

# FIJI'S CLIMATE RELOCATION OF COMMUNITIES TRUST FUND

## INFORMATION BRIEF 2: Understanding the Climate Relocation of Communities Trust Fund and how you can contribute



MAY 2023



# Introduction

The society and cultures that have called the islands of Fiji home for generations have been defined by the archipelago's unique environments, ecosystems, and climate conditions. The traditions, cultures, and multi-racial society that exists today in Fiji maintains a closely interwoven relationship with nature however, that relationship and the cultural norms and practices that express our history and have shaped our national identity now face systemic disruption due to climate change.

The insidious impacts of incremental sea level rise and shifting climate trends have increasingly tested the very limits of Fiji's resilience – especially in the cases of particular rural, coastal, and maritime communities. As tipping points are reached, The Fiji Government has taken action to address loss and damage experienced by those least equipped to shoulder this burden. Since 2018, following an upsurge in projected relocation needs, the Fiji Government began work to develop a robust policy and legal framework to guide a national response to current and future planned relocation activities. Fiji's policy-based and legal definitions of planned relocation below:

- Planned relocation is '*a solution-oriented measure, involving the State, in which a community (as distinct from an individual/ household) is physically moved to another location and resettled permanently there.*' – Planned Relocation Guidelines (2018), Government of Fiji
- "*“planned relocation” means the action undertaken to permanently relocate or resettle a community or group*’ – Climate Change Act (2021), Government of Fiji

As the impacts of climate change increase and begin to drive ongoing and irrecoverable losses for specific communities and groups, the Fiji Government has a duty to introduce new measures to support the rights and assurances provided by the National Constitution and which define the Governments responsibilities to support Fiji Citizens. The Climate Relocation of Communities (CROC) Trust Fund is the world's first national Trust Fund to be linked to a government legislated, community-driven process for the planned relocation of communities, settlements, and groups as a means of proactive retreat from the impacts of climate change when 'in-situ' adaptation efforts fail. Funding committed to the Trust Fund directly supports efforts to both minimise and address loss and damage through efforts to secure safe alternatives for vulnerable communities while also supporting efforts to offset elements of irrecoverable losses that result from the loss of land and the trade-offs that must be managed when relocation of a community or group is required.

## Veika rerevaki – 'Danger'

### SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Working Group I – The Physical Science Basis

ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE



### Regional fact sheet - Small Islands

#### Common regional changes

- ⌚ **Observed warming (high confidence)** in the Small Islands<sup>1</sup> **has been attributed** to human influence (*medium confidence*). Warming **will continue** in the 21st century for all global warming levels and future emissions scenarios, further increasing heat extremes and heat stress (*high confidence*).
- ⌚ **Ocean acidification has increased** globally as have the frequency and intensity of marine heatwaves in some areas of the Indian, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans except for a decrease over the eastern Pacific Ocean. Marine heatwaves and ocean acidification **will increase** further with 1.5°C of global warming (*high confidence*) and with larger increases at 2°C and higher.
- ⌚ **Sea levels will very likely continue** to rise around Small Islands, more so with higher emissions and over longer time periods (*high confidence*).
- ⌚ **Sea level rise coupled with storm surges and waves will exacerbate** coastal inundation and the potential for increased saltwater intrusion into aquifers (*high confidence*).
- ⌚ **Sea level rise will cause** shorelines to retreat along sandy coasts of most Small Islands.
- ⌚ **Small Islands will face** more intense but generally fewer tropical cyclones, except in the central north Pacific where frequency **will increase** (*medium confidence* at a global warming level of 2°C and above).

**FIGURE 1** Overview of common impacts of climate change on small island states. In the Southwestern Pacific region, the rate of sea level rise is **2-3 times the global average**. (IPCC, 2022)

