

This is not an ADB material. The views expressed in this document are the views of the author/s and/or their organizations and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Asian Development Bank, or its Board of Governors, or the governments they represent. ADB does not guarantee the accuracy and/or completeness of the material's contents, and accepts no responsibility for any direct or indirect consequence of their use or reliance, whether wholly or partially. Please feel free to contact the authors directly should you have queries.

Republic of the Marshall Islands 2023

National Adaptation Pathways to Protect Lives and Livelihoods



Why we
need the
NAP



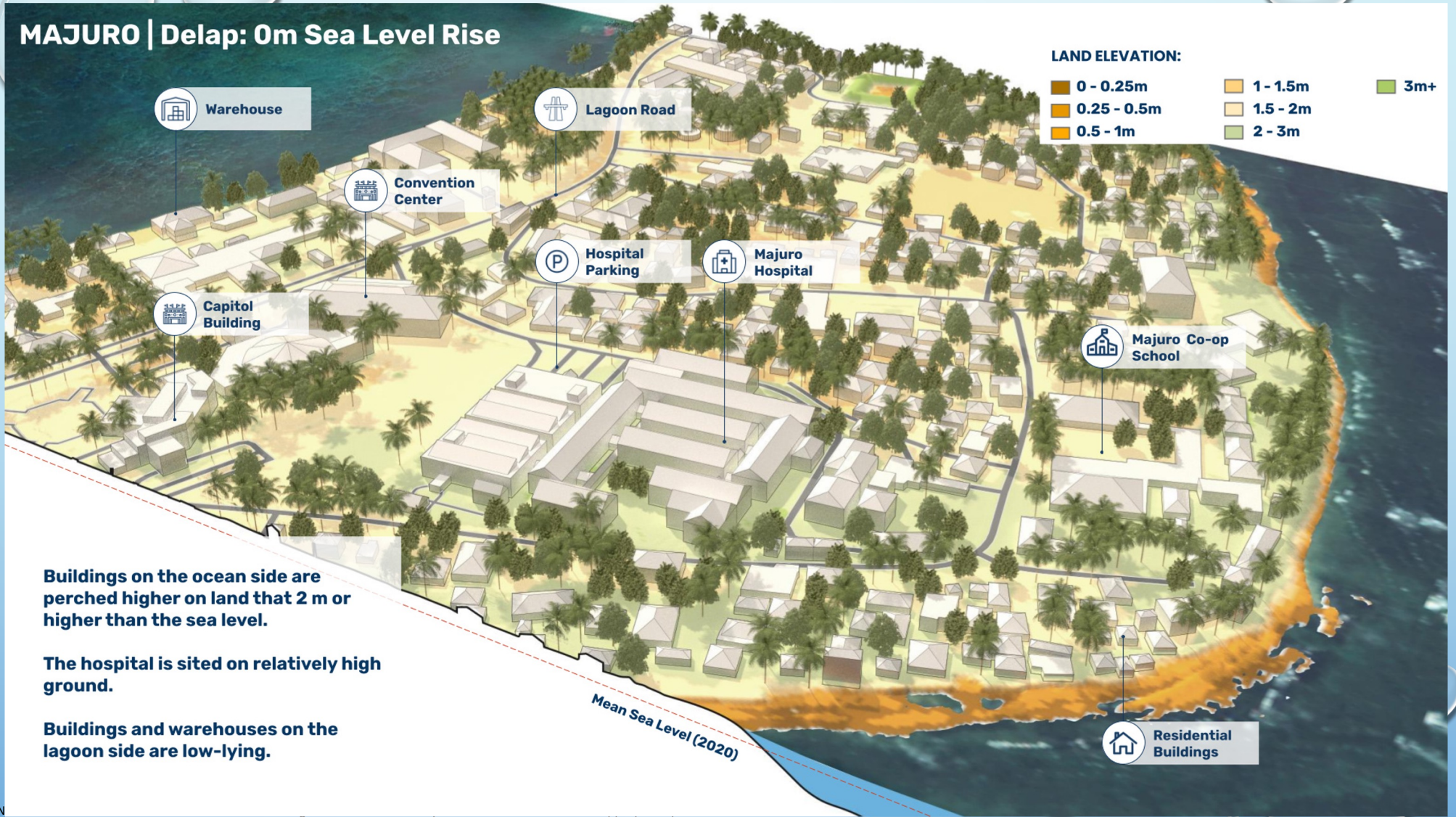
A living document

Integrating Climate Change into National Planning: NAP allows for the systematic integration of climate change considerations into national and sub-national planning, policy, and budget processes across sectors and regions. This is vital as addressing climate change is not a stand-alone effort but affects and is affected by almost all sectors of the economy and society.

