

# Informal Settlements in the Greater Suva Area

Moving to dangerous places!!??

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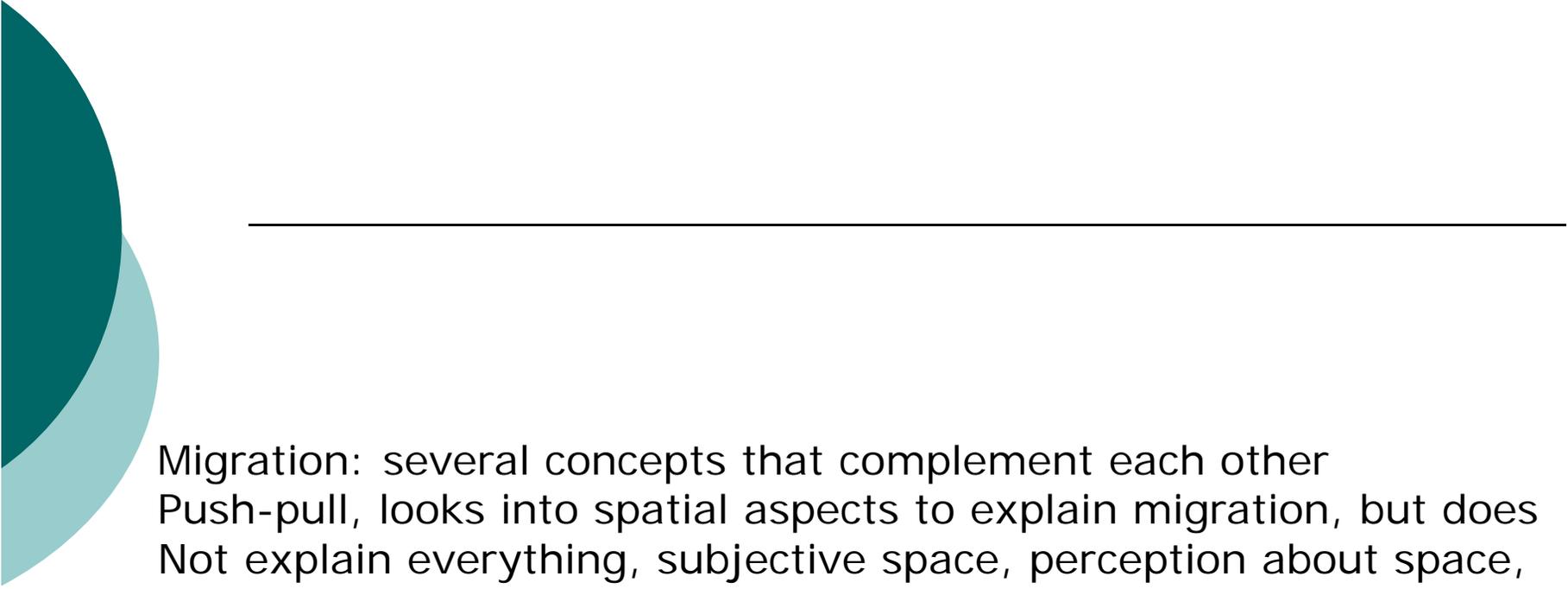
Purpose:

To highlight the need to do more urban studies on the connection between development, environmental and climate change

To reflect on the causation of migration

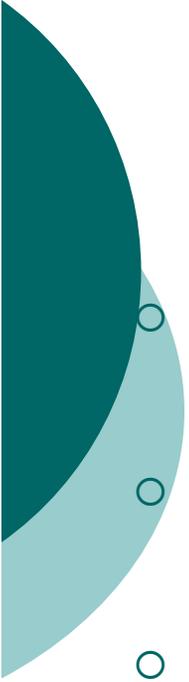
To reflect in particular on the causation of environmentally induced Migration

To reflect on risk and security



Migration: several concepts that complement each other  
Push-pull, looks into spatial aspects to explain migration, but does  
Not explain everything, subjective space, perception about space,  
also in other locations  
Actor-based perspectives, includes also aspects why some who wish to  
move are not able to do so (opportunities and constraints)  
Includes a new perspective on aspects of risk and security, which was  
Already in some climate change migration perspectives, but now is  
Turned around by 180 degrees.

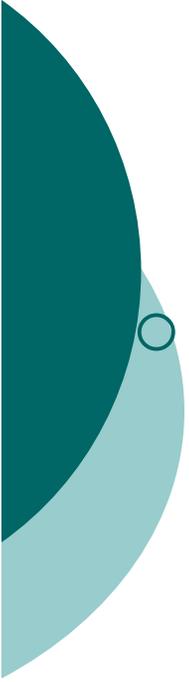
Differentiate: transspatial or is it better to say: multispatial households  
translocal



# Thoughts to begin with The challenges.....

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- Urban perspectives on environmental and climate change have been chronically neglected in the Pacific Islands
- After TC Winston (2016) urban threats arising from natural hazards have alerted many
- In its election manifesto of 2014 the ruling party in Fiji has announced of improving the situation of the urban poor
- A big number of households from informal settlements are to be resettled in the not so far future. Innovative ideas of how this can look like should be in great demand.
- Still it is unclear why people move to environmentally unsafe, at times very dangerous place.



