

Climate Mobility Innovation Lab

Asia and the Pacific



NEWSLETTER - November 2025

IOM's Climate Mobility Innovation Lab (CMIL) for Asia and the Pacific continued advancing its mission to bridge data, finance, and local action to help communities adapt to climate impacts and address challenges related to climate mobility.

November was a month of strategic milestones, headlined by the convening of CMIL's first Global Steering Committee, which brought together high-level experts to chart CMIL's future direction. Regionally, CMIL accelerated operations in the Pacific with a pivotal technical workshop in Fiji to operationalize the Risk Index for Climate Displacement (RICD). Globally, CMIL amplified regional voices at COP 30 in Belém—supporting side events that bridged science, policy, and urban resilience. CMIL also expanded our partnership network opportunities with Chinese institutions through a keynote at the Green Changemakers Conference and a conference organised by Southern Weekly, accompanied by an MOU between IOM and Southern Weekly.

On the ground, the Climate Catalytic Fund (CCF) demonstrated its immense potential. CMIL is seeing an overwhelming response from local communities in Indonesia and the Philippines, confirming the urgent demand for localized adaptation finance. Crucially, CMIL received far more high quality applications than anticipated, and many more than expected with confirmed matching funds.

Advancing Action in the Pacific: Fiji Technical Workshop

CMIL and the Government of Fiji convened the 2nd Technical Workshop for the Risk Index for Climate Displacement (RICD) on 27 November. Supported by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the session brought together technical experts from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MECC), the Fiji Bureau of Statistics (FBoS), and academia to stress-test emerging risk data against local realities.

Discussions focused on the "v0 Macro-Analysis" results presented by The University of the Philippines Resilience Institute (UPRI) along with CMIL technical experts, which successfully identified displacement hotspots across the archipelago. Building on this analysis, the Fiji Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and CMIL facilitated a critical dialogue on site selection, guiding stakeholders to prioritize specific high-risk provinces for immediate intervention, particularly Ba and Bua, where 43 communities have already formally requested relocation assistance. This data-driven targeting is a prerequisite for the operationalization of the Climate Catalytic Fund (CCF), ensuring that adaptation finance reaches the communities most vulnerable to displacement.

The workshop also cemented a localized approach to implementation. The University of Fiji was confirmed to lead the upcoming micro-level field assessments, shifting away from intrusive surveys to conduct Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). This approach deploys researchers to capture community narratives and traditional knowledge alongside the technical data. Meanwhile, the Fiji Bureau of Statistics committed to integrating updated 2025 demographic data, ensuring the RICD remains a dynamic, living tool consistent with the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility.



Global Steering Committee

CMIL's Global Steering Committee met on 4 November for the first time since the establishment of CMIL in 2024. The meeting was a great opportunity for CMIL to present not only its progress over the past year but also perspectives for the future and potential areas of collaboration between CMIL and the high-level expert members of the Committee. The meeting was chaired by IOM Director of Climate Action Rania Sharshr, and included the Director of the Copernicus Climate Change Service, the Director of George Mason University's Center for Climate Change Communication, and the United Nations Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, among others. Each expressed continuing interest in the work of CMIL and committed to continuing and expanding collaboration.

Climate Catalytic Fund (CCF): Application Screening Underway in Indonesia and the Philippines

The pilot launch of the Climate Catalytic Fund (CCF) has generated an overwhelming response, confirming the urgent demand for accessible adaptation finance at the community level.

By the numbers: in this initial round, CMIL received 340 applications across pilot sites in Indonesia and the Philippines. Following a rigorous screening process, 298 proposals have been completed and verified, with 80% originating from Indonesia and 20% from the Philippines. These proposals range from mangrove restoration in Aceh to climate-resilient agriculture initiatives in Rizal, spanning shorter-term preparedness interventions to longer-term adaptation projects.

