

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK MEMBER FACT SHEET



Cook Islands: 2021 Commitments (\$ million)^a

Product Type	Sovereign	Nonsovereign	Total	COVID-19 Response
Loans	75.49	–	75.49	75.49
Grants	2.00	–	2.00	2.00
Technical Assistance ^b	3.02	0.24	3.26	0.17
Total	80.51	0.24	80.75	77.66

– = nil, COVID-19 = coronavirus disease, DMC = developing member country, TA = technical assistance.

Notes:

Commitment is the financing approved by ADB's Board of Directors or Management for which the legal agreement has been signed by the borrower, recipient, or the investee company and ADB.

Grants and TA include ADB-administered cofinancing.

^a Numbers may not sum precisely because of rounding.

^b Financing for TA projects with regional coverage is distributed to their specific DMCs where breakdown is available.

ADB assists the Cook Islands to build resilience against economic shocks and supports its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

COOK ISLANDS

Consisting of 15 small islands scattered over 1.8 million square kilometers of ocean, the Cook Islands has an economy largely driven by tourism. Its nationals have open access to work and reside in Australia and New Zealand. The free migration agreements provide Cook islanders with a higher degree of economic security, and highly influence the structure of the national economy.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is assisting the Cook Islands to respond to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, support economic recovery, and promote private sector investment. ADB's COVID-19 Emergency Response Project mobilizes resources to support the country's health response. ADB also provided \$20 million in budget support for the COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program to help the government sustain employment and livelihoods. ADB is complementing these initiatives with technical support on economic modelling and strategic advice to the Ministry of Finance.

To date, ADB has committed 59 public sector loans, grants, and technical assistance totaling \$221.9 million to the Cook Islands. Cumulative loan and grant disbursements to Cook Islands amount to \$155.3 million. These were financed by regular and concessional ordinary capital resources, and other special funds. ADB's ongoing sovereign portfolio in the Cook Islands includes 4 loans worth \$99.7 million.¹

Through a \$2 million grant from the Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asia and the Pacific, ADB will help prepare the Cook Islands for the safe reopening of its borders and resumption of tourism. The project will help ensure that its airport and health systems are ready to support a safe travel zone.

Cook Islands: Cumulative Commitments^{a, b, c, d}

Sector	Total No.	Total Amount (\$ million) ^a	% of Total Amount ^c	COVID-19 Response (\$ million) ^e
Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development	6	2.37	0.94	–
Education	3	4.64	1.84	–
Energy	6	34.52	13.67	–
Finance	7	7.98	3.16	0.50
Health	1	1.93	0.77	1.93
Industry and Trade	1	0.52	0.21	–
Information and Communication Technology	1	15.17	6.01	–
Multisector	10	19.65	7.78	–
Public Sector Management	19	136.14	53.90	109.03
Transport	7	25.52	10.10	–
Water and Other Urban Infrastructure and Services	4	4.14	1.64	0.05
Total	65	252.58	100.00	111.51

– = nil, COVID-19 = coronavirus disease, DMC = developing member country, TA = technical assistance.

^a Grants and TA include ADB-administered cofinancing.

^b Includes loans, grants, and TA.

^c Using primary sector in the reporting of commitments.

^d From 2020, financing for TA projects with regional coverage is distributed to their specific DMCs where breakdown is available.

^e Numbers may not sum precisely because of rounding.

¹ Sovereign portfolio consists of loans, grants, equity investment, and sovereign guarantee committed and not financially closed. Regional projects with loans/grants to multiple countries are reported separately.



In December 2021, ADB committed an \$80 million policy-based loan that includes a \$40 million precautionary financing option that allows for partial withdrawal if tourism does not rebound as forecast. The precautionary financing option is designed to address risks such as COVID-19 outbreaks causing the reclosure of the travel corridor by providing heightened flexibility. A two-way quarantine-free travel between the Cook Islands and New Zealand opened on 13 January 2022.

The Cook Islands is prone to extreme weather events, and tropical cyclones in particular. The third phase of an ADB disaster resilience program for Pacific developing member countries (DMCs) will provide a \$20 million disaster contingent financing grant for early recovery and reconstruction activities following disasters caused by natural hazards or health emergencies.

Operational challenges. The Cook Islands requires to upgrade infrastructure to meet tourism needs and ensure environmental sustainability. These needs have been prioritized over the next 10 years through its National Infrastructure Investment Plan. However, capacity constraints affect infrastructure development and the long-term sustainability of assets.

Since the country is not a member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the government and its development partners do not benefit from the IMF's macroeconomic monitoring. ADB will continue to provide macroeconomic surveillance, assessments, and policy advice, and support the government's efforts to improve its medium-term fiscal outlook. ADB's continued technical assistance support to public sector management, private sector development, broadening of financial services, promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency, climate change, gender, safeguards, is critical.