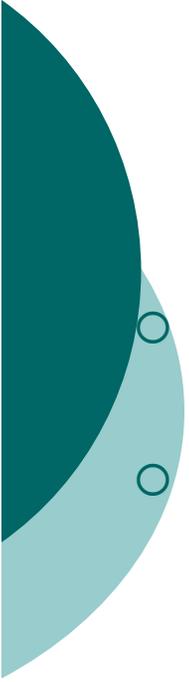
# Some concepts to explain migration

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- **Push-pull considerations** measure qualities at particular places and explain migration as the differences of these qualities (incl. economic models such as Harris–Todaro model)
- **Actor-based considerations** look at actors' opportunities and constraints (enabling and disabling factors to realise migration)
- Both overlap and to some extent complement each other, but neither explains why people might move to places that have inferior environmental qualities and often are downright dangerous to live in.



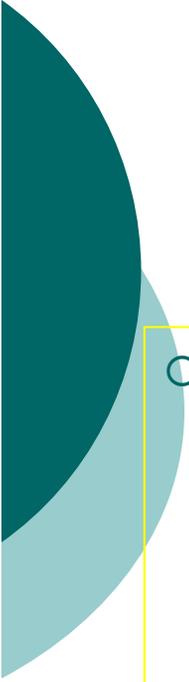
Source: E. Weber



# Urbanization in the Pacific

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- Towns and cities - are small by world standards
- Post independence modernization optimism has led to urban drift causing many social, ecological, economic, cultural, and planning challenges
- Infrastructure and services become stretched to their limits
- Major problems – squatter settlements, health and hygiene problems (incl. problems of waste management); water related challenges play a central role
- Political will - clouded by economic rationalism and individualism



# Urban Development Challenges

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- “Urbanization is a positive aspect of development, which cannot be stopped. Any attempt to slow it down artificially will also slow down the development of the country”

Chandra (1998)

- “In the Pacific island region, the progress towards achieving the global Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target 7D [...] is fraught with many challenges. **Out of all the MDG targets, minimal support has been provided to improving the quality of life of residents living in squatter and informal settlements in Pacific towns and cities**”

Jones (2012)



## **Major challenges in Pacific urban areas**

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- Development - restricted by sea and mountains
- Land reclamation - reached the limit and beyond
- Critical environmental, ecological, and economic risks - cyclones, earthquakes, tsunami, volcano, landslides, and the additional challenge of climate change

# Levuka – Fiji's first Capital



<https://levuka.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/etching-of-levuka-the-graphic-oct-31-1987.jpg>

# Suva CBD

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Source: [http://www.experiencesuva.com/wp-content/gallery/sliders\\_a/biking.jpg](http://www.experiencesuva.com/wp-content/gallery/sliders_a/biking.jpg)

## Urban Slum Population at Mid-Year by Asia-Pacific Region (thousands), 2007-2012

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Major region or area	2007	2010	2012	Percent change (2007-2012)
East Asia	202,809	197,529	206,515	1.8%
South Asia	192,325	190,647	200,510	4.3%
South East Asia	73,744	76,540	70,945	-3.8%
West Asia	32,470	34,112	35,704	10.0%
Pacific	520	552	575	10.6%

Source: UN-Habitat. 2012. *State of the World's Cities Report 2012/2013: Prosperity of Cities*. Nairobi: UN-Habitat.

Source: UN-HABITAT / UNDP (2012) *Addressing Urban Poverty, Inequality, and Vulnerability in a Warming World, Asia-Pacific Issue Brief Series on Urbanization and Climate Change No. 1*, p. 3)



Country and Capital City	Population of Main City 2013	Estimated Settlement Population	Annual City Population Growth Rate	Annual Settlement Population Growth Rate	Settlements as % of City Population 2013	Settlements as % of City Population 2023
Honiara, Solomon Islands	64,600	22,600	3%	6- 26%	35%	64%
Suva, Fiji (Greater Suva Area)	244,000	50,000	2%	8%	20%	31%
Port Vila, Vanuatu	44,000	15,400	4%	3- 12%	35%	43%
Port Moresby, PNG	500,000 to 700,000	225,000 to 315,000	2%	5- 8%	45%	56%

