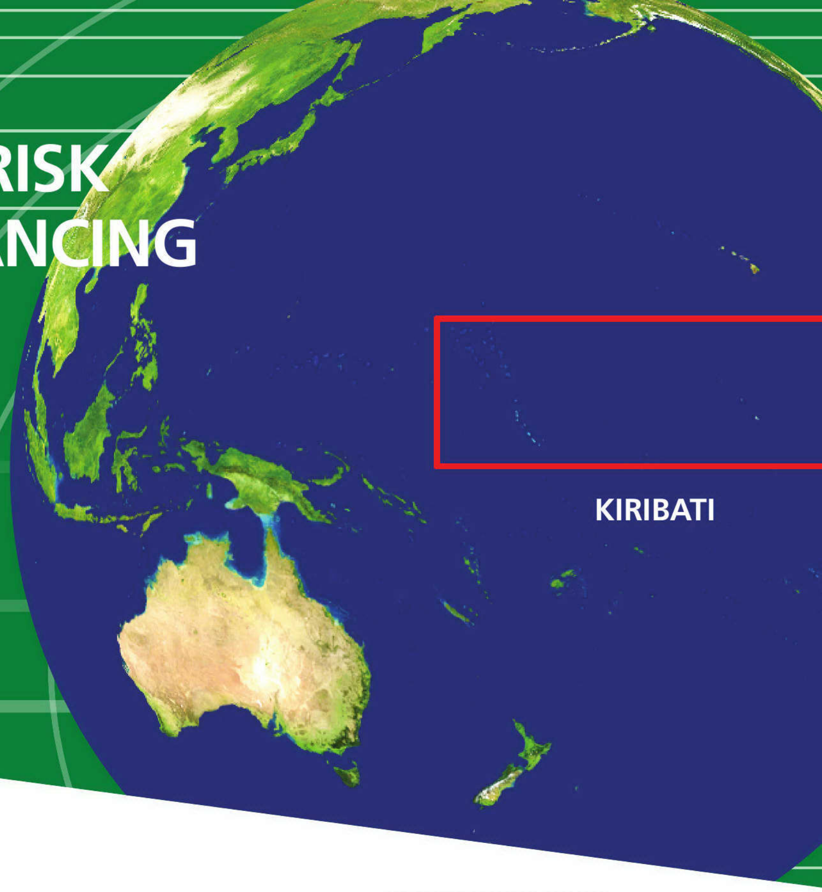
PACIFIC CATASTROPHE RISK ASSESSMENT AND FINANCING INITIATIVE



SEPTEMBER 2011

COUNTRY RISK PROFILE: KIRIBATI

Kiribati is expected to incur, on average, about 0.3 million USD per year in losses due to earthquakes and tropical cyclones. In the next 50 years, Kiribati has a 50% chance of experiencing a loss exceeding 1 million USD and casualties larger than 10 people, and a 10% chance of experiencing a loss exceeding 40 million USD and casualties larger than 200 people.

BETTER RISK INFORMATION FOR SMARTER INVESTMENTS

POPULATION, BUILDINGS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND CROPS EXPOSED TO NATURAL PERILS

An extensive study has been conducted to assemble a comprehensive inventory of population and properties at risk. Properties include residential, commercial, public and industrial buildings; infrastructure assets such as major ports, airports, power plants, bridges, and roads; and major crops, such as coconut, palm oil, rice and many others.

TABLE 1: Summary of Exposure in Kiribati (2010)	
General Information:	
Total Population:	101,400
GDP Per Capita (USD):	1,490
Total GDP (million USD):	151.2
Asset Counts:	
Residential Buildings:	24,879
Public Buildings:	1,103
Commercial, Industrial, and Other Buildings:	1,607
All Buildings:	27,589
Hectares of Major Crops:	18,633
Cost of Replacing Assets (million USD):	
Buildings:	1,006
Infrastructure:	164
Crops:	11
Total:	1,181
Government Revenue and Expenditure:	
Total Government Revenue	
(Million USD):	93.1
(% GDP):	61.6%
Total Government Expenditure	
(Million USD):	108.9
(% GDP):	72.0%

[1] Data assembled from various references including WB, ADB, IMF and The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).
[2] The projected 2010 population was trended from the 2006 census using estimated growth rates provided by SPC.

