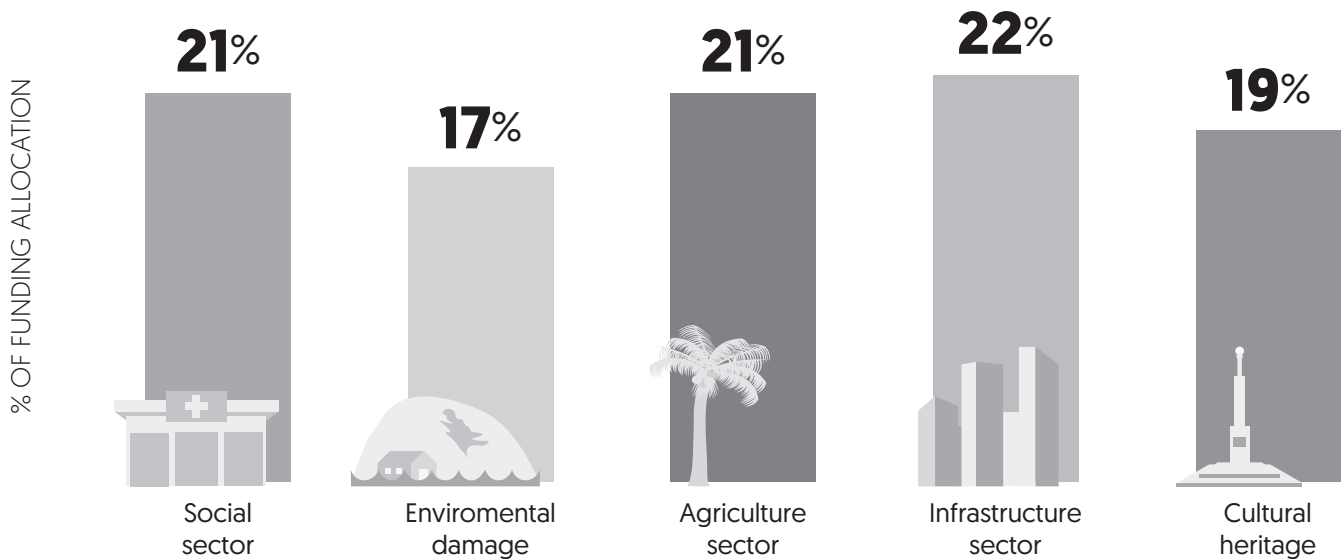


Assessing climate change - induced cultural losses in Fiji

This survey was conducted in 10 coastal villages in Fiji, involving 100 respondents. They were asked to rate the level of importance of different dimensions of Fijian cultural heritage from the perspective of local communities.