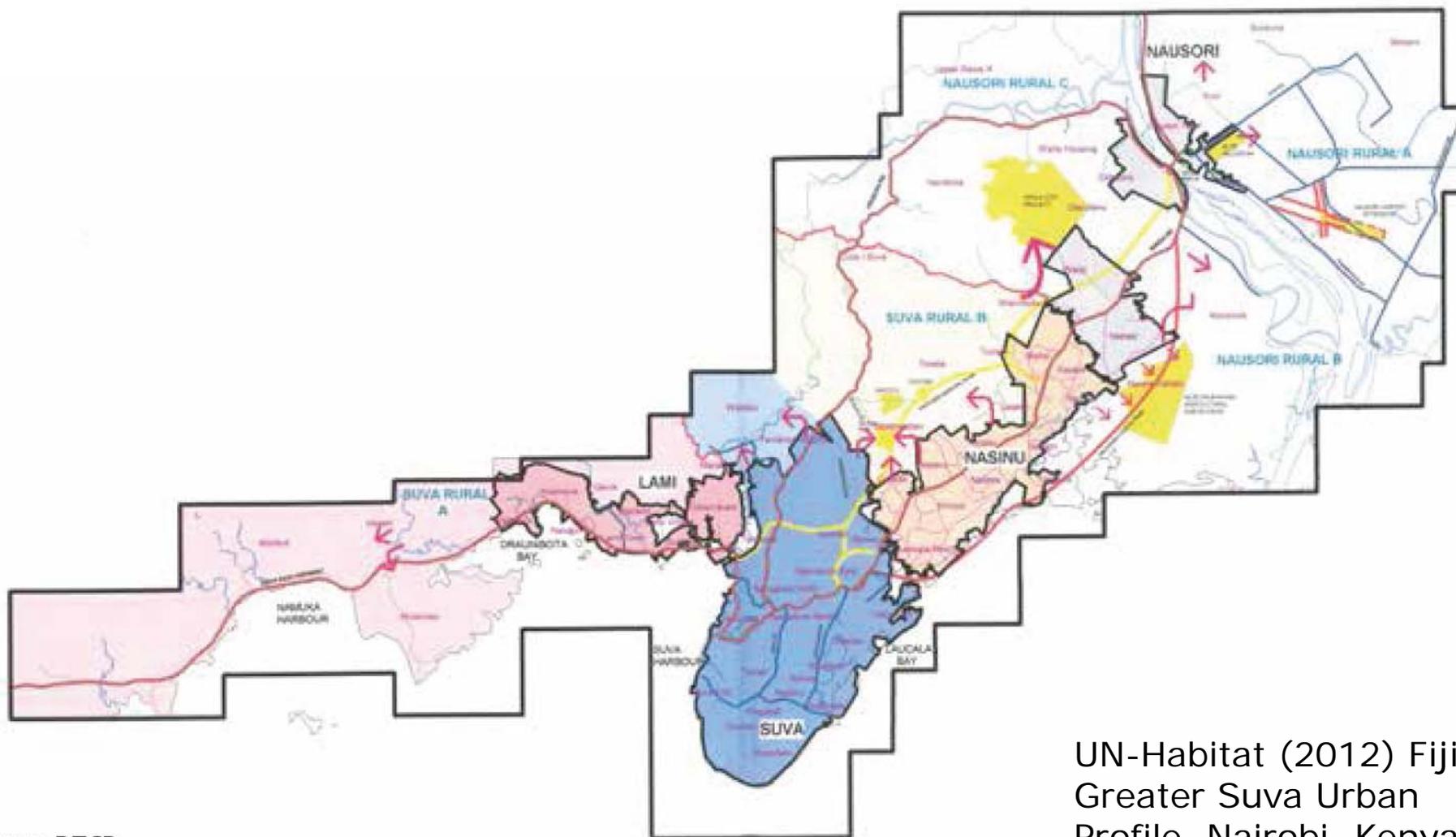
Paul Jones and David Sanderson (2017). Urban resilience: Informal and squatter settlements in the Pacific Region, DEVELOPMENT BULLETIN No.78, 11-15.

## Percentage urban in 2014 and projected annual average rate of change of urban population in selected PICs from 2010–2015

Region	Percentage Urban (2014)	Average Annual % Rate of Change of the Urban Population (Projection 2010–2015)
World	54	2.05
Melanesia	19	2.14
Micronesia	67	1.09
Polynesia	43	0.55
Fiji	54	1.45
Papua New Guinea	13	2.12
Solomon Islands	22	4.25
Vanuatu	26	3.42

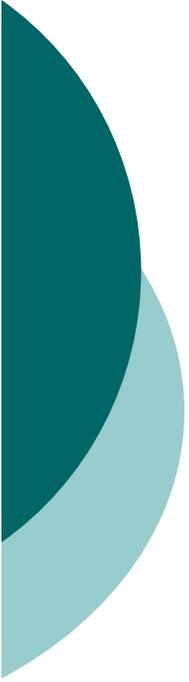
Gabriel Luke Kiddle, Darryn McEvoy, David Mitchell, Paul Jones and Sarah Mecartney (2017). Unpacking the Pacific Urban Agenda: Resilience Challenges and Opportunities. *Sustainability* 9(10),1878; 2  
doi:10.3390/su9101878

