



Cook Islands: Disaster Resilience Program

Project Name	Disaster Resilience Program				
Project Number	50212-001				
Country / Economy	Cook Islands				
Project Status	Closed				
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Loan				
Source of Funding / Amount	<table border="1"><tr><td>Loan 3479-COO: Disaster Resilience Program</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Ordinary capital resources</td><td>US\$ 10.00 million</td></tr></table>	Loan 3479-COO: Disaster Resilience Program		Ordinary capital resources	US\$ 10.00 million
Loan 3479-COO: Disaster Resilience Program					
Ordinary capital resources	US\$ 10.00 million				
Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth				
Drivers of Change	Gender Equity and Mainstreaming Governance and capacity development				
Sector / Subsector	Public sector management / Public expenditure and fiscal management				
Gender	Some gender elements				
Description	The program will provide the Government of the Cook Islands rapid access to financing, contingent on a disaster affecting the country. Funds will be used to help meet short-term, post-disaster recovery needs. To establish eligibility to access the contingent financing, the government has undertaken prior policy actions that (i) clarify and implement policy and institutional arrangements for DRM, including the capacity for post-disaster response and recovery; (ii) improve the disaster resilience of physical assets; and (iii) expand disaster risk financing. Post-program monitoring will ensure continued progress toward attaining overall program goals.				
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	The Government of the Cook Islands requested financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the Disaster Resilience Program to help better manage the fiscal risk arising from disasters. A policy-based loan with withdrawal deferred until the occurrence of a disaster triggered by a natural hazard was requested to enable the government to rapidly access critical fiscal resources.				
Impact	Resilience to combat the impacts of climate change and natural disasters strengthened Resilient infrastructure and ICT built				

Project Outcome

Description of Outcome	Adverse economic and social impacts of disaster events reduced.
Progress Toward Outcome	Outcome indicators will be measured upon program completion in 2020.

Implementation Progress

Description of Project Outputs	Strategic investments to improve disaster resilience sustained Disaster risk financing expanded Disaster preparedness strengthened
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Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)

2018 Update: The agreed actions are specified in the program policy matrix supporting and monitoring progress towards achieving these goals. Yearly post-program monitoring will ensure continued progress towards attaining overall program goals. Policy Reform Progress is as follows: Output 1 - 1.1 : National development plan incorporating disaster resilience that is gender inclusive approved by cabinet. Progress : Completed. In 2016, the cabinet approved the National Sustainable Development Plan, 2016-2020, which includes two specific objectives: to strengthen resilience to combat the impacts of climate change and natural disasters, and to build resilient infrastructure. The second joint national action plan for DRM and climate change adaptation (JNAP II) was submitted to the National Disaster Risk Management Council and will be formally launched in December 2017. Output 1 - 1.2 : Public consultations on the second JNAP for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation completed. Progress: Public consultations on JNAP II, which will clarify and formalize the institutional arrangements for DRM, have been completed. Output 1 - 1.3 : Two meetings of the National Disaster Risk Management Council held in 2016. Progress: The government is ensuring that regular meetings of the National Disaster Risk Management Council are held and to increase to quarterly. Two meetings were held in 2017 and a final meeting will be held in December 2017. Meeting minutes are being kept. Output 1 - 1.4 : 10 Pa Enua (outer islands) have prepared and are currently updating their Island DRM plans, and plans are under preparation for 10 punas (districts) on Rarotonga. Progress: Pa Enua Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Plans have been prepared for the 10 outer islands. Of the 10 Punas on Rarotonga: three Punas (Tupapa Maraerenga, Takuvaine, and Akaoa) have their DRM plans in place; Four Punas (Nikao, Avatiu, Ngatangiia, and Matavera) have draft DRM plans; and three Punas (Titikaveka, Murienua, and Ruaau) have yet to come up with a draft. EMCI to continue working with the Punas on completing their DRM plans. Output 1 - 1.5 : Learning modules on disaster risk management prepared for integration into the school curriculum and phased dissemination to schools throughout the country. Progress: The government has taken steps to improve public awareness of disaster risks through the preparation of DRM learning modules for schools, which were first distributed in 2014 and will be further disseminated in 2017. A Teachers Resource Kit (TRK) with learning modules on DRM is available to teachers and is integrated into the school curriculum. EMCI is working with the Ministry of Education to get these TRK out to all schools. EMCI has also engaged Cook Islands Red Cross to assist with the program during their travels to the Pa Enua and this is being conducted by Mata Hetland, a former school principal working for the Red Cross. Output 1 - 1.6 : Commencing development of training modules targeting key areas of DRM accountabilities relevant to each government agency, in support of Emergency Management Cook Island's mandate under the DRM Act 2007. Progress: Government is committed to training modules, targeting key areas of DRM accountabilities relevant to each government agency, that will be disseminated in 2017. An Inter-Agency Contingency Planning Workshop for Humanitarian Assistance in the Cook Islands was held in 2017 with assistance from UNOCHA to help define some of the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies during a national event. EMCI with the assistance of UNDP carried out a Post Disaster Needs Assessment training in 2017 with the aim of taking a more holistic approach to damage assessment to include economic loss, loss of jobs and earnings as opposed to focusing only on infrastructure damage only. EMCI to ensure training continues in 2018. Output 2 - 2.1 : Availability and price of services and goods for post-disaster clean-up and restoration of essential services in the event of a disaster confirmed by registered contractors. Progress: The government has obtained information from registered contractors on the availability and price of services and goods for post-disaster cleanups, such as debris removal, and the restoration of essential services, including power and water. This is done every year just before cyclone season starts in November. An EOI was advertised and 4 contractors have submitted their pricing (mostly roading and equipment for the cleanup). Output 2 - 2.2 : Commenced development of a damage and loss database (including sex-disaggregated information) and a tracking systems for post-disaster expenditures. Progress: MFEM FinSec to work with identified development partners to develop damage and loss tracking system. FinSec confirms this will be done as part of PCRAFI insurance under which his staff are being trained to complete. EMCI has also developed a Geo Portal for the very purpose of trying to create baseline data of all the islands of the Pa Enua including Rarotonga (<http://www.emci.gov.ck/2.2>). Output 2 - 2.3 : Priority infrastructure to reduce climate and disaster risks identified in national infrastructure development plan. Progress: Cook Islands National Infrastructure Investment Plan (NIIP) 2015-2025 was published under the auspices of the Cook Islands Government, with the support of the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF). The National Infrastructure Investment Plan 2015 was endorsed and adopted by the Cook Islands Cabinet on April 14, 2015, as the guide to infrastructure investment over the next ten years and as such is a 'living document'. Cabinet memorandum reference number: CM (15) 0140. FinSec and PRIF are discussing carrying out an update of the NIIP in 2018. PRIF's Lorena Estigarribia lestigarribia@theprif.org will confirm. Output 2 - 2.4 : Analysis of disaster and climate risks required for all proposed public investment projects over NZ\$150,000. Progress: This has been completed as part of the Te Tarai Vaka Activity System review, under which all development projects are entered and monitored by MFEM's Development Coordination Division. Output 2 - 2.5 : Scoping mission conducted, stakeholders consulted and terms of reference prepared to draft revised building codes that reflect improved disaster resilience. Progress: BECA consultancy (financed under Secretariat of the Pacific Community) is updating the 1990 building code and manual. An independent reviewer is undertaking due diligence. The building code and manual will be finalized by end December 2017. The New Zealand drafting office is helping prepare the necessary legislation and plan to table in Cabinet in early 2018. The new building code will apply to new private and public buildings only (not retrospective) and includes standards on disability access for public buildings. Output 3 - 3.1 : Additional financial resources committed to the disaster emergency trust fund through the FY2017 budget. Progress: NZ\$600,000 was invested in the emergency trust fund in FY2017 and current balance is NZ\$1.6 million. Output 3 - 3.2 : Continued commitment to PCRAFI through allocation for annual insurance premium in the FY2017 budget. Progress: The government is committed to paying the annual insurance premiums under the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative coverage. Sep 2018 Update: Cook Islands has not been affected by a disaster since the program was approved. Financing remains available and contingent on a disaster affecting the country.

