Carbon Responsibility Strategy

Last Updated: August 2025

1. Introduction and Purpose

This policy establishes a clear framework to guide Think Pacific's approach to the environment and sustainability, ensuring consistency, compliance, and alignment with our organizational values. It defines key principles, outlines responsibilities, and sets expectations to support effective implementation. By standardizing practices across the organization, this policy promotes collaboration and succinct approach, mitigates risk, and enhances our ability to deliver high-quality outcomes. All employees and stakeholders are expected to familiarize themselves with this policy and integrate its principles into their daily work.

1.1 Policy Statement

Think Pacific is committed to protecting the environment, the health and safety of our employees, and the community in which we conduct our business. It is our aim to seek continual improvement throughout our business operations to lessen our impact on the local and global environment.

We are committed to environmental consciousness and pollution prevention, meeting or exceeding all environmental regulatory requirements and utilising an environmentally conscious network of suppliers.

This policy sets out Think Pacific's approach to minimising and reducing organisational environmental impact. It applies to all aspects of our projects, programs, internships and employment with us.

We recognise that the principle activities which impact the environment through our operations are the following:

- **Energy** – including the heating, lighting and electricity our staff and participants use in the buildings we occupy and when working from home.
- **Business travel** – emissions to air from our business-related travel, expensed travel, corporate travel and commuting.
- **Waste** – from within homes of staff, our offices but also programmes delivered in delivery locations.
- **Project Delivery Emissions** – Reliance on suppliers for programme delivery.

- **Participant Air travel** – Significant international travel to join our in-country programmes.

2023 Case Study

In 2023/24, 79% of participants were UK based and flew to global destinations on return flights to the UK. The remaining percentage is mainly made up of Australian and North American Cohorts. Based on the high percentage of flights being made from the UK, the vast majority, we can use this for our calculations of organisational environmental impact through participant air travel.

~ Flight Calculations:

- Carbon Emission for a return trip to Fiji from the UK= 5900 Kg of CO2
- Carbon Emission for a return trip to Bali from the UK= 4500 Kg of CO2
- Carbon Emission for a return trip to Thailand from the UK= 3500 Kg of CO2

In 2024, Think Pacific flew 850 individuals to Fiji on return flights, 75% of which flew from the Uk. Based on accurate projections based on the statistics above, the high estimate of total carbon footprint of participant air travel to Fiji in 2023/24 was **4,615,000kg** of CO2 emissions.

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2. Definitions

2.1 Terms used within this Policy - Definitions

a) *Prevention Measures* - Definition

Prevention measures are actions or regulations that are put in place to prevent something from happening, rather than responding to it after it has occurred. Measures aimed at environmental impact prevention aim to target the source of factors that create unsustainable impact and address the system itself to minimise future harm. Examples of preventative measures to reduce environmental harm can include:

- Waste management: Collect and dispose of waste safely to prevent it from contaminating the air, water, and soil.
- Waste storage: Store and transport waste in suitable containers, clearly label them, and separate hazardous waste from other types.
- Environmental cleaning: Clean environmental surfaces to reduce contamination and the risk of infection.
- Environmental management system: Help reduce waste in a company's production cycle and comply with environmental pollution regulations.
- Reduce emissions: Work to reduce energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions.
- Avoid causing a nuisance: Reduce or stop dust, fumes, or noise emissions that may bother neighbours.
- Drainage: Maintain the water cycle to control the spread of communicable diseases.

b) *Adaptation Measures* - Definition

Adaptation means anticipating the effects of climate change and taking appropriate action to prevent or minimise the damage they can cause or exploit opportunities. Early action will save on damage and costs later. Adaptation strategies are needed at all levels of administration.

Adaptation affects most economic sectors and involves many levels of decision-making. It should be increasingly integrated in numerous policy areas: disaster risk reduction, coastal zone management, agriculture and rural development, health services, spatial planning, regional development, ecosystems and water management. Low-regret measures (suitable under every plausible scenario) and a variety of adaptation options should be considered, e.g. technological measures, ecosystem-based measures, and measures addressing behavioural changes. Adaptation measures include using scarce water resources more efficiently, adapting building codes to future climate conditions and extreme weather events, building flood defences and raising the levels of dykes, developing drought-tolerant crops, choosing tree species and forestry practices less vulnerable to storms and fires, and setting aside land corridors to help species migrate.

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3. Global, Regional and Local Context

3.1 Defining the problem

"Unless the world acts decisively to begin addressing the greatest challenge of our age, then the Pacific, as we know it, is doomed."

– Frank Bainimarama, COP23 President and Former Fijian Prime Minister

The threat of climate change is being addressed globally by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 2021:

The threat of climate change is being addressed globally by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): the long-term objective is 'to stabilise atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.'

a) Global Policies - Context

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), to keep global warming below 2°C, emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases (GHGs) must be halved by 2050 (compared with 1990 levels). G7 countries will need to reduce more – between 80% and 95% by 2050; advanced developing countries with large emissions (e.g. China, India and Brazil) will have to limit their emission growth.

EU emissions represent about 10% of total global emissions. The United States, which has a large share of total global GHG emissions, has not ratified the protocol. China and several other countries with large GHG emissions do not have binding emission targets under the protocol. Such countries are expected to meet their target mainly through domestic policies and measures. They may meet part of their emission reduction targets by investing in emission-reducing projects in developing countries (the Clean Development Mechanism, CDM) or in developed ones (Joint Implementation, JI). The CDM is also meant to support sustainable development, e.g. by financing renewable energy projects.

b) EU Policies - Context

Many European countries have adopted national programmes aimed at reducing emissions. Similar EU-level policies and measures include:

- Increased use of renewable energy (wind, solar, biomass) and combined heat and power installations;
- Improved energy efficiency in buildings, industry, household appliances;

- Reduction of CO2 emissions from new passenger cars;
- Abatement measures in the manufacturing industry;
- Measures to reduce emissions from landfills.

