Circulating climate services in the 'Pacific Adaptation Complex'

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Author's photo: Flying into Tarawa, April 2010

Author's photo: Mary's Motel, Tarawa August 2013

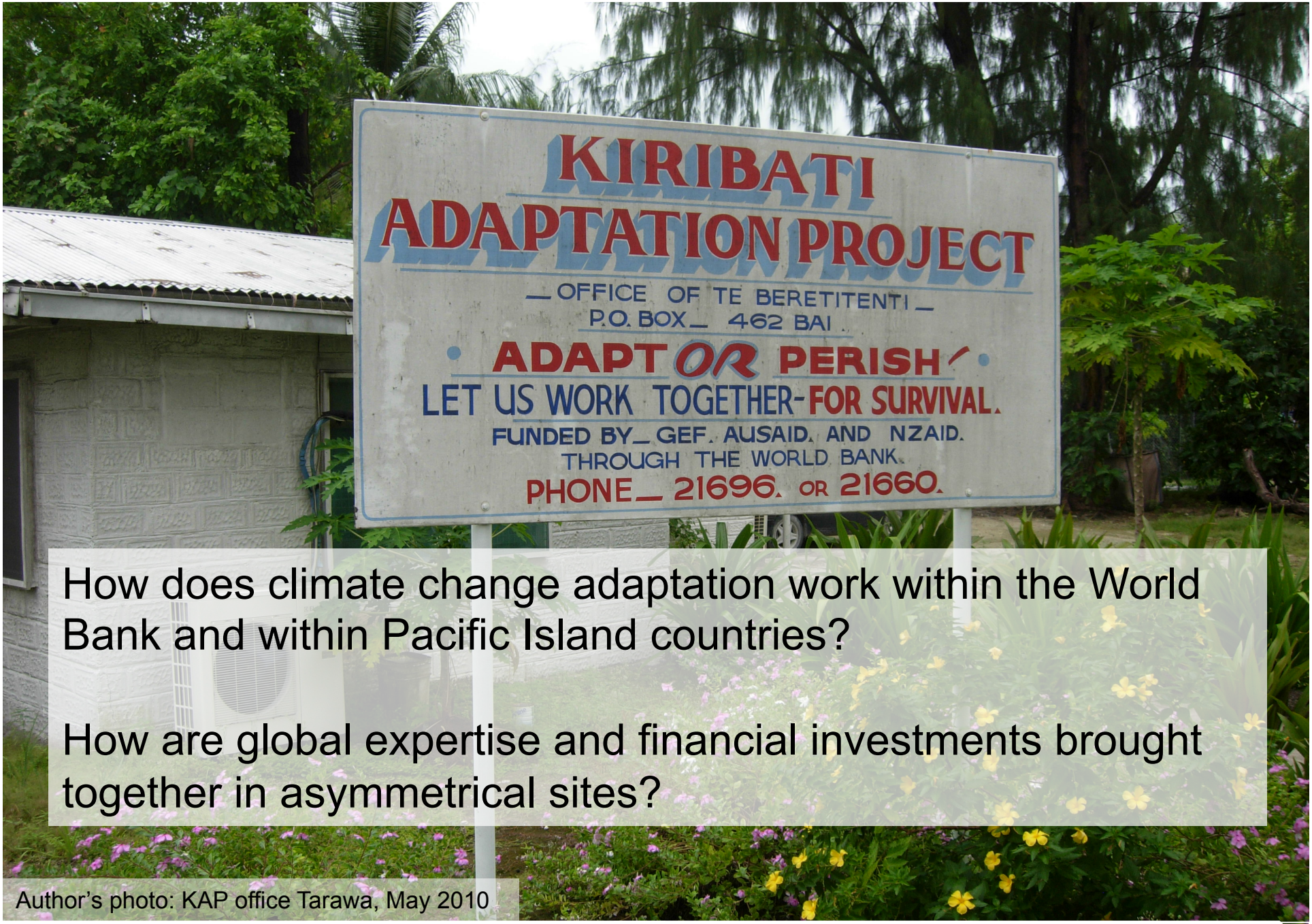
Authors photo: Consultants examining erosion, North Tarawa, May 2010

Donner's photo: Causeway repairs in Tarawa, May 2014

Presentation outline

1. Pacific Adaptation Complex
2. Introduction to consumptive climate science
3. Contradictions in the commercialization of climate science
4. Adaptation futures: What's at stake?

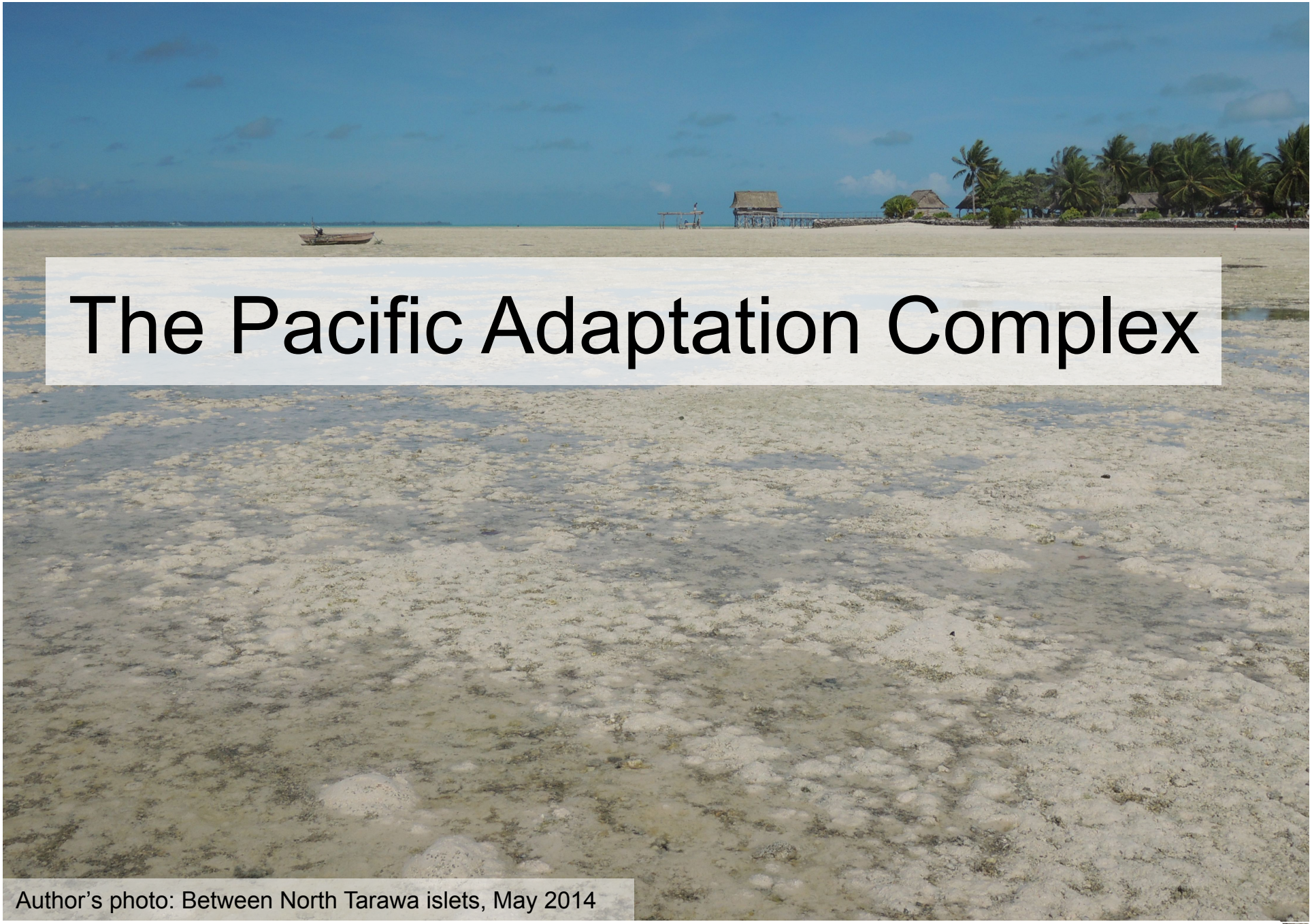
Author's photo: Hills behind Honiara, November 2013