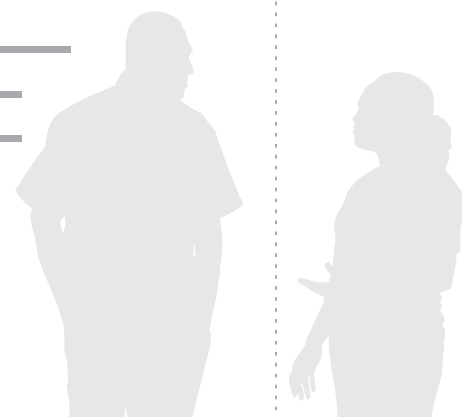
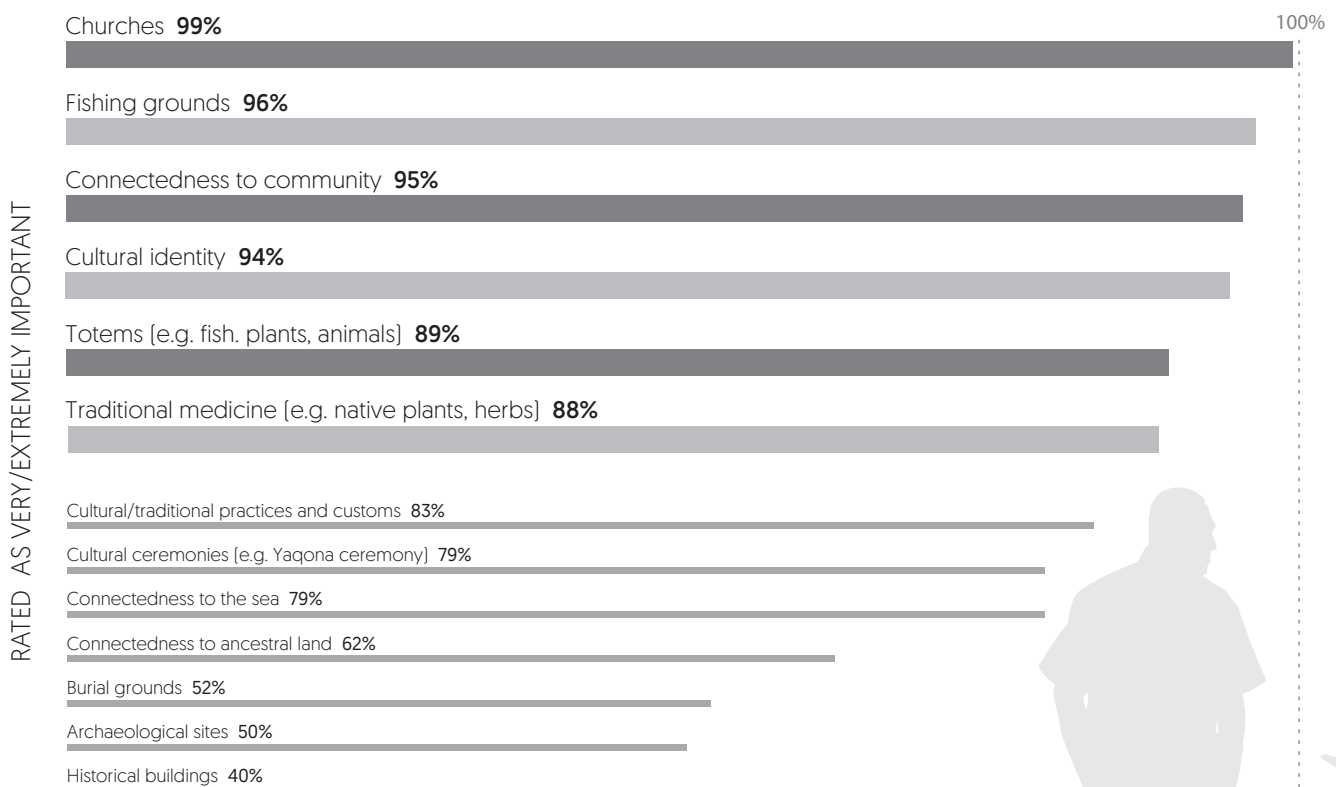
IMPORTANCE ATTRIBUTED TO CULTURAL HERITAGE COMPARED TO OTHER SECTORS

Each respondent was tasked with allocating a hypothetical climate change compensation fund of 100,000 Fijian dollars (represented by 50 chickpeas) per village across five sectors, including cultural heritage. The allocation of nearly equal funding to cultural heritage as to other sectors underscores the deep-rooted significance of cultural heritage to these communities.



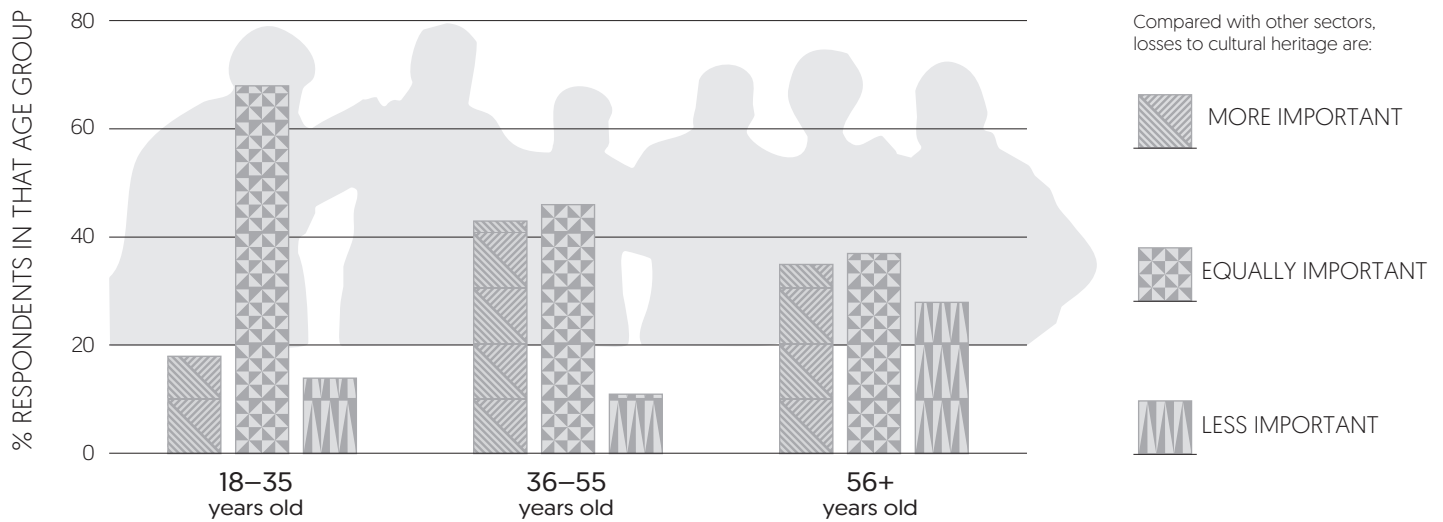
IMPORTANCE ATTRIBUTED TO DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

