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Climate Change and Security: Risks, Responses and Resilience

ADB Resilience Learning Month

21 October 2025

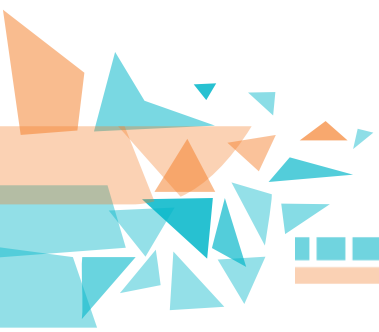


Presentation outline

- Welcome and introductions
- About adelphi and weathering risk
- Climate security assessment methodology
- Papua New Guinea context
- Overview of study and key findings
- Implications and recommendations for ADB
- Discussion – Q&A



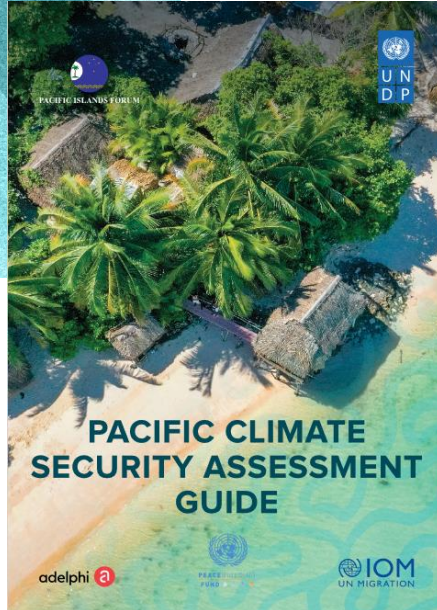
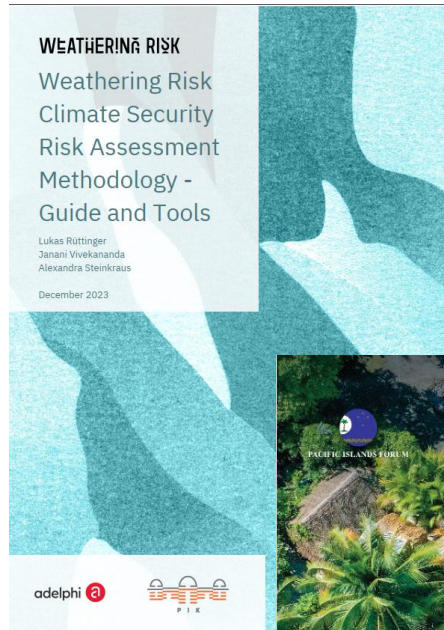
- **Definitions:**
 - Security – broad concept that includes violent conflicts, SGBV, SARV, political instability and crime
 - Resilience – capacity to recover from multiple shock and stressors
- **Study origins:**
 - ADB's FCAS and SIDS Approach
 - PNG Fragility and Resilience Assessment
 - Discussion Paper accompanies full adelphi study



About adelphi and weathering risk

- adelphi is a Berlin-based think tank and consultancy with over 20 years of experience in assessing and addressing the links between climate change, environment, peace and security
- Weathering Risk Initiative:
 - offers tailored analysis and tools to understand climate- and environment related risks to human security and build sustainable peace
 - launched in June 2019

