Mainstreaming Indigenous and local knowledge into Health-related Climate Adaptation and SDG 3 Planning in the Pacific Islands: Challenges and Opportunities

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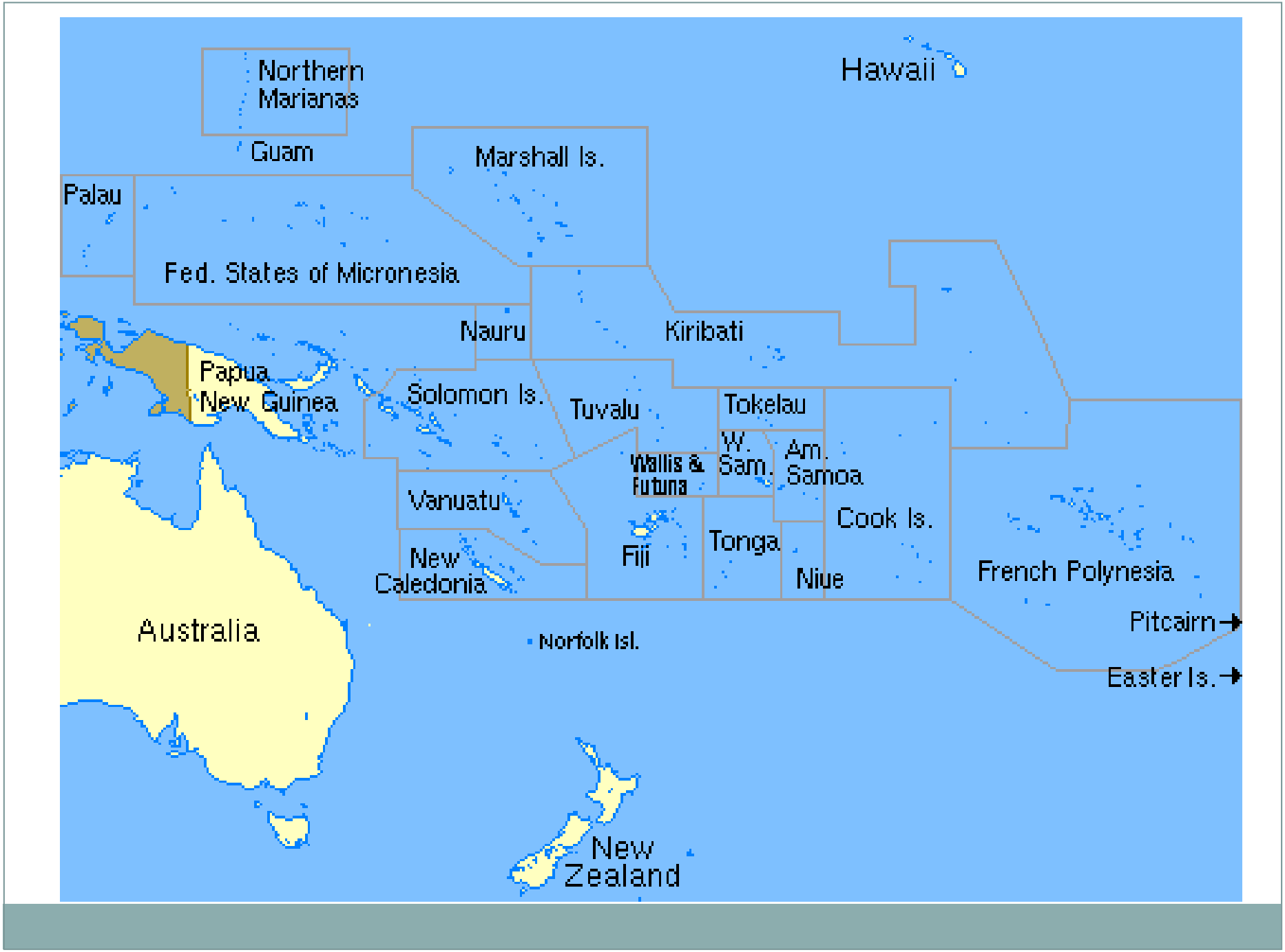
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Guam
Hawaii
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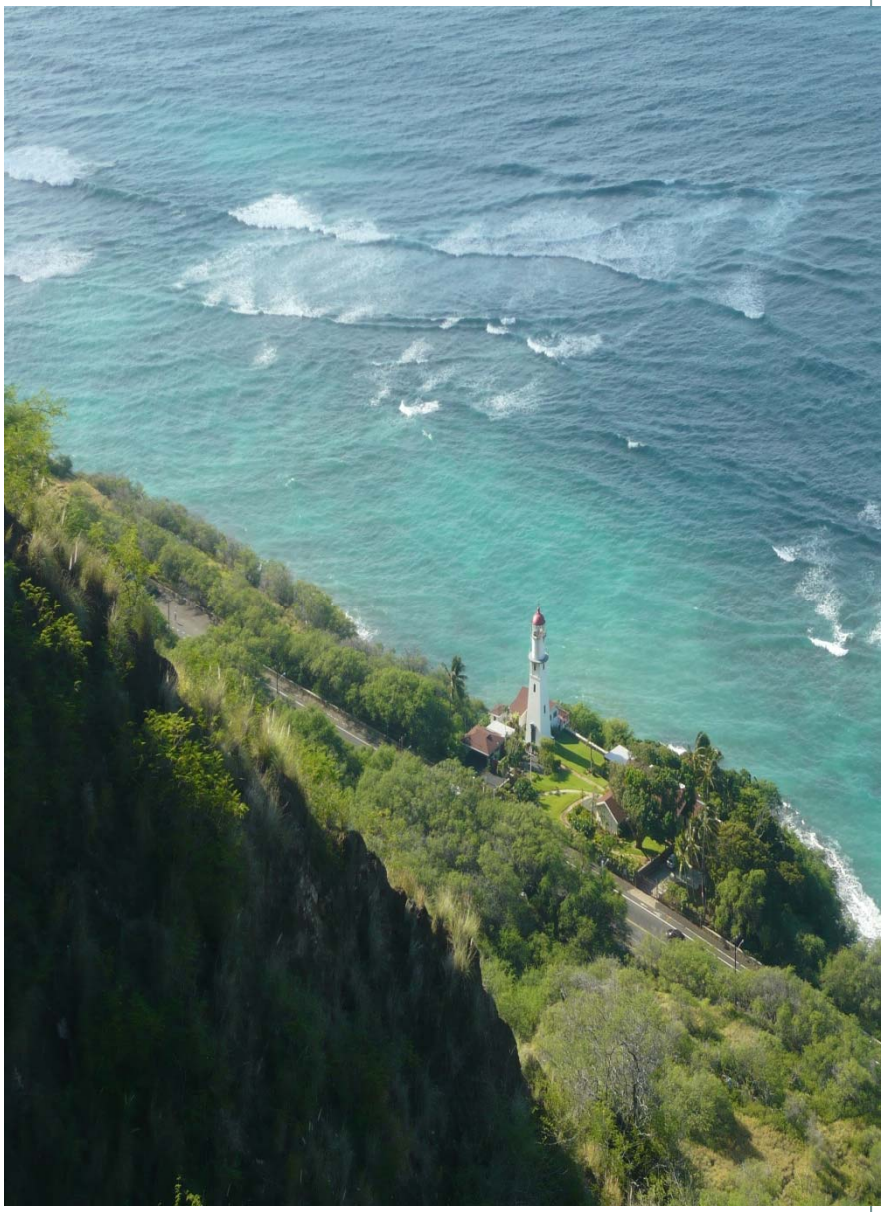


