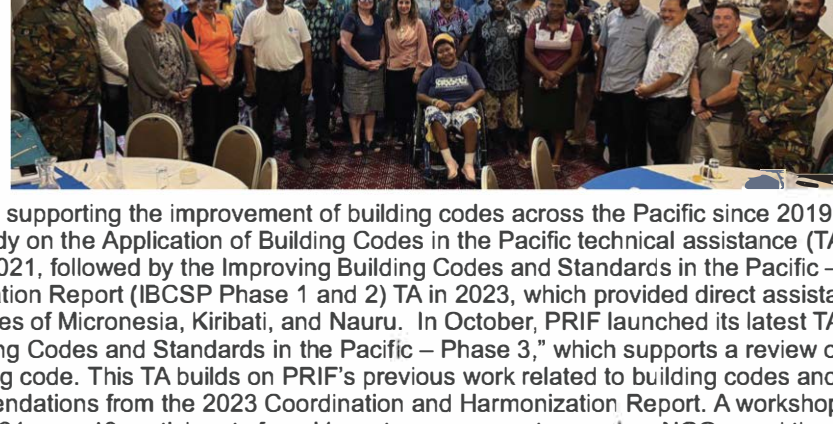


Technical Assistance

Building Inclusive Futures: PRIF's Commitment to Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Infrastructure

The mainstreaming of gender equality, equity, and social inclusion (GEDSI) across PRIF's partnerships marks an important milestone in supporting the long-term planning and management of sustainable infrastructure in the Pacific. PRIF will implement two key TA projects: one aimed at enhancing regional coordination for capacity development in environmental and social management in the Pacific, and another focused on developing guidance to prevent sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment in infrastructure development in the Pacific. Both TAs will begin implementation in January 2025 and will be coordinated to ensure that findings inform both sets of guidance as they are rolled out. It is expected that these guidelines will help PRIF partners and member countries address the risks and impacts of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment in infrastructure projects.

PRIF supports National Building Code effort – Vanuatu

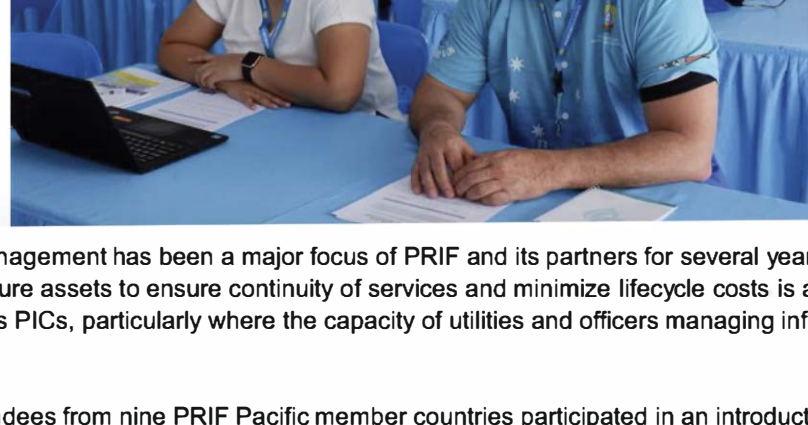


PRIF has been supporting the improvement of building codes across the Pacific since 2019. The Regional Diagnostic Study on the Application of Building Codes in the Pacific technical assistance (TA) was completed in 2021, followed by the Improving Building Codes and Standards in the Pacific – Coordination and Harmonization Report (IBCSP Phase 1 and 2) TA in 2023, which provided direct assistance to Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, and Nauru. In October, PRIF launched its latest TA, "Improving National Building Codes and Standards in the Pacific – Phase 3," which supports a review of Vanuatu's national building code. This TA builds on PRIF's previous work related to building codes and addresses many recommendations from the 2023 Coordination and Harmonization Report. A workshop held on October 14, 2024, saw 40 participants from Vanuatu government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector engage in discussions to identify key areas for revision and enhancement. This latest TA will not only benefit Vanuatu but also explore how the region can best promote and coordinate building code improvements and regional construction standards going forward. This Phase 3 TA is structured into four parts:

- Develop regional guidance for building codes and undertake peer reviews of related work by PRIF member countries and development partners.
- Support the Government of Vanuatu in reviewing, revising, and updating the Vanuatu National Building Code (VNBC).
- Strengthen a community of practice with Pacific practitioners from the public and private sectors to facilitate the sharing of good practices and improve understanding and application of standards and design/construction guides.
- Conduct a feasibility study for a regional secretariat with a mandate to promote and coordinate building code improvements and regional construction standards.

The TA is scheduled to be completed by June 2025.

