

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

A. Major Development Partners: Strategic Focus and Key Activities

1. Traditional development partners are paying greater attention to the mainstreaming of climate issues in their operations and are providing enhanced support for targeted climate change assessment (CCA) and disaster risk management (DRM) activities, through standalone financing or as an increment to traditional infrastructure or development financing. Several new sources of funding that focus on CCA-related interventions have been (or are being) created nationally and internationally. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), Australian Agency for International Development (AUSAID), Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Union for Conservation of Nature, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the United Nations Development Programme have been the most significant development partners assisting with CCA and DRM (Table). They have channelled much of this support through regional initiatives coordinated by the Applied Geoscience and Technology Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and the South Pacific Regional Environment Program.

2. The GEF-funded Integrated Water Resource Management demonstration project is implementing demonstration activities at Neiafu in the Vava'u Island Group to enhance the management of groundwater resources. The project is installing sand-filter and irrigation sanitation systems to improve groundwater quality as well as undertaking a groundwater modeling exercise. The demonstration project has been a tremendous success in improving land and water management at a communal scale, using a combination of local governance improvements coupled closely with visible infrastructure interventions. The design and implementation lessons have been captured and will be replicated in output 1 of the proposed ADB project, specially the combination of providing capacity building together with infrastructure investments. However the Natural Resources Division was concerned about a weak connection with their staff and limited knowledge transfer and capacity building efforts to help sustain and replicate these successes. The project will deliver such support, specifically designed into its integrated water resources management (IWRM) activities by providing training opportunities to the Natural Resources Division and supporting a knowledge management system on IWRM activities.

3. At the request of the government, the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project prepared coastal prefeasibility studies for the foreshore in Hahake. The protection of this coastal area is a government priority and an 8-kilometer section of the coastline is included as a key investment to pilot coastal protection measures and coastal monitoring. The project will coordinate with the Secretariat for the Pacific Community, which is currently implementing project financing provided by the European Union to protect approximately 1 kilometer.

4. With financing from the German Ministry of Environment, GIZ and the International Union for Conservation of Nature are implementing a biodiversity knowledge strengthening project to support establishment of marine protected areas, identification of important marine and coastal communities, and mapping of marine and coastal resources. The project focuses on protecting national marine areas and increasing government capacity to value and monitor marine resources. The project's special marine areas focus is on community-based approaches, where communities are allowed access to marine resources but are provided with skills and the authority to ensure sustainable use of those resources. The project implementation unit, based in the Division of Fisheries, will closely coordinate activities of both projects.

5. The small grant program, funded by GEF, is currently implementing 11 pilot projects in collaboration with Tonga Trust, a consortium of nongovernment organizations (NGOs). Community-specific coastal protection is one of the prominent areas for which many communities use small grants for mangrove rehabilitation and coastal reforestation. Target sites include Faleloa, Ha'afeva, Hihifo, Holopeka, Koulo, Lotofoa and Pangai, in the Ha'apai Island Group; and Kanokupolu, Kolovai, and Tatakamotonga in Tongatapu. In addition, The United Nations Development Programme will be piloting vulnerability needs assessment plans in collaboration with NGOs. Recognizing that assistance to communities to prepare plans is being addressed by other development partners utilizing the strengths of NGOs in working with communities, the project will focus on providing capacity to the Ministry of Land, Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources (MLECCNR) to standardize DRM methodologies, build a database of all plans developed by communities, and monitor and evaluate implementation of plans. Funding to implement community-based plans is in many cases limited and this is addressed by the Climate Change Trust Fund (CCTF), which requires communities to have developed a plan as a condition to access funds.

6. The Australian Agency for International Development has been supporting MLECCNR to increase the adaptive capacity of Tonga to climate change impacts and DRM, and increase accessibility to climate change and DRM funds. This initiative has led to the development of the Tonga Joint National Action Plan (JNAP) on CCA and DRM, which complies with Tonga's National Strategic Development Framework, 2009–2014; the Pacific Islands Framework of Action on Climate Change, 2006–2015; the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action, 2005–2015; the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction; the Yokohama Plan for Action; the Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005–2015; and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. During project preparation, ADB closely coordinated with the JNAP Secretariat and aligns with its strategic objectives. The project management unit will work closely with the JNAP Technical Working Group (JNAP-TWG) to strengthen its capacity to implement and monitor the JNAP and to ensure coordination with national priorities and development partner initiatives.