# Greater Suva Urban Area (Lami-Suva-Nasinu-Nausori corridor)



Source: DTCP

UN-Habitat (2012) Fiji:  
Greater Suva Urban  
Profile, Nairobi, Kenya

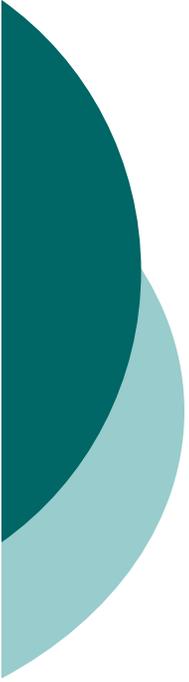


## Population growth in Greater Suva Urban Area (GSUA)

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL	2011	2016	2021
Suva City	75,980	77,900	79,470
Lami Town	11,060	11,450	11,860
Nasinu Town	82,980	90,720	98,210
Nausori Town	26,970	29,200	31,610
<b>Total GSUA</b>	<b>196,990</b>	<b>209,270</b>	<b>221,150</b>

**GSUA population projection.**

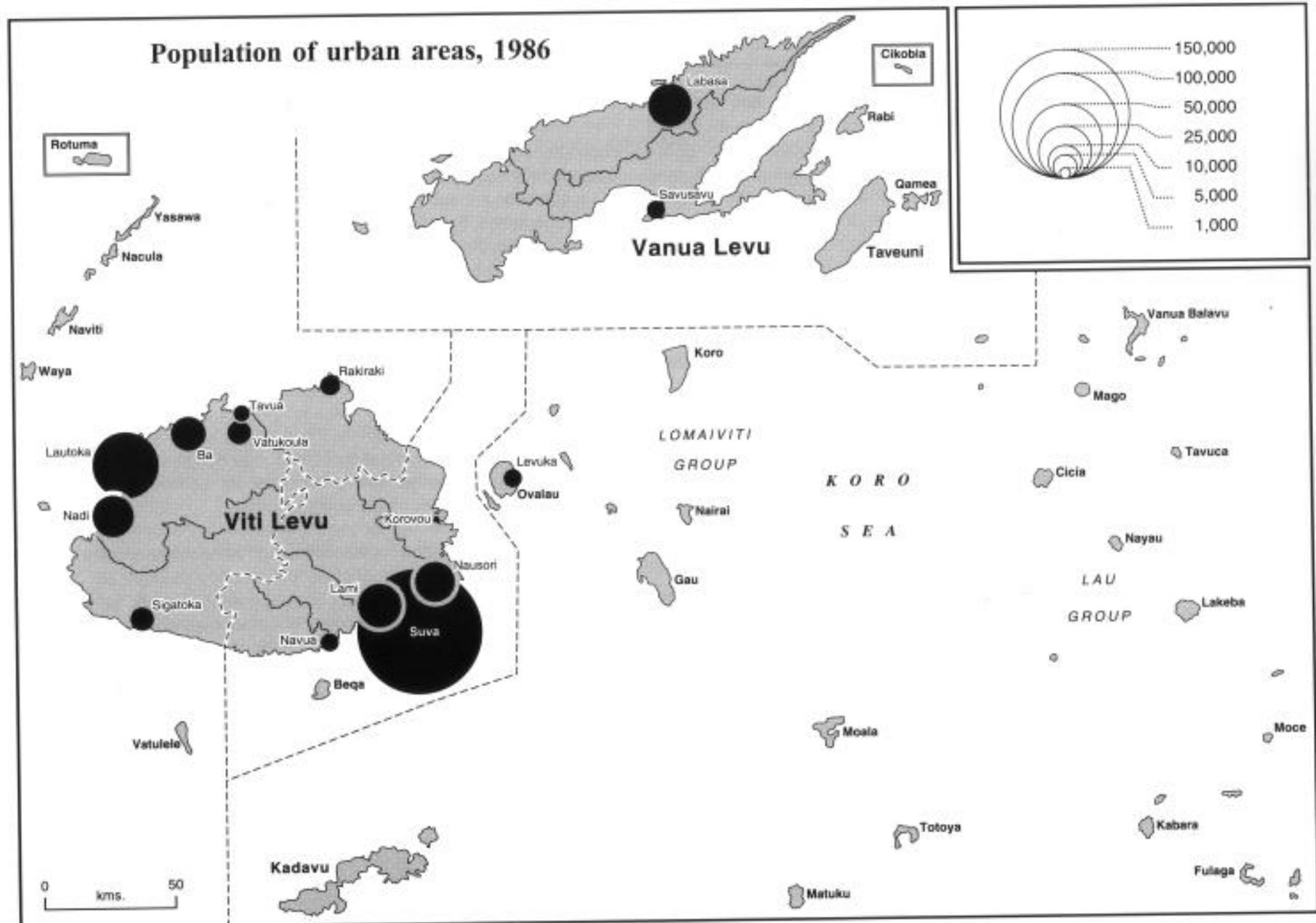
**Source: DTCP**



## Urbanization in Fiji

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- 1911: 4% urban
- 1986: 40% urban
- 2003: 50%+ urban
  
