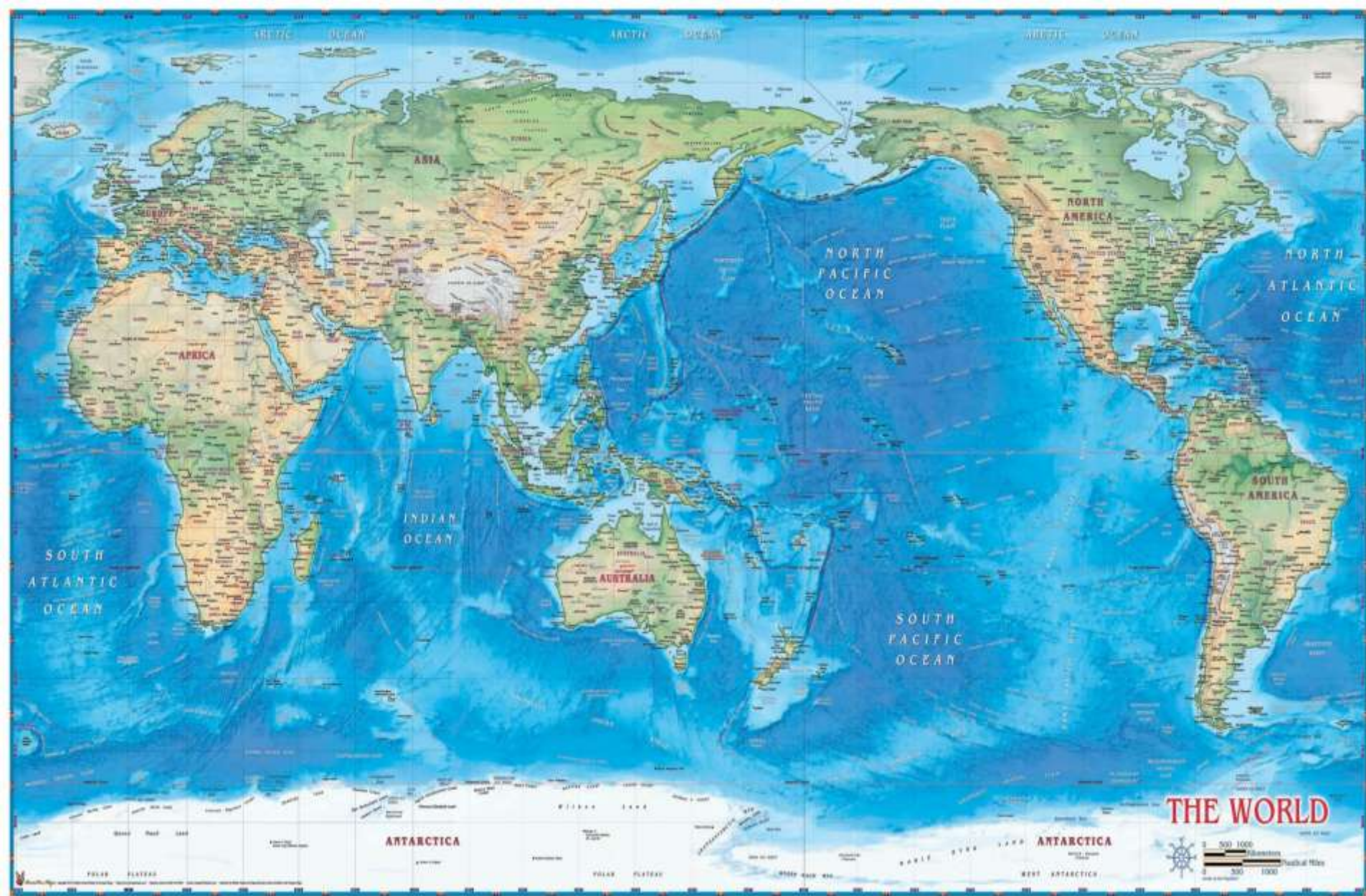


**Disaster
Laws**

Early Warning Systems: best practice examples from the Pacific Region

Pacific Delegation
