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# PRESENTATIONS SPECIAL SESSION 4

## SPECIAL SESSION 4:

Integrated approach for ocean-focused climate-responsive urban development

Host

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 **MONASH University**



## SPECIAL SESSION 4:

### Integrated approach for ocean-focused climate-responsive urban development

Day 2 (2 July, 2019. Nadi, Republic of Fiji).

Organized by: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Emcee: Ms. Ly Ngo, Associate Programme Management Officer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Sub-regional Office for the Pacific, Fiji

Moderator: Mr. Omar Siddique, Economics Affairs Officer, Sustainable Urban Development, ESCAP

Speakers:

- Mr. Luke Kiddle, Lecturer School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand
- Ms. Regina Rotitaake, Urban Management Officer, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Kiribati
- Mr. Masi Latianara, National Director, Habitat for Humanity, Fiji
- Ms. Meg Keen, Associate Professor/Senior Policy Fellow, Department of Pacific Affairs, Australian National University, Australia
- Ms. Elisapeti Veikoso, Senior Urban Planner, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Tonga

The Ocean Cities concept is an integrated policy approach for ocean-focused and climate-responsive urban development strategies, with a focus on urban areas in Pacific island developing States. Ocean Cities are where urban landscapes and seascapes meet, where built and natural environments near coastlines interface and where human behaviour and urban development have profound impacts on both terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Ocean Cities are at the forefront of the climate change consequences, the urbanization challenges and other development pressures. Cities face many challenges – demographic, climatic, economic – but they also generate many positive opportunities for future action. The Ocean Cities concept is about making that future a bright one by harnessing those activities and supporting a Pacific Way for cities that is culturally and environmentally affirming.

Addressing the interlinked issues that are characteristic of Ocean Cities in an integrated, ocean-focused and climate-responsive manner is vital for sustainable development within island systems, including the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 11, 13 and 14. Furthermore, the implementation of Ocean Cities concepts in Pacific cities will substantively advance the progress on all four focus areas of the Pacific New Urban Agenda.

A key component of the Ocean Cities concept are nature-based solutions, which relate to the goals of increasing human well-being and resilience by working with, conserving or restoring nature and understanding ecological systems across interconnected social-ecological systems. Employing an integrated, participatory nature-based solutions approach to addressing societal challenges is an important way to take into account complex ecological and socio-cultural issues while taking a long-term view to improving human resilience and well-being.

To advance the implementation of Ocean Cities the following policy areas are proposed:

1. Elevating a “blue” urban agenda;
2. Building meaningful partnerships with all stakeholders;
3. Strengthening capacities for building resilience and action;
4. Improving evidence for action; and
5. Accessing finance for major, transformative resilience-building initiatives.

## OCEAN CITIES - DELIVERING RESILIENT SOLUTIONS IN PACIFIC ISLANDS SETTLEMENTS

Mr. Omar Siddique, Economics Affairs Officer, Sustainable Urban Development, ESCAP


**OCEAN  
CITIES**

# Ocean Cities

## *Delivering Resilient Solutions in Pacific Island Settlements*









**OCEAN  
CITIES**

## What We Know

**OCEAN CITIES OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS ARE AT GROWING RISK  
OF CLIMATIC EXTREME EVENTS AND NATURAL DISASTERS**







**THE NUMBER OF NATURAL DISASTERS IN THE PACIFIC HAS BEEN  
GRADUALLY INCREASING FROM 1995 TO 2016**

●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●
<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
6 occurrences	13 occurrences	24 occurrences	15 occurrences

## What We Know

- ≈ 50% of the Pacific's population, 7.5 million people, live in coastal settlements
- ≈ Outside of PNG, 90% of the Pacific's population live within 5km of the ocean
- ≈ In 2015, average rates of urban growth in the Pacific reached 4.3%, and 16% in peri-urban areas
  - » Much higher than global averages
- ≈ Some Pacific nations overwhelmingly urban:
  - » Nauru 100%
  - » Marshall Islands 77%
- ≈ Most island economies extremely dependent on coastal and ocean resources



*Informal settlement in Lami, Fiji.*

## Background to Ocean Cities

- ≈ At the 2017 UN Climate Change Conference (COP23) in Bonn, under Fiji's Presidency, the 'Ocean Pathway' was launched, aiming to:
  - » Increase the role of the ocean considerations in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change process
  - » Increase action in priority areas impacting or impacted by ocean and climate change
- ≈ UNESCAP pledged support for building resilience, reducing emissions, and protecting ocean health in coastal island cities
- ≈ Links to the region's 'Blue Pacific' concept as endorsed by PIFS to advance the Framework for Pacific Regionalism:
  - » Re-capturing the collective potential of the region's shared stewardship of the Pacific Ocean
  - » Based on explicit recognition of [shared ocean identity](#), geography & resources
- ≈ Links to the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific





## Links to Sustainable Development Goals



**SDG 11:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable  
**SDG 13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts  
**SDG 14:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



## Background ctd.

- ≈ Reflects an understanding that the New Urban Agenda is valuable but does not drop down to a specific focus on unique SIDS
- ≈ Urban areas of SIDS are often overlooked by international urban resilience programmes due to (relatively) small populations involved
  - » However, some of these urban areas are some of the most vulnerable, and rapidly growing, globally
- ≈ The SAMOA pathway addresses the unique development needs of SIDS, but has no specific focus on urban issues
- ≈ In short: The **unique nexus of ocean, climate change, and urban development challenges in islands calls for a new approach**
- ≈ Overall, UNESCAP aim to pioneer a **climate-smart, ocean-centred** approach for resilient urban development:
  - » “integrated policy approach for islands”
  - » Also one that will strengthen the collective/regional voice of islands



