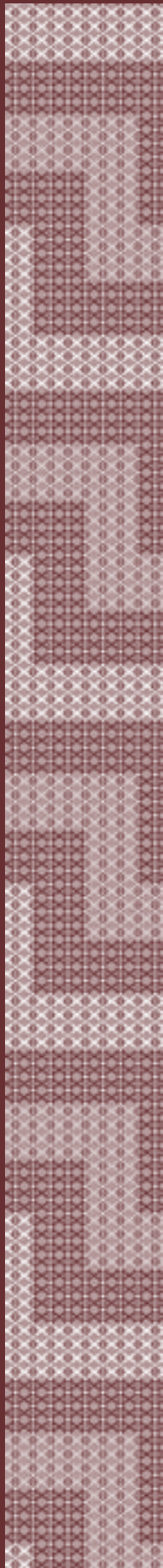


NEW ZEALAND'S SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN MEETING MDGS 1-7



4.1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger (MDG 1)

This goal has a symbiotic relationship with all the other MDGs. At the global level, significant progress has been made since 1990 towards eliminating poverty and hunger, but there are still about one billion people living in extreme poverty and 800 million under-nourished people.

There is significant variation in the situation at regional and country levels. East Asia and, to a lesser degree, South Asia, have made considerable progress. In contrast, sub-Saharan Africa has experienced only marginal gains. In the Pacific, overall progress has been lacking largely because of the situation in PNG, which accounts for two thirds of the region's population, as well as in other Melanesian countries that, along with PNG, account for 86 percent of the region's population. The proportion of people in PNG living on less than US\$1 a day is estimated to have risen from 24 percent to 39 percent between 1990 and 2000. In Polynesia, and, to a lesser extent Micronesia, some countries have made rapid progress. For example, the proportion of the population in Samoa living on less than US\$1 dollar a day has fallen from 15 to five percent over the same period.

New Zealand contributes to the eradication of poverty and hunger by seeking policy coherence for international development and through its official aid programme. Since its formation in 2002, NZAID's mission has been the elimination of poverty and this is reflected in its policies, sectoral and regional strategies, and programmes. Examples of NZAID's strengthened poverty focus includes

the relative shift in its support in the Pacific towards Melanesia, where poverty is deeper and more pervasive, and its increased focus on the poorest countries in South East Asia. Through the SPC, New Zealand is supporting strengthened poverty analysis and strategies in Pacific partner countries. In Asia, New Zealand's aid programmes are increasingly aligned with national poverty reduction strategies and, in Indonesia's case, also with post-tsunami reconstruction plans.

Pro-poor economic growth² and increased livelihood opportunities for poor people are essential for poverty and hunger eradication. New Zealand supports programmes and activities that create a positive environment for economic growth, private sector development and livelihood opportunities. New Zealand through its participation in the Pacific Island Forum is encouraging the Forum Island Countries (FICs) to take steps to reduce the cost of doing business and to promote sustainable economic growth, taking advantage of the opportunities offered by trade amongst themselves (through the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement, PICTA) and with Australia and New Zealand (through an agreement to be negotiated under the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations, PACER).

Economic growth and sustainable development are key planks of the Pacific Plan which New Zealand is currently assisting the Forum to develop. New Zealand supports the Pacific Islands Trade and Investment Commission

NZAID CASE STUDY [MDG 1]

Sudan refugees



NZAID has contributed NZ\$4 million dollars – roughly a dollar per New Zealander – to confronting the vast humanitarian crisis in Darfur, Sudan.

Half that sum was provided in June 2004, while the full extent of the disaster was still unfolding. This was divided equally between the World Food Programme in Darfur and UN High Commission for Refugees operations in both Sudan and neighbouring countries.

A further NZ\$500,000 each went the same month to the New Zealand Red Cross (in support of International Red Cross work in Sudan) and Médecins sans Frontières.

Another NZ\$1 million has been provided to support New Zealand NGOs working with their partners on the ground in Darfur, western Sudan and in neighbouring countries. The NGOs include Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA), Caritas, Christian World Service, Oxfam, Save the Children NZ and World Vision.

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(PITIC), which identifies opportunities in the New Zealand market and promotes FIC products and services. It is also a major contributor to the Regional Trade Facilitation Programme under PACER, smoothing the way for exports from Pacific Island countries and territories through programmes on quarantine, customs and standards. Since 1981 New Zealand has been providing unilateral duty-free access for all products originating from Pacific Forum member countries under the South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (SPARTECA). New Zealand also supports the Pacific Enterprise Development Facility, which helps with the design and delivery of business support to small and medium-sized enterprises.