- 2012: 60,000+ people, or 7% of Fiji's population live in informal settlements (15% of Fiji's urban population) (National Housing Policy)



An Atlas of Fiji 80

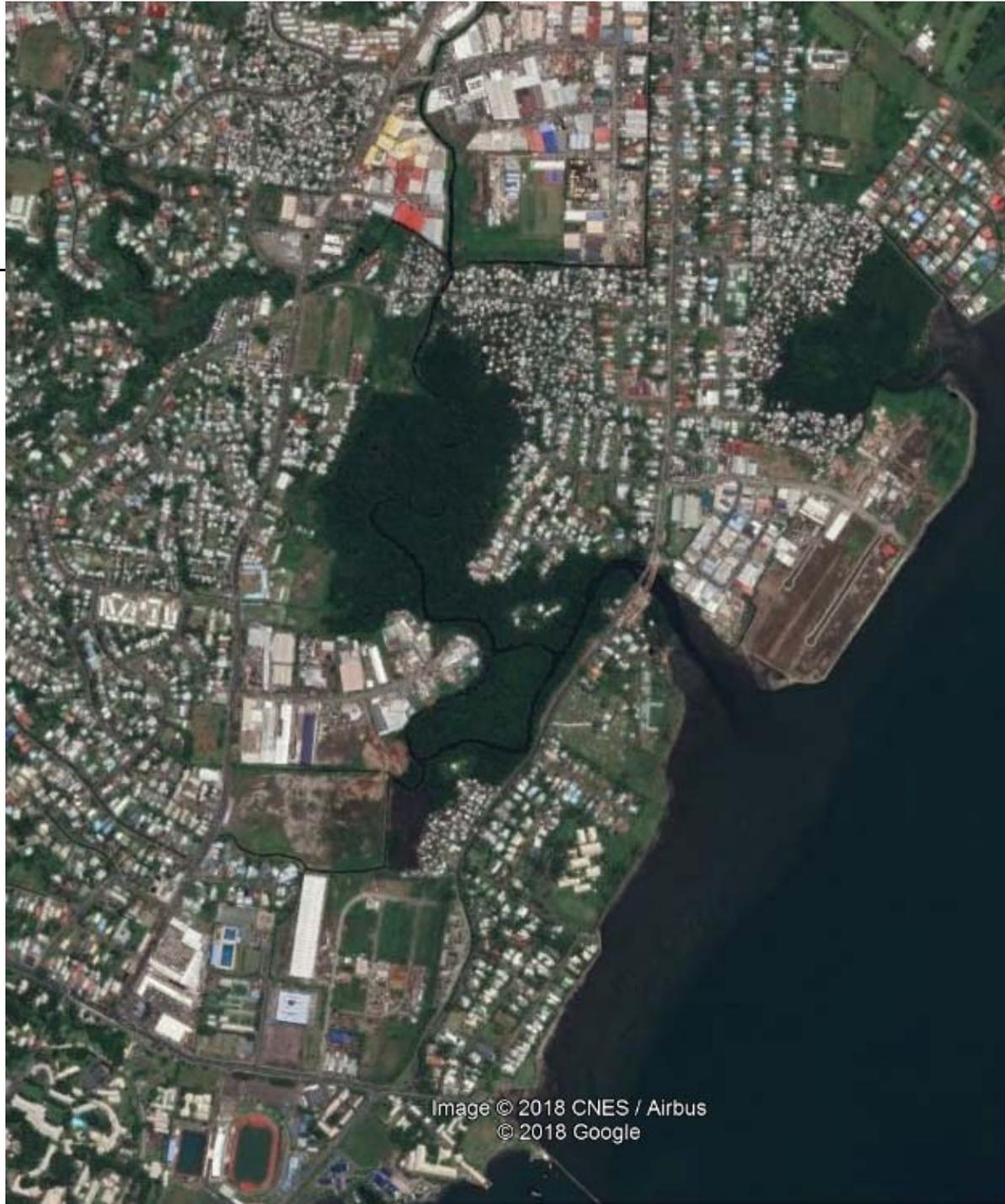
# Informal Settlements in Fiji



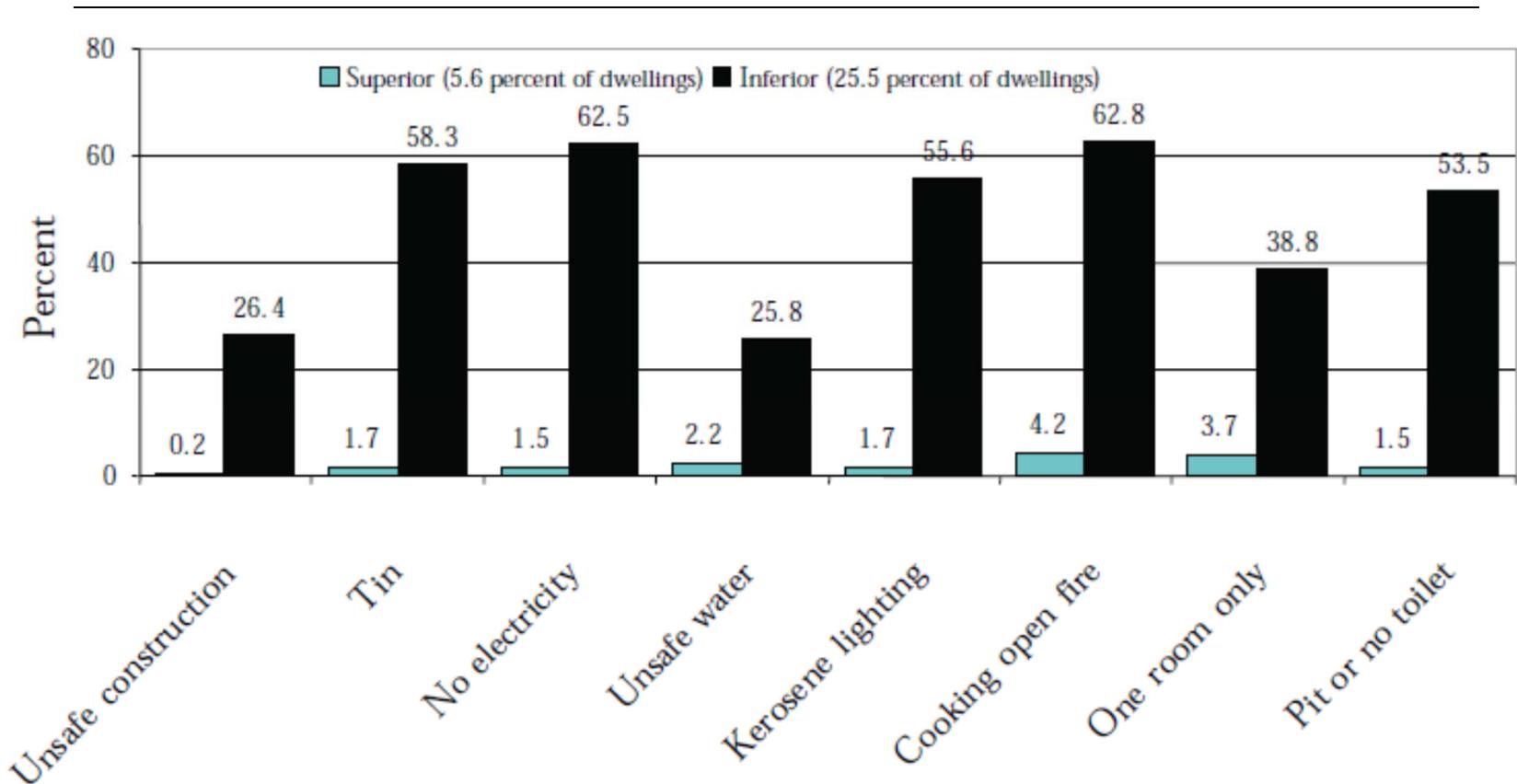
Source: E. Weber

# Informal Settlements in Fiji

- **urban drift – due to:**
  - expiration of farm leases
  - Lack of rural cash employment
- **lack of adequate shelter and land at affordable prices in urban areas**
- **social, environmental, economic, financial and technical challenges**
- **squatters are perceived as illegally occupying land**
- **Trading in environmental risks for protection from eviction – not considering urban dynamics**



# Housing: The Rich-Poor Gap



Source: Walsh, C (2002) Poverty in Fiji Islands and the Pacific Islands. In: Defining an Agenda For Poverty Reduction, Asian Development Bank, Manila, pp 330 -346.