Vanuatu Government, Vanuatu Red Cross, IFRC Pacific

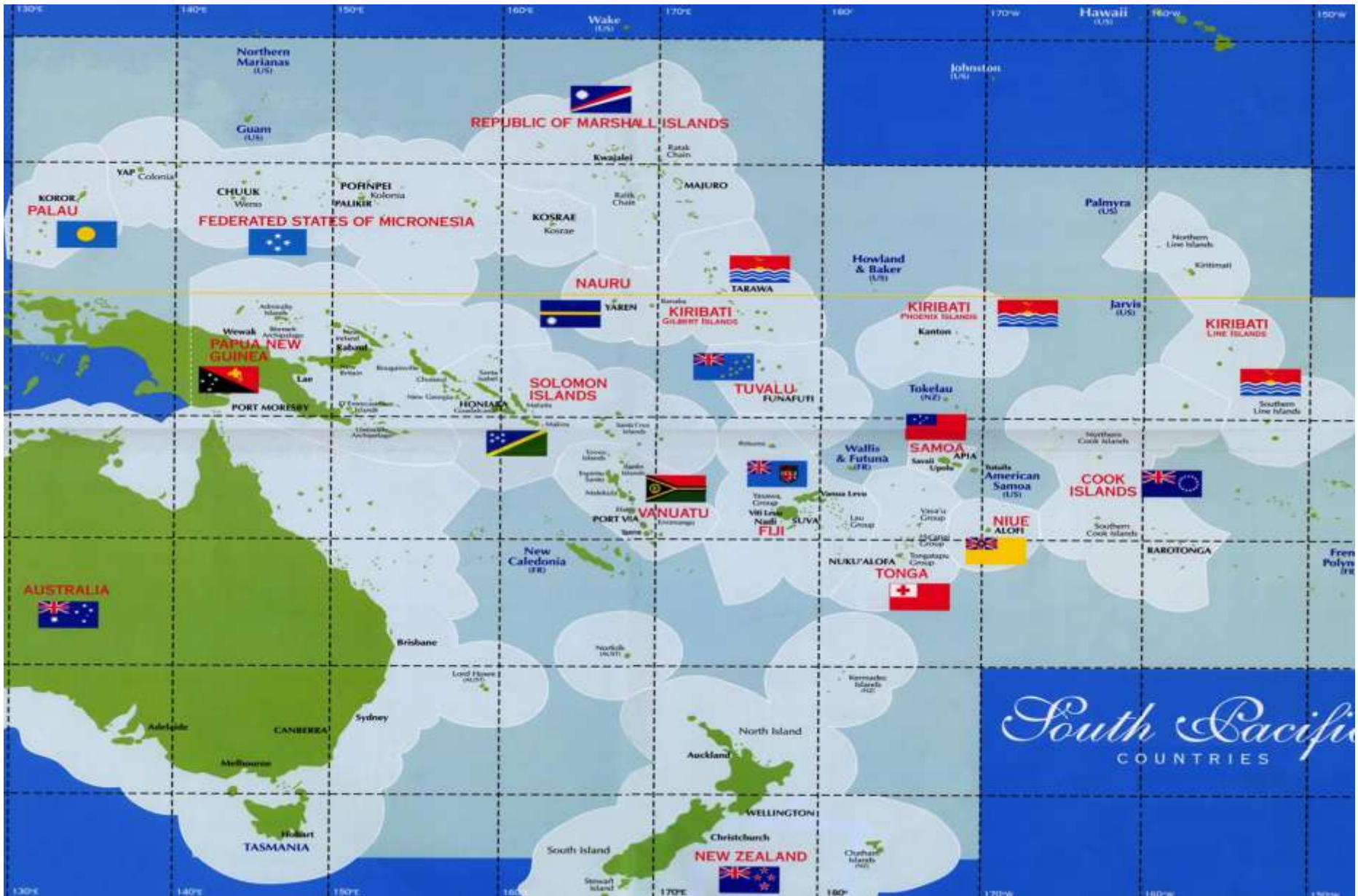


www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The Pacific context...