How does climate change adaptation work within the World Bank and within Pacific Island countries?

How are global expertise and financial investments brought together in asymmetrical sites?

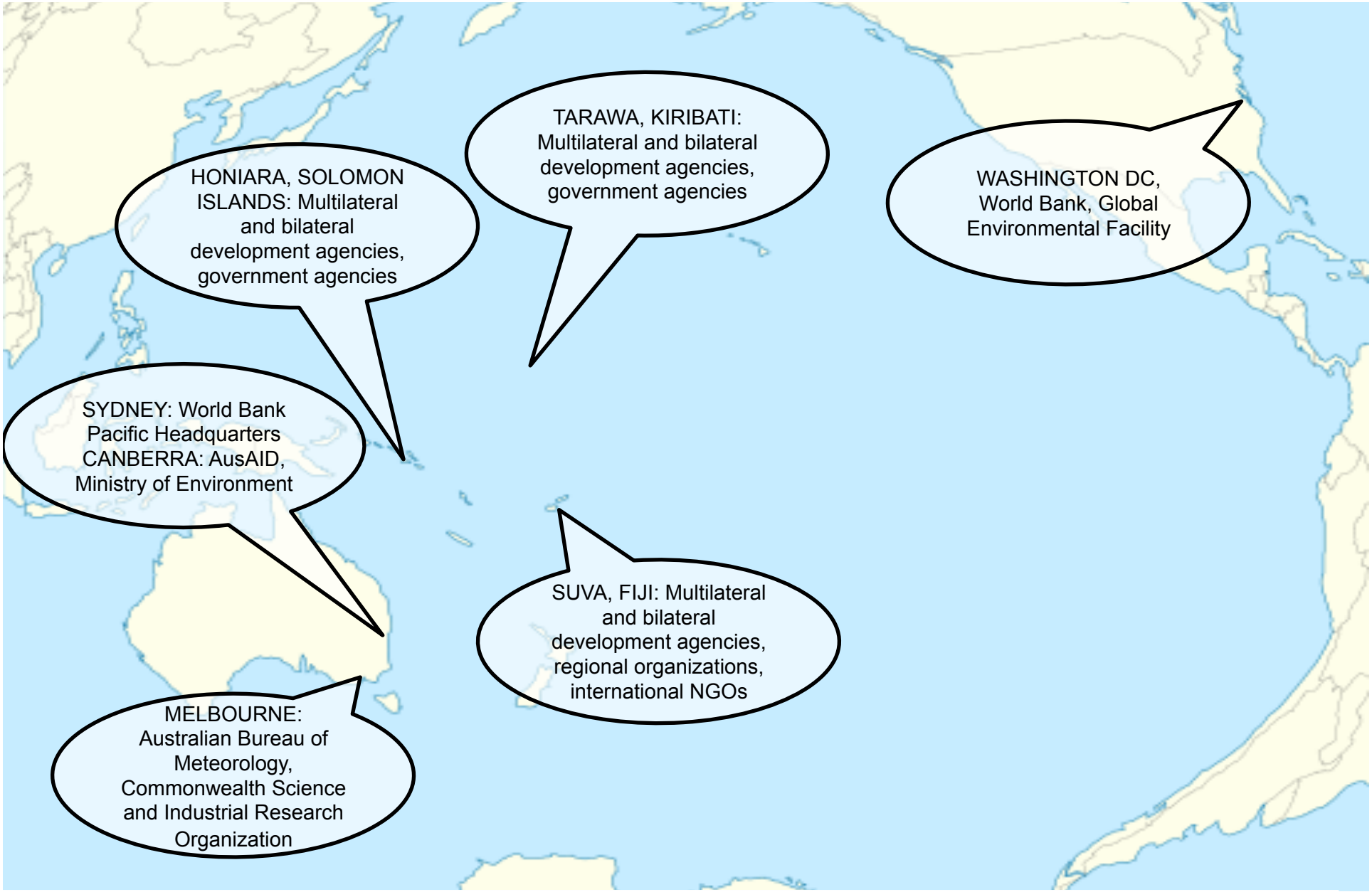
Author's photo: KAP office Tarawa, May 2010