B. Institutional Arrangements and Processes for Development Coordination

7. The publication of the JNAP report led to the establishment of the JNAP-TWG.¹ The TWG has multi-agency and organization representation to help coordinate, inform, and monitor CCA and DRM initiatives and progress. The JNAP-TWG now reviews all corporate plans for each ministry and ensures the inclusion of a strategy to commit the ministry to implementation of the JNAP for CCA and DRM. Each ministry's annual management plan must also reflect a commitment to implementation of actions under the JNAP for which it is responsible. The JNAP-TWG will oversee the project management unit, ensuring coordination among different ministries and development partners.

C. Summary and Recommendations

8. Given the crosscutting nature of work in CCA and DRM in small island states like Tonga, significant efforts are being made to consolidate the work of the many CCA and DRM development partners to avoid duplication and upscale similar CCA and DRM initiatives.

¹ The Secretariat is located in the Climate Change Division of MLECCNR and comprises three individuals contracted as consultants through Australian Agency for International Development financing until April 2014. The Secretariat coordinates the JNAP-TWG and acts on behalf of MLECCNR to promote appropriate CCA and DRM projects. The head of the Secretariat was appointed deputy chief executive officer for the Climate Change Division commencing 1 March 2013.

Development partner efforts have focused on risk assessment studies, sector policy recommendations, work on disaster risk and adaptation with communities through NGOs, biodiversity studies, and conservation. Sector gaps include lack of national data on climate change, weak national capacity to coordinate CCA and DRM initiatives, and limited financial and human resources to integrate CCA and DRM considerations into infrastructure investments. ADB experience in building government capacity and managing infrastructure investment projects provides ADB with a comparative advantage to fill these gaps.

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Development in Tonga

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount (\$ million)
Climate Change			
ADB	Pilot Program for Climate Resilience	2010–2012	2.00
	Urban Planning and Management System (technical assistance)	2009–2010	0.70
	Integrated Urban Development Sector Project	2008–2013	11.30
AusAID	Nuku'alofa Urban Development Sector Project		
	Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project	2010–2013	0.75
	Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project	2012–2015	1.55
	Joint National Action Plan on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (JNAP Secretariat)	2010–2014	1.85
Australia – DEECC	Pacific Adaptation and Strategy Assistance Program: Prevention, Control and Management of Invasive Species	2012–2015	11.00
	Pacific Adaptation and Strategy Assistance Program: Water and Coastal	2012	0.75
European Union	Global Climate Change Alliance Project	2011–2014	0.17
	Trialing of Coastal Protection Measures in Eastern Tongatapu	2011–2014	0.66
GEF	Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project	2010–2013	0.75
	Climate Change Enabling Activity	2003	0.10
	Vava'u IWRM Demonstration Project	2009–2012	1.01
	Water Resources Sustainable Land Management		
	Integrated Water Resources Management Project	2013–2014	1.01
GIZ	PAS Integrated Biodiversity Project	2012–2015	0.35
	PAS Invasive Species Project	2012–2015	0.32
	Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region Program (regional)	2010–2015	182.20
	Mangrove Ecosystems Climate Change Adaptation and Livelihoods Project	2010–2013	0.23
USAID	Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries and Atolls	2013–2017	0.60
	Coastal Community Adaptation Project (regional)	2013–2015	(...)
Disaster Risk Management			
JICA	Earthquake Observation Network in Tonga	2011	0.17
Japan	Early Warning Systems	2013	(...)

(...) = data not available; ADB = Asian Development Bank, AusAID = Australian Agency for International Development, DEECC = Department of Energy Efficiency and Climate Change, GEF = Global Environmental Fund, GIZ = Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Agency for International Cooperation), JICA = Japan International Cooperation Agency, PAS = Pacific Alliance for Sustainability, USAID = United States Agency for International Development.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.