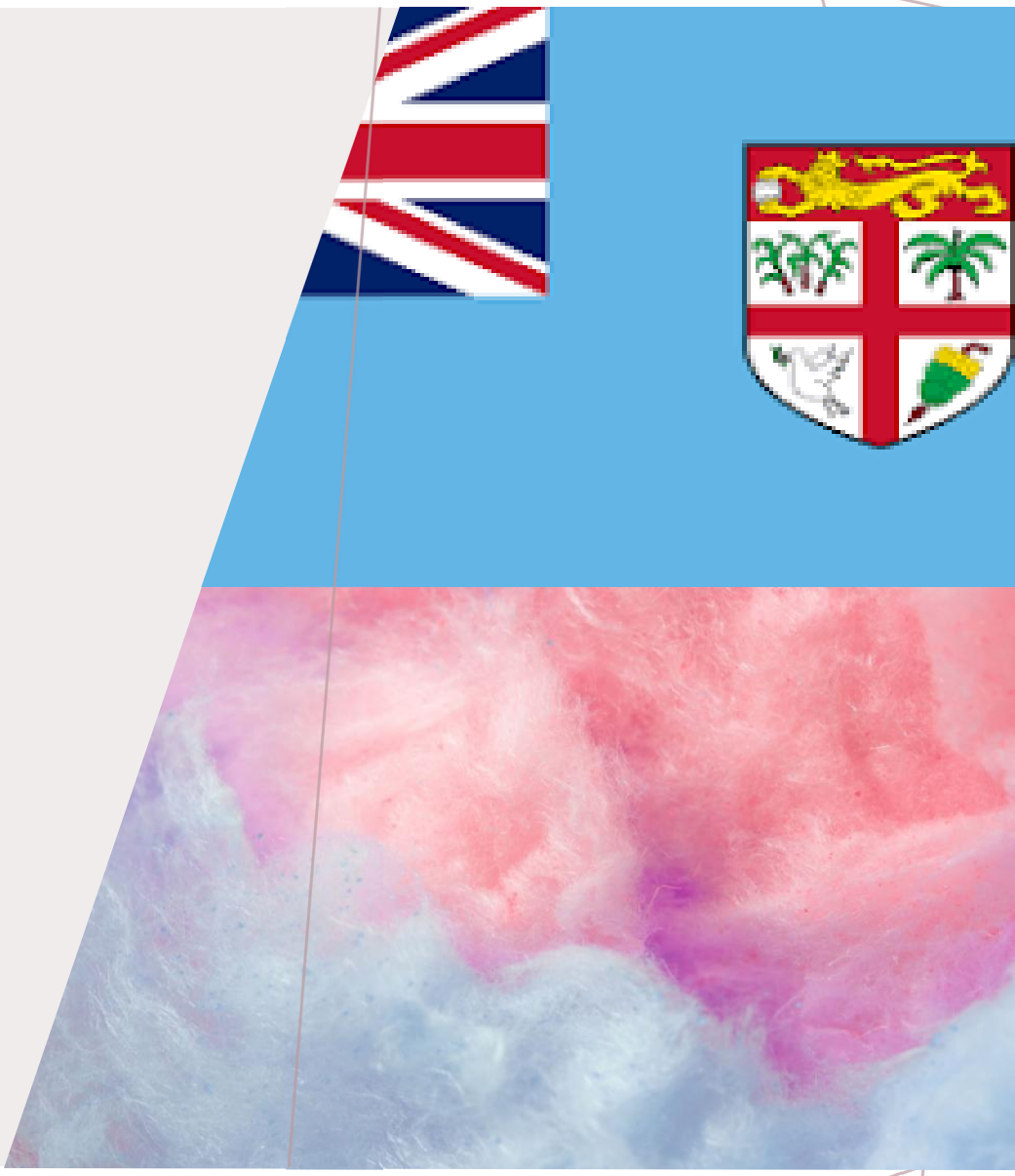
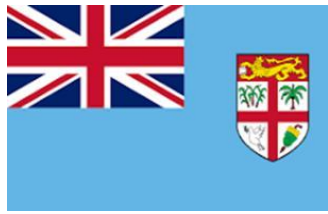
COUNTRY REPORT – FIJI ISLAND

CLIMATE CHANGE AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY IN FIJI





Geography & Climate of Fiji

- Fiji is an archipelago of over 330 islands in the South Pacific, covering ~18,300 km².
- Tropical maritime climate with warm temperatures year-round.
- Two main seasons: wet (Nov–Apr) and dry (May–Oct).
- Vulnerable to tropical cyclones and climate variability.



Population & Economy

- Population: ~900,000 (2024 est.), majority living on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.
- Economy: tourism, sugar, fisheries, remittances.
- GDP growth dependent on climate-sensitive sectors.
- Rural communities heavily reliant on agriculture and coastal resources.

