

NZAID Support to Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific

Paul Eastwood
IPS Climate Change and Migration, July 2009



...towards a safe and just world

New Zealand's International
Aid & Development Agency

Scale of the problem?

“Climate change could impede nations’ abilities to achieve sustainable development pathways...[and] the MDGs”

IPCC Fourth Assessment Report

“Forget about making poverty history. Climate change will make poverty permanent.”

Nazmul Chowdhury, Practical Action, UK

Projected Impacts

- Increase in air and water temperatures
- Change in rainfall patterns
- Rising sea level
- Ocean acidification
- Increase in intensity and range of cyclones
- Increase in storm surge risks



Health



Extreme weather



Water



Food



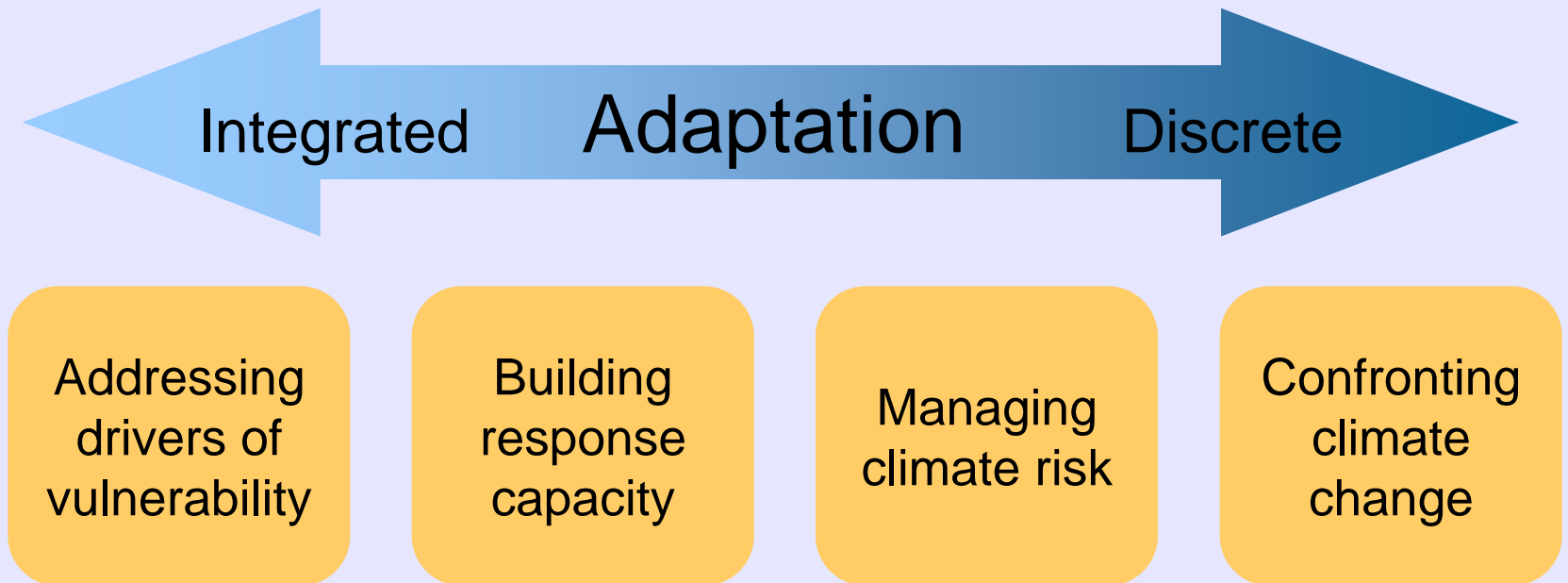
By virtue of small size, heavy reliance on natural resources for food and shelter, and relatively low levels of income, Pacific Island countries are especially vulnerable

What is adaptation?

- Notions of adaptation have changed
- Not just about discrete actions to guard against future, slow-onset impacts
- Not something that happens in isolation from ongoing development



...a continuum of activities ranging from those that contribute indirectly to reducing climate change vulnerability to those that contribute directly...



Avoid maladaptation...



