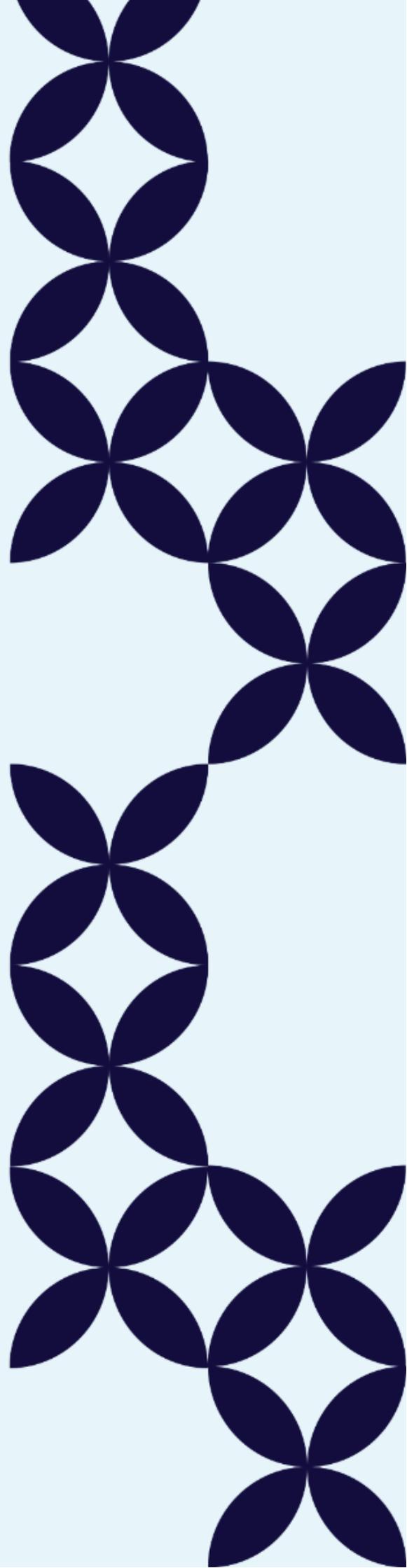
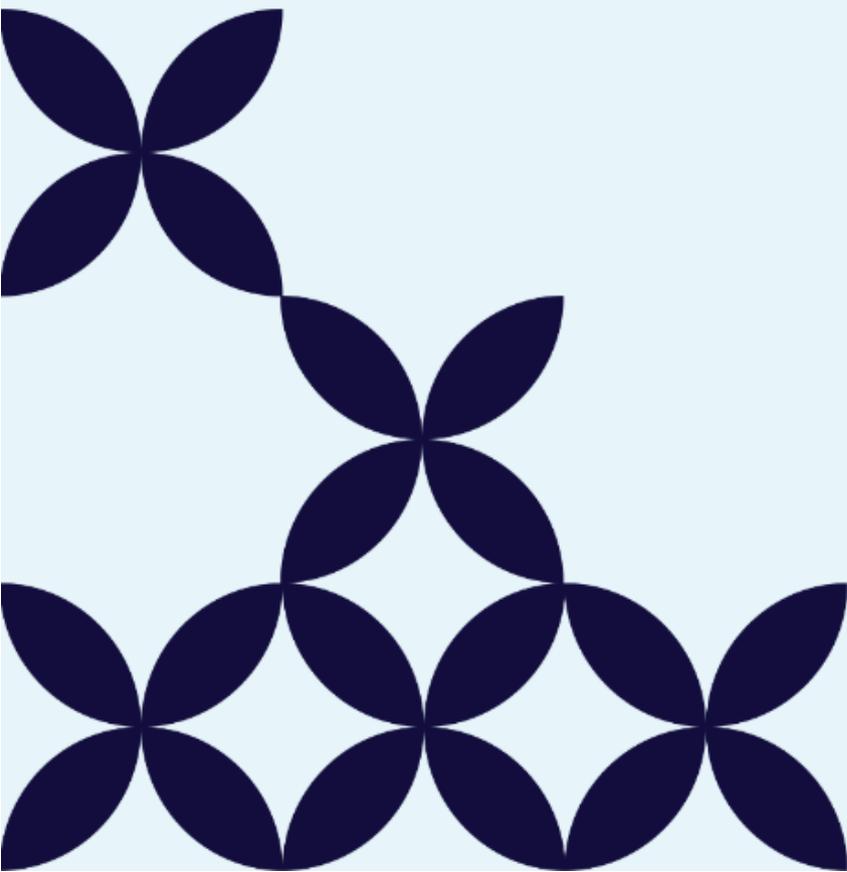




NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE
Manatū Aorere

French Pacific Plan

March 2026



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Purpose of this document

The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) has developed this Plan to guide the planning and management of New Zealand’s overall engagement with the French Pacific (New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna), and as a foundation for dialogue with partners and stakeholders.

