

BUILDING RESILIENCY IN THE PACIFIC

How ADB is Addressing Climate Change
and Disaster Risks

Cook Islands
Fiji
Kiribati
Marshall Islands
Federated States of Micronesia
Nauru
Palau

Papua New Guinea
Samoa
Solomon Islands
Timor-Leste
Tonga
Tuvalu
Vanuatu



ADB

The Pacific DMCs are leading the way in responding to climate change

The Pacific operations of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) cover 14 developing member countries (DMCs). These countries have established national policies and institutions to address climate change, and all have issued Intended Nationally Determined Contributions that detail how they will implement the Paris Agreement. The Pacific DMCs also jointly developed the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP), a regional mechanism for cooperation on climate change and disaster risk management. The FRDP recognizes that resilience is central to development and emphasizes that responses must involve all sectors and stakeholders. While the Pacific DMCs are leading the way in responding to climate change, sustainable solutions will require innovative approaches, stronger institutional capacities, and access to concessional financing.

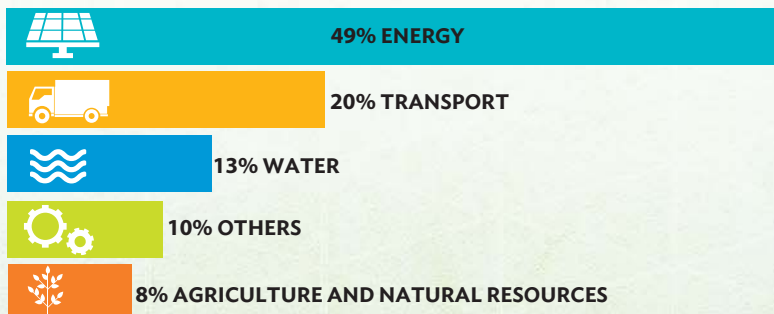
ADB is providing multifaceted support to its Pacific DMCs

In support of the Pacific DMCs, ADB is mainstreaming climate change adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk management into its operations. ADB is doing this in several ways, including:

- climate-proofing investments by building roads, bridges, ports, and airports to stronger specifications;
- strengthening country safeguard and disaster risk management systems;
- expanding renewable energy and energy efficiency measures;
- supporting efforts to track and respond to health impacts resulting from climate change;
- building drought resilience by improving the reliability of water sources and supplies; and
- helping the Pacific DMCs respond, recover, and rebuild in the aftermath of disasters.

ADB is facilitating increased flows of climate finance into the region. ADB's Pacific Department mobilized roughly \$250 million in climate financing in the previous four years (2013–2016), with energy and transport as the leading two sectors. The goal is to double this amount to reach \$500 million over the next four years (2017–2020). To accomplish this, the Pacific Department will increase climate finance from internal sources while leveraging finance from global funds. ADB is the first accredited entity to secure Green Climate Fund commitments for the Pacific.

PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE FINANCING BY SECTOR (2013–2016)



ADB's Pacific climate change and disaster risk management principles

1) SUPPORT LOW-CARBON DEVELOPMENT

Pacific challenge. Despite their low per capita and absolute greenhouse gas emissions, all Pacific DMCs are committed to reducing emissions and have ambitious plans to shift from diesel to renewable energy sources, which can also help reduce local pollution and dependency on diesel imports.

ADB response. ADB's Pacific Renewable Energy Investment Facility will finance a series of small-scale renewable energy projects in the smaller Pacific DMCs. In doing so, the facility will support public-private partnerships, scale up investment by independent power producers, offer guarantee products, and support alternative delivery models.



2) BUILD CLIMATE-RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Pacific challenge. Much of the critical infrastructure in the Pacific DMCs is at risk from future sea level rise, coastal hazards, flooding, and/or drought. Infrastructure must therefore be constructed in a way that is resilient to climate change.

ADB response. ADB will systemically apply climate risk vulnerability assessments to determine risks and consider alternative approaches and designs, such as elevating roads and bridges, increasing drainage capacity, drought-proofing water supplies, and upgrading rural health facilities to be more resilient.



3) INNOVATE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Pacific challenge. Adapting to climate change and managing disaster risk must go beyond simply climate-proofing infrastructure. Innovative solutions must also focus on how to address climate impacts on poverty, gender, health, environmental degradation, and public financial management, among others.

ADB response. ADB is providing disaster risk-reduction funding to mainstream both structural and nonstructural measures in our Pacific projects. In addition, ADB's Pacific Disaster Resilience Program will provide selected Pacific DMCs with a source of contingent financing for rapid disaster response, recovery, and reconstruction activities. ADB will explore innovative approaches and new technologies to strengthen climate change adaptation and disaster risk management.



4) PROMOTE REGIONAL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH POLICY DIALOGUE, KNOWLEDGE-SHARING, AND COORDINATION

Pacific challenge. As emphasized in the FRDP, paradigm shifts are needed to complete the transition to low-carbon, resilient development. Achieving this transformational change will require strengthening partnerships, building on current knowledge, and promoting policy dialogue across the Pacific DMCs.

ADB response. ADB will continue to actively promote policy dialogue, support learning and knowledge-sharing, and build and deepen partnerships. Key areas of focus will be integrating climate considerations into development planning, securing data necessary for effective decision making (including on changing disease patterns), and mainstreaming gender into climate change and disaster risk management.



