

Climate Change and Human Security in the Pacific Islands:

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Outline

Climate change and human security

Climate change, human insecurity and violent
conflict

Adaptation

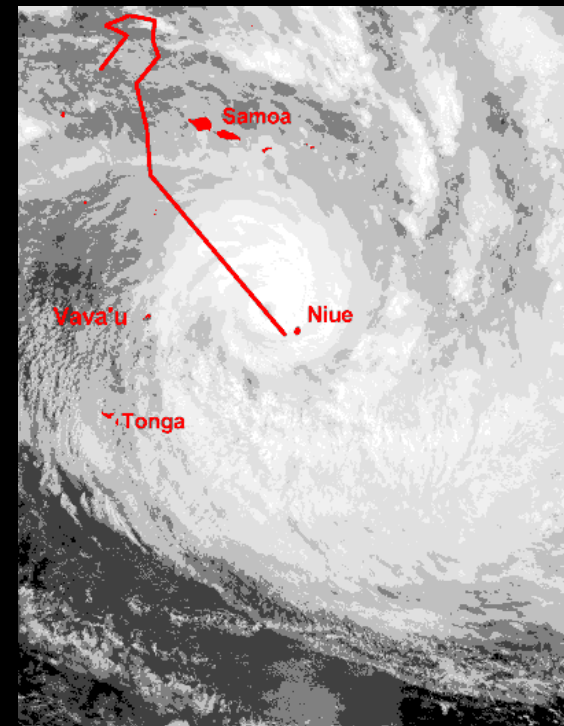
Conclusions



Climate change and human security

Four climate drivers of environmental change:

1. Temperature increases (air and sea)
2. Rainfall variability
3. Sea-level rise
4. Changes in regional climate systems



Climate change and human security

where people and communities have the capacity to manage stresses to their needs, rights, and values

Climate change:

- increases people's exposure to environmental risks
- (but also have to consider)
- susceptibility to damage
- capacity to adapt



Climate change, human insecurity and violent conflict

Two pathways?

Climate change may

- **increase poverty -->> recruitment in armed groups**
- **decrease the capacity of States to avert violent conflicts**

In Pacific Islands, do:

- **livelihood shocks -->> gangs and militia?**
- **climate perturbations -->> declining state capacity -->> increased risk of violent conflict**

Adaptation

Adjustments to reduce vulnerability to observed and expected changes in climate

- Reduce the sensitivity of the system exposed to climate change
- Alter the exposure of a system or group to climate change
- Increase capacity to adapt

But there are limits to adaptation



Conclusions

Climate change is very likely to increase human insecurity in many places in the Pacific Islands

- and may increase the risk of violent conflict

To avoid these outcomes:

- improve the capacity of actors to adapt
- deep cuts in emissions of greenhouse gases

With these two things climate security is possible,

- but without them climate insecurity seems inevitable.