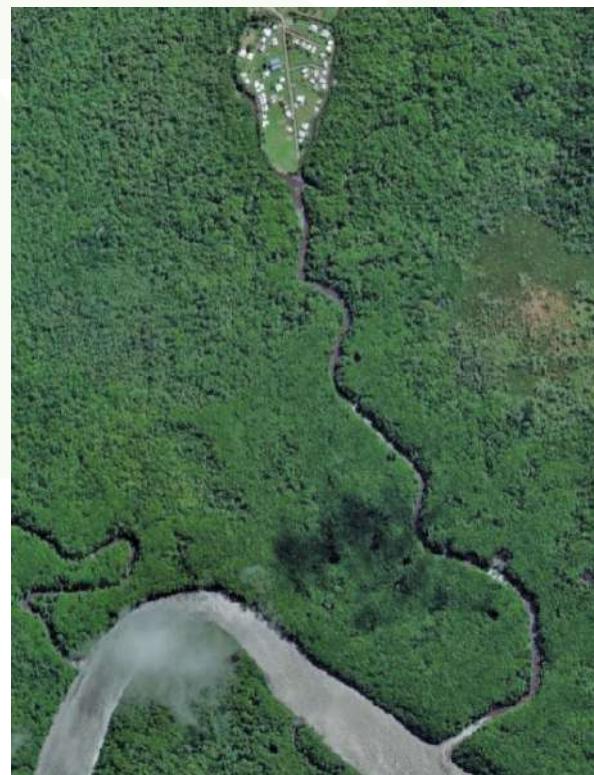
The Fiji Government developed the **Planned Relocation Guidelines in 2018**, thereby embedding a bold national commitment pursue pre-emptive social protection measures due to escalating climate change risks. The **Climate Relocation of Communities (CROC) Trust Fund** was then established through national legislation in 2019 alongside the suite of guidelines and policies illustrating intent to engage in the sensitive and complex issue of climate change-induced planned relocation. In recent years, communities in partnership with the Government and international partners, have successfully relocated in retreat from circumstances where diminishing circumstances and failed in-situ adaptation efforts required acceptance and the will to embrace alternatives. These experiences have shaped the Fiji Governments design of a robust intra-governmental system for supporting community-led relocation efforts.

In 2021, Fiji's **Climate Change Act** was enacted by Parliament and with it, a declaration of climate emergency within national law. The Act sets out a comprehensive legal framework for addressing the risks and impacts of climate change and is the first piece of legislation in the world to create a legislated approach to the organization, governance, and execution of planned relocation as a means to address loss and damage and enable adaptation. The Act includes language within its overarching objectives stating that a key objective of the Act is to 'provide for the relocation of at-risk communities and safeguard their rights' (Section 4 (n)). The Act, also stipulates the key role of the Minister responsible for Climate Change in formulating, implementing, and reviewing actions related to planned relocation (Section 9 (iii)) and the Ministers role in convening other ministries to support national efforts in relation to planned relocation (Section 9(c)). Part 12 of the Climate Change Act – entitled 'Climate Displacement and Relocation' establishes the **Fijian Taskforce on the Relocation and Displacement of Communities Vulnerable to the Impacts of Climate Change** and mandates the use of the Climate Relocation of Communities Trust Fund to support relocation efforts in Fiji. The intra-governmental taskforce for overseeing relocation assessments and implementation arrangements is supported through the legal requirement for government to produce 'Standard Operating Procedures for Relocation' to help define a consultative, evidence-based, and demand driven process for moving communities, settlements, and vulnerable groups in a safe, orderly, and equitable way. In March 2023, the first iteration of Fiji's **Standard Operating Procedures for Planned Relocation** was approved by Cabinet along with the Financial Management Policy Guidelines for the operation of the **CROC Trust Fund**. See **Annex 1** for additional detail on this guiding legislation.



**"Children are the least [responsible] for climate change and yet they bear the brunt of it. This injustice needs to be addressed."**

**Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka**  
**Prime Minister of Fiji**



**FIGURE 2** - Nabouciwa Village is surrounded by dense mangrove forest and is experiencing more and more frequent flooding as sea levels rise.  
(Photo credit: UNITAR/UNOSAT)

# Case Studies

The terms and concepts described by the traditional iTaukei calendar is shaped by hundreds of years of experience of the specific climate trends and weather patterns that exist at the latitude and longitude where the Fiji Islands are located. These trends, patterns, and conditions which defined agriculture, livelihoods, cultural practices, and the organization of both work and family life for both indigenous and non-indigenous Fiji citizens. 'Vula i Gasau' (April) was always understood as a month marked by rain, the abundance of citrus fruit, breadfruit, and a time for near shore fishing. In recent years the dry season has come early, disrupting the transition that April has offered between the heat and rain of the cyclone season and the dry and cool period expected to take shape by May. Today, the traditional references to months and their attribution to specific practices and trends are often more commemorative of historical practice as both the climate and the activities it defines changes. These changes in the baselines on which society in Fiji has been built are not just resulting in changes to specific traditional practices but are indicative of major shifts that are increasingly acutely felt by various settlements, communities, and groups.

