

International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure 2025

Shaping a Resilient Future for Small Island Developing States:
Outcomes, Recommendations, and Next Steps

Acknowledgements

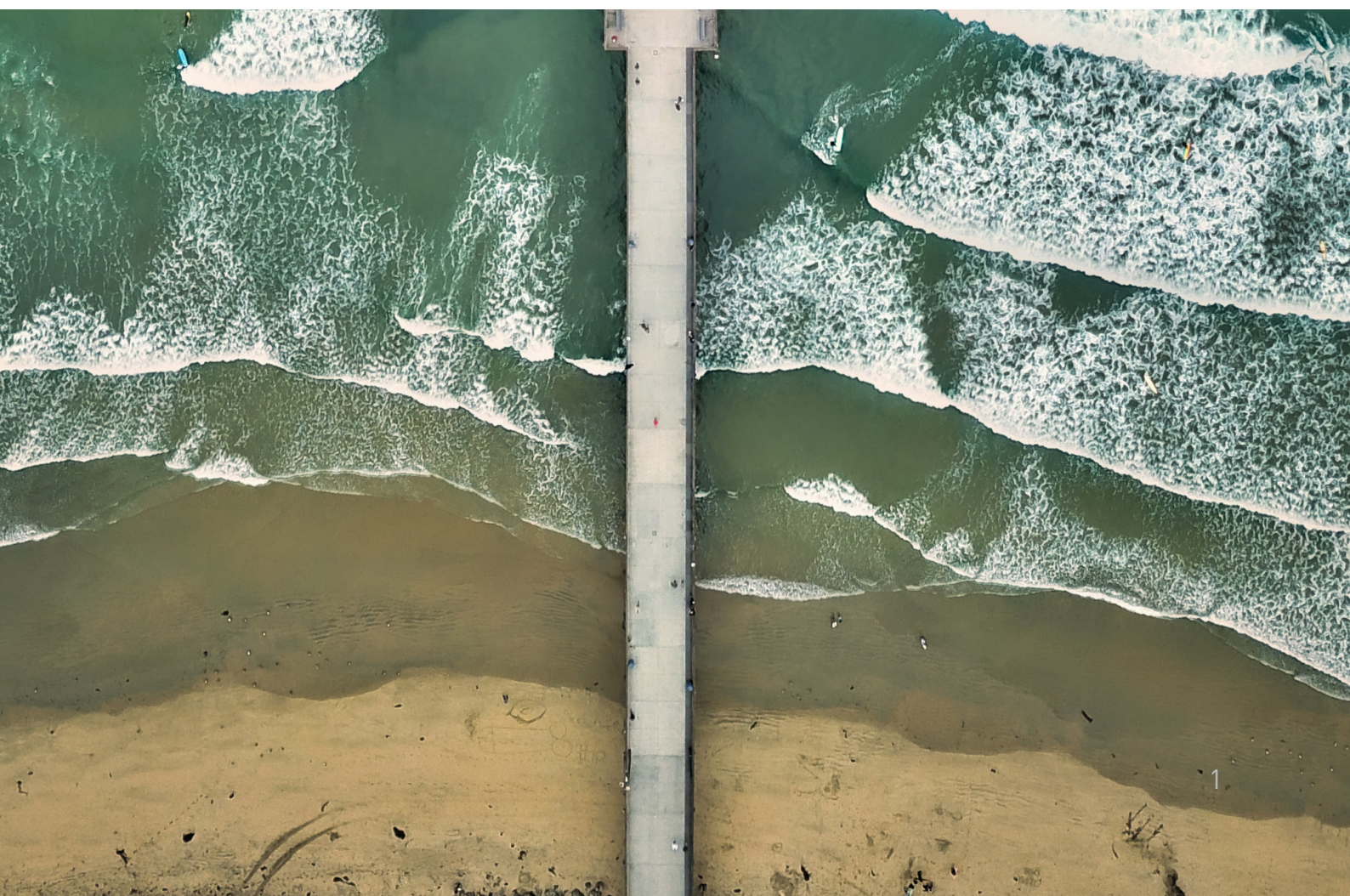
The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) extends its gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2025, held from 6–7 June, in Nice, France.