The EU climate and energy package was adopted in 2009 to implement the 20-20-20 targets endorsed by EU leaders in 2007 - by 2020 there should be a 20% reduction of GHG emissions compared with 1990, a 20% share of renewables in EU energy consumption, and energy improvement by 20%.

3.2 Delivery Destination Environmental Context for Policy

a) Fiji Context

Fiji is a country that is experiencing huge turbulence due to the effects of global warming and it is significantly disproportionately affected by it compared to the rest of the world. Its tropical climate has made it susceptible to increased flooding, tropical storms and coral bleaching among many other impacts. Climate change is affecting not only the natural land, but the economy of Fiji.

There is seen to be a big link between land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems. Fiji has declining land standards and food security due to climate change and mismanagement of land, particularly coastal ecosystems. Fiji is therefore at a larger threat from big shocks due to climate change – there is a need to protect coastal environments from rising sea level and to protect agricultural livelihood as it makes up a large part of GDP.

The Fiji 2020 Agriculture Sector Policy was implemented in 2014, however research has shown that there is still a lot of miseducation surrounding climate change and advice and understanding of climate-resistant crops has increased and developed since then.
These aims will be achieved by a changing school curriculum in association with the Ministry of Education, training farmers on best land management and food storage practices in association with the Ministry of Agriculture and finally producing informative resources that will be distributed both electronically and physically throughout Fiji.

Temperatures have increased

Annual maximum and minimum temperatures have increased in both Suva and Nadi since 1950. In Suva, maximum temperatures have increased at a rate of 0.15°C per decade and at Nadi Airport the rate of increase has been 0.18°C per decade. These temperature increases are consistent with the global pattern of warming.

No rainfall change

Data for Suva and Nadi Airport since 1950 show no clear trends in annual or seasonal rainfall. Over this period, there has been substantial variation in rainfall from year to year.

Sea level has risen

As ocean water warms it expands causing the sea level to rise. The melting of glaciers and ice sheets contribute to sea-level rise. Satellite data indicate sea level has risen in Fiji by about 6mm per year since 1993. This is larger than the global average of 2.8–3.6 mm per year.

Ocean acidification has been increasing

About one quarter of the carbon dioxide emitted from human activities each year is absorbed by the oceans. As the extra carbon dioxide reacts with seawater it causes the ocean to become slightly more acidic. This impacts the growth of corals and organisms that construct their skeletons from carbonate minerals. These species are critical to the balance of tropical reef ecosystems. Data show that since the 18th century the level of ocean acidification has been slowly increasing in Fiji’s waters.

Energy Production and Consumption

Due to its lack of infrastructural capabilities, Fiji - like many other Pacific island nations - is still heavily dependent on oil imports to meet its energy needs. As such, 75% of Fiji's electricity was generated from oil, which accounted for 21.7% of its imports for 2019. In 2019, 25% of Fiji's energy came from renewable energy sources: 69% of renewable energy was generated from bioenergy, 30% from hydropower and the remaining 1% from solar.

Following the publication of the Climate Change Act 2021, which includes the commitment for all power to be generated from renewable sources by 2030, Fiji's renewable energy production has increased substantially. In 2021, fossil fuel generation dropped to 38.5% of Fiji's energy mix, while 61.5% came from renewable sources.

b) Bali Context

Bali is Indonesia's most popular tourist destination. This small island constitutes only 0.3% of Indonesia's landmass, but is yet home to 1.4% of Indonesia's population - 80% of whom rely on income generation related to the tourism industry. The pace of development in Bali has been rapid, and increasing incomes from emerging sectors have lured Balinese away from the relative self-sufficiency of a traditional agrarian way of life.

The changes in weather patterns have caused severe floods in certain areas and more extreme droughts in others. It is feared that an explosion of diseases such as malaria, dengue fever and bird flu could occur in the future. Crop harvest reduction may lead to severe food shortages, while changes to habitat are damaging marine ecosystems, threatening extinction to 15-40% of species biodiversity. These effects, attributed to global warming, are exacerbated by the already acute pressures that humans are placing on the nation's environment. Small islands are threatened with submersion and erosion, which may cause internal displacement.

Increase of temperature and severe drought leads to a decrease in soil fertility which in turn threatens food security. Poor people, with low capacity to deal with change, fewer resources, and high dependency on tenuous resources, will suffer most.

Bali has seen severe environmental degradation in the past three decades due to changing land use and lifestyles. A warming of its microclimate appears evident in symptoms such as drought, floods and loss of marine habitat through coral bleaching.

Under IPCC scenarios, it is estimated that temperature may increase from 0.72 to 3.92°C. Up to a 2°C rise will have high impacts on Bali's coral reefs and much of its marine environment. Beyond a 2°C rise the impacts will be potentially catastrophic for Bali's natural resources and the people and industries that depend on them.

Infrastructure

The development of services such as road networks, water, and electricity has not kept up with the growing demand. Without due attention to planning procedures and laws, burgeoning development continues to put a lot of pressure on the island's services. Only available in few locations and unreliable, public transport in Bali has deteriorated, forcing more people onto motorbikes and other private vehicles. Nationwide, nearly 100% of public and private transportation use fossil fuel.

