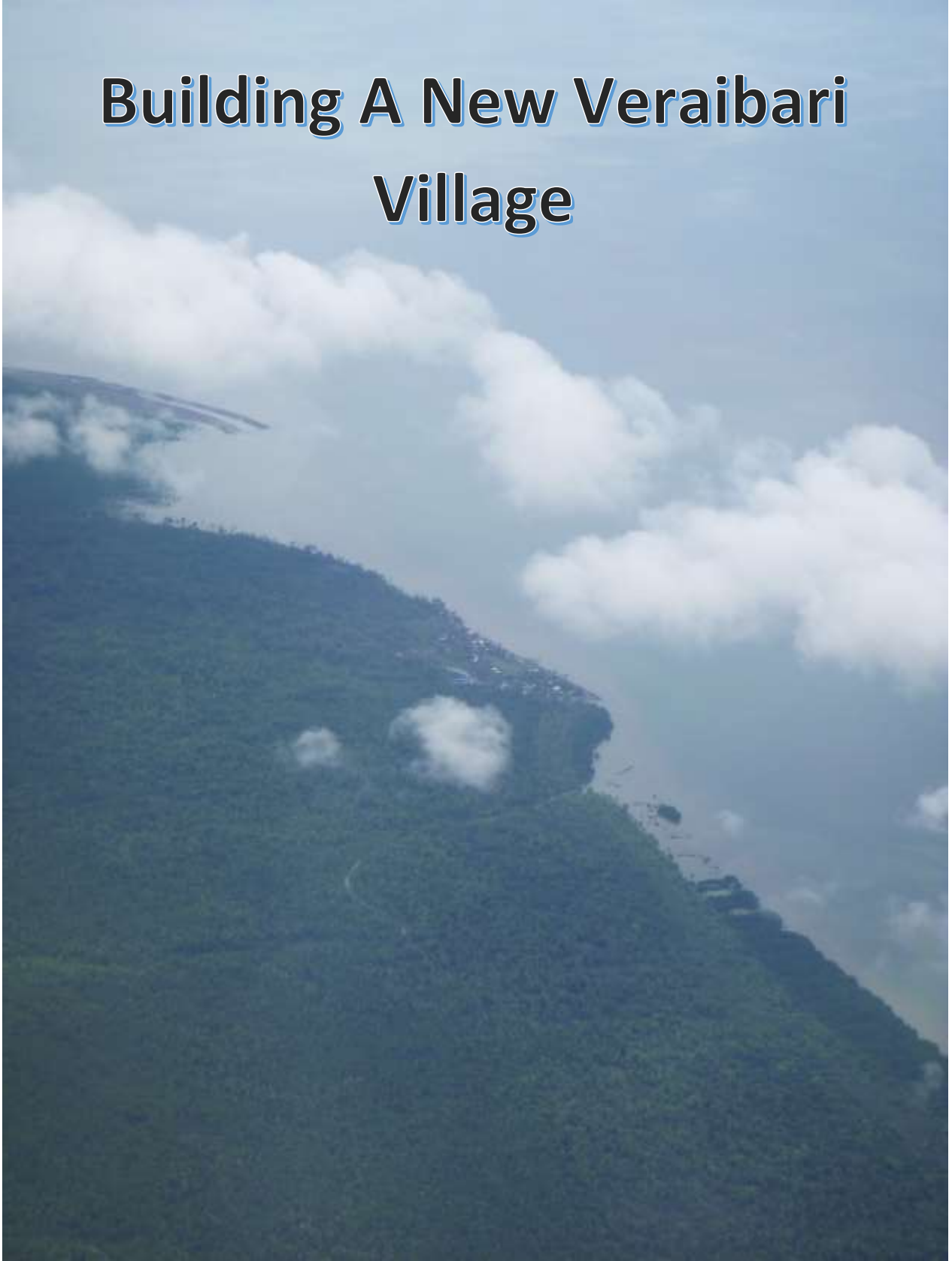
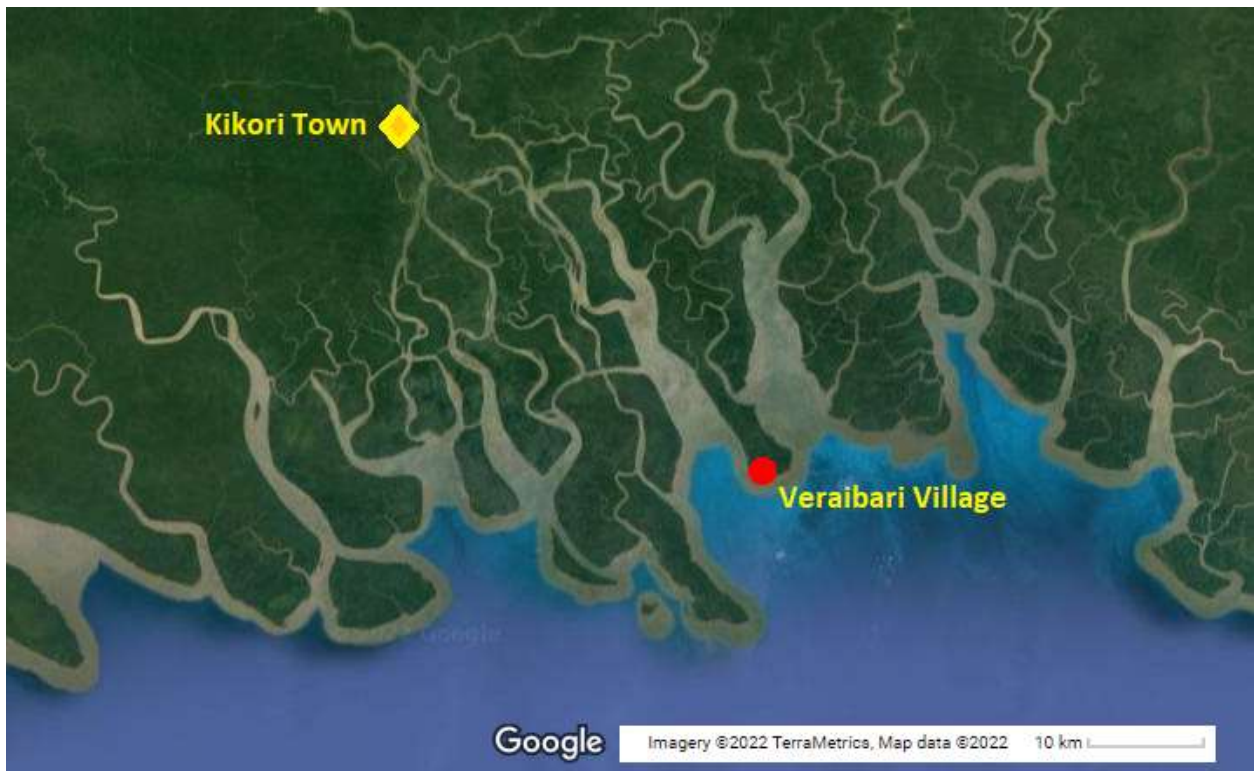