Supporting Sustainable Development: Without proper planning and implementation of adaptation measures, climate change could seriously hinder the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). NAPs help ensure that a country's path to development is resilient to climate change and does not exacerbate climate risks.

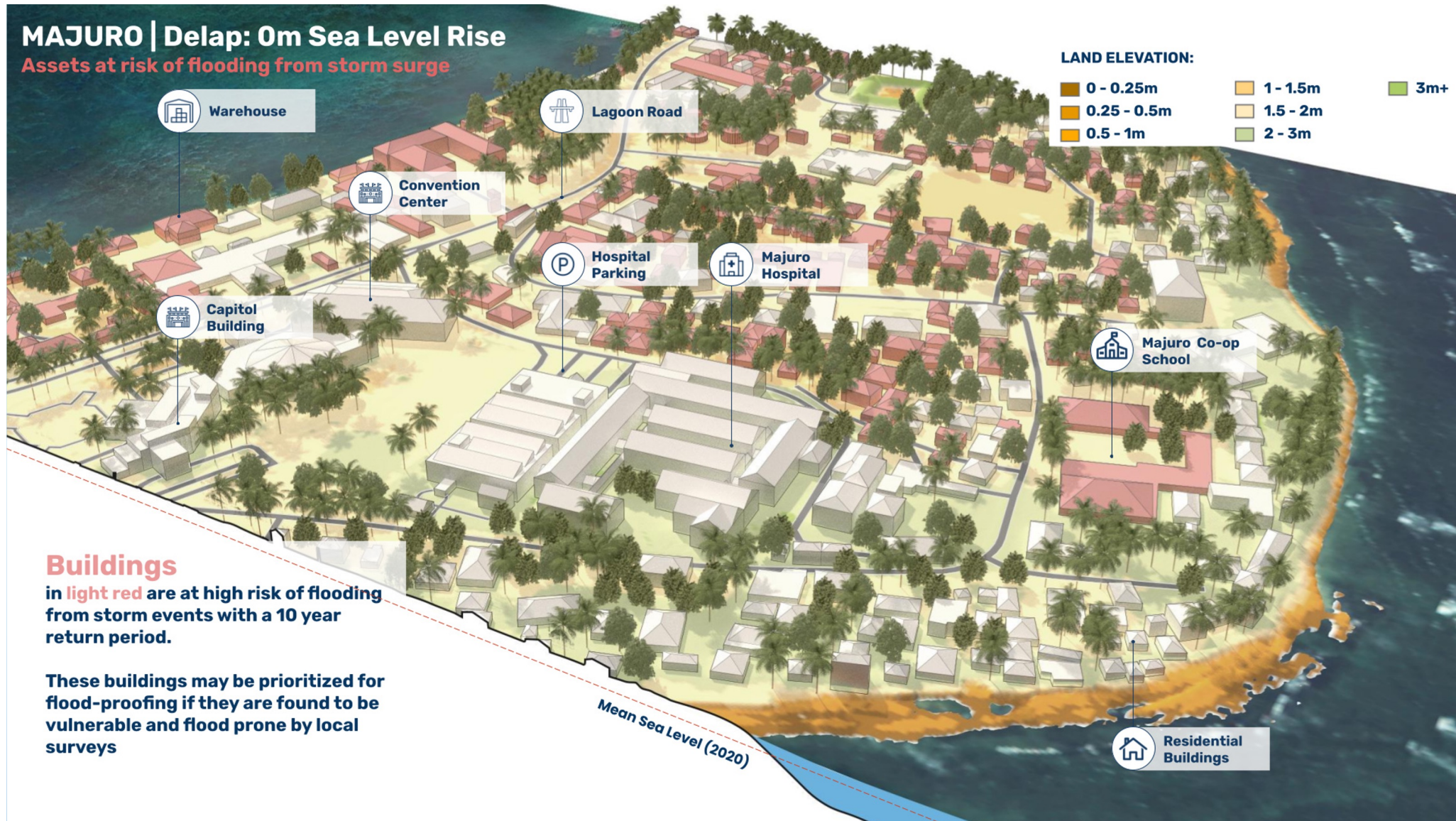
Government: For government agencies, NAPs provide a roadmap for integrating climate change adaptation into planning and policymaking across different sectors and levels of government. This can help ensure a coordinated and coherent approach to adaptation. NAPs can also provide a basis for engagement with other stakeholders, including civil society, businesses, and local communities.

