European Union action in the PACIFIC

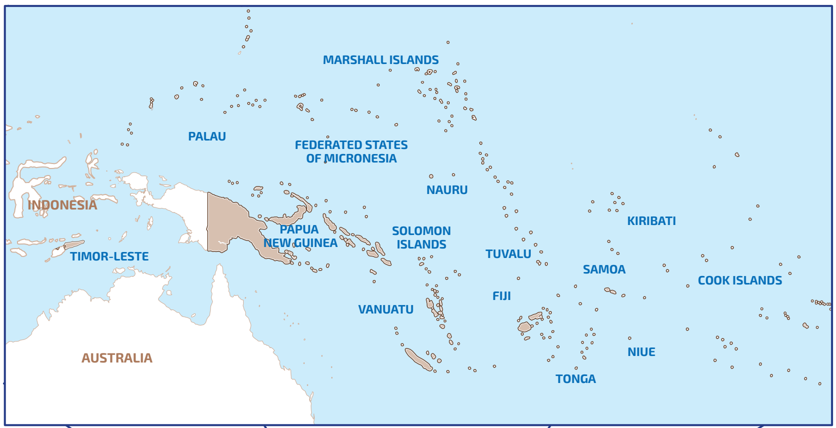
JULY 2026

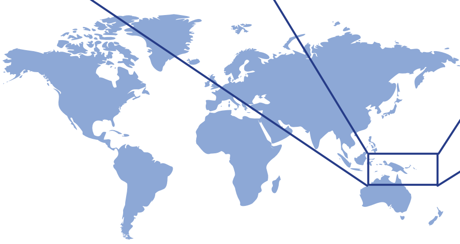
The Pacific Island Countries (PICs) and the EU are key partners in support of multilateralism and the rules-based international order and we share important priorities: climate action, protection of the oceans, biodiversity, peace and security. The EU's Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific recognises that prosperity and security of our regions are linked. The Partnership Agreement between the EU and the Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (the **Samoa Agreement**) and its Pacific Regional Protocol provides the framework for a more strategic cooperation. The EU's **Global Gateway strategy** aims to build reliable partnerships and to deliver quality and sustainable investments to support green and digital transitions beyond Europe's borders.

The EU is supporting Pacific-led priorities and regional solutions, such as the **2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.**

The EU's development assistance for the Pacific for the years 2021-2027 amounts to around **€750 million** (including the allocation to Overseas Countries and Territories - OCTs). In addition, the European Investment Bank (EIB), as the bank of the EU, also plays an important role in supporting investments into the region, in line with the EU's strategic priorities. Since it started operating in the Pacific more than 30 years ago, the EIB has provided **€768 million** in loans and equity, mobilising **€5.2 billion** in investments.

France dedicates **€200 million** (including €100 million in grants) as development aid to the Pacific for 2024-2027. Portugal provides support on agriculture, education, culture, good governance, health, security, and tourism to Timor-Leste. Germany is funding several bilateral, regional and global climate and biodiversity projects in the Pacific, including through its International Climate Initiative (IKI).





The 15 partners in the region are Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Timor-Leste.

The EU: Strong partner of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)

The EU is an important Partner of the **Pacific Islands Forum** (PIF), the region's main political organisation. The EU has significant political engagement with the PICs through bilateral Partnership Dialogues and high-level region-to-region formats, such as the EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum since 2022.

21 EU Member States are accredited to the PICs; France, Germany, Spain and Portugal have a physical diplomatic presence in the region.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are an essential partner of the EU as they help build resilience at community level and ensure the link between broad national policies and programmes and transformation happening on the ground. During 2018-2026, the EU has provided over €41 million either directly or indirectly to CSO partners.

1. Sustainable and inclusive prosperity

The EU supports sustainable and inclusive economic growth across the Pacific.

The **Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)** with Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Solomon Islands provides full duty-free and quota-free access for goods to the EU single market. Other PICs preparing to **join the EPA** include Niue, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands and Micronesia. Timor-Leste has also expressed interest.

Trade and investment results: €3 billion in 2025 – double comparing with 2012. Balanced trade: EU exports €1.4 billion and imports €1.6 billion. Furthermore, EU's investment in the Pacific region has almost tripled from €4 billion in 2013 to €11.6 billion in 2025. The EU regularly engages with Pacific partners through regional and bilateral Business Forums.

2. Green transition

The EU is committed to transition our economies towards sustainable and climate neutral models, both in Europe and with our partners in the Pacific.

Green Climate Fund (GCF): the EU, its Member States and EIB, contribute **45%** of the total funding. Since 2015, GCF has approved projects in **9** PICs, worth **over €450 million.**

Germany is supporting 13 projects in Pacific Island countries through its International Climate Initiative and will support another two projects on resilience against loss and damage and on freshwater, with a volume of up to €20 million each.

The Green Blue Alliance for the Pacific and Timor-Leste is a Team Europe Initiative (TEI) that aims to generate **€540 million,** with about **€200 million** of EU funding, to support the Pacific countries face their challenges and ensure blue and green economic growth.

The **Pacific Regional Electrification Programme** (PacREP), with a budget of €15 million brings electricity to isolated communities in the region.

The EU and France (together with Australia, New Zealand and Canada) support the **Kiwa Initiative,** a multi-donor programme that strengthens the climate change resilience of **Pacific Island ecosystems, communities and economies through Nature-Based Solutions,** with a budget of €75 million.

