



## Addressing Unavoidable Climate Impacts: Designing Loss and Damage projects for Small Island Developing States

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## Why L&D Matters in the Pacific?

- Front line of climate change
- Limits to adaptation
- Economic and non-economic losses
- Climate justice
- Practical needs for support

## Role of L&D Projects

- Remedial role: Responding to realised climate-induced impacts
- Gap-filling role: Addressing what adaptation and humanitarian aid cannot (e.g., sea level rise)
- Validating role: Acknowledging and addressing Non-Economic Loss and Damage (NELD)
- Transformative role: Enabling dignified futures
- Justice and solidarity role: Operationalizing climate justice
- Learning role: Building evidence for global policy

# New Zealand MFAT Programme: Addressing climate change L&D



Approved in 2022 as NZD 20 million commitment to L&D (COP27)

- Outcome 1: **Pacific Island Countries are supported and prepared to address the economic and non-economic loss and damage** they are experiencing due to climate change.
- Outcome 2: **Women, girls, and vulnerable groups are supported** to be active agents of change in loss and damage decision making and action
- Outcome 3: **Regional capability is improved to enable a Pacific-led** long-term approach to addressing loss and damage
- Outcome 4: Pacific loss and damage **priorities are highlighted and inform the design of the UNFCCC Loss and Damage Fund** to be accessible and responsive to Pacific priorities
- Outcome 5: **Other donors are interested** to support addressing loss and damage in the Pacific.



