



# ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

CASE STUDY ON HOW TO INTEGRATE MIGRATION INTO INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT



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## Project Details

**Title:** Pacific Climate Change and Migration (PCCM) Project, entitled “Enhancing the Capacity of Pacific Island Countries to Manage the Impacts of Climate Change on Migration”

**Countries:** Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Target countries are Kiribati, Tuvalu and Nauru.

**Donors:** European Union (EU)

**Implementer:** United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

**Period:** 2013 – 2016

**Budget:** EUR 2,387,000

As a result of climate change, natural hazards such as tropical storms, cyclones, tsunamis, floods are becoming more intense, as are slow-onset degradation impacts such as incremental sea levels rise, salt water intrusion of freshwater lenses, rising temperatures, desertification and drought. This will have a resounding impact on people’s homes and livelihoods on Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The slow-onset impacts of climate change can exacerbate existing drivers of migration such as economic, social or political drivers. Whereas, severe natural hazard induced disasters are more direct drivers of forced displacement.



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Pacific Island governments recognize the need to take precautions to minimize the risks that climate change presents. Enhancing capacities are essential to exploring, mitigating and responding to the threat, while encouraging adaptation responses that take human mobility into account.

## Key Words

Adaptation, climate change, resilience building, employment, mobility



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## HOW WAS MIGRATION INTEGRATED?

The PCCM Project supported the capacity development of Pacific Island countries so that they are better equipped to address the impacts of climate change on migration. Capacities were strengthened by:

- Increasing awareness of the impacts of climate change on migration;
- Reinforcing regional knowledge and policy dialogue on the impacts of climate change on migration; and
- Enhancing abilities to plan and implement national policies on migration, including labour migration.

The target countries of Kiribati, Tuvalu and Nauru gathered data on how climate change influences human mobility. The generated insights were used to inform climate change responses and national action strategies to mitigate the risk of displacement. These strengthened capacities in country allowed them to more effectively participate and contribute in regional, bilateral and global schemes on migration and climate change.



## WHAT WERE LESSONS LEARNED?

Build capacity and manage knowledge to better respond to the impacts of climate change on migration by developing migration indicators, providing new knowledge on labour migration, and assessing community attitudes to climate change-related migration, governments can develop more effective climate change responses and national strategies to mitigate the risk of displacement and enhance national capacity to participate in regional, bilateral and global schemes on labour migration.

Comprehensive climate risk management strategies have potential to respond to needs of vulnerable populations: When disaster hits, local populations can risk becoming “trapped” by worsening conditions and few opportunities to either migrate or generate income necessary for adapting. By adopting a human rights and gender approach, climate risk management strategies can be more comprehensive and better respond to the unique challenges that women or children may face in light of the social dynamics in country. For example, the community survey conducted during the project found that women were less able to make independent migration decisions.

### References:

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), 2015. *Compendium of Case Studies on Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific*.

### Further information:

AusAID and IOM. *Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Education Programme (CADRE)*.

IOM, 2017. Micronesia Newsletter.