Source: E. Weber



Source: E. Weber, 2005



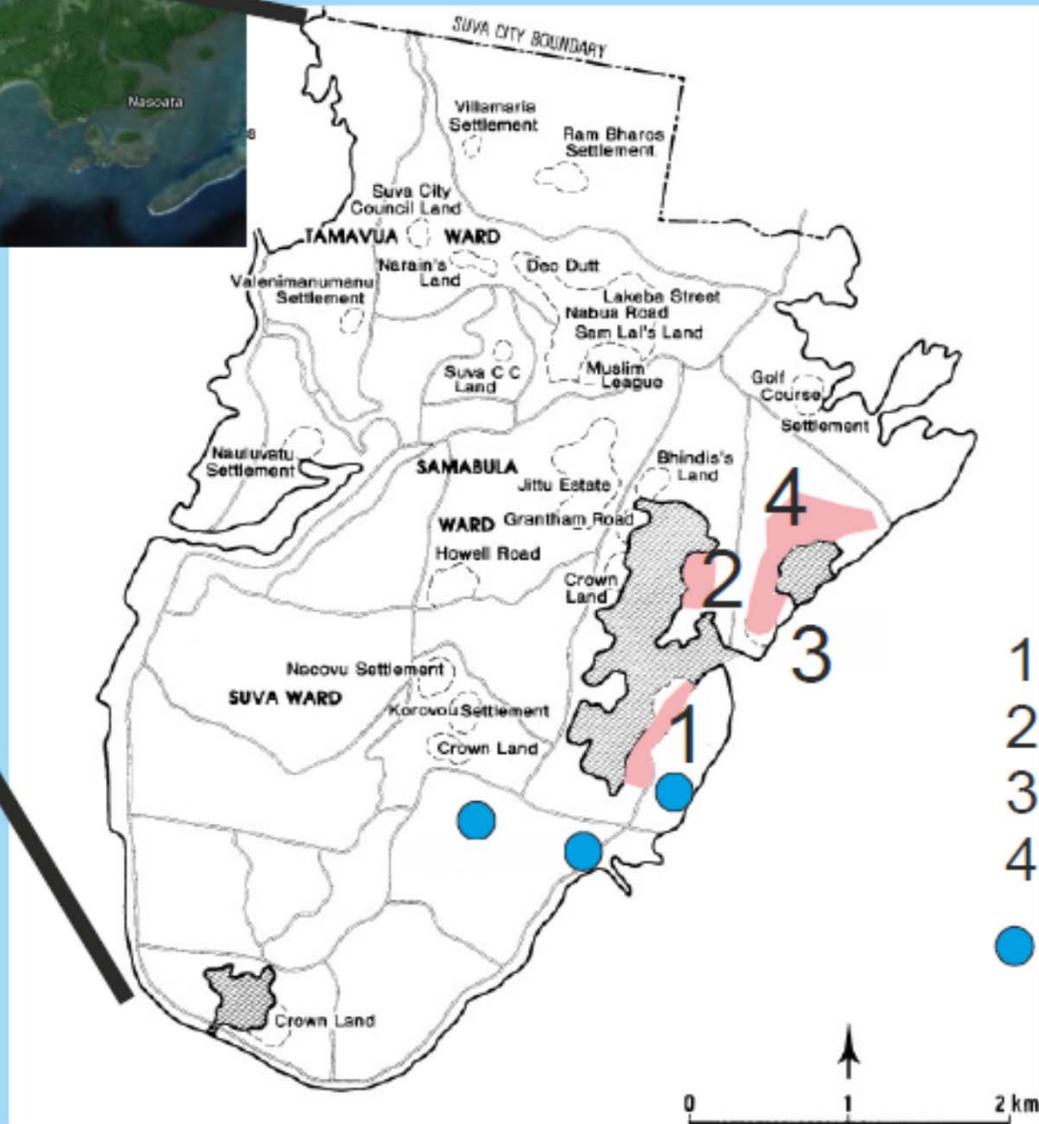
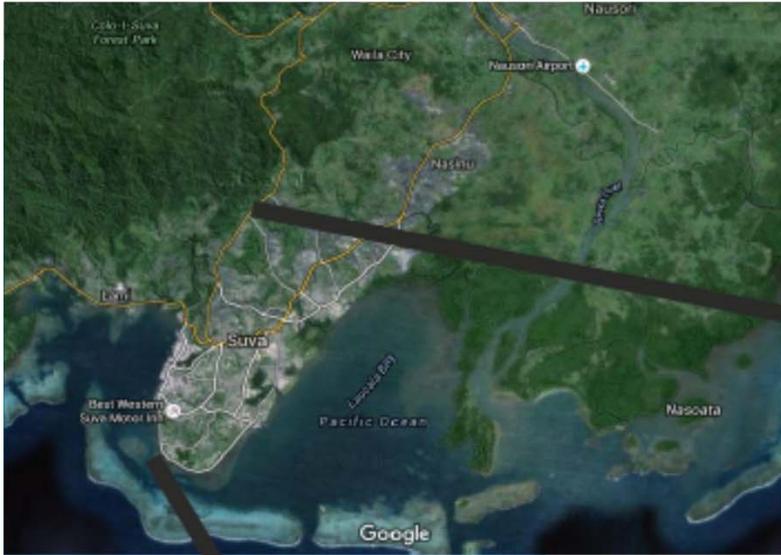
Source: The Fiji Times



Source: The Fiji Sun



Source: Fiji Broadcasting Corporation



- 1 Muanivatu
- 2 Wailea
- 3 Veidogo
- 4 Nanuku
- USP

Source: E. Weber

2005



2017





Source: E. Weber



Source: E. Weber



Source: Dr. Priya Kissoon, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago 33  
<http://priyainfiji.blogspot.com/>

**Australian  
Aid**



## Nanuku Community Project

Provision of **Solar lights** to 40 households

Funded by the Australian Government through the  
Fiji Community Development Program.