To ensure sustainability or survival of its economy, Bali will need to address the following long term issues:

- By 2050, average temperatures in Bali will have increased, increasing the energy requirement for cooling unless improved building design through passive cooling is implemented;
- On the coasts, it will be necessary to address erosion from rising sea levels.
- Planning maps need revision to move building lines away from the beach.
- Tourism in the low-lying parts of Bali may be destroyed by inunda- tion by washing waves during extreme high tides. Most of these areas do not have much of a buffer zone separating built areas from the rav- ages of the sea.
- Displacement of Bali's population from low-lying areas would add unprecedented pressure and demand to the island's interior for housing land.
- The island's infrastructure needs to be adapted to changing weather patterns.
- Crops need to be adjusted to suit new weather patterns to ensure food security.
- Water retention capacity and security of water supply needs to be improved, with priority to watershed protection. This requires conservation and restoration of forest resources.
- Address existing solid waste and wastewater management issues, allowing for potential changes in mean sea water level and available land.
- Prevention of communicable diseases by vector / vermin control.

c) Thailand Context

Thailand's environmental challenges are mainly a result of a rapidly increasing population, industrial activities, and a growing economy, as well as being considered highly vulnerable to the effects of global climate change. Extreme heat and rising sea levels threaten parts of Thailand, including the capital city of Bangkok. Erosion is considered a major problem due to climate change within the country.

Deforestation

The Seub Nakhasathien Foundation reports that 53% of Thailand was covered by forest in 1961, but that forested areas had shrunk to 31.6% in 2015. An estimate by the World Wildlife Fund concluded that between 1973 and 2009, Thailand's forests declined by 43%. In July 2015, a Bangkok Post editorial summed up Thailand's forestry issues: "Forests have rapidly declined under state policies over the past four decades. Factors include logging, mining, anti-insurgency strategies, promotion of cash crops on the highlands, construction of big dams and promotion of the tourism industry. Corruption is also deep-rooted in forestry bureaucracy."[15] Valuable hardwood tree species, such as Siamese Rosewood, are being extracted illegally for sale, mostly to the Chinese furniture market. These trees are so valuable that poachers are armed and are prepared to fight forest rangers.

Pollution in Thailand

Air pollution is among the most severe pollution issues among Thai citizens. It accounted for the majority of complaints filed against environmental issues in 2022. Air pollution in Thailand is mainly caused by traffic congestion and industrial emissions. The World Bank estimates that deaths in Thailand attributable to air pollution have risen from 31,000 in 1990 to roughly 49,000 in 2013.

Pollution Management

The Pollution Control Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment is responsible for pollution control in Thailand. Several measures have been introduced to tackle pollution, such as detecting vehicles that produce black exhaust smoke, forbidding open burning, and cooperating with vehicle manufacturers to reduce air pollution. A reduction of plastic use is also encouraged nationwide. Certain retailers already adapted to this approach by offering paid-reusable bags instead of plastic bags to consumers. In addition, the development of a water drainage standard for industrial plants has also been initiated. In 2022, the government spent around ten billion Thai baht on environmental protection in Thailand, which was a decrease, compared to the previous year.

4. Carbon Responsibility Strategy

Think Pacific understands that the most significant factor in our organisational carbon footprint comes from the requirement of air travel for international programmes, a **beyond value chain mitigation** reality. Air travel is a necessary part of the majority of our expedition and programmes, and innovating on ways to reduce the negative impact of these emissions, or in the best case scenario turn them into a net positive. The decision making must be evidence based.

What is Carbon Offsetting?

Carbon offsetting is the process of compensating for the negative impact of emissions being released by investing in emissions being reduced elsewhere from another source or investment for net positive future benefit. It is an effective way of reducing contribution to climate change while still utilising services that release carbon and other pollutants into our earth's atmosphere such as flight and manufacturing in a period where otherwise operations may not be possible.

Why are flights uniquely hard to de-carbonise:

- Aviation fuels have few alternatives in the short term. Unlike electricity or land transport, there's no commercially viable zero-emission jet yet. So as we are reliant on international flights, we face a stubborn emissions "hotspot."
- Offsetting schemes do not equal "reduction". Buying credits doesn't actually reduce our own emissions, it funds climate action elsewhere. That means offsetting is, at best, a bridge solution, not a fix.
- Standards have caught up: The science-based target initiative (SBTi) and B Lab both now say:
    - Reduce what you can in your own footprint.
    - For residual, unavoidable emissions (like flights people must take), it's legitimate to finance "beyond value chain mitigation" (i.e., high-integrity carbon projects), as long as these claims are not oversold or exaggerated.
- Credible offsetting is no longer a gimmick if done transparently and in line with ICVCM/VCMI. It becomes one lever in a broader plan.

4.1 Our Approach to CO2 Emissions Responsibility

Action Now & Catalyse the Transition.

4.1.1 Principles moving forward for Climate Responsibility:

- **Reduce first:** We will avoid or reduce travel emissions where possible before turning to offsetting.
- **Integrity:** All claims and credits will follow high-integrity standards (ICVCM, VCMI, SBTi, B Lab).
- **Transparency:** We will publicly disclose our methodology, the credits we buy, and the projects we support.
- **Justice:** Where possible, we will support climate adaptation in communities we work with, as well as global mitigation.

4.1.2 The Think Pacific Climate Fund

As an organisation, we commit to an internally generated climate fund, allocating a calculated proportion of each participant's fee to serving carbon offsetting efforts. This fund will then be utilised for strategic, data led investment under the best practice guidelines from ICVCM Core Carbon Principles and B Lab.

This will take a multi-layered approach to investment rather than just "buying offsets," avoiding greenwashing, being data led and transparent and diversifying our approach to support contemporary adaption but also catalyse the transition into a more sustainable future.