The Pacific Adaptation Complex

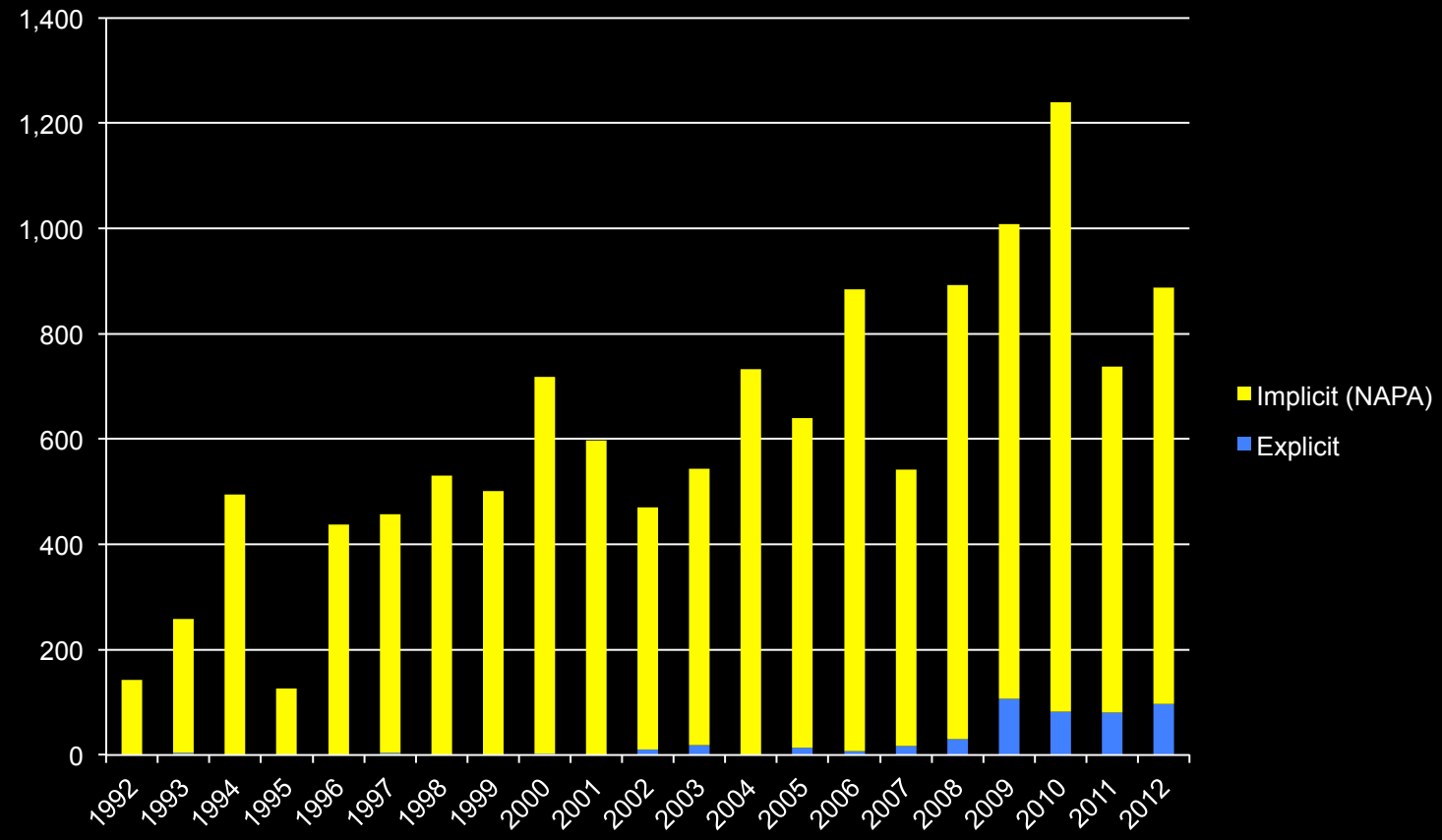
Author's photo: Between North Tarawa islets, May 2014

Circulations in the Pacific Adaptation Complex



Circulations in the Pacific Adaptation Complex

Author's photo: Tarawa causeway, May 2014



Climate change adaptation finance in Oceania, 1992-2012 (USDm)
Note: 2011 constant prices
Source: AidData3.0, classified using assumptions Implicit (NAPA) and Explicit

Research conducted with Simon Donner and Milind Kandlikar

The World Bank, the Kiribati Adaptation Project (KAP), and the Community Resilience to Climate Change and Disaster Risk in Solomon Islands Project (CRISP)

Does climate science help adaptation?

Author's photo: City beach, Honiara November 2013

GFCS GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES

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GFCS provides a worldwide mechanism for coordinated actions to enhance the quality, quantity and application of climate services.

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The Complex | Climate services | Contradictions | Implications