- *Business-as-usual development which inadvertently increases exposure and/or vulnerability to climate change*
- *Actions undertaken to adapt to climate impacts that fail to reduce vulnerability but increase it instead*

... by adopting a 'climate lens'

Assess new and existing plans, strategies, policies, programmes to determine the extent to which they address or increase vulnerability to climate risks

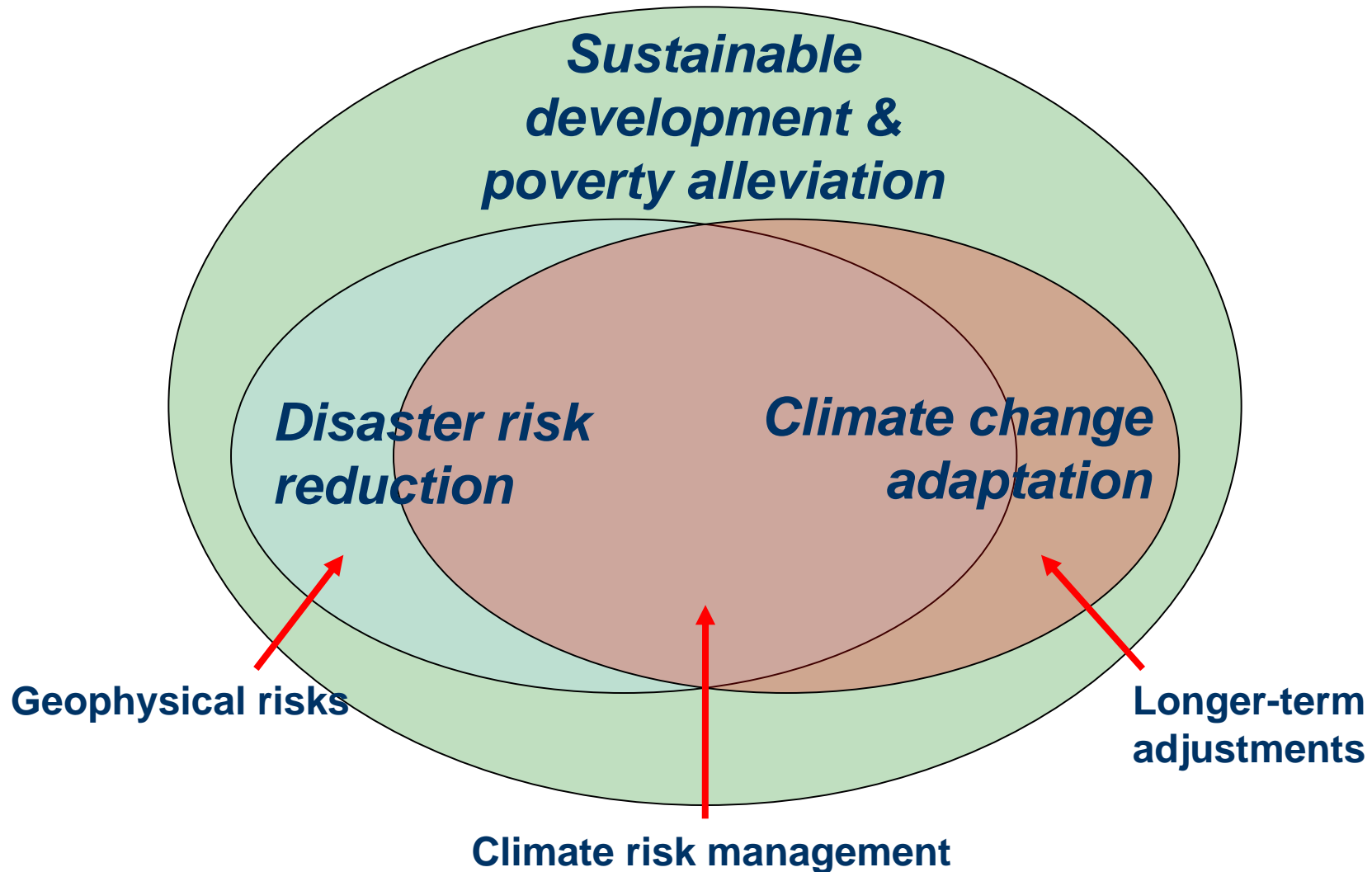


What about disaster risk reduction?