The Plan is used to bring clarity to what work should be prioritised, and to help monitor progress towards shared outcomes and strategic goals.

This is a living document that will be reviewed with partners alongside our Joint Cooperation Plans and updated periodically to ensure it responds to changes in country / regional context, including the impacts of any external shocks.

An integrated approach to Pacific engagement

New Zealand pursues an integrated approach to engagement with the Pacific region. We focus on coherence across our diplomatic, trade and economic, climate change, environment, security and development objectives to deliver sustainable progress in the Pacific region, and advance New Zealand’s interests and values. As such, our development contribution (both policy and financial), while minimal in the French Pacific, is an integral pillar of our foreign policy – it reflects our network of international relationships and commitments, and is an expression of our values.



French Pacific overview

The Plan for the French Pacific as set out in this document gives the different contexts of each territory. The overarching French Pacific context and role of France are set out below.

French Pacific context

What is the 'French Pacific'?

For the purposes of this Plan, New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna are referred to collectively as the "French Pacific" or "French Pacific Territories". New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna are overseas territories of France with varying degrees of autonomy as established by their different statuses under the French Constitution. New Zealand's relationship with each of the French Pacific Territories is shaped in part by their respective levels of autonomy. It is important that New Zealand remains conscious of the need to respect the division of competencies between the French state and its territories, and how these may evolve over time.

New Caledonia is a *sui generis* French overseas territory with a population of 264,596 people¹. The French State is represented by a High Commissioner and New Caledonia has a collegial government led by the President. It is the most autonomous of the French Pacific territories as the result of two major agreements between New Caledonia and the French state which provided for the gradual, and irreversible, devolution of powers as well as a series of referenda on independence. There are a range of views about future status, from remaining a part of France to full independence, that make the political environment complex. While considered a developed, high-income territory, significant social and economic inequalities exist among different ethnic groups. These factors, combined with the challenges of negotiating a new political agreement, contributed to civil unrest that began in May 2024, resulting in a GDP decrease of 10–15% for the year 2024, to approximately US\$33,900 per capita. The territory faces deep social and economic instability which has been exacerbated by the time needed for the institutional process.

French Polynesia is made up of five archipelagos, comprising 118 islands (76 inhabited), and is home to around 279,500 people. French Polynesia's territorial assembly, elected by the population, has the ability to propose acts within its areas of responsibility. Executive power sits with the government which is led by the President. The French state is represented by a High Commissioner. Outside of the gradual devolution of different competencies, there is currently no formal decolonisation process under way between French Polynesia and the French state. Like New Caledonia, French Polynesia is considered a developed, high-income territory with one of the highest GDP per capita in the Pacific of US\$23,300.

Wallis and Futuna, with a population of around 11,000 people, is the least autonomous of the French territories in the Pacific. Unlike French Polynesia, executive power rests with the French state and is represented by a Prefect in the capital of Matā'utu. The Prefect heads a territorial council composed of the three traditional Kings (one from Wallis and two from Futuna), and three other members selected by the Prefect. Wallis and Futuna's territorial assembly, members of which are elected by the population, is deliberative only and has no legislative authority as this resides with the Prefect. It is not listed as a non-self governing territory by the UN, unlike New

¹ Census, 2025



Caledonia and French Polynesia. Wallis and Futuna is the least economically developed of the three French Pacific territories with a GDP per capita of around US\$11,500.

French Pacific engagement in the region

Since 2016, New Caledonia and French Polynesia have been full members of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), and this has increased New Zealand's avenues for engagement with both territories, which have competency for regional affairs within their areas of responsibility. They are also members of different Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) agencies including the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO). Wallis and Futuna is an associate member of PIF, but a full member of some CROP agencies.

New Zealand's relationship with the French Pacific Territories

New Zealand's engagement with the French Pacific Territories is spearheaded by the New Zealand Consulate-General in Nouméa and with the support of our Honorary Consul based in Tahiti. New Zealand has no permanent representation in Wallis and Futuna.

New Zealand's relationships with New Caledonia and French Polynesia are underpinned by Joint Cooperation Plans, signed in [2024](#) and [2018](#) respectively. The Joint Cooperation Plans outline our shared priority areas for engagement and how we will work together, including in regional fora. Given the limited relationship with Wallis and Futuna, there is no overarching relationship framework document between us.