4.1.3 Our Multifaceted Implementation Methodology of Investment:

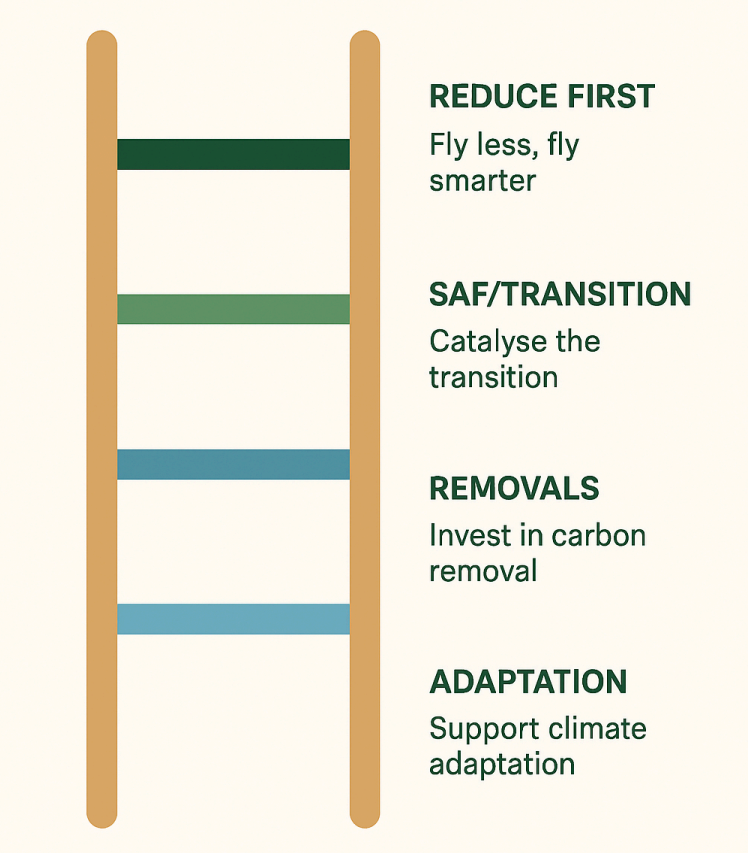
- **30-40%** - SAF certificates
- **20-30%** - High-integrity nested REDD+ or ART-TREES credits (de-forestation efforts)
- **20-30%** - Durable carbon removals, new carbon extraction technology that requires investment but also gives traceable and evidence based carbon offsetting (based on

specific carbon certificates) - eg. biochar, mineralisation, engineered removals via Puro.earth or Frontier

- **10%** - Climate adaptation measures in countries of operation (Just transition), held for place-based adaptation in host communities (e.g., mangrove restoration/urban shade/water resilience), through our programme partners,

All credits must be:

- Traceable in a recognised registry.
- Disclosed with project name, location, vintage, methodology, standard, and retirement proof.
- Assessed for alignment with ICVCM Core Carbon Principles.



4.1.4 Claims and Communications

As an organization, we commit to:

- Not using terms such as “carbon-neutral flights.”
- Our claims will follow the VCMI Claims Code of Practice (e.g., “Think Pacific financed high-integrity climate action equal to X% of its travel footprint while pursuing absolute reductions”).
- Publish an annual table of retired credits with registry links/screenshots.

4.1.5 Measuring Travel Emissions

- We use the UK Government GHG Conversion Factors (2024).
- We add an 8% distance uplift to reflect indirect flight paths.
- We apply a radiative forcing multiplier of 1.7 to account for non-CO_2 impacts at altitude.
- Annual totals will be published in our Impact Report.

Key Document (for calculations, particularly page 103):
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66a9fe4ca3c2a28abb50da4a/2024-greenhouse-gas-conversion-factors-methodology.pdf

4.1.6 Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to align with evolving guidance (ICVCM, SBTi, B Lab).

4.1.7 Reporting

Reports will be completed annually and shared with all stakeholders for transparency.

We shall report climate adaption measures separately from offsets to avoid claim confusion. (This matches BVCM guidance and B Lab’s emphasis on just transition).

Key Steps moving forward (2025/26):

- Avoid using greenwashing terminology in marketing efforts (eg. carbon-neutral flights… this is not true). We are utilising honest and effective approaches for securing a more sustainable future
- Calculate expected carbon emission for the year (this should become more accurate in the future as we develop tighter investment and calculation methods).
- Create an internal climate fund based on these calculations
- Delegate this fund to different areas for best practice under B Lab's new climate standards (reduction first, science-based targets, credible policy engagement, just transition… offsets are complementary.)
- Report and Review

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5. Think Pacific Climate Fund

Offsetting the negative impact of emissions through reinvestment opportunities is a primary strategy of the Foundation. This acknowledges the current environmental impact that significant air travel creates, and works to actively balance out our organisational carbon footprint whilst playing our part in the achievement of a more sustainable future.

We advocate for evidence based investment, ensuring funds collected are going to areas where they will have the highest impact. Without evidence based investment decisions, quantifiable outcomes will be harder to assess annually and decision making on investment choices loses credibility, investments are at risk of being misplaced.

5.1 Gathering the Climate Fund

Strategic price increases based on our organisational policy should ensure an annual climate fund. Think Pacific will acknowledge the organisational pledge to support a sustainable future by incorporating planned spending of £50 per participant into the price of any programme in Fiji, £38 for every programme in Bali, and £34 for any programme in Thailand for a UK based individual.

Added cost will be proportionately added to the other currency prices based on their destination of departure. This stands as USD and AUD price choices. Based on the currency that is paid by the participant, this will be understood as their contribution to the offsetting initiative.

5.2 What are SAFc's Certificates?

SAFc (Sustainable Aviation Fuel Certificate) is a market-based solution that represents the environmental attributes of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), decoupling them from the physical fuel. This allows companies to purchase and claim the emission reductions associated with SAF, supporting their Scope 3 travel and freight emissions targets without needing to physically access the fuel at the point of use. SAFc are tracked in a public registry, providing transparency and integrity in claiming these environmental benefits, which are critical for decarbonizing the aviation sector.