Climate Change Challenges



INCREASED INTENSITY AND FREQUENCY OF CYCLONES.



COASTAL EROSION AND SALTWATER INTRUSION.



FLOODING AND DROUGHT AFFECTING AGRICULTURE.



THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS.



Extreme Weather Events

- Severe Tropical Cyclone Winston (2016) caused damage worth ~20% of GDP.
- Increasing Category 4–5 cyclones.
- Frequent floods and landslides during heavy rain seasons.
- Droughts during prolonged El Niño events.



Rising Sea Levels in Fiji

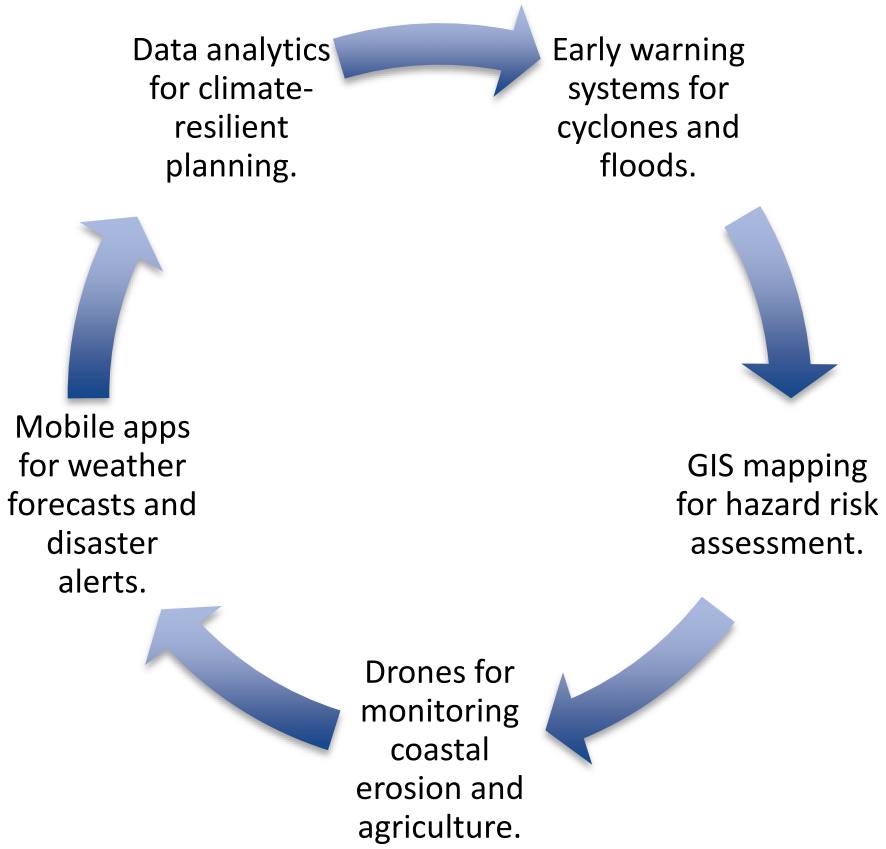
- Sea level rise: 6mm per year (twice the global average in some areas).
- Coastal village relocations already underway (e.g., Vunidogoloa).
- Threatens infrastructure, agriculture, and freshwater sources.
- Loss of cultural heritage sites.

