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 inducted 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.............

- 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

- **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.
Urbanization in the Pacific

- 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

- “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

- 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

Suva CBD

Source: http://www.experiencesuva.com/wp-content/gallery/sliders_a/biking.jpg
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major region or area</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>Percent change (2007-2012)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Asia</td>
<td>202,809</td>
<td>197,529</td>
<td>206,515</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>192,325</td>
<td>190,647</td>
<td>200,510</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East Asia</td>
<td>73,744</td>
<td>76,540</td>
<td>70,945</td>
<td>-3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Asia</td>
<td>32,470</td>
<td>34,112</td>
<td>35,704</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country and Capital City</th>
<th>Population of Main City 2013</th>
<th>Estimated Settlement Population</th>
<th>Annual City Population Growth Rate</th>
<th>Annual Settlement Population Growth Rate</th>
<th>Settlements as % of City Population 2013</th>
<th>Settlements as % of City Population 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honiara, Solomon Islands</td>
<td>64,600</td>
<td>22,600</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6- 26%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suva, Fiji (Greater Suva Area)</td>
<td>244,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Vila, Vanuatu</td>
<td>44,000</td>
<td>15,400</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3- 12%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Moresby, PNG</td>
<td>500,000 to 700,000</td>
<td>225,000 to 315,000</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5- 8%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Percentage urban in 2014 and projected annual average rate of change of urban population in selected PICs from 2010–2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>2.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanesia</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micronesia</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polynesia</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>1.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>4.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)

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

*GSUA population projection. Source: DTCP*

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

- 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)
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

Source: E. Weber
Housing: The Rich-Poor Gap

Source: Dr. Priya Kissoon, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago
http://priyainfiji.blogspot.com/
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
Urban Agriculture in Veidogo Settlement

source: Liam Saddington, June 2018
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