



CLIMATE-CHANGE RELATED RELOCATION IN FIJI – FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE

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New Zealand**



Background

Collaborative
Research Program
funded by the
Worldwide Universities
Network (WUN)
(2020-2021)

Climate-Induced Migration: Global Scope, Regional Impacts and National Policy Frameworks



Academic Lead

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Participating Universities

- University of Alberta
- The University of Auckland
- University of Bristol
- University of Ghana
- Maastricht University
- University of Massachusetts Amherst
- University of Rochester
- University of Southampton
- Tecnológico de Monterrey
- University College Dublin
- The University of Western Australia
- University of York

WUN+ Partners

- Philipps-Universität Marburg
- University of Gothenburg
- National University of Samoa
- International Organisation for Migration (Berlin and Bangkok Offices)

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Background

Collaborative
Research Program
funded by the
Asia-Pacific Network
for Global Change
Research (APN)
(2015-2019)

Climate Change Adaptation in Post-Disaster Recovery Processes

Funded by



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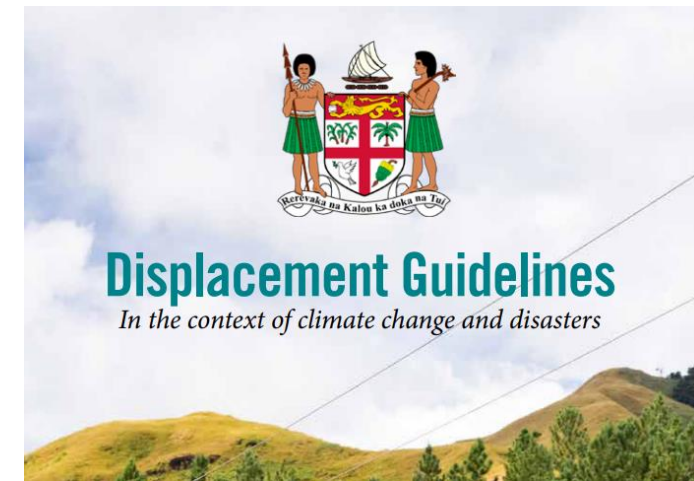
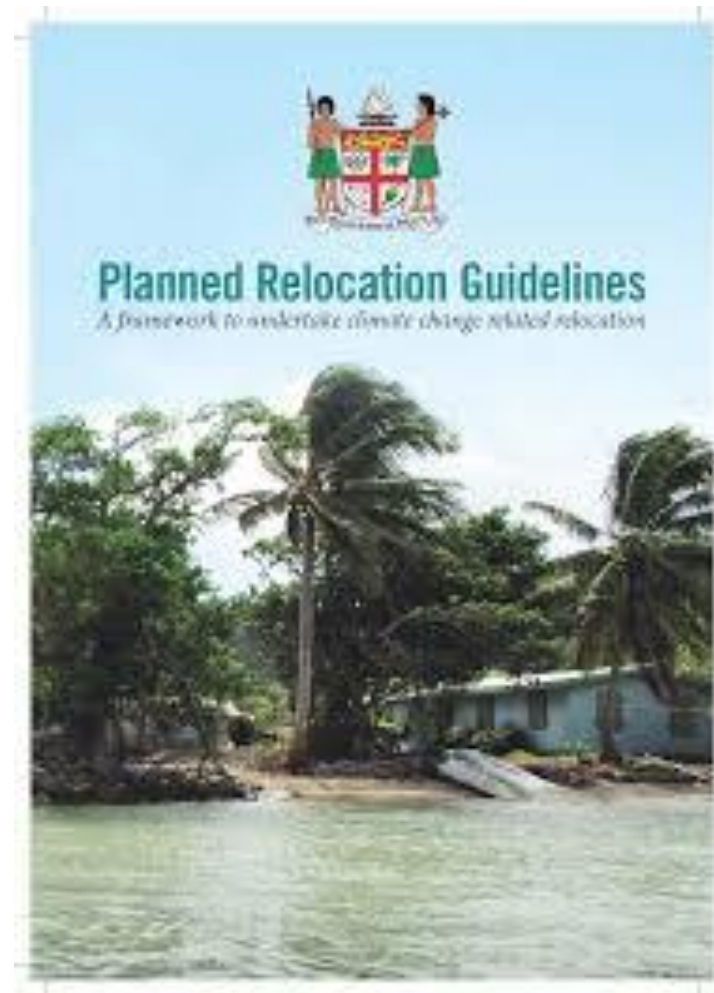
Flood in Votua Community, Viti Levu, Fiji