Duration of programme:  
 2023/24 – 2025/26

# Project Design Team



**Paddy Pringle**

Team leader



**Richard**

Project Director



**Neeraj Shankar**

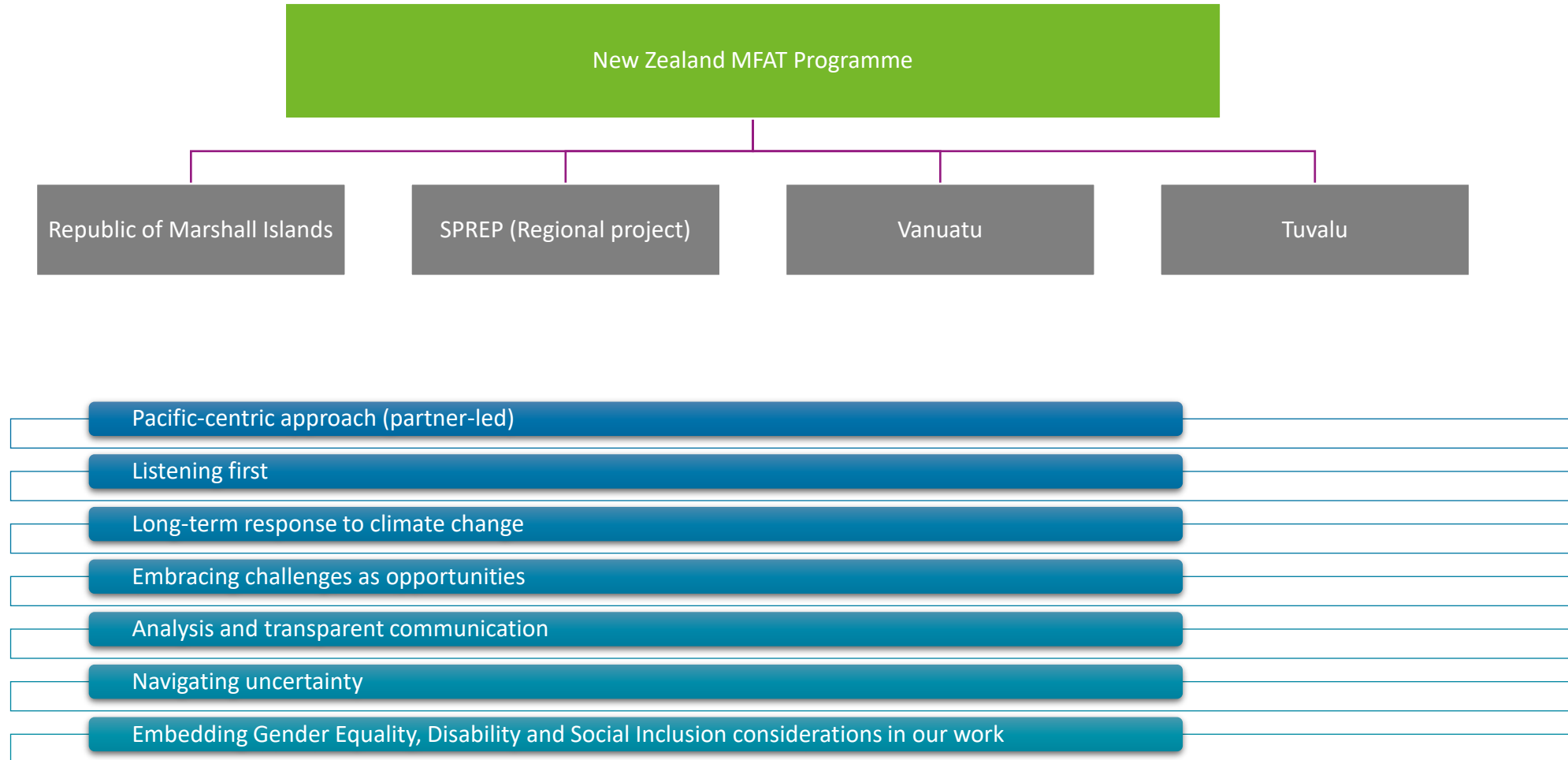
Loss and Damage  
Advisor



**Ella Strachan**

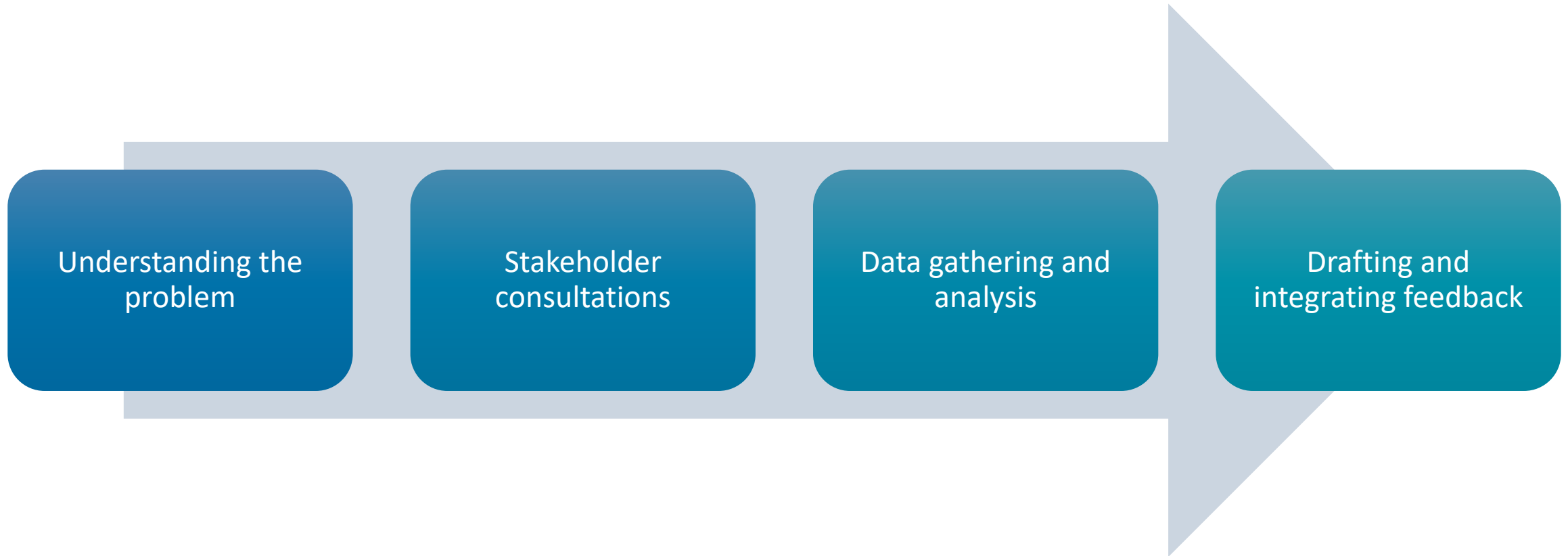
Loss and Damage  
Advisor

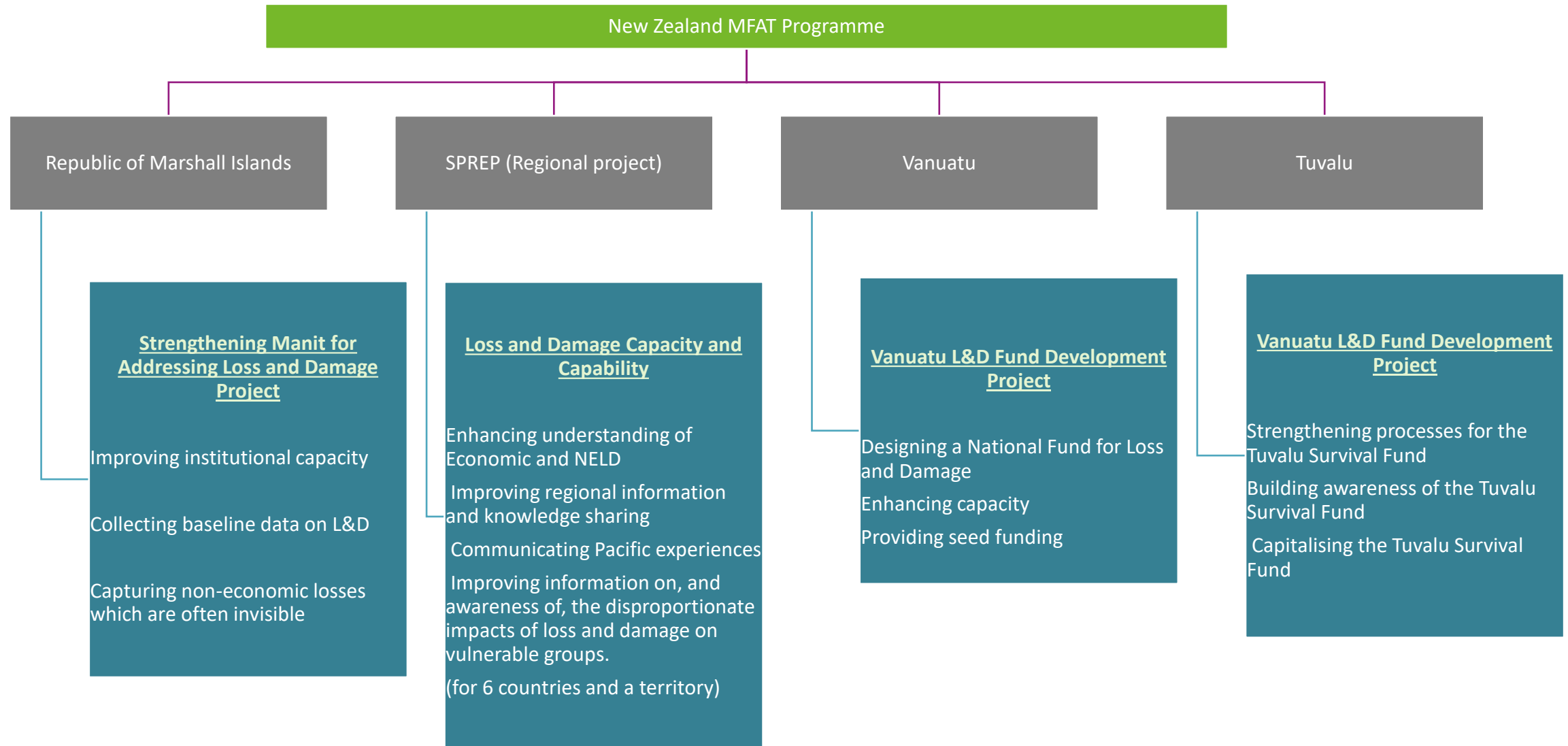
# Structure and Guiding Principles of the MFAT Loss and Damage Programme



# Process of designing L&D projects

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# Lessons from our project designs

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- L&D definitions must be contextual
- National ownership is crucial
- Ongoing dialogue and collaboration are foundational (also builds trust)
- Local storytelling is a powerful tool
- Donor flexibility is key
- Integrating GEDSI principles is non-negotiable
- Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning supports learning and adaptation

# Common pitfalls and how to avoid them

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Pitfall	Better approach
Treating L&D as disaster recovery or Adaptation	Framing interventions around unavoidable impacts and justice dimensions/ Design for long-term systemic change
Designing one-off projects	Move from isolated/piecemeal projects to long-term institutional pathways that strengthen Pacific resilience and sovereignty.
Applying one-size-fits-all definitions	Let countries define loss in their own context
Focusing only on economic losses	Include cultural, ecological, and social losses
Underestimating institutional complexity	Grounding design in national systems and capacities
Overvaluing quantitative data, undervaluing experience	Combine and balance evidence with stories and lived experience
Ignoring inclusion - Assuming women, youth, or people with disabilities are automatically included	Embed women, youth, and disability leadership
Treating L&D as charity	Frame it as justice and solidarity

# Closing reflection

- Strengthen institutional and policy foundations
- Establish (or utilise) national L&D financing mechanisms
- Strengthen regional collaboration and learning systems
- Invest in data, monitoring, and learning
- Champion Pacific leadership and voice





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