Table 1 summarizes population and the inventory of buildings, infrastructure assets, and major crops (or "exposure") at risk as well as key economic values for Kiribati. It is estimated that the ***replacement value of all the assets in Kiribati is 1.2 billion USD*** of which about 85% represents buildings and 14% represents infrastructure.

Figures 1 and 2 illustrate the building exposure location and replacement cost distribution, respectively. The footprints of almost 13,000 of the approximately 28,000 buildings shown in Figure 1 were digitized from high-resolution satellite imagery. About 750 of such buildings, all in the urban areas of Tarawa, were also field surveyed and photographed by a team of inspectors deployed for this purpose. Figure 3 displays the land cover/land use map that includes the location of major crops. The data utilized for these exhibits was assembled, organized and, when unavailable, produced in this study.

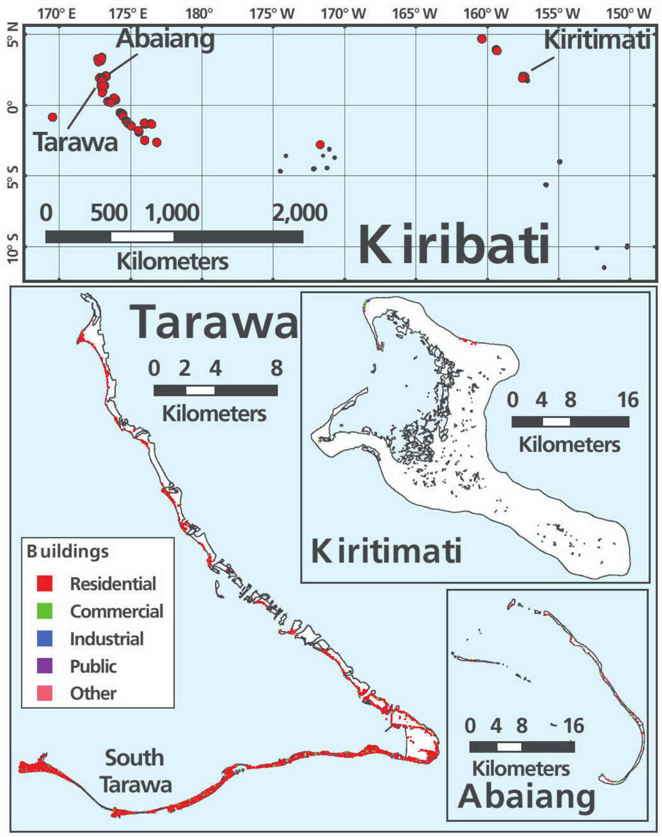


Figure 1: Building locations.

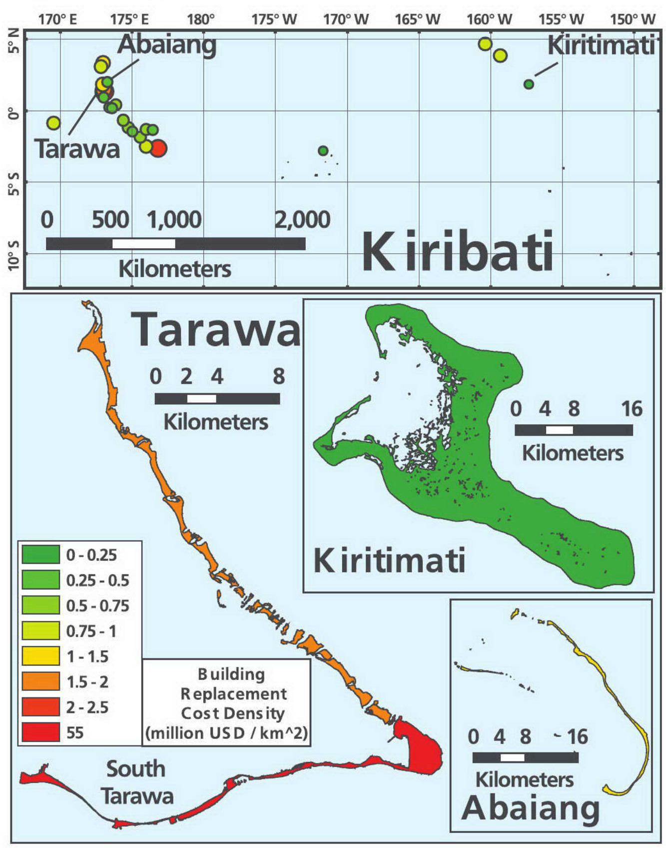


Figure 2: Building replacement cost density by island.