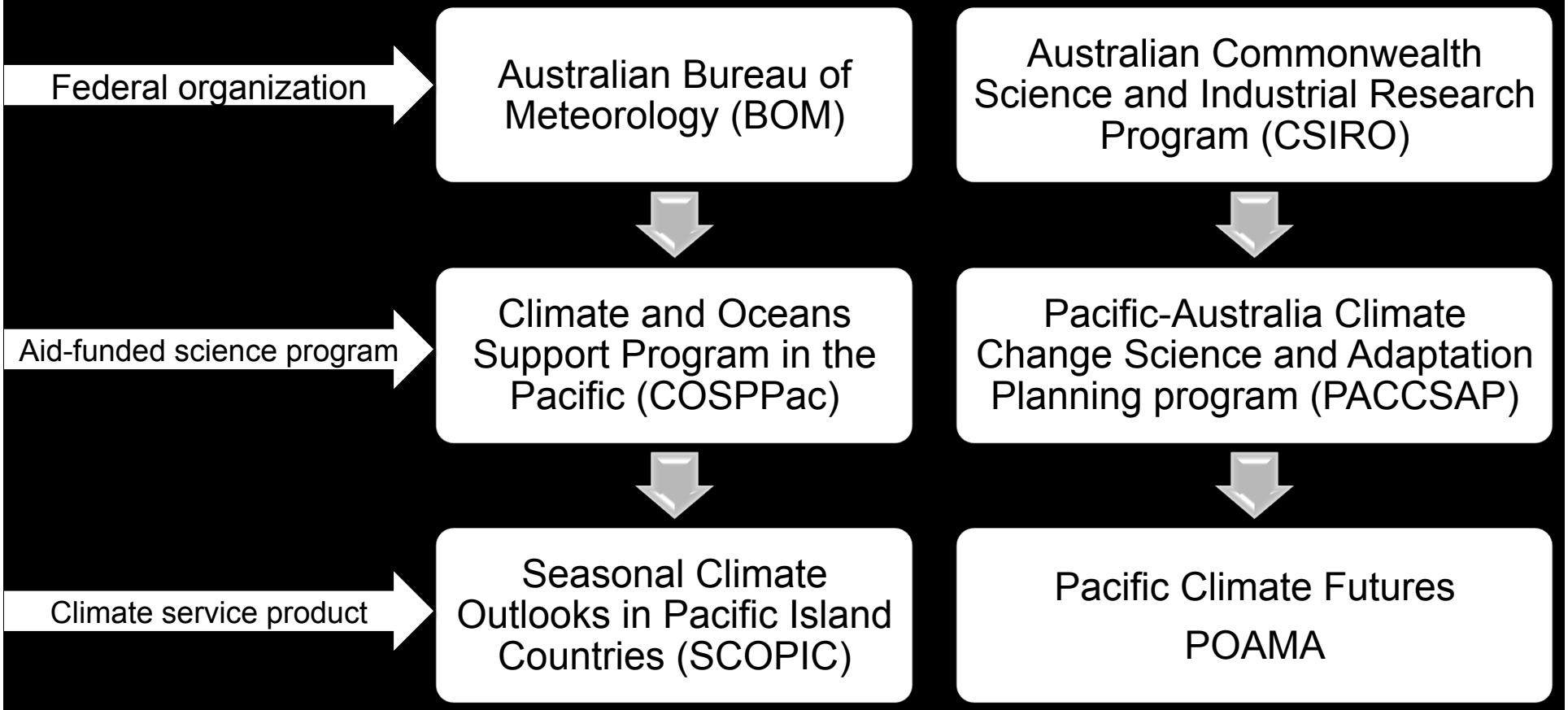

Science
Policy
PERSISTENT GAP!

Climate services:
“climate forecasts like we now have weather forecasts”

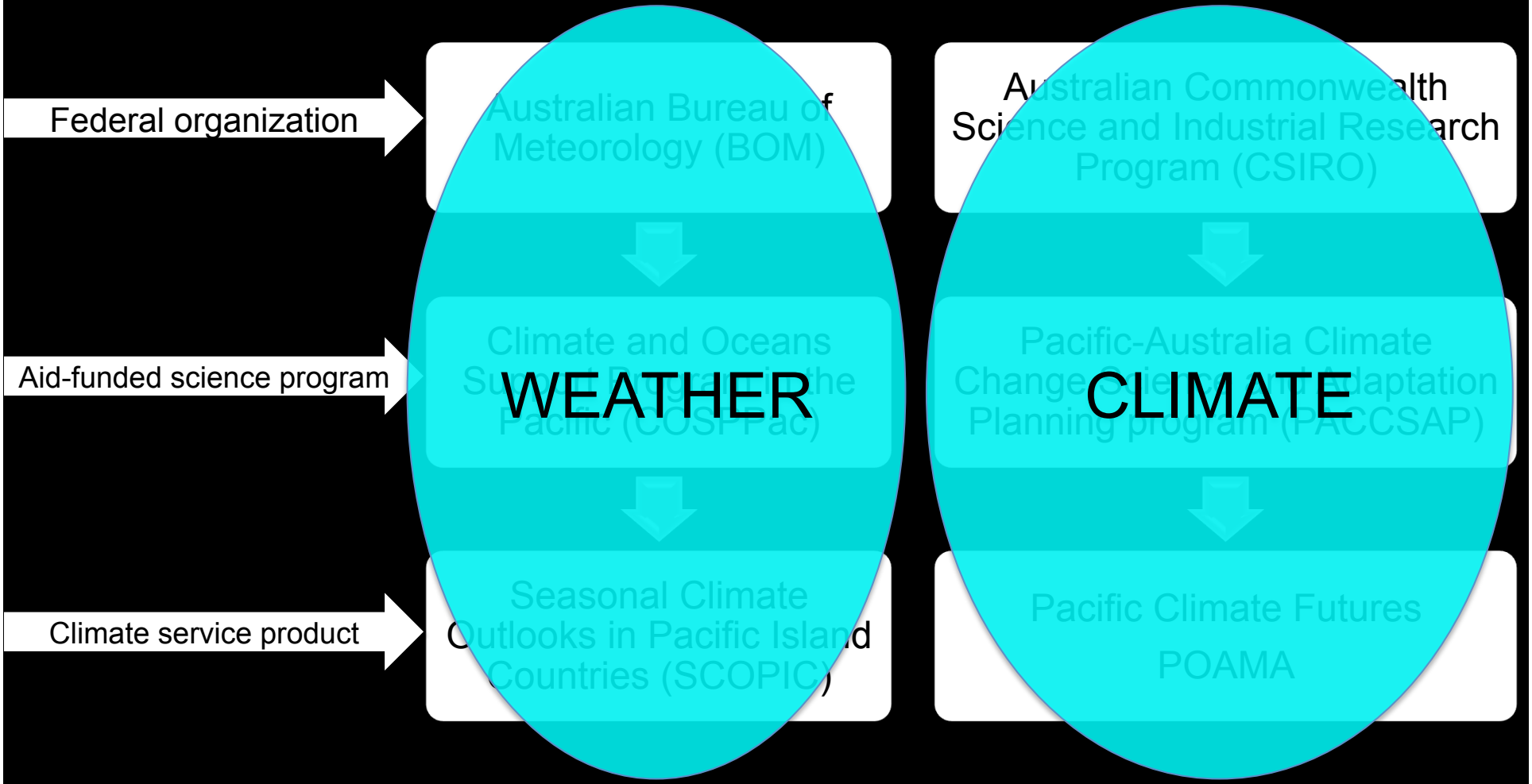
(Brasseur in Heffernan, 2009)

