

Official Development Assistance (ODA)

Official Development Assistance was appropriated at the total value of \$61.1 million in the 2018/19 Budget. This value includes all ODA projects including significant projects such as the Manatua Cable project, the Renewable Energy Grant from the Green Climate Fund and Core Sector Support Grant Funding with New Zealand with outputs 1 - 3 treated as Revenue on behalf of the Crown (ROBOC) through Treasury and distributed to core ministries (Education, Health and Tourism).

Total spend illustrates programme/project expenditures from July 2018 to June 2019. ODA estimated spend to date is reported at \$27.3 million representing a 45% spend against the total budget. Total expenditure was predominantly driven by the implementation of large infrastructure projects such as Te Mato Vai, Mei Te Vai Ki Te Vai, Manatua Cable, the Renewable Energy Project as well as the continuous roll out of Core Sector Support. It should be noted that Te Mato Vai Stage 2 funding from New Zealand has been fully utilized and a majority appropriated funds for the financial year has been expended from the Cook Islands contribution through Capital at the estimated value of \$20.9 million which is significantly higher than previous year's expenditure.

NEW ZEALAND PROGRAMMES

New Zealand has committed \$52 million towards the bilateral program with an additional \$4 million from outside the bilateral programme for the next three years. In late December 2018 the Cook Islands received a \$13 million grant contribution towards supporting asset management. Another grant contribution of \$9.1 million was received to continue work under Core Sector Support. The CSS modality has been an effective mechanism to deliver key priorities in the sectors such as Health, Tourism, Education and strengthening public sector initiatives.

Sanitation is also a key priority between NZ and the Cook Island Government and a new GFA is anticipated to be finalized once the preferred option of reticulation has been confirmed by the government.

Manatua Cable

Implementing Agency: Avarua Cables Limited

Total spend to date: NZ\$4,121,992

Avarua Cables Limited actively participates in Manatua consortium activities, overseeing Tyco Electronics Subsea Communications LLC delivery of the operation and supply contract with

support of technical advisers Axiom. As required by the Construction & Maintenance Agreement, the Manatua cable consortium formed a management committee.

Project Activity Progress: Cable Landing Stations for Rarotonga & Aitutaki have progressed well with a supplier selected through open tender for the enclosures.

A procurement process is underway for the trenching and manhole works and also development of designs for the cable station compounds. These started later than expected, which has caused implications to payment milestones.

Overall the project is on course for installation by January 2020 and Ready for Service and commercial operation in May 2020.

Cook Islands Core Sector Support (CSS): Output 4 TA Programme

Programme Management Oversight: DCD-MFEM

Total spend to date: NZ\$9,100,000

The previous Core Sector Support (CSS) Grant Funding Arrangement (GFA) with New Zealand, which was valued at \$20.1 million and allocated over 2016/17 to 2017/18, has come to an end. A new GFA is currently under negotiation and is predicted to provide \$36 million over four years. In the meantime a one-year Grant Contribution provides bridge funding of \$9,100,000 to allow for continued work under the same priorities in 2018/19. The goal of the support is to enhance the Cook Islands self-sufficiency by enabling predictable, efficient and effective delivery of priority development objectives coupled with practical policy reform. The CSS Program includes direct budget support to the Ministry of Education, Cook Islands Tourism and the Ministry of Health (Outputs 1-3) and an additional output under CSS provides funding towards technical assistance (TA) and other support for economic governance and public sector strengthening. The following are reporting only on CSS Output 4 as the activities for Output 1-3 are considered complete.