SAFc Registry for consistent approaches to SAFc's globally: https://safcregistry.org/register/cr

***Great Website for SAFc purchasing (would need a partnership):**
https://worldenergy.net/our-solutions/aviation-safc/

5.3 What are ART-TREES Credits?

High-integrity nested ART-TREES credits are carbon credits from the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) program, using the TREES standard to ensure emission reductions and removals from protecting and restoring forests at a jurisdictional scale are high-quality and verifiable. "Nested" refers to how these credits align with smaller-scale REDD+ projects within the larger jurisdictional framework, ensuring consistent accounting and managing potential leakage of emissions. The credits are designed to attract large-scale finance to support forest conservation and restoration efforts, aligning with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

5.4 What is Durable Carbon Removal?

High-integrity nested ART-TREES credits are carbon credits from the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) program, using the TREES standard to ensure e

***Durable Carbon Removal (best option):** https://registry.puro.earth/retirements

5.5 Climate Adaption Investment Decisions / Options

5.5.1 Implementation Projects / Renewable Energy Capital Investment

One option that Think Pacific can take in the utilisation of offsetting revenue is to invest directly into implementation projects or capital investment; action. This will more quickly and more directly offset current negatives carbon emissions and is a tried and tested means to calculate how to effectively offset. This can be investing in clean energy, reforestation efforts, mangrove planting, etc.

Some implementation projects can focus on **climate adaptation** or less quantifiable offsetting value. Such projects might include coral restoration, environmental education programmes, funding to climate NGOs based on their own objectives, etc.

5.5.1 Research based initiatives

An alternative to capital investment, or investment into physical offsetting initiatives, is the investment into research and development institutions aiming to innovate on broader solutions to climate impact.

Investments into research institutes could in theory bring greater return in the future based on potential innovations. Compared to working within a system and playing by the rules, it seeks to reform it. This may mean that in the long run finances are put to better use but comes with risk.

However, investment into climate research brings less tangible outcomes than physical investment and is harder to predict, it's a risk. It could have a greater impact in the future, but it may not. And the sums of money that will likely be raised through offsetting efforts would be eclipsed by large donors.

On top of choosing which investment style to choose, the location of that investment is also a major factor in the approach to offsetting that Think Pacific takes. Think Pacific's headquarter is based in the UK and operates recruitment strategies in multiple other higher income nations.

Offsetting opportunities in delivery destinations are diverse and often underfunded in comparison. Evidence based outcomes can be achieved through both, it is a choice of where resources are best placed.

5.5.3 UK Based Offsetting options

The argument for investing in UK based offsetting schemes aims to tackle negative environmental impact at its root. The benefits of this may be investing in projects and initiatives that are already gaining traction through greater existing funding streams.

These projects will likely have more of a global approach to climate change rather than a localised approach based on specific context.

5.5.4 Destination Based Investment

As an organisation that works globally and whose carbon footprint disproportionately affects the destinations in which we deliver programmes, investing into the countries themselves in climate research, resilience and adaptation is of primary importance, particularly initiatives that are underfunded and restricted compared to their counterparts in the UK or other nations.

Proportionately, we believe it is fair to invest in destination specific initiatives based on the proportion of participants travelling to the destination annually and the offsetting revenue that they raise.

This means that funding will be assessed at the end of each financial year, after being protected throughout the year, and invested on the evidence based offsetting investments of that annum.

Pacific Islands Case Study

Pacific Island countries face a number of capacity constraints (e.g., financial and project management, climate modelling and spatial analysis, and infrastructure maintenance; Dornan

and Newton Cain, 2014). Sustained capacity in the local NGOs also is a challenge; as talented youth rise through the ranks of conservation programs, they are often recruited into higher-paying government or private sector jobs or seek opportunities abroad. Such staff turnover problems hinder long-term conservation projects by causing significant portions of funding sources to be repeatedly used toward capacity development. Local adaptation projects supported by external sources of funding (e.g., climate grants) often end when the grant is over, if there is not sufficient local capacity to continue the project. Finally, lack of technical capacity is also a challenge.

For example, enforcement of marine resource harvesting regulations requires expensive investments in equipment (e.g., boats and surveillance technologies) and advanced training. Enforcement funding is often gleaned from the end of project budgets, as expenditures such as staff time, materials, and planning commonly absorb substantial amounts of initial funding. Technical capacity for climate resilient agriculture is limited, and on-going support is often needed to address emerging threats (e.g., new garden pests in Ahus, Papua New Guinea).

Measuring Impact - Quantifiable outcomes

Many Pacific islands have small populations and small land masses. If donors prioritise their support based on the total number of hectares protected/restored or the total number of people who benefit from a given intervention, Pacific Island projects may not be selected for funding.

However, the strong dependence on island communities on their ecosystems for food, livelihoods and traditional practices, provides opportunities for demonstrating how climate adaptation projects can result in direct benefits to both ecosystems and human well being. Additionally, regional commitments to conservation and sustainability such as the Micronesia Challenge can be an important mechanism to scale conservation efforts by providing enabling conditions to better cope with climate change. Initiated by a coalition of regional governments and endorsed at an international level with sustainable funding and technical support for implementation, the Micronesia Challenge serves as a model for other regions. It inspired the development of the Caribbean Challenge, Western Indian Ocean Challenge, and the Coral Triangle Initiative.

UK / Global Investment Options

5.5.6 UK Based Implementation Projects

Forest Planting Offsetting: Carbon Neutral Britain

Carbon Neutral Britain is the UK's Leading Carbon Offsetting Initiative, helping British Individuals and Businesses make an impact on Climate Change.

The vision is to become a leading Non-Governmental Organisation in Britain to tackle the Climate Change Crisis by educating and providing voluntary carbon offsetting to all - from individual subscriptions, charities and organisations - to businesses of all sizes.

