

BEYOND INSULAR EDUCATION POLICY:

*Learning to live together In the face of climate
change In the Pacific*

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16th UNESCO-
APEID
International
Conference

THE PACIFIC REGION



THE PACIFIC REGION

- Over 60 million square miles (155 million square km)
- Total landmass is about 3.3 million sq. miles (8.5 mil sq. km)
- Total population in **2011** was approximately 37.5 million

CLIMATE IMPACTS IN THE PACIFIC

- **The Pacific is widely regarded as the region where the effects of climate change will be most evident.**
- **The following are some of the most pressing climate-related concerns for the inhabitants of the Pacific region:**

DISPLACEMENT

- Half of the population in the Pacific islands lives within 1.5 km from the coast.
- Oxfam predicts that by 2050, over 75 million people in the Asia-Pacific region will be forced to relocate as a direct result of climate change



FOOD SECURITY

- Climate effects such as sea level rise, increased flooding and droughts are already affecting crop yields around the world.
- Declines in crop yields and fishery stocks, combined with increased global food prices, will likely have dramatic effects on Pacific Islanders.

WATER RESOURCES

- Climate effects such as changes in annual rainfall and rising sea levels are decreasing the amount of fresh drinking water that is available in the Pacific islands.
- For example, by 2050, Kiribati can expect a 10% reduction in average annual rainfall. This will correspond with a 20% reduction in the size of the freshwater lens on one of the islands. An additional 10% reduction is expected to come as a result of sea level rise.

A young girl with dark hair, wearing a yellow shirt, is smiling and writing on a chalkboard in a classroom. The chalkboard has some faint, illegible writing on it. The background is slightly blurred, showing a typical classroom setting with shelves and papers.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND EDUCATION POLICY – AT A GLANCE

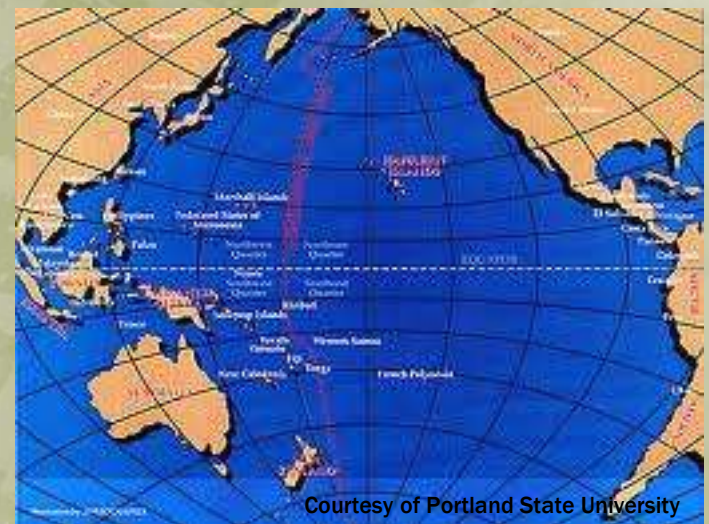
Courtesy of UNICEF

REGIONAL-LEVEL POLICY

- **Pacific Education Development Framework (2009 – 2015)**
 - **Theme #5 – Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**
 - “To integrate local content, conditions, and culture to provide an umbrella for coordinated and collaborative action that can be applied throughout the Pacific”

- **University of the South Pacific (USP) Action**
 - Pre-service and in-service teacher education and research on climate change and sustainability
 - Pacific Center for Environmental and Sustainable Development

- **Pre-service Education Programs**
 - University of Papua New Guinea,
 - National University of Samoa, and
 - Vanuatu Institute of Teacher Education



NATIONAL-LEVEL POLICY

■ Vanuatu:

- *Education sector strategy (2007 – 2016)* – no mention
- Draft curriculum statement - “education to address climate change, adaptation and mitigation”

■ Tonga

- *Education policy framework (2004 – 2019)* – no mention
 - Except “demands of the present of the future in order to meet the objectives of Tonga’s prevailing development plans”
- *National action plan on climate change adaptation and risk management (2010 – 2015)*
 - Goal 2: “enhance adaptation and effective disaster risk management”



NATIONAL-LEVEL POLICY (CONT.)

■ Kiribati

- *Ministry of Education's Strategic Plan (2008 – 2011)* – no mention
- *Government national development strategy*
 - “Equipping people to manage change”

■ Fiji

- *Education sector strategic development plan (2009 – 2011)*
 - Outcome #3: “school infrastructure are health compliant and ensures the safety of children from natural disasters”



MOVING FORWARD



ENHANCING VALUES OF LTLT



- Promoting collaboration
 - Shared experiences, stories, resources, networks
- Sharing successes & failures
- Building upon existing frameworks
- Adopting a vision of a “shared fate”