- Region is made up of thousands of islands spread over almost 37 million square kilometres of ocean, across five time zones
- Dispersed island geography, remoteness of interior rural areas and outer islands, poor communication systems, limited sea and air ports, complex traditional, cultural, tribal systems
- In the past three years alone, Pacific hit by four category five cyclones (Typhoon Haiyan in Palau; TC Ian in Tonga, TC Pam in Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Solomon Islands; and TC Winston in Fiji)



South Pacific
COUNTRIES

1. *The Finnish Pacific (FINPAC) Project*

A project funded by the Finnish Government and implemented through Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Pacific national MET offices, and IFRC and Pacific Red Cross national societies with the objective of:



Improving livelihoods of Pacific island communities by delivering effective weather, climate and early warning services

1. *The FINPAC Project cont...*

There are two key components to FINPAC:

1. Providing national MET services with the capacity and tools to deliver and communicate accurate, **appropriate** and timely weather and climate services to rural communities.
2. Working with communities to strengthen their ability to use and apply meteorological data and information and to develop appropriate plans to address climate change and disasters.

1. The FINPAC Project cont...



Community engagement:

- a) Red Cross conducts a **community baseline survey** on existing early warning systems methodologies

For example:

- What do you understand when you get a weather update?
- Do you know what to do?
- What is the role of traditional knowledge?

1. *The FINPAC Project cont...*

- Teone Community has 572 residents living in 84 households (Census 2012)
- Department of Statistics conducted Baseline Survey training for Tuvalu Red Cross volunteers
- 10 volunteers carried out the Baseline Survey in all the community households
- The Baseline Survey took 2 days to complete