Founded in 2020, due to overwhelming support the organisation has rapidly expanded. So far projects have already offset over 3 Million Tonnes of CO_2e and planted over 2 Million Trees, helping stop climate change and providing essential forest habitats for endangered wildlife.

Pacific Based Investment Options

Fiji and the Pacific is our origin and remains our premier delivery destination, with the largest annual cohort of participants joining projects annually. Below are a range of options that Think Pacific might choose to support.

5.5.7 Pacific Based Implementation (Adaption Projects)

Ecosystem-based adaptation actions that support human wellbeing and healthy ecosystems require financing and supportive policies to ensure their implementation, sustainability, and scaling across the region. Such policies must be continually evaluated and refined to ensure that they continue to address local needs in response to changing social, ecological, and climatic conditions and must be developed in concert with traditional knowledge. For example, marine protected areas in Manus, Papua New Guinea work best when they reflect the latest science on fish movements and aggregation sites and also follow local tribal boundaries to enable clans to manage their customary land and seas as part of the protected area. This means that local tribes set the rules for their marine protected areas that enable species to be sustainable and address local needs. Thus, in some communities (e.g., Ahus, Papua New Guinea), it is important to strengthen tribal governance and local institutions to mobilise resources and manage

adaptation projects. Methods to do so include incorporating climate change into existing ward plans, aligning ward plans with existing provincial and government policies and plans and adapting these plans over time to address changing conditions.

Learning exchanges between local, state and national governments are an important mechanism to discuss the challenges communities are encountering in adapting to climate change and to refine current policies with new scientific and local knowledge. They also can highlight gendered impacts of climate change and the differential capacities for adaptation. For example, women in some Pacific Islands are not entitled to land rights due to customary laws and practices which may limit their ability to grow food and resettle in areas less vulnerable to climate impacts. Therefore, policies are needed that consider these gendered impacts (e.g., addressing land ownership inequity as climate change is reducing the available land in some places such as Papua New Guinea; Mcleod et al., 2018).

Innovative financing for ecosystem-based adaptation includes the development of tools (e.g., green fees, payment for ecosystem services) and new partnerships with the private sector. For example, water utilities and other businesses that utilise nature for profit can be incentivized to protect the environment. Utilising payment schemes, such as payments for ecosystem services, creates financial mechanisms to ensure that water is clean, sustainable, and generates new sources of revenue for watershed protection.

Coral Reefs

Corals for Conservation is an existing partner who is the only coral project in the world to receive UNESCO endorsement, highlighted as being in desperate need of funding to boost a highly effective and new conservation technique. If implemented in Fiji successfully, this can be exported to other countries with coral reefs.

C4C - https://www.corals4conservation.org

Healthy coral along shorelines slows waves and the impact along shorelines, in combination with mangroves and seagrass, they all store a vast quantity of CO_2 and prevent sea water inundating the land. They also buffer against cyclones and storm surges as well as offering habitat for fish nurseries and other animals that are important to the ecosystem and local food source.

Reef revival: Fiji's corals bouncing back after ruinous cyclone, (2021) Tropical coral reefs provide essential habitat for many fish species, serve as spawning and nursery grounds for commercially important fish, and recycle nutrients in otherwise nutrient-poor tropical oceans.

WCS Melanesia's regional director, Dr Stacy Jupiter, said the organisation had worked with the local iTaukei communities, who hold customary fishing rights over the Vatu-i-Ra and Namena, to establish reef management measures, including large "no-take areas" covering significant sections of highly biodiverse reef.

The Namena reserve and Vatu-i-Ra conservation park collectively cover nearly 200 sq km and encompass various marine ecosystems, including shallow reefs, deep water passages and small islands (Reef revival: Fiji's corals bouncing back after ruinous cyclone, 2021).

Sea Grass

Seagrass-Watch Global Seagrass Observing Network (established in 1998) is a not-for-profit organisation that accurately monitors the status and trends in seagrass condition. The network has conducted over 5914 assessments at 418 sites across 26 countries, involving thousands of dedicated participants.

Seagrass-Watch is one of the largest long-term seagrass observing programs globally and is highly recognised for its scientific rigour. Seagrass-Watch participants are from a wide variety of backgrounds. All share a common interest in marine conservation. Most participants are associated with universities & research institutions, government (local & state) or non-government organisations.

Fiji Seagrass - https://www.seagrasswatch.org/fiji/

New research suggests that seagrass beds are so effective in protecting tropical beaches from erosion that they can reduce the need for regular, expensive beach nourishment.

In a recent article in the journal BioScience, biologists and engineers from The Netherlands and Mexico describe experiments and field observations around the Caribbean Sea. "A foreshore with both healthy seagrass beds as well as calcifying algae, is a resilient and sustainable option in coastal defence," says lead author Rebecca James, PhD-candidate at the University of

Groningen and the Royal Dutch Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ), The Netherlands. "Because of erosion, the economic value of Caribbean beaches literally drains into the sea."

Increasing Erosion with Climate Change

The authors looked at beaches of the Caribbean Sea, where almost a quarter of the Gross Domestic Product is earned in tourism, mainly around the beaches. "With the increase of coastal development, the natural flow of water and sand is disrupted, natural ecosystems are damaged, and many tropical beaches have already disappeared into the sea," says co-author Rodolfo Silva, professor of Coastal Engineering at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma of Mexico. "Until now, expensive coastal engineering efforts, such as repeated beach nourishment and concrete walls to protect the coast, have been made to combat erosion. Rising sea-level and increasing storms will only increase the loss of these important beaches."

Experimental Flume

To find out to what extent seagrass beds are able to hold sand and sediment on the beach foreshores, James and her promoter, professor Tjeerd Bouma (NIOZ and Utrecht University), conducted a simple but telling experiment. With a portable and adjustable field flume to regulate water motion in a Caribbean bay, they observed when particles on the seabed started moving. "We showed that seagrass beds were extremely effective at holding sediment in place," says James. "Especially in combination with calcifying algae that ‘create their own sand’, a foreshore with healthy seagrass appeared a sustainable way of combating erosion."