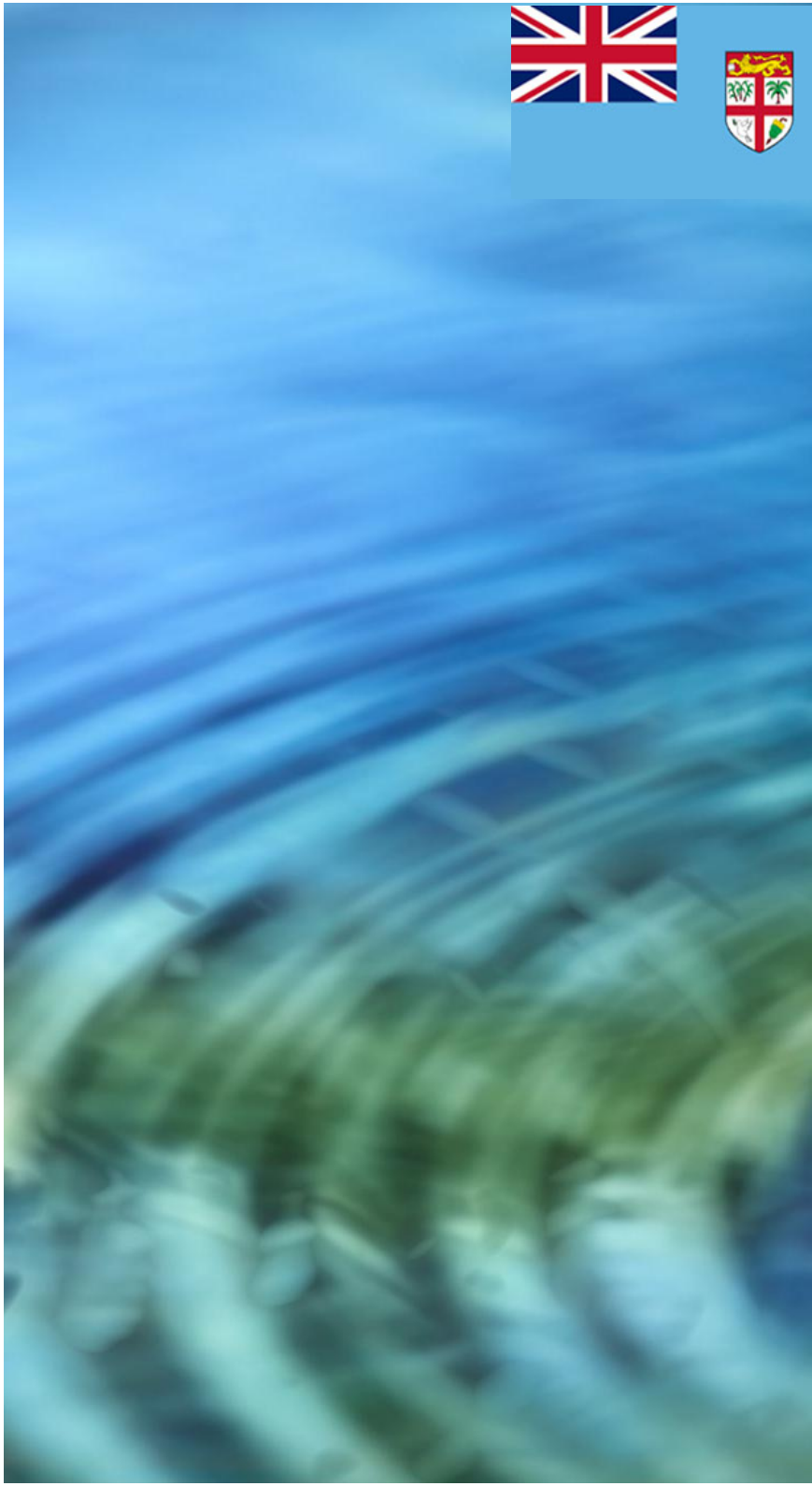


Ocean Acidification in Fiji

- Coral reefs at risk from warming seas and reduced pH.
- Impacts on fisheries and marine biodiversity.
- Threatens tourism and coastal protection.
- Linked to global CO_2 emissions and warming trends.

Role of Digital Technology in Climate Adaptation





Role of Digital Technology in Climate Adaptation



- **Digital Technology Development Status**
  - ❖Fiji National Digital Strategy 2025-2030 launched early this year with the following focus areas:
    i. Improved digital infrastructure network and a robust cybersecurity framework
    ii. Ensure universal digital access in Fiji and empower all citizens through comprehensive digital literacy and skills development programs,
    iii. Fostering technological innovation and supports Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in digital transformation, and encourages the adoption of emerging technologies to boost economic competitiveness and diversification.
    iv. Encourage digital innovation through advance digital solutions for better citizen engagement and service delivery

Role of Digital Technology in Climate Adaptation



- **Digital Technology Development Status**
  - Other key development progress include
    - **digitalFIJI programme** – multi year programme designed to develop and implement e-government applications and ICT technology across the public sector through **MyFiji@Gov portal**
    - **Fiji Climate Change Portal** - centralized digital platform designed to support climate resilience, adaptation planning, and knowledge sharing
    - **Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS)** - The National Disaster Risk Management Office (NDRMO), Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS) and the Mineral Resources Department (MRD), operates a Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) for Fiji.

Challenges in Utilising Digital Technology



LIMITED INTERNET CONNECTIVITY IN REMOTE ISLANDS.



HIGH COSTS OF TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION AND MAINTENANCE.



SKILLS GAP IN OPERATING ADVANCED SYSTEMS.



DEPENDENCE ON EXTERNAL FUNDING AND EXPERTISE.



DIGITAL LITERACY FOR OUR ELDERLY POPULATION ON DIGITAL ECONOMY

Capacity Building for Digital Climate Adaptation

- Training local communities in digital literacy for improved climate adaptation capacity and resilience livelihood
- Partnerships with universities and tech providers.
- Government investment in ICT infrastructure.
- Encouraging youth participation in tech innovation.
-  Scaling up implementation and financing of digital climate adaptation projects
- Strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of actors in charge of rural development planning
-  Strengthen capacity to improve National Adaptation Plan implementation and DRR Plan using digital innovation and technology

Thank You