PACIFIC RISING

Uniting Pacific climate justice leaders to tackle non-economic loss and damage through collective strategies

OVERVIEW

Across the Pacific Islands, Indigenous communities and big-ocean states are already facing devastating climate impacts—despite contributing least to the climate crisis.

As a regional partner of the Climate Justice Resilience Fund—and with the first-ever bilateral funding from the Scottish Government—UUSC is helping pioneer **community-led approaches to non-economic loss and damage (NELD) in the Pacific**, working with nine longstanding partners in Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, Fiji, the Marshall Islands, the Solomon Islands, and Kiribati.

With this funding, UUSC partners are designing and implementing locally led, gender-sensitive, and intersectional strategies to address the often-overlooked, intangible costs of climate destruction—such as loss of culture, heritage, and traditional knowledge.

UUSC brings together partners from across the region to collectively determine how NELD funds are shared and used. This **participatory model—grounded in Indigenous knowledge and self-determination**—offers a powerful example of climate justice in action, demonstrating what equitable, community-driven grantmaking can look like.





AREAS OF WORK

the NELD Grants Support:

- Trauma
- Human Security & Livelihood Impacts
- Loss of Coastal Resources
- Loss of Traditional Artifacts, Knowledge, Roles
- Food Insecurity
- Water Insecurity
- Health Impacts
- Loss of Social Cohesion
- Gendered Impacts of NELD
- NELD Impact on Youth

ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACT

At a Glance:



Developed a participatory framework: Partners engage in participatory decision-making processes rooted in shared values as Pacific Island Peoples and a commitment to decolonization.



Advanced equitable funding models: Partners agreed to distribute the full USD $1 million+ in NELD grant funds equally over three years (2024-2026). Each organization receives USD $34,000 per year in flexible, general operating support, in addition to convening, learning, and capacity bridging support.



Built regional power and solidarity: Since 2022, UUSC has convened community representatives annually to develop and advance collective strategies for addressing NELD, resulting in shared advocacy priorities at national, regional, and global levels.



Facilitated access to global decision-making: Supported more than 20 partners and community advocates from the Pacific to participate in annual COP convenings, where they championed climate justice and community-led solutions.

LOOKING AHEAD

In the year ahead, partners will use this funding to deepen **community-led research on the gendered and intersectional impacts of climate change**—examining how women, LGBTQI+ people, elders, youth, and people with disabilities experience climate loss in distinct ways. With more than 70% of our partners led by women, youth, and people living with disabilities, their efforts will strengthen our collective understanding of NELD while advancing inclusive, locally-driven solutions rooted in equity and lived experience.

More broadly, UUSC and our partners aim to raise awareness of NELD across the Pacific and to inspire funders and policymakers to adopt more participatory, justice-centered approaches. The collective work of Pacific Rising offers **a model for how governments and funders can support and adopt participatory, rights-based approaches to advancing NELD**. Building on this momentum, Pacific partners are currently developing a regional fund—a first-of-its-kind in the region—to channel larger, sustained climate financing directly to frontline communities.

CONTACT

If you are interested in learning more please contact:

Salote Soqo,
Director of Advocacy and Global Displacement
ssoqo@uusc.org

uusc.org