

BEHIND THE SCENES: Developing the Framework for Greening Humanitarian Action in the Pacific



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About HAG

Humanitarian Advisory Group (HAG) was founded in 2012 to elevate the profile of humanitarian action in Asia and the Pacific. Set up as a social enterprise, HAG provides a unique space for thinking, research, technical advice and training that contributes to excellence in humanitarian practice. As an ethically driven business, we combine humanitarian passion with entrepreneurial agility to think and do things differently.

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About Greening the System

The *Greening the System* (GTS) research stream, under the DFAT-funded *Humanitarian Horizons 2021-24* initiative, seeks to measurably support the humanitarian sector to reduce its negative impacts on the climate and environment.

The first phase of this research produced a [Vision for a Green Humanitarian Future](#), launched in August 2022. This vision was interrogated and validated through a multi-stakeholder methodology workshop on 31 August 2022, to guide the next steps for the research. The second phase of this research is focussed on turning this Vision into action, through the development of two initiatives which present practical ideas to tangibly move toward a greener humanitarian system.

The first is the development of this *Framework for Greening Humanitarian Action in the Pacific*, which was agreed by stakeholders as one of the best ways to progress greening humanitarian action in the Pacific. The second explores behavioural barriers and enablers to greening humanitarian aid globally, using a behavioural science approach with the intent to provide solutions and actions to progress opportunities. Although this second initiative is not specific to the Pacific region, it can provide lessons and insights to users of the framework that will support its operationalisation.

Together, these two initiatives seek to shift the status quo of humanitarian operations towards greener actions when planning and implementing a response. This framework provides the practical tools required and the behavioural analysis supports the uptake and impact of these tools.

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Abbreviations

CROP	Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DWM	Disaster Waste Management
EU	European Union
FESRIP	Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific
FPO	Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape
FRDP	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HAG	Humanitarian Advisory Group
HLC	Humanitarian Logistics Capability
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
J-PRISM II	Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries Phase II
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NFI	Non-Food Item
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
PICs	Pacific Island Countries
POLP	Pacific Ocean Litter Project
PIRT	Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation
SOPAC	Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TC	Tropical Cyclone
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change
USD	United States Dollar
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

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Section 1: Introduction

This report provides the rationale and context for the development of a Framework for Greening Humanitarian Action in the Pacific. It summarises outcomes from a stakeholder workshop with Pacific-based actors designed to better understand whether, why, and how a framework to drive environmentally responsible or ‘green’ humanitarian action would be useful and beneficial to the region.

The report presents evidence and ideas gathered through the workshop and other related research, providing stakeholders with a clear sense of purpose and direction for a common approach to ‘greening’ humanitarian action in the Pacific.

“ There’s not much in the policy and planning space [about greening humanitarian action]. The whole issue in environmental management is not new across the Pacific, but in the humanitarian and DRR space, it’s something that’s really emerging that we need to get our heads around.

(Workshop participant)¹

What do we mean by ‘Greening’?

In this report, ‘**greening**’ refers to reducing the negative impacts upon both the climate and environment.² It is important to note that the fields of climate and environment – while subject to many linkages and overlap – are separate entities, associated with different needs, challenges, and fields of practice. The term ‘greening’ has been chosen because it can be used to encompass both climate and environmental concerns. While the term has gained traction at the global level, Pacific stakeholders raised concerns that ‘greening’ may be subject to various interpretations and understandings across different Pacific contexts, and that the term is sometimes not well understood. Despite this, stakeholders agreed that it is important to use one collective term to describe the outcomes that they want to see.

The research team recognises that ‘greening’ is not perfect, but it broadly captures the intent of reducing negative impacts upon both the climate and environment, so has been used as the dominant terminology in this research. The team will continue to explore more appropriate terminology with Pacific stakeholders during the framework’s development and provide guidance on contextualisation of the term when working with communities.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report shares outcomes from the first in a series of two stakeholder workshops that will inform the development of the framework. It is supplemented by a review of Pacific Islands policy and additional desk review. It aims to provide a transparent view into the framework development process and elevate important contextual factors that have emerged from stakeholder consultations. The report has 5 sections.

Section 1 introduces the report.

Section 2 provides the background and rationale for the development of the operational framework and explains why the process and methodology is important.

Section 3 explores green priorities for the framework in the Pacific. This examines important contextual considerations in these priority areas.

Section 4 highlights critical success factors and key considerations raised by workshop participants to ensure the framework development process and final product are effective.

Section 5 briefly discusses next steps for the framework and concludes the report.

AUDIENCE

The primary audience for this report is humanitarian actors and donors operating in the Pacific. Secondary audiences include humanitarian stakeholders outside of the Pacific who are interested in the rationale and process behind the framework's development. It is intended to allow feedback and reflection on the process and demonstrate why and how this framework will differ from existing tools.



Section 2: The Why – Understanding the rationale

WHY DO WE NEED ANOTHER FRAMEWORK?

This framework is being developed in response to calls from Pacific stakeholders and humanitarian actors operating in the region.³ With the impacts of weather, climate extreme events and climate change more visible every day, there is momentum and appetite in the sector to drive green humanitarian action, but also agreement that a different approach is needed to support humanitarian response in the Pacific.⁴ At a global scale, the incentive to green humanitarian aid is gaining traction; however, actors continue to lack access to the practical and contextualised tools needed to put this into practice.⁵ Building an operational and contextualised framework for humanitarian actors operating in the Pacific will fill this gap, providing a practical approach and tools that support the push towards greener humanitarian action.

The research recognises the breadth of existing initiatives, policies and frameworks at the global, donor and organisation level to reduce the environmental impact of humanitarian action (see Annex B). This shows great progress for a sector that previously had little engagement with climate change and minimal willingness to reduce its environmental impact.⁶ However, climate and environmental guidelines continue to be seen as secondary priorities during response.⁷ Tools are often placed in the ‘too hard basket’, requiring technical expertise, time and resources that are in short supply during emergency response.

This research suggests that a different approach is needed to support humanitarian actors to shift practice towards environmentally responsible operations. It proposes a middle ground between global commitments and specific organisational policy, by developing an operational and practical framework that is contextualised and tailored specifically to the Pacific region. Without contextualisation and ownership at local and national levels, global approaches are unlikely to have uptake or impact. Drawing upon the global resource base and undertaking consultation and engagement with Pacific-based actors will enable us to collectively construct a framework that is specific to the needs of Pacific governments, agencies, communities and traditional knowledge holders, as well as the geographic, political and social landscape.

WHY FOCUS ON THE PACIFIC?

Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are generally considered to be leading the way in climate and disaster resilience policy and initiatives. The region is highly vulnerable to increasingly severe disasters as a result of extreme events driven by climate change, so better humanitarian responses and mitigation of their negative environmental impacts become even more important.

Responding to climate change has been a top priority across PICs for many years. There is already extensive regional and national buy-in and a strong sense of regional leadership on climate resilience. The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the region’s primary intergovernmental environmental organisation, has been leading efforts to solve the region’s environmental problems since it was established in 1993.⁸ SPREP’s mandate includes several priorities that the framework will support (see Box 1).

Box 1: SPREP's strategic priorities

The SPREP Strategic Plan 2017–2026 prioritises four core regional goals:

- Climate change resilience
- Ecosystem and biodiversity protection
- Waste management and pollution control
- Environmental governance.

SPREP is the main coordinator of Pacific climate action. The body has supported member states to develop their own plans and policies to meet these goals. It has also led work at the regional level to develop frameworks and guidance for the region more broadly (explored further in section 3).⁹ This Framework for Greening Humanitarian Action in the Pacific will build on the tremendous and ongoing effort in these critical areas.

This work is additionally supported by other members of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP), as part of their common goal to achieve a more sustainable Pacific region.¹⁰ In addition to regional leadership, PICs boast rich regulatory environments for greening priorities (explored further in section 3), which will enable the framework to gain traction and support existing plans and policies. Moreover, national-level buy-in is reflected at the community level. The region's local and traditional knowledge and practices have been used to protect the environment for generations, representing another strength on which a contextualised framework can build.

