

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

A. Major Development Partners: Strategic Foci and Key Activities

1. In the Pacific region, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has focused on three strategic areas of the energy sector: (i) developing indigenous and renewable energy sources to reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels, (ii) improving supply-side and demand-side energy efficiency, and (iii) expanding access to electricity for households and small enterprises. ADB's priority activities in the region include (i) supporting the transition to renewable energy, (ii) supporting energy efficiency, (iii) rehabilitating existing infrastructure, (iv) improving access to electricity, and (v) developing the private sector.

2. Coupled with support from the Global Environment Facility and the Government of Australia, ADB has extended \$12.4 million of nonlending assistance to the Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu to improve supply- and demand-side energy efficiency. In the Cook Islands, ADB has provided technical assistance to (i) introduce low-energy compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs in all residential homes, (ii) raise public awareness of the advantages of such energy-efficient lighting, and (iii) establish a system for recycling used bulbs. By 2013, CFL and similar energy-efficient light bulbs accounted for roughly 60% of residential lighting.¹ The second phase of this assistance is now under implementation—mainstreaming energy efficiency practices, introducing energy-efficient appliances, and scaling up the energy efficiency measures proposed in the previous phase.²

3. ADB and the European Union (EU) are major development partners in supporting the Cook Islands Renewable Energy Chart Implementation Plan (CIRECIP), and the EU will cofinance the proposed Renewable Energy Sector Project to the amount of €5.30 million. In February 2014, the EU launched the €37.26 million Adapting to Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (ACSE) Program, which aims to support climate change adaptation, reduce the use of imported fossil fuels, and build capacity in 15 Pacific island countries, including the Cook Islands. For implementation of the ACSE program, the EU intends to work in continuous partnership with ADB, Germany, New Zealand, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

Major Development Partners in Renewable Energy in the Cook Islands

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount (million)
ADB	TA for Promoting Energy Efficiency in Pacific Renewable Energy Sector Project	2008-2014	\$12.40
		2014-2017	NZ\$12.98
European Union	Renewable Energy Sector Project ^a	2014–2017	€5.30
Government of New Zealand	Cook Islands Renewable Electricity Project ^b	2012–2015	NZ\$10.25

ADB = Asian Development Bank, TA = Technical Assistance

^a Joint financing with ADB

^b Cofinanced with the Government of Australia

4. The Government of New Zealand is another major development partner supporting the CIRECIP. Official development assistance (ODA) from New Zealand covers various sectors and

¹ ADB. 2008. *Technical Assistance for Promoting Energy Efficiency in the Pacific*. Manila (TA 6485-REG, approved on September 12).

² ADB. 2011. *Technical Assistance for Promoting Energy Efficiency in the Pacific (Phase 2)*. Manila (TA 7798-REG, approved on March 31).

subsectors in the Cook Islands, such as water supply, wastewater and sanitation, education, tourism, and renewable energy. To help execute the CIRECIP, New Zealand has provided grant assistance to solar-based renewable energy development in the Northern island group (Manihiki, Nassau, Penrhyn, Pukapuka, Rakahanga, and Suvarrow) since 2012, which is expected to end in 2015. In March 2014, the Government of New Zealand also committed to help finance a solar photovoltaic power plant of 961 kilowatts on Rarotonga.

B. Institutional Arrangements and Processes for Development Coordination

5. Institutional arrangements for development coordination in the Cook Islands are well established. The Development Coordination Division of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management is the focal point for development coordination across development partners. The National Sustainable Development Commission oversees implementation and coordination of ODA projects based on the National Sustainable Development Plan, 2011–2014 and the Cook Islands National Official Development Assistance Policy of 2011. The Development Coordination Division also publishes annual financial statements covering all ODA expenditures for greater transparency and accountability.

6. To implement the sector project, ADB, the EU, and New Zealand agreed to (i) develop common technical standards for a grid-connected solar photovoltaic system, including an end-user metering system; (ii) share lessons learned from renewable energy projects (covering the Northern and Southern island groups) on engineering design, implementation progress, and issues (if any); and (iii) share a project steering group for both projects.

C. Achievements and Issues

7. The Government of the Cook Islands has achieved adequate development partner coordination with relevant national policies to oversee activities and expenditures under ODA projects. ADB has also worked closely with the government in managing coordination across development partners. Supporting the CIRECIP will require further high-level coordination between development partners (para. 6). The CIRECIP intends to develop robust procedures to ensure best possible planning and administration of ODA funding for the CIRECIP, and boost the development partners' confidence in the Cook Islands.