

PROJECT BRIEF

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EU-GIZ ACSE ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY



PACIFIC ISLANDS
FORUM SECRETARIAT



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Kingdom of Tonga: Climate Finance and JNAP II

Background

The Kingdom of Tonga is a large tropical archipelago of 169 islands spread over 700,000 square kilometres of the western South Pacific Ocean. Tonga is vulnerable to natural disasters such as tropical cyclones. Climate change impacts in Tonga will result in more extreme cyclone events, less dry season rainfall causing more extreme drought, and increased wet season rainfall resulting in increased erosion and flooding. Rising sea levels also pose a threat to people and buildings located in low lying coastal areas.

Tonga needs robust policies, frameworks to plan for and adapt to climate change and disaster risks. A sustainable source of funding is also needed to ensure that plans are adequately resourced to support their implementation.

This project will target its efforts at improving governance and capacity at the national government level. People from all of Tonga's key island groups will benefit from the outcomes achieved by this project.

Project Objective

The project will improve governance for the effective management, coordination, implementation and financing of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction initiatives in Tonga. The project is aligned to the Tonga Strategic Development Framework, the Tonga Climate Change Policy, and the Tonga National Climate Change Fund Act (2014).

Project Summary

Location: Tonga

Objective: To improve governance of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction initiatives in Tonga

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Environment, Energy, Climate Change, Disaster Management, Information and Communications (MEIDECC)

Budget: € 85,340

Duration: 2017—2018

Current situation

In 2010 the Government of Tonga developed its first Joint National Action Plan (JNAP I) on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management (2010-2015). Tonga was the first Pacific Small Island State to develop a JNAP. The JNAP has been used to guide all climate change (CC) and disaster risk management (DRM) related activities in Tonga.

The Ministry of Environment, Energy, Climate Change, Disaster Management, Information and Communications (MEIDECC), as lead agency for developing the JNAP, was active in applying JNAP principles and practices. Beyond MEIDECC however, there was limited 'mainstreaming' of CC and DRM considerations across other sectors and Ministries.

MEIDECC has recognised these limitations and is using the development of JNAP II to build on the JNAP I to provide a more integrated and useful framework and action plan for coordination, collaboration and action.



To support the implementation of the JNAP, Tonga began work on a Tonga Climate Change Trust Fund (TNCCF) in 2011. The TNCCF was an important component of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) - funded Climate Resilience Sector Project (CRSP), which targeted the achievement of specific sector goals for community resilience prioritised under Tonga's JNAP I.

In 2013, cabinet ministers approved recommendations for the TNCCF and endorsed the further development of a TNCCF Bill.

The Government finally launched the TNCCF in February 2017. ADB has committed USD 5 million seed funding from which the government hopes to leverage further donor investments to establish a more reliable funding base for climate change adaptation activities. The TNCCF is now at a stage where robust effective and efficient operational procedures are needed to govern the fund.

What Is EU-GIZ ACSE Doing?

The EU-GIZ ACSE programme helps people in 15 Pacific Island countries address two common challenges: adapting to climate change and reducing their dependence on fossil fuels.

In Tonga, the programme has two focal areas:

Component 1. Develop JNAP II

JNAP II consultations have already been completed resulting in an initial draft JNAP II being produced. The Government is in the process of endorsing the final plan, and the EU-GIZ ACSE team is planning 'road shows' to explain the plan, and its relevance, to the people of Tonga before the plan is finalised.

Component 2. Finalise the operational mechanisms of the TNCCF

EU-GIZ ACSE is resourcing a climate finance specialist to work with the Tongan project team to review the operational procedures for the TNCCF and to prepare a Mobilisation Plan to enable the funding of climate change adaptation activities from the fund. This includes measures that will enhance the readiness of the Government of Tonga to access and sustainably manage the TNCCF. Lessons from establishing the TNCCF will be relevant for other Pacific nations that follow Tonga's lead to create CC trust funds.

Organisational Context

The Climate Change Division within the Ministry of Environment, Energy, Climate Change, Disaster Management, Information and Communications (MEIDECC) is leading the implementation of the project in partnership with the Ministry of Finance and National Planning (MFNP).

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