What is Climate Change?
• Long term changes in the weather, over the course of decades, affecting temperature, rainfall, cloudiness, etc.

What causes Climate Change?
• Natural patterns and cycles.
• Human activities that add greenhouse gases (most importantly, carbon dioxide) to the atmosphere.
• The increase in Earth’s average temperature due to human activities is called global warming.

How does Climate Change affect Pacific Islands?
• Sea level rise.
• Coastal flooding.
• Saltwater intrusion into groundwater.
• Coastal erosion.
• More frequent bad weather events.
• Potential drought as rainfall patterns change.

Human-induced Climate Change
According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the increase in globally averaged temperatures during recent decades has largely been driven by human activities. Burning coal, natural gas, and oil; and clear cutting forests release carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere.

What does the future hold?
• Computer models of the Earth’s climate system are used to make predictions.
• The best estimates suggest that the Earth will warm 3.2–7.2 °F (1.8–4.0 °C) by the end of this century (IPCC, 2007).

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