A special note of thanks to the Government of France for their partnership and extensive support in the lead-up to and throughout the conference. Their collaboration was instrumental in facilitating meaningful and impactful discussions.

ICDRI 2025 was enriched by the participation of national governments, international organizations, and global experts from a wide range of sectors and regions. The diversity of perspectives significantly deepened the dialogue on building resilient infrastructure, especially in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

We would like to acknowledge the 28 experts who met between January and May 2025 to develop a Call to Action on 'Resilient Infrastructure in SIDS' and support development of the conference agenda.

We thank the team at ODI Global for their substantive support in the development of both the Call to Action and the Conference Outcome Documents.



SIDS are at the frontlines of the climate crisis. A single cyclone can erase years of investment, with damages often exceeding annual GDP. Narrow tax bases and repeated disasters drive debt service ratios up every time a storm knocks out key assets. This in turn generates a backlog of ports, inter-island roads, water, and power systems awaiting repair, or worse still, new capital stock that's been rebuilt to yesterday's standards. Although the extra cost of 'building back better' is often modest, it remains extremely challenging to finance under today's fragmented funding architecture. This is but one of the challenges that SIDS face in their efforts to protect themselves from mounting environmental pressures.

The International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure took place in Nice, France from 6–7 June 2025. 220 delegates from 52 countries represented national governments, multilateral development banks, international organizations, the private sector, think tanks, academia, and the media.

With the theme ‘Shaping a Resilient future for SIDS,’ the conversations focussed on the overarching question: How can Small Island Developing States (SIDS) keep their critical infrastructure—ports, roads, power lines, and digital networks—functioning and affordable in an era of rising seas, stronger storms, and mounting fiscal pressure?

In preparing the conference, CDRI drew upon its flagship Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) Programme. Since its launch in 2021, IRIS has engaged in consultations across SIDS and, with financial support from Australia, India, the UK, and the EU, is supporting 24 technical assistance projects across 25 SIDS. Through IRIS, three key themes have emerged as priority areas for SIDS: Codes and Standards; Data, Technology, and Early Warning Systems; and Access to Finance.

Across the two-day programme, including 15 plenary sessions and two round table discussions, the need for leadership, investment, and concrete action to strengthen infrastructure resilience in SIDS was underscored.

Day One featured technical-level discussions on building code compliance for future climate risks, using data, technology, and early-warning systems to keep critical assets online, and accessing finance for SIDS.

Day Two consisted of high level policy discussions, with opening video addresses from five Heads of Government, including the Prime Ministers of India, Haiti, and Antigua and Barbuda, and the Presidents of Guyana and Nauru. Ministers, multilateral bank leaders, and infrastructure professionals deliberated on reimagining coastal infrastructure through good practices in governance, including standards and codes, data and technology for adaptive action, and access to finance for SIDS.

The conference attracted senior-level participation from every region. There was in-person ministerial presence from the African Union, Ecuador, India, Fiji, and France alongside senior officials from Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, France, Grenada, India, Jamaica, Japan, and the UK. The Heads of CDEMA, ICSI, Insurance Development Forum, Miyamoto International, PVBLIC Foundation, UNDRR, and WMO spoke in ICDRI sessions, as did senior representatives from AFD, African Union Commission, CARILEC, CCCCC, Deltares, European Space Agency, GFDRR, IIED, Intersec, International Code Council, ODI, UNDESA, UNESCO-IOC, UNOPS, and the World Bank.

ICDRI 2025

ICDRI had four practical objectives:

- **Debate the draft Call to Action**, probing whether the proposed actions can enable access to data and technology, encourage the adoption of resilience standards, and unlock financing for project pipelines in small island nations.
- **Co-create solutions with coastal and island stakeholders**, moving beyond international frameworks and prescriptions.
- **Align the conference's outcomes with global agendas**—linking Sendai Framework commitments to UNOC3 sustainable ocean goals, so that multiple international agendas align with and strengthen SIDS strategies.
- **Secure partnerships for delivery**, pairing CDRI's 59-member strong coalition with multilateral banks, climate funds, insurers, infrastructure professionals, and technology innovators.



A Call to Action on Resilient Infrastructure in SIDS

To support the preparation of ICDRI, three Expert Groups (EGs) were constituted to deliberate on the conference's three priority areas. These EGs convened regularly online for structured discussions and met in person in New Delhi in April 2025. They contributed to programme development, session planning, and jointly published a Call to Action on Resilient Infrastructure in SIDS.