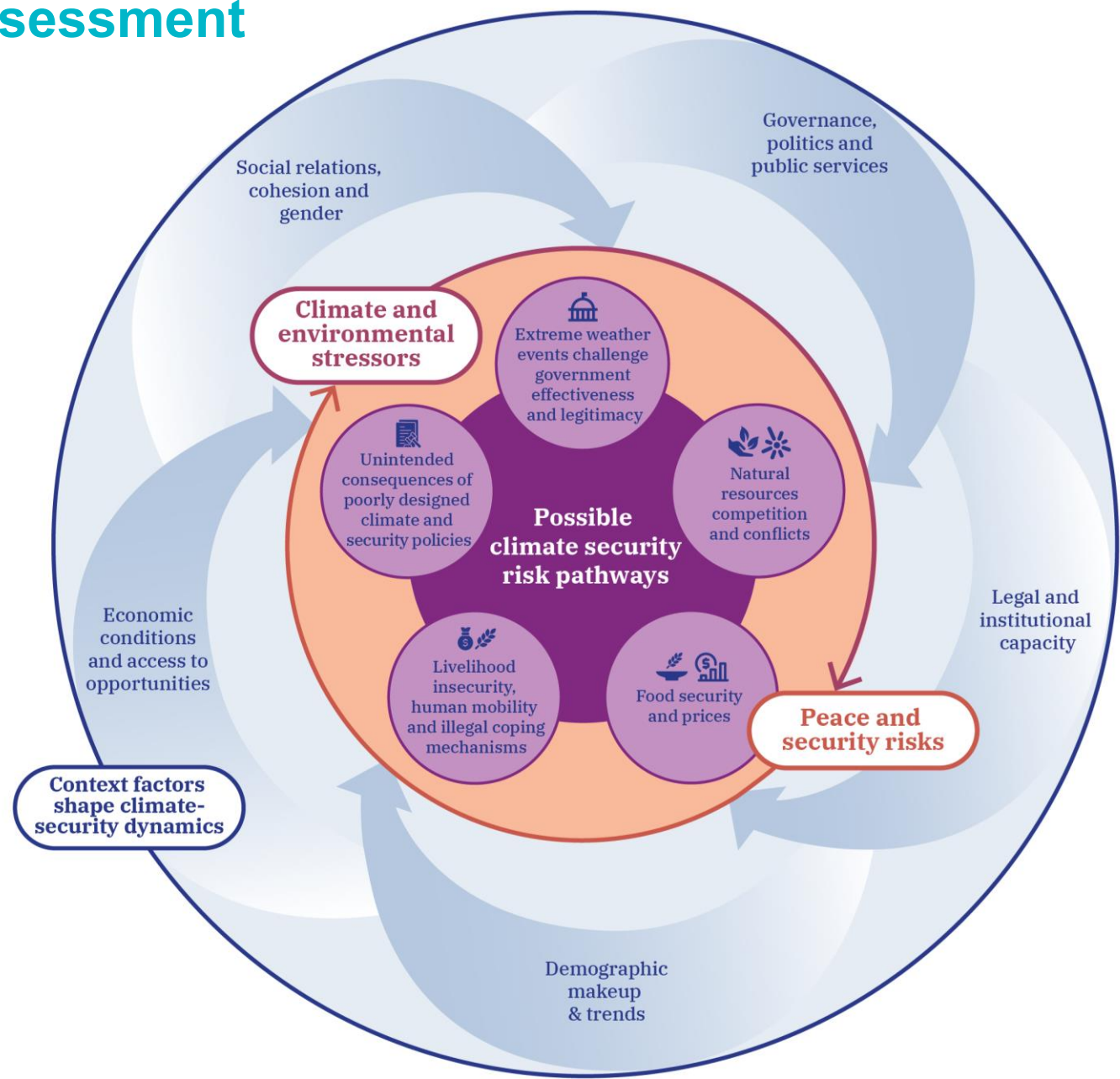




The methodology allows to

- Identify and understand current and future climate- and environment related security risks;
- Identify possible entry points and response measures
- It was adapted for the Pacific context and endorsed by PIF

