ACP-EU NDRR Program in the Pacific

As of July 2015, in the Pacific region, the ACP-EU NDRR Program has a portfolio of 17 projects, totaling USD 13.5 million. Of these projects, four have been completed, eight are ongoing and 5 are in the pipeline. Please refer to the list of projects in Annex 2.

Operational Portfolio – PACIFIC (as of July 2015)				
	Window 1	Window 2	Window 3	Total
Completed	1	-	3	4
Ongoing	2	4	2	8
Pipeline	2	2	1	5
Total	5	6	6	17

The Pacific projects portfolio includes:

- Mainstreaming at national/local level (the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu);
- Data collection and risk information sharing (regional program PCRAFI);
- Sectoral risk assessment and building community resilience (Timor-Leste)
- Preparedness, contingency planning and early warning systems (Solomon Islands, Vanuatu);
- PDNAs and DaLA assessments (the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu).
- Recovery Technical Assistance (Tonga)

Window 1: Regional Level

At the regional level, activities are developed and implemented with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). Projects aim to:

- Enhance DRR and CCA management capacity;
- Provide training in efficient data management and sharing baseline data required for hazard and risk analyses;
- Provide disaster risk modelling and assessment tools;
- Develop integrated financial solutions for the reduction of vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change.

The **Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative** (**PCRAFI**) provides Pacific Island countries with state-of-the-art disaster risk information and tools to enhance their disaster risk management capabilities. The ACP-EU NDRR support, approved in 2011, is made up of two components, implemented through a bank-executed grant and a recipient-executed grant. The first component is the strengthening of the *Pacific Risk Information System* (PACRIS), a database containing detailed, country-specific information on assets, population, hazards, and risks. PACRIS is being set up as a GeoNode[1] by SPC/SOPAC, the implementing agency for the recipient-executed grant.= The second component, an *application for Rapid Disaster Loss Estimation*, has developed and tested a rapid assessment protocol which was tested during two events in 2014 (Tropical Cyclone Ian, which struck Tonga, and a tropical depression that flooded the Solomon Islands). The protocol is being refined and training provided to SOPAC.

[1] GeoNode is a web-based application and platform for developing geospatial information systems (GIS) and for deploying spatial data infrastructures.

The **Building Climate and Disaster Resilience in the Pacific Project (mainstreaming and EWS components)**, which commenced in October 2014, is developing tools to *support the mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) practices into projects design* and applying these to large scale infrastructure projects in up to seven selected Pacific Island Countries[2]. It is also undertaking a *needs assessment for providing end-to-end multi-hazard early warning services* and developing an investment plan for upgrading/strengthening of early warning and preparedness systems. The component on *baseline data acquisition using drone technologies*, as well as the *Solomon and Fiji flood risk management* components have not started yet.

The project **Disaster Risk Assessment Capacity Building and Community Building - Understanding Risk Forum** supported the third Understanding Risk (UR) Forum, held on June 30 - July 4, 2014 in London, UK, in partnership with University College London (UCL) and the Willis Group. UR is a growing global community of over 3000 experts and practitioners in the field of disaster risk assessment. Every two years, GFDRR assembles a variety of public, private and civil society partners at the UR Forum —a five-day event designed to showcase best practices and the latest technical advances in disaster risk management. The London Forum featured 24 technical sessions, with more than 100 speakers, and almost 1,000 participants from governments, international organizations, finance, industry, civil society and academia. The Forum provided a platform to highlight new activities and initiatives, build partnerships, and foster further advances in the field of disaster risk management, particularly risk assessments around the theme "Producing Actionable Information".

The ACP-EU NDRR Program supported in particular the participation of Government representatives from Caribbean and Pacific countries, including the Minister of Land and Natural Resources of Vanuatu, Mr. Ralph Regenvanu, and senior officials of Madagascar, Tonga, the Solomon Islands and Grenada. ACP-EU countries delegates participated in the plenary sessions as well as in the technical session series on DRM in the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS). The technical sessions focused in particular on applying risk Information on Preparedness, Response, and Disaster Risk Financing: from Tools to Strategies, Designing Climate and Disaster Resilient Investments, and Public Financial Management of Disasters, all in the context of SIDS. The UR conference proceedings are available here.

