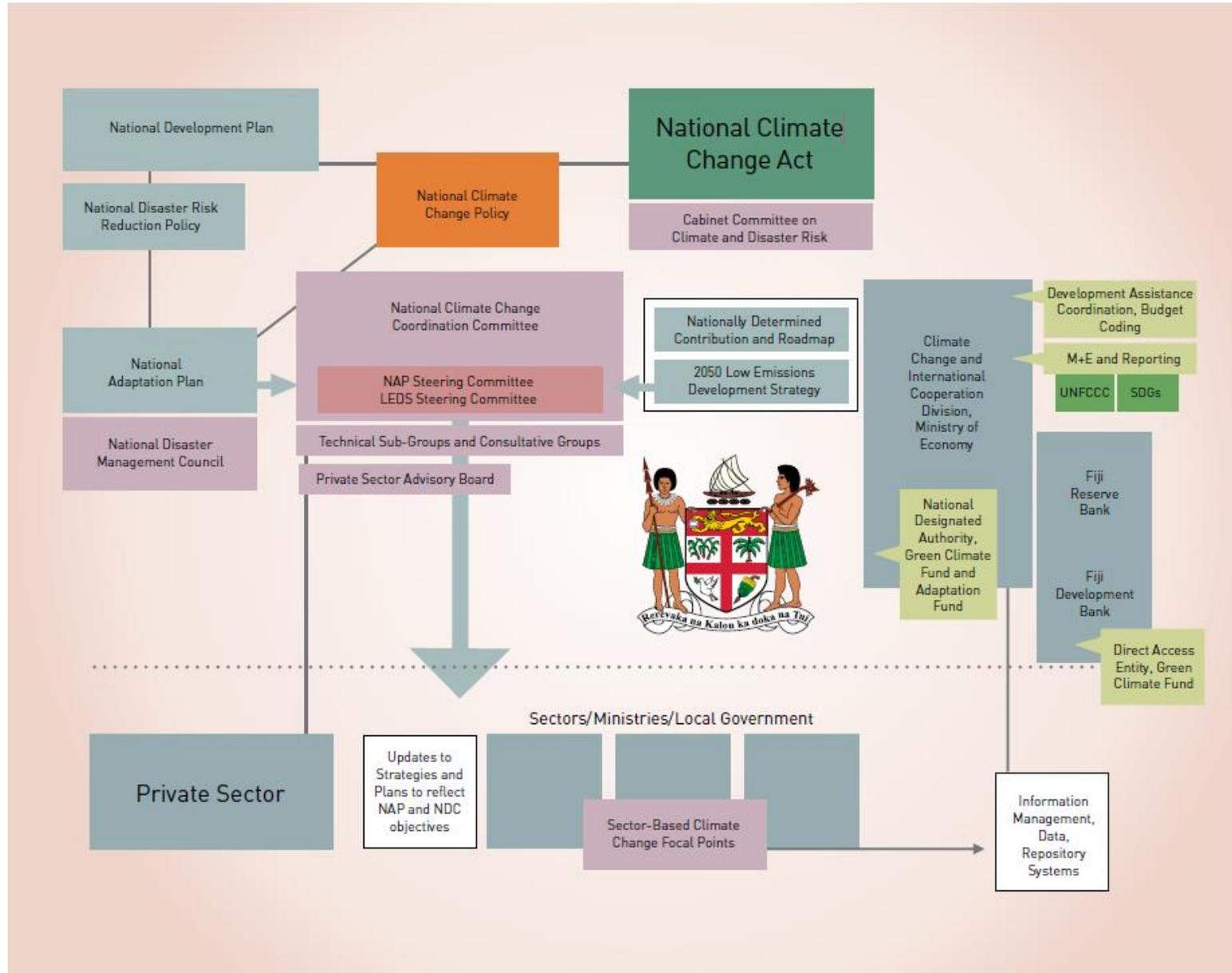




# Policies, Plans and Frameworks

- 5-Year and 20-Year National Development Plan
- National Climate Change Policy
- National Adaptation Plan
- Planned Relocation Guidelines
- Climate Vulnerability Assessment
- NDC Implementation Roadmap
- Low Emissions Development Strategy

# Governance Arrangement's





# Draft Climate Change Bill

## • Overview

- Provides a framework to guide Fiji's implementation of the Paris Agreement;
- Creates legal tools to safeguard the wellbeing of Fijian people and their communities from the climate threat now and into the future.
- Creates a legal basis for key policy documents.
- Supports the coordination of our national response to climate change, Promotes a "whole of government" approach to climate change, placing obligations on State entities and decision-makers under other legislation to have regard to climate change when making decisions.

## Key Provisions :

1. Sets out a long-term emissions reduction target of net-zero by 2050 and requires the Minister responsible for climate change, with the assistance of the Head of Division, to determine 5 year carbon budgets from 2026 to 2050.
2. Establishes an MRV system for GHG emissions and creates a national GHG inventory.
3. Establishes a framework for the development of Fiji Emissions Reduction projects, programmes and activities
4. Defines carbon sequestration property rights as the exclusive and distinct legal property right to carbon sequestration and carbon stocks (that is to be in the form of a lease that is attached to the land).
5. Establishes policies and requirements relating to REDD+, including the framework by which the Government of Fiji may participate in transactions under international REDD+ programmes
6. Requires public and private actors to disclose climate change risks.
7. Establishes principles and procedures for the relocation of at-risk communities resulting from the adverse impacts of climate change and a Trust Fund to support the planned relocation of vulnerable communities in Fiji.
8. Places ban on all single-use plastic bags and Styrofoam by 2021
9. Establishes an online, publicly accessible Information Platform that will contain all policies, reports, research, statements of Fiji's greenhouse gas emissions, carbon budgets, integrated risk scenarios and national climate change projections.
10. Requires that climate change issues and science be integrated into the national curriculum



# Thank you!

