20 March, 2015

For Immediate Release

EU to provide support to Kiribati and Tuvalu after Cyclone Pam

In the wake of devastation caused by Cyclone Pam, the European Union’s Delegation for the Pacific, based in Suva, Fiji, in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), will be mobilising financial assistance for early recovery to Kiribati and Tuvalu in coordination with their respective governments. Subject to the finalisation of needs assessments, assistance is likely to focus on food security, agriculture and water and sanitation.

EU support to Kiribati and Tuvalu is in addition to the €1 million (F$2.17) committed earlier this week by the European Union for emergency relief efforts specifically in Vanuatu. The European Union has mobilised two experts to assess humanitarian needs and liaise with partner organisations operating on the ground in Vanuatu which was struck by the category-5 tropical cyclone Pam between 13-14 March and which caused considerable damage to buildings and infrastructure, including electricity and communication and loss of lives.

EU Ambassador for the Pacific Andrew Jacobs said: "While most international relief efforts have very correctly been focused on Vanuatu at the present time, the EU Pacific Delegation is also contributing to provide support to communities in Tuvalu and Kiribati who have also suffered the devastating effects of tropical cyclone Pam which has displaced a large part of the Tuvaluan population and damaged key infrastructure and sources of potable water." (ENDS)

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"The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders."