



Multi-level governance guidance for climate action in the Pacific

**A blueprint to help governments and communities
work together to strengthen resilience**



Table of Contents

List of Abbreviations.....	4
Executive summary	5
1. Why multi-level governance matters in the Pacific	6
2. Linking regional models to Global Frameworks	7
2.1 CHAMP.....	7
2.2 Townhall COPS	7
3. Existing architecture to build on Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) 2017-2030	9
4. Alignment with regional urban policy frameworks	10
4.1 Climate and COVID resilience planning process (via the ICLEI Urban Resilience Planning Cycle)	10
5. A blueprint for multi-level governance	12
5.1 Guiding principles	12
6. Who does what (roles and coordination).....	13
6.1 Multi-level urban policy alignment within Kiribati	13
7. Instruments & alignment	15
8. Finance pathways that deliver on meaningful climate actions	15
9. Implementation	16
10. Case vignettes: What “good” looks like	17
10.1 Samoa’s Community Integrated Management (CIM) Plans.....	17
10.2 Fiji’s Climate Change Act (2021).....	17
10.3 LoCAL performance-based climate resilience grants	17
10.4 Regional risk finance and insurance (PCRIC + PCRAFI).....	17
10.5 Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs)	17
11. Risks to manage and how to mitigate them.....	18
11.1 Institutions.....	18
12. A 12-month roadmap for MLG/vertical integration and involving communities.....	19



13. Closing note.....	20
14. Comments on the Revision of Kiribati’s National Urban Policy.....	20
15. KNUP Climate Action Checklist.....	22
15.1 Coastal Protection (for coastal towns and cities)	22
15.2 Flood Protection (for low lying towns and cities)	23
15.3 Fire Protection (for the urban fringe)	24
15.4 Water Security	25
15.5 Protecting Buildings	26
15.6 Urban Habitability.....	27
15.7 Climate Resilient Infrastructure	28
15.8 Food Security	28
15.9 Ecological Health.....	29
15.10 Disaster Preparedness	30
References	31

Author:

Sharin Govender, *ICLEI Oceania*

Contributors:

Steve Gawler, *ICLEI Oceania*

Tim Lazaroff, *ICLEI World Secretariat*

Dr. Jane Stanley, *CLGF Pacific*

Karibaiti Taoaba, *CLGF Pacific*



List of Abbreviations

CCRP	Climate and COVID Resilience Plan (via ICLEI)
CHAMP	Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships
CIM	Community Integrated Management (via Samoa CIM Plans)
FRDP	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LMMA	Locally-Managed Marine Area Network
LoCAL	Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (via UNDCF)
LT-LEDS	Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies
NAP	National Adaptation Plans
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
PacRIS	Pacific Risk Information System
PBCRGs	Performance-based climate resilience grants
PCRAFI	Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative
PCRIC	Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company
PICAP	Pacific Insurance and Climate Adaptation Programme
PIF	Pacific Islands Forum
PRF	Pacific Resilience Facility
PRP	Pacific Regional Partnership
RDU	Resilience Delivery Unit
SPC	Pacific Community
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme



Executive summary

Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face compounding risks from sea-level rise, tropical cyclones, coastal erosion, droughts, floods, and geophysical hazards. The region has also built a strong foundation for joint action, politically (e.g., the Boe Declaration), strategically (the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific, FRDP), and operationally (through the Pacific Resilience Partnership, PRP). This guideline builds on this foundation towards attaining a multi-level governance framework that links international, regional bodies, national ministries, subnational authorities, and communities including customary and traditional institutions so they can plan together, finance together, deliver together, and learn together.

The framework rests on five principles: Subsidiarity, alignment, inclusion, integration, and mutual accountability. It outlines practical roles, decision rules, finance pathways (from national budgets and climate funds to performance-based local grants and risk financing/insurance), data systems, standards, and an annual delivery cycle. It closes with case vignettes (Samoa's district Community Integrated Management plans, Fiji's Climate Change Act, LoCAL performance-based grants, and regional risk insurance via PCRIC), key risks, and a 12-month starter roadmap. [\[1\]](#)

This guidance document was produced as part of the project IKI Blue-Green Development in Kiribati: Sustainable community-based development for climate and pandemic resilience. ICLEI, alongside regional partners Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) Pacific and in-country partners Kiribati Local Government Association (KiLGA), produced Climate and COVID Resilience Plans (CCRPs) for each of South Tarawa's two Councils: Betio Town Council (BTC) and Teinainano Urban Council (TUC). This was in parallel to a major revision of Kiribati National Urban Policy (NUP) and the release of the Strategic Plan for South Tarawa's Informal Settlements by the Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs (MCIA) in partnership with UN-Habitat.



1. Why multi-level governance matters in the Pacific

Geography and governance are intertwined. Many SIDS in the Pacific have widely dispersed islands, small administrations, and strong customary tenure. National line ministries set policy; provincial/urban councils manage land-use, water, waste, and local roads; villages and customary leaders steward reefs and forests and implement most preparedness and recovery. Climate action only sticks when these layers pull in the same direction. This is especially true given the blurriness that accompanies differences among governance layers in small islands; these are, after all, countries with populations equivalent to those of neighborhoods in cities elsewhere.

The regional mandate already exists. Pacific Leaders affirmed climate change as the single greatest threat to Pacific peoples and elevated it as a stand-alone regional security priority (Boe Declaration, 2018). The 2014 SAMOA Pathway and Framework for Pacific Regionalism should be used as entry points for enhancing policy engagement at the highest level on the importance of addressing critical Pacific urban challenges. The FRDP (2017–2030) provides high-level, voluntary guidance to reduce climate and disaster risk, support low-carbon development, and improve preparedness and recovery, implemented through the PRP. These commitments justify making a multi-level coordination routine rather than ad hoc. [\[2\]](#) [\[3\]](#) [\[4\]](#) [\[5\]](#) [\[6\]](#)

The opportunity is clear: Embedding resilience into everyday decisions, public investment, settlement and urban planning, fisheries and agriculture, health, education, and social protection by building a coherent architecture from village to region to nation, backed by standards and finance. The recently developed Pacific Resilience Standards and the PRP's taskforce/technical working groups are ready-made mechanisms to anchor this architecture. [\[7\]](#) [\[8\]](#)



2. Linking regional models to Global Frameworks

2.1 CHAMP

The Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) was launched at COP28 by the COP28 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies as a platform to enhance collaboration between national and subnational governments in climate policy and finance. Recognizing that cities and regions play a critical role in implementing national climate commitments, CHAMP was designed to bridge the gap between local action and national policies. Since its inception, 75 countries have endorsed CHAMP, demonstrating a growing global commitment to embedding multi-level governance in climate action.

CHAMP continues to serve two primary objectives:

- Strengthening cooperation between national and subnational actors in the design and implementation of key national climate plans, such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS).
- Improving access to climate finance at the subnational level through enhanced coordination mechanisms co-designed by different levels of government alongside climate finance providers.

In a significant step for the Pacific, His Excellency Te Beretitenti Taneti Maamau, President of the Republic of Kiribati, officially endorsed CHAMP. This guide helps in taking multi-level partnership commitments forward after this endorsement.

[\[9\]](#)

2.2 Townhall COPS

Inspired by the structure of UN Climate Change Conferences (COPs), Town Hall COPS provide local governments with an opportunity to create an inclusive space where local stakeholders, such as government officials, scientific community, youth, businesses, Indigenous Peoples, informal communities, other underrepresented peoples, and civil society at large, can convene to discuss climate goals, review progress, and identify pathways for enhancing local climate action and connecting to their national goals and plans.



Every Town Hall COP shares three fundamental principles:

- Town Hall COPs are community-led: The Town Hall COP model is built around the needs and priorities of each community and can be adapted to fit local goals. Hosts could choose to focus on, for example, helping residents understand national climate plans by turning complex policies into practical, local conversations or highlighting local climate leadership by showcasing projects, gathering input, and building new partnerships.
- Town Hall COPs are nationally relevant: New national climate plans called Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) 3.0 are due at COP30 in 2025. Town Hall COPs are a chance for communities to make sure their voices and priorities are included in these national plans. Each Town Hall COP should aim to connect with national climate efforts by inviting government representatives, sharing outcomes, and staying in touch before and after the event. The insights and outcomes from these local events can directly inform national plans and global climate discussions. ICLEI will help share these results through its role as the official voice of local governments in the UN climate process.
- Town Hall COPs are transformation-oriented: Town Hall COPs should highlight the real-world and daily-life connections between climate action and essential community priorities, like health, nature, justice, consumption affordability, jobs, and culture at the local level. ICLEI's Town Hall COP toolkit will provide guidance to ensure a transformation-oriented approach at these events that speaks to the daily realities of community members. [\[10\]](#)



3. Existing architecture to build on Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) 2017-2030

Endorsed by leaders in 2016, FDRP identifies interlinked goals across risk reduction, low-carbon development, and response/recovery. The PRP is the umbrella mechanism that translates FRDP from policy to action and convenes all stakeholder groups through a Taskforce and biennial Pacific Resilience Meetings. [\[4\]](#) [\[8\]](#) [\[11\]](#)

Boe Declaration & Action Plan: Elevates climate security, encourages country-led coordination, and calls for enabling mechanisms to implement and monitor progress. [\[4\]](#)

2022-2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent: An evolving document with identified Climate Change and Disasters as a key pillar, “to guarantee the future of our children”. Actions include strengthening partnerships to capitalize and operationalize the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF), a Pacific grown and led financing vehicle that will be mainstreamed across all thematic areas of the 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan. [\[12\]](#)

