



Regional Context for Urbanization

The Urban Opportunity: Cities as Catalysts for Resilience and Sustainable
Development in the Pacific

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Urbanization in the Region

- Development is more prominent in urban areas – usually where key social and economic infrastructure are located
- Usually also where the bulk of the population resides;
- However concentration of growing population and increased infrastructure investment potentially translates to increased exposure to climatic events:
 - ❖ If not planned properly;
 - ❖ If urban management strategies and infrastructure development plans do not incorporate climate change and disaster risk



Opportunities for Advancing the Urban Development Agenda

- National commitments to global agenda – Paris Agreement, SAMOA Pathway, SDG's, Sendai Framework;
- Framework for Pacific Regionalism – working together for the benefit of all countries;
- Means of Implementation to the SDG and FPR – the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP)
- Revisit of Regional Security Architecture – Biketawa Plus

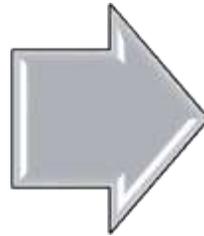


Opportunities Through our Commitments to the Global Agenda

Upcoming review of the Nationally Determined Contributions (commitment under Paris Agreement)

Leaders commitment to full implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development contextualized and tailored through the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development

Urban areas is a major emphasis of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction



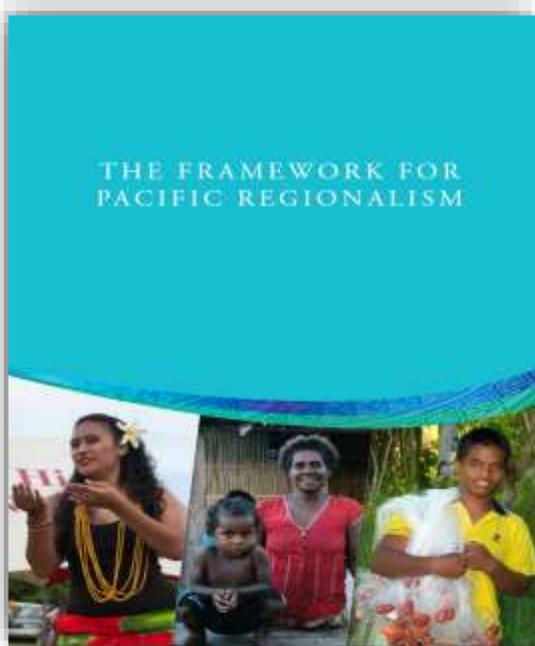
- *advocate and facilitate stronger linkages to Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities – ‘make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable’*

- *advocate and facilitate well planned urbanization as a driver of progress through strengthened commitment to SDG Goal 11*

- *advocate and facilitate integrating disaster risk reduction into urban development plans*



