COUNTRY REPORT

FIJI 2026

Digital Technology and Climate Change

Climate risks / Digital adaptation / Priority assistance

RESEARCH SYNTHESIS

Evidence • implications • implementation gaps • 2026 priorities

Country update | 15 October 2026

Basis: supplied country report and sources cited throughout the deck.

1. Country Overview

Geography, climate and the digital-access context

AN ISLAND NATION

330+

islands in the South Pacific

≈18,300 km²

Dispersed settlements increase the importance of last-mile connectivity, local warning channels and service continuity.

Tropical maritime climate

Warm throughout the year

WET SEASON

November–April

DRY SEASON

May–October

Research focus: climate information must remain available when weather disrupts transport, power or telecommunications.

RESEARCH IMPLICATION

For Fiji, digital adaptation is also an access problem: information must reach dispersed rural and maritime communities through resilient and redundant channels.

Source: supplied report, p.2 | Geographic and seasonal background.

Population and Economy

Economic exposure is closely linked to climate-sensitive sectors

2026

902,623

Population projection

2025

986,367

Visitor arrivals

2025 · PRELIMINARY

FJ$2.81bn

Tourism earnings

WHAT THE RESEARCH SHOWS

Tourism, agriculture and fisheries are climate-sensitive livelihoods. Remittances provide another important income stream.

DIGITAL ADAPTATION VALUE

Earlier warnings, exposure maps and service-continuity data can reduce disruption and help target recovery resources to affected communities.

RESEARCH IMPLICATION

Climate shocks can become economic shocks quickly. Digital systems are most useful when they connect hazard information to people, assets, transport and essential services.

Source: supplied report, p.3 | Fiji Bureau of Statistics. Population is a 2026 projection; tourism figures relate to 2025.

2. Climate Change Challenges

Research links each physical hazard to a practical digital-response need

01 Cyclones & heavy rain

Homes, roads and essential services can be damaged or cut off.

Digital need: multi-hazard warnings + access status

02 Coastal change

Sea-level rise, erosion and saltwater intrusion affect settlements and resources.

Digital need: coastal/GIS monitoring + planning data

03 Floods & dry periods

Crops, water supplies and livelihoods face both excess-water and scarcity risks.

Digital need: rainfall, river, drought and water data

04 Ocean stress

Warming and acidification threaten reefs, fisheries and coastal protection.

Digital need: marine monitoring + ecosystem data

RESEARCH FINDING

Fiji faces both sudden disasters and slow-onset pressures. A strong digital adaptation system therefore needs warning, monitoring, mapping and long-term planning—not a single technology.

Source: supplied report, p.4 | FMS; WMO; original Fiji report.

Extreme weather events

A 2026 event and a historical benchmark show why multi-hazard planning matters

2026 EXAMPLE

Tropical Cyclone Vaianu

5–9 April 2026

Passed west of Fiji, bringing strong winds, heavy rain and rough seas. Flooding, damage and road blockages were reported.

Research lesson: impact can be significant even without direct cyclone landfall.

HISTORICAL BENCHMARK

Winston · 2016

≈31% **of GDP**

Total damage and losses, including environmental impacts.

Why the benchmark matters: climate events can affect national development, not only emergency response.

DIGITAL RESPONSE

Warnings should cover rainfall, flooding, marine conditions and access disruption, while backup communications and road-status information support action after the alert is issued.

Source: supplied report, p.5 | FMS, April 2026; World Bank, 2016.

Rising Sea Levels

Long-term evidence needs to be combined with local exposure and community information

OBSERVED LONG-TERM TREND

4–5

mm/year

Satellite trend around Fiji 1992–2024

Reported in the FMS 2024 annual summary. This is not a measured 2026 annual rate.

Coastal assets and freshwater

Erosion and saltwater intrusion can affect settlements, roads, water resources and community assets.

Relocation remains an active issue

An April 2026 taskforce reviewed relocation at Nabavatu and Cogea.

DECISION SUPPORT CHAIN

Coastal trend → Local hazard → People & assets → Community input

RESEARCH IMPLICATION

Sea-level data alone does not decide whether to protect, adapt or relocate. Digital tools are strongest when regional trends are combined with site checks, infrastructure data and community consultation.

Source: supplied report, p.6 | FMS Annual Summary 2024; MECC, 2026.

Ocean warming, acidification and livelihoods

Regional marine evidence has direct relevance for Fiji's reefs, fisheries and tourism

REGIONAL EVIDENCE

Hotter and more acidic seas

WMO's 2025 regional report, published in July 2026, identifies marine heatwaves disrupting ecosystems and fisheries.

Research limitation: regional evidence needs local monitoring to support local decisions.

FIJI RELEVANCE

Coral reefs	Biodiversity and reef condition
Coastal protection	Natural buffers against waves
Fisheries	Food, livelihoods and ecosystems
Tourism	Visitor economy and coastal assets

DIGITAL ADAPTATION

Marine temperature, reef and fisheries monitoring can provide early evidence of stress. Linking those observations to coastal planning and livelihood data makes the information more actionable.

Source: supplied report, p.7 | WMO South-West Pacific report, 2026.

3. Role of Digital Technology in Climate Change Adaptation

3.1 Current Digital Technology Status — policy foundation and operational tools

National Digital Strategy

2025–2030

- Infrastructure and cybersecurity
- Inclusive access and digital skills
- Innovation and MSME participation
- Citizen-centred public services

Climate relevance: resilient infrastructure, inclusion and service design are prerequisites for effective digital adaptation.