Standards and data: The Pacific Resilience Standards guide consistent practice and reporting. Regionally, PCRAFI and associated systems (PacRIS) enable risk information for planning/finance; PCRIC provides parametric disaster insurance that governments can pair with social protection or local recovery windows. [\[1\]](#) [\[6\]](#) [\[13\]](#) [\[14\]](#)

Locally led approaches: The LoCAL mechanism channels performance-based climate resilience grants (PBCRGs) through national treasuries to local governments; the LMMA movement shows how communities use customary tenure to manage coastal resources for food security and resilience. [\[15\]](#) [\[16\]](#) [\[17\]](#)

Country examples: Fiji’s Climate Change Act 2021 establishes governance for mitigation, adaptation, MRV, and risk management and can inspire similar whole-of-government approaches. Samoa’s district-level Community Integrated Management (CIM) Plans align village priorities with national and sector plans using a ridge-to-reef lens. [\[18\]](#)

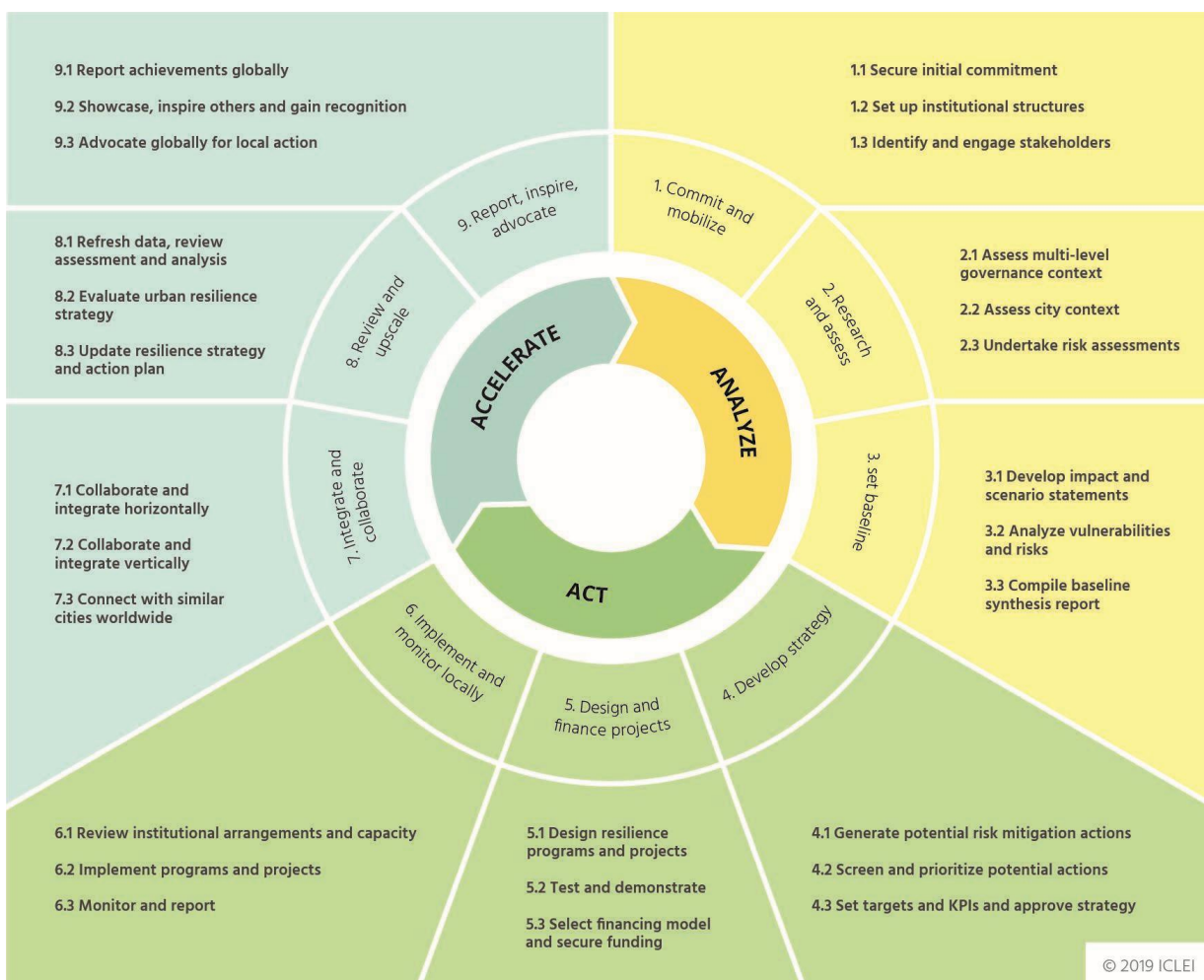


4. Alignment with regional urban policy frameworks

4.1 Climate and COVID resilience planning process (via the ICLEI Urban Resilience Planning Cycle)

The ICLEI Urban Resilience Planning Cycle supports local governments, cities and communities to understand the major challenges, shocks and stresses which may impede secure, sustainable development and to develop strategies to build resilience to these challenges. It is a 9-step process in 3 phases, Analyze, Act and Accelerate, each unfolding into three steps.