In 2014, The Fiji Government announced that 676 Coastal communities were in need of relocation based on projected climate impacts, and that of this total, 42 are expected to require relocation in next decade.

## **A. Managing difficult trade-offs in exchange for a safer and more resilient future in Vunidogoloa Village, Vanua Levu**

The coastal community of Vunidogoloa Village, and its 160-villagers were relocated 2km inland to avoid the ongoing loss and damage caused by severe storm surge, inundation, and widespread erosion driven by sea level rise and the increased intensity of disaster events. This relocation has enabled the community to live in relative safety and without the fear of constant threats. However, the trade-offs for the community remain difficult, as villagers no longer inhabit land that has been the basis of their heritage. They have lost proximity to ancestral burial grounds and must travel much further to access traditional fishing grounds to which their livelihoods are dependent. This 'loss of adjacency' to key assets and places of cultural and spiritual significance provides an example of the difficult trade-offs and non-economic loss and damage which must be considered, managed, and offset through other opportunities and resources where possible when relocation is used as an action of 'last resort'.

## **B. Life on the precipice of the climate crisis - the Villagers of Tukuraki find new hope.**

Tukuraki village in Yakete, Ba was devastated by a landslide following extreme rainfall in 2012 which killed a family of four and buried over 50% of the village. Just 12 months later was hit by Category 4 Tropical cyclone Evan which destroyed remaining infrastructure and destroyed crops. Villagers remained in temporary shelters while a new village site was selected. In 2016, Tukuraki again faced disaster as Fiji was struck by Category 5 severe tropical cyclone Winston. This event, in the wake of previous disasters, compounded risks and forced communities to take shelter in caves. After years of disruption the villagers of Tukuraki found relief in 2017 when the new village site was officially opened, and community members moved into new, resilient homes and work began to reclaim livelihoods and build new opportunities.

## **C. Slow onset loss and new beginnings in Narikoso Village**

The village of Narikoso on Ono Island in the Kadavu group faced severe coastal erosion which led to ongoing instances of inundation and increasing property damage. The 28 households and 100+ residents of Narikoso are heavily dependent on substance farming and fishing due to their remote location and traditional community practices. In 2012 it became evident that relocation would be required for homes within the 'red zone' in which coastal inundation was prevalent. Relocation took place over a prolonged period due to constrained resources and complexity. The eventual completion of this community relocation provided significant experience which has informed the consultation requirements detailed in Fiji's Standard Operating Procedures while also prompting the effort to develop a dedicated Trust Fund for planned relocation to ensure dedicated resources can be positioned to support these activities in the future.

## **D. Extreme sudden onset events, local action, and long-term planning in Silana Village**

In early 2016, sea surface temperatures spiked, and fish were found dead across Fiji's beaches – a week later, Cyclone Winston, at the time the strongest category 5 cyclone recorded in the Southern Hemisphere, passed by Fiji, only to double back – strengthened by ocean heat. While cyclone Winston devastated Fiji's economy overnight and is but one of many examples of climate-wrought devastation in the Pacific, the impacts of climate change do not dissipate in the aftermath of these events. Silana Village in the Dawasamu District of Tailevu, is based on the eastern coast of Viti Levu and was hit by cyclone Winston as the category 5 cyclone moved across Viti Levu. Community members gathered in a village hall 500m from the coastline only to find themselves neck deep in water. In the darkness, during 285kh/h winds, 200 hundred community members retreated from the community hall to a nearby school in an elevated area.

The community was devastated by the sea surge and the community remained displaced, forced to live communally within the only two remaining structurally sound rooms of the primary school. This event has changed the community's perception of the potential and scale of disaster risks and while community members have returned to their homes since, the community has taken action to relocate particular assets and used strategic planting of vetiver grass to build up the village's coastline. While Silana village is not currently a priority community to assess in relation to relocation, it provides an example of a situation where extreme risk remains possible and in the future, the viability of current climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies to adequately protect this community may need to be reassessed.