Climate Security Assessment

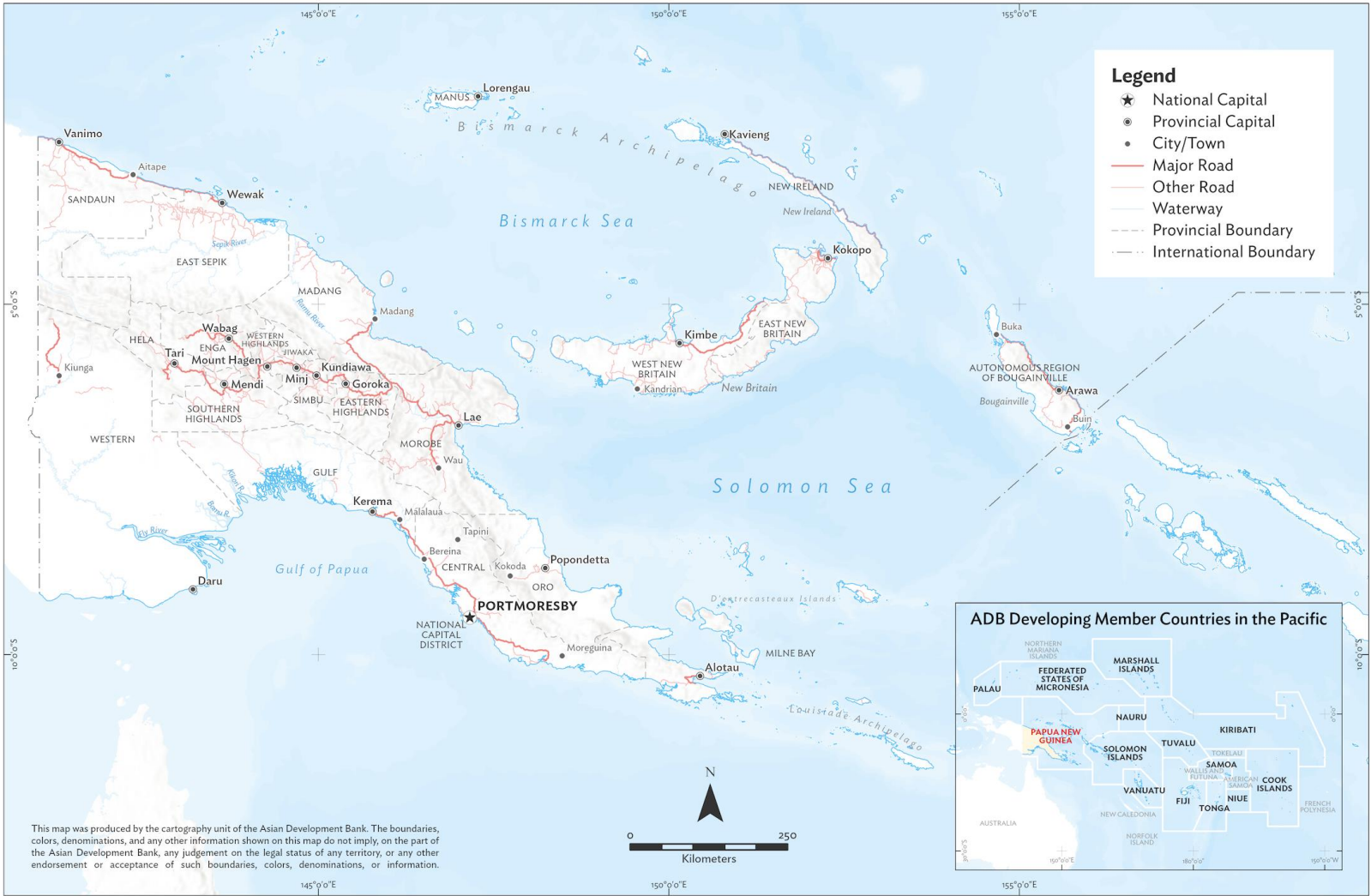


Climate Security Assessment

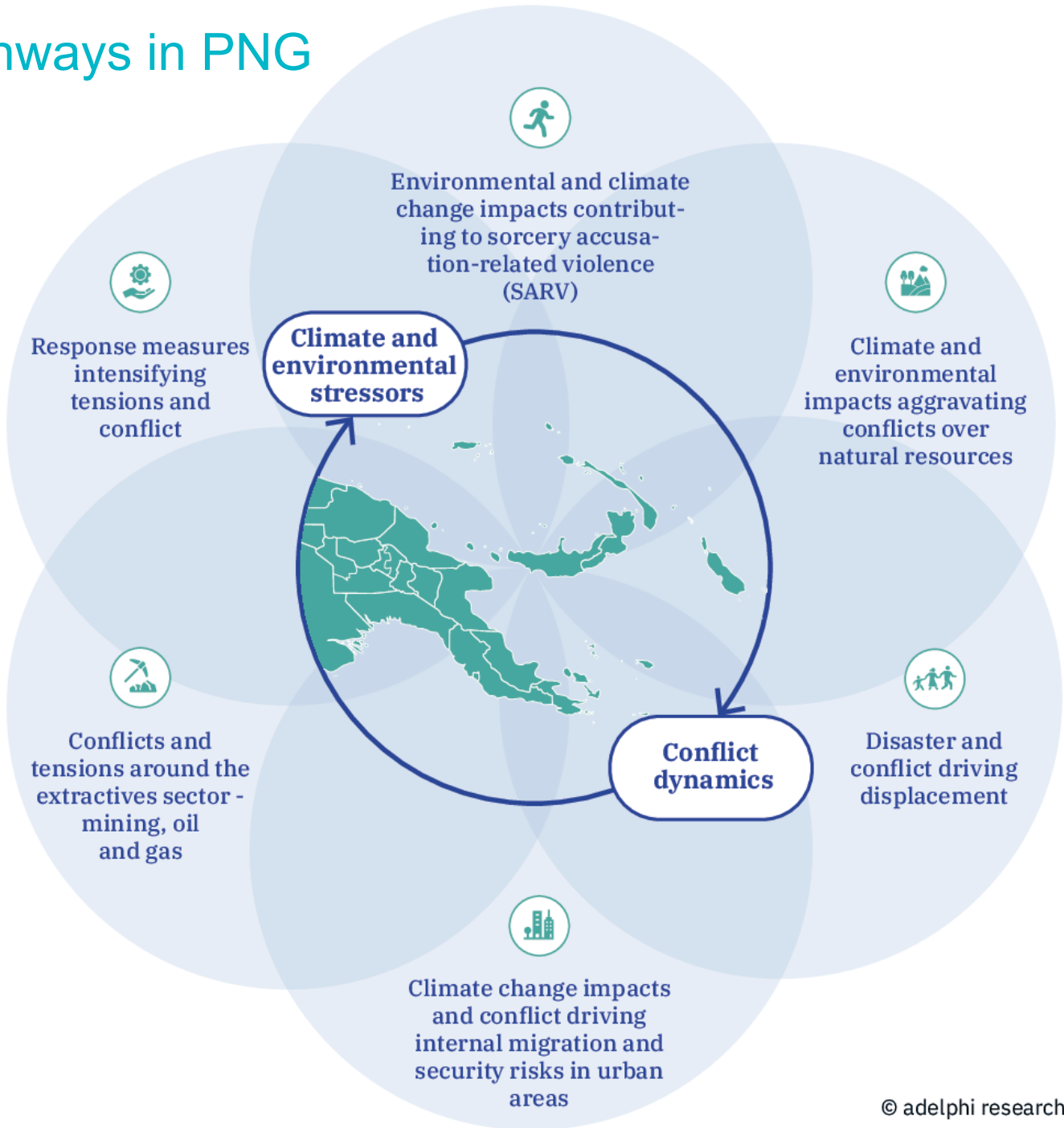


- Review of existing literature and research
- Downscaled climate projections
- Field research together with local researchers covering different geographies
- Collaboration with ADB and UNDP