New Zealand's engagement with the French Pacific Territories also forms part of our broader relationship with France. France retains competency for areas including defence and security (including aspects of customs work), law and order (including policing), immigration, higher education, monetary policy, and foreign affairs. Within the scope of their competencies, the governments of New Caledonia and French Polynesia are able to engage and set direction for their relationships with regional fora, including as full members of the PIF. For areas where the French state retains competency, New Zealand cooperates with France in a number of regional groupings and initiatives such as the France Australia New Zealand Trilateral Agreement (FRANZ), Joint Heads of Pacific Security (JHoPS), Pacific Islands Chief of Police (PICP), Pacific Transnational Crime Network (PTCN), South Pacific Defence Ministers Meeting (SPDMM) and P-QUAD. France is also a member of SPC and SPREP and is a PIF Dialogue Partner.

At a time of heightened geostrategic tension in the Pacific region, New Zealand's engagement in the French Pacific Territories provides an opportunity to deepen our relationship with France. France's relationships with its Pacific territories, now and in the future, have consequences for New Zealand's interests bilaterally and regionally.

Development assistance

Excluding Wallis and Futuna, International Development Cooperation (IDC) in the French Pacific Territories does not count towards New Zealand's OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) commitments. In light of the reconstruction and recovery following unrest in New Caledonia, New Zealand has increased its development assistance to the French Pacific six-fold (from NZ\$1.04 million in 2021-2023 to NZ\$6 million for 2024-2027). New Zealand can provide niche, targeted IDC activities which reinforce our value-add as a constructive, engaged partner with relevant values and experience to share.



The delivery of IDC in the French Pacific Territories will be guided by New Zealand's strategic goals of a safe, secure and just future, and a prosperous and resilient future. Long-term goals to these ends include enhancing people-to-people connections, strengthening the region through greater integration of the French Pacific Territories and through cooperation with France, and contributing to increased economic and social resilience. In the cases of New Caledonia and French Polynesia, the Joint Cooperation Plans (signed in 2024 and 2018 respectively) will guide New Zealand's IDC to advance interests shared by New Zealand and partner governments.

The primary mechanism for delivering these commitments will be through an increased Consulate Fund and an expanded scholarships programme, including for short-term thematic and vocational training and tertiary education. Delivery through Pacific regional agencies, such as SPC and SPREP, will also benefit the French Pacific Territories. Extending regional or multi-country development activities where possible to include the French Pacific Territories, or providing capacity-building opportunities such as English language training, will also help deliver our increased commitment in a way that delivers positive policy and development outcomes and supports the French Pacific's regional integration. Continuing to partner with France in the Pacific on areas of mutual interest, including through climate resilience, customs, and humanitarian and disaster response initiatives, will also benefit our wider strategic goals for a safe, prosperous and resilient Pacific.

Engagement with NZ Inc in the French Pacific Territories

NZ Inc agencies regularly engage with the French Pacific in discrete areas. The New Zealand Defence Force and Ministry of Defence have close links with the French armed forces in New Caledonia and French Polynesia, including through the biennial Croix du Sud military exercise. Customs and Police engage with the French Pacific territories through shared efforts to combat transnational organised crime and illicit trafficking in the region. New Zealand's Pacific Police Liaison Officer, accredited to the French Pacific, is based in Suva. New Zealand Trade and Enterprise has strong links into the French Pacific business community in Auckland. The Ministry for Primary Industries has also built close relationships with counterparts in New Caledonia and French Polynesia on biosecurity issues. With on-the-ground assistance of the New Zealand Consulate-General, the Ministry for Culture and Heritage manages the Bourail New Zealand War Cemetery in New Caledonia.

Partner plans relevant to the relationship

[New Zealand New Caledonia Joint Cooperation Plan 2024](#)

The New Zealand-New Caledonia Joint Cooperation Plan, revised in December 2024, reaffirms our shared ambition to elevate our bilateral relationship through institutional cooperation, trade and economic cooperation, and people-to-people connections.

[New Zealand French Polynesia Joint Cooperation Plan 2018](#)

The New Zealand-French Polynesia Joint Cooperation Plan, signed in 2018, identifies our shared priorities for cooperation and engagement. Focus areas include trade and economic links, research and innovation, climate change, health, education and training, information and communications technology, environment and sustainable development and culture, youth and sports.



