

What is “Climate Security” in the Context of Human Mobility in the Pacific?

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Brainstorming: Why do we use “Climate Security” ?

1 Attract Political Attention to Climate Actions

- “Securitization” of climate change

2 Involve Security-related Sectors into Climate Actions

- e.g. Peacekeeping, peacebuilding, humanitarian, military sectors

3 Understand Climate Impacts More Comprehensively

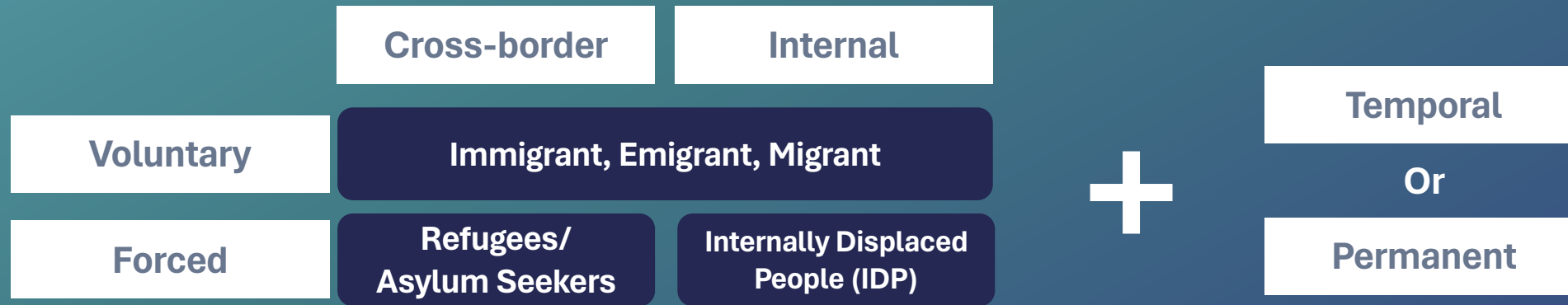
List goes on...

By 2050, **216** million people could move
within their countries due to climate change

