

The European Union action on climate change in the Pacific

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ABSTRACT

The Pacific matters to the European Union: Pacific Island Countries and Territories are caretakers of a sizeable part of the planet and share with the EU concerns and aspirations about sustainable development; the Pacific has a large human, cultural and biological diversity and is an invaluable carbon-sink; finally Pacific Countries and the EU share many common values and principles.

We have built over the years a strong partnership and the EU is engaged at several levels with the Pacific region: i) the EU is present in the region through the 4 Overseas Countries and Territories or OCT (New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna, Pitcairn); ii) the EU has global partners in the region such as Australia and New Zealand; iii) the Cotonou Partnership Agreement between the EU and 15 Pacific ACP countries defines a political, financial and economic framework until 2020. The EU has a global responsibility in supporting Pacific partners. Together, we represent a significant group in international fora.

The Pacific is central in the EU development cooperation. The EU remains committed to deliver an effective support to its Pacific partners to advance their MDGs, to address biodiversity loss and climate change and its impacts. The region faces a unique set of challenges: small-sized countries; huge distances between and within countries; juxtaposition of complex governance systems; politico-cultural cleavages, etc.

Our political partnership is ambitious and has been recently reinforced through a joint initiative on climate change within the framework of the EU Global Climate Change Alliance initiative. Around € 130 million have been allocated for the period 2008 - 2013 to address a wide range of climate change impacts. All Pacific ACP countries, as well as the four OCTs, will benefit from the EU support.