1. *The FINPAC Project cont...*

b. Identify **knowledge and practice gaps**

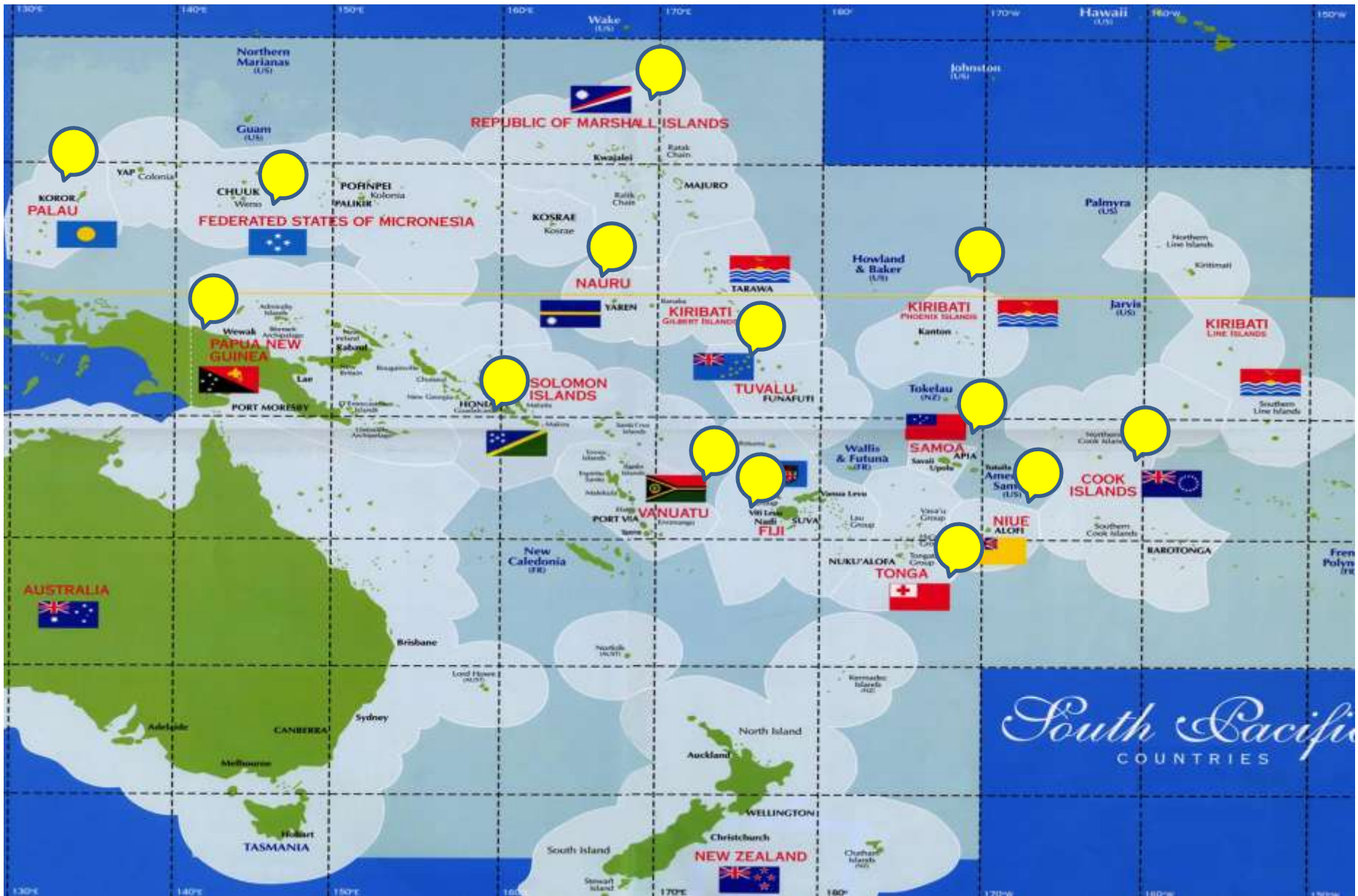
- Limited understanding of **terminology** in weather forecasts/updates
E.g. What is a “knot”? “El Nino southern oscillation index”?
“forecast probability”?
- Limited understanding of what **actions** should be taken when that information is received