CSS TA Project Name

& Implementing Agency

June Quarter 2019 Progress

Financial Management
Information Systems
(FMIS)
Treasury Division-
MFEM

The FMIS project unit continues to deliver the FMIS system on a single platform to all of Cook Islands Government (CIG). The high-level approach to delivery will see the project implemented in a 5 stage method – Planning, Build, Test and Cut-over. The project is currently in the fourth stage. Project timeline is currently planned out to May 2020 with budget forecast to June 2020. Due to a

CSS TA Project Name & Implementing Agency	June Quarter 2019 Progress
	requirement for the testing period to be extended, the 'go-live' date for the first group to be brought onto the system (including Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM), Crown and Development Coordination Division (DCD)) has been pushed to the beginning of July 2019.
Cook Islands Aviation International Compliance Ministry of Transport (MOT)	The Director of Civil Aviation (DCA) contract was extended for an additional 12 months commencing 01 st July 2018 – 30 th June 2019 to progress the project work plan and negotiate safety oversight services. The project closed with the majority of the desired results achieved beyond the expected level. While the ODA funding of this work has now ceased, the TA work is ongoing and funded out of MOT's budget in 2019/2020.
Fixed Term Maritime Technical Manager Ministry of Transport (MOT)	The TA contract for the Maritime Technical Manager ended on 6 May 2019, but MOT are continuing the financing of this support through their budget in 2019/2020. The final report for the ODA funded portion of this work is outstanding.
Online Companies Registry Ministry of Justice (MOJ)	Using ADB procurement processes, the contract for the software has been awarded to Paradigm Applications LLC for US\$540,000. ADB's latest mission report advised that the 'go-live' date is planned for December 2019. ADB's Private Sector Development Initiative (PSDI) will be contributing approx. US\$300,000 towards this work, which has a breakdown of USD100,000 to cover the remaining balance to purchase the registry and USD200,000 to cover the PSDI TA and the NZ Companies office consultancy support.
Asset Management Stocktake Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC)	The Cook Islands Government requested NZ Government in October 2017 to facilitate the procurement process for an asset management stocktake given the market reach and potential access to international respondents in this specialist area, supported with a strict and robust procurement management system. Due to other competing priorities and under resourced staff at CIIC, the contract for this work was signed in May 2019. GForce is currently

**CSS TA Project Name
& Implementing
Agency**

June Quarter 2019 Progress

undertaking the first scoping phase of this work and a road map for the implementation phase is due on 23 August 2019.

Audit House Keeping
Treasury Management
Division (TMD),
Ministry of Finance
and Economic
Management (MFEM)

TMD has sought and received approval to extend the TA's contract for another year. The programme has been making considerable progress and contribution to TMD's and CIAO's achieving up to date financial reports for CIG. This work is crucial to ensuring that financial information is accurate and complete prior to migration into new the FMIS.

Occupational Health
and Safety Legislation
Review
Ministry of Internal
Affairs (INTAFF)

A no-cost extension was granted to the TA to enable the policies to go through an extra draft to address the Chamber of Commerce's concerns that they need more time to consult their members. The communications consultant continues with its concept design for effective promotion and awareness of OSH in the Cook Islands. The final report for this work is expected in August 2019.

Improving Audit
Performance
Cook Islands Audit
Office (CIAO)

The additional resources provided to CIAO has enabled the agency to make progress to catch up with the audit back logs. A dedicated Crown Audit team has been established so as not to compromise the completion of Ministry audits and timeframes. DCD and CIAO have signed an MOU to allow for better monitoring of outputs and disbursement of funding for this programme. The first of four payments have been paid out to CIAO to assist with relocation cost of consultants and assist with capacity development of current staff. The CSS funding for this programme is expected to end in June 2020.

Prison Review &
Warden Training
Ministry of Justice
(MOJ)

The overarching problem of the prison service was identified in the McDermott-Matapo incident review as a result of a shooting tragedy in October 2017. The review team determined that there were many failings in policies, procedures and intelligence sharing within the prison system. The overall determination of the review team

CSS TA Project Name**& Implementing****June Quarter 2019 Progress****Agency**

was that this incident was preventable. Corrections expertise was required and NZ Corrections had previously worked with two other Pacific nations that required support namely Vanuatu and Samoa. The Contract was therefore signed by NZ Corrections in September 2018 and three missions have taken place since then. An extension was given for the delivery of the final milestone and the Action Plan for Phase 2 and the final report are expected in mid-August 2019.

Consolidation of Laws
Parliamentary Services
and Crown Law

This new project under Output 4 intends to obtain TA in order to consolidate Cook Islands laws. The tender has now closed and the selection process is underway.