Call to Action

Time to act is now

Ten concrete actions to unlock finance and build resilient infrastructure (2025-2034)

1

Launch the SIDS Global Data Hub 2.0.

Consolidate hazard, asset and loss data for SIDS into an open, cloud platform with gender – and disability – disaggregated layers and a live interface for policy-makers, planners and investors.

2

Ensure 100% multi-hazard early-warning coverage in SIDS by 2030.

Fund sensors, satellite links and low-cost last – mile messaging (radio, cell-broadcast, vibro-alerts, sirens) so warnings reach every person, including remote atolls and persons with disabilities.

3

Build permanent data-tech cadres.

Geospatial/ physical planning units in SIDS receive long-term (9-year) capacity strengthening and knowledge exchange with university partners and budgets to maintain systems, audit data quality and translate analytics into investment-ready resilient projects.

4

Develop SIDS-specific design codes.

CDRI and regional bodies develop a set of modular, hazard-appropriate minimum building and infrastructure design standards for SIDS that recognise vernacular methods, nature-based solutions and locally available materials.

5

Tie finance to resilience compliance.

Normalize practice of providing higher concessional lending conditional on resilience standards, insurance-premium discounts and tax rebates on certified resilient designs, retrofits and maintenance plans.

6

Digitise standards enforcement and access.

Publish easily accessible, translated standards online; establish national or regional mechanisms, equip construction inspectors in SIDS with checklists and access to monitoring technologies, and fund vocational training programmes for contractors and communities to monitor compliance.

7

Create a one-stop accreditation process for SIDS.

Establish a “SIDS accreditation passport” across the climate funds and with MDBs, using AI to update information (for reaccreditation), to reduce duplicative application processes and capacity pressures on SIDS.

8

Establish resilience units within ministries of finance.

Support SIDS to consolidate climate-finance, engineering and legal expertise in one unit and embed long-term climate finance/project finance technical advisers in these units.

9

Generate resilient infrastructure pipelines and country investment platforms.

Develop resilient infrastructure pipelines in all SIDS covering both new builds and retrofits, and country investment platforms through which donors coordinate, pool resources and expertise, and give private financiers a clear entry point for blended finance.

10

Launch a SIDS capacity accelerator for resilient infrastructure.

Establishing regionally coordinated trainings, diploma, apprenticeship and micro-credential programmes that upskill SIDS engineers, data specialists and procurement officers to plan, finance and maintain resilient infrastructure.

ICDRI 2025: Shaping a Resilient Future for Small Island Developing States

Investing today for a more resilient tomorrow: Access to finance in SIDS



Despite their pressing need for climate action, SIDS struggle to access financial resources due to limited capacity to develop and implement projects, high transaction costs, and complex funding procedures. The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) and the Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement reaffirmed the urgent need for climate finance for SIDS. Building inclusive, sustainable, and climate-resilient critical infrastructure, developing SIDS-specific advanced technologies, and boosting human and institutional capacity can effectively address climate change and disaster-related impacts in SIDS. The next decade must see critical reforms in the international financial architecture by incorporating multidimensional vulnerability into development practices, addressing the gaps and shortfalls of the international financial mechanism, enabling sound debt management, de-risking investments, and improving SIDS' participation in decision-making bodies.

ICDRI 2025 focused on innovative financing mechanisms and strategies to enhance financial resilience and opportunities to turn available funding opportunities into predictable, resilience-linked capital flows for infrastructure resilience in SIDS. Discussions revolved around streamlining access rules, grouping small projects into regional portfolios, and blending risk-sharing tools with nature-based solutions to lower the cost of borrowing. Recommendations included embedding disaster-risk clauses in fiscal rules and pairing every capital project with a clear financing plan for maintenance and quick recovery. There was consensus on the urgency to shift from reactive aid to anticipatory resilience. It was highlighted that financial resilience including pre-arranged credit, faster concessional windows, and risk-sharing insurance, is the bedrock of sustainable development.