**FIGURE 3 - Top - Village Headman, Meli Rabele, points out a red rope on a palm tree that marks the high-water mark during severe tropical cyclone Winston in 2016, Bottom – A villager stands in the wreckage of her family home in Silana Village in the aftermath of Cyclone Winston.**

# Purpose and Impact

The Climate Relocation of Communities Trust Fund Act was passed in 2019 and describes the scope of activities the fund which is legally permitted to support:

- Research, assessments, and studies into the circumstances which necessitate planned relocation;
- Activities or initiatives that assess the vulnerability of communities which may be at risk of being displaced due to the adverse effects of climate change;
- Activities or initiatives that identify viable locations where communities displaced by climate change may settle; and
- Activities or initiatives which seek to ensure that relocated and displaced communities are provided the necessary infrastructure to guarantee an adequate standard of living and the rights and freedoms provided under the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji.

The CROC Trust Fund directly enables the relocation of vulnerable communities, settlements, and groups in Fiji.

## What is the advantage of having a dedicated Trust Fund for supporting planned relocation needs?

Planned relocation, as defined through Fiji's policies and the 'Standard Operating Procedures' (SOP) for Relocation is a complex process, involving various stages of consultation, technical assessment, and design. The Fiji Government has designed processes and procedures as well as policies, laws, and guidelines to protect the fundamental rights of the people of Fiji. The Trust Fund allows for funding from an array of domestic, private, international, and bilateral sources to be combined in support of activities which must urgently be progressed to ensure the success of planned retreat, the resilience of alternatives, and the long-term sustainability of the solutions created and funded by the CROC Trust Fund. National arrangements in Fiji allow for funding to be specifically purposed for the tasks involved with safely and effectively relocating communities in keeping with national law.

## Who is eligible to access the Trust Fund?

The Fiji Government is committed to protecting people and communities that are at risk of experiencing severe disruption to livelihoods and wellbeing as a result of sea level rise, land loss, landslides, flooding, coastal erosion, hydro-meteorological events such as cyclones, and loss of critical food and/or water security. The CROC Trust Fund will support:

- Communities, settlements, and groups that are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and lack adequate local adaptation options are eligible to receive technical assistance from government to assess relocation needs and evaluate options.
- In the event that relocation is deemed to be appropriate and required, the community, settlement, or group in question will be eligible the funding necessary to complete consultations, relocation planning and design, assessments, physical relocation of assets, and costs of building new infrastructure.
- People or communities that become displaced as a result of climate and/or disaster related events and require resettlement will be eligible to receive support from the Trust Fund to support alternatives and, in some cases, interim arrangements.

## Innovative financing for addressing loss and damage

The Fijian Government has leveraged domestic funding to complement contributions to the fund through an innovative policy-based taxation system. The Fiji Government contributes 3% of the revenue raised through VAT on prescribed services, plastic levy, superyacht levy and income tax to the CROC Trust Fund. Additional international and bilateral contributions are now required to take the initiative to scale.

## The Community Contribution: A collaborative community-driven approach

Communities and groups in need of relocation play a proactive role in the design of solutions as mandated by the processes put in place to guide relocation in Fiji. This context-sensitive approach allows community members to play a decisive role in the implementation of relocation activities. Members of communities and groups will be involved in the design, logistics, and physical operations involved and in many cases will also contribute their own resources and labour towards supporting the best possible outcomes in keeping with the requirements of the Standard Operating Procedures which state:

- *The affected community is expected to provide some contribution towards their relocation and other activities like adaptation measures and livelihood projects. Contributions are to be within their means and capacity (e.g. building materials, skilled and unskilled labour, fundraising for community infrastructure, accommodation for officers and workers)*
- *An agreement on the community contribution will be drawn up during the planning stage for the relocation. The agreement will only be signed following an inclusive and informed consensus-making process with the entire community.*

## **The Government Contribution: Leveraging external financing through intra-governmental cooperation**

The Fiji Government has committed to utilizing expertise available across Ministerial portfolios and teams to support the effective consultation, decision making, technical assessments, and planning. Contributions made to support this initiative will benefit from this approach which will ensure low overheads, minimise administrative costs, and ensure funding flows directly to the activities and contribute to tangible outcomes and impact.