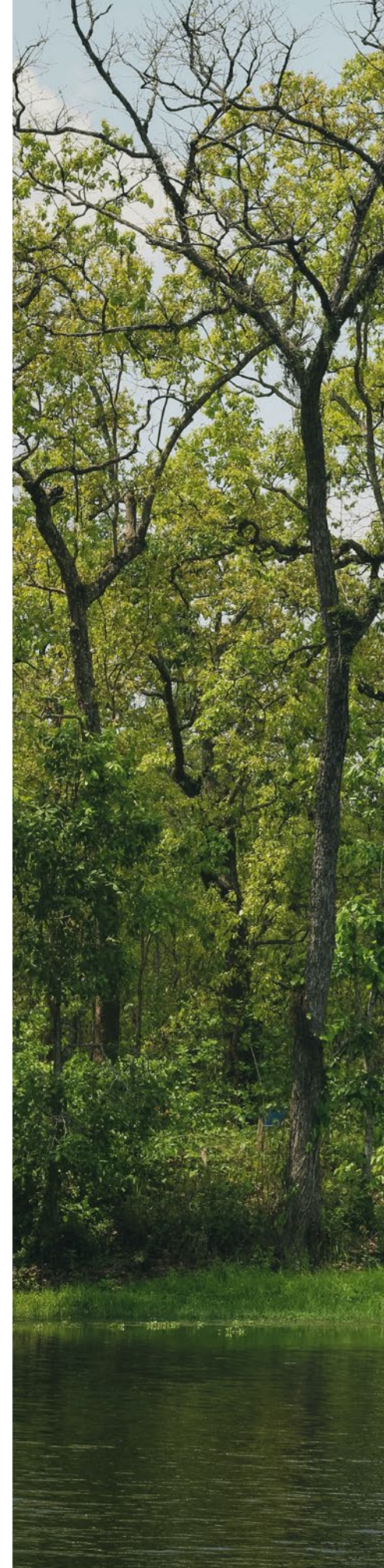
“ There's lots of motivation [for climate action] at the community level and this really drives things and gets them over the line.

(Workshop participant)

WHY IS OUR PROCESS IMPORTANT?

The framework will be designed through an iterative process of co-development between Humanitarian Advisory Group (HAG), national research partners, Pacific climate experts, and a group of key stakeholders in the Pacific. This process allows end users of the framework to inform, influence, test and validate the framework to build buy-in and ensure it is relevant and appropriate for the Pacific context.

Input will be gathered through two online workshops held between July and September 2023 (the first of these is captured in this report), co-designed and facilitated by a well-known Pacific climate expert. They target Pacific stakeholders working in humanitarian, development and environmental sectors, including representatives from local, national, regional and international organisations, United Nations (UN) agencies, government and the private sector.¹¹





Workshop 1 produced a better understanding of green priorities for the Pacific to help contextualise the framework. It explored existing local and national structures and good practice examples that the framework can complement and build upon. It also served to elicit feedback on the framework development process.



Workshop 2 will seek to test, refine, and validate the draft framework with Pacific stakeholders. This workshop will also seek guidance on how best to operationalise the framework.

Insights and outcomes from the workshops are being supplemented by a review of existing initiatives, frameworks and tools developed to reduce the environmental impact of humanitarian action. This allowed the researchers to determine what has worked and what persistent barriers remain. The review also included a Pacific Islands policy analysis to identify what regulations are already in place regarding climate and the environment, to demonstrate existing national priorities, and to identify examples of good practice at the country level.

The methodology for the framework development is shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Methodology





Section 3: The What – Pacific priorities for a greening framework

The core objective of Workshop 1 was to better understand ‘green’ priorities for the Pacific. Discussions were guided by the [Vision for a Green Humanitarian Future](#) proposed previously by the *Greening the System* research (see Annex A), which includes five priorities. Although discussions allowed space for stakeholders to challenge these proposals or suggest others that may be more appropriate for their context, the priorities that emerged during workshop discussions largely aligned with those identified in the vision, as shown below.

Key Focus Areas — OUR VISION for how we:



PROTECT HABITATS AND THEIR INHABITANTS — All humanitarian operations have a net positive impact on the habitat and biodiversity of crisis affected areas.



RACE TOWARDS NETZERO — All humanitarian operations reduce the majority and offset the remainder of Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions to become NetZero.



CHOOSE CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS — All humanitarian operations are 100% powered by clean energy.



TACKLE WASTE — All humanitarian operations systematically employ circular economy approaches to enhance waste management systems globally.



USE WATER — Humanitarian operations strive for water outcomes that promote human dignity, recognising its physiological, psychological, cultural, spiritual and environmental importance.

The Pacific Islands policy landscape was also carefully considered in analysing priorities. Regional and national policy across PICs demonstrate leadership and ambitious commitment to climate resilience and environmental protection. As participants emphasised, it will be critical that the framework aligns with the existing regulatory environment to ensure it is useful to operating actors and can be supported and championed by national-level actors and governments.

This section highlights the current status of each priority area in the Pacific, including main challenges, existing regional and national efforts to overcome them, and examples of good practice.



Protect habitats and their inhabitants

Protection and conservation of land, oceans and ecosystems was a high priority for workshop participants. Pacific Islanders rely on biodiversity for their livelihoods, food, economy and cultural traditions.¹² Healthy ecosystems are vital to a thriving Pacific. Humanitarian response risks harming the environment in the Pacific through deforestation, biodiversity loss, and the degradation of natural resources¹³ (e.g. when habitats are cleared to construct temporary shelters).

Workshop participants emphasised that efforts to push the humanitarian sector to be more environmentally responsible must move beyond a focus on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to examine the impact of humanitarian operations on land, oceans and ecosystems in the Pacific. Conservation and biodiversity protection is a high priority for the region, and is featured as a key priority of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (see Table 1).

“ People of the islands are connected to land, ocean, atmosphere and rivers. (Workshop participant)

Table 1: Snapshot of regional efforts to protect the environment

<u>2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent</u>	The overarching guidance to advance Pacific regionalism for the next three decades by articulating the region’s long-term vision, values, key thematic areas, and strategic pathways. One of the key thematic areas is the protection of the ocean and environment
<u>Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region (2021–25)</u>	This framework provides guidance for the region on key priorities for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management for 2021–25, with linkages to the Global Biodiversity Framework and Sustainable Development Goals
<u>Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT)</u>	The PIRT was established in 1998. It is a coalition of nature conservation and development organisations, governments, inter-government, donor agencies and community groups created to increase effective conservation action in the Pacific Island Region
<u>Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape (FPO), 2010</u>	The FPO is a strategic action plan to implement the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy to ensure sustainable management and conservation of the ocean. It is supported by a Results Framework, adopted in 2016 to measure progress

National-level policy further demonstrates the importance of this priority. SPREP has supported member countries to develop National Environmental Management Strategies, strategic frameworks for maintaining positive environmental conditions for better livelihoods and sustainable development.¹⁴ Most PICs also maintain active National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, supported through the Convention on Biological Diversity.¹⁵

Workshop participants prioritised habitat reflection in the framework. Participants emphasised the importance of relying on nature-based solutions wherever possible in efforts to protect and conserve the Pacific environment (see Box 2). Nature-based solutions involve working with nature to meet societal challenges (e.g. climate change, health, food and water security), in ways that provide benefits for both human wellbeing and biodiversity.¹⁶ This presents an opportunity for humanitarians to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience of communities to future shocks while also protecting the environment in their work.