Author’s photo: Ocean beach at low-tide, Tarawa, May

Competing climate service products



Competing climate service products



Australian Government

Pacific climate change Science

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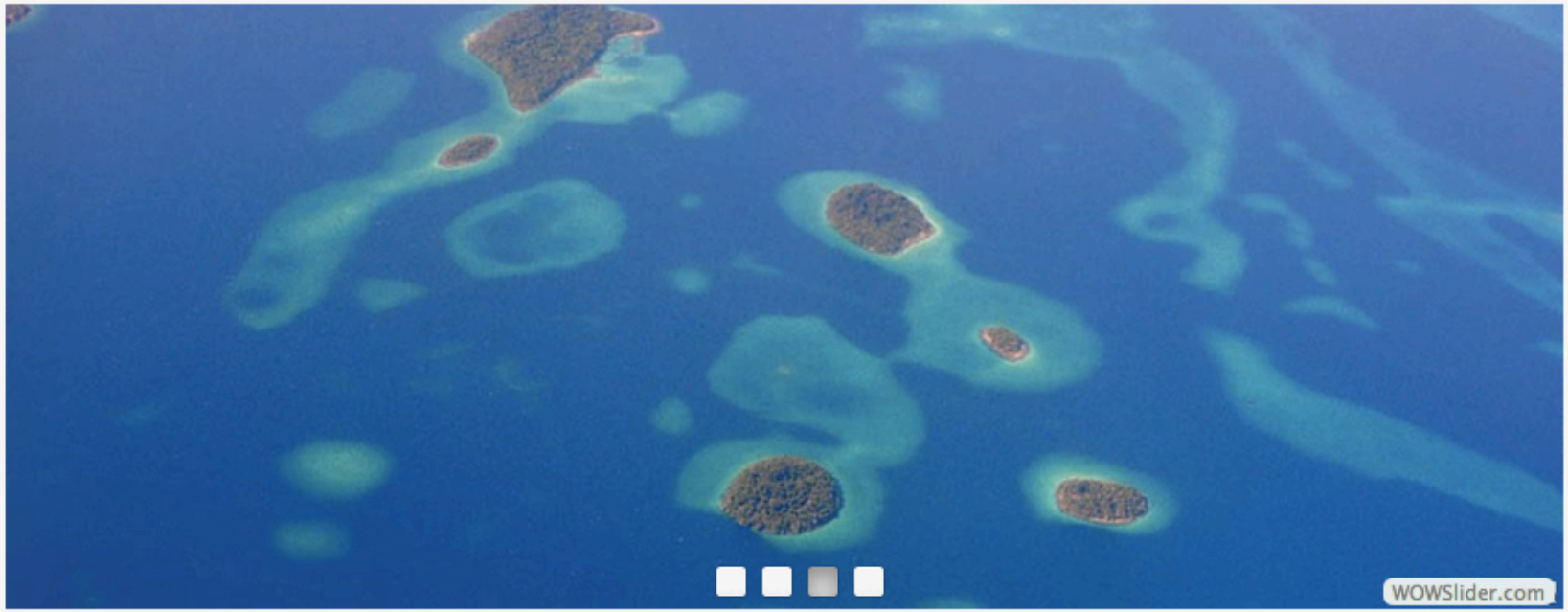


"When I joined the Met Service, that's basically what they do. Collect, file, and then issue the raw data to interested people. But now… we do seasonal predictions. And then… we can also now do long-term projections. … But then, one of the things we are now working on is application of [that] information. And it's pretty hard."

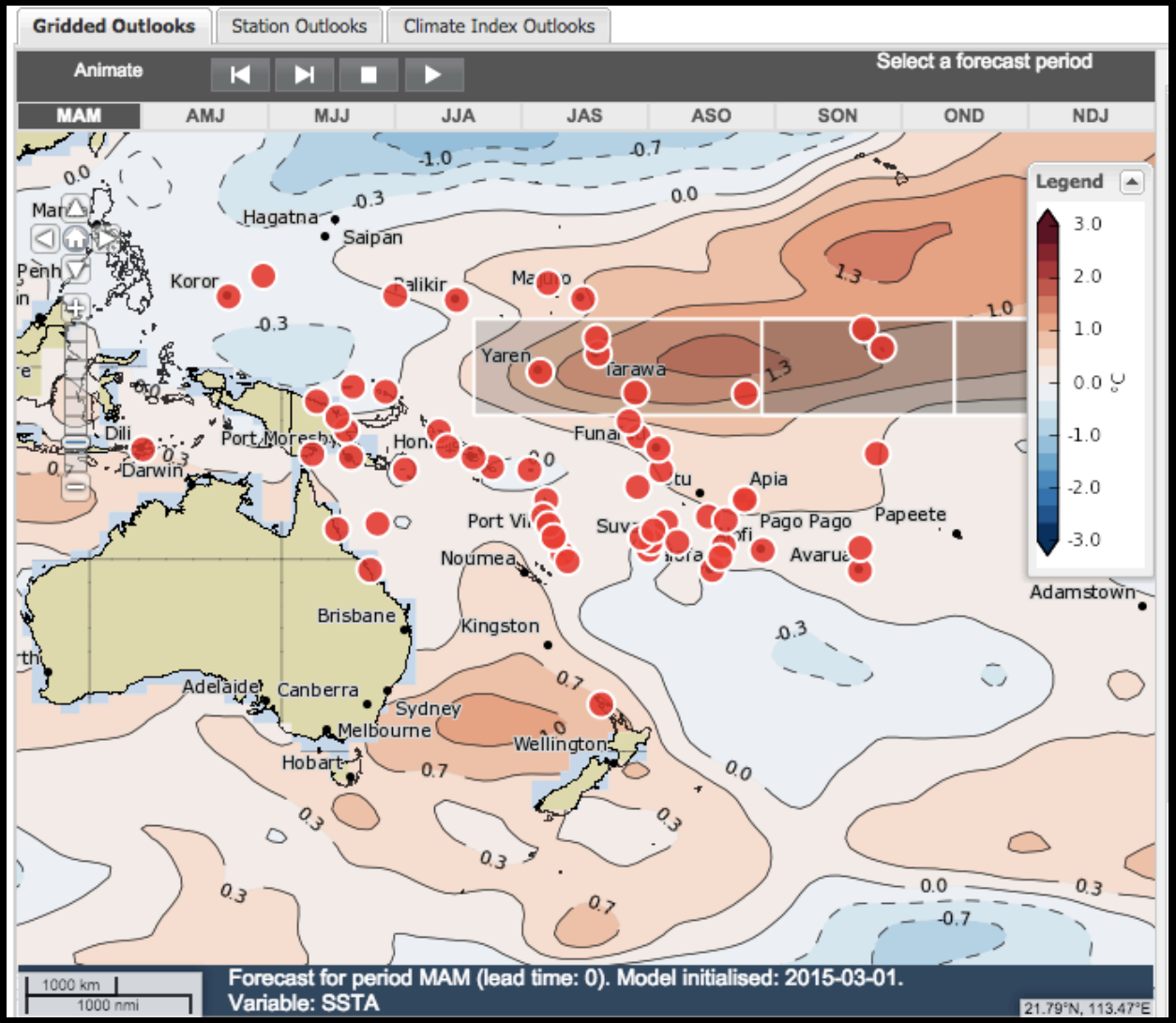
(Solomon Islands Meteorological Services, 16 October 2013, Honiara Solomon Islands)

"Currently there is a lot of focus on trying to understand the science, but there needs to be… translating that into action, concrete projects, rather than just trying to understand the science."