MAJURO | Delap: 0m Sea Level Rise



MAJURO | Delap: 0m Sea Level Rise

Assets at risk of flooding from storm surge



Buildings

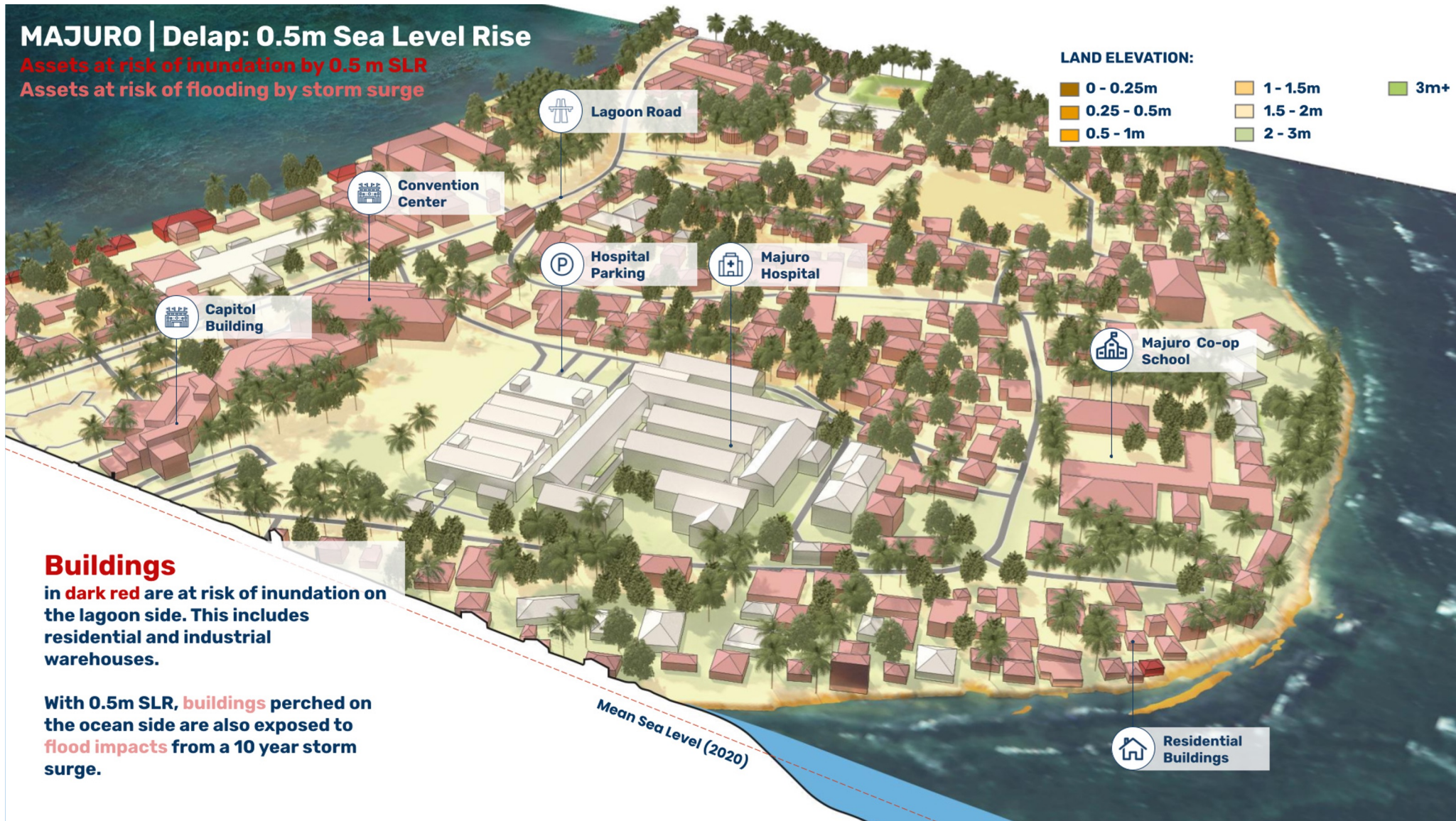
in light red are at high risk of flooding from storm events with a 10 year return period.