E.g. the weather forecast says “below average rainfall next month” – so how much water should I collect for my household?
- Limited understanding of **impact** of weather information
E.g. the difference between a cat 3 and a cat 4 cyclone in TC Pam and TC Winston

1. The FINPAC Project cont...

c) Design the **community workshop**

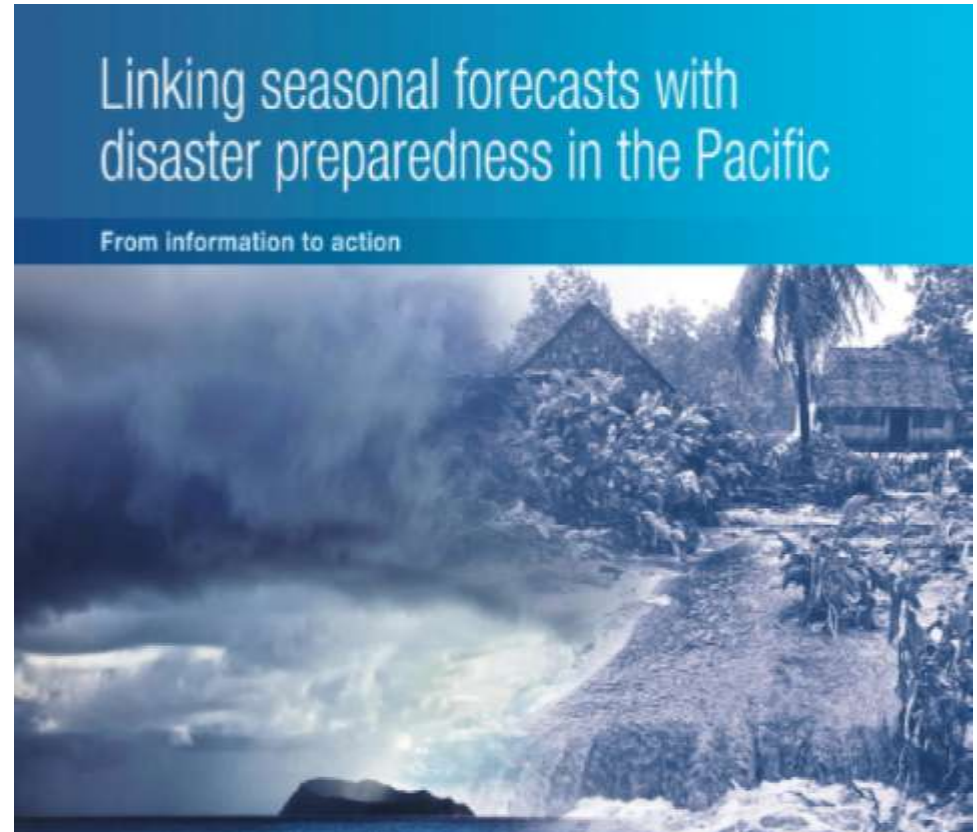
- Identify interventions that are sustainable, low cost and low tech
- Develop **action plans**