The project **Enhancing Targeted Disaster Risk Reduction Measures in Micronesia**, which was selected under the second Call for proposals of the ACP-EU NDRR Program, is implemented by the International Organization for Migrations (IOM). It aims at enhancing the resilience of communities to disaster risk and assisting them in adapting to climate change throughout the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau. The three main activities and their associated indicators are as follows: participatory risk mapping and planning of community investments; beneficiary surveys and regional consultations to help design regional/national early warning systems; geo-tagging and evaluation of public buildings and infrastructure with links to open source mapping platforms. The project is currently under negotiations with IOM.

[2] Tentatively, participating countries are the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. The countries will be selected based on their commitments to participate in a regional investment program to strengthen and modernize early warning and preparedness systems.

Window 2: Country Level

Activities at the country level are closely coordinated with EU delegations. These focus on:

- Strengthening institutional capacity to manage risk of flooding and land degradation in targeted rural and urban areas;
- Enhancing the capacity of governments to manage and share data for informed decision-making;
- Establishing early warning and information management systems;
- Strengthening housing stock resilience with building advice;
- Improving building code application and hazard mapping.

Solomon Islands

The **Community Resilience to Climate and Disaster Risk Project in the Solomon Islands (CRISP)** was launched in October 2014 with support from the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM). The project seeks to increase the ability of national, regional and community-level stakeholders to enhance disaster and climate resilience through strengthened policy processes and protocols for adaptation and DRM, improved risk information and its dissemination, and through physical resilience at the regional and community level. Its strong focus on risk information, including emergency communication for disaster response, the establishment of a national risk information system, and specific risk assessments for community-based adaptation works, will improve preparedness of the Government and communities, all of which will contribute to better risk management and to the reduction of the cost of losses and response.

Component 1 of the project is to integrate DRR and CCA into government policies and operations through the development of a single CCA and DRR framework, and mainstreaming this throughout national and sectoral planning processes. This will be enabled by activities in component 2 that will improve risk information and information management, as well as establish protocols and standards for sharing climate and disaster risk information and other mapping data between ministries and regional organizations. This information will be shared with the national, sub-national and community actors in order to prepare communities for the investment in adaptation infrastructure (component 3). The community level risk assessments and planning adaptation works will be a major DRR capacity building exercise for the sub-national and community institutions.

Under the project's first component, the project is providing support in the revision of the institutional arrangements related to disaster risk management and climate change adaptation policy. Revised and simplified institutional arrangements are being developed and discussed internally. Component B is currently dealing with the procurement of emergency communication equipment and a seismic monitoring system. The third component deals with the design and procurement of several community-led investment sub-projects for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (ongoing).

Timor-Leste

The **Climate and Disaster Resilience in Communities along Dili-Ainaro and Linked Road Corridors Project** kicked off in May 2014 with a workshop for key stakeholders and community members. The project helps reduce the risks that Timor Leste faces from

natural disasters and minimize the losses that result to its infrastructure assets and livelihoods of poor rural farmers. The project has 3 main components: Hazard Risks Assessment within the Dili-Ainaro and Linked Roads districts (Ainaro, Aileu, Ermara and Manufahi); Strengthening Capacity at National and District Level in Planning/Delivering Preventative Actions; and Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) and Adaptation Projects within Districts connected by Dili-Ainaro Corridor and Linked Roads.

Under component 1, a natural hazards risk assessment collected data on floods, landslides and strong winds in 49 municipalities (sucos) along the Dili-Ainaro road. Using risk modelling, the vulnerability of each municipality was determined. The data will be used for the next phase of the project, in which a CBDRM system which will be piloted in the 26 most vulnerable municipalities.

Under component 2, NDMD's technical capacity was strengthened through series of trainings, workshops and an exchange visit with participation from key agencies. Technical capacity building included introduction to the concept of Multi-Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, the basics of GIS, training in using open source software QGIS, and introduction to the use of InaSafe and PacRIS GeoNode an online geospatial data management and sharing platform. NDMD technical staff are now able to use QGIS and produce basic maps that could assist them in their daily tasks. GIS trainings were delivered to 19 participants from various line ministries. Government officials also participated in an exchange study to Indonesia to observe CBDRM in action.

Under component 3, a draft CBDRM Guide was developed and field tested, and selected technical manuals, for example, on landslide and flood mitigation measures, were produced for municipal-level implementation. Third, a draft needs assessment report on CBDRM was produced.

Vanuatu

(for more details, see project highlight below). Under the first component of the **Increasing Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Hazards in Vanuatu Project,** key positions in the Vanuatu Meteorological and Geo-Hazards Department were enabled to service resilience projects. Several advisory positions were filled to bolster capacity, strengthen client project management and improve financial management systems. Under the second component, the project is adding key technical capacity to the recently-refurbished National Emergency Operations Center and Multi-Hazard Warning Center through staffing, planned construction, and upgrading of real-time data linkages between the remote hazard observation stations and the national warning center.

Tonga

The proposed ACP-EU NDRRR grant supports the Cyclone Ian reconstruction program, called **Tonga Cyclone Reconstruction and Climate Resilient** (TCRCR) Project, through a Technical Assistance and Training for Enhanced Disaster and Climate Resilience, including resilience strengthening for safer homes and communities (Building Advice; Climate Resilience Training; Strengthening and updating of the Building Code, design and implementation of public awareness and practices campaigns for self-enforcement; assessment and mapping of coastal hazards and risks to inform reconstruction planning and resilience building within the affected areas) disaster recovery and reconstruction framework (operationalization and institutionalization of recovery and reconstruction, including review and update of relevant legislation and institutional arrangements, and

development of an operations manual detailing implementation and planning arrangements for disaster recovery and reconstruction; and conduct of a roadshow and broad community consultations on the draft Recovery and Reconstruction Policy) and finally improved post-disaster mapping capacity to support efficient disaster response and recovery. (Project not active yet - GFDRR-funded activities are on hold owing to the delay in the signature of the grant agreement.).

Window 3: Post-Disaster, Capacity Building & Recovery

Regional

The Pacific region was hit by disaster events such as tropical cyclones Evan (2012) and Ian (2014). The ACP-EU NDRR Program was at the forefront in responding to requests for support from governments and/or the ACP Secretariat to provide **post disaster assessments and support to recovery planning,** particularly in Fiji, Samoa, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu**.** These activities were undertaken in close collaboration with the European Union, the United Nations and other development partners.

There has been no progress on activities for **Economic Assessment of Disasters in the Pacific** to date as the grant agreement has not yet been signed. This is because of the unusually high number of post-disaster assessments and recovery technical assistance and subsequent operations in Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

Tonga

The **Tonga Technical Assistance for Recovery and Reconstruction Planning Post-Tropical Cyclone Ian** project assisted in developing a Housing Reconstruction Policy (HRP) and strategy. The HRP is in a final draft form and has been submitted to government for approval. It supports the government's recovery and reconstruction planning through technical support for the mapping of post-disaster building damage and needs. A damage and household survey was conducted with the help of the technical assistance, and a resulting beneficiary list for housing support is now under review by government. The project is also providing training and capacity building to the Ministry of Infrastructure Policy and Planning Division. This includes preparation of a guidebook to draw lessons learned from housing recovery, reconstruction planning and implementation. It also provides practical guidance and tools for the task teams.

Project Highlight: Increasing Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Hazards in Vanuatu

The Republic of Vanuatu, one of the Pacific Small Island Developing States, is exposed to one of the world's highest levels of disaster risk. The island group lies in the middle of the Pacific tropical cyclone belt (TC Pam was the latest illustration of such exposure) and within the highly geologically active 'ring of fire.' The islands are therefore vulnerable to earthquakes, tropical cyclones, volcanic eruptions, storm surges, tsunamis, landslides, and coastal and river flooding. The World Bank-led Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI), co-financed by the ACP-EU NDRR Program, estimates that the average annual natural disaster impact is $48 million, equal to 6.6 percent of Vanuatu's GDP, one of the highest disaster-related financial burdens in the world.

The Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department in the capital Port Villa now has an upgraded Early Warning Center as well as new DRM and CCA units, strengthening its risk management capacity.

The **Increasing Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Hazards in Vanuatu Project** has been working on the need to increase resilience to these significant risks since 2013. The project supports institutional strengthening for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), promotes improved technologies for food crop production and resilience to climate change and facilitates increased community resilience.

Vanuatu takes a coordinated, multi-sectorial approach that integrates DRR and CCA through the establishment of the **National Advisory Board for DRM and Climate Change (NAB)**, a cross-cutting body that includes directors of all government agencies and representatives from civil society. The ACP-EU NDRR grant has helped fund and enhance NAB through a new Project Management Unit that provides secretariat support, central coordination, and project management functions for DRR and CCA projects. NAB acts as both a focal point for all project activities and as an advisory board. This close collaboration has increased organizational efficiency and is supporting good DRM operations across the country.

The project has supported efforts by the Ministry of Lands to integrate climate and disaster risk into urban and rural polices, thus ensuring that the level of risk and sustainability are always considered. Other key achievements include the creation of new DRM and CCA units now embedded within the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department.

The project has catalyzed technological improvements in other key areas. The Tsunami Early Warning Centre has been refurbished and upgraded with IT systems and satellite phones, and office equipment. Such efforts have increased the resilience of critical infrastructure and enhanced capacity to monitor seismic risk.

The project has also contributed to ongoing research to improve the resilience of crops against climate variability. Thus far, ten varieties of sweet potatoes and seven of manioc have been selected for multiplication and distribution to local farmers. In addition, 400 hybrids of yam have been developed for further trials. So far, over 64 local farmers, one-third women, have benefited from the farming technologies introduced and crops distributed under the project. (note that this specific component was funded by other sources than the ACP-EU grant)

This project builds on lessons from prior work in the Pacific, such as the World Bank-supported Kiribati adaptation plan. Future project plans will focus on increasing community disaster and climate resilience through activities including:

- Ongoing multiplication and distribution of improved crops to farmers;
- Building and operation of the Provincial Disaster Center for Tafea Province and Torba Province;
- Installation of rain waters and rain water catchment shelters in vulnerable communities around Vanuatu;
- Implementation of community-based disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation micro-projects on sites in Tanna and Gaua Island;
- Installation of early warning systems for volcanos in Ambrym, Tanna and Gaua.

In addition, the EU is closely supporting the NAB secretariat by co-financing $2.77 million towards the project under the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA). The project has also leveraged an additional $5.58 million grant from the Global Environment Facility.

Annex 2 – Projects Portfolio and Summary of Commitments (July 2015)

#	Country(s)	Title	Window of action	Implementation partners and local partners	Amount funded (USD)	Status
1.	Pacific Islands	Disaster Risk Assessment Capacity Building and Community Building - Understanding Risk Forum	Window 1	WB and GFDRR	100,000	Completed
2.		Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative - Phase 3 (PCRAFI-3)	Window 1	SPC-SOPAC	1,404,250	Ongoing
3.	Region	Programmatic TA: Building Climate and Disaster Resilience in the Pacific (Mainstreaming and EWS)	Window 1	WB, Ministries of Finance ,SPC, SPREP	1,000,000	Ongoing
4.	Pacific Islands	Programmatic TA: Building Climate and Disaster Resilience in the Pacific (Risk data)	Window 1	WB	400,000	Pending
5.	Pacific islands	Enhancing Targeted Disaster Risk Reduction Measures in Micronesia	Window 1	IOM	660,000	Pending
6.	Vanuatu	Increasing Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Hazards in Vanuatu	Window 2	WB and Government of Vanuatu	3,000,000	Ongoing
7.	Solomon Islands	Community Resilience to Climate and Disaster Risk Project (CRISP)	Window 2	WB and Government of the Solomon islands	2,000,000	Ongoing
8.	Timor-Leste	Building Climate and Disaster Resilience in Communities along Dili-Ainaro and Linked Road Corridors	Window 2	WB and the Government of Timor Leste	990,000	Ongoing
9.	Tonga	Tonga Cyclone Ian Reconstruction and Climate Resilience Project	Window 2	Government of Tonga	2,000,000	Ongoing
10.	Solomon islands	Programmatic TA: Building Climate and Disaster Resilience in the Pacific - Solomon Islands Flood Risk Management	Window 2	WB	400,000	Pending
11.	Fiji	Programmatic TA: Building Climate and Disaster Resilience in the Pacific - Fiji Flood Risk Management	Window 2	WB	200,000	Pending
12.	Samoa	Samoa PDNA for cyclone Evan 2012	Window 3	WB-EU-UNDP	104,624	Completed
13.	Fiji	Fiji Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) for cyclone Evan 2012	Window 3	WB-EU-UNDP	103,330	Completed
14.	Solomon Islands	Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) Solomon Islands Floods April 2014	Window 3	WB-EU-UNDP	143,583	Completed
15.	Tonga	Technical Assistance for Recovery and Reconstruction Planning post Tropical Cyclone Ian	Window 3	WB, Ministry of Infrastructure	98,000	Ongoing
16.	Vanuatu	Rapid Post-Disaster Needs Assessment of Tropical Cyclone PAM	Window 3	WB-EU-UNDP	160,692	Ongoing
17.	Pacific Islands	Economic assessment of disasters in the Pacific	Window 3	WB	714,209	Pending
				Total	**13,478,688**	