CHINA PROGRAMMES

The Cook Islands and the People's Republic of China governments' have signed two MOU's, one relating to the cooperation within the framework of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative and the other promoting friendly exchanges between MFEM and the Guandong Province. These MOU's provide the basis for strengthening and promoting bilateral cooperation between the two countries. In the pipeline is a China Strategy inclusive of development programmes management of the Peoples Republic of China funding. This new strategy should inform the way forward.

China Building Repair

Implementing Agency: Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC)

The renovations project is intended for public buildings in Rarotonga namely the Indoor Sports Arena, Ministry of Justice, and Police Headquarters.

The preliminary results from the extensive technical and structural inspections of the three building were carried out in 2017/18 financial year. These were discussed with representatives from CIIC and signed off between CIIC and the Chinese working groups. Based on the preliminary inspections, the new proposed budget for this project was revised to approximately NZ\$10,146,898 million. The renovations project is to be funded through the Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement (ETCA) Grant funded by the People's Republic of China (PRC).

The Implementation Agreement for this project was finalized and signed in October 2017. Furthermore, the Governments of the Cook Islands and Peoples Republic of China have signed Grant Agreements to the value of RMB¥70,000,000, to fund the renovations project.

This project has since been suspended pending outcome of discussions between PRC Government and the Cook Islands Government.

JAPAN PROGRAMMES

Non Project Aid Grant Programme: Palmerston Island multipurpose Cyclone Centre

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Finance and Economic Management

Total spend to date is: NZ\$935,116

Cook Islands Government directly manages the remaining balance NZ\$1.3 million of the 2014 TAU Fuel Project. The remaining balance from the TAU Fuel Project, received approval to be allocated towards the Palmerston Island Cyclone Centre Project. In February 2019, all construction work was completed. A 50% defect retention (\$33,955.33 excl VAT) is currently in place, which will become payable to the Contractor in 12 months, following completion of the defects period as per the terms of the contract.

Non Project Aid Grant Programme: Economic and Social Development Programme

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Finance and Economic Management

Total spend to date is: NZ\$62,832

Per the Exchange of Notes between the governments of Japan and the Cook Islands for this particular programme, a procurement agent agreement was signed with Japan International Cooperation System (JICS) on 22 August 2018. Through this agreement the grant of two hundred million Japanese Yen (JPY200,000,000) is managed by JICS to procure the goods and/or services for the implementation of this programme on behalf of the Cook Islands.

1. Manufacturing of the Excavators has commenced. An estimate arrival of the Excavators in Rarotonga is mid-January/ February 2020.
2. 23 April 2019, the tender for the Drinking water trucks, Sprinkler water truck for civil works, Truck head + trailer and the Patrol/landcruiser type ambulances was launched with a closing/opening date of 12 July 2019.

Grassroots and Human Security Grant Fund Project (GGP)

Implementing Agency: Japan Wellington Embassy

Cumulative total is NIL

Early 2019, four grant contracts were signed by Minister/deputy head of mission from the

Embassy of Japan and the designated authorised person for each of the four projects. Management of the project deliverables and financing is directly between the Implementing Agency and the grant contract recipients. To date no implementation progress has been reported. An overview of each of the projects is as follows:

Mitiaro - \$115,500 to construct 10 concrete water tanks in eight sites and purchase a mobile water tank for the transfer of water to remote areas as well as for the fire emergencies. This project aims to improve the water storage capacity in the Mitiaro community and assist in enhancing community resilience during periods of low rainfall, and by doing so mitigate the impact of climate change on the island community.

Rarotonga Resource Recover Centre - \$178,391 to seal the drop-off yard/working area with concrete and provided drainage and septic catchment along with installing an industrial sized glass crusher to reduce landfill waste, allowing for a safer and more efficient working environment

Mangaia, Puna Tavaenga Village- \$103,316 to construct a water catchment shed and install an irrigation system including six water tanks for water collection and storage to irrigate the taro plantation in Puna Tavaenga during the dry months of the year. This project aims to promote increased sustainable taro production and improve the food self-efficiency in the Puna Tavaenga community, enhance community resilience and mitigate the impact of climate change on the island community.