It outlines how to assess urban risks and vulnerabilities (Analyze) and how to develop and implement options to build resilience to these risks to ensure a city can achieve its sustainable development goals (Act). It then shows how to scale up this activity and to link with national and international networks, campaigns and initiatives (Accelerate).



While this Guide was co-developed in Oceania, adapting it to Pacific planning practices entails experimentation and engagement with traditional governance mechanisms. This ultimately became the medium with which the IKI Blue-Green Development in Kiribati team engaged communities and Councils in South Tarawa, Kiribati to develop two Climate and COVID Resilience Plans. It elevates community preferences, needs, and knowledge with a bottom-up approach to municipal-level resilience planning. IKI Kiribati has been novel in its commitment to the Maneaba as the most suitable and appropriate mechanism for community-level urban planning.



5. A blueprint for multi-level governance

5.1 Guiding principles

- **Subsidiarity**
Decisions sit at the lowest level with the capacity to act safely and fairly; higher levels support standards, data, and finance.
- **Alignment**
National goals (NDCs/NAP/sector plans) cascade into provincial/municipal plans and community priorities; regional frameworks (FRDP/Boe) provide coherence. [\[4\]](#) [\[6\]](#)
- **Inclusion & equity**
Participation for women, youth, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and outer-island communities through Talanoa Dialogues and accessible processes, consistent with FRDP and Pacific Resilience Standards. [\[5\]](#) [\[13\]](#)
- **Integration**
Manage climate and disaster risk together (prevention, preparedness, response, recovery) across land-sea systems (ridge-to-reef). Samoa's CIM approach is a practical template. [\[18\]](#)
- **Mutual accountability**
Shared indicators and annual learning ensure everyone from village councils to cabinet and regional bodies tracks the same outcomes. [\[13\]](#)



6. Who does what (roles and coordination)

- **Regional layer (PRP, PIF, SPC, SPREP, others)**
Set common standards; host regional risk data; operate or broker pooled services (e.g. risk finance, technical surge, training); convene annual learning; help align partners to country-led priorities. [\[11\]](#) [\[13\]](#)
- **National layer (cabinet, finance, planning, sector ministries)**
Legislate and budget for resilience (e.g., climate acts), adopt risk-informed public investment rules, establish a Resilience Delivery Unit (RDU) in the center of government to convene sectors and subnational governments, and manage access to climate finance and insurance. [\[19\]](#)
- **Subnational layer (provinces, outer-island administrations, municipal councils)**
Maintain local hazard/risk maps; integrate climate risk into land-use and infrastructure permits; coordinate community-level projects; operate local preparedness and early recovery funds through PBCRGs or budget windows. [\[17\]](#)
- **Community & customary institutions (village councils, women's/youth groups, church networks, LMMA committees)**
Co-design and lead locally appropriate measures, safeguard cultural assets, monitor local indicators, and enforce customary resource rules that support resilience. [\[16\]](#)

6.1 Multi-level urban policy alignment within Kiribati

Developing CCRPs required an understanding of governance arrangements. Local Authorities report to the Director Local Government in the Ministry of Cultural and Internal Affairs (MCIA). The following national policies and plans have particular relevance for each Council's CCRP and subsequent Climate Action Plans:

- Kiribati Vision for 20 Years (KV20)
- Kiribati Development Plan (KDP) 2020 - 2023
- Kiribati Climate Change Policy
- Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan (KJIP) for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management 2019 - 2028.
- Kiribati National Urban Policy, revised 2025
- Kiribati Climate Finance Strategy 2024



Of these, the key Plan for the purposes of developing CCRPs has been the KJIP, which mandates an integrated approach across all ministries:

The main rationale for developing the KJIP is to support the implementation of holistic approaches on climate actions, across multiple sectors and with stronger linkages among climate adaptation planning processes at national, sectoral and island levels. The KJIP is an integrated plan that prioritizes 104 climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction actions. (p. 9).

The “bottom layer” of the diagram shows the link between national frameworks and Island/Community Development Plans. This sets the basis for Multi-Level Governance to ensure that national climate action fully involves the local government and community levels.