Setting the scene: PNG climate and environment context

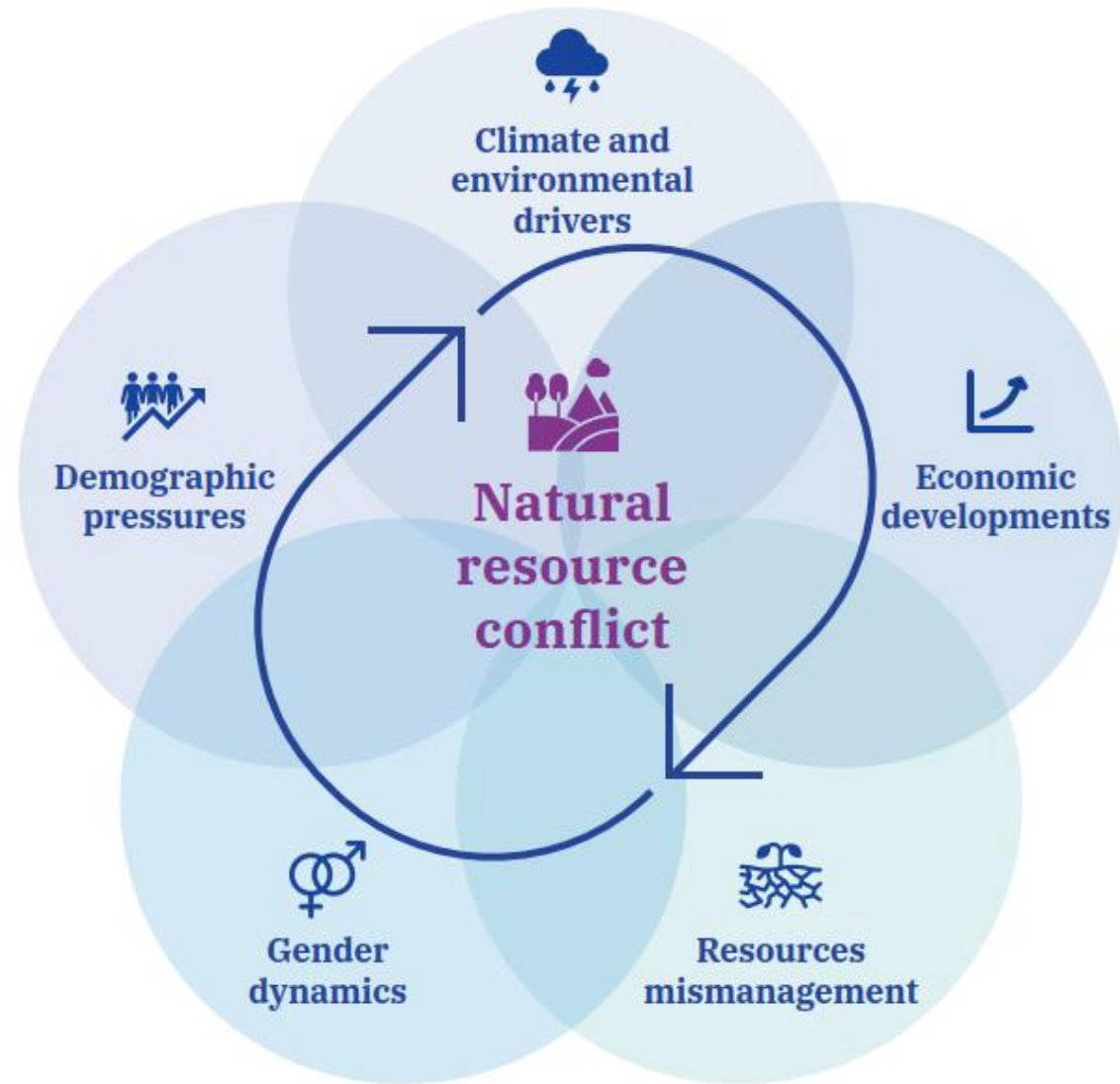


Climate Security Pathways in PNG



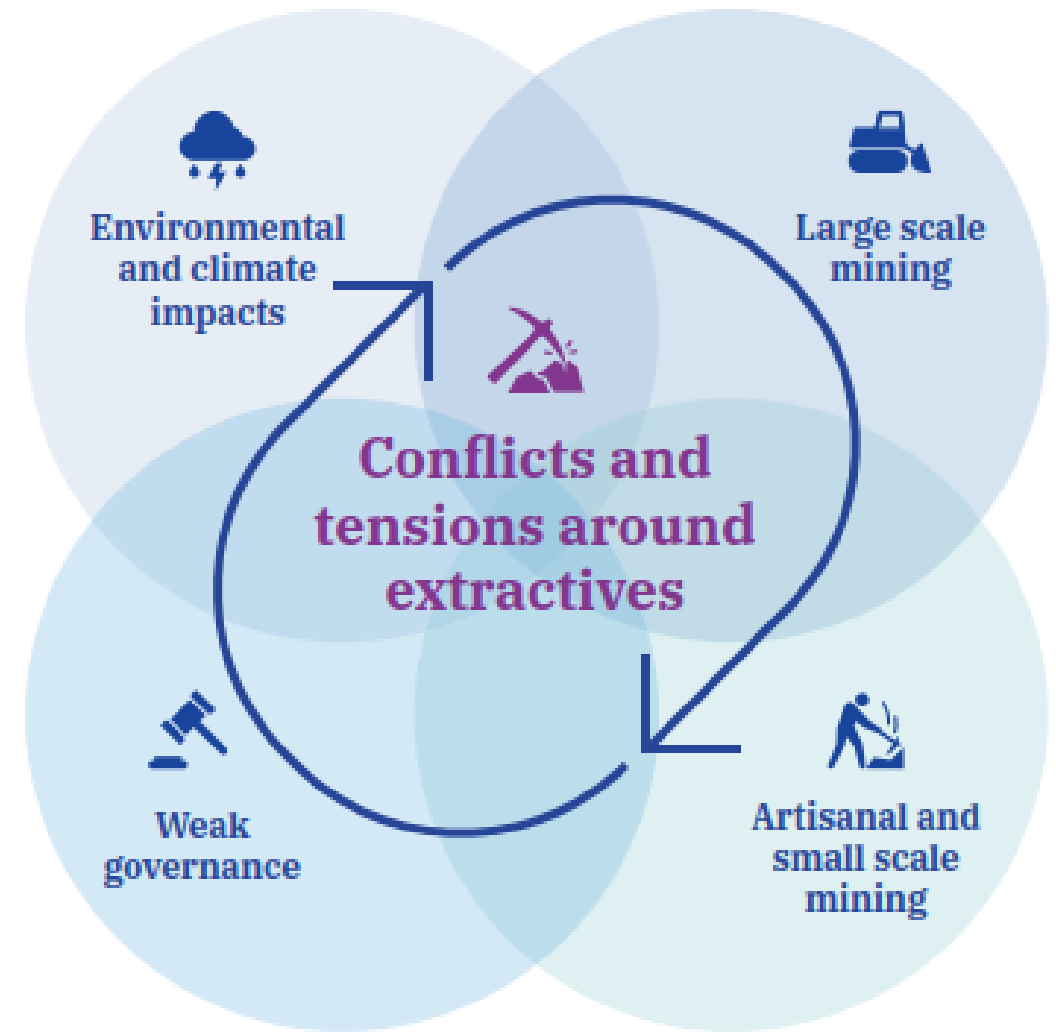
Pathway 1: Increasing Natural Resource Conflicts

- Conflicts over land, forests, and fisheries are significant and escalating security challenges in PNG
- Land is the biggest flashpoint of conflict over natural resources in PNG
 - Climate change is mainly aggravating conflicts on the community and family level.
- Forest conflicts are often triggered by large-scale logging operations and clearing for agricultural purposes.
- Climate and environmental changes also adversely impact PNG's fisheries and exacerbate conflicts between fishing communities but also between commercial fishing fleets and local communities.