Rarotonga, Ngatangia - \$157,344 to construct and upgrade the Health Center in Ngatangia. The aim is to improve community health by reducing non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, respiratory problems and other risk factors such as hypertension and obesity, which are the leading causes of morbidity and mortality facing the community of Ngatangia. This project aims to build a Health Centre with a training terrace at the Ngatangia netball court and upgrade the existing toilets and showers and install a kitchen facility. Through this project, community members can receive regular exercise therapy, making exercise a lifelong habit, they can also attend lectures at the training terrace and receive guidance on healthy life styles.

MULTILATERAL PROGRAMMES

The ODA Schedules lists several multilateral – either governments from more than two countries and/or funding mechanisms coming together to fund regional programmes for access by the Cook Islands where the regional programme is aligned to the Cook Islands national priority development areas in the Cook Islands National Sustainable Development Plan.

Pacific Information and Communication Technology Investment Planning and Capacity Development Facility: Phase 2 (e-Government)

Programme Oversight Management: Office of the Prime Minister with TA Support from Asian Development Bank (ADB), Cook Islands

Implementing Agency: Office of the Prime Minister

Total spend reported this quarter is NZ\$107,561

The e-Government assessment consisted of three parts: Part 1 Cook Islands Government IT infrastructure assessment; Part 2: e-Government Road Map and Part 3: Selection of an e-Government Pilot Project. All work has been completed.

In May 2019, the team lead from the consulting firm award the TA contract (Kitskoo) carried out a mission to provide the assessment report, present findings to Heads of Ministries and Chief Executive Officers and recommend the selection of the Ministry of Health as the pilot agency to demonstrate the benefits of e-Government, based on the agency's readiness status both business process and Human Resource technical capability in comparison to other agencies. ADB technical assistance support will be provided to roll out the pilot in the Ministry of Health. Planning for the pilot implementation is in progress, with the design and cost planned to be finalised by September 2019.

E-government roadmap and report recommendations:

To pursue and implement the recommendations in the , a proposal was submit to government for a Project Management Unit (PMU) to operate from within the ICT Office for a duration of approximately 18 months. The proposal was approved for the FY 2019/2020 and efforts to establish the unit is progressing.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Programme Oversight Management: Asian Development Bank (ADB), Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM), Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and Te Aponga Uira (TAU)

Implementing Agency: Office of the Prime Minister

European Union spend this quartter: NZ\$271,943

Overall spend is \$7,962,833. This Grant is fully disbursed.

The programme has a blended funding arrangement, primarily the ADB loan and grant financing support from the European Union (EU), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund Grant (GCF). All grant financing is administered by ADB.

Project Activity Progress:

Implementation of the power station and distribution rehabilitation turnkey contracts with NetCon for all Phase 1 islands (Atiu, Mangaia, Mauke and Mitiaro), are completed and commissioned and running on about 95% renewable energy.

A contract variation for Infratec/Netcon was issued to install household metering on the islands of Mauke and Mitiaro. Procurement is completed and installation is expected to be finished by December 2019.

Global Environment Facility (Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)).

Implementing Agency: Office of the Prime Minister

Total spend reported this quarter is: NZ\$1,059,663

The 1 MW/4 MWh modular/containerized BESS is designed for load shifting and enabling additional solar to be installed in the grid and will be installed at Rarotonga airport West location. The Contractor has been on-site in April and May, however unresolved issues are causing substantial delays for this project towards completion. The implementing agency is in discussions with the contractor to find a resolution to the issues.

Green Climate Fund – Renewable Energy Battery Energy Storage System.

Implementing Agency: Office of the Prime Minister, Renewable Energy Development Division and Te Apongi Uira

Total spend to date: NZ\$1,507,370

Project implementation of this BESS subproject is in two locations in Rarotonga.

1.Airport South location – This BESS consists of 2 x 1MW/4MWh for load shifting. During this reporting period the Contractor submitted the design in June 2019 and the factory Acceptance Test inspection has been completed.