### **What impact will the Trust Fund have?**

The Fiji Government is committed to pursuing various approaches to fully resource the Trust Fund and use the Trust Fund as the primary financing mechanism for completing relocations in order of priority and urgency on an ongoing basis. The Fiji Government intends to raise funds for the Trust Fund on an ongoing basis.

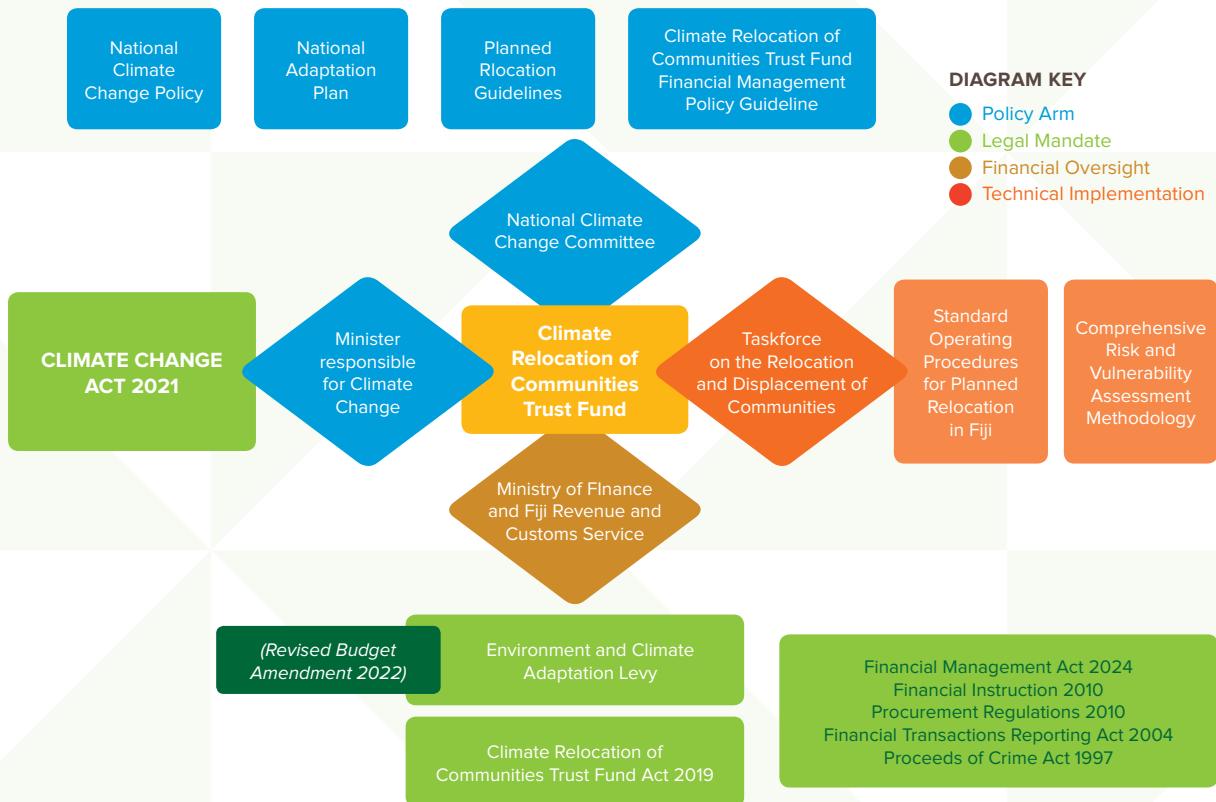
## **Fund Oversight, Governance and Safeguards**

### **Oversight and governance**

Fiji's Climate Relocation of Communities Trust Fund is established through two complimentary pieces of legislation and is overseen by the Taskforce on the Relocation and Displacement of Communities and the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister responsible for Climate Change.