To better align climate finance with the actual risks, current eligibility rules must reflect vulnerabilities including hazard exposure, economic narrowness, and limited fiscal buffers. Scaling investment requires bundling similar infrastructure projects across multiple islands to reduce costs and attract institutional investors. Pooled guarantees can lower borrowing rates, turning marginal projects into bankable ones, especially in local currencies. Nature-based solutions, like mangroves or coral reefs can be attractive for blended finance as these not only offer cost-effective protection but also come with co-benefits of boost to tourism, fisheries, and carbon value. However, investment readiness is crucial; hence, clear asset registers, early funder dialogue, and project preparation will be important. Reliable, service-focused risk modelling enhances investor confidence, while insurance mechanisms like parametric payouts can drive higher design standards and measurable resilience. Multilateral tools, such as the World Bank's SIDS Crisis Toolkit, offer flexible financing tailored to small island states' unique needs. But for private capital to flow, transparent data and simple AI-powered tools are vital. Ultimately, building internal capacity, particularly resilience finance units within ministries could be the key to sustaining pipelines and ensuring long-term impact.

Recommendations:

- » **Fast-track a 'SIDS accreditation passport'.** Climate funds and MDBs could test a single, harmonized due-diligence process to reduce approval times and transaction costs.
- » **Donors should set up dedicated 'resilience windows.'** A special allocation within an existing climate fund could be used to blend small grants with low-interest loans that turn into grants if a big disaster hits an island.
- » **Prototype a cross-ocean guarantee facility.** Caribbean and Pacific islands can develop a mechanism to back each other's loans. This would spread risk and lower interest rates for both.
- » **Tie concessional terms to resilience compliance.** Lenders and insurers should offer premium discounts, interest rate reductions or tax breaks for projects that meet certified resilient design and maintenance standards.
- » **Stand up country investment platforms.** Governments, donors, and the private sector can pool data, expertise, and finance in one 'shopfront' per island. This would help in turning scattered grants and loans into blended packages ready for market uptake.
- » **Embed resilience units in ministries of finance.** A shared programme of secondments and long-term advisers would give small treasuries the engineering, legal, and risk-finance skills needed to sustain pipelines and negotiations.

Resilient Infrastructure, Resilient SIDS: Global Standards, Local Compliance

SIDS and coastal regions face unprecedented risks from rising sea levels, storm surges, flooding, and extreme weather events. These hazards threaten not only the physical infrastructure but also the economic stability and social well-being of communities that are often highly dependent on vulnerable sectors such as tourism, fisheries, and agriculture. Traditional infrastructure and governance models are increasingly inadequate for these evolving threats, requiring a shift toward adaptive, resilient, and sustainable approaches. Strengthening infrastructure governance through the adoption of international codes and standards, securing innovative financing, and integrating data and technology is imperative for building resilient and inclusive infrastructure systems. Such an approach not only enhances the quality and sustainability of infrastructure projects but also ensures that they contribute effectively to broader economic and social development goals.

Strong governance, locally adapted standards, and regional cooperation are key to resilient infrastructure. For example, Ecuador's centralized permitting system ensures disaster risk screening for all major infrastructure projects, boosting accountability and efficiency. Codes tailored to use local materials, affordable nature-based designs, and realistic maintenance budgets ensure the durability and insurability of projects. Caribbean nations have demonstrated that shared standards and pooled resources can dramatically speed up disaster recovery. Japan's flexible 'living annexes' allow for continuous updates to building codes without overhauling laws, a model adaptable to SIDS. Lastly, donor-funded projects must prioritize knowledge transfer, ensuring sustainable impact through local training, open-source manuals, and hands-on experience.



Codes and standards must evolve with changing climate risks and hazards such as rising seas and stronger storms. While upfront costs for resilient design may be higher, whole-life assessments show they deliver long-term value through reduced downtime and lower insurance premiums. Adding clear retrofit chapters (and contractor accreditation) in national codes and standards could build confidence among engineers, banks, and homeowners. This would bring the existing stock, and not just new builds, up to safer standards. Regional alignment such as shared equipment specifications and mutual aid agreements can speed up recovery after disasters, as seen in the Caribbean. Haiti's phased approach to code upgrades, paired with low interest retrofit loans and on-site training, has helped ensure compliance remains realistic and achievable.