More Seagrass, Less Erosion

Along the coastline of the Mexican peninsula of Yucatan, the team put their theory to the test. "By looking at beaches with and without the protection of healthy seagrass beds, we showed that the amount of erosion was strongly linked to the amount of vegetation: more seagrass meant less erosion," explains co-author Dr. Brigitta van Tussenbroek of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma in Mexico. "At beaches where seagrass beds were destroyed, the researchers saw a sudden strong increase in erosion, resulting in an immediate need of expensive beach nourishment.

Solar Power Investment - Fiji

Solar Fiji specialise in the supply, engineering and installation of Solar & Battery power systems in the South Pacific. They service all regions of Fiji and the extended South Pacific, utilizing a committed crew of full time technicians, contractors and engineers.

They have a partnership with Victron Energy. This allows them to use Victron's cutting-edge technologies, straight from the factory to site.

Solar Fiji - https://solarfiji.org

Asia Based Adaption Options

With Think Pacific delivering its most recent projects in the Asia / Pacific region, Asian based offsetting initiatives should also be a key focus of offsetting efforts in delivery destinations.

5.5.8 Asia Based Implementation Projects

Plastic Pollution Clean up - Indonesia

Redux is a Foundation that intends to use technology to connect people to help the planet. It is a small organisation but is Bali specific, targeting communities specifically.

Redux connects people who are willing to pay someone to clean the streets of the Developing World with people willing to clean it up. This prevents plastic from entering the ocean and restores nature to its original state.

Redux has collected over 21,000 kilos of plastic in Bali (in a relatively short space of time). It's small in comparison to other NGOs but seems to have good working efficiency.

The Redux Foundation - https://redux.org

Solar Investment - Indonesia

Xurya are currently the industry leaders in solar power development in Indonesia and have been trusted by hundreds of commercial and industrial building owners to help them switch to using solar energy.

We provide various services ranging from financing options, engineering design, installation processes, as well as operational & maintenance services throughout Indonesia.

Xurya received $33 million in funding in 2022 from investors including East Ventures, Mitsui & Co., and Saratoga. It's a sound investment and one that has a good track record.

Organisational Profile:
https://storage.googleapis.com/xurya-app-files/odoo-xurya-util/upload/pdf/gp3ksc057w0fb6cdv27c8e.pdf

Xurya - https://xurya.com/en/

Ocean Pollution Clean Up - Thailand and Indonesia

Seven Clean Seas is a British environmental organisation that works to remove plastic pollution from the world's oceans:

Their mission is to remove 10 million kilograms of plastic from the ocean by 2025.

- **Goals:** To create permanent change in the world's seven most polluted areas
- **Methods:** Collaborates with businesses, governments, NGOs, and consumers to invest in ocean conservation
- **Impact:** Generates positive environmental and social impact

They also work with schools, community groups, and religious leaders to raise awareness of plastic pollution.

It was founded in 2020. As of November 2023, they have removed 2,206,079 kilograms of plastic waste from the oceans and completed 1,886 cleanup efforts.

Seven Clean Seas - https://www.sevencleanseas.com

Thailand Specific: HIPPO Thailand (High Impact Plastic Pollution remOval) is an automatic, solar-powered, and scalable vessel to collect riverine plastic at scale.

This effort further enhances the development of circular solutions, from prevention through to sorting and recycling, hence maintaining a closed-loop.

They already work with multiple government stakeholders, and previously with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as an implementation partner overseeing the successful execution in the local market. They established a strong partnership with Wat Chak Daeng, a Thai Buddhist temple renowned for pioneering plastic waste and recycling initiatives.

Hippo Thailand - https://www.sevencleanseas.com/projects/thailand

£1.6 = 1kg pollution removed from the sea.

5.6 Practical Step, 2025/26:

How to buy SAF certificates (SAFc) — practical steps

1. **Decide the registry / standard:** pick an accepted scheme (example: RSB Book & Claim or the SAFc Registry). The RSB Book & Claim manual explains user roles, registry rules, and required documentation. rsb.org+1
2. **Find a supplier / broker:** sellers are typically SAF producers or traders who "book" SAF into the registry and sell SAFc units to corporate buyers. You can buy via:
    - an SAF producer/trader directly, or
    - an intermediary broker/marketplace that lists SAFc. (Large sustainability brokers and energy-trading desks often manage these trades.) RMI
3. **Register an account in the registry (if required):** some schemes require buyers to create an account to receive/retire SAFc; others allow brokers to retire on your behalf (but you must get retirement receipts). Read the registry's user manual. rsb.org
4. **Contract & purchase:** key contract items: unit price (per SAFc), vintage or delivery period, quantity, delivery/retirement timeline, anti-double-counting assurances, and

seller warranty that the unit was booked into a certified SAF feedstock/facility. Ask the seller for proof of booking into the RSB/SAFc registry prior to transfer.

5. **Retirement and evidence:** once bought, **retire** the SAFc in the registry and obtain a retirement certificate showing unit ID, vintage, and your organisation as beneficiary. This is the auditable proof you'll publish in reporting.