CHARACTERISTICS

- PICs share a set of common characteristics and challenges

- Remoteness, low availability of natural resources, high cost of energy, infrastructure and transport; susceptibility to natural disasters; long distance from export markets

-MIRAB economies; most of the population and jobs located in the capital city, limited private sector

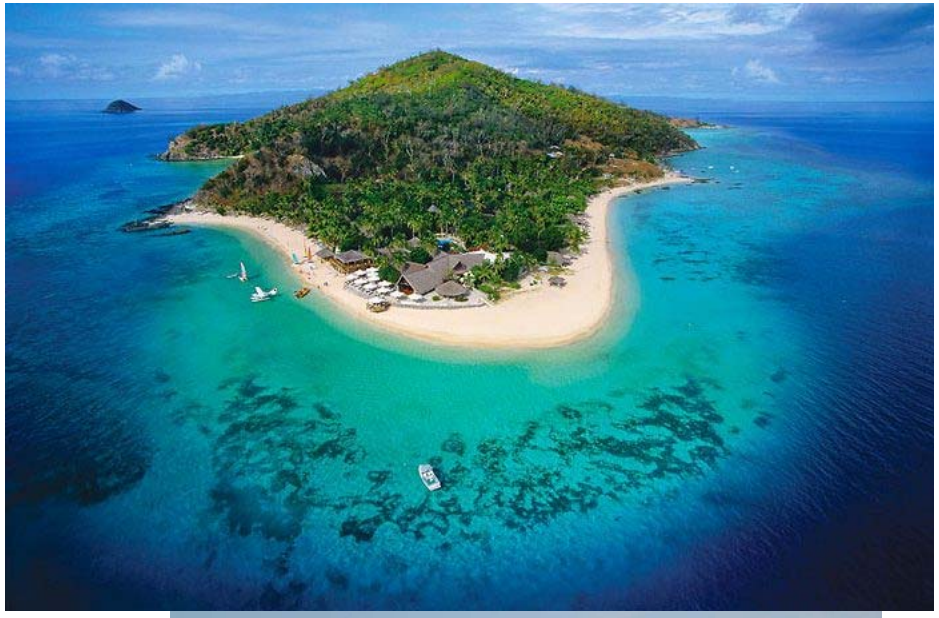
-Rich marine resources

-PICs distinct in culture, social structure, language (e.g., PNG has 852 languages)

- Rural to urban mix is diverse but most live in rural settings (semi-subsistence lifestyle)

-Proneness to natural disasters

--Many are former colonies



Over 90% of Populations across PICs Indigenous

LOCAL DRIVERS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

- Exploitation of natural resources (e.g., overfishing, mining, deforestation)
- Rapid urbanisation (Pacific 4.3% vs global av 1.7%)
- Poor solid and wastewater management
- Exploitation of freshwater resources
- Lack of human resources and weak enforcement
- Limited long-term environmental data and resources for monitoring trends
- Moving towards cash economy and individualistic lifestyles
- Loss of Indigenous knowledge (e.g., marine resource management, breakdown of social networks)
- Drivers of local change are intimately shaped by processes taking place at other levels of governance (i.e., national, regional, international)

HEALTH TRENDS ACROSS SIDS

- Very high under-five mortality rates (32.5 deaths/1000 births)
- Vector-borne, water-borne disease, mental health
- Low human resources for health capacity
- Very high rates of NCDs; heavy dependence on imported foods
- Domestic violence, substance abuse
- Disparities in access to basic health care facilities between main island and outer islands
- Limited data and capacity for monitoring trends

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

- SIDS are highly socially and biophysically vulnerable to climate change and SLR
- Trends: increasing temperatures, intense and frequent extreme weather events, changes to ENSO, seasons changing, rainfall patterns changing, increased sea surface temperatures – coral bleaching
- Direct and in-direct impacts on human health
- **Existing stressors on human health will be exacerbated under climate change**
- Women, children, physically challenged, Indigenous groups and other minorities more vulnerable to climate impacts
- Lowest CO2 emissions per capita: issue of equity and justice
- Conflict and migration through loss of land

Risk category	Causal pathway
Primary	Direct biological consequences of heatwaves, extreme weather events and temperature-enhanced levels of urban air pollutants.
Secondary	Risks mediated by changes in biophysically and ecologically based processes and systems, particularly food yields, water flows, infectious disease vectors and (for zoonotic diseases) intermediate-host ecology.
Tertiary	More diffuse effects (e.g. mental health problems in failing farm communities, displaced groups, disadvantaged indigenous and minority ethnic groups). Consequences of tension and conflict owing to climate change-related declines in basic resources (water, food, timber, living space).

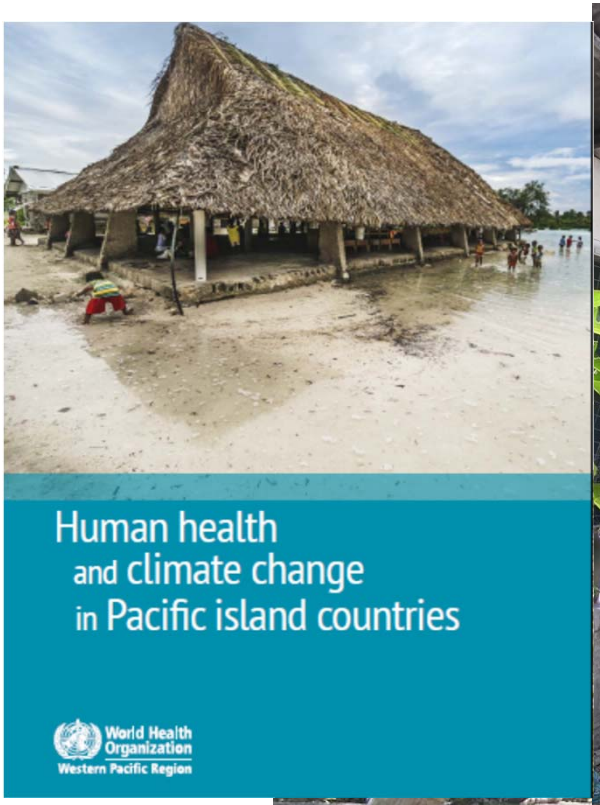
Source: adapted from McMichael, 2013a

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION FOR HEALTH

- National Adaptation Programmes being implemented through UNFCCC process; health a key targeted sector