KNOWLEDGE WORK

ADB brings added value beyond project financing. It acts as a knowledge broker, engaging in regional issues such as climate change, oceans, renewable energy, economic management, and capacity development. The presence of an ADB office in Rarotonga enables it to engage in national issues, and to play a key role in regional cooperation, integration, and development partner coordination.

ADB has supported economic policy reforms through technical assistance and continues to support the Ministry of Finance with economic modeling, strategic planning, and fiscal monitoring. For example, ADB peer reviewed the 2021 public expenditure and financial accountability assessment to identify reform priorities. In addition to supporting economic management, ADB provided loan financing for the Manatua deep-sea cable that catalyzed telecommunication reforms.

Cook Islands: Share of Procurement Contracts for Loan, Grant, and Technical Assistance Projects

Item	Goods, Works, and Related Services	
	Amount (\$ million)	% of Total
2020	31.49	0.14
2021	56.54	0.36
Cumulative (as of 31 Dec 2021)	117.67	0.05

Item	Consulting Services	
	Amount (\$ million)	% of Total
2020	0.26	0.04
2021	0.25	0.04
Cumulative (as of 31 Dec 2021)	2.74	0.02

Item	Total Procurement	
	Amount (\$ million)	% of Total
2020	31.75	0.13
2021	56.79	0.35
Cumulative (as of 31 Dec 2021)	120.41	0.05

Top 5 Contractors/Suppliers from the Cook Islands Involved in Goods, Works, and Related Services Contracts under ADB Loan and Grant Projects, 1 January 2017–31 December 2021

Contractor/Supplier	Sector	Contract Amount (\$ million)
Others		88.03
Total		88.03

Top 5 Consultants from the Cook Islands Involved in Consulting Services Contracts under ADB Loan, Grant, and Technical Assistance Projects, 1 January 2017–31 December 2021

Consultant	Sector	Contract Amount (\$ million)
Romani Design Ltd.	ENE	0.24
Cook Islands Child Welfare Association	HLT	0.08
Individual Consultants		0.20
Total		0.52

ENE = energy, HLT = health.

FINANCING PARTNERSHIPS

Financing partnerships enable ADB's partner governments or their agencies, multilateral institutions, and private organizations to participate in ADB projects. The additional funds may be in the form of loans and grants, technical assistance, and nonsovereign cofinancing.

Cumulative cofinancing commitments in the Cook Islands:

- Sovereign cofinancing: \$86.62 million for 5 investment projects and \$1 million for 3 technical assistance projects since 2007

In 2021, the Cook Islands received a \$21.2 million grant cofinancing from the Government of New Zealand for the [Supporting Sustainable Economic Recovery Program](#), and \$2 million grant cofinancing from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction² for the [Supporting Safe Recovery of Travel and Tourism Project](#).

A summary of projects with cofinancing from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2021 is available at www.adb.org/offices/south-pacific/cofinancing#cook-islands.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The [Pacific Approach, 2021-2025](#) is ADB's 5-year country partnership strategy for the 12 smallest Pacific DMCs, which includes the Cook Islands. Focused technical assistance, aimed at building capacity and strengthening governance and public sector management, will remain an integral part of ADB's support to the Cook Islands. The partnership will also explore regional approaches to energy efficiency, climate change, and economic infrastructure. Continuous engagement and on-the-ground presence are essential to maintaining momentum and ensuring better project implementation. Close coordination with other development partners remains essential, including for mobilizing cofinancing. ADB will increasingly explore nontraditional investment sectors, where its private sector operations can have a significant impact. The bank will explore future support to the country's transport (particularly aviation) and water and sanitation sectors.

² On 1 September 2021, the ADB Board of Directors approved the enhanced and renamed Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asia and the Pacific to be operationalized on 1 January 2022.

Cook Islands: Portfolio Performance Quality Indicators for Sovereign Lending and Grants, 2020–2021

No. of Ongoing Loans ^a (as of 31 Dec 2021)	2020 (\$ million)	2021 (\$ million)
		4
Contract Awards ^{b,c}	–	–
Disbursements ^b	39.62	38.61
No. of Ongoing Grants ^{a,d} (as of 31 Dec 2021)	2020 (\$ million)	2021 (\$ million)
		–
Contract Awards ^{b,c,d}	–	1.00
Disbursements ^{b,d}	1.00	–
At Risk Projects (%) (as of 31 Dec 2021)		–

– = nil.

Note: Numbers may not sum precisely because of rounding.

^a Based on commitments.

^b Includes closed loans/grants that had contract awards or disbursements during the year.

^c Excludes policy-based, results-based, financial intermediation/credit, CPRO (COVID-19 Pandemic Response Option), and cofinanced loans and grants.

^d Includes only Asian Development Fund and other ADB special funds.

