



EU - Pacific: Partnering on Climate Change, Oceans and Development



*An overview of EU support
to the Pacific region*

The Pacific Countries

The Pacific Countries are home to 10 million people living on a land area of 552,000 km² surrounded by a maritime Exclusive Economic Zone of 30 million km². They are small islands but big oceans states.

Due to their small size, geography and isolation, they are all highly vulnerable to natural disasters, such as cyclones or drought. Pacific leaders believe that the Pacific region can, should and will be a region of peace, harmony, security and economic prosperity, so that all of its people can lead free and worthwhile lives.

The European Union

The European Union is a unique economic and political union between currently 28 European countries that together cover much of the continent.

EU goals are to:

- promote peace, its values and the well-being of its citizens;
- offer freedom, security and justice without internal borders;
- support sustainable development based on balanced economic growth and price stability, a highly competitive market economy with full employment and social progress, and environmental protection;
- combat social exclusion and discrimination;
- promote scientific and technological progress;
- enhance economic, social and territorial cohesion and solidarity among member countries;
- respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity;
- establish an economic and monetary union whose currency is the euro

Why do the EU and the Pacific partner up?

- improve resilience to impacts of climate change and natural disasters;
- manage the ocean in a sustainable way;
- promote close links between the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) and Pacific Countries (about 500,000 EU Citizens live in the Pacific);
- bolster public and private investment and create decent jobs for all;
- build inclusive and secure societies, by supporting reconciliation processes, achieving gender equality, strengthening civil society and improving education and health services;
- secure compliance with international norms on corruption, tax governance, and organised crime.

How we want to achieve this:

- enhanced policy and political dialogues;
- use of clear indicators and measurable outcomes, so as to ensure that implementation is on track;
- use modalities and processes of the partner countries and organisations. For example through sector budget support.

The Delegation coordinates the support that the EU provides to the Pacific Region, including the preparation and oversight of development cooperation. Some focal sectors of support include the following:

Oceans' Governance

Oceans make up to 70% of the planet. Climate change, poverty and food security are some of the global challenges that can be successfully tackled, if oceans are better protected and sustainably managed.

The EU looks at ways of improving the way oceans are managed, reducing the man-made stress on our oceans as well as seeking for scientific solutions.

The Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership Programme takes a comprehensive and multistakeholder approach so that oceanic resources are used sustainably and marine eco-systems start to recovery and thrive again.

Climate change and Disaster Risk

The Pacific countries and the EU are committed partners in the fight against climate change and disasters. This partnership is demonstrated by the close support for each other and the joint leadership on climate change. This has led to a global commitment to an ambitious and compulsory agreement at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris to keep temperatures well below a 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

In 2018/19, Fiji has held the COP23 Presidency.

This is a remarkable achievement for a small island country, which can highlight credibly the effects of climate change and natural disasters. The EU and Pacific countries are working together on a number of climate cooperation activities, concentrating on both lowering carbon emissions and adapting to climate change. Other joint actions are about disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management. This will assist countries to be more capable to respond to the effects of devastating tsunamis, earthquakes, flooding etc.

Becoming more resilient will allow them "to bend in times of disaster and not to break".

Trade

The EU agreed on a new strategy to achieve prosperity through trade and investment. On this basis, there will be substantial support for the Pacific Island countries to improve their business environment and to participate in regional and international trade.

This will have a knock-on effect of reducing poverty, increasing sustainable economic progress and ensuring that no one is left behind. Further activities will concentrate on value chain development (VCD) which supports job creation through strengthening businesses and the different relationships involved, improving market structures and reducing redtape. The partnership will also help in overcoming constraints like poor market access and non-tariff barriers.

Energy

Essential tasks, from cooking food to dispensing health care and education, depend on reliable access to affordable energy services.

The Pacific Islands are particularly exposed to this challenge due to their isolation and traditional reliance on expensive fossil fuels.

EU support assists partner countries to set up modern, safe and sustainable energy services to improve living conditions, in areas such as education, health and security, and encourage sustainable economic development.

Gender

The EU is committed to working side by side with its partners in the Pacific region to improve gender equality.

Gender equality and women and girls empowerment are at the heart of the new European Consensus on development and further secured through the comprehensive EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020 (GAP II).