2.Power Station location - This is a modular/containerised grid stability BESS. The original capacity of the BESS was planned to be 1x 4MW/2MWh, however this has been increased to 1 x 6MW/3MWh . Rebidding and Invitations for Bids was issued on 27 May 2019 with a submission deadline date of 7 August 2019.

Aitutaki Renewable Energy Project – Refer to the Capital section.

Mei Te Vai ki te Vai Project

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Finance and Economic Management

Total spend to date: NZ\$1,477,990

The purpose of the Mei Te Vai Ki Te Vai Project is to improve the water quality of the lagoons in Rarotonga and Aitutaki for the benefit of our health, environment and economy. The following are project activities progress to date.

(for further information please visit <https://www.totatouvai.co/te-mato-vai-1>)

Project Activity	Quarterly Progress
Master plan and road Map	A draft masterplan has been developed, however there is insufficient environmental data available at this stage. A workshop was conducted in February 2019 where a final master plan will require additional environmental data and monitoring. Ongoing data collection by Ministry of Marine Resources and key agencies before a final document is submitted.
Environmental investigations and monitoring	<p>The environmental investigations are at its final stages, findings have been presented to major stakeholders with a summary of the findings released to the public.</p> <p>Ministry of Marine Resources is conducting investigations (Oceanographic studies) in partnership with the University of New South Wales. This study will be finalised in FY 19/20</p> <p>This is to establish a firm scientific and environmental understanding of the current situation to ensure that the final technical options developed are robust and can be clearly justified.</p>
Muri Wastewater concept design	Conceptual design work are undertaken to assist in informing the community on the technical solutions that are being considered. Workshops and consultations with the public are underway, where options concerning the disposal of the treated effluent generated from the reticulation system. However Government has not made any decision as there are ongoing consultations and investigations.
Social Cultural Impact Assessment	<p>The purpose of the assessment is to inform decision making for the project and provide action oriented guidance around meaningful community engagement.</p> <p>This was conducted by Coffey Consultant with the intention of a follow up assessment by FY 19/20.</p>
Business Case	Cook Islands Government to produce a Business Case to inform a Cook Islands Government (the Government) investment decision on proceeding to the detailed design and construction stage of the Mei Te Vai Ki Te Vai Wastewater Project (MTVKTV). This work will be finalised in 19/20FY

Early Mitigation	<p>Early measures are actions we can implement in the short term to help alleviate some of the issues.</p> <p>Dredging of sediment from the mouth of Are mango stream, in order to improve flushing in the lagoon and reducing the favourable conditions for algae growth.</p> <p>Work completed in February.</p>
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Te Mato Vai (TMV)

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Finance and Economic Management

Total spend to date NZ\$3,484,255

NZ contribution towards TMV has been fully expended for the quarter. Cook Islands Government is continuing to fund TMV Stage 2 which is estimated to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

The purpose of the Te Mato Vai project is to replace Rarotonga's aging water network, improve storage and introduce treatment to provide our people with clean and reliable drinking water (for further information please visit <https://www.totatouvai.co/te-mato-vai-1>)

Project Activity	Quarterly Progress
Project Management Unit	<p>The Cook Islands Government has engaged GHD New Zealand Limited to project manage the Te Mato Vai project through the Project Management Unit (PMU). A multi-agency Steering Group oversees the PMU's work, to provide a consistent direction for Government policy and funding.</p> <p>Once we have completed the project, To Tatou Vai a new Crown-owned water and wastewater authority will operate and maintain the new water supply infrastructure.</p>
Land Consultation	This is an ongoing process, getting land access to all construction sites.
Stage 2	Stage 2 construction is progressing well with the aim to complete all Stage 2 physical construction by the end of 2019.
Community engagement and consultation	The PMU continues to provide public updates on TMV through the use of social media such as the Cook Islands News, and Facebook.

Asset Management

The Cook Islands received a \$13 million grant from NZ in December 2018 towards supporting Asset Management. This will contribute towards;

- Build and supplement capacity and capability in asset management; and
- To the maintenance and repair of key infrastructure assets

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Finance and Economic Management

Project Activity	Quarterly Progress
Te Mato Vai	Stage 1 material and workmanship non-conformity
Stage 1 Remedial works	The Cook Islands Government is scoping the design for Stage 1 remedial works.