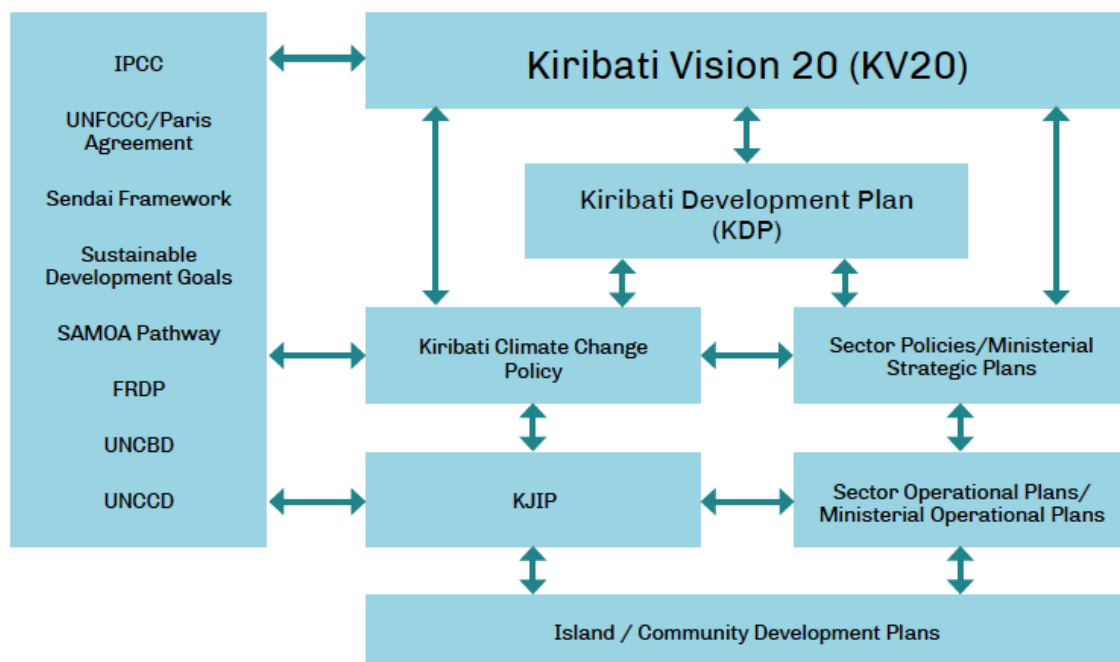


Figure 1: Context of the Kiribati Climate Change Policy and its links to national, regional and international frameworks and processes

Consistent with this approach, several other ministries have plans which will complement the BTC and TUC Plans, including Cultural and Internal Affairs, Environment land and Development, Fisheries and Marine Resources.



7. Instruments & alignment

- **National to local plan stack**
NDCs/NAPs and sector strategies → provincial/municipal resilience plans → District/Village resilience plans (leveraging CIM-style templates) that list bankable investments and nature-based measures. [\[18\]](#)
- **Standards**
Adopt the Pacific Resilience Standards for planning, safeguards, procurement, and M&E across all tiers so “one standard” applies to government programs and partner-funded projects. [\[13\]](#)
- **Data & decision support**
Use PCRAFI/PacRIS risk layers for siting infrastructure and screening investments; combine with community mapping and traditional knowledge to avoid maladaptation. [\[6\]](#)

8. Finance pathways that deliver on meaningful climate actions

- **Core budgets**
Embed climate resilience in national and subnational budgets through risk-informed public investment management and program tagging.
- **Performance-based local grants (LoCAL)**
Channel climate funds via the treasury to local governments against a menu of eligible, climate-proofed investments; disburse in tranches based on performance and verified expenditures. [\[17\]](#)
- **Risk finance & insurance (PCRIC + PICAP)**
Pair sovereign parametric insurance with pre-agreed local delivery windows (e.g., cash-for-work, livelihood grants, or micro-insurance), so payouts translate into rapid, community-level support. [\[1\]](#) [\[17\]](#)
- **Blended project finance**
Use regional facilities and IFIs for larger nature-based or infrastructure programs, ensuring subnational co-financing and community stewardship (e.g., LMMAs, watershed restoration). [\[16\]](#)



9. Implementation

Delivery cycle	Actions required
<p><i>Analyze:</i> Plan together</p>	<p>National RDU issues guidance for provincial/municipal planning and community talanoa sessions, aligned to FRDP and national priorities.</p> <p>Districts/villages update resilience plans (hazard maps, critical assets, priority measures) with technical support from line agencies and universities/NGOs. [6]</p>
<p><i>Act:</i> Finance together</p>	<p>Ministries and subnational governments submit a consolidated “resilience budget” with tagged projects.</p> <p>PBCRG envelopes are allocated to local governments; pre-agreed triggers/contingency plans are updated for PCRIC payouts and micro/meso-insurance schemes. [1] [17]</p>
<p><i>Act:</i> Deliver together</p>	<p>Local authorities contract works, and community groups implement nature-based and social measures (e.g., shoreline nourishment, water security, evacuation routes, mangrove/reef restoration).</p> <p>National line ministries deliver sector projects (roads, schools, clinics) that meet the same resilience standards. [13]</p>
<p><i>Accelerate:</i> Learn together</p>	<p>Joint audits and performance assessments (LoCAL-style) verify expenditures and results; communities report outcomes; ministries report to cabinet and PRP.</p> <p>A national learning brief feeds the next Pacific Resilience Meeting and improves standards/guidance. [11] [17]</p>



