



Pathways to Adaptation and Resilience in Pacific SIDS

SUBREGIONAL REPORT

**Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2022
for ESCAP Subregions**

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About the report

Resilience in a Riskier World: Managing Systemic Risks from Biological and Other Natural Hazards, the Asia Pacific Disaster Report 2021 captured a comprehensive picture of the complexity of disaster risk landscape ('risky landscape') from natural and biological hazards in the Asia-Pacific region. The full-length publication is available at [link](#). Following the release of the APDR at the seventh session of the ESCAP inter-governmental Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction in August 2021, the report was customized for each of the five ESCAP subregions, namely East and North-East Asia, North and Central Asia, South-East Asia, South and South-West Asia and the Pacific. The current report highlights the key takeaways for the Pacific SIDS.

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Introduction

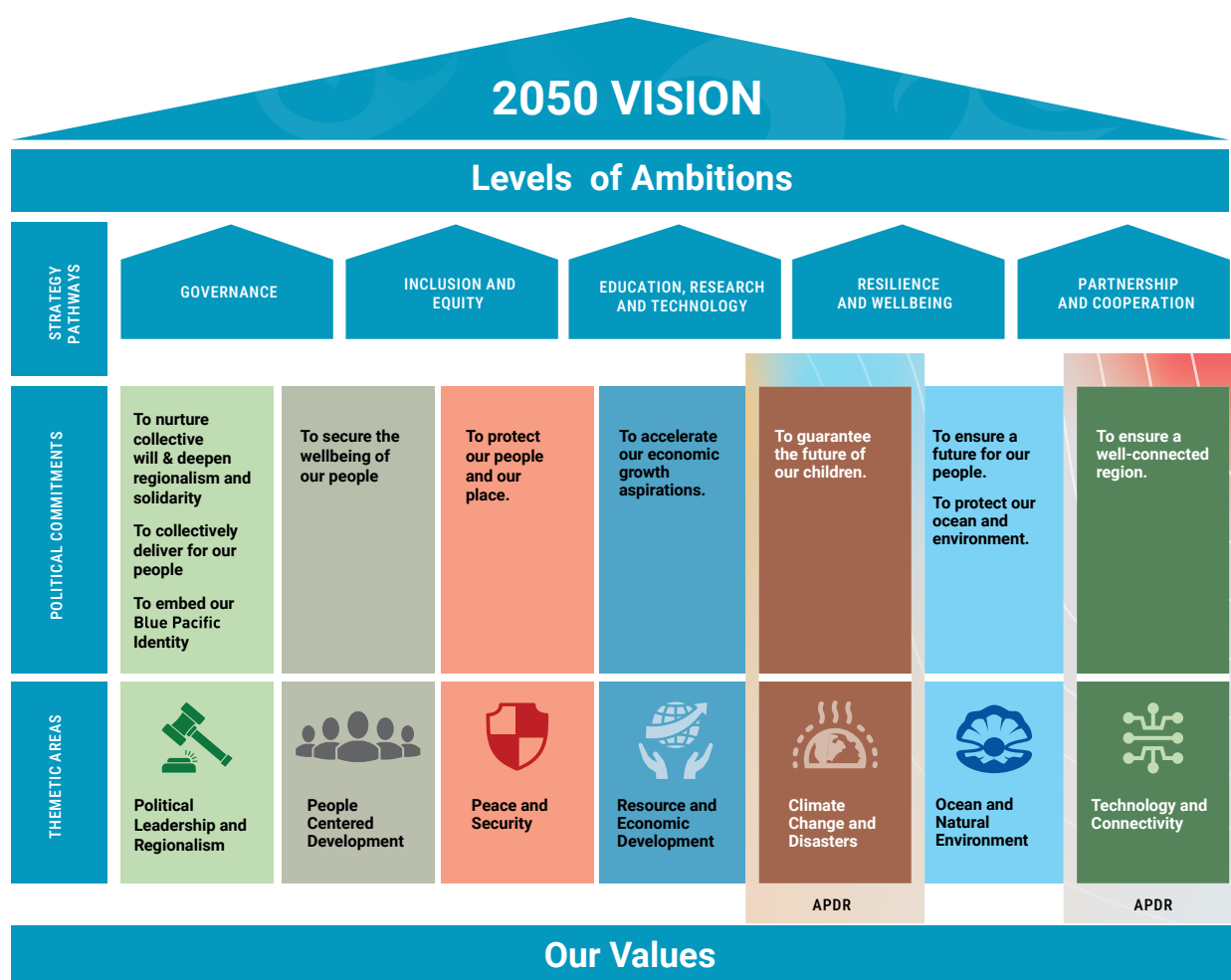
The Pacific SIDS are among the smallest and most remote countries on earth. Together they comprise a land area of only half a million square kilometers scattered in the world's largest ocean, with a significant portion of that land made up of low-lying atolls that do not reach more than a few meters above current sea level. That's the reason of specific vulnerability of Pacific SIDS.

The Pacific SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development due to their unique vulnerabilities that constrain them from achieving the social, economic, and environmental objectives. Climate change impacts along with the vulnerabilities stemming from the combination of physical characteristics, remoteness and poor infrastructure has a profound impact on development across all sectors in the Pacific SIDS. For instance, the intersection of natural hazards like the volcanic eruption in Tonga, 2022 along with the COVID-19 pandemic led to prolonged health and economic disruptions in the region¹.

Noting these complex and systemic risks, the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, adopted in July 2022, outlines key thematic areas for urgent, immediate and appropriate action. The Strategy aims to combat the above-mentioned threats to secure the wellbeing of people.² The seven thematic areas that include therewith, will be key in building resilience in the region.

With a focus on the Pacific SIDS, this report is one of the first to provide analytics, solutions, and key recommendations to operationalize these strategic pathways in the Climate Change and Disasters and related areas of Technology as noted below.

2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent: Thematic Areas aligned with APDR 2022:



1 UNOCHA, Asia Pacific Humanitarian Update, Tonga: Volcanic Eruption – Flash Update # 3, Available at: <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/asia-pacific/card/5KF8hCc5Aq/>.

2 Pacific Islands Forum, Fifty-First Pacific Islands Forum, Communique of the 51st Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting, Available at: <https://www.forumsec.org/2022/07/17/report-communique-of-the-51st-pacific-islands-forum-leaders-meeting/>.



CHAPTER 1

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