- Adaptation interventions aim to address various health vulnerabilities (e.g.,technical, social, economic, ecosystems based, governance strategies targeting various levels)

- Community level: intervention are incremental and not transformative (business-as-usual)



PLURAL KNOWLEDGE STREAMS

- Many of the adaptation interventions for health have been largely informed by Western science (e.g., building health surveillance systems)

- There is a need to recognise the significance of cultural knowledge and practices in shaping adaptive choices of communities in PICs (Kuruppu and Willie 2015).

- ILK is the set of knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities which have been developed from experiences gained over the centuries and adapted to the local culture and environment.

- ILK: traditional diets, food preparation and preservation, kinship networks and governance, traditional architecture, marine and biodiversity conservation etc

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ILK INTEGRATION INTO CCA

- **Challenges:**
- rapid urbanisation; erosion of traditional kin networks
- Western based school curriculum
- secret knowledge' not passed down by elders
- The need for scientific validation
- Limited formal documentation
- Regional donors focus on their own cca agendas
- Limited cca occurring at Local Govt or community level for health
- Paucity of cca health related educational material in local dialect

Opportunities:

-Social network and reciprocity still strong on outer islands

-Indigenous worldviews: people and planet are inextricably linked

-strong traditional governance structures exist on outer islands

-High regard for traditional medicine and healers

INTEGRATING ILK: LOCAL TRANSITIONS ARE HAPPENING

Kiribati: locally designed hand pump is being developed

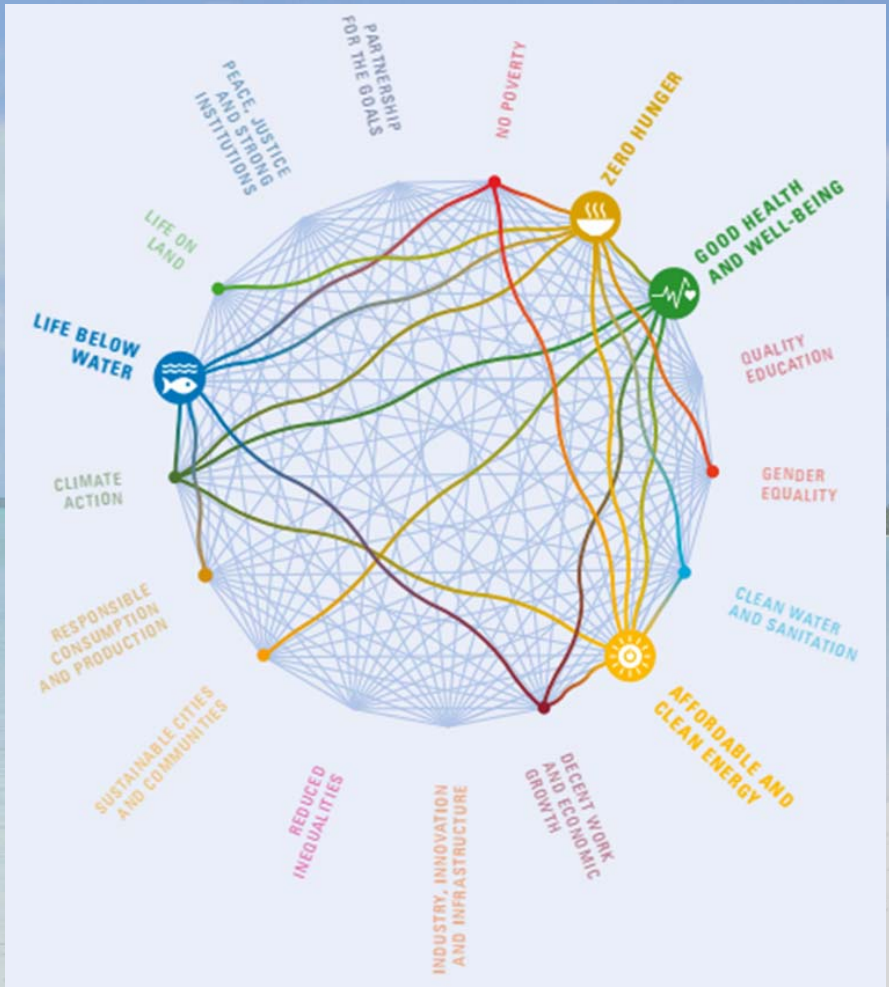
Organic farming practices revived in Samoa