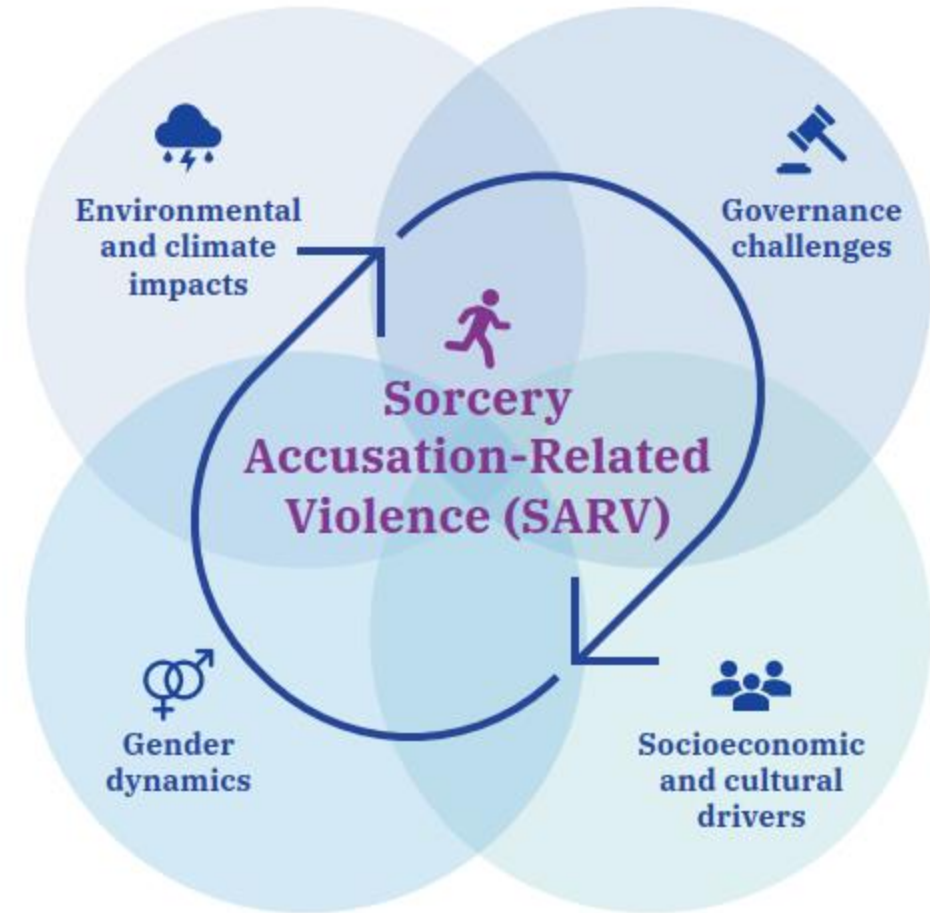
Pathway 2: Conflicts around extractives – mining, oil and gas

- Mining is of great importance for the economy and development in PNG
- Conflicts primarily around large-scale projects and their environmental impacts, land rights and benefits sharing, are often intertwined with existing tensions and dynamics
- Artisanal and small-scale mining in PNG presents a growing and complex challenge.
- Climate impacts are likely to intensify existing environmental challenges and create new operational risks