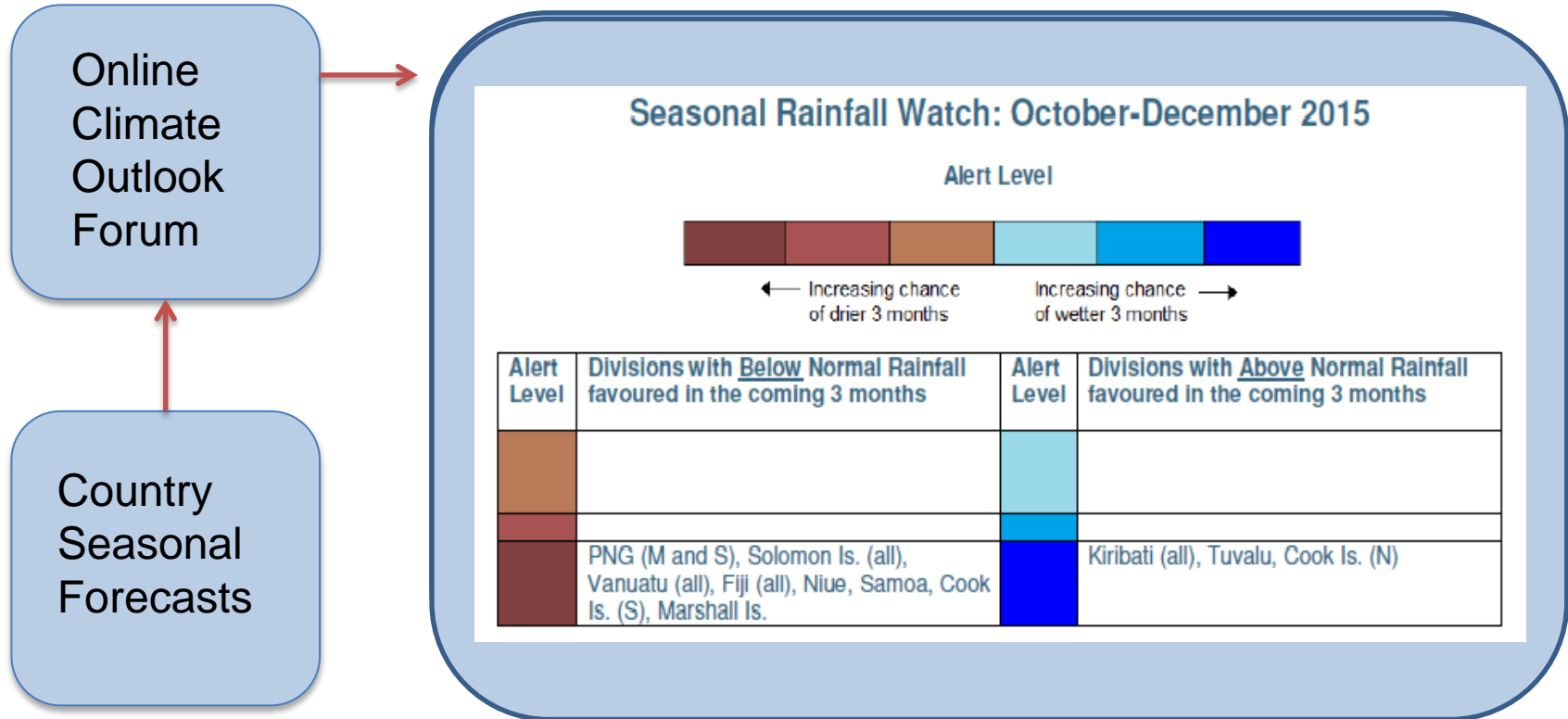


2. Red Cross Seasonal Rainfall Watch

- A tool developed by the IFRC in collaboration with Australian Bureau of Meteorology for Pacific Red Cross.
- Linking seasonal forecasts with disaster preparedness in the Pacific

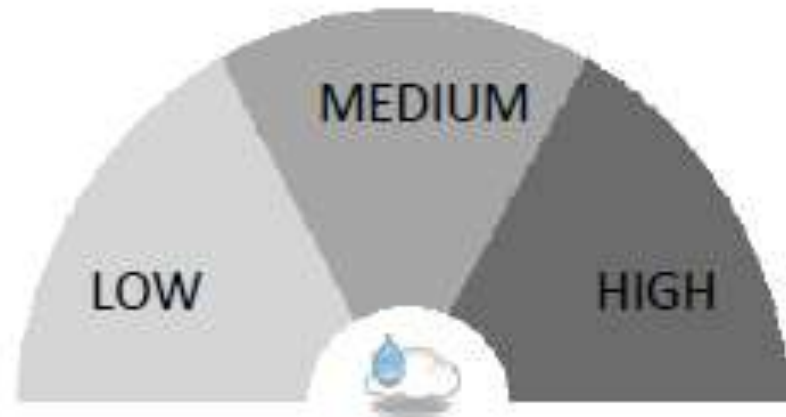
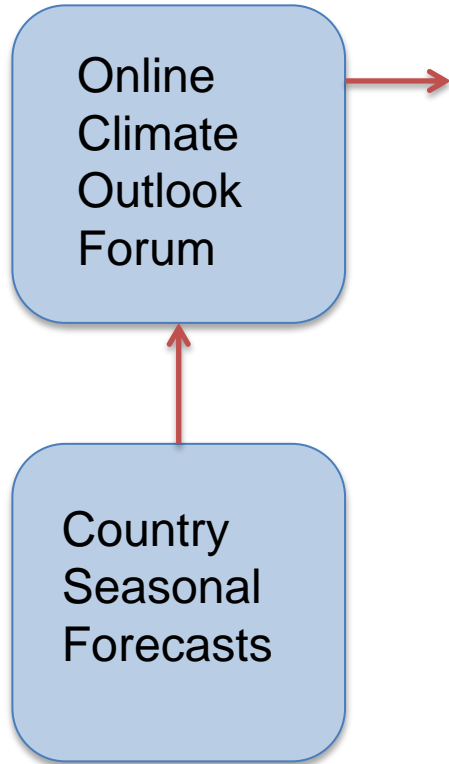


Information...