10. Case vignettes: What “good” looks like

10.1 Samoa’s Community Integrated Management (CIM) Plans

Samoa prepared district CIM Plans that function as blueprints for climate-resilient development across all sectors, using a ridge-to-reef lens and linking village priorities to national/sector strategies. The approach demonstrates how community priorities can be formalized and budgeted across agencies. [\[18\]](#)

10.2 Fiji’s Climate Change Act (2021)

Fiji’s law set a comprehensive governance frame for mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk management, including MRV systems and responsibilities across government. It is an example of how a legal backbone can anchor multi-level action and make climate-risk management “business as usual” in public administration. Fiji’s 2018 National Adaptation Plan as well as its Low Emission Development Strategy also form this framework, with possible future initiatives to integrate these two documents.

10.3 LoCAL performance-based climate resilience grants

LoCAL channels climate finance to local governments using country PFM systems, disbursing against verified performance and resilient investment menus (e.g., water harvesting, slope stabilization, climate-proofed markets). Recent expansion in Solomon Islands highlights how community-identified priorities can be funded at scale. [\[17\]](#)

10.4 Regional risk finance and insurance (PCRIC + PCRAFI)

PCRAFI built regional risk analytics and the PacRIS data backbone; PCRIC now offers sovereign parametric insurance for cyclones, earthquakes, and extreme rainfall, with several Pacific governments purchasing policies. Tying these instruments to pre-agreed local delivery windows speeds recovery where it matters most. [\[6\]](#) [\[14\]](#)

10.5 Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs)

Across the Pacific, communities use customary tenure to manage nearshore resources. LMMAs protect spawning grounds, improve food security, and buffer coasts practical ecosystem-based adaptation that works when recognized in national/subnational plans.



11. Risks to manage and how to mitigate them

- **Fragmentation and duplication**
Mitigation: One national pipeline of resilience projects, one set of standards, and one annual report used by all ministries and partners (PRP/FRDP-aligned). [\[6\]](#) [\[13\]](#)
- **Capacity gaps in outer islands**
Mitigation: Pool regional technical support (PRP TWGs), use standardized toolkits, and embed service contracts for long-term local capacity. [\[8\]](#)
- **Weak last-mile finance**
Mitigation: Scale PBCRGs; simplify small-grant procurement; pre-agree post-disaster delivery channels linked to parametric insurance. [\[1\]](#) [\[17\]](#)
- **Social exclusion and safeguards.**
Mitigation: Mandatory inclusive talanoa, gender/disability budgeting, FPIC-style consent for land/sea measures, and public dashboards on results (Pacific Resilience Standards). [\[13\]](#)
- **Short political cycles**
Mitigation: Anchor resilience in law (e.g., climate acts), integrate in fiscal rules and PIM systems, and publish annual scorecards.

11.1 Institutions

- Resilience Delivery Unit (RDU) in the Prime Minister's/Finance Ministry to convene sectors, track standards, and oversee the pipeline.
- Subnational Resilience Committees linked to DRM/land-use committees.
- Community Resilience Hubs (village halls/schools) that host maps, preparedness supplies, inclusive meetings, and citizen reporting.



12. A 12-month roadmap for MLG/vertical integration and involving communities

Months 1–3: Set the rules and team

- Cabinet establishes the RDU and adopts the Pacific Resilience Standards as default for all new projects.
- Issue a one-page Resilience Planning Template to provinces/municipalities /villages; launch a talanoa series to surface “no-regret” projects. [\[13\]](#)

Months 4–6: Build the pipeline

- Provinces and municipalities compile 2–3-year lists of priority works and nature-based measures with basic designs and O&M plans; ministries screen with PCRAFI data; partners align support to this single pipeline. [\[6\]](#)

Months 7–9: Lock in finance

- Treasury allocates PBCRG envelopes; finalize a parametric insurance package and the payout playbook; establish meso/micro-insurance pilots with PICAP for farmers, fishers, and MSMEs. [\[17\]](#) [\[1\]](#)

Months 10–12: Deliver and learn

- Start implementation of “quick win” projects (water security, slope stabilization, elevated footpaths/evacuation routes, shelter retrofits, mangrove planting).
- Publish a simple Results Scorecard and a national learning brief to feed into PRP exchanges and the next Pacific Resilience Meeting. [\[11\]](#)



13. Closing note

This guide is not intended to reinvent Pacific resilience - it connects it. By embedding FRDP/PRP guidance and the Boe Declaration's climate-security framing into country systems, and by using proven delivery channels (CIM-style local plans, LoCAL-style grants, PCRAFI/PCRIC risk tools, LMMAs), Pacific governments and communities can make resilience everyone's responsibility, from the reef to the ridge to the registry.