[France-Māori Economic Roadmap](#)

The France-Māori Economic Roadmap was signed between the French Ambassador to New Zealand and MFAT's Māori Trade Advisory Board, Te Taumata, in May 2025. The Roadmap sets out a shared vision to strengthen economic collaboration between France and Māori partners, and includes enhancing the economic integration of the French Pacific Territories into the Pacific.

[France's Indo-Pacific Strategy](#)

Launched in 2018 and most recently updated in 2025, the Strategy highlights the importance France attaches to the region, including its territories in the French Pacific, its support for multilateralism and the rules-based order, and addressing security risks, including climate change, and outlines its strategic priorities for the Indo-Pacific.

Strategic framework for the French Pacific Plan

The IDC Priorities Framework 2024-27² is a guiding document for the French Pacific Plan. It shows how the IDC Programme contributes to the Ministry's overall goals, as set out in the Ministry's Strategic Framework³, and articulates the priority outcomes that we aim to advance through the IDC Programme.

The French Pacific programme logic diagram included on the next page sets out our ambitions for our work with the French Pacific Territories and France in the Pacific, in alignment with the IDC Priorities Framework. It represents our integrated delivery across development, foreign policy, trade, and security and covers a total country view of our IDC investment, including the New Zealand Consulate Fund, scholarships, and multi-country investments.

The logic diagram sets out how our strategic goals drive more specific medium and short-term outcomes. New Zealand will work towards these outcomes in partnership with the French Pacific Territories. The medium-term outcomes in the logic diagram describe our interests in the system in more detail. The short-term outcomes cover some areas of particular emphasis rather than all the initiatives required to deliver these medium-term outcomes.

² See: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Aid/Aid-General/IDC-Priorities-Framework-2024.pdf>

³ See: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/About-us-Corporate/MFAT-strategies-and-frameworks/Strategic-Intentions-2024-2028.pdf>



Logic diagram for French Pacific Country Plan



A SAFE, SECURE AND JUST FUTURE A PROSPEROUS AND RESILIENT FUTURE

STRATEGIC GOALS

STRATEGIC GOAL 1: P2P connections enhanced
 People-to-people connections between French Pacific territories and New Zealand are enhanced, contributing to regional understanding

STRATEGIC GOAL 2: Strengthening the region
 French Pacific territories are further integrated into the Pacific, and our partnership with France contributes to our wider Pacific strategic goals

STRATEGIC GOAL 3: Economic opportunity increased
 French Pacific territories enjoy social and economic resilience; economies are diversified, open and inclusive, providing two-way trade and economic opportunities

MEDIUM TERM OUTCOMES

MTO1.1:
 French Pacific territories and New Zealand cooperate to protect shared values and interests, including through capacity-building and training opportunities

MTO2.1:
 French Pacific territories are increasingly integrated into the Pacific region and are constructive regional actors

MTO2.2:
 Cooperation is deepened between New Zealand, France, and the French Pacific territories on mutual regional challenges

MTO3.1:
 Reduced barriers and increased cooperation facilitate greater trade flows with New Zealand and greater regional integration

SHORT TERM OUTCOMES: key changes expected to result from MFAT activities and engagement in 4–6 years

STO1.1:
 New Zealand experience, knowledge, ideas and values are shared with interested partners (e.g. inclusivity, good governance, indigenous economic development)

STO1.2:
 French Pacific territories benefit from community-level support and an expanded New Zealand scholarships offering (Manaaki Programme; NZCF)

STO2.1:
 French Pacific territories are engaged in regional bodies and architecture, and have an increasing voice on shared regional issues (e.g. PIF, SPC)

STO2.2:
 Increased cooperation and leveraging on areas where New Zealand and France have shared interests (e.g. illicit drug trafficking, IUU fishing, biosecurity)

STO3.1:
 Regional initiatives improve well-being and capacity in French Pacific communities. (IDC multi-country activities)

STO3.2:
 French Pacific territories are more closely aligned with regional trade and economic standards.

Increasing influence of external /contextual factors

MFAT has more influence



How we put this Plan into action

New Zealand's IDC funding for this Plan is managed over three-year periods. There is flexibility to move funds into and between Plans in order to respond to rapidly changing contexts. Current information about New Zealand's overall IDC budget for the current funding triennium is on the MFAT website⁴.

How we will work to deliver on this Plan

New Zealand's International Cooperation for Effective Sustainable Development (ICESD) Policy⁵ identifies four development principles that guide New Zealand's work with partner countries, and sets out a commitment to deliver development that is effective, inclusive, resilient and sustained.