These buildings may be prioritized for flood-proofing if they are found to be vulnerable and flood prone by local surveys

MAJURO | Delap: 0.5m Sea Level Rise

Assets at risk of inundation by 0.5 m SLR

Assets at risk of flooding by storm surge



Buildings

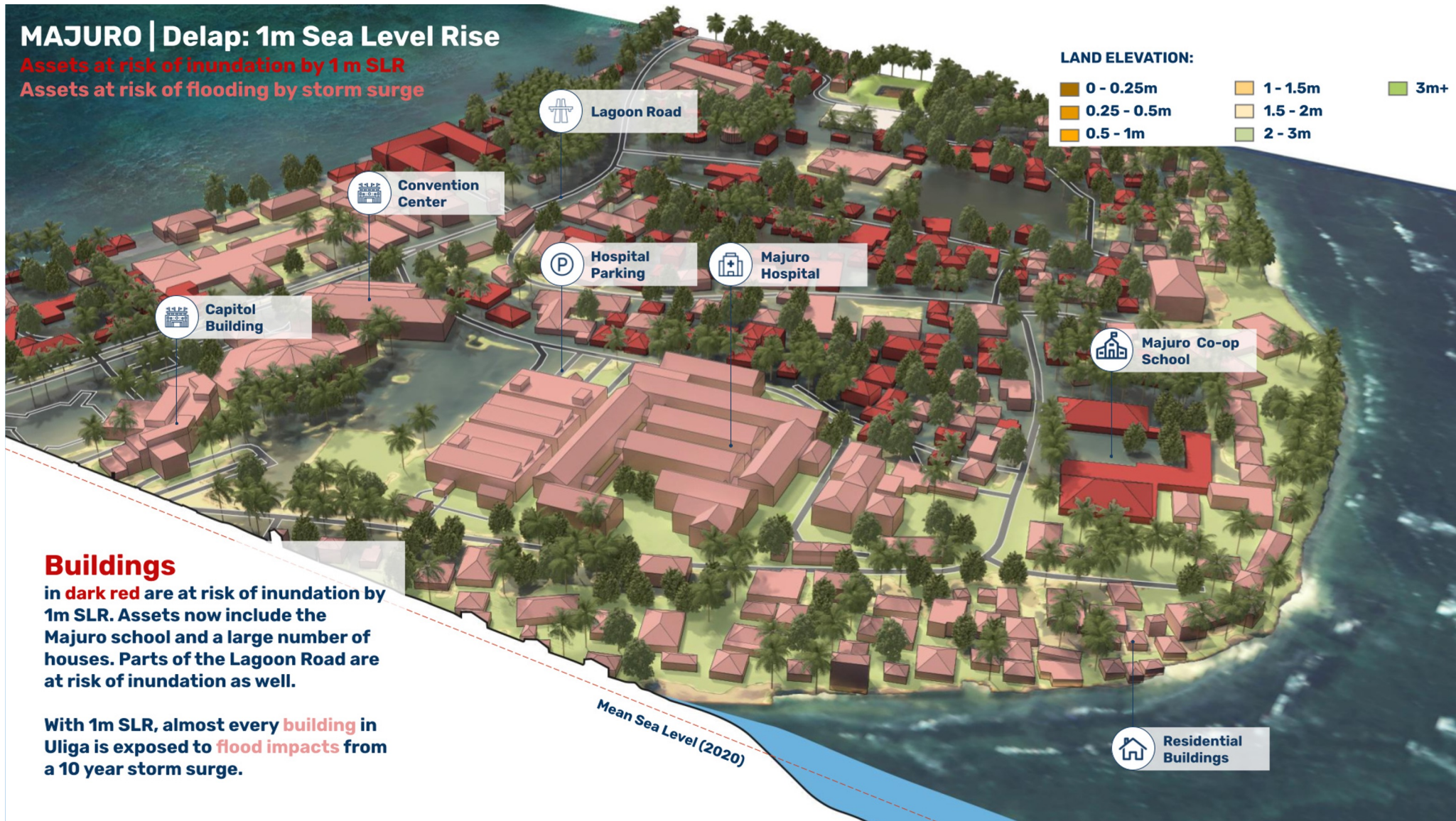
in dark red are at risk of inundation on the lagoon side. This includes residential and industrial warehouses.