(Officer of Aid Coordination, 21 October 2013, Honiara Solomon Islands)

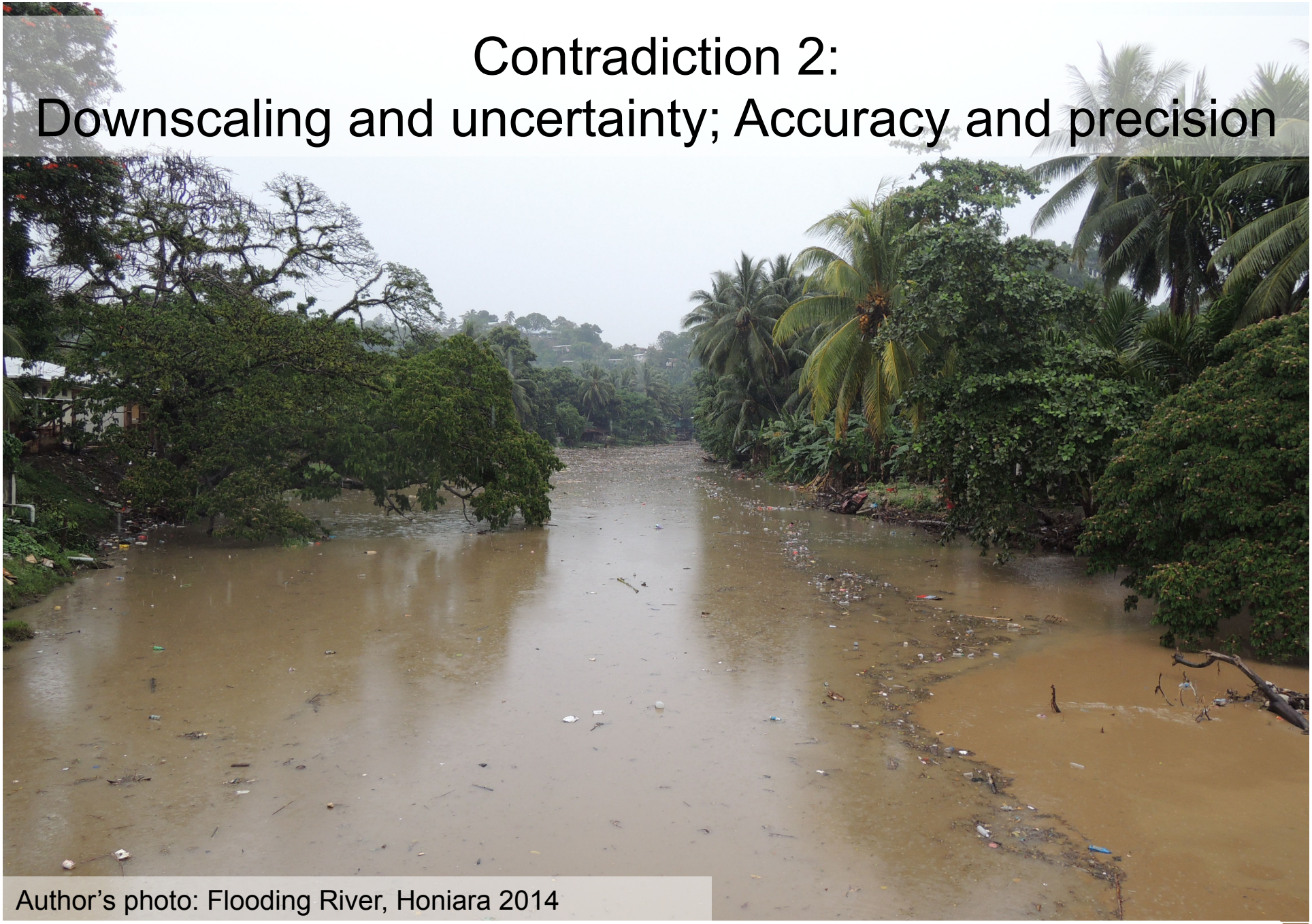
Contradiction 1:
SCOPIC versus POAMA; Relationships versus products

SCOPIC versus POAMA



POAMA prediction of sea surface temperature anomalies for March/April/May
poama.bom.gov.au

Contradiction 2:
Downscaling and uncertainty; Accuracy and precision



Author's photo: Flooding River, Honiara 2014

Contradiction 2: Downscaling and Uncertainty

The TAs role was to bring together engineers and scientists, where previously “never the two shall meet.”

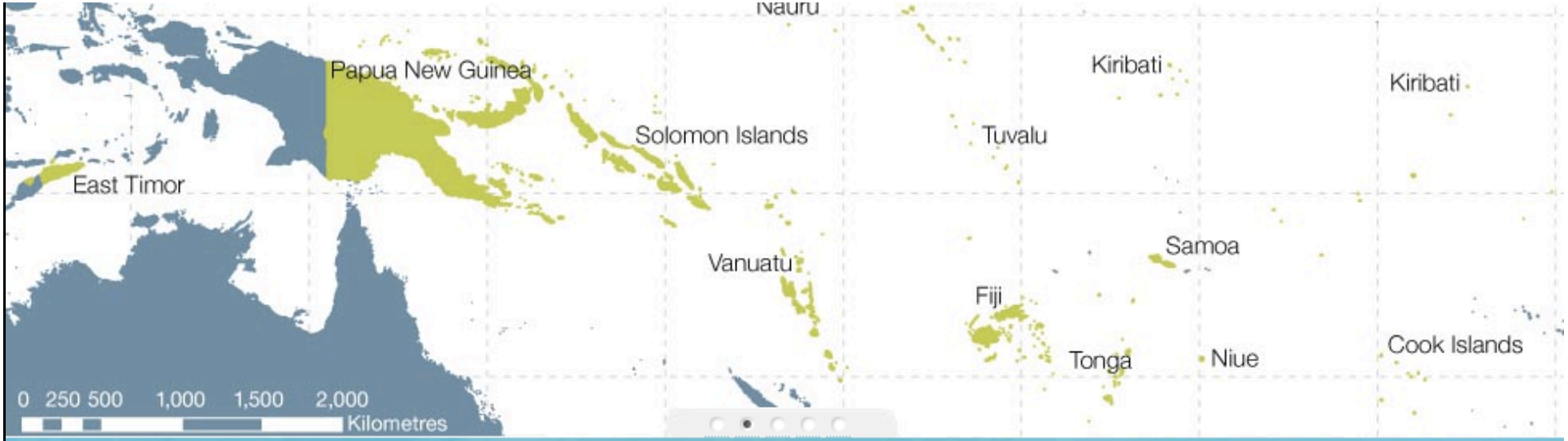
“So what we did was assume that, for the design events for the bridge, we put in an extra 20% of rainfall and assumed a one-to-one catchment response to the rain events”

(Infrastructure specialist, 23 October 2013, Honiara)

Contradiction 2: Downscaling and Uncertainty

"a long email from CSIRO saying, you know this is the software that we use, this is resolution it comes out, and this is the format it comes out as, these are the uncertainties, da da da da da da da da da. Well that's all great, but… I don't care about all that other stuff because that's not going to help an engineer design a bridge."