Geographical Location	Nation-wide
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Safeguard Categories

Environment	C
Involuntary Resettlement	C
Indigenous Peoples	C

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects	Project Team Comments: The proposed single-tranche stand-alone policy-based loan is linked to government initiatives designed to increase disaster resilience. Agreed policy actions are specified in the program policy matrix supporting and monitoring progress towards achieving these DRM goals. This will ensure immediate access to a pool of resources enabling government to initiate immediate relief and recovery efforts in the event of a natural disaster. The environment categorization is proposed as C, because the program does not trigger the safeguard policies for the environment, as loan proceeds are not earmarked for physical projects. SDES Comments: Based on confirmation that the loan proceeds are not earmarked for any physical project, the proposed category 'C' agreed for environment.
Involuntary Resettlement	Project Team Comments: The proposed single-tranche stand-alone policy-based loan is linked to government initiatives designed to increase disaster resilience. Agreed policy actions are specified in the program policy matrix supporting and monitoring progress towards achieving these DRM goals. This will ensure immediate access to a pool of resources enabling government to initiate immediate relief and recovery efforts in the event of a natural disaster. Land acquisition will not be required and there will be no economic displacement as a result of the policy-based loan program.
Indigenous Peoples	Project Team Comments: The proposed single-tranche stand-alone policy-based loan is linked to government initiatives designed to increase disaster resilience. Agreed policy actions are specified in the program policy matrix supporting and monitoring progress towards achieving these disaster risk management goals. This will ensure immediate access to a pool of resources enabling government to initiate immediate relief and recovery efforts in the event of a natural disaster. The project is categorized C for IPs as it is not expected to impact any distinct and vulnerable people.

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design	The Disaster Risk Management (DRM) will build on the substantial dialogue that the government has already established down to the community level, and will support continued participation across society.
During Project Implementation	Stakeholder dialogue will continue during program implementation.

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services	Not required.
Procurement	Not required.

Responsible ADB Officer	Olsson, Sivou Beatrice
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Responsible ADB Department	Pacific Department
Responsible ADB Division	Pacific Subregional Office in Suva, Fiji
Executing Agencies	Ministry of Finance & Economic Management Mr. Kevin Carr PO box 120 Cook Islands

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	31 Aug 2016
Fact Finding	08 Aug 2016 to 12 Aug 2016
MRM	30 Sep 2016
Approval	02 Dec 2016
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	25 Sep 2018

Loan 3479-COO

Milestones					
Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual
02 Dec 2016	09 Dec 2016	06 Feb 2017	30 Jun 2020	-	11 Feb 2020

Financing Plan		Loan Utilization			
	Total (Amount in US\$ million)	Date	ADB	Others	Net Percentage
Project Cost	10.00	Cumulative Contract Awards			
ADB	10.00	17 Jun 2022	0.00	0.00	0%
Counterpart	0.00	Cumulative Disbursements			
Cofinancing	0.00	17 Jun 2022	0.00	0.00	0%

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/50212-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=50212-001
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