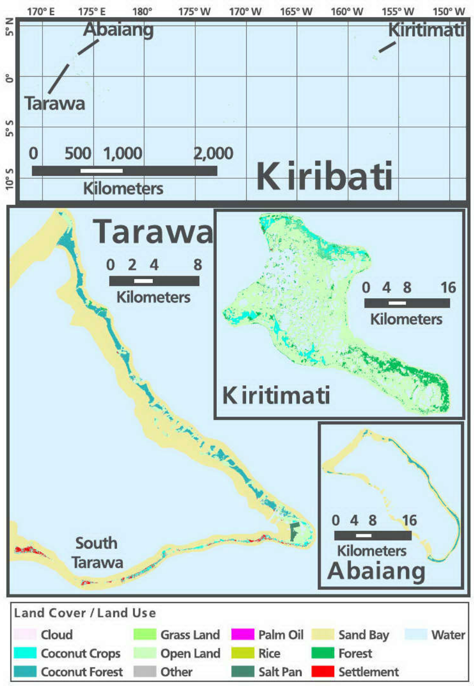


Figure 3: Land cover/land use map.

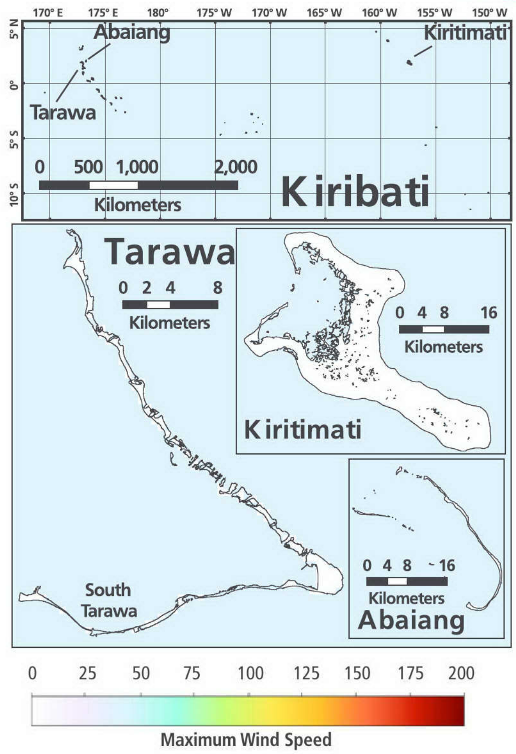
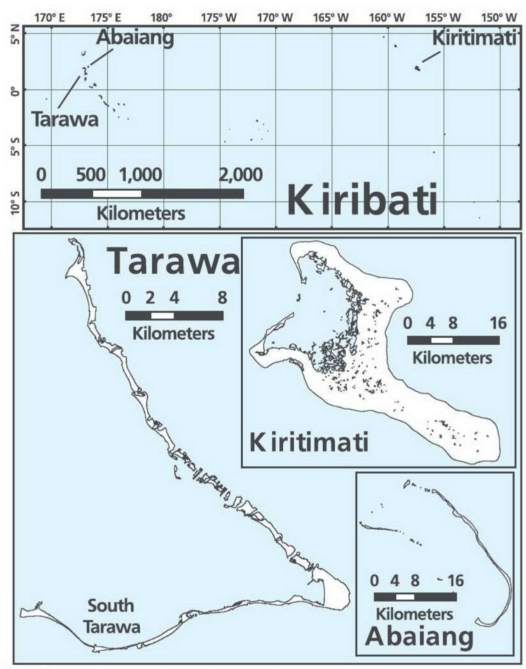


Figure 4: Maximum 1-minute sustained wind speed (in miles per hour) with a 40% chance to be exceeded at least once in the next 50 years (100-year mean return period).