5) INCREASE EXTERNAL CLIMATE FINANCE

Pacific challenge. While Pacific DMCs have been successful in accessing climate finance, current amounts are not nearly enough to cover the expenditures communities from the impacts of future climate change. Financing needs for coastal communities are especially acute, as most built infrastructure in the Pacific DMCs is close to vulnerable coastlines.

ADB response. For the period 2017-2020, ADB will mobilize more than half a billion dollars in climate change financing in the Pacific. ADB will supplement its internal resources by leveraging external sources of climate finance. ADB is an accredited entity to all global climate funds, and is also a trusted partner with other major cofinancers active in the Pacific, which include Australia, Japan, and New Zealand.



Climate change and disaster risks in the Pacific are significant and increasing

Their small populations, geographical remoteness, and economic fragility make the Pacific DMCs highly vulnerable to natural hazards and climate change impacts. Based on the World Bank's 2017 *Pacific Possible* report:



From 1981 to 2006, 59 strong tropical cyclones (either Category 4 or 5) have impacted the Pacific DMCs. Although their frequency may not increase, cyclones are expected to become stronger and cause more damage in the coming decades.



Many climate scenarios suggest that precipitation will increase in amount and intensity, with greater variation in rainfall between wet and dry months. Increased flood risk is significant, especially in urban areas.



Some climate models project more frequent and intense El Niño events, which could trigger more droughts and cause other significant water-related impacts. Previous droughts in the Pacific DMCs led to severe water rationing.



Most people in the Pacific DMCs live near the coast and are therefore exposed to coastal hazards such as storm surges and swells. Replacing and climate-proofing vulnerable infrastructure along coastlines will cost billions of dollars.



Low-lying atoll island nations are only 1–3 meters above sea level, making them especially vulnerable to the projected sea level rise of 60 centimeters or more by the year 2100. Climate change is increasingly becoming a driver of human migration in the Pacific.

These risks and potential impacts can undermine economic development progress by destroying livelihoods and critical infrastructure, and by diverting scarce resources away from development towards disaster response. Water resources, coastal infrastructure, health, agriculture, fisheries, and ecosystems are already being affected.

Vulnerability is greatest for the poorest populations, who live in small communities on remote outer islands. Because they rely more on natural resources for their sustenance and livelihood, women are particularly vulnerable to climate extremes.

ADB's Pacific Offices

ADB has four field offices—the Pacific Liaison and Coordination Office (PLCO), in Sydney, Australia; the Pacific Subregional Office (SPSO), in Suva, Fiji; PNG Resident Mission; and Timor-Leste Resident Mission. The PLCO is responsible for Nauru, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. The SPSO is responsible for the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, and Tuvalu. The Pacific Department in ADB headquarters is responsible for the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau. ADB also has 4 extended missions and seven development coordination offices supported by national experts who assist in coordinating with the government and other stakeholders, and in supervising operations.

Asian Development Bank
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong
City, 1550 Metro Manila
Philippines
Tel +63 2 632 4444

Pacific Liaison and Coordination
Office
Level 20, 45 Clarence Street
Sydney, NSW Australia 2000
Tel +61 2 8270 9444

Pacific Subregional Office
Level 5, Ra Marama Building
91 Gordon Street
Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji
Tel +679 331 8101

Papua New Guinea Resident
Mission
Deloitte Tower, Level 13
P. O. Box 1992, Port Moresby
National Capital District
Papua New Guinea
Tel +675 3210400/0408

Timor-Leste Resident Mission
ADB Building, Rua Alferes
Duarte Arbiro
Farol, Dili, Timor-Leste
Tel +670 3324801

ADB Extended Mission–Samoa
Level 7, Central Bank Building
Apia, Samoa
Tel +685 21900 / 34340

ADB Extended Mission–
Solomon Islands
Level 1, Heritage Park Commercial
Building, Mendana Avenue
Honiara, Solomon Islands
Tel +677 23333

ADB Extended Mission–Tonga
Ministry of Finance and National
Planning
First Floor, Royco Building
P. O. Box 87
Fatafehi Road, Nuku'alofa, Tonga
Tel +676 28290 / 28735

ADB Extended Mission–Vanuatu
Level 5, Reserve Bank Building
Rue Emile Mercet
P. O. Box 3221, Port Vila, Vanuatu
Tel +678 23610

ADB Development Coordination
Office–Cook Islands
Ministry of Finance and Economic
Management
P. O. Box 120
Rarotonga, Cook Islands
Tel +682 29521

ADB Development Coordination
Office–Kiribati
ADB–World Bank Liaison Office
P. O. Box 13, Bairiki
Tarawa, Kiribati
Tel +686 22040 / 22041

ADB Development Coordination
Office–Marshall Islands
c/o The Marshall Islands
Resort Hotel
P. O. Box 3279
Mieco Beach Front
Amata Kabua Blvd.
Majuro, MH 96960
Tel +692 6252525

ADB Development Coordination
Office–Federated States of
Micronesia
P. O. Box PS-158
Palikir, Pohnpei 96941
Federated States of Micronesia
Tel +691 3202639

ADB Development Coordination
Office–Nauru
Nauru

ADB Development Coordination
Office–Palau
2/F Room 201
PRA Professional Building
Koror, 96940 Palau

ADB Development Coordination
Office–Tuvalu
Ministry of Finance and Economic
Development
2nd Floor, Government Building
Vaiaku, Funafuti, Tuvalu
Tel +688 20408



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pubsmarketing@adb.org