All funds managed by the Trust Fund must comply with the requirements set out in the Financial Management Policy Guideline developed specifically for this Trust Fund. Funds must be used in alignment with the eligible activities stipulated in the Climate Relocation of Communities Trust Fund Act and activities must be conducted in accordance with the Principles of the Climate Change Act and the specific objectives set out under Section 77 of the Climate Change Act (see Annex 1)

The process of relocation is guided by Fiji's Standard Operating Procedures and associated 'Comprehensive Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Framework' which together with the mandate created for this guidance in associated legislation, creates Fiji's world-leading framework for managing and addressing climate-induce loss and damage at the local level.



**FIGURE 4** - A depiction of the regulatory framework and oversight that underpins the governance of the Climate Relocation of Communities Trust Fund.

## Safeguards, transparency, accountability, and reporting

**Grievance Redress Mechanism:** The Standard Operating Procedures include the establishment of a dedicated Grievance Redress Mechanism. This mechanism provides a means to raise any grievances that arise at any time during the planned relocation process and ensures that there are means to formally lodge complaints and issues that must be addressed and require resolution. Details of this mechanism are detailed in section 2 of the Standard Operating Procedures.

**The Climate Change Act:** Primary guidance on the social safeguards and principles that must be considered in addition to the guidance of the Standard Operating Procedures, can be found in section 77 of the Climate Change Act (see Annex 1).

**The Financial Management Policy Guidelines for the Trust Fund include detail on additional financial including:**

- **Adherence to operational safeguards:** *The activities funded by The Trust Fund must comply with the procedural safeguards set out through the SOP for Planned Relocation and the legal safeguards and requirements established under the Climate Change Act. The Fijian Government will periodically reassess and review the procedures and safeguards associated with planned relocation activities. This guideline operates in conjunction with the most recent endorsed version of the SOP for Planned Relocation.*

- **Declaration of competing interests:** The alignment of the Trust Fund with existing financial management legislation and establishment of dedicated internal governance arrangements provides the means to prevent fraud, corruption, conflicts of interest and undue influences from occurring or existing in influence of decision-making processes. All Taskforce members are required to declare and document potential conflicts of influence at the outset of the consideration and deliberation of a proposal for the use of Trust Funds.
- **Whistle-blower policy:** In the event that undue influence is perceived to have impacted upon a decision made in relation to the governance of the Trust Fund the ‘whistleblower(s)’ are instructed to either:
  - a) Report to the Taskforce Chair
  - b) Report to Manager Internal Audit, Risk and Compliance
  - c) Disclose information in the suspected breach of protocol via submission in writing to the Permanent Secretary for Finance or another official in a position whereby authority is deemed relevant and appropriate.
- **Other fiduciary issues:** All parties must support the procedural requirements, fiduciary requirements, reporting requirements, and information sharing requirements to the best of their ability. Where regulations are deemed to be required to improve compliance and support transparency, both external and internal stakeholders are encouraged to submit proposals to the Minister for Finance directly for consideration and review.
- **Confidentiality:** The Taskforce and all officials involved with Trust Fund operations will uphold the ‘right to privacy’ provided by the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji (2013) when handling any personal and confidential information that may be associated with planned relocation operations in Fiji.
- **Anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism:** All transactions into the Trust Fund are regulated and controlled via the obligations put in place by the Financial Transactions Reporting Act 2004 which applies to all Financial Institutions in Fiji. Any ‘money laundering offence’ is an offence against section 69 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 1997. The Financial Institution within which the Trust Funds are held is obligated to keep records and verify identity of all transfer sources and will follow ‘obligations to report’ as set out in Part 3 of the Financial Transactions Reporting Act 2004. The Financial Intelligence Unit and Anti-Money Laundering Council have been established under the Financial Transactions Reporting Act 2004 to support, regulate, and protect financial institutions from financial crimes and criminal activity.
- **Audit of the Trust Fund:** The Trust must be audited by an independent auditor who is a chartered accountant registered with the Fiji Institute of Accountants, holds a certificate of public practice required under section 36 of the Fiji Institute of Accountants Act 1971, is not employed in the civil service and shall be approved by the Minister for Finance.

- a) Specific procurement process audits and project-specific audits may be required at any time upon request by the Minister responsible for Climate Change or Taskforce
- b) The accounts of the Trust must be audited annually and published on the Fiji Climate Change Portal.
- c) As deemed necessary, the Permanent Secretary for Finance may request the Internal Audit and Good Governance Section of the Ministry of Finance to conduct a compliance or performance audit.