TROPICAL CYCLONE AND EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS IN KIRIBATI

The Pacific islands region is prone to natural hazards. Both areas north and south of the equator are known for the frequent occurrence of tropical cyclones with damaging winds, rains and storm surge between the months of October and May in the South Pacific and throughout the year in the North Pacific. In the last 60 years, in the Pacific region from Taiwan to New Zealand in latitude and from Indonesia to east of Hawaii in longitude, almost 1,000 tropical cyclones with hurricane-force winds spawned south of the equator and more than 1,400 north of the equator, with an average of about 41 tropical storms each year. The archipelago is dispersed over 3.5 million square kilometers straddling the equator where tropical cyclones are rare. Kiribati experiences tropical storms and depressions, but they usually do not cause wind speeds strong enough to categorize them as tropical cyclones. For example, in 1978 tropical cyclone Alice spawned as a tropical depression in Kiribati and crossed the island of Tarawa causing minor damage, but developed into a full-blown tropical cyclone much later when it hit the Republic of Marshall Islands. Figure 4 shows the levels of wind speed due to tropical cyclones that have about a 40% chance to be exceeded at least once in the next 50 years (100-year mean return period). These wind speeds, if they were to occur, are capable of generating minor damage to buildings, infrastructure and crops.

Kiribati is situated in a relatively quiet seismic area but is surrounded by the Pacific "ring of fire," which aligns with the boundaries of the tectonic plates. These boundaries are extremely active seismic zones capable of generating large earthquakes and, in some cases, major tsunamis that can



Perceived Shaking	Not Felt	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
Potential Damage	none	none	none	Very light	light	Moderate	Moderate/ Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
Peak ACC. (%g)	<0.17	0.17-1.4	1.4-4.0	4.0-9	9-17	17-32	32-61	61-114	>114
Peak Vel. (cm/s)	<0.12	0.12-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8	8-16	16-31	31-59	59-115	>115
Instrumental Intensity	I	II-III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+

Scale based upon Wald. et al: 1999

Figure 5: Peak horizontal acceleration of the ground (Note: 1g is equal to the acceleration of gravity) that has about a 40% chance to be exceeded at least once in the next 50 years (100-year mean return period).

travel great distances. For example, in 1899 an earthquake-induced tsunami reached the shores of Kiribati and caused moderate losses. Figure 5 shows that Kiribati has a 40% chance in the next 50 years of experiencing, at least once, weak levels of ground shaking. These levels of shaking are not expected to cause significant damage to buildings and infrastructure.

RISK ANALYSIS RESULTS

To estimate the risk profile for Kiribati posed by tropical cyclones and earthquakes, a simulation model of potential storms and earthquakes that may affect the country in the future was constructed. This model, based on historical data, simulates more than 400,000 tropical cyclones and about 7.6 million earthquakes, grouped in 10,000 potential realizations of the next year's activity in the entire Pacific Basin. The catalog of simulated earthquakes also includes large magnitude events in South and North America, Japan and the Philippines, which could generate tsunamis that may affect Kiribati's shores.

The country's earthquake and tropical cyclone risk profiles are derived from an estimation of the direct losses to buildings, infrastructure assets and major crops caused by all the simulated potential future events. The direct losses include the cost of repairing or replacing the damaged assets but do not include other losses such as contents losses, business interruption losses and losses to primary industries other than agriculture. The direct losses for tropical cyclones are caused by wind and flooding due to rain and storm surge, while losses for earthquakes are caused by ground shaking and tsunami inundation. After assessing the cost of repairing or rebuilding the damaged assets due to the impact of all the simulated potential future events, it is possible to estimate in a probabilistic sense the severity of losses for future catastrophes.

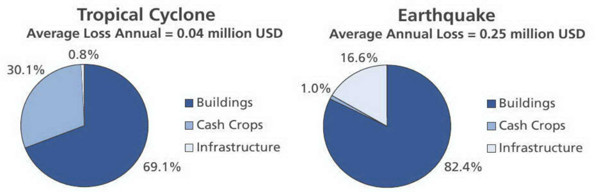


Figure 6: Average annual loss due to tropical cyclones and earthquakes (ground shaking and tsunami) and its contribution from the three types of assets.