(Infrastructure specialist, 23 October 2013, Honiara)



"the sort of information that would make us adapt quickly… At the end of the day it [would] have to be [downscaled to] the island level otherwise we will have to be too generalistic in our activities."

(Government of Kiribati Senior Policy Advisor, 6 August 2013, Tarawa)

Contradiction 3:
Climate entrepreneurs and climate futures

Author's photo: Department change, Canberra, September 2013

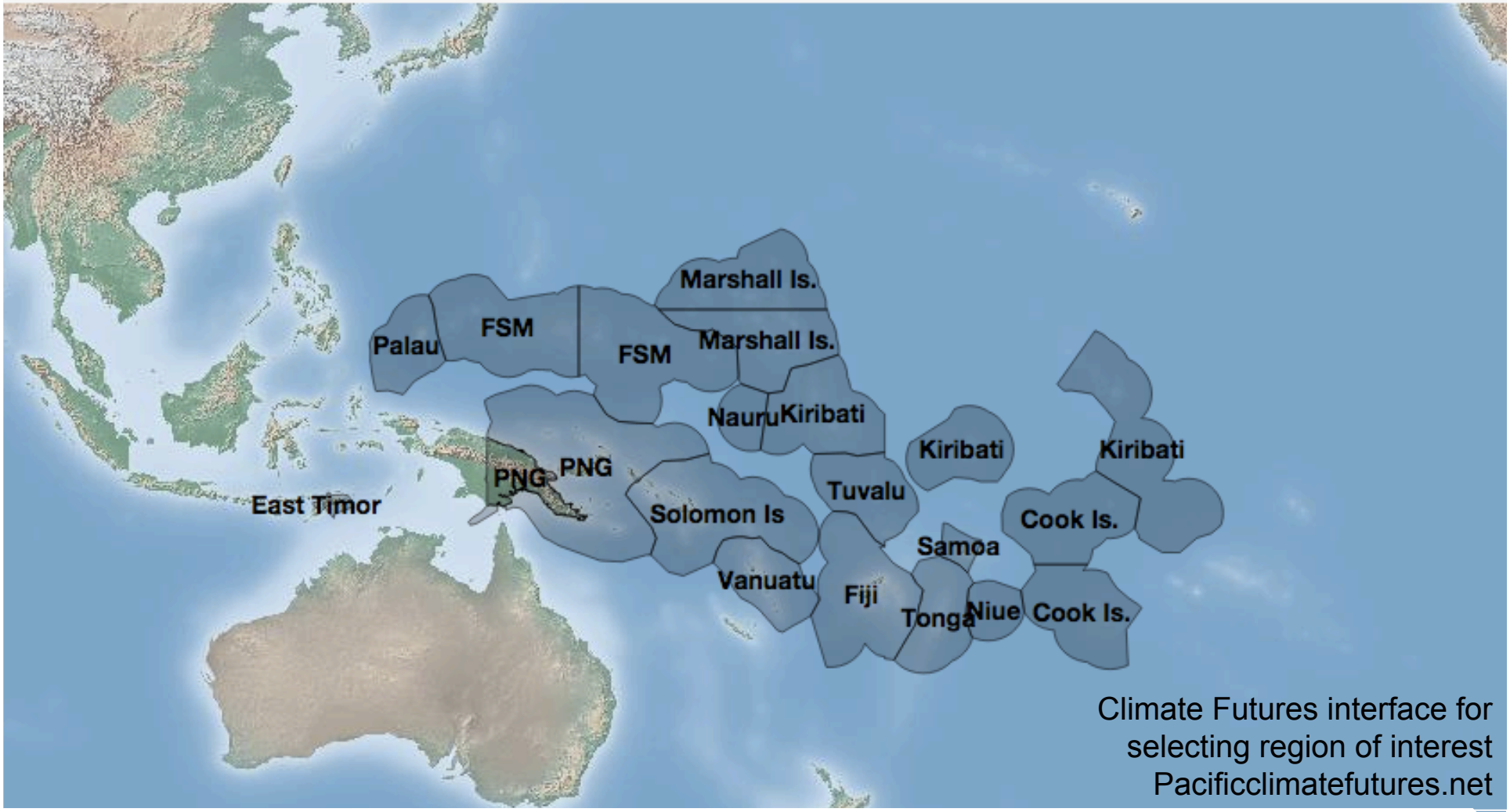
Contradiction 3: Climate entrepreneurs and climate futures

"The current state of Australian politics, and the budgetary things… these organizations like CSIRO and BOM are being flipped on their heads and they have got to bring business development people into CSIRO now, because we can't rely on Federal funding so we're going to have to promote our services. … So I think that brings the competitive thing in."

(PACCSAP, 5 February 2014, Melbourne Australia)