CMIL teams are currently validating high-potential sites to finalize the selection:

- In Indonesia: Field verification and due diligence is actively underway in Aceh Timur, Bandung, and Makassar to ground-truth shortlisted projects.
- In the Philippines: The identification of projects in Catanduanes and Rizal is proceeding, despite logistical challenges and delays caused by Super Typhoon Uwan. This extreme weather event only serves to highlight the critical urgency of these resilience measures.

CMIL sincerely appreciates the time and effort invested by all applicants in submitting their project ideas. CMIL remains committed to ensuring that the CCF serves as a vehicle for translating climate-displacement risk data and insights into locally led adaptation actions. CMIL also welcomes potential funders interested in exploring collaboration opportunities, including the provision of matching funds to help scale these outstanding local projects and amplify their positive impact.

For any inquiries or to discuss potential cooperation opportunities, please contact: **CCF-AP@iom.int**.



Global Action at COP 30: Driving the Climate Mobility Agenda

At COP 30 in Belém, CMIL executed a multi-dimensional strategy to amplify regional voices. Rather than focusing on a single event, the team orchestrated a series of synchronous initiatives that bridged high-level policy with community resilience.

Advancing the Pacific Agenda In parallel with the official proceedings, IOM's Climate Mobility Innovation Lab (CMIL) featured prominently in the Climate Mobility Action Agenda. Reinforcing our commitment to the Pacific, the team highlighted the expansion of the Risk Index for Climate Displacement (RICD) and Climate Catalytic Fund (CCF) to Fiji and Vanuatu, demonstrating to the world how data-driven tools are being operationalized to protect island nations.

This commitment to evidence-based planning was further cemented on 17 November at the side event “Risk-Informed Decision-Making on Displacement,” co-hosted with IDMC. The session served as a rare platform that brought Thailand and Fiji together to discuss integrating risk insights into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). While Mrs. Rosalind Amornpitakpun (Thailand Department of Climate Change and Environment, DCCE) highlighted that the ECHO-supported RICD rollout serves as a vital input for Priority Area 6 of Thailand’s NAP, stakeholders from Fiji echoed the urgency for similar predictive tools to manage risks in low-lying coastal areas. Stakeholders agreed that grounding policy in granular, spatial risk data is the bedrock of effective climate finance.

Simultaneously, the narrative expanded to urban centers on 5 November at the “Cities in Motion” event, where IOM Director of Climate Action Ms. Rania Sharshr emphasized cities as both frontlines of risk and engines of adaptation. Complementing these policy dialogues, the human face of climate change was illuminated through a partnership with the Changing Climate Changing Lives (CCCL). Throughout the summit, a series of short films brought the lived experiences of Southeast Asia communities directly to the global stage, fostering a deeper understanding of the human dimension of climate change.



Socializing Climate Mobility Tools in China

Amidst the global momentum of COP30, the CMIL team undertook a mission to Chengdu, China, to engage with stakeholders at the Green Changemakers Conference, organised by Southern Weekly. Mr. Bradley Mellicker, Head of CMIL-AP, delivered a keynote presentation titled “Climate Change and Human Mobility in Asia-Pacific,” bringing regional perspectives to the dialogue.

The intervention focused on socializing CMIL’s main tools with a broader audience. Mr. Mellicker introduced the Risk Index for Climate Displacement (RICD) as a critical instrument for evidence-based planning. Furthermore, he presented the Climate Catalytic Fund (CCF), emphasizing its role in backing community-led adaptation projects. He highlighted that the fund specifically aims to help vulnerable populations adapt in place, thereby strengthening resilience and preventing involuntary displacement.

The mission also marked a significant milestone with IOM signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Southern Weekly, opening new avenues for future collaboration on CMIL’s initiatives.



Summary of Activities

Online | October 2025 | The second meeting of the Regional Innovation Committee was convened to report on progress across CMIL's flagship products, harmonise country and site selection processes and methodological frameworks, and present progress and collaboration with Innovation Committee members. Suryani Motik from the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce (KADIN) presented the results of the Indonesia roundtable on private sector engagement on CCF. Leba from the Fiji Ministry of Environment and Climate Change updated on the progress of RICD implementation in the Pacific and future perspectives, and Dr. Chong Xu from the Chinese National Centre on Natural Hazards presented possibilities for expanding RICD to China, utilising new and advanced methods.