Box 2: Nature-based solutions in Fiji

One workshop participant shared an example of a successful nature-based solution project, which involved restoring mangroves in Fiji. Mangroves are a coastal ecosystem that provide numerous climate-related benefits, including carbon sequestration, shoreline protection, and providing habitat for marine life. In Fiji, mangrove restoration and conservation initiatives have been implemented as a nature-based solution to climate change. For example, the Mangrove Reforestation Project led by the Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area network aims to restore degraded mangrove areas through community participation and awareness activities. This project not only enhances the resilience of coastal areas to sea level rise and storm events but provides livelihood opportunities for local communities through sustainable resource management.¹⁷

Many local villages and sub-national structures have bylaws on environmental custodianship, which increase awareness and environmental responsibility among residents and put pressure on outside actors and humanitarians to protect and respect the environment.¹⁸ Many important systems and approaches to conserving the natural environment have operated in the Pacific for generations.¹⁹ Participants raised the importance of connecting the framework with traditional practice in the Pacific (see Box 3). The framework can build on these practices while exploring complementary new technology and methods.

“ [There is opportunity to] blend in spirituality and biodiversity conservation. This intersection can enhance conservation. There is also traditional ecological knowledge within the Pacific which has been passed from one generation to the other – for instance on the sustainable use of natural resources.

(Workshop participant)



Box 3: Traditional practice in the Cook Islands

One example of traditional practice that was raised in the workshop was Ra'ui, a traditional natural resource management practice in the Cook Islands. It is a ban on the harvest of a resource or access to a particular area on land, sea, or air. Ra'ui is declared by the chief of a tribe.²⁰ When the Cook Islands are hit by a tropical cyclone, this practice allows time for regeneration and ensures outside actors stay out of protected areas. One workshop participant reflected on how humanitarian agencies could adopt this practice and it would receive strong community buy-in.²¹



Race towards Net Zero

Reduction of emissions and minimising the carbon footprint of humanitarian operations was repeatedly emphasised as a top priority for workshop participants. Drivers of global warming are a pre-eminent concern in the Pacific, because the region is among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, despite contributing less than 0.03% of the world's total GHG emissions.²² Pacific Island leadership has been very active in climate forums, including the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC), to advocate for GHG emission reductions and urgent climate action.²³ Table 2 below presents a high-level overview of regional level commitments to reduce emissions.

Table 2: Snapshot of regional efforts to reduce emissions

<u>2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent</u>	One of the key thematic areas is to mitigate impact from climate change and disaster, including through significant reduction in GHG emissions
<u>Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) 2017-2030</u>	The FRDP is an integrated regional framework that provides high-level guidance to the Pacific Islands region to build resilience to climate change and disasters. One of three core goals of the framework focuses on low-carbon development and the reduction of GHG emissions
<u>Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Action Now (2019)</u>	The strongest statement the Pacific Islands Forum has ever issued collectively on climate change, the Kainaki II Declaration includes calls for all Parties to the Paris Agreement to meet or exceed their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted to UNFCCC, and to achieve net zero carbon by 2050
<u>Talanoa Dialogue and Call for Action (2018)</u>	A Pacific-led process to help countries implement strategies to reduce emissions and enhance their NDCs by 2020

Momentum for reducing emissions across PICs is clearly demonstrated by the NDCs submitted to the UNFCCC as per the Paris Agreement. Fourteen PICs have submitted NDCs to the UNFCCC, six submitted enhanced NDCs in 2020, 10 have committed to the development of long-term emission development strategies, and seven have committed to achieving net zero GHG emissions.²⁴

The level of commitment to net zero across the region is very high. The humanitarian sector does not get a free pass because it is helping to save lives. While the sector contributes little GHG emissions compared to other industries, any contribution to climate change is counterproductive to the humanitarian imperative. Participants highlighted several key areas in which humanitarian organisations operating in the Pacific could reduce their carbon footprint, including transport, logistics and energy sources.

The overwhelming focus of workshop participants was on the localisation of processes, supply chains and methods. Minimising the number of international staff and supplies being imported for a response can significantly reduce emissions. Participants highlighted that transport and logistics are usually the biggest emitters for humanitarians.²⁵ Greater local procurement of food, supplies, and relief items minimises transport emissions, reduces packaging, and can support local economies to recover after disaster.²⁶

One participant shared examples from recent responses in Tonga and Vanuatu, in which humanitarians relied more heavily than usual on local suppliers and local vendors for relief supplies. This included working with local farmers to produce food baskets, reducing the need for packaged and imported products.²⁷ When local procurement is not feasible, supplies can be pre-positioned in preparedness phases to allow for more strategic and sustainable procurement and transport of relief items (see Box 4).²⁸

“ With less reliance on products that are packaged you can reduce your carbon footprint as far as importing items is concerned. [It is important to] ensure the balance between traditional and modern methods. (Workshop participant)



Box 4: The Humanitarian Logistics Capability

The Humanitarian Logistics Capability (HLC) is an Australian Government investment implemented by The Palladium Group. The HLC exists to provide effective and flexible humanitarian supply chain logistics support, including the strategic pre-positioning of relief supplies and arrangements for efficient transport, procurement and emergency team deployment. The HLC maintains an active greening strategy, developed in 2022 with a focus on minimising waste and reducing emissions, including the ambition to reach net zero by 2030. As part of this strategy, the HLC has taken stock of all its prepositioned relief supplies to identify possible greening initiatives with key relief suppliers and has eliminated single-use plastic from all future prepositioned relief supplies procurements.²⁹ There are currently ongoing discussions about how the Australian Government could support a warehousing initiative in the Pacific for this type of prepositioning.³⁰

Several major international humanitarian organisations have committed to GHG emissions reductions in recent years (see Box 5); however, there is little published evidence of how this is being implemented or monitored.³¹ Workshop participants acknowledged the efforts led by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Sustainable Supply Chain Alliance to develop the Humanitarian Carbon Calculator as an important contribution, but cautioned that very technical tools were not necessarily accessible to the people intended to use them.

“ We are lucky to have tools to measure carbon footprints, but we are still building capacity of people to be able to use them. (Workshop participant)

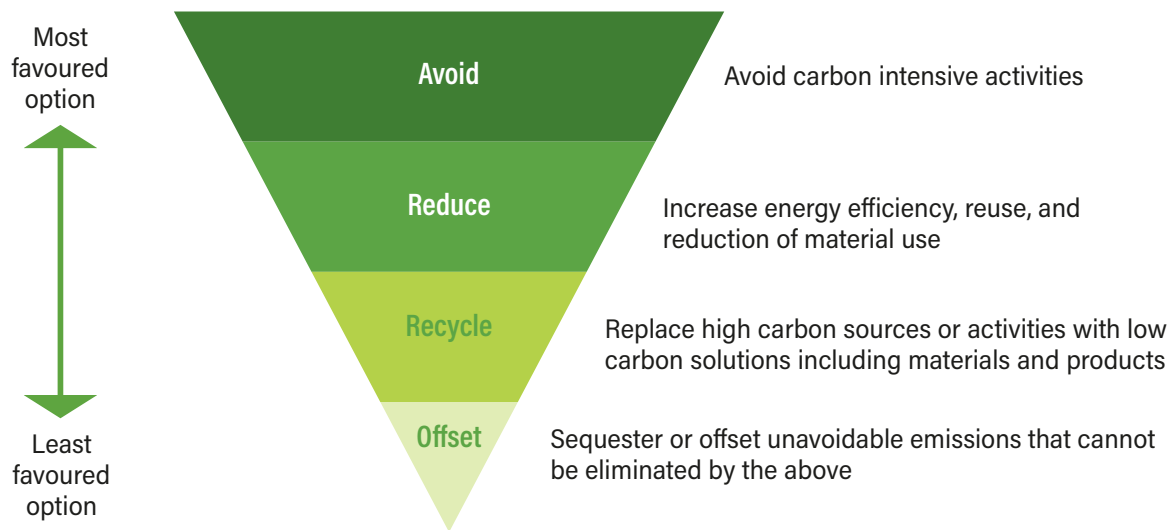


Box 5: Humanitarian commitments to reducing emissions

An investigation of the aid sector’s carbon footprint, highlighting several organisations that have pledged to reduce GHG emissions, was published in 2021.³² For example, it describes how CARE tracks its carbon footprint through the CARE Climate Justice Centre’s climate-smart indicators. Country offices are asked to provide regular data on emissions from flights, vehicles use, and office energy consumption, and what measures are being taken to reduce emissions from these 3 sources. CARE has implemented a climate smart flight policy, established Green Teams to drive sustainable practices in CARE offices, and has advanced rigorous environmental screening for programming. Additionally, CARE maintains its own offsetting program in partnership with the Fair Climate Fund.³³

Humanitarians can work through the Carbon Management Hierarchy to reduce and offset GHG emissions (see Figure 2).³⁴ While it may not be possible to avoid emissions entirely in the sector, there are opportunities to reduce and replace inefficient transport methods, energy sources and materials, and offset whatever cannot be replaced.