© Votua Community Fiji

Policy Context

Fiji is the first country in the Pacific that has developed planned relocation and displacement guidelines

At least 80 villages are deemed to require planned relocation over the coming years; a handful of villages have already been relocated

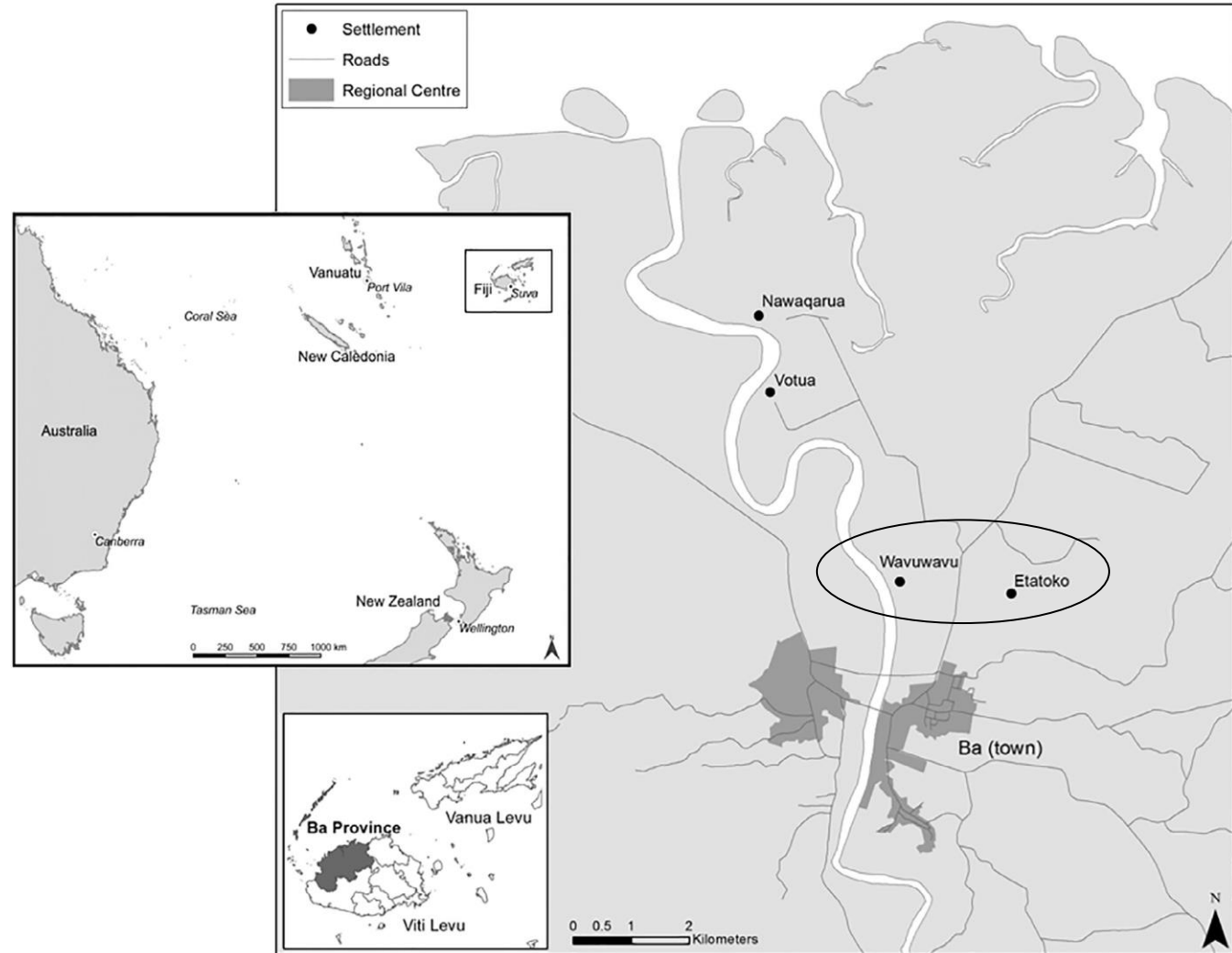


Case Study: Etatoko in northwestern Viti Levu

Community resettled after the 2012 floods

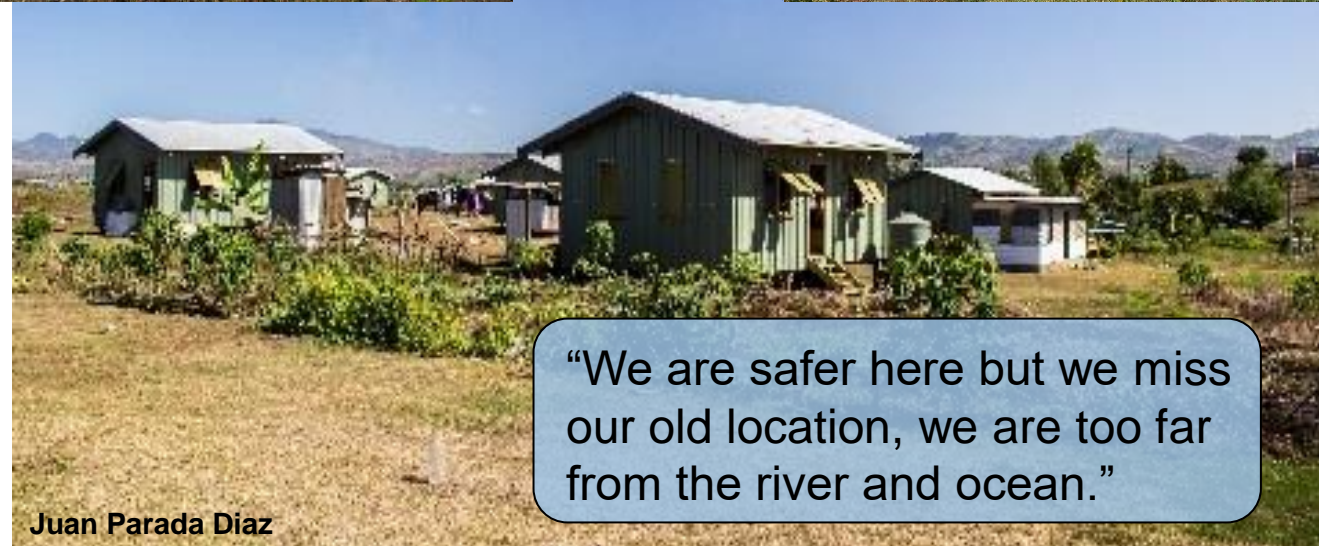
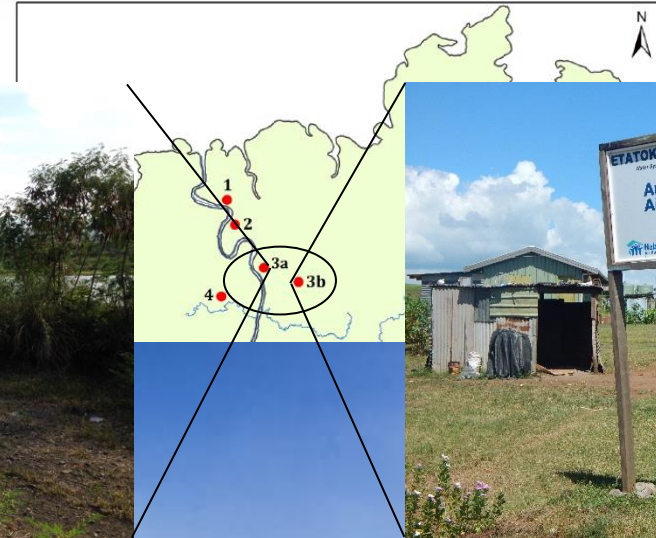