Building A New Veraibari Village





Papua New Guinea in the world



Building a new Veraibari Village.

Veraibari village is situated on a delta island in the Kikori River Delta of Papua New Guinea. The Kikori River Delta is a very dynamic environment, wind and wave action on the coast build up and break down islands a process that is reflected in the migratory history of the Kikori people, local legends and customs as well as the ever-changing physical environment.



Impacts of climate change has exacerbated this dynamic process. Caught between the fast-flowing Kikori River and the rising seas of the Gulf of Papua, Veraibari village, like many villages of the Kikori Delta and the greater Gulf of Papua are fighting climate impacts, rushing to adapt and build climate resilience as their villages are destroyed.



Veraibari Village

In 2020, after storm surges destroyed half the houses in the village, the people of Veraibari decided that it was time to relocate further inland.

This will be the fifth (5th) time in 50 years that the village is moving.

Veraibari Community School in 2014



Veraibari School closed mid-year 2020 after the storm surges destroyed facilities.





The storm season occurs every year from June to September.

Every year the intensity of winds and wave action increases.

Destroying trees, mangroves, houses, gardens and anything that once stood on the shoreline .

Men will place logs like a fence in front of their house seeking some protection during hightides and the storm.



The sea has reached the village which once stood many meters away from it amongst the shelter of the mangrove forest.

Houses that stood in the center of the village now stand at the forefront.

Veraibari village has decided it is time again to move.

Veraibari Village is relocating



A site has been selected and the land distributed to cater for 178 houses for their families.



The Relocation of Veraibari village is led by the Veraibari Village Development Project Committee comprising the local ward councilor and village representatives.

It is an initiative of the village itself.

They are trying to understand what climate change is while simultaneously dealing with its drastic impacts, adapting and building community climate resilience.





Veraibari village is one of the last remaining villages still standing in the Gulf of Papua and on the coast of the Kikori River Delta.

Papua New Guinea

Acknowledgements

The Veraibari Relocation Project is an initiative of the people of Veraibari.

This community project is led by the Veraibari Community Development Projects Committee who allowed the Piku Biodiversity Network to tell their story.

We acknowledge the World Learning Alumni TIES, the U.S Department of State and the United States Government for the opportunity to showcase our project.

On ground we are grateful for the work of Mr Ara Kouwo and his amazing wife, Mama Lucy who lead the local business, Kaumo Business Group, and who continuously support the project and financed from their family and business funds the initial stages of the relocation project.

We thank the Gulf Provincial Administration and the Governor who visited the village and pledged some assistance as well as the Gulf Provincial Environment Division for their capacity building support and efforts to explore options to bring in support so we can conduct a vulnerability assessment and make informed decisions on climate adaptation moving forward.

We are thankful also to our local business partners who also contribute to the relocation project and the community who still perseveres.

We acknowledge the work of the Papua New Guinea (PNG) Climate Change Development Authority who lead Papua New Guinea in mitigating, adapting and strengthening the country's resilience to climate change.

---THANK YOU---

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