The simulations of possible next-year tropical cyclone and earthquake activity show that some years will see no storms or earthquakes affecting Kiribati, while other years may see one or more events affecting the islands, similar to what has happened historically. The annual losses averaged over the many realizations of next-year activity are shown in Figure 6 separately for tropical cyclone and for earthquake and tsunami, while the contributions to the average annual loss from the different islands are displayed in absolute terms

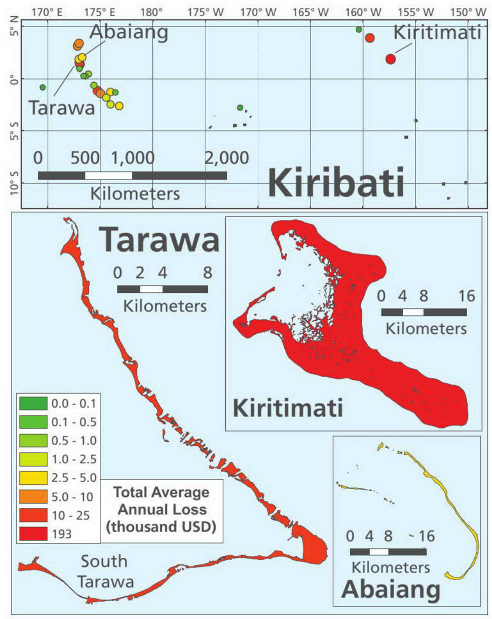


Figure 7: Contribution from the different islands to the average annual loss for tropical cyclone and earthquake (ground shaking and tsunami).

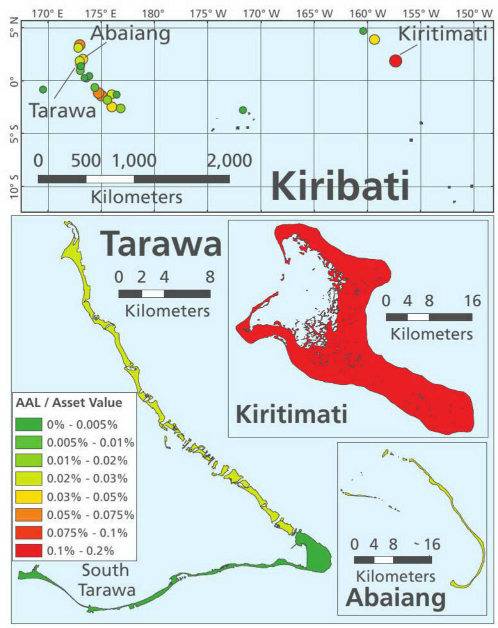


Figure 8: Contribution from the different islands to the tropical cyclone and earthquake (ground shaking and tsunami) average annual loss divided by the replacement cost of the assets in each island.

in Figure 7 and normalized by the total asset values in each island in Figure 8. Figure 8 shows how the relative risk varies by island across the country.

The same risk assessment carried out for Kiribati was also performed for the 14 other Pacific Island Countries. The values of the average annual loss of Kiribati and of the other 14 countries are compared in Figure 9.

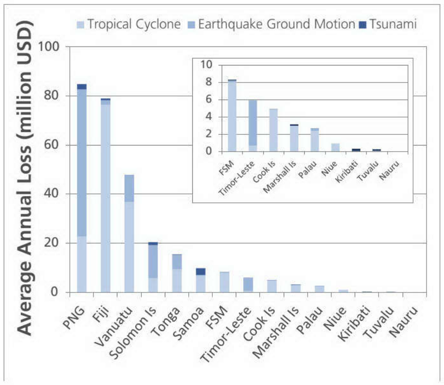


Figure 9: Average annual loss for all the 15 Pacific Island Countries considered in this study.

In addition to estimating average risk per calendar year, another way of assessing risk is to examine large and rather infrequent, but possible, future tropical cyclone and earthquake losses. Table 2 summarizes the risk profile for Kiribati in terms of both direct losses and emergency losses. The former are the expenditures needed to repair or replace the damaged assets while the latter are the expenditures that the Kiribati government may need to incur in the aftermath of a natural catastrophe to provide necessary relief and conduct activities such as debris removal, setting up shelters for homeless or supplying medicine and food. The emergency losses are estimated as a percentage of the direct losses.