EUROPEAN UNION PROGRAMMES

EU Budget Support

Programme Management Oversight: DCD-MFEM

Total spend for this quarter is NZ\$120,000

The European Union (EU) provides ODA via budget support modality. Funding is now focussed on the 11th cycle (EDF11) which continues with its incentive based budget support using the Cook Islands national systems up until the year 2020.

The 11th EDF funding round will continue to improve the Sanitation Sector, this was ratified through the signing of the Financing Agreement (EDF11) in September 2017. The Cook Islands government will be receiving a fixed tranche of EUR\$1,350,000 for budget support for the Sanitation Sector. A further EUR\$50,000 has been earmarked for evaluation of the effectiveness of the programme. These funds are estimated to be accessed in the 2019/20 Fiscal Year, and have been targeted for the Ministry of Health to support programmes in sanitation, towards resource mobilisation, sanitation upgrades, strengthening compliance and capacity building. The agreed primary focus of this programme would be review support towards improved robust plans to upgrade sewerage systems by commercial properties in compliance with 2014 Regulations administered by Ministry of Health.

EU Partnership Multiyear Fisheries Policy Support

Implementing Agency: Ministry Marine Resources

Total spend for this quarter is NZ\$553,293

The Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement includes an annual fisheries sector contribution of EUR\$350,000 by the European Commission under the 4 year protocol. These funds assist MMR with the implementation of the Multiannual Sectorial Program Matrix which supports projects in the Cook Islands fisheries sector. The third tranche of the protocol was received in early December 2018 to fund the third year of programme implementation.

EU-GIZ ACSE Northern Island Water Project Phase II

Implementing Agency: Office of the Prime Minister

Total spend to date is NZ \$297,131

A justification report was provided to EU-GIZ ACSE to extend the completion date of the project from 31st March 2019 to 31st December 2019. This is a "No cost extension request" of 9 months. Project delays were experienced with one of the contractors as well as another project which was conducted at the same time in Palmerston using the machineries and resources needed to complete some of the work of the Northern Islands Water Project Phase II. The In Country Coordinator (ICC) had to review and reset the project implementation plan as a result.

Nassau Island is the last part of the project to be completed whereby the ICC travelled by inter-island boat to assist the island community with the repair of two 45kL community water tanks and the guttering systems to the buildings that feed the tanks. The new amended workplan to meet contractual obligations with the supplier is finalised whereby all rehabilitation works including water catchment building and water tank repairs as well as installation of tank covers will be completed by September 2019.

GREEN CLIMATE FUND (GCF) READINESS 2

Implementing Agencies: MFEM and OPM

The spend to date is NZ\$483,287

This readiness programme is running according to the planned activities. The first disbursement has been fully utilized and the second disbursement has been requested. To initiate the disbursement for the second payment, a detailed progress report was required by the GCF including an audit of the financial information for the first year. This progress report and audit report has been submitted and is satisfactory to the GCF requirements.

The Ministry of Finance together with the Office of the Prime Minister are now working together on the first project proposal under the Simplified Approval Process to the Green Climate Fund. The project is focused on the Health Sector and has just completed an internal review by the

GCF secretariat and recommended to proceed to the development of a full proposal through the facilitation of TA support to facilitate the process.

The third readiness support proposal is currently in the 2nd year of implementation and is scheduled to be completed by September 2019. It should be noted that an extension will be requested to extend the readiness to 2020 to enable full delivery of proposed work programmes. MFEM and OPM have been working on a 4th readiness support proposal during the year which has been submitted to the GCF for consideration. If approved, the readiness proposal will commence upon the completion of the third readiness.

ADAPTATION FUND

Pa Enea Action for Resilient Livelihoods (PEARL) Project

Implementing Agencies: MFEM (NIE) and OPM (PMU)

Executing Entities: Emergency Management Cook Islands, Infrastructure Cook Islands, Ministry of Agriculture

The spend to date is NZ\$394,016

The Pa Enea Action for Resilient Livelihoods (PEARL) project conducted the final stage of its National Workshop for the Northern Group islands in June 2019. During the next quarter the project will be focusing on procuring equipment for the three agencies (Emergency Management Cook Islands, Infrastructure Cook Islands and Ministry of Agriculture) responsible for each component, to enable work to progress in the Pa Enea in the next two quarters. The Programme Steering Committee (PSG) have approved work plan to expend approximately \$486,315 in the next quarter.