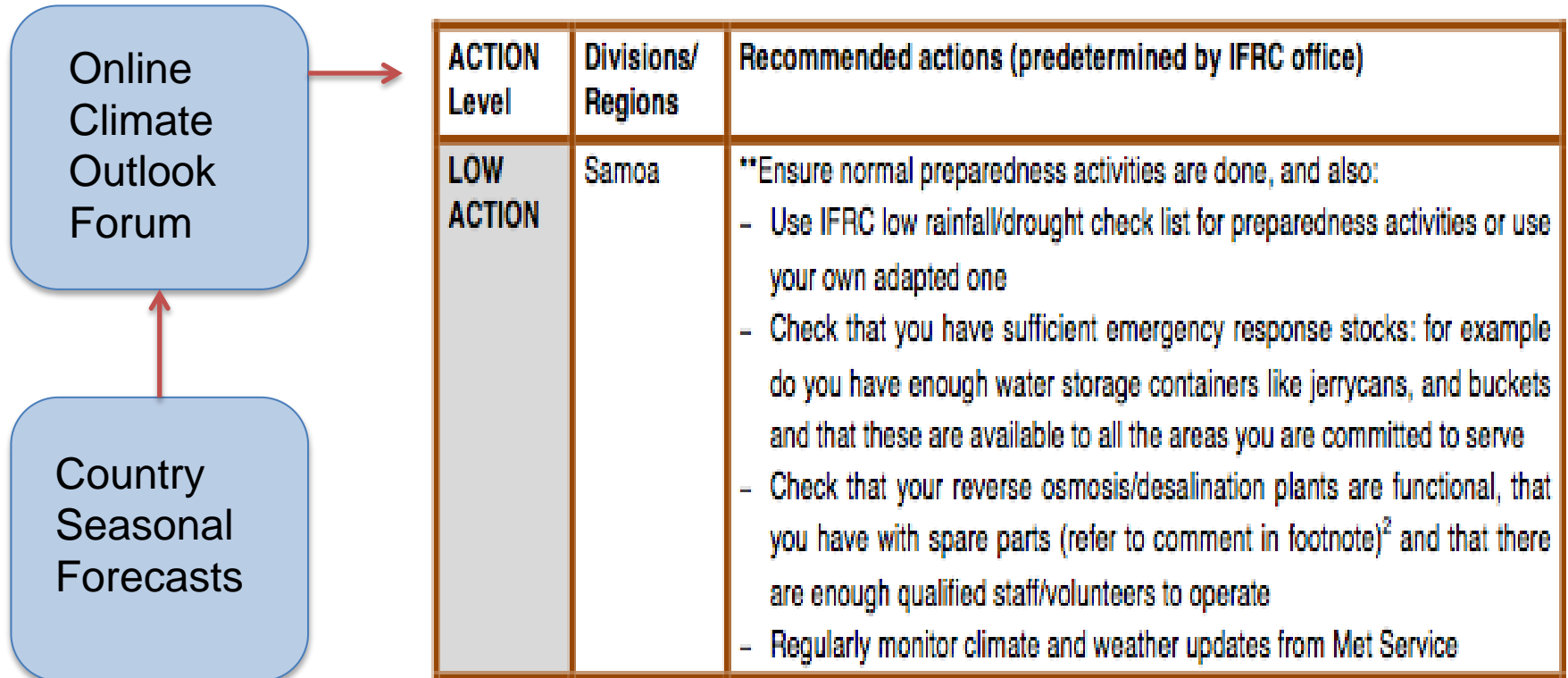


Disaster
Laws

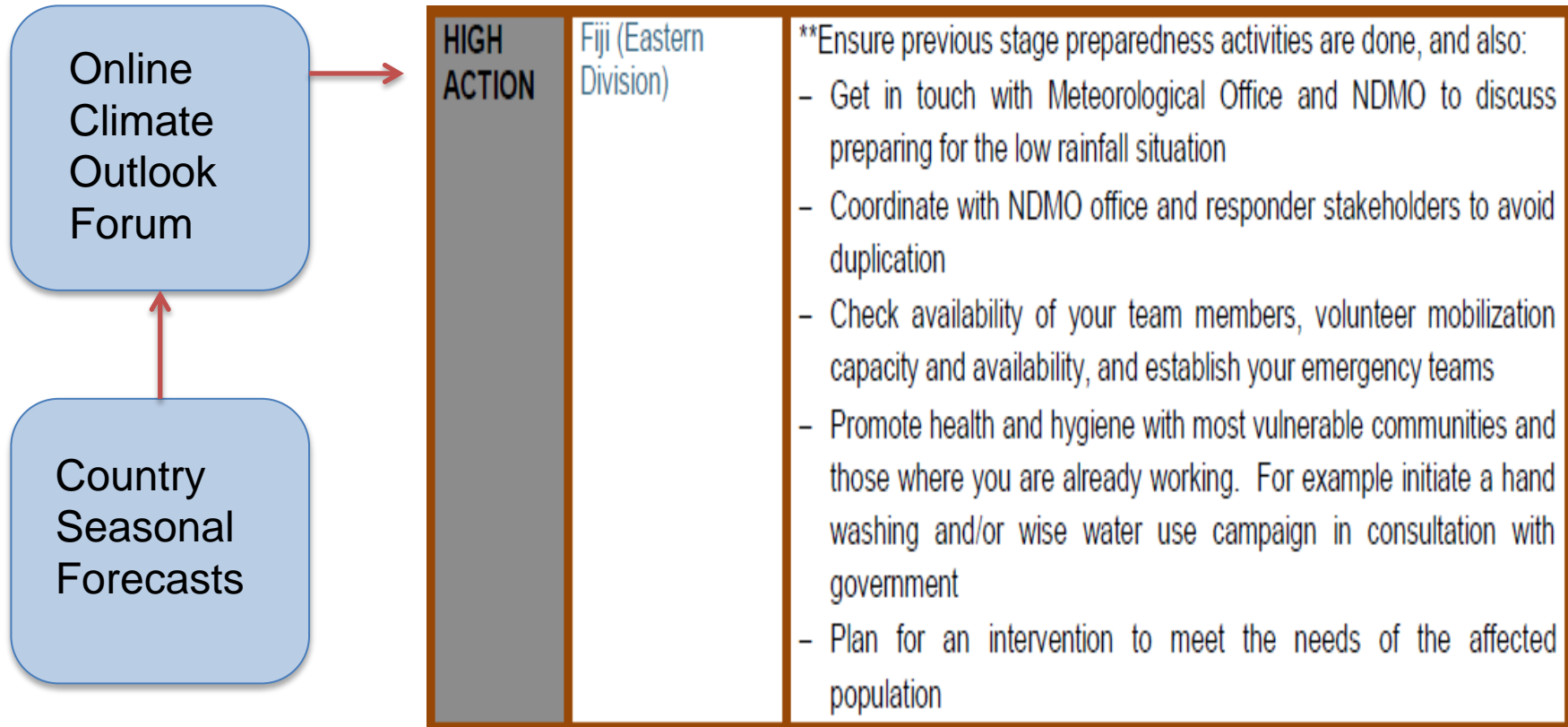
...into Action



...into Action



...into Action



Lessons and experiences

- The Seasonal Rainfall Watch has institutionalized the use of climate outlook information in Pacific Red Cross Societies programming
- Simple, non-technical language is very important
- Easily adapted for Red Cross branch officers and volunteers

Lessons and experiences

- Initiates discussions between Red Cross and National Met Services (and NDMOs, local government)
- Opens a channel for two-way information flow
- Pre-determined preparedness actions grouped according to alert level are key

3. *Climate crab* - demystifying climate events



Using animation to explain El Nino and La Nina and ensure communities are better informed and prepared for climate change and variability.

Joint project between Red Cross, Australian Government, Vanuatu Government, CSIRO and GIZ.

<http://www.pacificclimatechangescience.org/climatecrab/>

Disaster
Laws

Malo 'aupito mo faka'apa'apa lahi atu



For more information please visit:

<http://www.ifrc.org/dl>

Or contact:

Finau Heuifanga Limuloa
Regional Humanitarian Diplomacy & Disaster
Law Delegate

finau.limuloa@ifrc.org

+679 999 3132