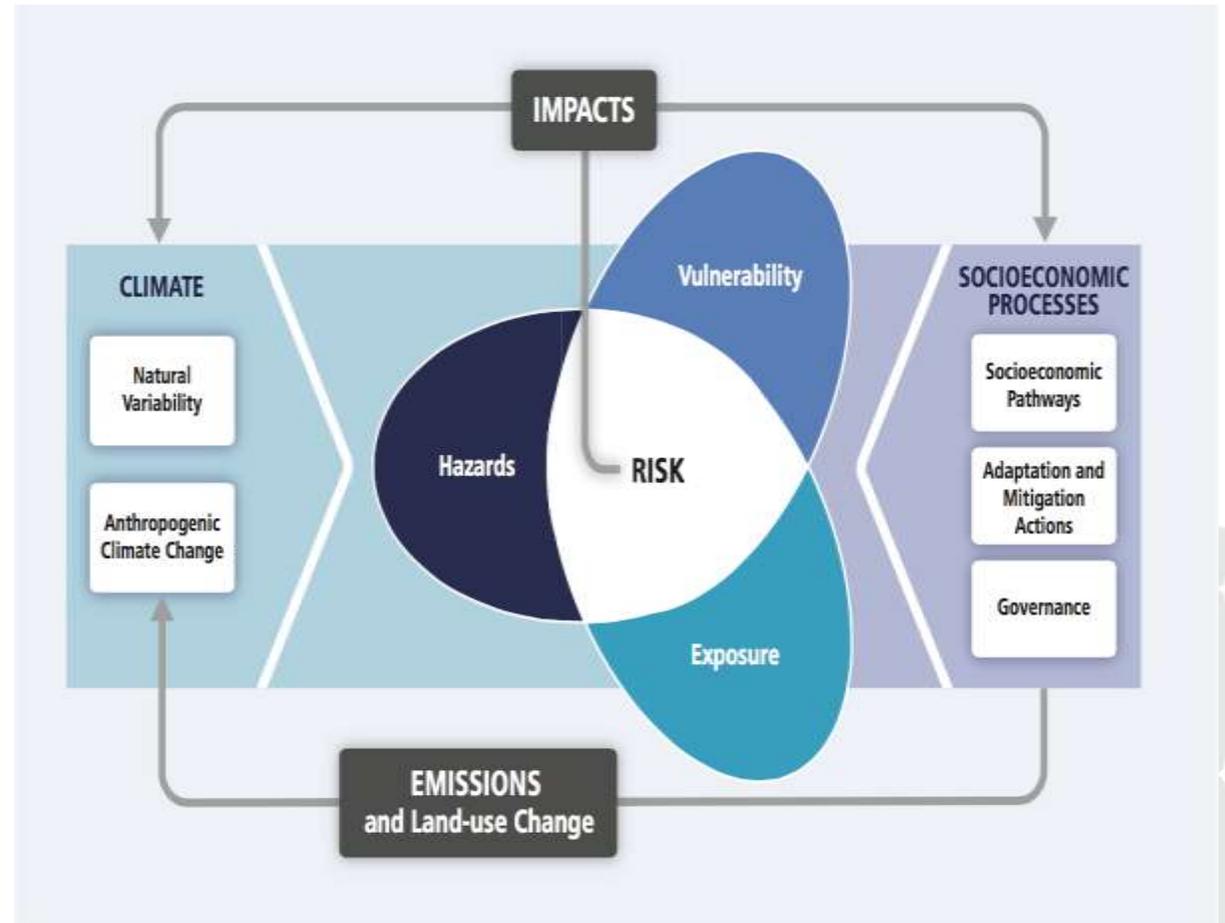
Framework for Pacific Regionalism: Potential Entry point to High Level Political Dialogue



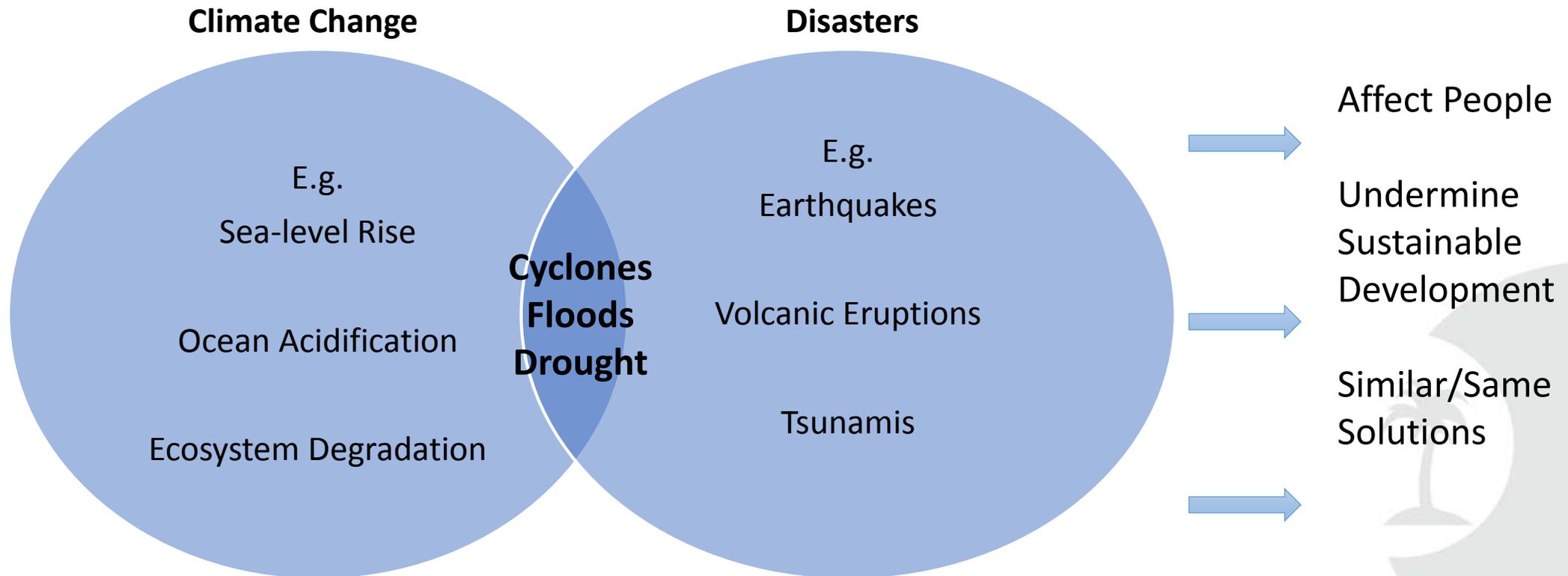
- FPR underscores collective action towards a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity:
- The need to enhance cities as Catalysts for peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity in the Pacific through identifying areas where Collective action and regional approaches would benefit the Pacific Island countries.