UNITED NATIONS (UN) ADMINISTERED PROGRAMMES

The ODA Schedule has various programmes/projects either with direct UN funding or international funding mechanisms such as Global Environment Facility (GEF), Adaption Fund, administered by a United Nations programme. Progress to date for some of these programmes are as follows with reporting by highest budget allocations.

UNDP GEF Regional Ridge to Reef (R2R)

Implementing Agency: National Environment Service, Ministry of Marine Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Cook Islands Tourism, House of Ariki, Marae Moana

Total Spend to date is NZ\$2,062,288

A full extension request for the project lifespan was approved by UNDP on 20th May 2019 for a further 18 months. The new project closure date is now set to the 6th January 2021. The

extension period is to allow the project to complete all remaining project activities as well as implement the recommendations of the Mid-term Evaluation Report.

Currently undergoing recruitment processes for the Capacity Needs Assessment consultancy as well as the Chief Technical Advisor and FAA via UNDP. All workplans are continuing for the implementing agencies and have been reprogrammed to be completed within the next couple of months. A Biodiversity Steering Committee meeting was held in July to confirm the next Quarters workplans for the year which was approved in principle.

UNDP GEF Strengthening the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on “Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing (ABS)” in the Cook Islands

Implementing Agency: National Environment Service

Total spend to date is NIL

The primary objective of this project is to develop and implement a National Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Legal Framework, build National Capacities and support an ABS Agreement based on Traditional Knowledge and a Public-Private Partnership.

The request for an extension of this project has been extended to 05th October 2019 to allow completion of remaining project activities. No funding has been received for the new financial year, however third party payments have continued to be made to Matheson’s Enterprises Ltd as well as for reimbursement of ABS Project Activities over the last two quarters

UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme

Implementing Agency: Cook Islands Red Cross

Total spend to date is NZ\$195,025

This is the only in country development partner agency outside of government reporting administration of a development programme targeted at Cook Islands Civil Society Organisation as small environment projects executing agencies. The Cook Islands Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) was established in 2005 and until 2015 was part of the SGP Samoa. As of late 2014, the Cook Islands Red Cross Society serves as the SGP host institution with the GEF SGP Cook Islands now a separate programme.

There are four projects which are currently active under Operational Phase 5 (OP5). The Operational Phase 6 (OP6) country programme strategy (Jul 2017 – Jun 2018) outlines the OP6 aim to “effectively support creation of global environmental benefits and the safeguarding of global environment through community based organised activities are on conservation of biodiversity, waste management, prevention of land degradation, capacity building and awareness programmes to address climate change through community based support. Formal

confirmation of OP6 is actually \$US\$0.20million and these funds have recently been allocated to four more projects, due to start before the end of 2019.

UNDP GEF Preparation of the Third National Communication under UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Implementing Agency: Office of the Prime Minister

Total spend to date is NZ\$129,608

The work carried out was predominately around procurement of consultancy services to deliver on Third National Communications activities.

- I. Tender committee recommendation for Shade of Green Environmental Consultants to complete Third National Communications activities
- II. Greenhouse Gases Inventory and Mitigation Chapters draft completed and circulated to relevant stakeholders
- III. Three quote process: Acquiring local consultants to complete Third National Communications activities

Tender Committee recommendation

A tender process was carried out for the Shade of Green environmental consultancy work. A response from the Tender Committee after reviewing potential organizations to undertake work for the Third National Communications was provided and unfortunately, the Shade of Green Environmental Consulting declined the offer.

The Project coordinator and Climate Change officer decided to go through the three quote process to secure local consultants especially with the time constraints to complete the work.

