

Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Phone: +61 2 6277 4002  
[jsct@aph.gov.au](mailto:jsct@aph.gov.au)

**21 November 2025**

***RE: Agreement to Establish the Pacific Resilience Facility (Honiara, 10 September 2025), referred to the Committee on Thursday, 30 October 2025.***

This is the submission to JSCOT by the Centre for Environmental Governance, University of Canberra.

For more detail contact Dr Jane Alver 

## Submission to JSCOT

### Centre for Environmental Governance, University of Canberra

#### What is the issue?

The **Pacific Resilience Facility** (PRF) is described as a demonstration of Pacific Islands Forum Members' commitment to making climate finance **accessible to communities** a reality<sup>1</sup>. Co-design consultations are proposed to include civil society, communities, the private sector, implementing partners and other stakeholders. It is essential that these consultations cover a full diversity of people across the Pacific region.

The Pacific Islands Forum reports that the *PRF will play a crucial role in helping communities access climate finance, ensuring no one is left behind*. Research conducted by the University of Canberra recently<sup>2</sup> has produced a Pasifika-elicited set of guiding principles that give practical suggestions for how these interactions can be intersectionally-inclusive and meet this promise (Appendix A).

#### Why the need for change?

There is growing policy and research activity in the intersectionality, gender equality, disability and social inclusion and climate mitigation, adaptation and livelihoods spaces. It is acknowledged that effective climate change adaptation recognises that women, men and children experience climate impacts differently depending on how they sustain their livelihoods and the roles they play in their community. To be effective and to avoid entrenching or exacerbating existing inequalities, climate adaptation research and programs must respond to these differences. While there is an emerging consensus on the importance of a diverse and gender-inclusive approach to climate adaptation programs, there is much less insight into what works 'on the ground' for better and more equitable outcomes, particularly locally-led priorities for solutions that create space for genuine, respectful partnerships.

#### Confirming intersectional research gaps and policy disconnects

There are currently disconnects between the priorities in Pacific regional institutional policy and global climate change financing institutions. Pacific institutions consistently connect social inclusion and climate change, creating space for intersectional perspectives and

---

<sup>1</sup> [Agreement to Establish the Pacific Resilience Facility](https://www.apf.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties/PacificResilience) -

[https://www.apf.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties/PacificResilience](https://www.apf.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties/PacificResilience)

<sup>2</sup> [Intersectionality and gender diverse climate change action in the Pacific: Eliciting a Pasifika-led policy for future engagement | ACIAR](https://www.aciar.gov.au/project/sss-2023-183) -<https://www.aciar.gov.au/project/sss-2023-183>

priorities, while global climate change institutions tend to create policy silos, and predominantly focus on gender equality in isolation of other identities, missing a broader intersectional lens and missing populations. These gaps and disconnects reaffirm the importance of identifying new approaches to ensure intersectional lens informs climate change and livelihoods research, shaped by Pacific priorities and perspectives of what is valued.

### Emerging Principles

Listening to and reflecting with a range of representatives with diverse lived experiences<sup>3</sup> has led to the development of the emerging *OCEANS* principles (**Appendix A**) to support greater responsiveness to the intersectional identities in the region in climate change and livelihoods activities. They reflect stories shared of lived experience of the impacts of climate change on livelihoods from diverse intersectional identities, gender, disability, rural, remote, urban, age, sexual and gender identity. They reflect established research, policy and practice within Pacific institutions. They have been developed in a spirit of reciprocity, listening, learning and exchange.

### Recommendations:

1. The PRF consultations must engage with a diverse suite of existing networks and organisations, civil society and communities at local, national and regional levels, including Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) to ensure no one is left behind.
2. The underlying structures of power, social-economic and cultural, that perpetuate inequality need to be acknowledged, and addressed, to create equal opportunities to engage and benefit.
3. Processes need intentional planning and resourcing to be accessible for diverse participants, including people with disabilities.
4. The PRF can utilise the *OCEANS* principles (Appendix A) to ensure the planned co-creation consultations include the full breadth of perspectives, experiences and knowledges so benefits from the PRF are shared with all.

---

<sup>3</sup> See for example *Full article: Disability and climate change – inclusive futures* - <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09614524.2025.2544031#d1e158>

## Appendix A: Pasifika-led emerging guiding principles for inclusion

<p><b>O</b></p>	<p><b>Pacific Leadership and Ownership</b> <i>Develop Pacific leadership and ownership with diverse leadership at the local level through roles in research, outreach and communication.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prioritise local leadership and community ownership</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Enable reciprocity for project sustainability</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Identify local priorities and realities and align to government priorities</li> </ul>
<p><b>C</b></p>	<p><b>Cultures, Creativity, Capacity</b> <i>Respect and build capacities, include traditional knowledge, local knowledge, lived experience and priorities.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Use existing local community structures in civil society</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledge cultures, use formal and informal Talanoa, tok stori, te maroro and other methods of dialogue</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Use local languages, resource language requirements appropriately, including local translators</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Recognise language variation in multi-lingual contexts, including sign language and Braille</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Connect to community through creativity</li> </ul>
<p><b>E</b></p>	<p><b>Equality, Address Exclusion</b> <i>Start with an intersectional approach. It is not an add-on.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure a diversity of voices and experiences is reflected in research</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Include men and boys, women and girls in all their diversities</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Recognise and respond to exclusion and discrimination with positive impact stories and opportunities for leadership</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Use evidence and draw on data, integrate inclusion into MERL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Reflection and Learning)</li> </ul>
<p><b>A</b></p>	<p><b>Accessible</b> <i>Adequately plan, finance and support research processes, language and outputs to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Guidance needs to be clear, visual and short, and in accessible formats and languages</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Make benefits practical for the community</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Make language easy to understand</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Respect and engage the community's knowledge</li> </ul>
<p><b>N</b></p>	<p><b>Networked</b> <i>Use a twin track approach, work with existing community and government structures.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Work with existing tools, processes, organisations and networks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Support communities of practice and mutual learning</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Connect community with existing and new policies</li> </ul>
<p><b>S</b></p>	<p><b>Sustainable</b> <i>Integrate inclusion with targeted research and mainstream inclusion into research.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Connect with existing programs in community and acknowledge existing systems</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Consult externally in developing strategies</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Guide research funding decisions with specific inclusion strategies</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Allocate long term funding for inclusion strategies and their implementation</li> </ul>