2026 UPDATE

National Cybersecurity and Resilience Strategy 2026–2031

Launched 18 March 2026

Research interpretation: climate-data and warning systems also depend on cyber resilience, continuity planning and trusted public services.

RESEARCH FINDING

Fiji is not starting from zero. The next challenge is to connect national digital foundations with climate-specific tools, extend coverage and keep services reliable over time.

Source: supplied report, p.8 | Fiji Government digital strategies.

Early Warning Systems

Research distinguishes existing FMS capability from 2026 proposal development

EXISTING FMS SERVICES

Forecasts and monitoring

- Weather and marine forecasts
- Cyclone and heavy-rain warnings
- Online satellite and radar information
- River-level information

2026 PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT

July 2026 GCF/CREWS proposal

01 Observation & monitoring

02 Forecasting & decision support

03 Community warning delivery

Status: proposal preparation only — not funding approval or completed delivery.

OBSERVE → FORECAST → WARN → ACT

RESEARCH GAP

A warning system succeeds only when the final stages work: messages must reach people in time, be understood and lead to action. Last-mile delivery is therefore as important as observation technology.

Source: supplied report, p.9 | FMS; MECC, July 2026.

Remote Sensing and Monitoring

The research opportunity is to combine multiple layers, not use each dataset in isolation

01

Satellite and radar

EXISTING SERVICE

FMS imagery monitors weather systems and supports forecasts.

02

GIS and project maps

EXISTING PLATFORM

Climate Change Division mapping supports relocation and adaptation planning.

03

Population Grid 2026

PUBLISHED JULY 2026

100 m × 100 m cells, using 2017 census data estimated to 2026.

ANALYTICAL OPPORTUNITY

Hazard layers + Population Grid + roads / services / assets → identify exposed communities and priority response areas

Potential uses: evacuation planning • infrastructure investment • disaster response • relocation and adaptation prioritisation

Source: supplied report, p.10 | FMS; Climate Change Portal; FBoS.

Climate information, reporting and services

A shared tool is valuable only when the data cycle is maintained and governed

NEW IN 2026

Fiji Digital Climate Transparency Tool

Launched 28 April 2026

A shared system for sectoral greenhouse-gas data and climate reporting.

Research value: a common evidence base can support reporting, policy and cross-agency coordination.

WHAT THE TOOL SUPPORTS

01 Enter sector data

↓

02 Validate

↓

03 Update

↓

04 Report

Research need: clear data ownership, common definitions, update cycles and quality checks.

CROSS-CUTTING FINDING

Digital platforms do not create reliable evidence automatically. Governance, data quality and regular updating determine whether the information can be trusted and used.

Source: supplied report, p.11 | MECC; Climate Change Portal; FMS.

4. Challenges in Utilizing Digital Technology

The research shows that technology performance depends on infrastructure, people, data and governance

BARRIER	WHY IT MATTERS	PRACTICAL RESPONSE
Remote connectivity	Warnings and services can fail at the last mile.	Extend affordable access and backup communications.
Costs & maintenance	Tools degrade after launch without lifecycle funding.	Budget for data, power, repairs and replacement.
Digital skills	Information may not be interpreted or acted on.	Train staff and communities; provide user support.
Data quality & coordination	Inconsistent data slows or weakens decisions.	Agree ownership, formats and update cycles.
Security & external reliance	Disruption or dependency can undermine continuity.	Protect systems and strengthen local technical capacity.

RESEARCH CONCLUSION

The main risk is not simply whether a digital tool exists. The implementation test is whether it stays operational, uses trustworthy data and helps local users take action.

Basis: supplied report, p.12 | Implementation priorities.

Situations of digital technology and climate change

Documented 2026 milestones — plus an interpretation of what stage each represents

18 March 2026	National Cybersecurity and Resilience Strategy 2026–2031	LAUNCHED
28 April 2026	Fiji Digital Climate Transparency Tool	LAUNCHED
3 July 2026	Fiji Population Grid 2026	PUBLISHED
July 2026	GCF/CREWS early-warning proposal-development workshop	PROPOSAL STAGE

RESEARCH INTERPRETATION

01 **Policy & resilience**
Strategy launched

02 **Shared reporting**
Tool launched

03 **Spatial evidence**
Grid published

04 **Expanded EWS**
Still proposal stage

A launch or announcement is a milestone — not proof of nationwide coverage or measured outcomes.

WHAT TO MEASURE NEXT

Coverage • uptime • warning reach • data quality • active users • decisions supported. These indicators show whether the 2026 foundations are producing operational results.

Source: supplied report, p.13 | Fiji Government; MECC; FBoS.

Assistance needed for digital technology and climate change

Research priorities connect a documented gap to a practical support need and intended result

01 Resilient infrastructure

GAP: remote / last-mile reliability

SUPPORT: connectivity, backup power, maintenance

RESULT: services continue during disruption

02 Local capability

GAP: GIS, data and warning skills

SUPPORT: training + user support

RESULT: stronger local ownership

03 Shared data systems

GAP: fragmented ownership and formats

SUPPORT: standards + secure access

RESULT: faster coordinated decisions

04 Project preparation & finance

GAP: ideas may not be costed / investment-ready

SUPPORT: design, costing and financing

RESULT: implementable adaptation projects

RESEARCH PRIORITY

Treat digital climate systems as ongoing public services, not one-off installations: finance the connectivity, maintenance, skills, data governance and security required to keep them useful.

Basis: supplied report, p.14 | Proposed support priorities; subject to agency agreement, costing and available funding.

Vinaka vakalevu



Basis: supplied report, p.15 | Closing synthesis and proposed action.