Recommendations:

- » **Pilot climate-adjusted code modules.** New hazard maps should be developed to support adding retrofit chapters to existing legislation, and the results should be evaluated and shared region wide.
- » **Co-develop a simple life-cycle cost tool.** Planning ministries in SIDS, supported by development partners, should test a calculator that brings avoided damage, downtime, and co-benefits into budget debates.
- » **A Caribbean standards forum for power utilities.** International development partners should help utilities to map overlapping equipment specifications and agree on a priority list to harmonize and set up a shared digital inventory.
- » **Creating a fast-track contractor accreditation path.** With donor support, SIDS can have short, modular training linked to the updated codes, that could give local builders proof of competence and regulators confidence in compliance.
- » **Co-draft modular SIDS code chapters.** Engineering institutes from the Caribbean, Pacific and Indian Ocean should jointly craft plug-in sections like cyclone loads, mangrove set-backs, and retrofit tiers for countries to adopt and adapt.
- » **Co-create a virtual 'pipeline help desk.'** International partners should establish and staff an online bureau where island agencies have access to design and finance experts during the early months when many proposals stall.
- » **Embed on-the-job learning in donor contracts.** Development partners could earmark modest funds for local shadowing, open documentation, and follow-up mentoring. This would ensure skills and data remain in country long after a donor-funded project ends.

Data, technology & early warning systems for coastal infrastructure resilience

Data and technology gaps hinder effective planning and investment in SIDS. Key datasets such as ocean hazards, gender-disaggregated vulnerabilities, and infrastructure losses remain incomplete, siloed, or inaccessible. Technologies must be appropriate to local contexts. For instance, tools like unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) surveys and low-cost satellite links work in remote areas because they can be operated and serviced locally. These are more effective than complex systems that risk going unused. Early warning systems (EWS) also fall short, with many alerts failing to reach remote communities or people with disabilities. Fewer than 40 percent of SIDS have full multi-hazard EWS. A centralized, trusted SIDS Global Data Hub could consolidate fragmented data into an open, decision-ready platform for planners, insurers, and investors. However, lasting impact depends on building in-country capacity since without a standing cadre of geospatial and information and communications technology (ICT) specialists inside SIDS governments, even the best tools and systems will not endure beyond external funding cycles.

Reliable, open data ecosystems are crucial for translating forecasts into effective policies and early action in SIDS. Experts emphasized the need for integrated platforms combining hazard, exposure, and impact data. Free space-based tools like Copernicus, when paired with AI and local GIS teams, are already enabling rapid, detailed mapping for disaster response. AI also shows promise in narrowing the gap between warnings and response, as seen in Caribbean pilots where machine-learning models translate rainfall radar into outage forecasts for power lines and roads, guiding crew pre-positioning and reducing downtime. This offers avenues of data-sharing and peer-learning for SIDS across oceans. Sound data underpins fair finance. Parametric insurance, for example, depends on robust sensor networks to ensure timely and fair payouts. Finally, local capacity is more critical than hardware; without skilled technicians and sustained technical support, even advanced systems can be unusable and difficult to interpret.

Financing must follow national strategies and real hazard exposure, because a single hurricane can undo years of progress even in a 'middle-income' or a 'high-income' SIDS economy. It was proposed that every donor-funded project should leave behind open design files, trained local staff, and digital datasets, so knowledge stays in the islands. Data and technology are the foundation on which resilience must be built, a prompt to embed risk metrics into every future project.

Two case studies underlined the session's theme: technology that is quick to deploy, low on bandwidth, and serviceable by local teams. The first, FR-Alert, France's new cloud platform, links all nine mobile operators and lets authorities push cell-broadcast and location-based SMS warnings in seconds, monitor delivery on a live dashboard, and overlay evacuation routes on the same screen. The system now covers mainland France and its overseas territories.

The second, a South Pacific case study, includes remotely piloted drones and free satellite imagery feeding into an open-source risk-mapping engine that scores every coastal road, bridge, and health post for wave, wind, and landslide exposure. Planners in Vanuatu and French Polynesia are already using the tool to prioritize retrofits and plot evacuation corridors.