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Etatoko – 17 households relocated after their houses collapsed into the Ba River during intense flooding

Access to river and marine resources compromised; new location exposed to strong winds and drought



Relocation as Adaptive Strategy and Matter of Choice?

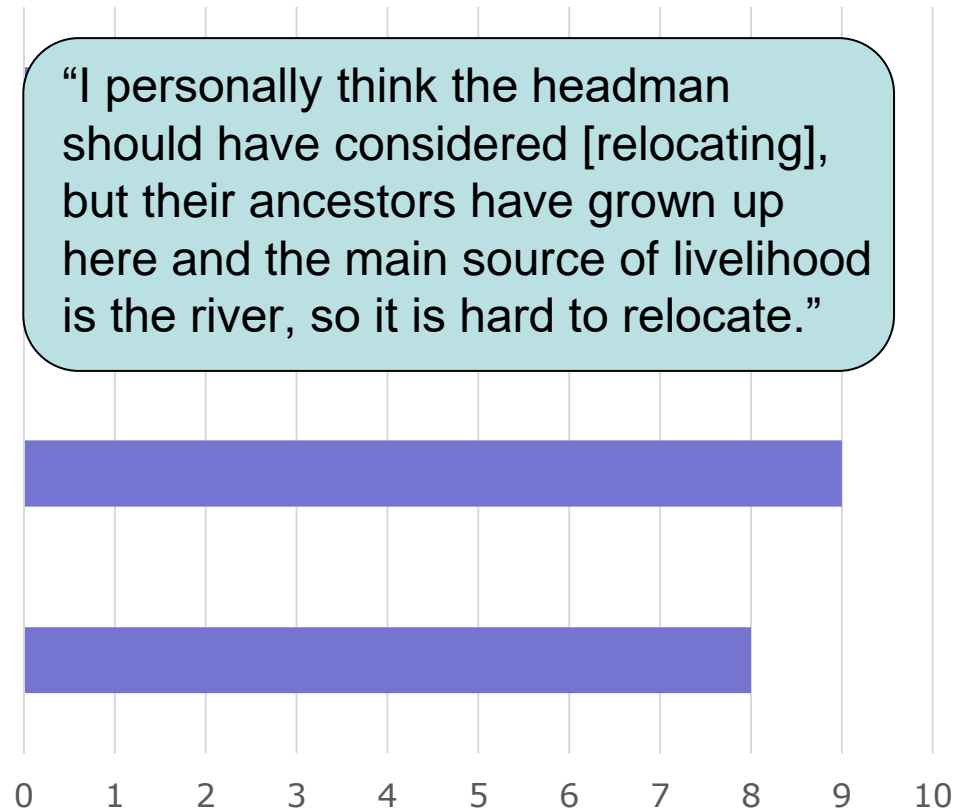
Planning for 'relocation'

Considered 'relocation', but were restricted by various factors (lack of land, decision of elders, housing, finance, lack of job opportunities, sense of belonging)