Figure 2: Carbon Management Hierarchy



Sector commitments show that the appetite exists among major non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to move towards a net zero response. The Framework for Greening Humanitarian Action in the Pacific is intended to capitalise on this momentum to produce a novel and much-needed operational framework. Existing momentum and leadership from PICs ensure that national and regional stakeholders will champion the framework within their existing efforts to reduce GHG emissions.



Choose clean energy solutions

As part of reducing the humanitarian carbon footprint, workshop participants emphasised the importance of the sector shifting to clean energy solutions. Energy sources and fuel make up a significant portion of humanitarian sector GHG emissions, and are a key target for reductions in overall sector emissions.³⁵

Clean energy is a priority in the Pacific, particularly because most PICs remain highly dependent on imported petroleum fuels.³⁶ However, many have made committed to 100% renewable energy targets by 2030 under their NDCs.³⁷ These ambitions come with complex implementation challenges, involving technical, social and financial barriers that are unique to each island context, but also demonstrate a clear commitment in the region to move towards renewable energy.³⁸ In March 2023, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Tonga, Fiji, Niue and Solomon Islands endorsed the Port Vila Call for a Just Transition to a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific, demonstrating the region's leadership in the global phase-out of fossil fuels.³⁹ Regional efforts to drive this shift are largely led by the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.⁴⁰ The region is also guided by the Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific (FESRIP) 2021–2030 (see Table 3). These are important points of reference for humanitarian actors seeking to increase their own use of clean energy.

Table 3: Snapshot of regional efforts to shift to clean energy

<p><u>Port Vila Call for a Just Transition to a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific (2023)</u></p>	<p>The result of the Second Pacific Ministerial Dialogue on Pathways for the Global Just Transition from Fossil Fuels was a commitment to a Fossil Free Pacific and dramatically scaling up the deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies</p>
<p><u>Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific (FESRIP) 2021-2030</u></p>	<p>The framework focuses on key changes that Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies⁴¹ agreed to implement so they can collaborate to meet energy sector challenges</p>

Workshop participants largely referenced examples of using solar energy and clean cookstoves when considering ways to move towards clean energy. Solar energy capture has high potential throughout the Pacific, and is a focus for many clean energy projects in the region.⁴² For example, SPREP recently launched the Pacific Climate Change Centre’s (PCCC) rooftop solar system, which generates 100% of the building’s electricity (see Box 6).⁴³ This example demonstrates the momentum and capability to shift towards clean energy in the region, which other humanitarian organisations can emulate.

 **Box 6: Pacific Climate Change Centre’s leadership in renewable energy**

In September 2022, SPREP launched the PCCC’s rooftop solar system, which supplies 100% of the building’s electricity. The project was funded by the Government of Japan and the Government of Ireland, with assistance from the Government of Samoa. The initiative was launched on the sidelines of the Pacific Small Island States Preparatory Meeting for the UNFCCC COP27. Samoa’s Acting Prime Minister and Acting Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Hon. Tuala Tevaga Iosefo Ponifasio, claimed the project is

“ a showcase of not only attainable ambition but of sustainable building technology in the Pacific. This also demonstrates that with small steps locally, everyone can collectively and collaboratively achieve a significant amount of greenhouse gas emission reductions in our Pacific region.”⁴⁴

One participant cited the difficulties in responding to the earthquake and tsunami in Tonga in January 2022 as evidence of the need for more dependable energy sources for humanitarian response, including both small and large-scale renewable energy infrastructure tailored to Pacific resources and designed with recurrent disaster impacts in mind.⁴⁵ The response was delayed and exceedingly more difficult because the power grid was disrupted. If distributed (and therefore, less vulnerable) and renewable energy sources were available to humanitarian organisations, this would both reduce GHG emissions and enable more effective emergency response.

“ One of the big concerns is damage to the power supply. For example, in Tonga [after the tsunami] nothing could move forward until power was restored. [Humanitarian action has a] heavy reliance on the power grid, we need more effort around renewable energy. (Workshop participant)

Workshop participants largely considered the shift to clean energy within calls for the reduction of the sector’s overall carbon footprint. PICs’ momentum and leadership in this space provides an enabling environment for humanitarians to shift practice.



Tackle waste

Efforts to minimise and better manage waste emerged as a top priority among workshop participants. PICs are being overwhelmed by solid waste. Geographical isolation, constrained resources, small economic scale, and dependence on foreign aid and imported goods have made solid waste management difficult for PICs.⁴⁶ These problems have been compounded by the Covid-19 pandemic and increasing disaster and humanitarian response.⁴⁷

Humanitarian response in the Pacific faces specific waste management problems, including massive amounts of debris to be cleared, conventional waste disposal services being overwhelmed, and the garbage accumulated from relief items.⁴⁸ Workshop participants highlighted specific concerns around plastic bottles and single-use plastics, packaging material, and unsolicited donations of non-food items (NFIs).

“ In the Pacific, we get lots of donations, but a lot of this goes to dumps. It [causes] unnecessary stress to dispose of and is a waste of resources [...] there is limited awareness of reverse logistics, supply chains, how things can be recycled, repurposed, etc. (Workshop participant)

Waste management is a high priority across PICs in general and even more so in times of disaster. Disaster waste management (DWM) is gaining priority through regional initiatives, and some countries have their own DWM plans. Table 4 below provides a brief overview of high-level regional waste management priorities.

Table 4: Snapshot of regional efforts to improve waste management

<u>Cleaner Pacific 2025</u>	Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2016-2025. The strategy outlines guiding principles and strategic objectives for waste management in PICs and includes a specific section on disaster waste. ⁴⁹
<u>Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries Phase II (J-PRISM II)</u>	To support PICs to achieve the goals of Cleaner Pacific 2025. This program focused on building capacity of local counterparts in waste management . It also maintained a focus on effective disaster waste management in the region.
<u>Pacific Island Countries Regional Disaster Waste Management Guidelines (2021)</u>	An output of J-PRISM II, to complement the Disaster Waste Management Guidelines for Asia and the Pacific 2018. Guidelines are guided by the Waste Management Hierarchy and Disaster Management Cycle
<u>PacWastePlus (2021-23)</u>	Funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by SPREP, PacWasteplus assists PICs in navigating existing waste frameworks and policies, enhancing private sector engagement and infrastructure development and increasing capacity to deliver sound environmental waste management practices
<u>Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) (2019-26)</u>	Funded by DFAT and implemented by SPREP, POLP strives to reduce the volume of single-use plastics ending up as marine litter in Pacific coastal environments

Waste management is also a high priority in national policy. Nearly all PICs explicitly mention waste management in their development plans or through standalone waste management policies. Additionally, four PICs include DWM in their National Disaster Management Frameworks.⁵⁰

“ Waste management is another important area, it used to be just an idea, but now it’s being reflected in laws and rubbish will be collected by governments. (Workshop participant)

The Cleaner Pacific 2025 Strategy highlights an example of good practice in Fiji, where an AdaptWaste Project, funded by DFAT and implemented by SPREP, sought to integrate climate change considerations into the waste management sector. It resulted in the preparation of a national DWM plan and the improvement of a town dump in Labasa Town to enable it to cope with disasters and disaster waste.⁵¹

Some countries have additionally developed sub-national and local level plans and structures for implementation (see Box 7). While this iteration of the Framework for Greening Humanitarian Action in the Pacific will not be contextualised specifically to each country’s institutional arrangements, it will link to sub-national structures wherever possible.