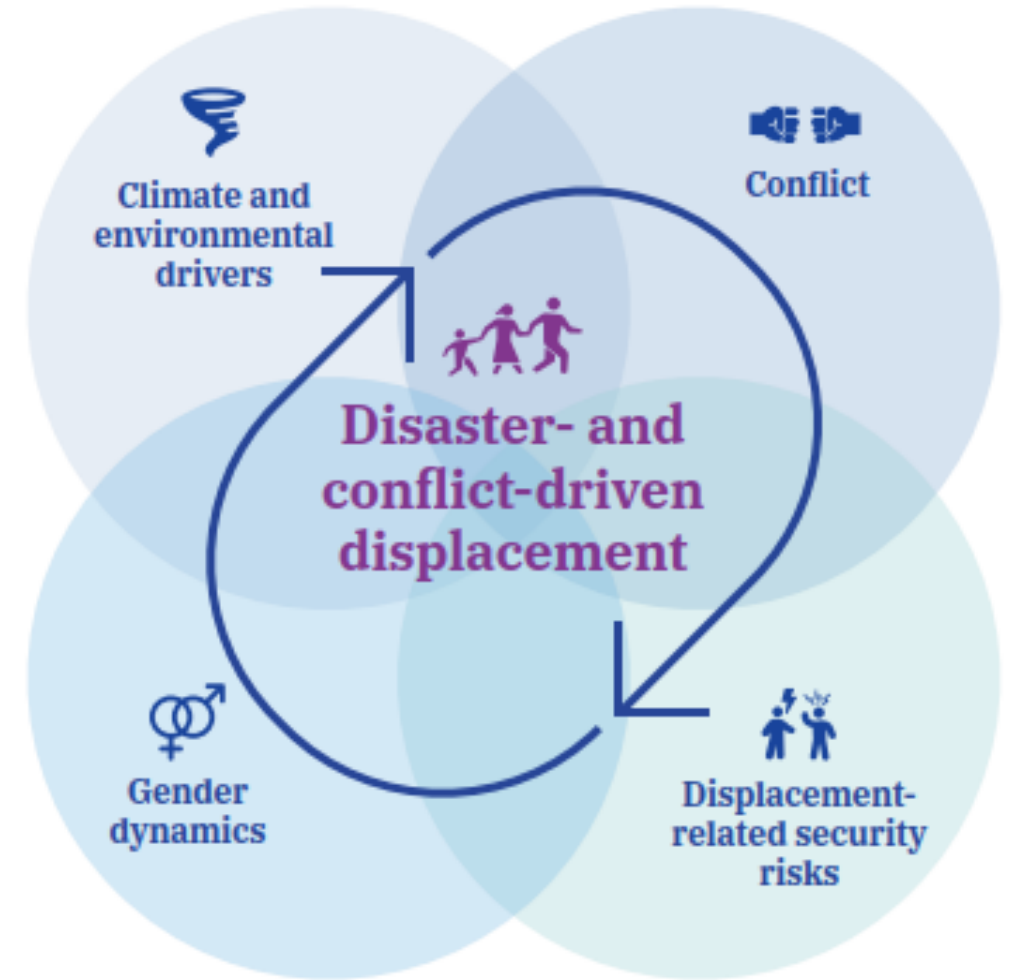
Pathway 3: Environmental and climate change impacts contributing to SARV

- SARV: huge and increasing challenge
- All kinds of environmental and climate changes and in particular disasters are being interpreted as sorcery (floods and landslides, rotting crops, muddy water)
- Victims are often brutally tortured, killed or are permanently displaced
- Very normalized violence
- Sometimes also triggering intergroup violence
- Aggravated by lack of climate change awareness, weak law enforcement, role of political and traditional leaders and the church, and social media



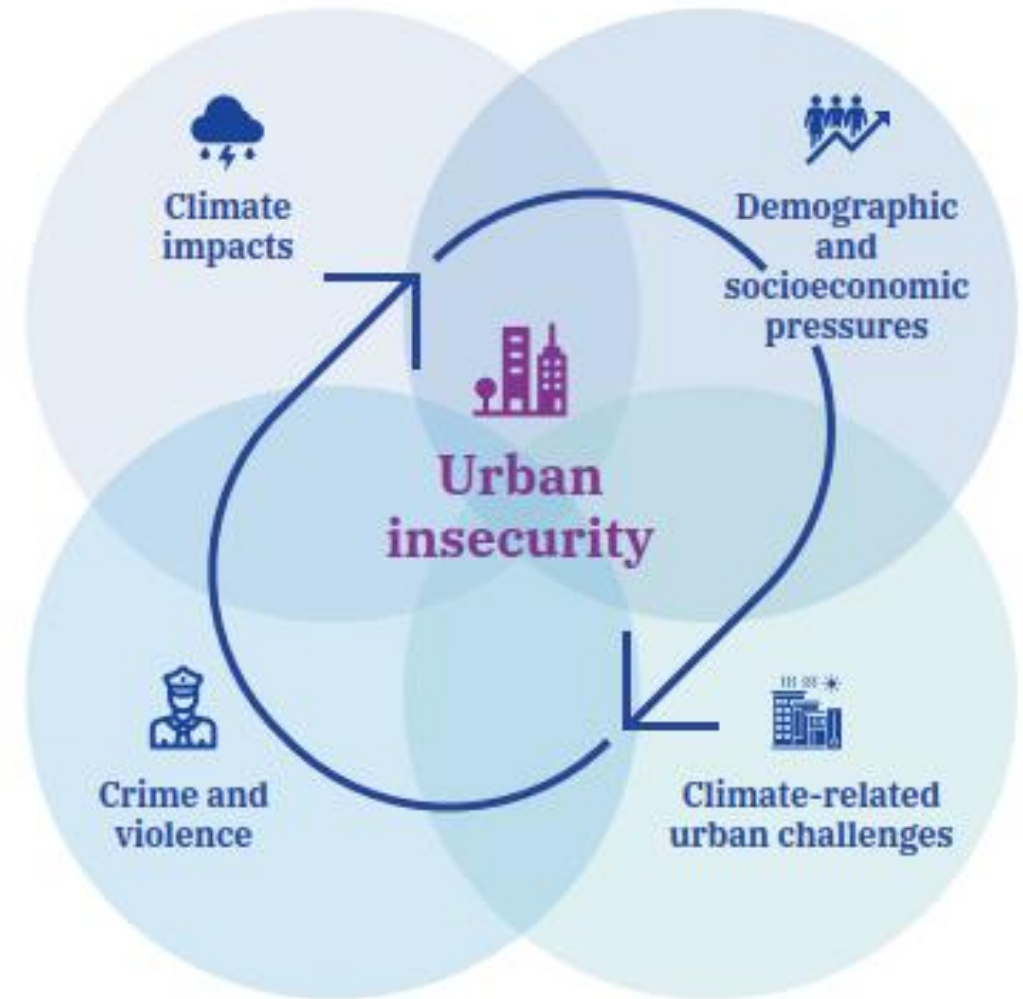
Pathway 4: Disaster and Conflict Driving Displacement