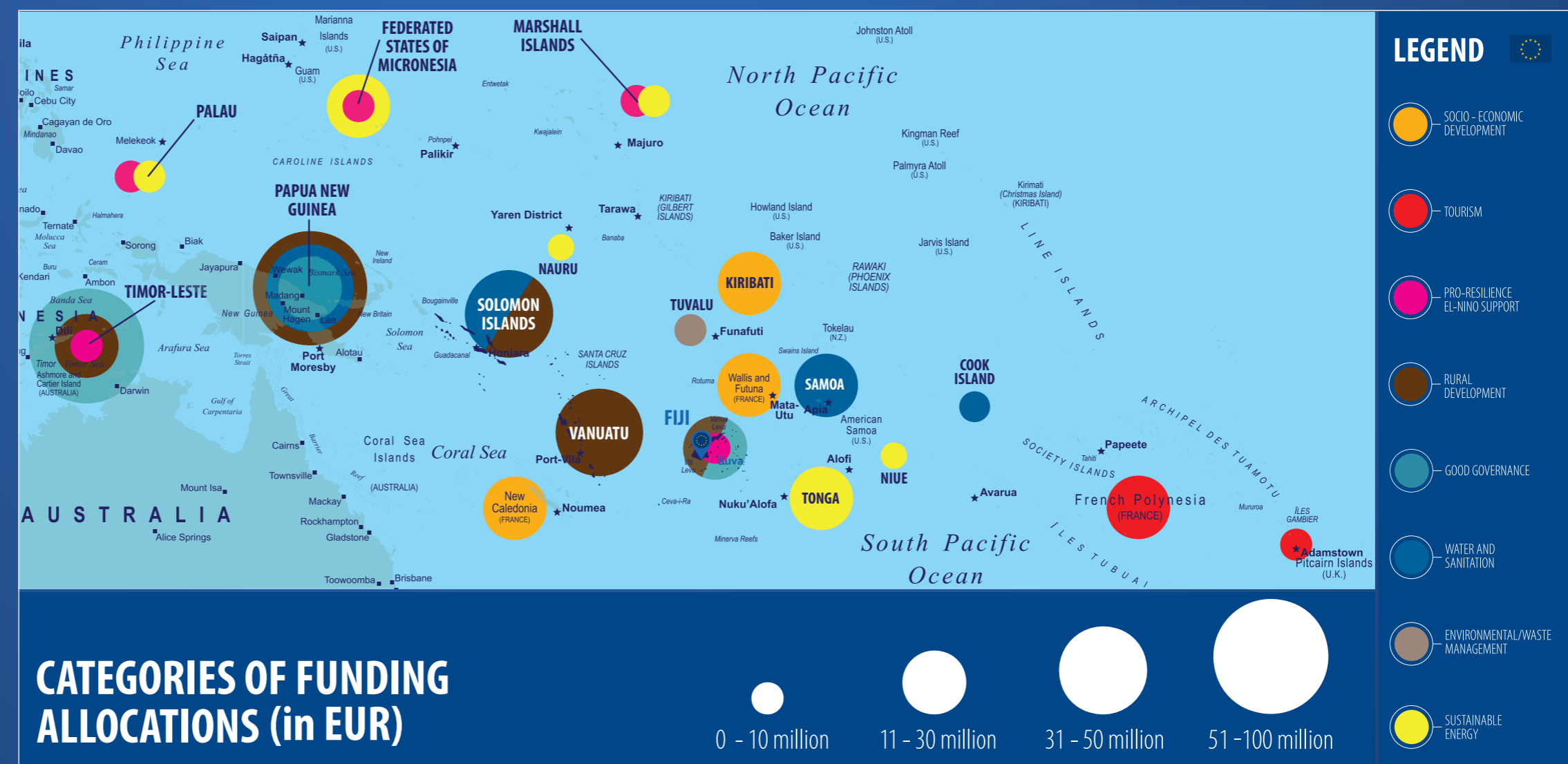
The Delegation of the EU for the Pacific has chosen/identified 5 objectives under the three priorities of the GAP II to promote and contribute to:

1. Priority on Physical and Psychological Integrity - Obj: Girls and Women free from all forms of violence.
2. Priority on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - Obj: Equal access and control over clean water, energy, transport infrastructure.
3. Priority on Political and Civil Rights - Objectives: Equal Rights and ability to participate in policy and governance processes; Women's organisations and other CSOs working for gender equality freely able to work and protected by law and equal rights enjoyed by women to participate in climate and environmental issues.

Public Finance Management (PFM) and Governance

In most Pacific countries, there is room to improve the basic government services, like education, health care, energy and water and sanitation. Better schools and hospitals, better teachers, doctors and nurses, reliable supply of electricity and clean water require government funding from the national budget. While this funding may be available, it sometimes does not reach the right destination as a result of ineffective processes or lack of financial oversight. For this reason, it is crucial to work on setting up the right systems to effectively channel the country's resources for development.

Illustration of EU's focal sectors of bilateral support under EDF 11 (including PNG and Timor-Leste, managed by separate Delegations)



EU - PACIFIC REGIONAL COOPERATION 2014 - 2020

<p>PRIORITY AREA 1 : Regional Economic Integration</p> <p>Tentative Allocation: EUR 37 million</p>	<p>PRIORITY AREA 2: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment and the Management of Waste</p> <p>Tentative Allocation: EUR 52 million</p>	<p>PRIORITY AREA 3: Inclusive and Accountable Governance</p> <p>Tentative Allocation: EUR 31 million</p>
<p>Objective 1.1: Strengthening the regional trade and business enabling environment</p> <p>Objective 1.2: Private Sector involvement in economic integration strengthened</p> <p> EUR 37 million </p>	<p>Objective 2.1: Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme</p> <p> EUR 35 million </p>	<p>Objective 3.1: Strengthening Public Finance Management and Governance in the Pacific Project</p> <p> EUR 11 million </p>
	<p>Objective 2.2: Pacific – European Union Waste Management Programme (PacWaste Plus)</p> <p> EUR 17 million </p>	<p>Objective 3.2: Tackling root causes of gender inequality and violence against women and girls in the Pacific</p> <p> EUR 13 million </p>
<p>Support for regional investment projects: EUR 77million Investment Facility for the Pacific (IFP) Country Specific Investment Allocations: PNG - EUR 15M Solomon Island - EUR 18 M</p>	<p>TOTAL (excluding Intra-ACP) EUR 197 million</p>	

EU-OCT Regional Cooperation - EUR 36 million

Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific

Usher St, Suva, Fiji

+679 331 3633

eeas.europa.eu/delegations/fiji_en

Twitter: @EUPasifika

Facebook: DelegationOfTheEuropeanUnionForThePacific

