

THE GENDERED AND SOCIAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Case studies from the Pacific

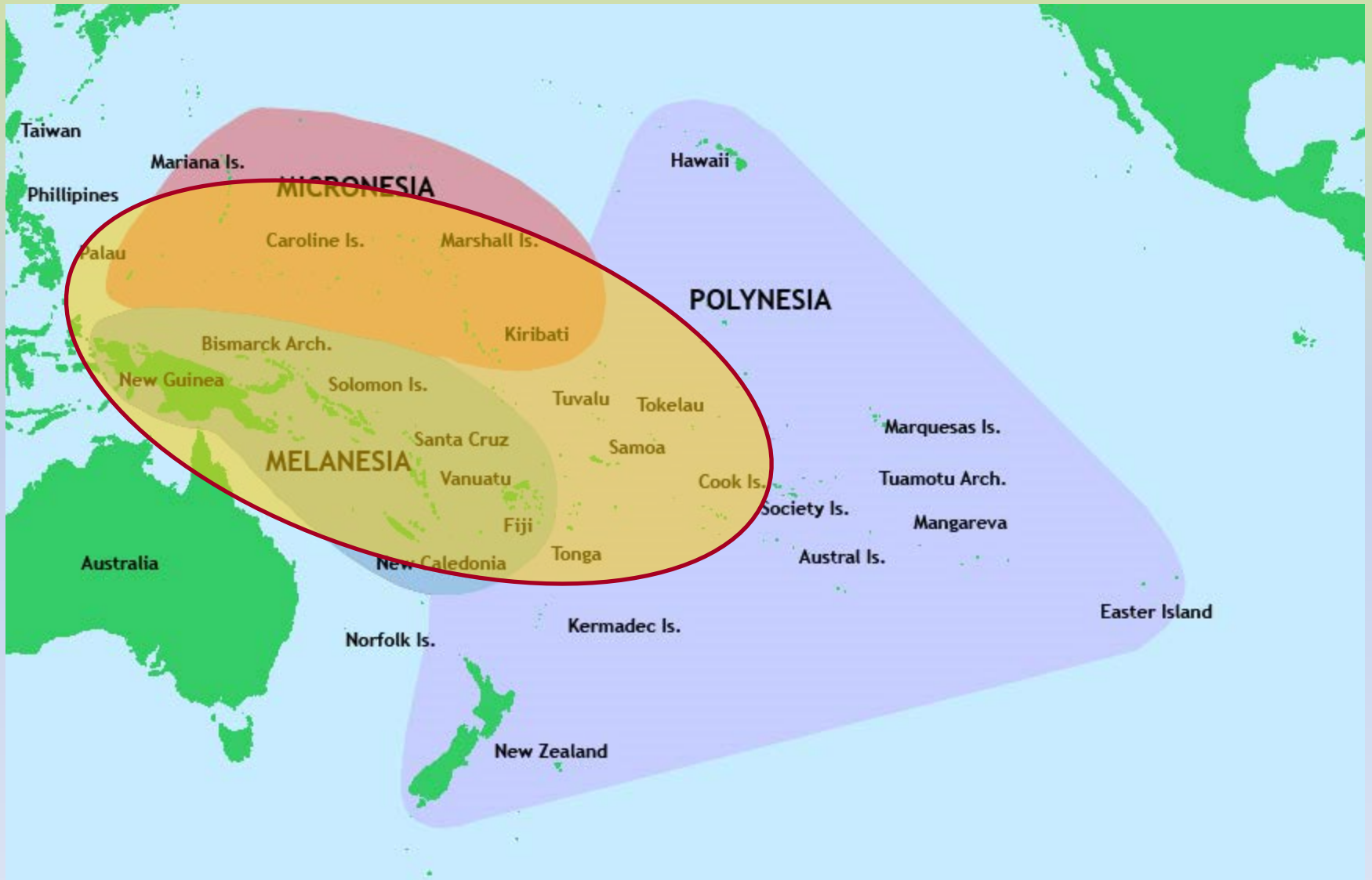
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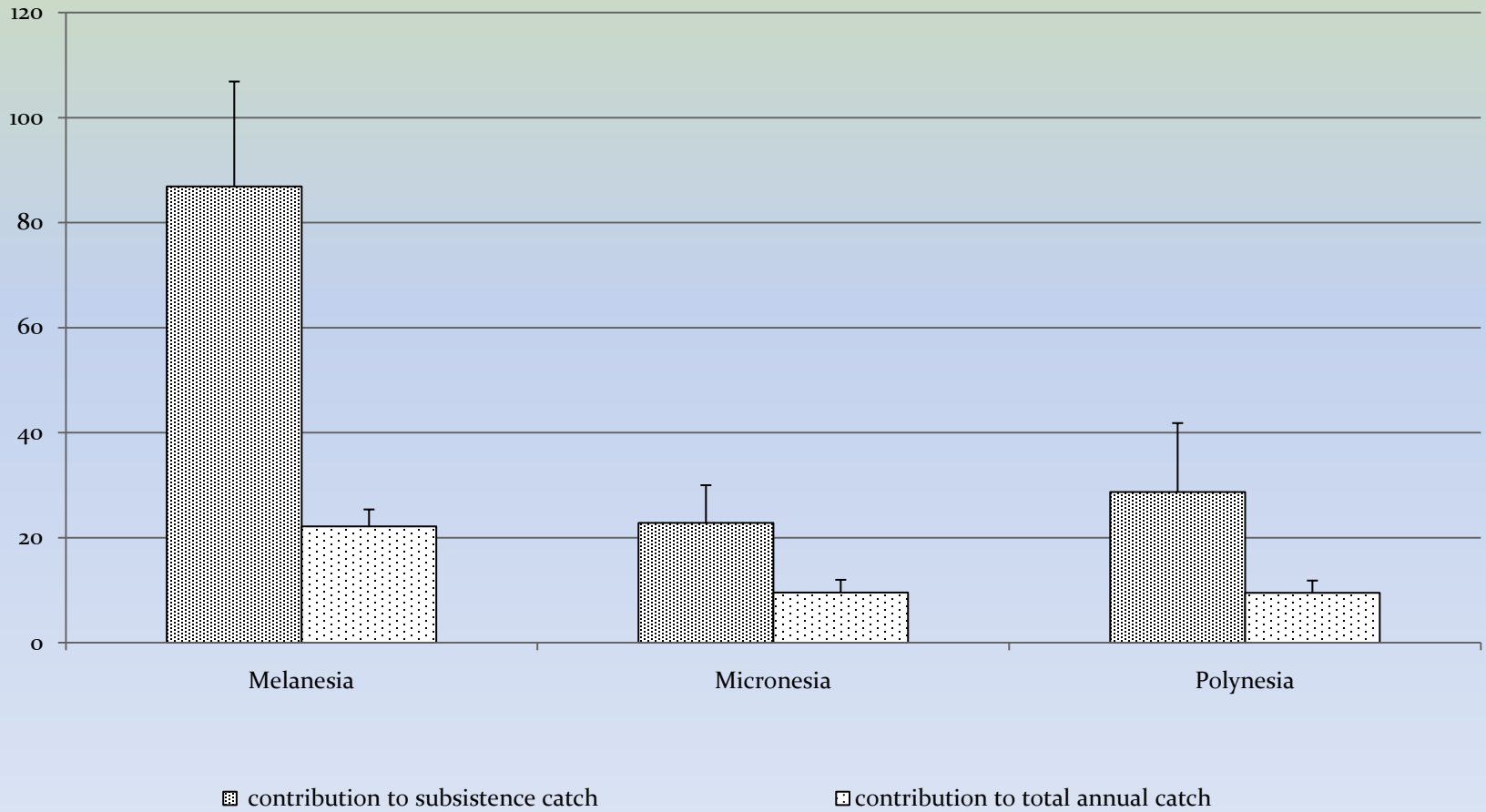






FISHERWOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION TO TOTAL ANNUAL SUBSISTENCE AND ANNUAL CATCH

%



Social changes in the Pacific

Institutional change and modifications

- Traditional roles-
- Gender roles undergoing many changes
- Fisheries development and management strategies
- Post-harvest, distribution and marketing strategy also undergoing changes

Case studies

- In Fiji, Solomon Islands, Niue, Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia states
 - Women predominantly fish the coastal zone areas thus have a wealth of knowledge

Traditional knowledge and skills of women.

- Fishing methods are mostly traditional
- Have a very sound knowledge.

- Niue (Polynesia)- women are the major fishers along the coastal zone and engage in both subsistence and small-scale commercial fishing.
- Samoa (Polynesia)- Invertebrate fishing is mostly by women and women dominate fishing along the coastal zone. Marketing and distribution are also dominated by women.

- Fiji (Melanesia): Fishing in coastal areas dominated by women with many now moving into male traditional fishing areas- eg diving for bech-de-mer. Women are also the main distributors and marketers of seafood.
- Solomon Islands (Melanesia): Women dominate coastal fishing, marketing and distribution of marine species. Post harvest activities(smoking and treating of bech-de-mer).
- FSM (Micronesia)- women dominate invertebrate fishing and fishing within coastal areas. Post harvest activities and food processing also dominated by them.

Pacific women fishers

- Dominate fishing in the coastal areas- reefs, lagoons, mudflats, and mangroves.
- Fishing methods basically traditional thus possess a wealth of knowledge on fishing seasons, habitats, species targeted, etc.
- Marketing involvement – women are familiar with emerging demands and emerging markets, lucrative species in the market and market dynamics.

Climate change and its impacts

- Climate change- although a foreign concept to women- will be best addressed by women users of the coastal zone.
- Changes in tide levels, intrusion of salt water into fresh water sources and low lying areas where there are food gardens- immediately impact on women's areas of food gathering.
- The use of knowledge that women have and using existing community groups- eg women's church groups, women village groups- is crucial to any work to address climate change.

Decision making- where does this leave women?

- Most societies in the Pacific are male dominated thus decision making powers of women are restricted.
- Decision making and involvement in community decision making mechanisms are either through women groups representatives or other traditional ties which women utilize.
- Young people and women are major users of the coastal zone fisheries but the least involved in decisions making bodies on fisheries/aquaculture fisheries development and management.

Climate change impacts & responses

- Responses at the community level- is best designed using the knowledge of women/men and young people.
- Understanding climate change is crucial to the participation of women and men at the community level thus the need for rigorous community awareness and education.

End

