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Cook Islands and the EU

The Cook Islands comprises 15 small islands. It has a close relationship ('free association') with New Zealand, which includes citizenship for Cook Islanders. Population centres – mainly the island of Rarotonga – about 13,000 people. Industries – tourism, far ahead of offshore banking, pearls, marine and fruit exports.

Past assistance

The EU provided assistance worth almost **€12 million** between 2008 and 2013 under the [European Development Fund \(EDF\)](#), most of it for **water and sanitation**, to promote public health, economic growth and environmental protection:

- upgrading septic tanks in **water treatment facilities** to international standards, primarily around the **Muri lagoon**, benefiting up to **10,000 people**.
- **technical assistance** and **capacity building** for the office of the National Authorising Officer and civil society.
- technical assistance for the Ministry of Marine Resources with and interdisciplinary assessment (biodiversity, Water Quality, Hydrology & rehabilitation) of the Muri lagoon to address impacts of public sanitation and a feasibility study for a centralised laboratory

Other projects funded

- **€4.6 million** from the EU's [Sustainable Energy for All](#) initiative to support renewable energy projects in the outer islands.
- Aid to construct a **cyclone shelter** on Pukapuka, following Cyclone Percy which damaged three-quarters of the houses there in 2005.

Future assistance

EU funding under the EDF in 2014-20 – **€1.4 million** – will focus entirely on water supply and sanitation.

Cooperation with other donors

[Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility](#) (PRIF) – specific infrastructure issues related to the water and sanitation sector.

[EU/NZ Energy Access Partnership](#) – energy-related projects

[Asian Development Bank](#) – energy related projects.

Regional funding

The Cook Islands will also benefit considerably from regional activities under the forthcoming EDF [Regional Indicative Programme for the Pacific](#).

Funding for 2014-20 under the EDF

Sector	Indicative funding (€)	As a % of the total
Water & sanitation	1,400,000	100%
TOTAL	1,400,000	100%

Documents

[2014-2020 National Indicative Programme for Cook Islands
Pacific Regional Indicative Programme 2014-2020](#)

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