The delivery of this plan will be supplemented by the implementation of Joint Cooperation Plans in place with French Polynesia and New Caledonia. For New Caledonia, an annual work programme will be developed between senior officials and the Government of New Caledonia during high-level talks to guide cooperation under the three focus areas. We will maximise opportunities for high-level engagement, including at ministerial level, during Pacific Islands Forum events and seek bilateral engagements.

An important aspect of the delivery of this Plan is partnering with France, with whom we maintain close engagement in Wellington, Noumea and Paris. High-level consultations and bilateral visits offer opportunities to engage with France on its views on current and future institutional arrangements and emphasise the importance of its continued role in the Indo-Pacific region.

Regional engagement, including through the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), will also contribute to advance New Zealand's foreign policy interests and demonstrate the ability of the PIF to credibly respond to challenges in the region.

Who we will work with to deliver on this Plan

Key partners for the delivery of this Plan include the Government of New Caledonia, the Government of French Polynesia and the Government of France (and relevant agencies such as the Agence Française de Développement). Other partners include provincial bodies in New Caledonia and municipal bodies in all Territories, where they have relevant competencies, non-government organisations and civil society organisations.

⁴ www.mfat.govt.nz/en/aid-and-development/our-approach-to-aid/where-our-funding-goes/our-planned-aid-expenditure/

⁵ See: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Aid-Prog-docs/Policy/Policy-Statement-New-Zealands-International-Cooperation-for-Effective-Sustainable-Development-ICESD.pdf>



How we will assess progress against this Plan

The logic diagram sets out the strategic goals, medium and short-term outcomes we hope will result from New Zealand's activities and engagement with the French Pacific.

We report on progress towards our goals in the French Pacific via the annual Minister of Foreign Affairs Report on the IDC appropriation⁶.

Progress against the Plan will be assessed with the following indicators.

Strategic Goals	Indicators
Goal 1: People-to-people connections between French Pacific Territories and New Zealand are enhanced, contributing to regional understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of partnerships between New Zealand and bilateral partners strengthened New Zealand policy positions are progressed within bilateral and regional relationships
Goal 2: French Pacific Territories are further integrated into the Pacific, and our partnership with France contributes to our wider Pacific strategic goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of strengthened and continued engagement by French Pacific Territories with regional institutions Evidence of partnerships between New Zealand and bilateral partners strengthened
Goal 3: French Pacific territories enjoy social and economic resilience; economies are diversified, open and inclusive, providing two-way trade and economic opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value of imports and exports between New Zealand and French Pacific territories shows upward trend Evidence of political engagement in regional economic initiatives

Short Term Outcome (STO)	Indicators
STO1.1: New Zealand experience, knowledge, ideas and values are shared with interested partners (<i>e.g. inclusivity, good governance, indigenous economic development</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of New Zealand's influence through engagements with interested partners
STO1.2: French Pacific territories benefit from community-level support and an expanded New Zealand scholarships offering (<i>Manaaki Programme; NZCF</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of people that complete tertiary or vocational scholarships (M/F) Number of community initiatives supported via NZCF % initiatives generate gender equality, equity or inclusivity outcomes

⁶ See <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/aid-and-development/our-approach-to-aid>



STO2.1: French Pacific territories are engaged in regional bodies and architecture, and have an increasing voice on shared regional issues. *(PIF)*

- Evidence of political engagement by French Pacific Territories in regional bodies and architecture

STO2.2: Increased cooperation and leveraging on areas where New Zealand and France have shared interests (e.g. illicit drug trafficking, IUU fishing, biosecurity)

- Evidence of cooperation between New Zealand and France

STO3.1: Regional initiatives improve well-being and capacity in French Pacific communities. *(IDC multi-country activities)*

- Number of regional initiatives (IDC multi-country activities) including French Pacific Territories

STO3.2: French Pacific territories are more closely aligned with regional standards.

- Evidence of barriers removed or measures taken to facilitate trade between New Zealand and the French Pacific Territories
-



For further information

Contact details for the [New Zealand Consulate-General Noumea](#) are available on the MFAT website⁷

To find out more about New Zealand's engagement with Pacific Island countries also go to the MFAT website, at www.mfat.govt.nz/en/countries-and-regions/australia-and-pacific/.

This document is one in a series of Plans published by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and managed by the Ministry's Pacific and Development Group. For the latest version please go to www.mfat.govt.nz

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⁷ <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/countries-and-regions/>

⁸ <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

⁹ <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1981/0047/latest/DLM51358.html>