Recommendations:

- » **Co-design the SIDS Global Data Hub 2.0.** With support from development partners, a small group of islands, a regional university, and private cloud hosts can co-design an open platform that merges hazard, asset, and loss data, creating a live ‘one-stop shop’ for risk analytics in SIDS.
- » **Define a 100-percent early warning roadmap for SIDS.** International agencies, development partners, and local departments in SIDS should map sensor gaps, telecom options (cell-broadcast, radio, vibro-alert), and inclusive messaging needs. It would then enable assessment of the financing gap and a clear pathway to accessing appropriate instruments to close this gap.
- » **Launch a data-tech fellowship track.** International partners, universities, and other relevant stakeholders should pair SIDS officials with residency fellowships and follow-up mentoring. This would ensure seeding of permanent cadres who can maintain systems and translate analytics into resilient projects.
- » **Forge a ‘SIDS Data Compact.’** Governments, donors, and science agencies should sign a common licence that makes any publicly funded dataset or tool fully open, with clear budgets for long-term hosting and updates. This also addresses the data-sharing gaps and endorses the CDRI Call to Action regarding the SIDS Global Data Hub 2.0.
- » **Launch a parametric baseline initiative.** WMO, ESA, and other regional hydro-meteorological services and insurance partners should map sensor gaps, expand coastal gauges, and build an open asset register so cyclone and tsunami triggers match real exposure.
- » **Co-create a ‘SIDS AI sandbox’.** ESA, the Caribbean Climate Centre, and island universities, with support from organizations like CDRI, could run an annual challenge that adapts lightweight AI models to small datasets and low-bandwidth settings. This would help in pairing local analysts with global tech mentors and emphasize “capacity over hardware.”

ICDRI 2025 Conclusions

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Local leadership is the engine of resilience

From community-led mangrove walls in Jamaica to Samoa's bridge-building crews, projects endure when island and coastal practitioners design, build, and maintain their own defences.

Interlinkages

- » ABAS emphasizes local authorities and community-based disaster risk management approaches.
- » UNOC3 Declaration reaffirmed the value of sharing knowledge and expertise with and from local communities.
- » GPDRR 2025 CTA highlights 'all-of-society engagement' and empowerment of local actors.
- » COP30 Presidency prioritizes embedding of systems thinking, indigenous knowledge, and community solutions in the discussions through new 'Circles'(COP Presidents, Peoples, Finance Ministers, Global Ethical Stocktake) and a platform for 'self-determined contributions.'

CDRI's Contributions

- » CDRI's fellowship programme, technical assistance to SIDS, and DRI Task Forces support local leadership and targeted solutions to enhance resilience.
- » Events and workshops bring people together across geographies to learn and to share good practice.

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Interlinkages

- » ABAS prioritizes:
 - “Data collection, governance, management, analysis and assessment on hazards, disaster events and their impacts”
 - Establishment of a SIDS Data Hub and high-quality spatial data, and downscaling of global datasets
- » GPDRR 2025 Priority I focuses on ‘Better data to understand risk.’
- » COP30 is expected to launch the Action Agenda platform as a Global Stocktake-aligned registry for initiatives, with transparency and accountability provisions. ‘Building Resilience for Cities, Infrastructure, and Water’ is included as a thematic area.

CDRI's Contributions

- » CDRI is supporting the development of codes and standards, and is providing technical assistance to Dominica to achieving its housing resilience target of 90% building code compliance by retrofitting existing structures.
- » CDRI is advancing resilient standards and certifications, focusing on vulnerable nations to enhance sustainability, disaster preparedness, and long-term infrastructure durability.

¹‘Bolt-on’ code chapters are modular sections that can be added, or ‘bolted on,’ to an existing set of building or infrastructure standards without rewriting the entire code.

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Technology must be considered an essential service underpinning resilience.

Case studies such as France's FR-Alert cell-broadcast system which uses AI-driven outage forecasts in the Caribbean, demonstrate that affordable digital tools can shrink the gap between warnings and action.

Interlinkages

- » ABAS supports:
 - establishment of a technology and innovation mechanism
 - strengthening disaster preparedness, including multi-hazard early warning systems
- » UNOC3 Declaration reaffirmed the need to adopt a Source-to-Sea approach and strengthen adaptation as well as disaster risk reduction strategies.
- » GPDRR 2025 Priority II emphasizes the use of technology to leapfrog progress. Priority VI emphasizes that 'Early Warnings for All' requires increased international support and national ownership.