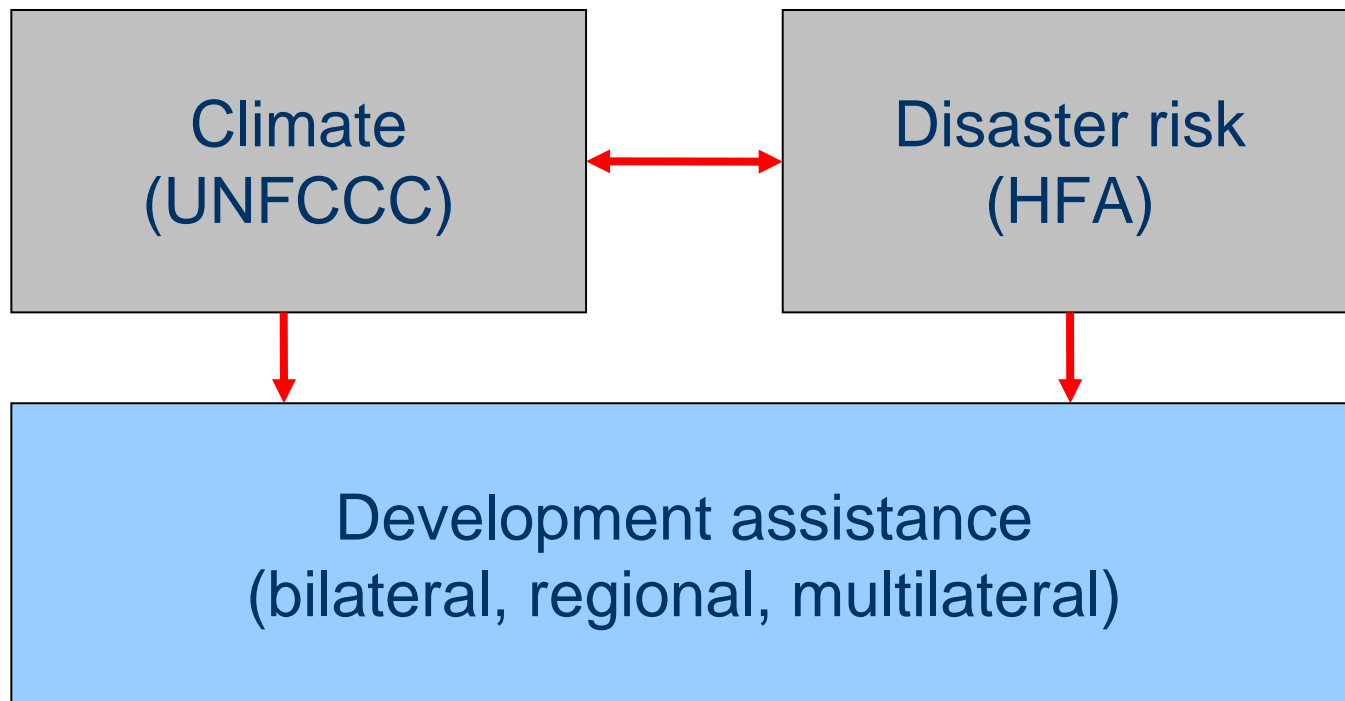
- *DRR is first line of defence against climate risk, hence an essential part of adaptation*
- *To be successful, DRR needs to take account of the shifting risks associated with climate change and ensure that measures do not increase vulnerability*

Interconnectivity of issues



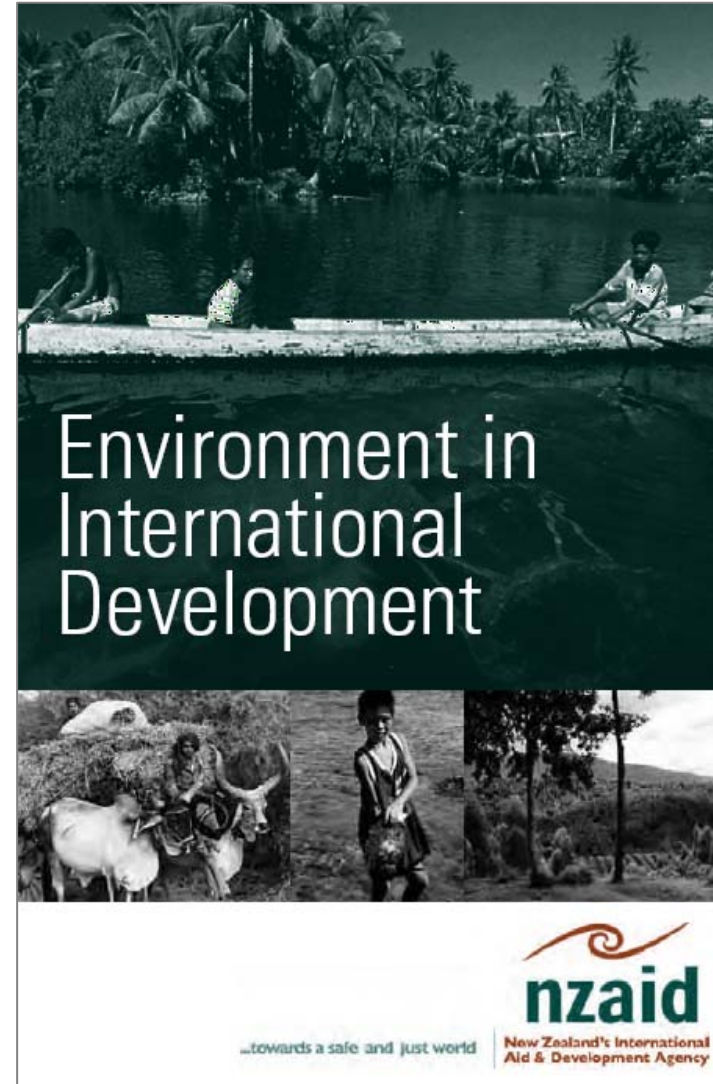
Potential for 'triple-win'