Asset Management training in the Pacific Water and Wastewater conference 2024, Cook Islands

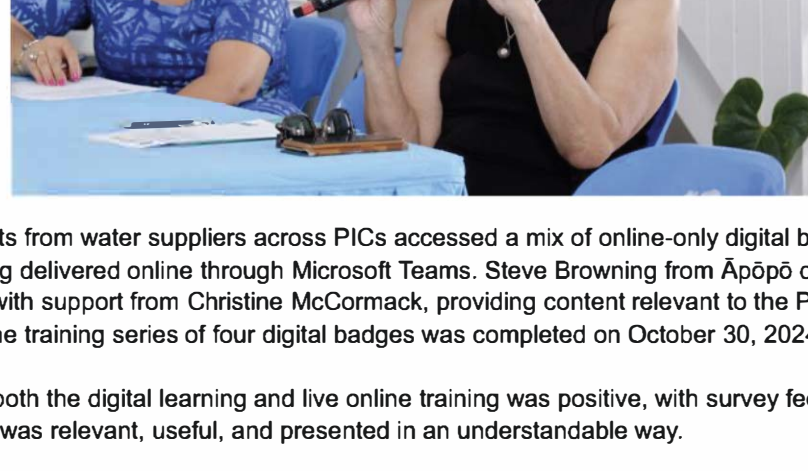


Better asset management has been a major focus of PRIF and its partners for several years. Managing water infrastructure assets to ensure continuity of services and minimize lifecycle costs is an ongoing challenge across PICs, particularly where the capacity of utilities and officers managing infrastructure is limited.

Seventeen attendees from nine PRIF Pacific member countries participated in an introductory workshop on asset management at the PWWA conference 2024, held in the Cook Islands. The workshop aimed to introduce participants to asset management practices and raise awareness of the 2024 asset management training available to PICs. Delivered by Steve Browning and Christine McCormack, the workshop included a session on embedding climate change considerations into asset management. Additionally, Sharon Lesa from the Samoa Water Authority, a graduate of the 2023 training program, presented on the development of their asset management policy, an improvement action identified through the 2023 PRIF TA project on strengthening asset management in the Pacific water sector.

Six of the water supplier organizations who attended the workshop also participated in the PRIF virtual training program held after the conference.

2024 Asset Management Training



Thirty participants from water suppliers across PICs accessed a mix of online-only digital badges and live in-person training delivered online through Microsoft Teams. Steve Browning from Āpōpō delivered the live online training, with support from Christine McCormack, providing content relevant to the Pacific water sector. The online training series of four digital badges was completed on October 30, 2024.

Participation in both the digital learning and live online training was positive, with survey feedback indicating that the content was relevant, useful, and presented in an understandable way.

The 2024 training program reached 12 water utilities across eight countries: Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Vanuatu, with about 27 percent women, which is a reasonable representation for the water industry. The 2024 program was delivered in a short timeframe to match funding availability, which may have impacted participation.

Getting Ready for the Vanuatu Infrastructure Strategic Investment (VISIP) update

The current VISIP is now 10 years old. In late October, PRIF undertook a week-long mission to Port Vila to design and target the approach for the VISIP update scheduled for 2025. Over the week, eight meetings and workshops were held, focusing on the design and timing of key activities for the VISIP update, ways to better integrate the VISIP into the Government of Vanuatu's decision-making and public finance management processes, and methods to incorporate information on safeguards (CDR, GEDSI) into infrastructure planning and investment.

Additionally, during the same mission, PRIF:

- Assisted with the major Vanuatu Transport Sector Roadmap and Investment Plan workshop (50 participants) to review the shortlisting of transport infrastructure projects, which will provide inputs to the VISIP.
- Met with the team working on the Vanuatu building code to discuss the feasibility study for a regional approach to codes and guidelines.
- Met with private sector consultants involved in infrastructure projects.

Driving Infrastructure Coordination - Enhancing role of the PRIF working groups

The PRIF management committee is dedicated to ensuring that working groups guide PRIF in delivering quality infrastructure to Pacific member countries. In November 2024, a special PMC meeting was convened to discuss the organization and activities of the working groups. This included setting objectives, broadening membership, engaging with regional and national entities through the national infrastructure investment planning (NIIP) process, and integrating climate disaster resilience (CDR) and gender equality, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI) into the sectoral working groups. Additionally, the meeting aimed to strengthen communication channels between the working groups and the PMC.

While the mainstreaming of GEDSI and CDR is incorporated in the PRIF TA concept note and the NIIP multi-criteria analysis, it is currently being implemented through the dedicated structures of the technical working groups, particularly within the CDR and Environment and Social working groups. These TWGs will provide strategic advice and guidance for coordination, TA development and implementation, and knowledge brokerage. The goal is to achieve mainstreaming through these approaches, although it may take some time.

For information about the PRIF working groups please reach out to us on enquiries@theprif.org or visit [PRIF](https://www.theprif.org).