- World Bank Groundswell report (2021) -

Scope of Climate Mobility

Classification of Human Mobility

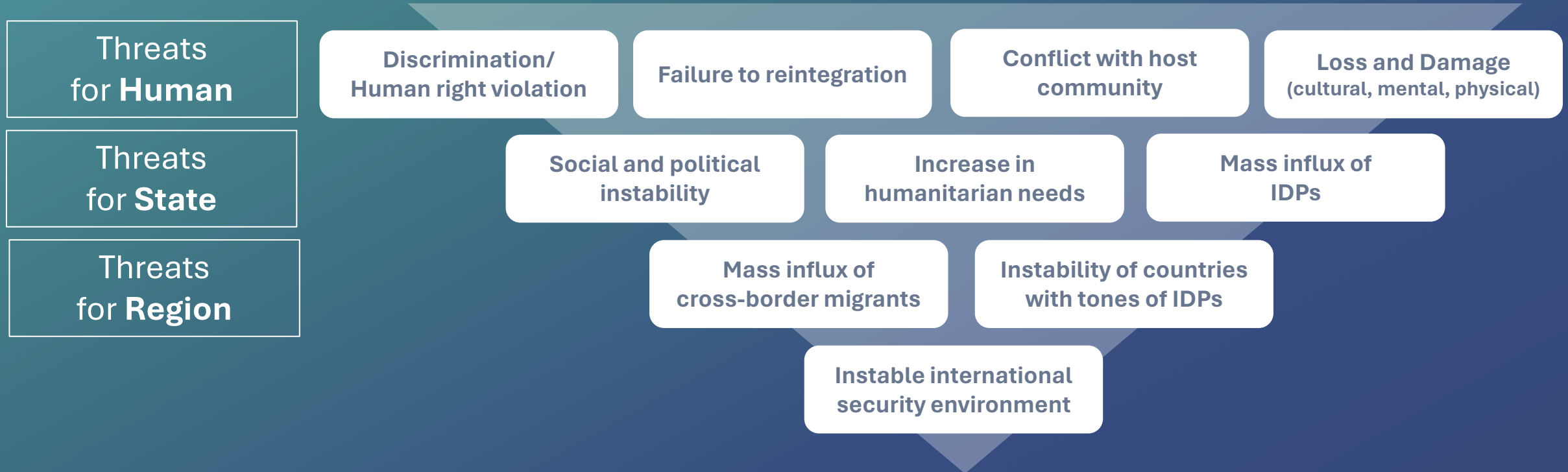


Types of Climate Impacts

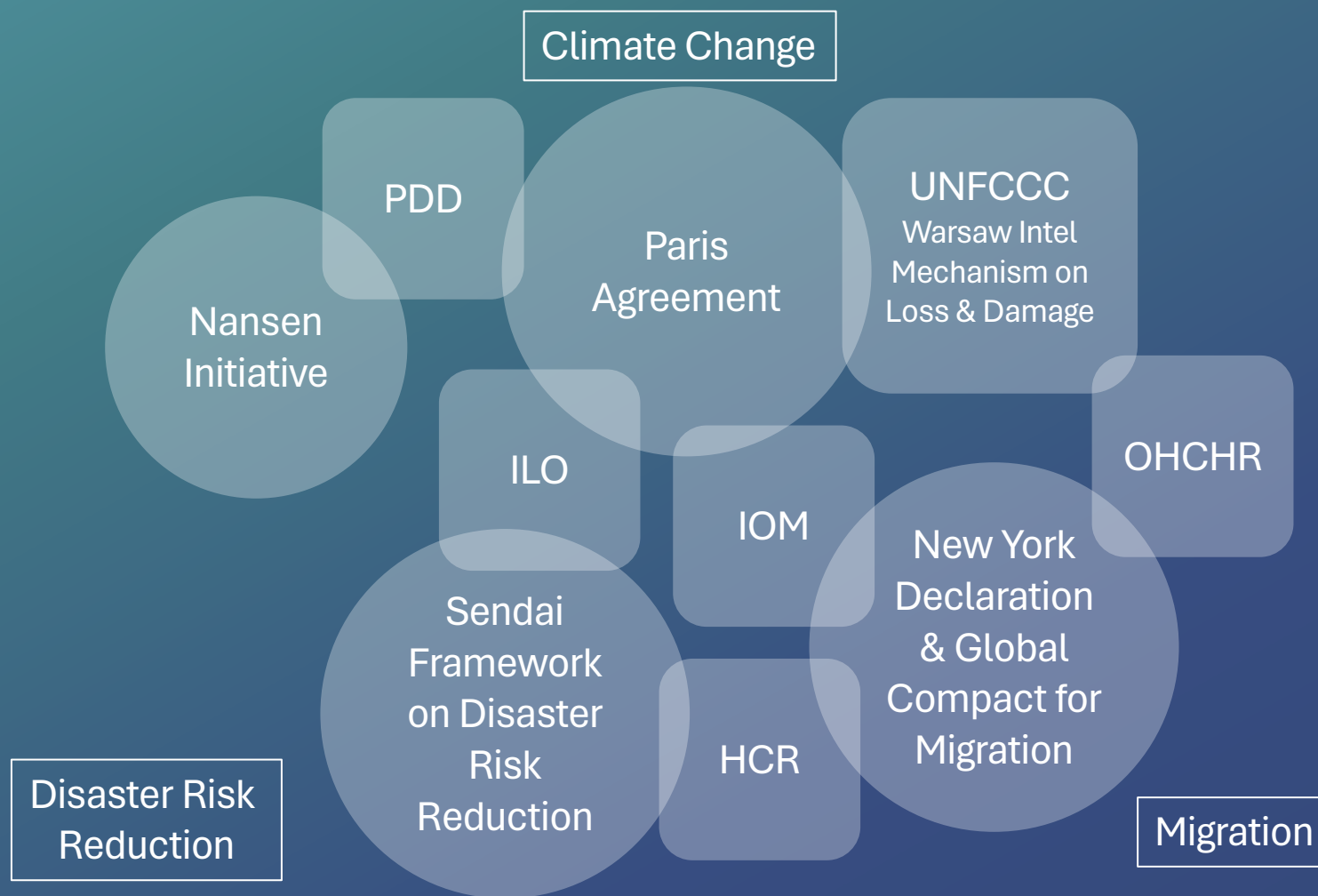


- Human mobility induced by sudden-onset events is hardly distinguishable from traditional forced migration.
- Slow-onset events may induce voluntary migration, but will likely to make it involuntary in the future.