Real potential for 'triple-win' on sustainable development in support of poverty alleviation, DRR, and CCA



NZAID support for CCA

- CC captured within NZAID's Environment Policy
 - Capacity enhancement
 - Environmental governance
- Adaptation actions implemented as part of a broader suite of measures within existing development processes = *mainstreamed*



NZAID support for CCA

- Core support to Pacific Regional Intergovernmental Organisations

SOPAC: water supply and sanitation, coastal and community risk

SPREP: climate information, adaptation, capacity development

SPC: fisheries, agriculture, health

USP: tertiary education and research

All provide integrated adaptation support



SPREP



SPC



Fongafale image comparisons from 1941, 1943, 1984 & 2003 – a 60 yr record.



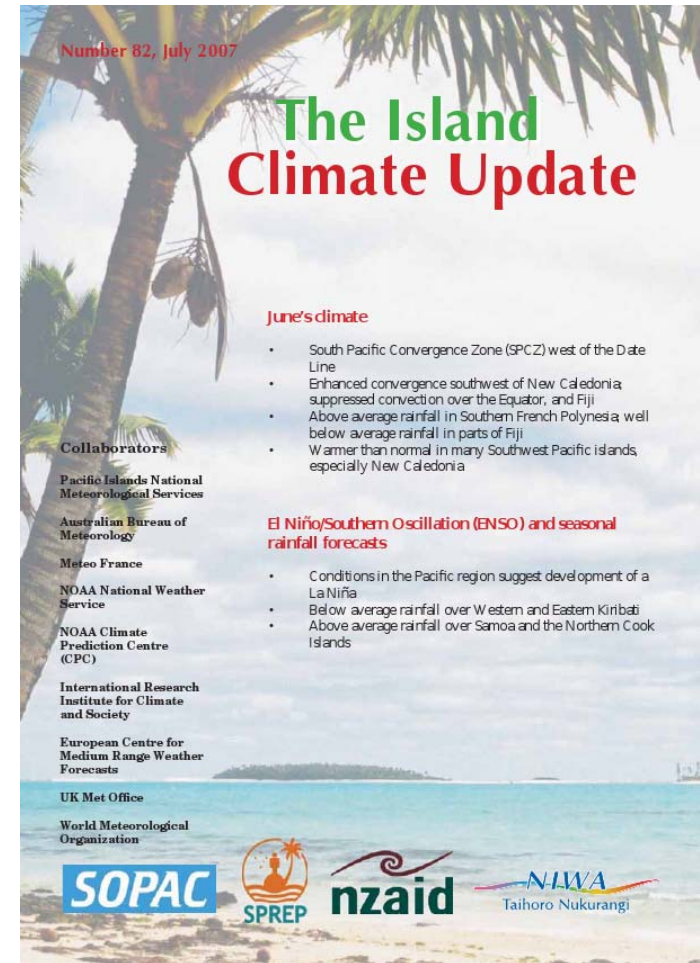
NZAID support for CCA

Information

■ Island Climate Update

Monthly bulletin containing seasonal climate summaries and forecasts for the south and central Pacific

Partners



Number 82, July 2007

The Island Climate Update

June's climate

- South Pacific Convergence Zone (SPCZ) west of the Date Line
- Enhanced convergence southwest of New Caledonia; suppressed convection over the Equator, and Fiji
- Above average rainfall in Southern French Polynesia; well below average rainfall in parts of Fiji
- Warmer than normal in many Southwest Pacific islands, especially New Caledonia