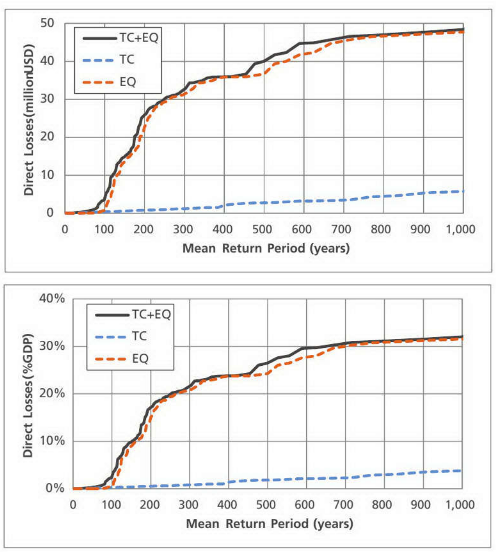


Figure 10: Direct losses caused by either tropical storms or earthquakes that are expected to be equaled or exceeded, on average, once in the time period indicated. Losses represented in absolute terms and normalized by GDP.

Table 2 includes the losses that are expected to be exceeded, on average, once every 50, 100, and 250 years. For example, a ***tropical cyclone loss exceeding 0.4 million USD, which is equivalent to about 0.2% of Kiribati's GDP, is to be expected on average once every 100 years.*** In Kiribati, losses generated by tropical cyclones are rare although wind and flood losses from weaker tropical storms and depressions are not uncommon. Losses due to earthquake ground shaking and tsunami are also expected to be infrequent.

A more complete picture of the risk can be found in Figure 10, which shows the mean return period of direct losses in million USD generated by earthquake, tsunami and tropical cyclones combined. The 50-, 100-, and 250- year mean return period losses in Table 2 can also be determined from the curves in this figure. The direct losses are expressed both in absolute terms and as a percent of the national GDP.

In addition to causing damage and losses to the built environment and crops, future earthquakes and tropical cyclones will also have an impact on population. The same probabilistic procedure described above for losses has been adopted to estimate the likelihood that different levels of casualties (i.e., fatalities and injuries) may result from the future occurrence of these events. As shown in Table 2, our model estimates, for example, that there is a ***40% chance in the next fifty years (100-year mean return period) that one or more events in a calendar year will cause casualties exceeding 25 in Kiribati.*** Tsunamis causing hundreds or more casualties are also possible but have much lower likelihood of occurring.

TABLE 2: Estimated Losses and Casualties Caused by Natural Perils

Mean Return Period (years)	AAL	50	100	250
Risk Profile: Tropical Cyclone				
Direct Losses				
(Million USD)	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.9
(% GDP)	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.6%
Emergency Losses				
(Million USD)	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
(% of total government expenditures)	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%
Casualties	0	2	4	11
Risk Profile: Earthquake and Tsunami				
Direct Losses				
(Million USD)	0.3	0.0	0.8	29.3
(% GDP)	0.2%	0.0%	0.5%	19.4%
Emergency Losses				
(Million USD)	0.1	0.0	0.2	6.7
(% of total government expenditures)	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	6.2%
Casualties	1	0	6	124
Risk Profile: Tropical Cyclone, Earthquake, and Tsunami				
Direct Losses				
(Million USD)	0.3	0.4	4.0	30.1
(% GDP)	0.2%	0.3%	2.6%	19.9%
Emergency Losses				
(Million USD)	0.1	0.1	0.8	6.9
(% of total government expenditures)	0.1%	0.1%	0.7%	6.4%
Casualties	1	4	28	135

[1]Casualties include fatalities and injuries.

APPLICATIONS

The country risk profiles can support multiple applications that benefit both public and private stakeholders. In ***urban and development planning,*** planners can use the risk profile information to identify the best location of new development areas, evaluate how natural hazards may shape their development, and to assess whether the benefits of reducing the risk of natural events justify the costs of implementing the risk mitigating measures. In addition, the risk profiles can inform the development of ***disaster risk financing and insurance solutions*** and ***ex ante budget planning*** options to increase the financial resilience of the countries against natural disasters while maintaining their fiscal balance. The earthquake and tropical cyclone hazard models also provide critical information for building codes in terms of country-specific seismic and wind loads that buildings should be designed for to ensure adequate shelter to the population. The risk information can also help identify existing vulnerable areas and communities located in or adjacent to these areas. This information can assist in supporting more targeted intervention in ***community-based disaster risk management and climate change adaptation*** actions. In the occurrence of a natural disaster the database also provides extremely useful baseline data and information for conducting timely and effective ***post-disaster damage assessments***.

SPC Secretariat of the Pacific Community
Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (SOPAC)

THE WORLD BANK

ADB

GFDRR Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

AIR WORLDWIDE

GNS SCIENCE TE PŪ AO

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