14. Comments on the Revision of Kiribati's National Urban Policy

While much of the national policy framework in Kiribati predates the current project, the final stages of the work have been carried out in parallel with a revision of the National Urban Policy. It has therefore been possible to suggest how the project experience and findings can be reflected in the new policy. It should be noted that this Policy largely applies to the project area of South Tarawa, with only a small component of policy applicable to the only other (very small) urban center on Kiritimati Island.

Policy development will align with the objectives of CHAMP by clearly allocating responsibilities to the appropriate level of governance (national, councils, communities). Where there is a combination of agencies required for implementation, particular agencies are to be allocated a lead responsibility. This will improve on the accountability provisions within the previous Policy, in which implementation responsibilities were unclear.

The new policy will identify implementation tasks at 3 levels: Those that are the core responsibilities of national government, those that require local government action, and those to be driven at the community level. Many of the proposed actions require collaboration between agencies, sometimes including combined action at national, local and community levels.

The financial pathways within the policy will identify activities that can be funded within existing resources and the areas where there are substantial finance gaps. In some areas the relative financial capacity of national and local governments



may need reconfiguration. In addition, the current work towards policy development has identified several target areas where external finance will be required for implementation, with some scoping of what would be required, and which donors might provide assistance.

The various dimensions of the Multi-Level Governance Framework are being addressed as follows.

1. Subsidiarity

Decisions being taken closest to where they will have their effect: The Policy delegates decision making as appropriate taking account of where there is appropriate governance or financial capacity.

2. Alignment

The new Policy will provide a much better alignment of objectives with the activities being pursued at the different levels, and it includes specifications for future development of aligned local policies and plans.

3. Inclusion and equity

This Policy does not apply to the outer islands apart from Kiritimati. Specific proposals are included for participation by women and youth. Disability inclusion is most appropriately pursued by way of other policies with a broader national application.

4. Integration

Localized approaches to climate mitigation, adaptation and disaster response will be included in the policy, applying to both marine and terrestrial local environments.

5. Mutual accountability

A review mechanism is proposed for the new policy that enables assessment of performance against the Policy Objectives as well as the Sustainable Development Goals.



15. KNUP Climate Action Checklist

The National Urban Policy development has been informed by a checklist that was developed to inform urban policy development in several different countries. This is documented below, with the highlighted text indicating the areas that have been considered as priorities for the Kiribati National Urban Policy.

15.1 Coastal Protection (for coastal towns and cities)

Climate change	Climate impact	Potential response
Increased heat	Coral bleaching destroying reefs	Assess protective function, prioritize reef maintenance or construction of artificial reefs
Ocean acidification		
Storms/cyclones	Tidal flooding	Map present and future vulnerable areas
Rising sea level	Saltwater intrusion into soil and groundwater	Direct sensitive development to non-vulnerable areas
	Coastal erosion	Replace groundwater as a water source
		Use best practice hard structures that avoid unintended consequences
		Combine with nature-based solutions
		Protect and restore coastal vegetation, with mangroves a special priority



15.2 Flood Protection (for low lying towns and cities)

Climate change	Climate impact	Potential response
Variable rainfall	Increased frequency / severity of flooding events	<p>Map present and future vulnerable areas taking account of changing topography</p> <p>Direct sensitive development to non-vulnerable areas</p> <p>Strengthen storm water detention</p> <p>Appropriate use of permanent barriers (flood gates, flood walls, levees and weirs) and temporary barriers (sandbags, geo-designed barriers)</p> <p>Provide pollution controls including flood-proofing sewage and septic tanks</p> <p>Control extractive resources sites which might exacerbate flooding</p>
Rising sea level		
Storms/cyclones	Increased runoff and sedimentation from upper catchment	<p>Stabilize steep slopes</p> <p>Maintain vegetation cover</p> <p>Introduce new storm water detention measures</p> <p>Sediment controls on watercourses</p>



15.3 Fire Protection (for the urban fringe)

Climate change	Climate impact	Potential response
Increased heat	Reduced moisture in vegetation, increased incidence and severity of bushfire	<p>Map present and future vulnerable areas taking account of wind direction and natural firebreaks</p> <p>Reduce fuel load</p> <p>Promote fire resistant barriers and materials around defensible spaces</p> <p>Strengthen warning and response systems</p> <p>Ensure water storage and road access</p> <p>Permit household bunkers</p>
Variable rainfall		
Storms/cyclones		