Cook Islands: Independent Evaluation Ratings for Sovereign and Nonsovereign Operations, 2012–2021

	Total Number of Validated and Evaluated Projects and Programs	Evaluation Ratings		
		Highly successful and successful	Less than successful	Unsuccessful
Sovereign Operations	2	1	1	–
Nonsovereign Operations	–	–	–	–

– = nil, IED = [Independent Evaluation Department](#).

Note: The numbers indicate sovereign operations in the country that have been validated or evaluated by the IED and their overall performance ratings. The coverage consists of all validated or evaluated project completion reports circulated by ADB within the 10-year period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2021. See [evaluations](#) related to the Cook Islands.

Source: IED success rate database.

Cook Islands: Projects Cofinanced, 1 January 2017–31 December 2021

Cofinancing	No. of Projects	Amount (\$ million)
Sovereign ^a	5	75.10
Loan	1	20.00
Grants	5	55.10

^a A project with more than one source of cofinancing is counted once.

ADB AT A GLANCE

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. It has 68 members—of which 49 are from Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside. ADB headquarters is in Manila, Philippines and has 43 offices around the world, with 3,693 staff from 65 of its members as of 31 December 2021.

ADB maximizes the development impact of its assistance to its developing members by providing financing and tailored knowledge solutions through policy dialogue and advisory services, among others. It mobilizes financial resources through cofinancing from official, commercial, and export credit sources.

ADB pivoted swiftly to answer the needs of its developing members and will remain agile and responsive in the years ahead. It has started to see the shoots of a green recovery, but the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and the outbreak of conflicts still threaten lives and prosperity. ADB will continue to work closely with members and development partners through these challenges to achieve a better future for all in Asia and the Pacific.

ADB operations. In 2021, ADB committed \$22.8 billion in loans, grants, equity investments, private sector programs, and technical assistance both to the public and private sectors of its borrowing members. ADB bolstered its total support with cofinancing of \$12.9 billion.

As of 31 December 2021, ADB's cumulative commitments in 45 countries stood at \$342 billion covering 4,061 loans, \$11.7 billion in 521 grants, and \$5.2 billion in technical assistance grants, including regional technical assistance grants.

In addition to loans, grants, and technical assistance, ADB uses guarantees and equity investments to help its developing member countries.

Total commitments in nonsovereign loans and equity investments from ADB's own funds in 2021 amounted to \$1.2 billion for 35 transactions in economic and social infrastructure, finance sector, and agribusiness.

In 2021, ADB mobilized \$1.7 billion of long-term project cofinancing and \$5.8 billion of cofinancing through its Trade and Supply Chain Finance Program and Microfinance Program. Total outstanding balances and undisbursed commitments of nonsovereign transactions funded by ADB's own resources stood at \$14 billion as of 31 December 2021.

FINANCING PARTNERSHIPS

Total sovereign and nonsovereign cofinancing commitments, 2021

- \$12.93 billion for 187 projects, of which:
 - » \$12.38 billion, 75 investment projects,
 - » \$134.67 million, 110 technical assistance projects,
 - » \$422.87 million transaction advisory services for 2 projects.

Cumulative sovereign and nonsovereign cofinancing commitments, 1970–2021

- \$140.43 billion for 3,165 projects, of which:
 - » \$136.6 billion, 1,098 investment projects,
 - » \$2.8 billion, 2,061 technical assistance projects,
 - » \$1.07 billion transaction advisory services for 6 projects.

PROCUREMENT

ADB's Procurement Contracts, 2021

Goods, Works, and Related Services

ADB's procurement contracts in Asia and the Pacific for goods, works, and related services under loan and grant operations:

- \$22.93 billion in 2020
- \$15.6 billion in 2021
- \$232.16 billion covering 225,336 contracts, cumulative procurement since 1966

Consulting Services

ADB's procurement contracts in Asia and the Pacific for consulting services under loan, grant, and technical assistance operations:

- \$730.78 million in 2020
- \$697.03 million in 2021
- \$14.86 billion covering 71,348 contracts, cumulative procurement since 1966

MORE ABOUT THE COOK ISLANDS AND ADB

Shareholding and Voting Power

Number of shares held:	282 (0.003% of total shares)
Votes:	39,396 (0.296% of total membership, 0.455% of total regional membership)
*Overall capital subscription:	\$3.95 million
*Paid-in capital subscription:	\$0.2 million

*United States dollar figures are valued at rate as of 31 December 2021.

ADB Governor: Mark Brown

ADB Alternate Governor: Garth Henderson

ADB Director: Arif Baharudin (Indonesia)

ADB Alternate Director: Karen Murray (New Zealand)

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Established: 2020

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Useful ADB websites

Asian Development Bank
www.adb.org

Annual Report
www.adb.org/documents/series/adb-annual-reports

Asian Development Outlook
www.adb.org/publications/series/asian-development-outlook

ADB Data Library
data.adb.org

Notes: (i) Figures are estimated by ADB unless otherwise stated. "\$" refers to United States dollars. (ii) Data are updated as of 31 December 2021 unless otherwise indicated.