In Papua New Guinea, the EU and France are co-leading the Country Package for Forest, Nature and Climate. The largest contribution to this package is the EU funded Forestry, Climate Change and Biodiversity programme with a budget of **€54.7 million.** The programme supports a development model that reconciles climate change, environmental protection and biodiversity with green growth and jobs.

3. Ocean governance

The EU & the Pacific continue to work together to promote sustainable fishing and marine resources management, maritime domain awareness, scientific research and integrated national ocean policies through phase II of the Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) with a funding of **€20 million**, in addition to **€45 million** in phase I.

The EIB and the Asian Development Bank unite for a cleaner, greener future in Asia-Pacific under the Clean and Sustainable Ocean Partnership.

Other programmes and projects such as Pacific Biodiversity and Sustainable Land-Seascapes (Pacific BioScapes) of €12 million, Micronesian community-based fisheries management as a Nature-based Solution (NbS) for coastal resilience (MiCOAST) of €4.9 million funded by the Kiwa Initiative, and Increasing sustainability for fishing products value chain in Fiji (FIJI BLUE FISHING) of €1.5 million are also contributing to sustainable management of marine resources.

4. Digital governance and partnerships

The EU provides **€8 million** in funding for the "Pacific Digital Economy Programme" to promote inclusive digital economies in the Pacific, focusing on rural communities, women, micro small and medium enterprises and seasonal workers. The goal is to enhance their market participation, reduce poverty, and improve livelihoods.

The EU allocates **€14.5 million** towards the "Digital Financial Services for Resilience" project to deploy digital financial solutions in ACP countries, including Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga and Timor-Leste. This project aims to deepen financial inclusion and accelerate economic recovery from COVID-19.

In addition, the EU contributes €5 million to the World Bank managed Pacific CBR Multi-Donor Trust Fund to address the significant decline in Correspondent Banking Relationships (CBRs) that many PICs have faced, which severely impacts their ability to conduct international trade, receive remittances, and facilitate humanitarian aid.

5. Connectivity

The EU's actions in the Pacific (under the Global Gateway strategy) aim to mobilise investments in sustainable and high-quality infrastructure projects, particularly in digital, energy, and transport sectors. This initiative seeks to enhance connectivity, boost economic opportunities, and promote a rules-based international order in the region, aligning with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.

Global Gateway

€25 million
Sustainable Energy Sector Development Programme – Subprogramme 1 (PNG)

€85 million
European Union - Support to Rural Entrepreneurship, Investment and Trade in Papua New Guinea (EU-STREIT PNG)

€13.5 million
Water Sector Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation Sector Budget Support Programme (Samoa)

€13.4 million
Water Wise Communities (PNG)

€18 million + €24 million
Water and wastewater infrastructure project in the Solomon Islands

€12.5 million
Water and wastewater infrastructure project in Kiritimati (Kiribati)

€6 million
Increase resilience of water resources in RMI

€3 million
Improved access to secure, sustainable, and resilient WASH services in FSM

€2.5 million
Detailed design for a multi-purpose port in Kiritimati (Kiribati)

€17.3 million
Greening of the Rabaul Seaport (PNG)

6. Security and defence

Under the Indo-Pacific Strategy, the EU will seek to enhance regional security, including securing sea lines of communication and capacity-building.

With over €2 million in funding, EU supports peace and social cohesion in the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

EU also promotes **Critical Maritime Routes Indo-Pacific in the Indian Ocean (CRIMARIO).** CRIMARIO provides a secure platform, called IORIS, for maritime communication, coordination and surveillance that could support Pacific states better govern their maritime spaces.

Under the "Enhancing Security Cooperation in and with Asia and the Pacific" project (ESIWA+) the EU works with Indo-Pacific partners on maritime and cyber security, hybrid threats, counter-terrorism and peacekeeping.

7. Human security

Humanitarian and disaster support

€50 million
for Disaster resilience response

€16 million
of the **Pacific Climate Change Initiative** (PAC-CCI) builds on community leadership, inclusive design, and resilience that goes beyond infrastructure to protect education continuity and human well-being. PAC-CCI represents a shift from fragmented interventions to a structured, scalable and regionally coordinated platform

€14 million
Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific Phase II (BSRP II) project implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) in 15 Pacific Island Countries aims to reduce the impact of disasters, through strengthened disaster risk governance, greater understanding, monitoring and mapping of risks and the impacts of extreme events.

Supporting education

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE), aiming at transforming education in lower-income countries, granted over €62 million to 10 PICs since 2022. Around 50% of the GPE budget is provided by the EU and its member states.

Boosting Education Standards Together in Papua New Guinea (BEST PNG) receives

€10,3 million to:

- Train 1,900 maths and science teachers;
- Procure new textbooks;
- Offer scholarships for female teachers.

€10 million provided by the **Rapid Response Mechanism** will allow Vanuatu Education System to rebuild and reshape schools in a way they could better withstand natural disasters in the future by being autonomous. The **Climate Resilient Sheltering schools (CRSS)** project will provide a model including traditional (NbS) and modern solutions

Eliminate gender bias

With a funding commitment of €50 million from the EU, the **Spotlight Initiative** implements a regional programme to eliminate violence against women and girls, focusing particularly on domestic violence.

€26.7 million for the phase I of the Pacific Partnership End Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG).

€8 million for Phase 2 of Pacific Partnership's End Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG).

€2 million for ensuring access to safety infrastructure for survivors of gender-based violence in the Pacific.

€10.3 million Gender based Violence Referral Pathway in Papua New Guinea.