GHGI and MIT draft completed and circulated to relevant stakeholders for comments

Subbarro Ltd have completed the GHGI and MIT chapter drafts and had these sent to the Project Coordinator and the Climate Change Cook Islands office. This has been circulated to relevant stakeholders for any comments and changes. They are expected to complete the final GHGI and MIT chapters in June 2019.

Three quote process for local consultants to undertake work for the Third National Communications report

Due to not being able to acquire the recommended group to continue working on the rest of the chapters of the Third National Communications. Climate Change Officer and Project coordinator have now gone through the three quote process with local climate change consultants that can undertake work.

Climate Change Cook Islands has recruited a local consultant to work on Outputs 5 and 6 and another separate local consultant to work on Outputs 1 and 2 of the TNC.

Third National Communications Report tracking progress- 30% of 100% report.

INDIA GRANT FUND

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Finance and Economic Management

Total spend to date is NZ\$121,216

A total of NZD\$964,386.02 was granted for 16 approved grassroots projects of the India Grant Fund 2016/2017 Round. The main focal area of this funding is to support, promote, and/or develop social economic and/or cultural and development cultural, economic and social development and sustainability. An additional prerequisite was the alignment to Te Kaveinga Nui Framework National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2020.

All 16 projects have been completed successfully to date with all organisations providing their Completion reports as confirmation. A final consolidated TTV Completion report was provided to the Indian High Commission office in Suva, Fiji as well as supporting documentation to officially close off the 2016/17 round of funding.

Of the 2018/19 funding application submissions, 19 concept notes were received in December 2018, and 11 were deemed successful. These applications were vetted by the Grant Award Evaluation Committee and recommendation and approved by NSDC. A Note Verbale was submitted to the Indian High Commission with all appropriate documentation and are now awaiting confirmation.

KOREA GRANT FUND

Programme Oversight Management: Ministry of Finance and Economic Management

The Republic of Korea Government has allocated Official Development Assistance (ODA) through the Korean Small Grants Programme to the Cook Islands for amounts up to US\$200,000 annually. CIG has submitted a concept note to the Korean Embassy which focusses on improving the water supply to house-holds during periods of low rainfall on the island of Atiu.

FORUM FISHERIES AGENCY (FFA)

Project Development Fund – US Fisheries Treaty

Project Management Oversight: Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR)/ Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFAI)

Total spend to date is NZ\$114,000

The US Multilateral Treaty for fisheries includes an annual allocation of US\$0.15 million per Pacific Island party development fisheries projects. Funds are held in trust by the treaty with FFA with direct administration by Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR). A further US\$0.02 million is provided to MFAI to assist with political level representation to regional and international meetings.

AUSTRALIA GOVERNMENT

Gender Empowerment

Project Management Oversight: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Total spend to date is NZ\$61,651

The Government of Australia has allocated Official Development Assistance (ODA) through the Ministry of Internal Affairs – Gender Empowerment Programme to the Cook Islands for the amount of NZ\$200,000

The Pacific Women shaping Pacific Development (Pacific Women) was announced by the Australia Government at the Pacific Leaders forum in August 2012. It commits up to \$320 Million over 10 years to the 14 Pacific Island Forum Members.

Over the 10-year life span of Pacific Women, DFAT has allocated \$3.9 Million for Women's Empowerment in the Cook Islands. The program will continue in two phases to account for the outcome of the upcoming OECD DAC review of Cook Islands ODA eligibility. The first phase (2016-2018) would provide funding to recruit national consultants to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Funding to PTI to continue to its program of support for ending violence against women (EVAW).

AID EFFECTIVENESS

Total estimated spend to date: NZ\$61,984

The Aid Effectiveness budget is drawn from the interest earned on development partner trust accounts and is used by the MFEM to support the implementation of the official development assistance policy. The programme currently contributes to several projects including the following: annual meeting of development partners, development of Te Tarai Vaka, surge capacity to catch up and standardise Crown financial statements, training and set-up of project financial management. Some funds were utilised to support training for officers to participate in a one day workshop "Building your Financial Acumen" organized by the Business Trade and Investment Board (BTIB). This one day course was to improve business acumen to make better business decisions, understand the differences between the financial accounting, management accounting and financial management.