CDRI's Contributions

- » CDRI will launch a data and technology programme at COP30, to empower countries with geospatial and infrastructure risk data to inform resilient policies and investments.

This programme will provide technical assistance, training, and advocacy to close gaps in human capacity, data accessibility, and technology adoption.
- » CDRI's open access probabilistic risk model GIRI is being developed and downscaled.

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Finance must reward 'measurable' resilience

Whether through the World Bank's Climate-Resilient Debt Clauses, region-wide catastrophe bonds or fast parametric insurance, capital follows when there are clear risk metrics and certified design standards. 'Bundled project pipelines' and 'resilience-linked guarantees' are emerging as practical ways to lower borrowing costs for SIDS.

Interlinkages

- » The Bridgetown Initiative calls for urgent and decisive action to reform the international financial architecture. ABAS reinforces this and emphasizes the need to increase effectiveness of development finance and increasing investments in SIDS.
- » UNOC3 Declaration called for strengthening the provision of scaled-up resources, including public, grant-based, and concessional finance and non-debt instruments, and other types of concessional support.
- » GPDRR Priority V calls for every investment to be risk-informed.
- » COP30 is expected to elevate adaptation to parity with mitigation, pledging to finalize the UAE-Belém Global Goal on Adaptation indicators, advancing the Baku-Belém finance roadmap to \$1.3 trillion per year, and turn NAPs into investible roadmaps.

CDRI's Contributions

- » CDRI's Resilience Cost-Benefit Analysis tool will help governments and project developers assess the benefits of investing in resilience, and support risk informed decision making.
- » CDRI's fiscal risk assessment study is exploring ways to manage disaster costs before and after they occur, enabling national and local governments to enhance their financial stability and resilience against future risks.

ICDRI 2025 Conclusions

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Interlinkages

- » The Sendai Framework Monitor shows a two-thirds increase in the number of affected people (Target B), while economic losses (Target C) and infrastructure impacts remain high (Target D). Developing countries will need between \$215 and \$387 billion per year as adaptation finance by 2030.²
- » ABAS emphasizes the need for new, innovative, and bold approaches to partnership and cooperation.
- » UNOC3 called for greater international cooperation and collective action to enhance adaptive capacities and build resilience in SIDS.
- » GPDRR 2025 Priority III aims to promote integrated risk governance and cooperation.

CDRI's Contributions

- » CDRI is a global partnership that enhances infrastructure resilience to climate and disaster risks by connecting governments, organizations, and businesses for knowledge sharing, research, and investment.
- » Coalition Members benefit from global expertise, funding, technical support, research access, innovative solutions, and international best practices to build disaster resilient infrastructure.

²United Nations Environment Programme (2023). Adaptation Finance Gap Update 2023. In Adaptation Gap Report 2023: Underfinanced. Underprepared. Inadequate investment and planning on climate adaptation leaves world exposed. Nairobi.

A Path to Resilience

For SIDS, the path to resilience begins with making risk visible in ways that governments, especially finance ministries, can act on. When expected losses are translated into annual budget terms, decision-makers begin shifting resources from costly emergency repairs towards smarter, preventive investments. Tools like CDRI's Global Infrastructure Risk Model, now being adapted for island contexts, are helping governments put data behind resilience planning.

It is critical to recognize that investing in resilience will return a 'Resilience Dividend.' Life-cycle assessments show that upgrades such as elevated bridge decks or mangrove buffers frequently pay for themselves after just one storm season, through reduced downtime, lower insurance premiums, and faster recovery. However, financing must reflect the fiscal realities of SIDS. Grant-blended loans, small-ticket guarantees, and risk-pool payouts are vital in contexts where debt ceilings are already tight. Linking these instruments to nature-based solutions can unlock additional funding streams from climate and biodiversity sources.

Many SIDS rely on parametric insurance that only pays out above specific rainfall thresholds yet significant damage can occur below those levels, leaving communities with nothing. Financial products must therefore be tailored to actual impacts on the ground and to match the local realities.





Early warning systems must evolve to protect livelihoods, not just lives. By involving power grid operators and port authorities in seasonal outlooks, some countries have already seen quicker storm recovery and reduced service disruptions. Finally, panellists echoed the call for financing criteria that reflect real vulnerability. A GDP average cannot capture the complex mix of drought, cyclone, and seismic risks that different SIDS face. A Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, grounded in infrastructure exposure and community resilience, is essential. To push this forward, speakers proposed a technical working group—hosted virtually by CDRI—to refine such indicators and build a global consensus for their formal adoption.