Why Is “Climate Mobility” Seen A Security Threat



Relevant Global Framework and Actors on Climate Mobility





Climate Mobility and Pacific Islands

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*... climate change remains the single
greatest threat to the livelihoods,
security and wellbeing of the peoples
of the Pacific*

- Boe Declaration on Regional Security(2018)

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Contextualizing Climate Mobility in the Pacific

- **Institutional and Social Fragility**
6 countries are in World Bank's list of fragile country: Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands(RMI), Micronesia (FSM), Tuvalu
- **Prone to Sea-level Rise**
particularly for atoll countries such as Kiribati, RMI, Tuvalu
- **Historical Experience of Migration**
People are migrating for better life, jobs, education...
(ref. MIRAB economic model)

Special diplomatic relationship with neighbors

-Compacts of Free Association (COFA)

allows citizen of Marshall Island, Micronesia and Palau to live and work in the U.S. without a visa

-Pacific Access Category (PAC) of New Zealand

-Pacific Engagement visa (PEV) of Australia

provide special resident visa to selected citizens of Pacific Islands countries with partnership

- Australia-Tuvalu Climate and Migration Agreement

provide 280 Tuvaluans permanent residency in Australia each year.



Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility (2023)

Migration

1. Strengthen communities, national, regional and bilateral collaboration
2. Coordinate support for cross-border migrants

Planned Relocation

1. Strengthen regional collaboration on cross-border
2. Develop regional planned relocation guidelines
3. Strengthen regional mechanisms on lessons learned

Displacement

1. Strengthen regional collaboration on evacuations
2. Facilitate the evacuation and return
3. Strengthen regional collaboration for people at risk
4. Collaborate to identify risky areas and people
5. Develop regional capacity-building program

How to Achieve Climate Security on Migration in the Pacific?

Context

- ✓ People already migrating
- ✓ Potential future influx due to sea-level rise
- ✓ Social-fragility exacerbate risks of instable relocation

Adaptation
Solutions
(=Prevention of
Forced
Displacement)

Cross-border Migration with Dignity

- Human Right Protection and Legal Support
- Successful Integration to Host Societies
- Maintenance of Cultural Identity etc.



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Well-designed Planned Relocation

- Smooth and Effective Relocation
- Livelihood Rehabilitation
- Water, Energy & Food Security of Relocated Community etc.



© Guardian

Displacement Risk Reduction

- Disaster Risk Reduction etc.



© The Washington Post

“Migration should be a choice, not a necessity”

- The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrant, 2016

Case Study in Relocated Community in Fiji

- IGES Human Mobility team of the APCS, in collaboration with Dr. Priyatma Singh (University of Fiji), focuses on the **processes of planned relocation**, aiming to investigate **factors of stability and instability** in relocated communities after settlement as well as the **roles of the planned relocation guideline** in stabilizing life after relocation.
- We will conduct a comprehensive follow-up study on the relocation of Vunidogoloa village in Fiji, nearly a decade after its initial resettlement.
(March 2024- March 2026)



Summary and Ways Forward

- Defining the issue would be the first step rather than being overwhelmed by massive estimated number of “Climate Refugees”
 - What climate mobility is a security threat for Japan, and how to deal with it?”
- Pacific leaders present climate change in terms of security for pushing forward their political agenda and climate mobility is one of their focuses.
- Climate change can be a part of motivation for Pacific islanders to migrate across border and, present actions by the international community should not be undervalued.
- Let’s think about adaptation solutions given forced displacement is the worst scenario.

Thank you for your attention

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