How to buy TREES (ART) credits — practical steps

1. **Understand who sells TREES credits:** TREES credits are typically issued for jurisdictional/nested programs; sellers are program developers, national entities, or authorised intermediaries listed in ART's marketplace or via registry account holders. Check ART's site for program listings. artredd.org+1
2. **Open an ART Registry account (if you want to transact directly):** ART's registry supports account creation and transaction accounts — read the Registry Operating Procedures and Terms of Use for fees and onboarding steps. Many buyers transact via brokers or programme administrators if they prefer not to hold a registry account. artredd.org+1
3. **Due diligence checklist before purchase:** verify the program's TREES documentation: issued volume, vintage, monitoring reports, third-party verification statements, safeguards (social & environmental), how reversals/leakage are handled, and how the program interacts with host country NDCs/registry. Confirm whether the credit is TREES-labelled in the ART registry. artredd.org
4. **Trading & retirement:** once you agree a sale, the credits are transferred on ART's registry and the buyer can retire them to claim the supported mitigation. Ensure the seller provides ART registry serials and retirement receipts for transparency. artredd.org

Practical note: ART / TREES are jurisdictional by design — that means transactions often involve national-level program administrators or aggregated sellers rather than lots of small project vendors. This reduces some of the legacy REDD+ risks but requires working with program-level documentation.

How to buy carbon removals (Puro.earth / CORCs) — practical steps

1. **Choose buying route:** Puro.earth allows buyers to: (a) negotiate bilaterally with a certified supplier listed on Puro, (b) buy via a Puro partner marketplace/broker, or (c)

participate in Puro's auctions / marketplace events. See Puro's "Buy carbon credits" page for current options. Website (puro.earth)+1

2. **Create an account / register for auctions (if applicable):** Puro operates rules and auction processes — if you want to participate in auctions, you'll need an account and to follow the auction timetable and bidding rules. See Puro rules & auction procedures (they publish an auction and marketplace rulebook). 7518557.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net
3. **Supplier selection & verification:** choose suppliers certified under the Puro Standard. Request third-party verification reports, methodology summaries, permanence/durability guarantees (Puro claims 100+ years), and how CO_2 measurement is calculated (gross→net removals). Website (puro.earth)7518557.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net
4. **Purchase mechanics:** either sign a bilateral contract with the supplier (and get registry issuance/serials) or buy via the marketplace/auction (where Puro will record the issuance and your retirement). After purchase, **retire** the CORCs in Puro's registry and assign a beneficiary. 7518557.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.netWebsite (puro.earth)
5. **Accounting & claims:** Puro requires retirement and assignment to make the claim — collect CORC IDs and retirement records for your annual reporting and for any Net Zero / B Corp evidence.

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Quick ChatGBT Assessment for reference:

🔵 Strengths of the Strategy

- **Clear Diagnosis**: You've clearly identified flights as the biggest carbon contributor.
- **Realistic Options**: You propose *both participant-driven* (opt-in / built-in pricing) and *institutional-driven*(university partnerships) pathways, which is smart.
- **Evidence-Based Investment Thinking**: You correctly separate *direct emission offsets* (like renewable energy) from *adaptation/resilience projects* (like coral restoration) and explain the pros and cons.
- **Destination Sensitivity**: The focus on investing in **project countries** (Fiji, Indonesia, Thailand) rather than just the UK is excellent — it shows real integrity and alignment with where the impact is felt.
- **Diverse Investment Options**: You're not just picking "tree planting" — you're considering solar, coral reefs, seagrass, solid waste management, etc., which diversifies risk and maximizes impact.

🟠 Areas for Refinement

- **Opt-in vs. Build-in Approach**:
  - *Optional opt-in* will likely have **low participation** (often <40%) unless very emotionally framed at the right moment.
  - *Built-in pricing* is **more predictable** and likely *the better choice* for reaching net zero *quickly and credibly*.
  - I would recommend **mandating the offset** in the pricing and framing it as a non-negotiable "Climate Contribution" — not optional.
- **Implementation vs. Research Funding**:
  - You are absolutely right that **research** is more uncertain and longer-term.
  - Given Think Pacific's brand and need for **tangible short-term credibility**, you should heavily **prioritize direct action projects** (e.g., solar farms, reef restoration, mangrove planting) rather than research. Research can be a small percentage of the investment, but not the majority.
- **Tracking and Reporting**:
  - You briefly mention evidence-based investment but don't lay out a **monitoring/reporting plan**.
  - I suggest adding an **Annual Impact Report** (even just a simple PDF) that shows:
    - Total funds raised

        - Where funds were invested
        - Tonnes of CO2 offset / hectares restored / reefs saved etc.
        - Stories from funded projects
- **Third-party Verification**:
    - For ultimate credibility (especially with universities and sustainability-conscious students), try to partner with **verified offsetting schemes** (e.g., Gold Standard, Verified Carbon Standard) where feasible.
    - Even if you fund coral or solar projects, external verification dramatically boosts trust.
- **Avoid Complexity for Participants**:
    - The tiered £10/£25/£50 offsetting option is well-intentioned, but psychologically, people find choices confusing.
    - I'd recommend **one simple figure** ("Your Climate Contribution: £50 is included in your project cost.") for simplicity.

🔵 Overall Recommendation: Best Path for Think Pacific

1. Build offsetting into the base price.

- Mandatory. No opt-outs. Frame it positively as part of ethical travel.

2. Focus investment mainly on direct-action projects.

- Renewable energy (solar in Fiji, Indonesia) and ecosystem restoration (corals, mangroves, seagrass).
- Keep a small % for climate research if desired (5-10% max).

3. Prioritize destination countries for investment.

- Fiji first (largest footprint), then Indonesia/Thailand proportionately.

4. Publish a simple, annual "Sustainability & Climate Impact Report."

- Makes the initiative visible and builds organizational credibility.

5. Work toward certification/verification where possible.

- Even a partial partnership with a Gold Standard provider would enhance your positioning.

🔵 Final Thought

You are very close to a **best-in-class** carbon offsetting strategy for an educational travel organization.
By removing complexity for participants, prioritizing direct carbon offsetting action, and visibly reporting progress, Think Pacific could become a real *leader in sustainable volunteering and travel*. 🌱