

Addressing loss and damage in the Pacific

The Pacific is one of the most climate-affected regions in the world, facing stronger storms, rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and longer droughts. These impacts are causing lasting harm to communities, economies, and ecosystems.

Some climate impacts cannot be avoided, making loss and damage a critical priority. Those affected, especially in developing nations, need support to recover, rebuild, and protect their future. This means restoring homes and livelihoods, preserving cultural heritage, and ensuring essential services continue.

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) is helping Pacific countries track, manage, and respond to climate-related losses by strengthening technical support, governance, and access to funding. The Santiago network plays a key role in connecting governments with the expertise and resources needed to reduce and respond to climate impacts

The Santiago network

The [Santiago network](#) was established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to provide technical assistance, access to resources and capacity building.

By linking Pacific governments with specialized organizations, knowledge-sharing platforms, and financing mechanisms, the Santiago network ensures that loss and damage is systematically addressed rather than dealt with in an ad-hoc manner.

- Technical Assistance – Access to experts, risk assessments, and early warning tools to help countries understand and address loss and damage.
- Access to Resources – Support for mobilizing climate finance and integrating strategies into national disaster risk reduction and adaptation policies.
- Capacity Building – Strengthening institutional capacity, governance, and data collection systems to improve responses to climate-related disasters.

UNDRR is working to ensure loss and damage support in the Pacific is aligned with regional and national priorities by integrating technical assistance into existing resilience and development efforts.

How the Santiago network supports the Pacific

As part of the Santiago network, UNDRR is helping Pacific countries better manage climate impacts through technical support and governance. This effort is integrated into existing national plans, ensuring that loss and damage responses are part of broader climate resilience and disaster risk strategies.

- Improving data and tracking – Helping countries collect better information on the damage caused by disasters and slow changes like rising sea levels. This data will guide decisions on policy, funding, and how to prepare for future risks.
- Providing technical support – Connecting Pacific governments with experts who can help them understand risks, improve planning, and strengthen their ability to respond to disasters.
- Expanding access to climate finance – Supporting Pacific countries in securing funding from global sources to help communities recover from climate impacts and prepare for the future.
- Supporting regional leadership – The Santiago network is working alongside the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Pacific Community (SPC) to align technical assistance with regional priorities, ensuring that Pacific-led initiatives receive the necessary support to scale up their impact.
- Strengthening risk governance – The Santiago network helps Pacific countries integrate loss and damage into national climate policies and disaster risk management frameworks, ensuring a cohesive approach to disaster risk reduction, adaptation, and sustainable development.
- Support community-led solutions – Helping local governments and organizations create their own strategies to deal with the impacts of climate change in ways that work best for them.
- Integrating loss and damage in national plans – Working with governments to ensure that responding to climate impacts is part of their long-term planning.

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