WestEd

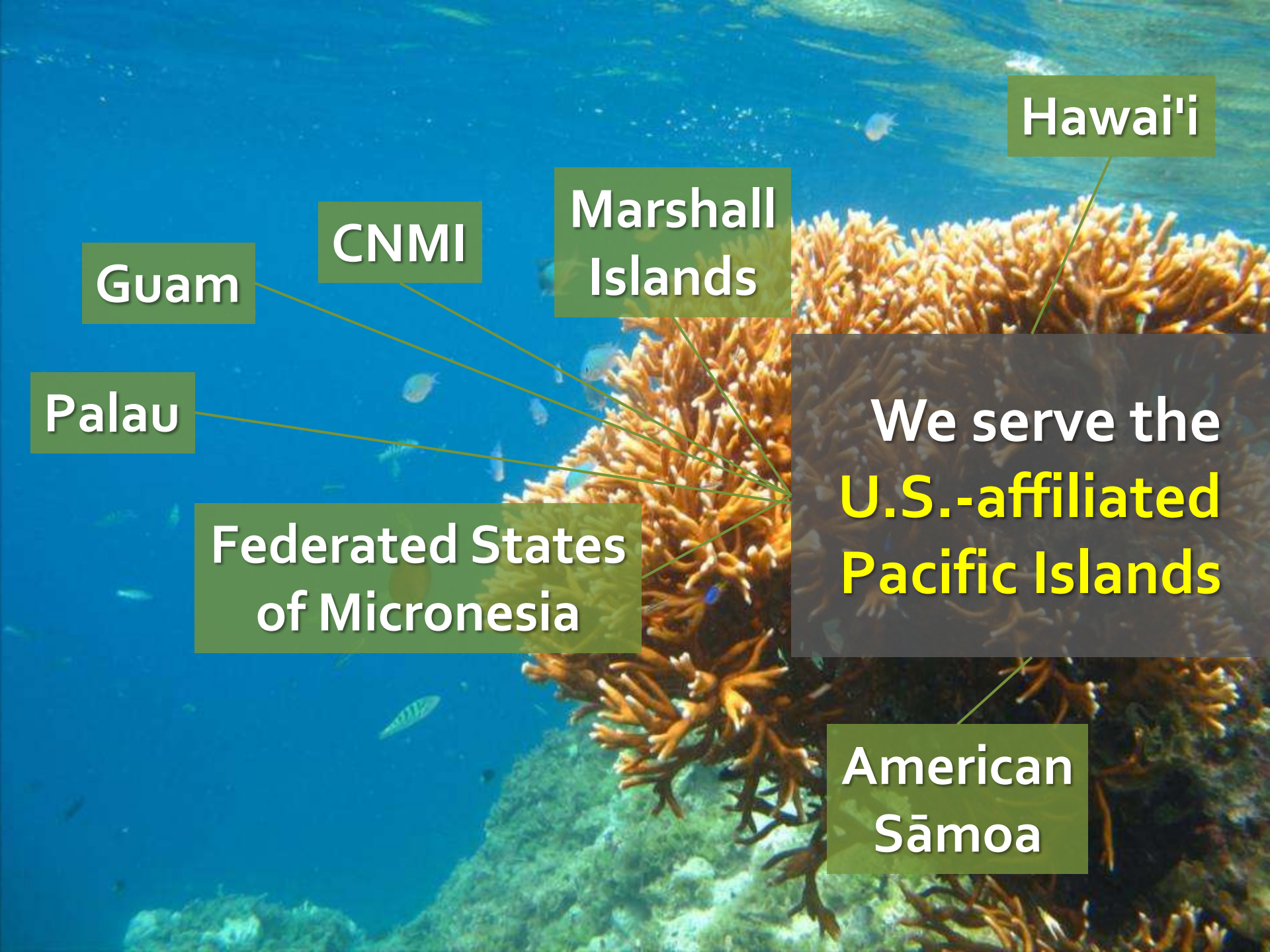


PACIFIC ISLANDS CLIMATE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

<https://pcep.wikispaces.com/StayConnected>



PCEP is a **collaboration of over 60 partners** working together toward a **new vision of climate education**. We are schools, colleges, community organization, and government agencies.



Hawai'i

Marshall Islands

CNMI

Guam

Palau

Federated States of Micronesia

We serve the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands

American Sāmoa

Climate education in the Pacific will

- **Exemplify** modern science and indigenous knowledge
- **Address the urgency** of climate change
- **Honor** indigenous cultures
- **Empower** citizens to advance the understanding of climate, and to mitigate and adapt to its impacts



Content and skills to understand the science of global and Pacific climates and adaptation to climate impacts

Climate Education Framework

Collect and catalog local stories and practices related to the CEF and environmental stewardship


Indigenous Knowledge & Practices

Community-School Partnerships

Project-based learning opportunities aligned with CEF developed through community-school partnerships

Learning & Teaching

Climate Education Certificate Program; teacher professional learning; implementation of locally-relevant curricula



**Community-school
partnerships connect
schools and community
organizations to bring
community knowledge
into classrooms and
students into
community adaptation
activities**



PCEP encourages partners to engage in **project-based learning partnership activities** that give students hands-on, real life experiences with climate science and adaptation



In **community partnership meetings**, partners develop common understandings and identify real collaborative projects





MAHALO!

THANK YOU!