With 0.5m SLR, buildings perched on the ocean side are also exposed to flood impacts from a 10 year storm surge.

MAJURO | Delap: 1m Sea Level Rise

Assets at risk of inundation by 1m SLR

Assets at risk of flooding by storm surge





Republic of the Marshall Island (RMI) National Adaptation Pathway

This RMI Adaptation pathway represents the key activities, targets, decision options at critical decision points and timeframes for RMI climate change strategy

1st D1 Resolve underlying adaptation issues to implement 1st Priority and prepare for 2nd Priority:

- Domestic public policy modernization
- Institutional and administrative arrangements/ capacity plans
- Land tenure and rights
- Climate financing pipelines
- Environmental and Construction regulations
- Inclusive, equitable decision-making



Apart from the geo-physical and meteorological based sea-level rise forecast, there are **social, cultural, economic and behavioral factors** that could influence planning and implementation timelines.

Strategies may vary depending on the **3 types of atolls**:



Outer Atolls or Rural Atolls:

- Promote climate resilience until 2070 through **nature-based solutions and cost-effective protection** infrastructures.
- **Consolidate government services based on population decline** and relocate them from overcrowded atolls to the remaining outer atolls.



Semi-urban Atolls:

- Protect their atolls (or the highest place on them) to be resilient to the 0.5m sea level rise by the 2070 threshold.
- If the atoll cannot be protected to the 0.5m sea level rise by 2070 threshold, then relocate the population to an atoll that can



Urban Atolls:

- **Relocate communities and government services** to a part of the atoll that meets the criteria of being able to be protected to the 0.5m sea level rise by 2070 AND the 2m by 2150 if needed.

1st D2

- The **decision regarding which atolls to protect and consolidate social services must be made by 2040 to 2050**. This decision aims to ensure the viability of livelihoods and economic activity, as well as facilitate natural or planned relocations from high-risk atolls to the selected ones.
- **Finances will also have to be secured** and the building and physical plans for building protections and relocation services will have to be completed and approved.



2nd D3

- **Between 2050 to 2070 we need to build and implement** the protection infrastructure to accommodate the relocated populations.



- **By 2070 protect at least four pieces of land** that can accommodate the projected RMI population from 2 meter sea level rise.
- Decide which pieces of land are to be protected for the long term and which pieces of land are to be protected in the short term.
- When it is achieved, we will begin **relocating populations over the next 20 years** between 2070 to 2090.



3rd D4

If by 2100, no decision can be made to protect areas of atolls to the 2m sea level rise level OR if there is no funding for it, then the decision must be to **help all population to MIGRATE** away from RMI, likely to the US.



2023

2033

2040

2050

2070

2090

2100

2150

Each NAP starting with the inaugural **2023 NAP** will have a 10-year implementation life span. So, **every 10 years, it shall be updated, revised, renewed and reapproved**. As such the 2023 NAP focuses on the next 10 year term while steering with the **2070 and 2150 thresholds in mind**.

Threshold Point 1 - 0.5m SLR

Threshold Point 2 - 2m SLR

The RMI Pathway starts with the inauguration of the **2023 National Adaptation Plan (NAP)**.

It is primarily based on the main climate impact – sea level rise as predicted by the IPCC reference models which state:

- RMI is likely to experience an approximate **0.5m sea level rise** by an estimated **2070** timeframe.
- RMI is likely to experience up to approximately **2m of sea level rise** by an estimated **2150** timeframe.

- 1st** First Priority: Adapt by Protection
- 2nd** Second Priority: Adapt by Relocation
- 3rd** Third Priority: Adapt by Migration