Collaborators

Pacific Islands National
Meteorological Services

Australian Bureau of
Meteorology

Meteo France

NOAA National Weather
Service

NOAA Climate
Prediction Centre
(CPC)

International Research
Institute for Climate
and Society

European Centre for
Medium Range Weather
Forecasts

UK Met Office

World Meteorological
Organization

El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and seasonal rainfall forecasts

- Conditions in the Pacific region suggest development of a La Niña
- Below average rainfall over Western and Eastern Kiribati
- Above average rainfall over Samoa and the Northern Cook Islands



NZAID support for CCA

Direct measures

- **Kiribati Adaptation Project**
Pilot programme for implementation of adaptation measures in key sectors (water resources, and coastal risk)

Partners



Australian Government
AusAID



NZAID support for CCA

Capacity support

- GEF Support Advisor

Full time advisor based at SPREP, Apia, providing assistance to Pacific island member states in accessing GEF funds

Partners



Australian Government
AusAID



www.sprep.org/climate_change/PACC/index.asp

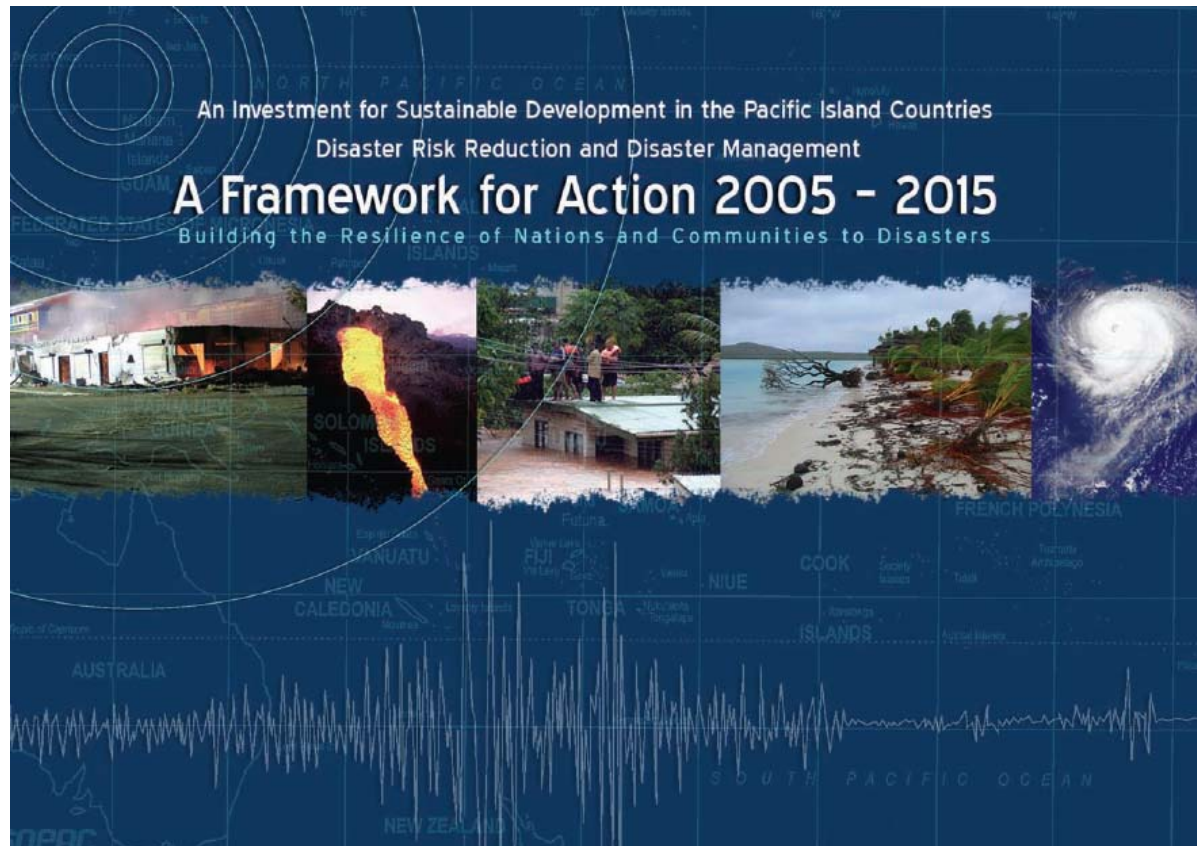
NZAID support for DRR

- NZAID Humanitarian Action Policy (draft) contains DRR as an explicit objective
- NZ takes a holistic approach to DRM involving: **Reduction, Readiness, Response, and Recovery**
- Important to balance investment across all four elements