The six most important dimensions of cultural heritage perceived by the respondents are churches, fishing grounds, connectedness to local community, cultural identity, totems, and traditional medicine.



IMPORTANCE OF LOSSES OF CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSIDERED BY AGE GROUP

A significant portion of respondents from local communities in Fiji, across all age groups, view the impact of climate change on cultural heritage as just as critical as the impact on other vital sectors such as agriculture and infrastructure. This challenges the conventional prioritization of economic and infrastructure losses in climate change impact assessments, suggesting that a more balanced approach is necessary.

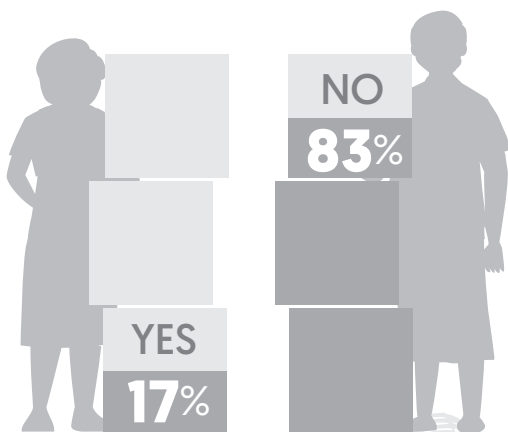


LEVEL OF ANXIETY RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Most of the respondents [83%] reported that they have never previously been displaced from their homes or villages because of extreme weather events. However, around 52% of the respondents think that the likelihood of them being displaced in the future from their homes or villages is high or very high.

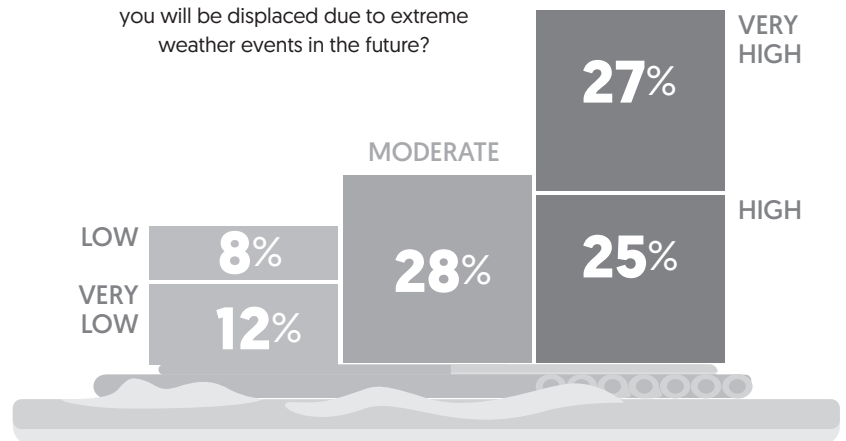
PAST DISPLACEMENT DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

Have you been displaced due to extreme weather events in the past?



LIKELY FUTURE DISPLACEMENT DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

What do you feel is the likelihood that you will be displaced due to extreme weather events in the future?



These results showed the diverse considerations and preferences of respondents and shed light on the intricate interplay of cultural, infrastructural, and social factors influencing relocation decisions in the context of climate change-induced hazards. These insights hold significance for policymakers and stakeholders seeking to design resilient and community-centric adaptation strategies in vulnerable regions such as Fiji.

For further information, please contact: Tsegaye Gatiso gatisot@landcareresearch.co.nz

Full survey results are available at: www.landcareresearch.co.nz/cultural-loss-fiji