Urbanization – Resilience Nexus

- Risk-based approach:
 - ✓ understanding and mitigating the risks to development;
 - ✓ incorporating climate and disaster risk into urban planning and management;



Why the Need to incorporate Climate Change and Disaster risk





Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP)

Goals

- 1) Strengthened integrated adaptation and risk reduction to enhance resilience to climate change and disasters.
- 2) Low carbon development.
- 3) Strengthened disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

Broad Objectives

Managing risks caused by climate change and disasters – *inform and guide urban management and planning.*

Reducing the carbon intensity of development processes – *informing and guiding reduction of carbon fuel dependency and increasing energy efficiency as well as increasing conservation of terrestrial and marine ecosystems in urban areas*

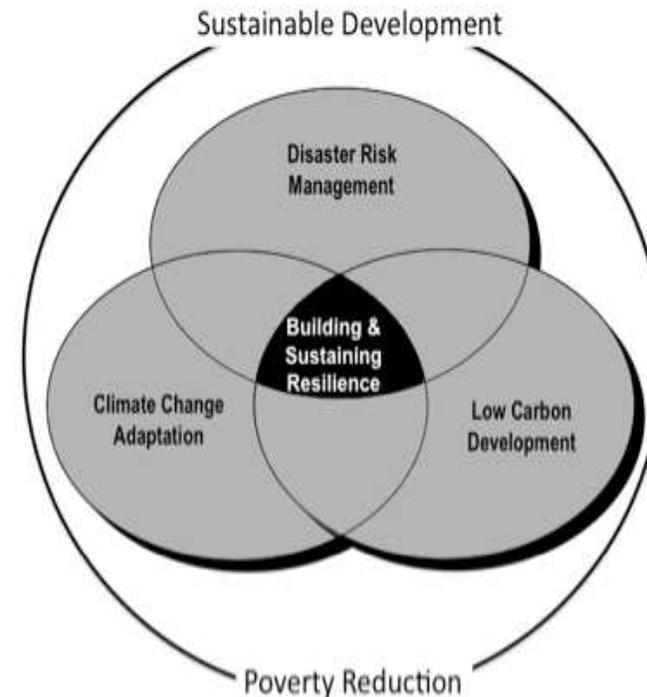
Disaster preparedness, response and recovery initiatives – *informing and guiding reduction of undue human losses and suffering, and minimize adverse consequences for economic, social and environmental systems in urban areas*



Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP):

Enhance Urbanization and Resilience Nexus

- Building resilience to climate change and disasters supports sustainable development & poverty reduction
- Adapting to the impacts of climate change, manage disaster risks, and low carbon development all work towards the broader goals of sustainable development and poverty reduction
- Advocates a strong inclusive and human-rights based approach





Revisit of Regional Security Architecture – Biketawa Plus

In 2017:

‘Leaders **agreed** to build on the Biketawa Declaration and other Forum security related declarations as a foundation for strategic future regional responses, recognizing the importance of an expanded concept of security ...’

- Reinvigorate land issues as potential cause for conflict, social and economic inequities – advocate for stronger land and urban planning as a means to mitigate potential conflict



Key Challenges for the Pacific

- Urbanisation should be about resilient and sustainable development and not just development for the sake of development:
 - With the urban centres in the Pacific seeing significant concentration of people and investment (economic and social) – it should make definitive sense that cities be catalysts for Resilience and Sustainable Development in the Pacific
- Urbanisation and population growth
 - Not a very good mix when further complicated with climate change and disaster – the need to ensure that climate and disaster risk are embedded in urban management strategies and vice versa.
- Ad-hoc approaches
 - Discussions should be inclusive of all stakeholders and all sectors – urbanization impacts health, environment, increases exposure and vulnerabilities to natural hazards, etc



Possible Considerations

- Proper planning, proper planning and proper planning:
- Sharing of experiences – peer to peer exchange among urban areas with significant commonalities;
- Progressing a regional building code through the FRDP and Pacific Resilience Partnership;
- Including Urban Planners in climate change and disaster risk strategic planning and discussions – promoting a more inclusive and wholistic approach to urban planning



Thank You !