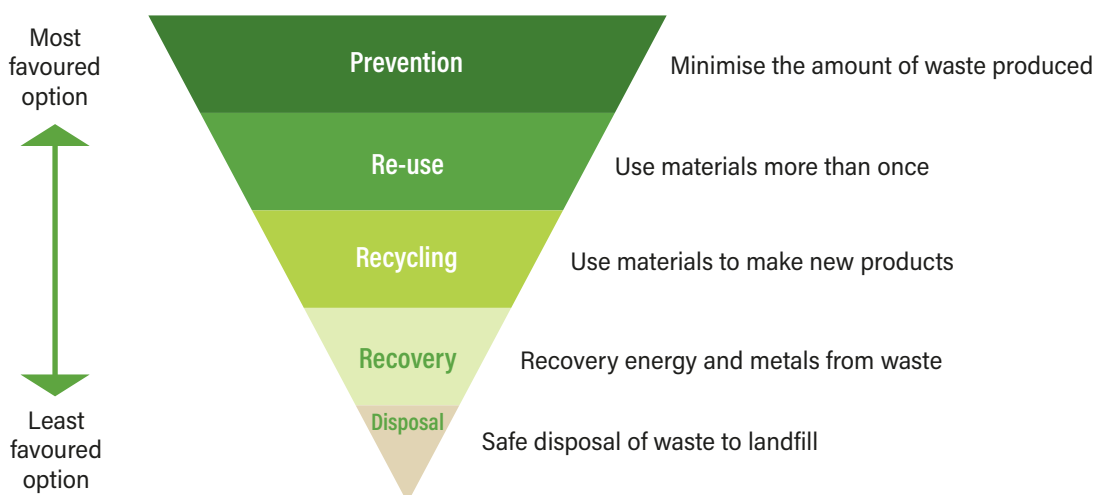
👤 Box 7: Examples of national and subnational leadership in waste management

The Federated States of Micronesia maintains a National Solid Waste Management Strategy. As part of the strategy, each State within the Federation also has its own waste management plan.⁵² For example, the Kosrae State Solid Waste Management Strategy (2018–27) was developed with support from the JPRISM-II project, and includes an action plan and implementation schedule.⁵³

In Tokelau, a National Waste Management Strategic Plan was endorsed in 2007, and each village developed its own waste management plan. In each village, waste champions were identified for day-to-day management of waste and Community Resource Centres were established to raise awareness and support community members to sort their rubbish into recyclable and solid waste before collection.⁵⁴

National strategies are typically guided by some variation of the Waste Management Hierarchy, which indicates an order of preference for efforts to minimise and better manage waste (see Figure 7). This will be a key resource and component of the greening humanitarian action framework.

Figure 7: The Waste Management Hierarchy



Workshop participants also highlighted several examples of good practices that can be elevated and scaled through the framework, including from responses to Tropical Cyclone (TC) Judy and TC Kevin in Vanuatu in early 2023. Participants indicated there was noticeably more attention to waste management, particularly around packaging and imported NFIs. A donor representative indicated involvement in ongoing conversations with suppliers about ways to reduce waste imported with humanitarian response. Encouragingly, these examples sit at the 'prevention' end of the waste management hierarchy. Another positive example that is often cited in disaster waste management is the No Pelesitiki campaign in Tonga (see Box 8).

Box 8: No Pelesitiki campaign

The No Pelesitiki campaign is a volunteer-run initiative aimed at the elimination of single-use plastics in Tonga and their replacement with sustainable alternatives (particularly traditional and local materials).⁵⁵ No Pelesitiki has received funding from the New Zealand Government, while the Australian Government funded its plastic waste collection initiative following the tsunami response.⁵⁶ Volunteers and staff collected around 3,000 kg of plastic waste, which was then compacted by machines provided by DFAT and loaded onto HMAS *Canberra* to be transported out of the country.⁵⁷

Use water sustainably

Sustainable water resource management remains a priority in the Pacific, although it was not discussed at length in the workshop. Many PICs lack sustained access to clean water supply and sanitation services, particularly in growing urban centres.⁵⁸ Several PICs have few reliable water resources, and this problem is being exacerbated by climate change impacts. Additionally, sea level rise has resulted in saline intrusion and wastewater contamination of groundwater and surface water in some PICs.⁵⁹

Ensuring safe access to clean water is vital in any humanitarian response. Humanitarians can harm the Pacific water supply by depleting and/or contaminating water resources through irresponsible water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming.⁶⁰

Water resource management gained momentum in the Pacific in the early 2000s, and is guided by the Pacific Region Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management, endorsed in 2003. The Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), within the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) leads the Pacific WASH Coalition to address regional water issues in line with several regional water frameworks (see Table 5).⁶¹

Table 5: Snapshot of regional efforts to manage water resources

<u>Pacific Region Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management (2003)</u>	Developed through regional and national consultation led by SOPAC and the Asian Development Bank, including six thematic priorities and key actions for PICs
<u>Pacific WASH Coalition</u>	Led by SOPAC, the Coalition takes a coordinated approach to issues of access to safe water supply, adequate sanitation and improved hygiene practices for people in the Pacific

<u>Pacific Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Programme (2008–10)</u>	Funded by the EU and implemented by SOPAC, the Pacific IWRM programme was developed to conserve scarce freshwater resources, improve public and environmental health by ensuring consistent water availability and quality, and reduce vulnerability to droughts, floods, landslides and pollution
<u>Pacific Wastewater Framework for Action (2001)</u>	This framework, included in the Pacific Wastewater Policy Statement, lists proposed actions to be undertaken at national and regional levels to effectively manage wastewater
<u>Pacific Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Water Management</u>	Established in 2002, to support the implementation of the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management and the Pacific Wastewater Framework for Action.
<u>Pacific Framework for Action on Drinking Water Quality and Health (2005)</u>	Developed at the WHO Regional Workshop on Drinking Water Standards and Monitoring in Pacific Island Countries in 2005, this framework supports the overarching Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management

The Pacific Integrated Water Resources Management Programme supported the development of IWRM planning processes and water use efficiency strategies in all PICs. This resulted in legislation, policies, intersectoral coordination committees and watershed partnerships, and greater awareness, consultation, advocacy, and exchange of expertise and best practice, depending on the needs and situation of each country.⁶²

WASH projects have been a high priority for development aid donors in the Pacific. According to a recent United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) report (July 2023), approximately USD230–270 million is spent on WASH each year across the region; this exceeds global standards, but still falls short of need.⁶³ It is critical that emergency humanitarian response does not further harm the water supply that these programs are desperately trying to protect. Happily, some humanitarian organisations are already employing responsible water management strategies in disaster settings (see Box 9).

Box 9: UNICEF’s leadership in climate resilient WASH programming

UNICEF has been a leader in driving efforts to climate-proof the WASH sector. In 2014, UNICEF and the Global Water Partnership developed the Strategic Framework for WASH Climate Resilient Development. This framework was updated in 2017 and again in 2022. It is accompanied by a Guidance Note to provide UNICEF WASH staff with guidance on the design and implementation of programs that are grounded in a comprehensive understanding of climate risks. It is intended to be used in all contexts, including protracted conflicts, fragile or humanitarian settings, and development contexts.⁶⁴

In Fiji and Vanuatu, UNICEF has worked with governments to roll out the Drinking Water Safety Planning approach. UNICEF and its NGO partners have trained Village Water Committees to prepare Water Safety Plans, which allow them to identify, prioritise and mitigate existing risks to water supply. In Vanuatu, the Department of Water Resources and its NGO partners used the same approach to ‘build back better’ following TC Pam, a category 5 cyclone that hit in March 2015. The Water Safety Plan process ultimately resulted in rehabilitated or replacement water supply systems that were more resilient than those previously in use, thus ensuring resilience in some of the islands’ most vulnerable communities.⁶⁵



Section 4: The How – The proof is in the process

In addition to validating and contextualising key priorities for a Framework for Greening Humanitarian Action in the Pacific, Workshop 1 elicited feedback on the proposed process and intentions of framework development. The research team sought to better understand, from the perspective of Pacific Islanders, the critical success factors to make this tool useful, practical and effective. Workshop participants highlighted several key considerations for the framework.