# Guidance for Contributors

## Why support this initiative?

Supporting the Climate Relocation of Communities Trust Fund will enable entire communities, settlements, vulnerable groups, and critical infrastructure to relocate safely and provide hope for the future. Funding will not only support the consultations, technical assessments, construction and development of new homes and public infrastructure, but also contribute to the activities required to integrate individuals and families safely within a new context, establish new livelihoods, and provide on-going and necessary support following relocation. Contributions to the Trust Fund will play a role in promoting an ambitious example of an innovative co-investment mechanism that utilizes a blend of external contributions, domestic tax revenue, intra-governmental cooperation and services, and meaningful community partnership to achieve challenging objectives.

Contributions to Fiji's Climate Relocation of Communities Trust Fund represent an important investment in our nation's ongoing efforts to both minimize and address climate-driven loss and damage. Resourcing the Climate Relocation of Communities Trust Fund is a means to reduce the full financial burden of ongoing loss and damage on Fijian society, allowing a greater proportion of public finance to flow towards resilience-building, adaptation, sustainable development objectives, and vital public services.

Climate change projections indicate that the climate crisis and its implications for Pacific Island countries will only worsen in the years ahead. The dynamics of climate inertia mean that many of the climate change impacts experienced now in Fiji will continue under any and all global emissions scenarios. Fiji is experiencing sea-level rise at a rate that is nearly three times the global average. Changing rainfall patterns have reduced agricultural productivity and remain a threat to water security. Increased average temperatures across the Pacific region continue to drive up sea surface temperatures driving ocean acidification and intensifying cyclones and heavy rainfall events. The confluence of climate change impacts, sudden and slow onset disaster events, and the resulting exacerbation of socio-economic development challenges, has and will continue to threaten the viability of human settlements, disrupt livelihoods, and drive urban drift and out migration if significant action to pre-empt and manage these threats are not taken.

With rising sea levels from Bangladesh to Florida and beyond, Fiji is not alone in the need for ambitious action to address loss and damage. The planned relocation of communities – managed through cross-government oversight and a robust community-driven approach, defined through the legislated requirement to manage relocation through ‘standard operating procedures, is both ambitious and crucial to protecting the rights assured under Fiji’s Constitution. While this national response mechanism, Trust Fund, and associated governance frameworks is a first of its kind, it is unlikely to be the last - and the Fijian Government is dedicated to sharing its experiences in support of global efforts to find equitable ways to minimise and address climate-driven loss and damage.

### **A Call to Action – Invest in leadership, trust in our foresight, and let us face the reality of the climate crisis, together:**

- Support and commitment to invest in the long-term protection Fijian families and communities for generations to come, is required urgently.
- Relocation activities must begin today to ensure outcomes that ensure timely completion of high priority relocations.
- Every year, Fiji is at risk of facing another nation-wide disaster event exacerbating the risks and needs we must address.
- Your support will help to catalyse pre-emptive action to both minimise and address loss and damage and achieve community-led demand-driven outcomes.

# Additional Information for Donors

Contributors to the CROC Trust Fund will have access to annual progress reports and information on relocation activities undertaken by the Trust Fund.

As required by financial management guidelines and Fiji law, the Trust Fund will be audited by an independent auditor and the accounts for the CROC Trust Fund must be published annually.

While the earmarking of funding for communities, regions, and approved activities over others is not aligned with the operational requirements associated with the CROC Trust Fund, all efforts to support donor priorities and requirements as well as specific financial reporting protocols will be met where possible, practical, and when expressly required.

In addition to direct contributions from donors, bilateral partners, and organisations, the Fiji Government will seek to leverage additional financing for this Trust Fund through international climate financing instruments and the ongoing global efforts to secure new additional financing for addressing loss and damage.