Author's photo: Islet crossing at low tide, Tarawa, Tarawa, August

Contradiction 3: Climate entrepreneurs and climate futures



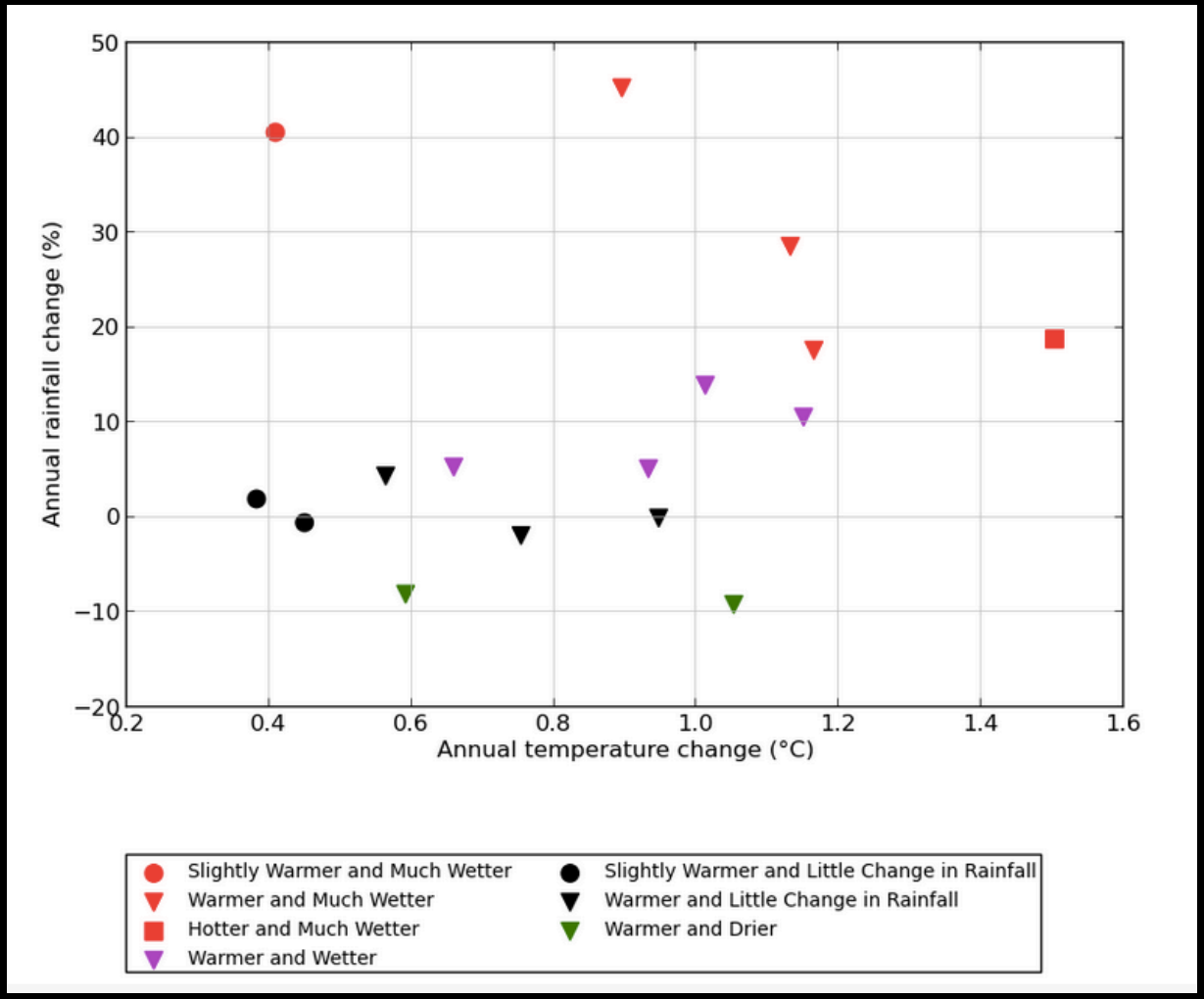
Climate Futures interface for selecting region of interest Pacificclimatefutures.net

Contradiction 3: Climate entrepreneurs and climate futures

"You know the Climate Futures, the tool for the projections, it doesn't have sea level. It's in the report, but it's not in the Climate Futures [tool]. … But there are others, you have heard of the SimClim? … We tried to work with that, because they have sea level within it… But then… It's very expensive… the SimClim is 10,000 USD for one license."

(Solomon Islands Meteorological Services, 16 October 2013, Honiara Solomon Islands)

Contradiction 3: Climate entrepreneurs and climate futures



Summary project changes for Kiribati (Gilbert Islands), A1B Emissions at 2030
Pacificclimatefutures.net

Contradiction 3: Climate entrepreneurs and climate futures

"With the current state of the science, it's not defensible to take the sea level results from individual climate models in that way"

These "processes are not simulated at all well in the models, the ocean – the sea level – scientific community basically say: 'don't ever just take the results from individual models'"

"There's just a limitation in what we can say"

(PACCSAP, 29 January 2014, Melbourne Australia)

Author's photo: Islet crossing at low tide, Tarawa, August 2013

Does climate science help adaptation?

Not often, not easily, and not when commercial interests are priorities.

Author's photo: City beach, Honiara November

Source: Huffington Post

Source: The Guardian

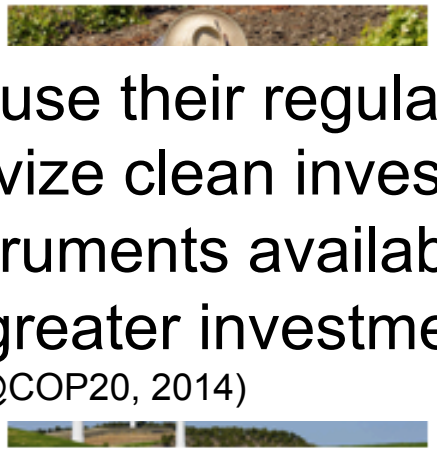
SCREENING TOOLS

Recognize the Risks

Use the tools below to work toward a resilient future. Identify risks to national plans and project investments.

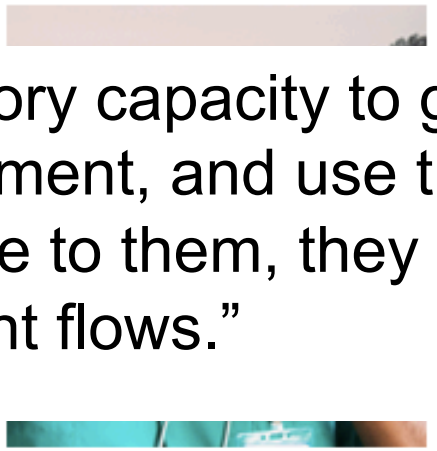
- Select the Right Tool
- Browse the Tools and Sample Reports
- Meeting Climate Change Commitments

National/Policy



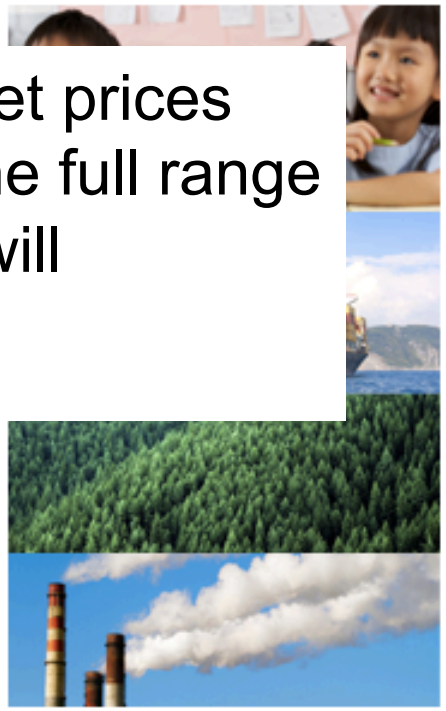
Energy

Roads



Health

Water



General

"If countries use their regulatory capacity to get prices right, incentivize clean investment, and use the full range of policy instruments available to them, they will experience greater investment flows."
(President Jim Kim @COP20, 2014)

http://climatescreeningtools.worldbank.org/

Thank you

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