Build regional ownership and national buy-in

In the eyes of many workshop participants, this was the most important factor. Participants reiterated the importance of not only building regional ownership but ensuring national level buy-in for the Framework for Greening Humanitarian Action in the Pacific. The Pacific is not a homogenous region, and it may be necessary to further contextualise the framework (which will be regional in the first instance) to meet national systems, structures and environments.

“ National level buy-in in terms of a framework being developed [is critical] because I think the last thing we would want is to develop a framework that the countries would not think is applicable to their existing plans as well as programs. (Workshop participant)

While climate action is a top priority for all PICs, most have not yet considered how it relates to humanitarian response. Participants suggested the best way to do this would be to build from case studies and success stories at the national level and use them to generate wider influence and buy-in, a point that was repeatedly emphasised as critical to developing the framework. The framework will incorporate case study examples to provide stakeholders with clear examples of what recommended actions look like in practice.

“ The notion of a regional framework or roadmap makes sense after there are already some tangible examples or experiences on the ground in the countries so that we can highlight these in the regional context – something that other countries can see and touch and feel – something they can aspire towards. (Workshop participant)



Connect with existing agendas, plans, and policies in the Pacific

It came out very strongly in the workshop that to be effective, the framework must be closely linked with existing national priorities, policy and practice. Evidence demonstrates that national government leadership is a critical factor in driving change.⁶⁶ Participants advocated for the framework to link in with other national and regional priorities (i.e. gender, inclusion, localisation, etc.) so that it is not perceived as a burden at the national and sub-national level.

“ This framework should not stick out like a sore thumb, it needs to exist within an ecosystem of existing frameworks and priorities. (Workshop participant) ”

The policy and regulatory environment will either enable or hinder greening operations. Therefore, it is critical the framework takes account of existing policy and plans.

“ The framework needs to consider the regulatory environment to be effective. It should be part of the larger ecosystem of policy and practice in the region. (Workshop participant) ”

The research team reviewed more than 70 Pacific Islands plans and policies relating to climate, environment, disaster and sustainable development. The policy review highlighted strong consensus with the priorities proposed in the *Vision for a Green Humanitarian Future*, and provided several examples of good practice at the national level for the framework to build on (see Box 10).



Box 10: Fiji's national climate leadership

Fiji is the seventh country in the world, and the first Small Island Developing State to pass climate legislation that includes a target of net zero emissions. The Climate Change Act, passed in September 2021, legally binds Fiji to its commitment of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The Act is the world's most comprehensive piece of climate legislation, covering issues such as long-term net zero commitments, carbon budgets, carbon market establishment, climate-induced human mobility, nature-based solutions, the legal recognition of maritime boundaries relative to sea level rise, climate finance and intergovernmental resilience building.⁶⁷ There is an opportunity for the Framework for Greening Humanitarian Action to further support these targets and regulations in the country.



Elevate traditional knowledge and local systems, structures and practices

A key focus of the workshop was to explore local and traditional knowledge and practice that can be incorporated into the Framework for Greening Humanitarian Action. Local actors have critical insights and knowledge about specific priorities and needs for green action in their own contexts. Local actors also hold considerable traditional and cultural knowledge that is too often overlooked when climate change resources are developed. This has been a significant gap in existing policies and approaches to date, with many existing resources designed via top-down processes. Local priorities may differ from those in organisation-wide or regional policies. A flexible approach will enable local actors to set their own objectives for environmentally responsible humanitarian action that incorporates traditional and cultural knowledge. The framework can then be trialled and adapted based on local input and feedback.



The Pacific region maintains a rich diversity of traditional knowledge, customs and systems of protecting the environment that have been passed down through generations. These practices can be supported and scaled up by humanitarians with minimal harm to the environment. Workshop participants emphasised the importance of the framework connecting with local tradition and practice for it to be effective in the Pacific context. They again emphasised the importance of highlighting case studies of good practice that can be shared with communities and included in the framework.

“ [Traditional knowledge] is how we contextualise to the Pacific. Cultural practices are generally free from a carbon footprint, waste, etc. (Workshop participant)

Participants also highlighted that the humanitarian system can leverage traditional governance systems. They emphasised the importance of working with local faith-based networks, civil society and the private sector, and ensuring that communities are involved in decision-making, because they are the first responders to a disaster.

“ [There is a practice called] solesolevaki, which ensures community participatory processes and learning through working with the community [...] we need to consider community engagement in developing the framework. (Workshop participant)

Use accessible language and terminology

Workshop participants emphasised the importance of using appropriate language and terminology that can be understood across the Pacific. Scientific language and jargon can often reduce awareness of and access to important climate information and tools. The Framework for Greening Humanitarian Action must break down those barriers by ensuring key concepts, language and processes are presented in a non-technical way and build on existing strengths and knowledge in the Pacific.

“ It's important that people really understand and own this terminology, so it's not just new jargon, this is so critical for right now. (Workshop participant)

When asked to reflect on proposed terminology, participants shared important insights as to what may or may not be appropriate for a Pacific framework. Box 11 below offers some highlights that the research team will consider in updating and adapting certain definitions and concepts.



Box 11: A Pacific take on key concepts

The project is currently working with agreed definitions used by lead international humanitarian and environmental agencies. These definitions will be further refined and adapted through the contextualisation process. This box highlights some of the key concepts workshop participants raised with respect to simple and accessible language.

Greening refers to the reduction of negative impacts upon both the climate and environment.

“As a huge advocate for traditional knowledge, ‘greening’ is such a western ideology. When we’re in the Pasifika space, we need to be careful about using the word ‘greening’, because the community won’t understand because the word ‘greening’ doesn’t translate to or exist in many Pacific languages. (Workshop participant)”

It is critical for the research team to ensure the framework is not exclusionary. While the term ‘green’ has been selected for this research, it may not be appropriate to use in tools or communications that target local actors or community members. The research team will continue to explore more appropriate terminology with Pacific stakeholders during the framework’s development.

Carbon offsetting is the process of reducing emissions of carbon dioxide or other GHGs via one means (e.g. increasing vegetation cover, purchasing solar panels) in order to compensate for emissions produced via another (e.g. fossil fuel-based transportation).⁶⁸

“Carbon offsetting is peak jargon. In [Pacific Island] communities it is very hard to explain this term. It’s still hard at the national level to raise awareness around emissions. (Workshop participant)”

While emissions reduction is a clear priority in regional policy, that does not mean that it has trickled down in practice. Participants cautioned against using technical language that communities or local actors would not understand.



Make it operational

Participants expressed concerns around the development of a new framework, particularly the risk that it sits on a shelf or in a policy circle somewhere without achieving its ambitions to deliver real impact and change in practice. While climate initiatives in the humanitarian space are gaining attention and recognition, too often they remain isolated, conceptual, or perceived as something to consider after the fact as an extra rather than a priority.⁶⁹ Workshop participants emphasised the importance of providing clear operational guidance, supported by accessible training and tools to support uptake of the Framework for Greening Humanitarian Action in the Pacific.

“Often frameworks are written and then sit on the shelf, we need workshops and lessons learned in how to use it. (Workshop participant)”

Several workshop participants were heavily involved in the development of the FRDP. The FRDP demonstrates great leadership and a shared vision for resilience in the region; however, the voluntary and conceptual nature of the guidelines did not promote its implementation. Participants shared several lessons learned from this process that will be critical to inform this framework (see Box 12).