*Initiated by the Catholic Women's League - Archdiocese of Suva*

Source: E. Weber



Source: E. Weber



Urban Agriculture in Veidogo Settlement

source: Liam Saddington, June 2018

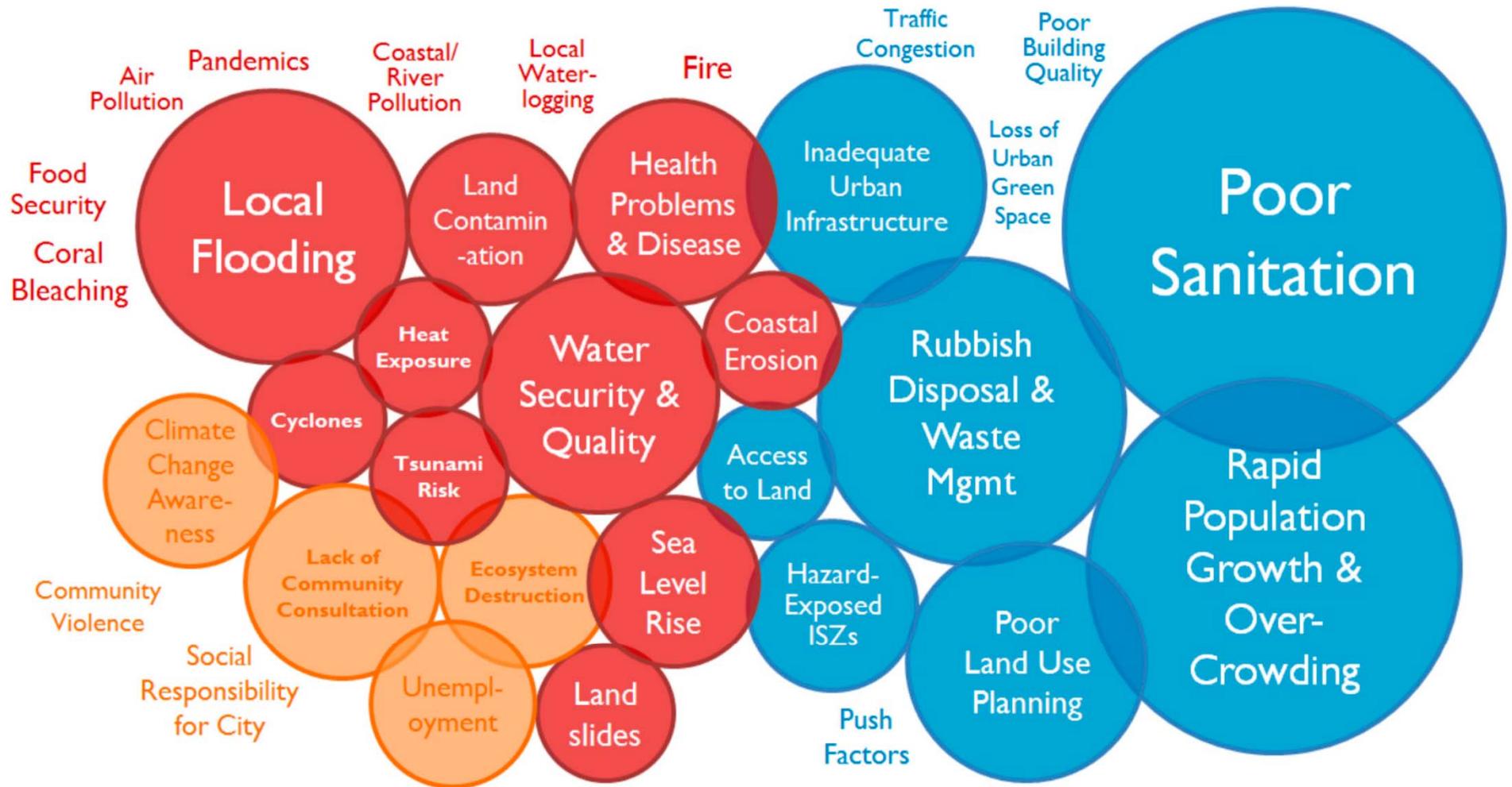


**rise**  
REVITALISING INFORMAL  
SETTLEMENTS AND  
THEIR ENVIRONMENTS

RISE is an action-research program working at the intersections of health, environment, water and sanitation. RISE is promoting a new water-sensitive approach to water and sanitation management in 24 informal settlements across Makassar, Indonesia and Suva, Fiji.



Thank you very much



Gabriel Luke Kiddle, Darryn McEvoy, David Mitchell, Paul Jones and Sarah Mecartney (2017). Unpacking the Pacific Urban Agenda: Resilience Challenges and Opportunities. *Sustainability* 9(10),1878; 12  
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