Knowledge Products

Government Approved Nauru Integrated Infrastructure Strategic Plan (NIISP) 2024

The third iteration of the Nauru Integrated Infrastructure Strategic Plan (NIISP) was published in May 2024, building on previous work. The first Nauru Economic Infrastructure Strategy and Investment Plan (NEISIP) was published in November 2011, closely linked to achieving the economic and social strategies of the updated 2009 National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS). The second NIISP was adopted by Cabinet in November 2019, coinciding with the release of the NSDS 2019-2030. In June 2024, the Government of Nauru approved the NIISP 2024.

NIISP 2024 focuses on:

- Assessing lessons learned from a mid-term review and proposing capacity development initiatives.
- Updating the asset register and condition of assets, ultimately identifying a corrective maintenance program and refurbishment projects for inclusion.
- Assembling a more comprehensive pipeline of planned projects through a more rigorous engagement process with infrastructure agencies.
- Aligning prioritization criteria with the 2019 NSDS and increasing government participation in the multicriteria analysis process.
- More tightly integrating the NIISP into Nauru's planning and budgeting processes, including an early-stage screening gateway for infrastructure projects.

Managing Coastal Protection Works in Pacific Island Countries

PRIF has published the third installment of guidance for coastal protection against climate and natural disasters such as sea-level rise, tsunamis, coastal erosion, inundation, storm surges, and tropical cyclones that could severely impact coastal infrastructure and assets in the Pacific. The new report, titled 'Guidance for Managing Coastal Protection Works in Pacific Island Countries,' was launched in August 2024 and provides valuable guidance to asset owners and managers in PICs for the ongoing management of coastal protection works.

The report can be accessed at: [Guidance to Managing Coastal Protection in PICs](#)

Asset Management Improvement Guide for the Water Sector in the Pacific

Good asset management is fundamental to the delivery of water and sanitation services. PRIF and the Pacific Water and Wastewater Association (PWWA) collaborated to develop a guide aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of water professionals. Recently published, this guide provides practical advice on assessing your organization's asset management maturity and developing an asset management improvement plan. These steps are crucial for better operation and maintenance of the infrastructure used to deliver water services. Improving asset management practices will help ensure that key service levels, such as water supply quality, reliability, and quantity, can be maintained and improved over the long term.

Click here for the [Guide to Asset Management Improvement planning for the Water Sector and Water Utility Asset Management: A Guide for Development Practitioners](#)

Check out the [short video](#) presentation which provides an introduction, and a brief overview of the key issues covered in the guide.

Outreach Activities

Guide to Mobility for Livable Pacific Cities.

Imagine a future where the streets of Pacific cities are not merely thoroughfares for vehicles, but vibrant, safe spaces for everyone. Where the hum of traffic is replaced by the buzz of community life, and every journey, no matter how small, becomes a pleasure.

Between July and November 2024, the World Bank and PRIF collaborated to deliver a 9-part webinar series discussing strategies from the World Bank's flagship report, "Guide to Mobility for Livable Pacific Cities," released on 9 October 2024 as part of the [PRIF Week 2024](#) virtual conference. The report serves as a blueprint for revolutionizing urban transportation in the Pacific, making it more sustainable, safe, affordable, and people-friendly.

The nine webinars shared insights, experiences, and perspectives on topics such as community led ideas for affordable street transformations, education programs to promote active mobility, land use planning, importing Pacific-appropriate EVs, street designs, the use of buses as urban transit, and parking management.

The webinar series attracted over 200 attendees from across Pacific countries, including Pacific Island governments, tertiary institutions, development partners, and private sector representatives. More than 30 speakers shared their insights and perspectives, with significant contributions from Pacific Island countries, ensuring the series' success.

To stay updated and connect with other urban transport professionals, you are welcome to join the [LinkedIn Group for Pacific Leaders in Urban Transport Planning](#). You can view the PowerPoint slides and recordings of the webinar series on the PRIF website [here](#).

Pacific reach - PRIF Informs, Shares, and Collaborates with Pacific Practitioners through the Community of Practice.

In 2024, over 200 participants from across the Pacific, including training institutions, infrastructure practitioners, and development partners, attended three PRIF Community of Practice webinars. These webinars provided insights, discussed challenges, and explored opportunities for responsible sourcing of aggregates in the region. The second webinar introduced and socialized the new PRIF guidance report for managing coastal protection works in the Pacific Island Countries (PICs), discussing its relevance and applicability for Pacific infrastructure practitioners and professionals. More recently, the launch of the Asset Management Improvement Planning Guide for the water sector included a presentation on key concepts outlined in the guide, followed by a panel session where water practitioners discussed and answered questions about asset management in the water sector.

You can view the PowerPoint slides and recordings of these webinars on the PRIF website [here](#).

PRIF Communication Tools

PRIF has released these fantastic knowledge product postcards to interface and share PRIF knowledge products with partners and Pacific member countries. The QR code allows interested practitioners the ability to quickly access and download the reports, while increasing efficiency of dissemination compared to publishing hard copies.