## What are Ocean Cities?

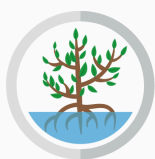
- ≈ Ocean Cities are **where landscapes and seascapes merge**
- ≈ Are where human behaviour and urban development have a **profound impact on marine health and climate change**
- ≈ Premised not only on social, cultural and environmental considerations but also on **maintaining ecological processes and ecosystem services supported by the land and the ocean**, so they may be protected and sustained for future generations
- ≈ Ocean Cities are very **diverse**, varying significantly in size, socio-economic status, governance arrangements, land tenure, levels of access to basic services, vulnerability to external shocks, and response capacities
- ≈ **CHALLENGE: how can this concept be channelled to accelerate action and become more meaningful for enhancing the resilience of Pacific Ocean Cities?**

## Key focus: Nature-based solutions, or 're-naturing urbanisation'

- ≈ Nature-based Solutions (NbS) defined by IUCN as “actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.”
- ≈ They are actions inspired by, supported by, or copied from nature.
- ≈ Benefits:
  - » Provide **cost effective** environmental, social and economic benefits, but also incentives for multi-stakeholder action
  - » Support urban communities in accessing natural resources to support livelihoods, with co-benefits including building urban resilience through ecosystem-based adaptation and enhancing climate change mitigation.
  - » Revitalise **cultural connections to the ocean** - that are weakening in cities in the process of urbanization - while building on this shared identity and narrative to raise awareness, educate youth and engage urban communities.

## Nature-based solutions ctd.

### EXAMPLES OF NBS IN OCEAN CITIES



Rehabilitating mangroves to protect coastlines and biodiversity of islands



Combining natural and engineered infrastructure for water management



Urban agroforestry to address challenges of land tenure, health, food security, and unemployment



Establishing Educational Managed Marine Areas to encourage ownership by young people



Constructing wetlands and restoring forest landscapes to support these ecosystems and conserve the services they provide

## Policy Actions

1. Elevating a blue urban agenda – *Facilitator: Peti*
2. Building effective partnerships with all stakeholders - *Meg*
3. Strengthening capacities for resilience and action - *Masi*
4. Improving evidence for action – *Regina*
5. Accessing finance and making financing sustainable - *David*

### **Considerations/Questions:**

- What are the key short-term, medium-term, and long-term policy actions across these categories?
- Who are the key actors & stakeholders?
- Where are the key intervention points & opportunities for advancing progress?
- What are the most effective approaches for local and regional-level collaboration?
- What are the roles of both national and local government?
- What is missing?





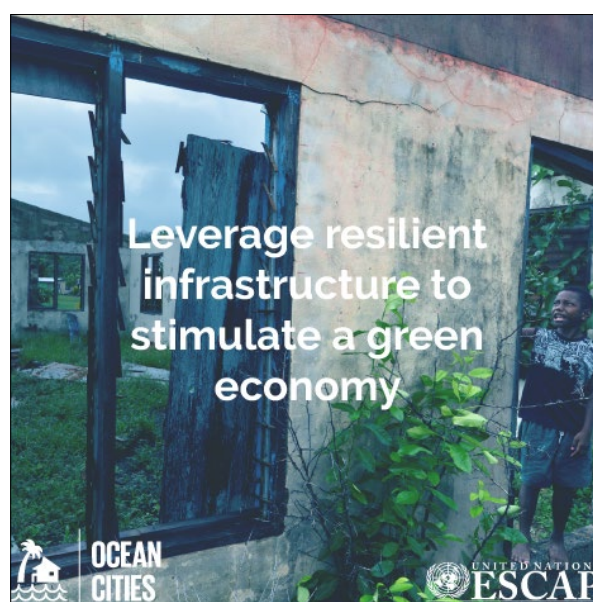
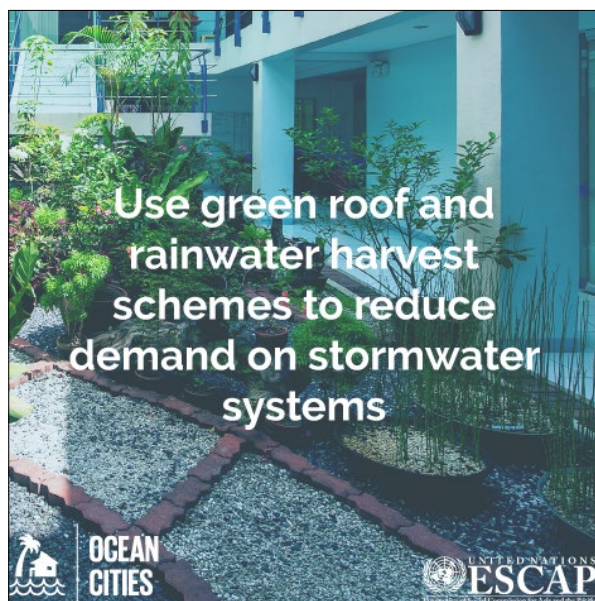
















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