



**By Climate Change Division and Emergency Management Division
FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change, and
Emergency Management (DECEM)
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Climate Change & Emergency Management policies and plans

FSM Nation wide Disaster Risk Management & Climate Change Policy (2013)

Guiding principles recognizes "Gender issues and needs of men women, children, elders and persons with disability"

Climate Change Policy (2013)

National Disaster Management Plan (2016)

Adaptation

1. National Adaptation Plan (NAP)
2. Adaptation Fund (AF)

Mitigation

1. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)
2. 1st, 2nd & 3rd Nat'l Communication to the UNFCCC

Activities are in line with the SDGs and the Sendai Framework

Joint State Action Plans for Disaster Risk Management & Climate Change (JSAPS)

Source: Apis-Overhoff, 2020

Climate change impacts and disasters

Climate change impacts and disasters are admittedly an existential threat to FSM, especially to our remote low lying small islands where uncertain food and water security is a harsh reality. Despite this, there are three (3) major reasons people leave (migrate, relocate or are displaced) their islands whether inter-island (domestic) or to other countries (international):

- i. Job opportunities (by unskilled people);**
- ii. Educational purposes (scholarships, self-funded); and**
- iii. Better health care opportunities.**

Internal displacement is when people are forced from their homes because of an epic disaster/calamity that threatens their survival in their current location. This has happened only once during the German colonization (e.g. Chuuk case)

The exception:

- If there is an epic disaster/calamity such as a tsunami where food, water and shelter have been totally compromised then there is possibility of a mass evacuation.**
- However atoll people are resilient & have coping mechanisms**

Migration, relocation & displacement

FSM has no plan to develop a policy or strategy focused solely on migration, relocation and displacement because:

- a. It is a personal choice whether an individual or family wants to move inter-island or migrate overseas to improve their lives and livelihoods thru education, employment or healthcare; and
- b. FSM has various sectoral policies that cover different aspects of migration, displacement and relocation.

FSM recognizes that the Pacific is multi cultural, multi lingual, multi geographical and in multi phases of development. Hence, in any regional mechanism or dialogue regarding development of a regional process, the following must be taken into consideration:

- i. A regional approach must respect national policies, strategies and narratives;**
- ii. A contextualized approach is required allowing Pacific Island Countries to define climate mobility in their own terms;**
- iii. Consultations are important at both the national and sub-national level (Government, Island councils, Communities, vulnerable groups) that take the time to understand respective needs;**
- iv. A regional response/approach must be evidence based and focused on addressing gaps in existing policy and legal instruments Important for a regional approach to link existing national, regional and global processes (e.g., Human rights Conventions and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change processes) while not undermining existing national approach; and**
- v. A regional response must promote recognition and legal protection of migrants and displaced persons particularly in the context of climate change and disaster risk reduction in line with respective national and state priorities and policies.**

**“Sustainability
is living on our
islands forever!”**

Kalahngan
Thank you!
Lusani, xoni