NZAID support for DRR

Reduction

- SOPAC Community Risk Programme



NZAID support for DRR

Readiness

- NZ Metservice (weather warnings)
- Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management (capacity building)



NZAID support for DRR

Response

- Operational role to coordinate NZ response



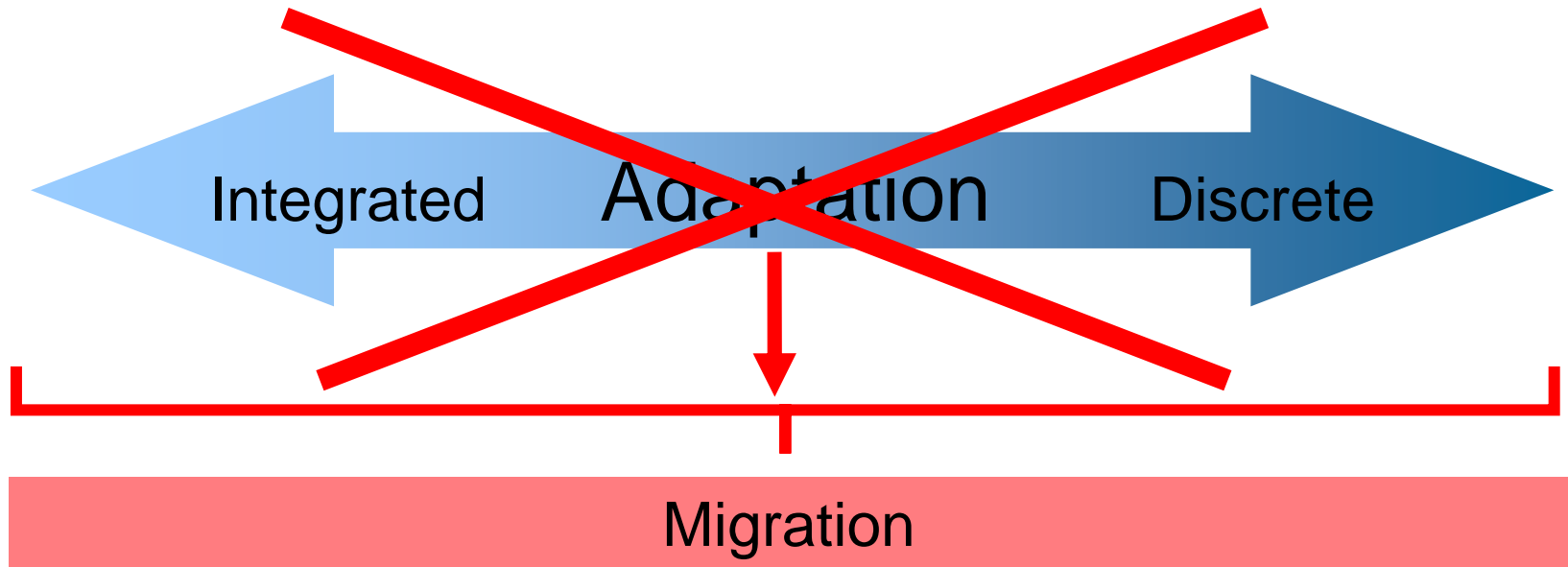
NZAID support for DRR

Recovery

- Fiji floods...
- Making damaged houses more safe and secure
- Installation of improved rainwater systems for schools (which also serve as evacuation centres)
- Community based disaster awareness and preparedness activities



What about migration?



*Instead of a last resort option or an extreme response, migration can be viewed as a response strategy employed by individuals if **experience or perception of risks** from climate change increases to levels deemed unacceptable*

How will NZAID respond?



- *Development assistance, with added 'climate-proofing' to build more resilient communities*
- *Respond to national and regional needs for DRR, CCA and sustainable development*
- *Cooperate with partners*
- *Build on lessons learned*

How will NZAID respond?

Guided by Niue Declaration issued by Forum Leaders in 2008:

“Recognising that societies pursuing a path of sustainable development are likely to be more resilient to the impacts of climate change through enhanced adaptive capacity”

“Recognising the importance of retaining the Pacific’s social and cultural identity, and the desire of Pacific peoples to continue to live in their own countries, where possible”



Thank you!

Photos kindly provided by Elizabeth McNaughton (NZAID), Michael Hartfield (NZAID) and Marc Overmars (SOPAC)