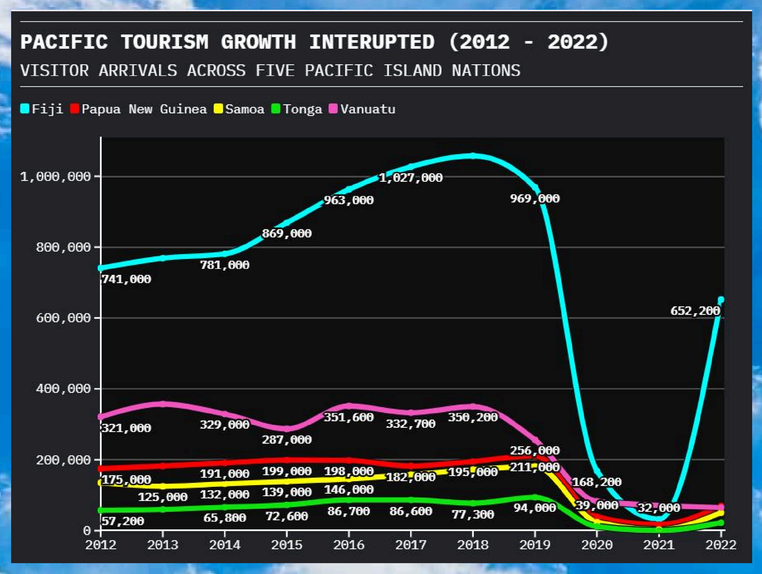
CLIMATE CHANGE AND TOURISM IN PACIFIC

FROM GROWTH TO COLLAPSE : HOW CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLOBAL SHOCK RESHAPED PACIFIC ISLAND TOURISM

PEAK VISITORS
1.06M
Fiji (2018)

WORST DECLINE
100%
TONGA & VANUATU
BY 2021

BEST RECOVERY
67% BY FIJI
2022

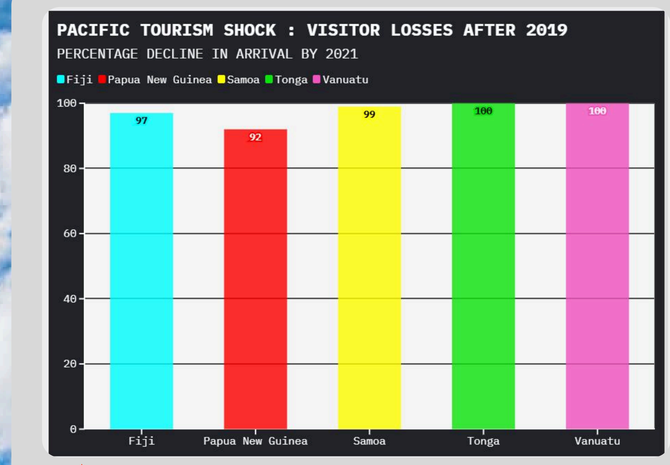


THE STORY

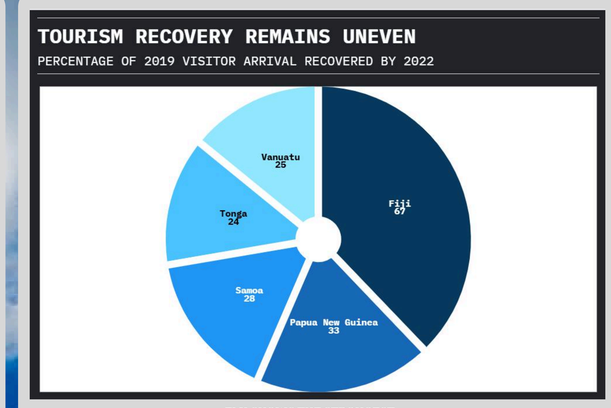
COVID 19 , BORDER CLOSURE TRIGGERD COLLAPSE IN 2020

STEADY GROWTH FROM 2012 TO 2019

SMALL RECOVERY VISIBILE IN 2022 BUT ARRIAVL REMAINS FAR BELOE PRE-PANDEMIC LEVELS



TOURSIM COLLAPSED ACROSS PACIFIC IN 2020-2021 WITH LOSSES EXCEEDING 90% IN EVERY COUNTRY



FIJI SHOWS THE STRONGEST RECOVERY WHILE TONGA AND VANUATU REMAIN THE FURTHEST FROM PRE-PANDEMIC LEVELS

CLIMATE HAZARDS

- RISING TEMPERATURE
- STRONGER CYCLONES
- SEA LEVEL RISE
- CORAL BLEACHING

DAMAGE TO TOURISM ASSETS

- RESORT & INFRASTRUCTURE
- BEACHES & NATURAL ATTRACTIONS
- MARINE ECOSYSTEMS
- TRANSPORT NETWORKS

DISRUPTED TOURISM EXPERIENCE

- CLOSURE OF ATTRACTIONS
- POOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
- SERVICE DISRUPTIONS
- SAFETY CONCERNS

FEWER VISITORS + HIGHER COSTS

- REDUCED ARRIVALS
- HIGHER INSURANCE & OPERATIONAL COSTS
- LESS INVESTMENT

LOWER TOURISM REVENUE

- LESS FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS
- JOB LOSSES
- SLOWER ECONOMIC RECOVERY

PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS IN SURVEY

WHAT SHOULD WE DO ?

- IMPROVE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
- PROTECT COASTS. REEF & BEACHES
- DEVELOP REGIONAL TOURISM COOPERATION
- DIVERSIFY TOURISM PRODUCTS
- PROMOTE ECO - TOURISM
- REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON A FEW INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

METHODOLOGY

VISITOR ARRIVAL DATA FOR FIJI,PNG,SAMOA, TONGA AND VANUATU WERE COMPARED ACROSS 2012-2022. PERCENTAGE CHANGES WERE CALCULATED TO ASSESS THE MAGNITUDE OF THE COVID 19 TOURISM SHOCK AND SUBSEQUENT RECOVERY

KEY TAKEAWAY

TOURISM IS VITAL FOR PACIFIC ECONOMIES, BUT CLIMATE CHANGE MAKE IT FRAGILE. BUILDING RESILIENCE TODAY IS ESSENTIAL FOR A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW