

GOAL: Our Pacific engagement and international development cooperation – including our response to COVID-19 – supports an effective global response to climate change and improves Pacific resilience

Developing countries are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and face significant challenges such as:

IMPACTS

- Rising temperatures
- Greater intensity and frequency of extreme weather events
- Health, including emergence of infectious and vector borne diseases
- Sea level rise
- Storm surge and coastal erosion
- Increased pressure on natural resources and increased invasive species
- Reduced food and water security
- Ocean change including warming, acidification and coral bleaching

CHALLENGES

- Difficulty in accessing climate finance
- Lack of donor coordination
- Lack of capacity to participate effectively in multilateral fora
- Climate change related displacement and migration
- Economic costs, eg; Damage to key infrastructure
- Proliferation of external actors and shifting geopolitical dynamics

Why we should act

- We share the Pacific's goal of an ambitious and effective global response to climate change.
- There is an urgent and genuine need for action to support the economic and social transformations that will be required to respond to climate change.
- The consequences of inaction negatively affect New Zealand and the Pacific, with some countries facing grave threats.
- There is a risk that the COVID-19 recovery could lock in high emissions and high exposure development pathways, and miss opportunities to build back better
- The costs of adapting or responding to the impacts of climate change and disasters and COVID-19 threaten to swamp Pacific Island Countries' (PICs) budgets.
- Climate change is now recognised as a conflict and security issue, with the potential to create or increase competition for resources within and between countries and to destabilise areas with already weak governance.
- Global action is needed to meaningfully improve outcomes for the Pacific.
- We can leverage our ambitious domestic action to push for greater action globally.
- Climate change threatens to undo development gains that have been made and undermine human rights and achievement of the SDGs.



Priority outcomes

Pacific Island Countries are able to lead their climate change response

- Strengthened capacity for effective low-emission, climate resilient planning
- Decision makers have access to, and use, the science and information they need to make informed decisions including on climate-related human mobility
- Pacific Island Countries get the support they need from Pacific regional agencies and multilateral agencies

Pacific resilience is improved through on-the-ground adaptation activities

- Countries and communities are more prepared for climate change and better able to adapt to its impacts
- Ecosystems (including oceans) and natural resource-based livelihoods are more resilient to climate change
- Water security in Pacific Island Countries increases
- Infrastructure is resilient to climate change and disasters
- Food security is protected and enhanced
- Health systems are better able to prepare for and respond to climate change impacts
- Strengthen disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response
- support the Pacific region to avert, delay and prepare for climate-related human mobility

There is greater global action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

- Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced
- An increased range of sectors are included in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) e.g. agriculture, transport

Supporting PICs to participate in, and benefit from, global mechanisms

- Access to finance tailored to Pacific needs is improved
- Pacific capacity to be an effective contributor to achieving shared international climate change objectives is enhanced

Strategic framework for action

Ambitious Action

Effective delivery of at least \$300m climate finance over 2019-2022 to drive reduced greenhouse gas emissions globally and improved climate resilience of institutions, infrastructure, environments and populations, with a focus on the Pacific and supporting a green COVID-19 recovery

Pacific Champion

Amplifying Pacific voices internationally, raising the profile of Pacific climate issues and building Pacific capacity to be an effective contributor to achieving shared international climate change objectives

Global Engagement

New Zealand is a visible, honest, credible and active player fully engaged in international and regional environment and climate change forums, catalysing and championing international and regional initiatives that support our overarching objective including a green COVID-19 recovery

Policy Leadership

Leading regional and global policy discussions on challenging issues that are critical to the Pacific region, such as climate-related human mobility, innovative climate finance and the development of international law to protect coastal state rights in the face of sea level rise

Science and Knowledge

Enhance developing country access to science, innovation and technology to support their ability to respond to climate change and implement their Nationally Determined Contributions. New Zealand actions are underpinned by the best available science and evidence.

New Zealand Partnerships

Promote and support deeper partnerships between New Zealand agencies, Crown Research Institutes, and developing countries on climate change.