Box 12: Lessons from the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific

The development of the FRDP in 2016 is heralded as a landmark achievement for the region and demonstrates leaders' commitment to tackling growing climate and disaster risk. It demonstrates the potential of building on national strengths to create collective momentum across the Pacific.

“ If there's anything we've learnt from the FRDP, the FRDP came into place only because of national action. There was no regional inspiration given to the countries, the countries came up with it and inspired the regional-level initiative. (Workshop participant)

However, challenges around the operationalisation of the framework have led to concerns about the efficacy of high-level strategic guidance in the absence of accountability.⁷⁰ Participants in the workshop emphasised that in order for the Framework for Greening Humanitarian Action in the Pacific to be useful and effective, it must be operational in nature and build on existing good practice at the national level.



Consider all phases of the disaster management cycle

Participants also emphasised the importance of connecting this framework across elements of the disaster cycle. Preparedness was emphasised as a priority area for greening processes, because it ensures the appropriate plans and structures are in place to respond sustainably to future shocks. If communities and operational actors are prepared and resourced to respond using environmentally responsible strategies (e.g. pre-positioning of locally produced, minimally packaged supplies), these are more likely to be implemented in times of emergency.

The recovery phase was also highlighted as an area on which greening initiatives should focus. After the initial response settles down, actors can learn from their experiences and determine how systems and activities can be more environmentally responsible next time. Participants suggested post-disaster assessments should include greening strategies.

“ I think of the different stages in the humanitarian system where greening can happen a lot faster than other levels. I think greening can be faster in the preparedness stage (pre-positioning supplies etc), as well as the recovery process. (Workshop participant)



Get the right people involved and allow realistic timeframes to influence change

Participants consistently emphasised the importance of ensuring the right stakeholders were involved in the development of the Framework for Greening Humanitarian Action in the Pacific. Engagement with donors was repeatedly raised as essential to the framework's success. Donors will be able to drive accountability for the framework and motivate agencies to use it. Additionally, donors must allow flexibility for additional resources to be dedicated to environmental concerns.

“ We need donors to get on board to make room for environmental considerations in what they require. We need flexibility so environment can also be a priority in our proposals. (Workshop participant)

As highlighted above, engagement with national and sub-national governments was stressed as vital for success, as well as engagement with local actors and communities who can drive this change from the ground up. In order for the system to shift, the framework will need buy-in at every level.

“ What is also coming out here is also a recognition that ‘greening’ is not just one person or one organisation’s responsibility. I think this is very important that it is everybody’s responsibility, and especially it has to be contextualised to benefit those on the ground with their system. (Workshop participant)

Participants also raised the importance of patience; greening cannot happen overnight. Several participants raised inherent challenges in greening operations, including the perceived trade-off between life-saving operations and greening initiatives.⁷¹ Participants emphasised that even if it is not possible to be 100% green, response can be greener, which is still useful progress.

“ ‘Green response’ implies everything is immediately green. Rather than everything all at once, could we say ‘greener’ instead of green? That implies there is an ongoing journey to greening humanitarian aid. (Workshop participant)





Section 5: Next steps

Outcomes from the first workshop and the desk review demonstrate there is momentum and appetite for this framework in the Pacific. The framework can leverage many examples of good practice and policy to build buy-in and ensure it is relevant and useful to actors operating in the region. Key regional stakeholders shared important learnings from previous efforts to develop regional frameworks that will guide and shape this process.

The framework development process is currently being guided by review and analysis of existing tools and guidance, contextualised through policy review and learnings and insights shared in the workshop. The process is currently being led by a climate expert who is based in the region, and supported by HAG.

The second workshop in this series will be held in September 2023. At this time, a draft framework will be circulated to participants for input and feedback. This workshop will enable the proposed framework to be tested and validated and any necessary changes or adaptations to be incorporated. It will also serve to gather ideas on ways to trial and pilot the framework in the region.

Following the second workshop, the research team will finalise the framework, and pilot it between October 2023 and June 2024. Case studies of experiences will be collected during this time. The framework will then be revised (if required) based on feedback and user experience and published in September 2024, along with case studies.

The development of the Framework for Greening Humanitarian Action in the Pacific is an iterative and collaborative process. If you are interested in getting involved or learning more about the research, please contact the research team:



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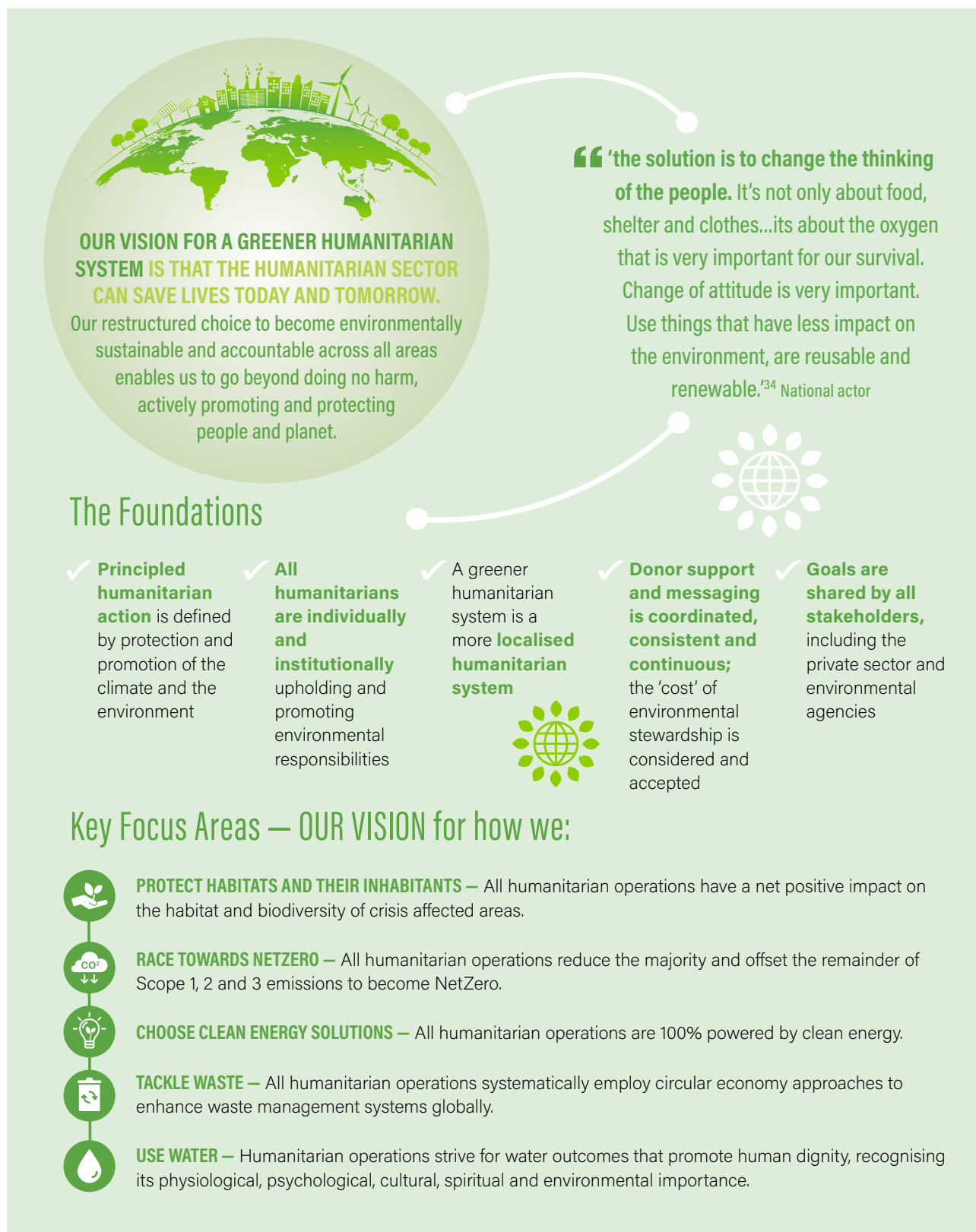
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ANNEX A: VISION FOR A GREEN HUMANITARIAN FUTURE



For more information about this vision and how it was developed, please see: HAG, GLOW and PIANGO (2022) [Greening the System: A Vision for a Green Humanitarian Future](#).