Bangkok, Thailand | October 2025 | CMIL and IOM Thailand met with the Department for Climate Change and Environment (DCCE) to finalize the 2026 joint workplan. The strategic partnership aims to support Thailand's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) by operationalizing the Risk Index for Climate Displacement (RICD) and launching the Climate Catalytic Fund (CCF) to drive locally led adaptation.



Suva, Fiji | November 2025 | IOM, together with PIFS, briefed the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Ministers on the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility. Representing IOM Fiji and serving as CMIL's Pacific Focal Point, Lepani Vunituraga presented updates on the RICD and CCF pilot initiatives in Fiji and Vanuatu, noting that both tools directly support and are explicitly referenced in the Framework's Implementation Plan. He emphasised that the RICD and CCF respond to the region's call for data-driven action, ensuring that resources reach the most vulnerable and those at highest risk of displacement.

Online | November 2025 | Engaged with AYF Hong Kong to discuss strategic collaboration on youth participation in climate mobility. The session focused on gathering youth perspectives and aligning efforts for the upcoming Regional Youth Conference, ensuring that the voices of youth from the region are collected more broadly.

Bangkok, Thailand | November 2025 | Presented on migration as an adaptation strategy and on the frameworks and solutions needed to protect climate migrants at the Regional Consultation on Migration and Climate Change, organised by Migrant Forum Asia. Examples from the Climate Catalytic Fund were shared, highlighting community programmes implemented by grassroots organisations.



Bangkok, Thailand | November 2025 | CMIL strengthened its regional academic footprint by contributing to the 4th International Symposium on Disaster Resilience and Sustainable Development (DRSD 2025) hosted by the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). In addition to this high-level dialogue, CMIL also engaged with faculty and students at Mahidol University, further socializing the RICD tool and fostering future research collaborations.

Jakarta, Indonesia | December 2025 | The research team for CMIL's Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Climate Mobility project has undertaken a mission to Jakarta and Bandung to gather insights and identify potential NbS interventions for inclusion in the CMIL's emerging NbS project pipeline. The team is meeting with local governments, technical experts, and organisations active in the NbS and climate resilience space — including the World Resources Institute — to scope for potential projects with potential to positively impact climate mobility. The team is meeting with local governments, technical experts, and organisations active in the NbS and climate-resilience space — including the World Resources Institute — to identify and scope potential projects with the capacity and potential to positively influence climate mobility outcomes.

In parallel, the first draft of the Conceptual Study on NbS and Climate Mobility has been circulated for comments and feedback. This draft lays the groundwork for integrating nature-based approaches into climate mobility governance and will inform the design of the upcoming NbS project pipeline.

About Climate Mobility Innovation Labs

IOM's [Climate Mobility Innovation Labs \(CMIL\)](#) across Asia-Pacific, Africa, and the Mediterranean serve as dynamic hubs for innovation, capacity strengthening, and collaboration. By prioritising scalable solutions and meaningful community engagement, CMIL empowers communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change and respond to the challenges of climate mobility. Globally, CMIL initiatives play a vital role in advancing evidence-based, community-led action for resilient and sustainable futures. CMIL's work includes:

- [Risk Index for Climate Displacement \(RICD\)](#) - a decision support tool co-created by CMIL, in collaboration with a broad network of government, scientific, academic, and other partners in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Pacific.
- [Climate Catalytic Fund \(CCF\)](#) - a blended finance mechanism, that mobilizes rapid and flexible match-funded grants to translate data-driven risk insights from the RICD into concrete, locally-led adaptation action.

CMIL welcomes partners to contribute their expertise, resources, and influence to our mission—whether through technical assistance, financial support, or advocacy. Join us at cmil-ap@iom.int.



Copyright (C) 2025. All Rights Reserved.

If you'd like to explore our work further or get involved, don't hesitate to contact us at cmil-ap@iom.int

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)