## ACCOUNT DETAILS

**Account Name:** Climate Relocation of Communities Trust Fund

**Account Number:** 92111S18

**SWIFT Code:** HFCLFJFJ

**BSB:** 129 010

**Bank Name:** HFC Bank, Suva, Fiji

## CONTACT

To enquire about making a contribution to Fiji's Climate Relocation of Communities Trust Fund please contact [ClimateRelocationTrustFundFJ@gmail.com](mailto:ClimateRelocationTrustFundFJ@gmail.com)

## NON-FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIPS

Fiji's 'Relocation Taskforce' welcomes engagement from relevant organisations, civil society groups, and non-government organisations that seek to support relocation activities in Fiji through direct implementation support. For more information, please contact [ClimateRelocationTrustFundFJ@gmail.com](mailto:ClimateRelocationTrustFundFJ@gmail.com)

## LINKS TO KEY DOCUMENTS

Standard Operating Procedures for  
Planned Relocation in the Republic of Fiji

SCAN HERE



National Climate Change  
Policy 2018 – 2030

SCAN HERE



Planned Relocation Guidelines

SCAN HERE



Climate Change Act 2021

SCAN HERE



Climate Relocation of Communities  
Trust Fund Act 2019

SCAN HERE



# Annex 1 – Section 77 of the Climate Change Act

## ***Relocation of at-risk communities***

**77.—(1)** The Minister, with the support of the Fijian Taskforce on Relocation and Displacement, is responsible for relocating and supporting at-risk communities in accordance with the following objectives—

- (a) to allow for the orderly, respectful and dignified relocation of at-risk communities;
- (b) to provide for a minimum standard of protection and assistance to persons at risk of, or affected by, disasters and climatic change, including the most vulnerable persons and taking into consideration the special needs and circumstances of persons living with disabilities, the elderly, sick, women and children;
- (c) for planned relocations, provide a coordination mechanism to enable all affected stakeholders to participate in decisions affecting communities;
- (d) to relocate at-risk communities only when other adaptation measures as set out in the NAP have been exhausted;
- (e) to relocate at-risk communities only with the full free and prior informed consent of the communities, following inclusive and gender responsive consultation and participatory processes;
- (f) to ensure that relocation sites—
  - (i) are on land that is least vulnerable to climate change impacts and capable of supporting the current and future needs of the at-risk community and any existing or host communities; and
  - (ii) have similar or better housing, infrastructure, social infrastructure and other social and financial support systems, employment opportunities than the community from which persons were relocated, and can meet the current and future sustainable development needs of both the existing or host community and the at-risk community that is to be relocated to that site;
- (g) if an at-risk community is relocated to land that supports existing communities, the rights and concerns of those existing or host communities are taken into account and respected;

- (h) where possible and desirable, infrastructure is relocated from the at-risk community to the relocation site;
- (i) relocation is to be non-discriminatory; and
- (j) the adoption of approaches which—
  - (i) are human-centred including prioritising community needs from the bottom up;
  - (ii) support the continuation of livelihoods;
  - (iii) are human rights based; and
  - (iv) are pre-emptive.

(2) Prior to the Minister making a decision on relocating at-risk communities, the Fijian Taskforce on Relocation and Displacement must—

- (a) consult affected persons or communities and communicate the rights of those persons or communities and the scientific and policy justification for the proposed relocation;
- (b) conduct a public hearing whereby the affected persons or communities have the right to legal representation; and
- (c) provide a record of all views raised during the consultations and public hearing to the Minister.

(3) When conducting consultations and public hearings, the Minister must encourage the participation of vulnerable persons or communities and ensure that their views are taken into account.

(4) When making a decision whether or not to relocate an at-risk community, the Minister must—

- (a) take into account all views raised during the consultations and public hearing;
- (b) take into account any recommendations of the Fijian Taskforce on Relocation and Displacement;
- (c) consider the availability of appropriate financial resources to facilitate relocation;
- (d) ensure that the decision is consistent with, and following the processes and requirements established under, the Fijian Planned Relocation Guidelines and any supporting standard operating procedures; and
- (e) ensure that the decision is consistent with the principles in subsection (1).

# Annex 2 - Example activities and indicative costs

*For demonstration purposes only*

COST ITEMS	UNIT	UNIT COST	TOTAL COST
	3		
Consultation Meetings	4		
	4	\$	
Technical Assessment	4	\$	
	1	\$	
	4	\$	
Construction		\$	
Logistics			
Resettlement Services		\$0	
		\$0	
		\$0	
Post Relocation Support		\$0	
		\$0	
		\$0	
<b>ESTIMATED</b>			

Supported by the GIZ Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change Programme



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