ANNEX B: GUIDANCE AND TOOLS REVIEWED FOR THIS FRAMEWORK

The Framework for Greening Humanitarian Action in the Pacific builds on existing guidance and tools produced at both the organisational and global level to address the environmental impact of humanitarian action. It will seek to contextualise these tools and commitments in line with existing Pacific regional and national policy and priorities to further support the region's journey towards climate and disaster resilience.

A brief overview of guidance reviewed for this framework is presented below (see Table A).

Table A: Existing humanitarian approaches to climate and environment

<u>The Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarians</u>	The Charter outlines seven commitments to respond to the climate crisis, as well as general guidance for how to progress toward each commitment. It is open to all humanitarian organisations to endorse
<u>Sphere Handbook: reducing environmental impact</u>	This brief thematic sheet describes the connection between sustainability/climate adaptation and the humanitarian standards set in the Sphere Handbook. It summarises how humanitarians should incorporate environmental considerations into their response planning
<u>Waste Management Measure, Reverse Logistics, Environmental Sustainable Procurement and Transport, and Circular Economy (WREC) Project</u>	The Global Logistics Cluster's WREC Project website offers resources on sustainable waste management, reducing GHG emissions, promoting green logistics, and practising environmental impact reduction
<u>EHA Connect</u>	EHA Connect is an online tool that offers over 300 sets of guidance on how humanitarians can integrate environmental considerations in preparedness, response and recovery. The tool can categorise guides by cluster or thematic area
<u>Flash Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT+)</u>	FEAT+ is a tool that enables humanitarians to quickly assess and identify the environmental impact of the release of hazardous chemicals after a sudden-onset natural disaster. The United Nations Environment Programme and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs offer a free online course that teaches humanitarians how to use FEAT+ effectively and efficiently
<u>Rapid Environmental Assessment Tool</u>	This tool guides rapid qualitative assessment of the environmental impacts of a conflict/disaster and relief operations to help humanitarians prioritise environmental issues and actions
<u>Nexus environmental assessment tool (NEAT+)</u>	Specifically designed for displacement situations, NEAT+ enables rapid environmental assessment to allow humanitarians to incorporate environmental concerns in project design. It produces results that are easy to read and do not require expertise to understand

<u>Environmental Marker</u>	This marking tool is used to evaluate and track the environmental impact of ongoing projects. It assigns the project a grade (A+ to C) based on whether it integrates mitigation and conservation measures
<u>Disaster Waste Management Guidelines</u>	This document provides guidance on managing solid and liquid waste generated during disaster situations. It outlines short, medium and long-term planning for lasting results
<u>Carbon accounting tool for humanitarian organisations</u>	The carbon accounting tool enables humanitarian organisations to measure their carbon footprint and identify the sources of their GHG emissions. It also makes suggestions for efficient actions to reduce emissions
<u>DG ECHO Minimum Environmental Requirements</u>	This document details the sector-specific and intersectional minimum environmental standards (based on DG ECHO's guiding environmental principles) required during EU-funded operations, and ways to achieve them
<u>United States Agency for International Development (USAID) environmental requirements</u>	Similar to the aforementioned EU requirements, this site outlines the key requirements and responsibilities of humanitarians when completing a USAID-funded project. The agency uses environmental impact assessments to determine whether projects align with these requirements
<u>IFRC Green Response Quick Guide</u>	This resource, designed to be used during the project planning phase, provides suggestions on how to reduce the negative environmental impacts of a given project. It is intended to be used in conjunction with the NEAT+ screening tool
<u>WWF Green Recovery and Reconstruction Toolkit</u>	Intended to be used during rebuilding efforts following disaster situations, this toolkit gives guidance on developing response systems that are sustainable, reduce vulnerability, and adapt to the effects of climate change
<u>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Strategic Framework for Climate Action</u>	In this framework, the UNHCR commits and plans to promote effective and just environmental policy, green its operations, and reduce its environmental footprint. Its commitment to greening operations outlines methods for national and community consultation in humanitarian response operations
<u>World Vision Environmental Stewardship Policy</u>	Rather than meeting a minimum standard, World Vision plans to improve the natural environments in the areas it serves. The policy outlines how it will strive to achieve this goal in programming, operations, advocacy and communications/marketing

Endnotes

- 1 All highlighted quotes that appear in this report are from workshop participants in Workshop 1 for this research, held on 5 July 2023.
- 2 In the humanitarian context, greening may be associated with reducing emissions produced through operations, increasing the use of sustainable humanitarian supplies, the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity during operations, and the use of nature-based solutions in humanitarian contexts.
- 3 Greening the System methodology workshop, August 2022
- 4 HAG, PIANGO, and GLOW (2022), *Greening the System: A vision for a green humanitarian future*; HAG, PIANGO and GLOW (2022), *Greening the System: From vision to action*; Workshop 1.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 HAG and The Behavioural Architects (2020) *Creating communication that works: Humanitarians and the climate crisis*.
- 7 HAG, PIANGO, and GLOW (2022) *Greening the System: A vision for a green humanitarian future*.
- 8 UNEP (2020) *Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme – The SPREP Convention*.
- 9 Ibid.; SPREP (2017) *SPREP Strategic Plan 2017–2026*.
- 10 CROP agencies include The Pacific Community, Pacific Islands Forum, Pacific Islands Development Program, University of the South Pacific, Pacific Tourism Organisation, Pacific Power Association, Pacific Aviation Safety Office, and Forum Fisheries Agency.
- 11 Workshop 1 gathered more than 40 Pacific stakeholders to contribute to these discussions. This included representatives from national, international, and regional organisations, including some very key and influential regional actors. However, engagement from government and local civil society was less than expected.
- 12 SPREP (2020) *Threats to Pacific Islands' rich biodiversity a key focus of the Conference*, 14 Feb. 2020.
- 13 Geoffroy V et al. (2021) *Adapting humanitarian action to the effects of climate change*. London: ALNAP; DG ECHO (2020) *DG ECHO's approach to reducing the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid*; HAG, PIANGO, and GLOW (2022) *Greening the System: A vision for a green humanitarian future*.
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- 26 Workshop 1; Ibid.; Moshtari M et al. (2021) *Procurement in humanitarian organisations: Body of knowledge and practitioner's challenges*. *International Journal of Production Economics*.
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- 28 Brangeon S and Crowley F (2020) *Environmental footprint of humanitarian assistance – Scoping review*, Group URD.
- 29 Humanitarian Logistics Capability (2022) *HLC strategy: Sustainability and greening*.
- 30 Workshop 1
- 31 Salzenstein L and Pedersen K (2021) *What's the aid sector's carbon footprint? The New Humanitarian*.
- 32 Ibid.
- 33 CARE (2023) *Our commitment*.
- 34 The Hierarchy was first published by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) in 2009, updated in 2014 and 2020. It has been commonly adapted and utilised across various sectors. IEMA (2020) *Pathways to Net Zero: Using the IEMA GHG Management Hierarchy*.
- 35 HAG, PIANGO, and GLOW (2022) *Greening the System: A vision for a green humanitarian future*.
- 36 ESCAP (2023) *Making the energy transition a reality in the Pacific*, 23 January 2023.
- 37 Sydney Environment Institute (2022) *Powering a Pacific-led renewable energy transformation*, University of Sydney.
- 38 Ibid.
- 39 Pacific Island Times (2023) *Island nations commit to a fossil-free Pacific and 100% renewables*, 19 March 2023.
- 40 Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (2023) *General Background*.
- 41 CROP partners include the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Pacific Power Association, SPREP, the University of the South Pacific, and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.
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- 46 SPREP (2023) *Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries, Phase II*.
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