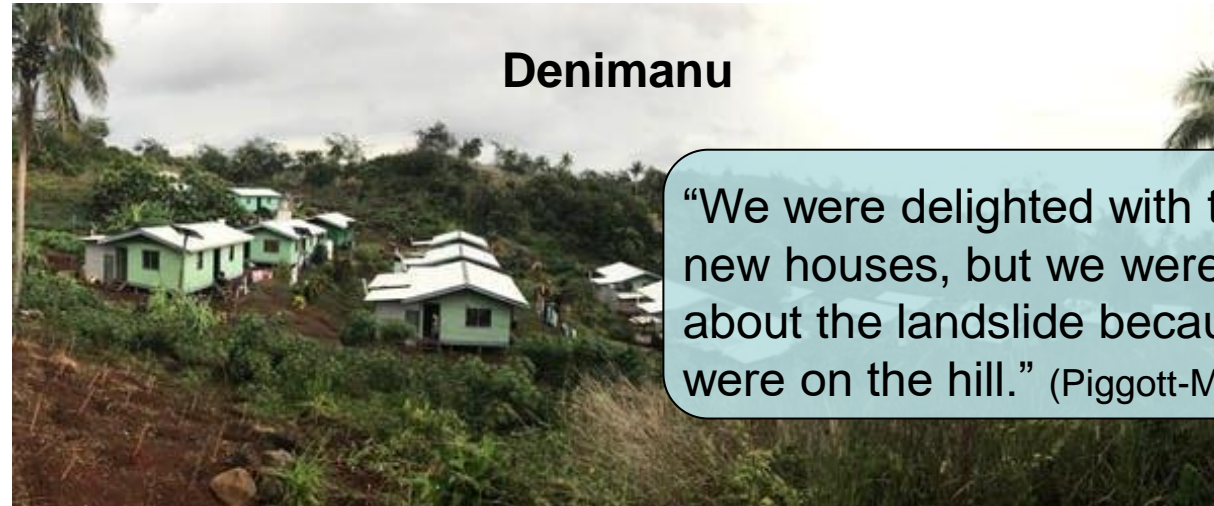
Mentioned 'relocation', but were opposed to the idea (cultural ties with the land, history, livelihood needs)

Did not mention 'relocation' as a strategy

No. of households

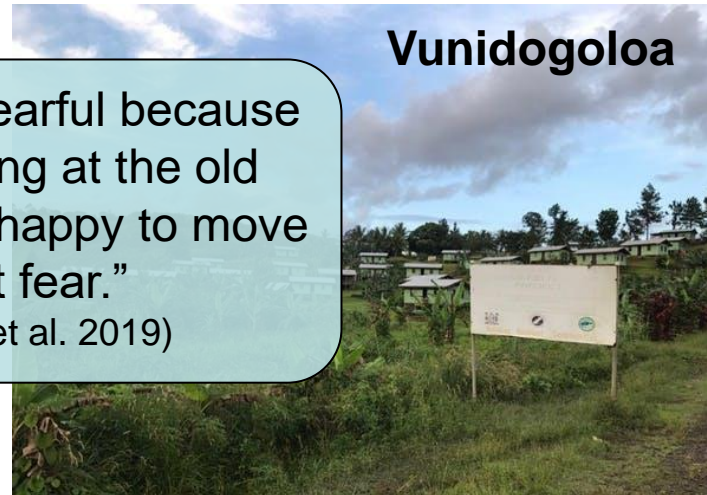


Other Cases of Planned Relocation in Fiji



Denimanu

“We were delighted with the move to the new houses, but we were still worried about the landslide because the houses were on the hill.” (Piggott-McKellar et al. 2019)



Vunidogoloa

“We were so fearful because of the tides living at the old site. We were happy to move away from that fear.” (Piggott-McKellar et al. 2019)



Denimanu

Additional Relocation Pressure on Fiji from Low-Lying Pacific Atoll Countries

‘Migration in Dignity’?

Conclusion

- ❖ Climate-related relocation in multi-risk environments remains challenging
- ❖ In-situ adaptation may be a better option

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ABC: Evan Wasuka



Kiribati



Fiji



Kiribati's land purchase in Fiji: does it make sense?

January 11, 2016 · 3 Comments · by James Ellsmoor, Zachary Rosen · 6 min read



devpolicy.org

In Fiji, villages need to move due to climate change

As Cyclone Gita leaves Tonga battered, neighbouring Fiji has started moving some of its villages to higher ground.

by Loes Witschge 15 Feb 2018



Al Jazeera



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Thank you!

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