With the right data, locally adapted finance tools, and regionally-led innovation, SIDS can move from managing crises to building resilience.

CDRI's Role in taking forward the agenda of DRI for SIDS:

- **Carry the ICDRI outcomes and recommendations into global policy spaces.** Echoing GPDRR's call for "continuity across global platforms," CDRI took these discussions to UNOC3 and will now carry them forward to COP30 and beyond, leading up to concrete actions and deliverables including the IRIS Third Call for Proposals.
- **Facilitate open, trusted risk-data ecosystems.** Working with WMO, ESA, UNDRR, and regional agencies and other relevant stakeholders, the Coalition will take the discussions forward on developing a shared portal that merges hazard, asset, and loss layers for SIDS.
- **Help countries adapt and adopt resilient design codes and standards.** Through fellowships, South–South exchanges and regional hubs, CDRI programmes will seek to extend support to governments in tailoring modular 'bolt-on' code chapters to local hazards and budgets, reporting initial adoptions and lessons learned in the lead-up to COP30.
- **Advocating to mobilize blended finance linked to measurable resilience.** In collaboration with multilateral banks, insurers, and private investors, CDRI and partners will advocate for enhanced access to finance for SIDS. CDRI will align its programmes with GPDRR's priority of investing in prevention and continue to showcase how verified resilience can unlock concessional and commercial capital, providing progress updates at each milestone event.



Dr. P. K. Mishra,
Principal Secretary to the
Prime Minister of India



Agnes Pannier-Runacher,
Hon. Minister for Ecological Transition,
Biodiversity, Forestry, Maritime Affairs
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Amit Prothi
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H.E. Moses Vilakati, Commissioner, African Union Commission in conversation with Anne Grillo, Director of Globalization,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Europe, Government of France and co-chair CDRI Governing Council



Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka, Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Fiji



Schmoi McLean addressing Lived Experiences: Voices from the Coast session



H.E. Amb. Walton Webson, Permanent Representative to UN, Antigua & Barbuda delivers opening remarks for the session Resilient Infrastructure: Resilient SIDS



Titi Tutuvanu-Schwalger sharing the story of the Vaisigano Bridge, Samoa



Dr. Krishna Vatsa, Member, NDMA, India and Co-chair of CDRI's Executive Committee



Prof. Celeste Saulo, Secretary General, World Meteorological Organization



Sanjeev Jindal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India



L to R: Nisha Pillai; Merina Jessamy, Grenada; Rachel Kyte, UK Special Representative for Climate; Kamal Kishore, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head, UNDRR



Fishbowl discussion: Resilience of critical infrastructure in coasts



L to R: Ede Ijjasz-Vasquez, CDRI; Emily Wilkinson, ODI Global; Ekhusuehi Iyehen, Insurance Development Forum; Gallina Vincelette, The World Bank; Govindraj Ethiraj, The Core Report on 'Investing Today for a More Resilient Tomorrow'



Session on 'Global Standards, Local Compliance'

L to R: Agathe Nougaret, CDRI; Judy Zakreski, International Code Council; Edwin Lau, Blue Dot Network; Kit Miyamoto, Miyamoto International; Peguy Pierre, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communication, Haiti; Maria Medard, CARILEC



Panel for the session 'Data & Technology for Adaptive Action'
 L to R: Ajay Lavakare, CDRI; Benjamin Koetz, European Space Agency; Max Puig, NCCCDM Dominican Republic;
 Sapphire Vital, CCCCC; Paula Gerhardt, DFAT Australia



L to R: Ajay Lavakare, CDRI; Damien Serre, Climate Standards; Charlotte Cardona, Intersec; Harkunti Rahayu, Institute of Technology of Sumatera Indonesia; Srinivasa Kumar Tummala, UNESCO-IOC; Greg Scott, PVBLC Foundation; Ofa Masiwawa, NDMO Tonga



L to R: Anne Grillo, Director of Globalization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Europe, Government of France; P.K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the PM of India; Amit Prothi, Director General, CDRI



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