15.4 Water Security

Climate change	Climate impact	Potential response
Increased heat	Reduced capacity of water supply resources	Assess likely adequacy of current supplies taking into account climate impacts
Variable rainfall		
Rising sea level		



15.5 Protecting Buildings

Climate change	Climate impact	Potential response
Increased heat	Heat stress on human health	Amend building regulations and guidelines to require better insulation, shading of windows and verandas, improved structural resistance and anchoring. Provide storm shelters.
Storms/cyclones	Physical damage and isolation	
Variable rainfall	Flooding, water penetration	Enable raised living areas, improved building standards, and provision for relocating buildings and use of mobile buildings as necessary
Rising sea level	Need for relocation	



15.6 Urban Habitability

Climate change	Climate impact	Potential response
Increased heat	Heat stress in outdoor areas	Street shading, more green spaces using resilient vegetation, roof gardens and green buildings
Variable rainfall	Extremes of wet and dry conditions compromising living conditions	Sponge cities with maximum storm water infiltration, reducing stormwater runoff, and storing water for use in period of drought including aquifer recharge
Storms/cyclones	Damage to buildings, danger to people outside	Avoid wind tunnels through placement of high-rise buildings.
Rising sea level	Influx of climate refugees from other areas	Planning to accommodate climate refugees in advance of their arrival
Commitments to CO2 mitigation	Mitigating climate impacts	Microgrids for renewable energy, reconsider road networks in terms of electrification and shared vehicle use, promote use of low emission materials, multi-use buildings and self-contained neighborhoods



15.7 Climate Resilient Infrastructure

Climate change	Climate impact	Potential response
Increased heat	Melting and eroding road surfaces, power breakdown, pollution from sewage	Incorporate heat resistant materials including recycled plastic into roads, improve energy reserves and storage, back up power for communications, flood proof sewerage systems, adaptive design and decentralisation for all infrastructure, enhanced monitoring and quality control, process legacy wastes
Variable rainfall		
Storms/cyclones		
Rising sea level		

15.8 Food Security

Climate change	Climate impact	Potential response
Increased heat	Heat stress in plants and livestock	Species selection for livestock and crops, mixed farming models, planting for shade, farm seaweed to moderate ocean heat, appropriate use of solar farms
Variable rainfall	Variable soil moisture	Use of compost and biochar to increase soil moisture retention, improved drainage
Storms/cyclones	Damage to field crops	Interplanting of low level crops with taller protective species, wind breaks, improve climate resilience of fresh produce markets



Rising sea level	Soil salinity in coastal areas	Use of raised beds, apply biochar for salt remediation
Ocean acidification	Damage to shellfish and reef species	Introduce seaweed farming to moderate acidity as well as ocean heat

15.9 Ecological Health

Climate change	Climate impact	Potential response
Increased heat	Damage to endemic species, introduction of pest/weed species	Monitor ecological changes, promote pest/weed eradication, protect and repair critical habitat areas, conserve, recover and apply traditional knowledge to ecological repair
Variable rainfall		
Storms/cyclones	Physical damage to vegetation and soil erosion	Stabilise steep lands, maintain vegetation cover
Rising sea level	Damage to coastal vegetation	Protect and repair mangroves as a priority
Ocean acidification	Damage to marine species	Seagrass restoration of inshore areas



15.10 Disaster Preparedness

Climate change	Climate impact	Potential response
Increased heat	Increasing occurrence and severity of emergency events	Improved local prediction and early warning capacity, emergency shelters, clear leadership and procedures for recovery, planning for short- or long-term relocation as appropriate
Variable rainfall		
Storms/cyclones		
Rising sea level		



References

- 1) <https://pcric.org/home/>
- 2) https://www.un.org/ohrls/sites/www.un.org.ohrls/files/files/finalreport_sp_160123.pdf
- 3) <https://forumsec.org/publications/boe-declaration-regional-security>
- 4) <https://forumsec.org/>
- 5) <https://pacificdisability.org/>
- 6) <https://gem.spc.int/>
- 7) <https://www.undrr.org/>
- 8) <https://spc.int/>
- 9) <https://www.champ-climate.org/>
- 10) https://e-library.iclei.org/uploads/Town_Hall_COPs_Fact_Sheet.pdf
- 11) <https://pacificresiliencepartnership.org/>
- 12) <https://forumsec.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/PIFS-2050-Strategy-Blue-Pacific-Continent-WEB-5Aug2022-1.pdf>
- 13) <https://globalplatform.undrr.org/>
- 14) <https://www.gfdr.org/en>
- 15) <https://www.eeas.europa.eu/en>
- 16) <https://www.pmc.gov.au/>
- 17) <https://www.uncdf.org/>
- 18) <https://samoa-data.sprep.org/>
- 19) <https://www.parliament.gov.fj/>