- Overall scale unclear, but more disaster than conflicts displacement
- Movements are often complex:
 - Conflict displacement more permanent
 - In the case of disasters often temporary, though people housed in care centers for long term
- Security challenges:
 - Increasing tensions and conflicts in host communities over housing, land and social problems
 - For displaced: discrimination, abuse and food insecurity
- Long-term challenge resettlement



Pathway 5: Climate and environmental impacts and conflict driving internal migration and security risks in urban areas

- Cities are emerging as security hotspots in PNG
- Internal migrants are looking for security, economic perspectives, better education and services
- Climate and environmental changes are accelerating these movements
- Migrants face new risks: disasters and heightened vulnerability, crime and violence, and land conflicts
- Youth are a particular risk group



Pathway 6: Response measures intensifying tensions and conflict

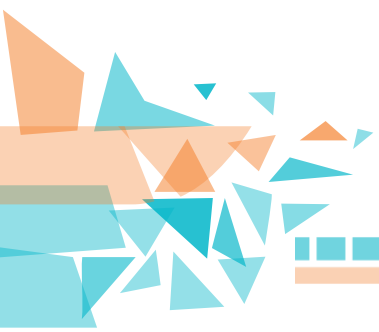
- Unequal disaster response
- Infrastructure developments and resilience building measures are impacted by existing conflict dynamics
 - Land issues
 - Access to water infrastructure
- Development projects seem to concentrate on the same geographic areas/communities
- Risks and interactions create the potential for synergies





Integrate climate-security analysis into strategic planning and programming

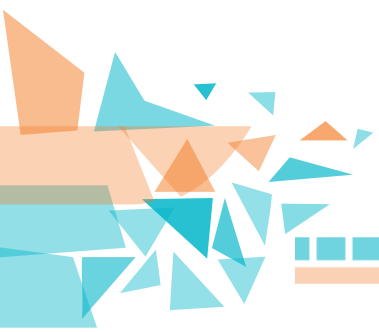
- Fragility and Resilience Assessments and similar diagnostics that support better understanding of context and dynamics
- Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) to include conflict-sensitive programming, and align with PNG national policies and mechanisms
 - GoPNG National (Conflict) Prevention Strategy and the Department of Provincial and Local Government's draft policy on Internally Displaced Persons
 - CPS Country Climate Plan- includes multi-hazard mapping to incorporate conflict sensitivity analysis





Integrate climate and security risk considerations into project planning and design

- Understanding that development projects can support peace and social cohesion, and “do no harm” principles
 - Equitable access to resources and services,
 - Community level adaptation,
 - Considerations for displacement risk
- Strong local engagement and work with partners
- For ADB staff and project implementation units – sensitization on the dynamics of climate and conflict, including building skills and providing resources for local conflict resolution





Kindly scan the QR code
for a short assessment.



THANK YOU





Additional slides for reference

Climate governance framework



Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA)

Leads national climate policy and coordination

Govern by the Climate Change Management Act

National Designated Authority for UNFCCC reporting

Coordination at sub-national level



NDC targets

Sector	Target
Energy	Carbon neutrality within the energy industries sub-sector by 2030.
Transport	PNG will continue to review appropriate options and approaches to reducing emissions from the transport subsector.
LULUCF	By 2030, PNG is committing to a reduction in annual emission from deforestation and forest degradation, due to agriculture expansion and commercial logging of 10,000 Gg CO2 eq compared to 2015 level.
Adaptation	Build resilience in agriculture, health, infrastructure, and transport . This sectoral focus is in line with the PNG National Adaptation Plan