TRANSFORMATIONAL ADAPTATION

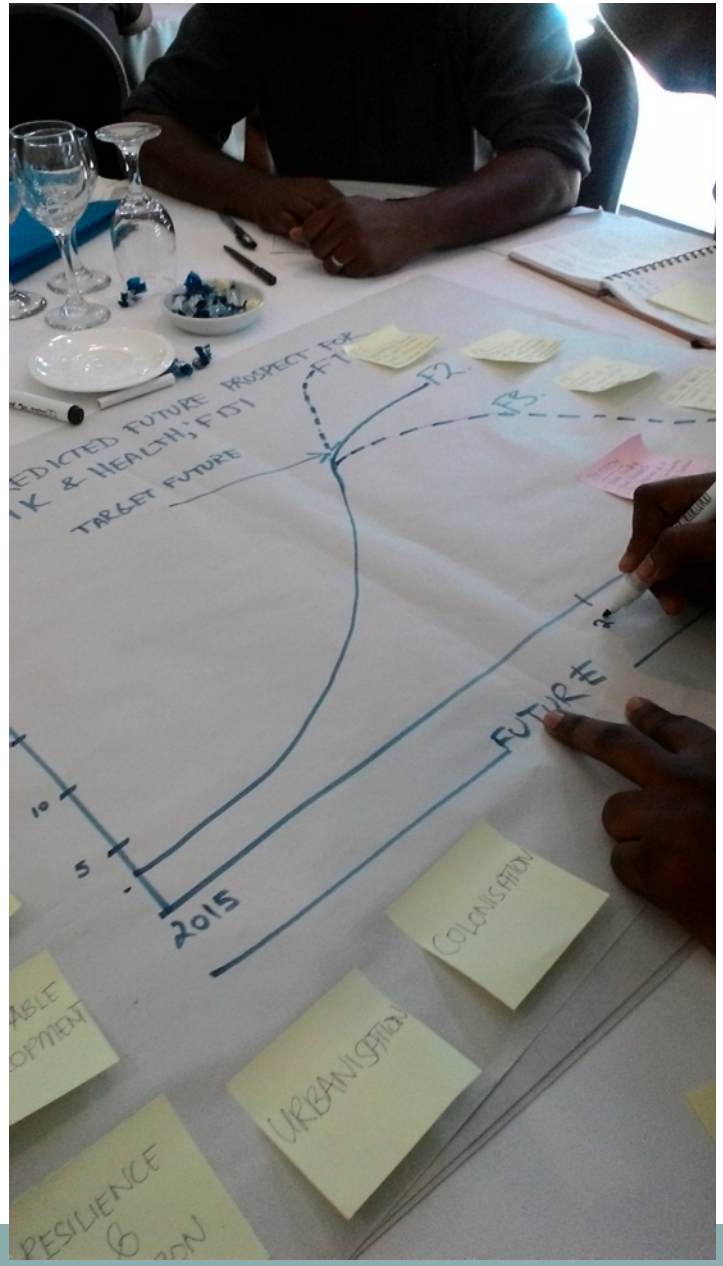
- Transformative change - radical shifts required if climate adaptation is to address the drivers of human health vulnerabilities, ensure planetary health and meet the 2030 agenda
- Fundamental physical and/or qualitative changes in form, structure or mean making (O'Brien 2017)
- Requires innovation, experimentation and envisioning to create previously unimagined possibilities.
- Transformation adaptation offers and opportunity to integrate ILK
- IPCC 2014: Adaptation will generate larger benefits to small islands when delivered in conjunction with other development activities (e.g., SDGs).
- SDG lab in Fiji: understand how to support the transformation to integrate ILK for SDG 3 planning: co –benefits
- MDGs failed at the community level across the PICs

FIJI SDG 3 LAB AN ENTRY POINT: ILK INTEGRATION

- SDG 3 inextricably linked to climate change: e.g., NCDs, food security, infectious disease
- Identify a set of radical transformations through visioning exercise that can then be implemented as experiments
- Raise awareness within key agencies of the need to adopt plural knowledge streams
- Identify key leaders who could advocate for change and mainstream Indigenous knowledge into planning processes that produce positive health futures
- Identify leveraging points




How do we get to Alternative future?


TARGET FUTURE
F1
F2
F3
10
5
2015
FUTURE
URBANISATION
COLONISATION

Introducing : Dr Litiana – University of Fiji


Lets visit Kiribati:
https://youtu.be/Z5wRA6AipH4


Thanks …