



Supporting resilient communities in the Pacific

S. Murray¹

¹*Cawthron Institute, Nelson, New Zealand*

Pacific Island communities are disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change, and as teina (younger sibling) to our Pacific tuakana (older sibling), it is our responsibility to ensure these communities have resilience through co-developed solutions to these real-world problems. We focus on marine and freshwater ecosystems, understand their intrinsic links to Pacific communities, while, in partnership with science, empower and enable local knowledge to steer the waka. With more than 20 years' experience of supporting Pacific communities, we deliver our positive impact through knowledge exchange, capability and capacity development, and problem solving. We strive to learn and grow our own capability, while brokering knowledge between Aotearoa, the Pacific, and our world leading research partners. Our aim is that Pacific Island communities gain a deeper scientific understanding of their aquatic systems, have the tools to rejuvenate and conserve these ecosystems, are empowered to transform their food systems towards more healthy, sustainable, and resilient pathways, and can adapt to the impacts of climate change. We take a systems approach that incorporates adaptive solutions, which are community-led, thereby ensuring a long-lasting positive impact into the future. Our Kete is filled with world-leading expertise from different organizations, which ensures a greater collective impact where it is needed most. This presentation will cover the seven themes within our Pacific Impact area, with a particular focus on food safety and security in relation to ciguatera poisoning (the number one cause of non-bacterial seafood illness affecting Pacific Island communities) ^(1,2), analytical laboratory development, and transforming food systems.

References

1. Rhodes LL, Smith KF, Murray JS *et al.* (2020) *Toxins* **12**, 1–21.
2. Murray JS, Nishimura T, Finch SC *et al.* (2020) *Harmful Algae* **97**, 101853.