Fisheries in the Pacific comprise oceanic fisheries, coastal fisheries and aquaculture. These fisheries are critical for the economic development of many Pacific Island countries in the region. The oceanic fisheries resource, based on tuna, is valued at around US\$2 billion per year, of which US\$800-\$900 million is taken in the waters of Pacific Island countries but only around US\$60 million returns to Pacific Island countries. At the regional level, New Zealand works together with Pacific Island countries to ensure the sustainable development of these resources, primarily through the newly established Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency and the Secretariat for the Pacific Community. NZAID programmes support the latter two agencies, and provided support for the establishment of the Commission. In addition, New Zealand defence forces provide maritime surveillance to assist Pacific Island countries protect their fisheries resources. New Zealand is also working in fisheries bilaterally with the Cook Islands and the Solomon Islands to strengthen organisational capability in national fisheries agencies.

Outside the Pacific, support for sustainable rural livelihoods is a core focus of NZAID's regional strategies for both Asia and Latin America. NZAID is in the process of developing a policy on growth and livelihoods to guide its future support in these areas. The policy will encompass economic development, trade, the private sector and food security.

New Zealand annually contributes US\$500,000 to the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research, which aims to mobilise agricultural science toward eradicating extreme poverty and hunger through agricultural growth and natural resource management. New Zealand agricultural research



institutes also contribute to international agricultural research for development both independently and funded by NZAID, most notably through the Asia Development Assistance Facility (ADAF). Finally, New Zealand also provides core funding to the World Food Programme (WFP), and also supports its regional and bilateral programmes in Asia and Africa.

4.2 Achieve universal primary education (MDG 2)

Some progress has been made globally in terms of the achievement of universal primary education and gender parity in education, but much remains to be done. Some 100 million children are still missing out on primary education and 60 percent of these are girls. Of New Zealand's bilateral partner countries in the Pacific and South East Asia, most have a strong chance of achieving the education-related MDGs. However, PNG, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste are at serious risk of not achieving the targets.

Education is of critical importance within NZAID's overarching policy framework and the agency's aim to achieve a safe and just world free of poverty. Education has historically accounted for approximately a third of New Zealand's total annual bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA).

NZAID's education sector priorities, as outlined in the agency's Education Policy, are as follows:

- Improve access to and the quality of basic education, with the aim of assisting core bilateral partner countries to achieve the Education for All (EFA) goals that were agreed internationally in 2000 for completion by 2015, and the two education MDGs
- Support post-basic and tertiary education in core bilateral partner countries and through selected regional programmes, with a particular emphasis on achieving gender equality at these levels of education by 2015.

New Zealand supports these initiatives through approaches that strengthen local leadership of education sector development, and strengthen integration of funding agency and core bilateral partner government efforts.

All people in NZAID's core bilateral partner countries do not enjoy the right to quality basic education and there are some common challenges to achieving the EFA goals in these countries, including:

- the high economic costs of primary schooling for low income families;
- a lack of accountability in some countries and a weakened framework of service delivery relationships;
- weak government capacity to plan and deliver quality education, particularly in post-conflict areas;
- constrained education budgets, particularly on the recurrent side of expenditures and non-salary components;
- increasing populations that put added pressure on already overstretched education systems; and
- social, economic and geographical barriers to access.

NZAID's main aims in education are to assist core bilateral partners to achieve the EFA goals and the education-related MDGs. Reflecting this, New Zealand's aid to basic education as a percentage of its total education ODA has increased from five percent in 1999 to 11 percent by 2003 and 31 percent in 2004³.

NZAID CASE STUDY [MDG 2]

Solomon Islands basic education



In Solomon Islands fewer than three quarters of all children attend primary school and fewer still go on to secondary education.

NZAID is supporting the Solomon Islands Government in its drive to give all children a basic education to Year 9 level. The agency has committed up to NZ\$30 million from 2004-06. This year education funding makes up more than NZ\$12 million of the NZ\$16 million NZAID Solomons budget.

This money is being used to help put a trained teacher in every classroom and improve teacher training; revise and update the curriculum and textbooks; put a library and clean toilets into every school; and develop a fair and affordable funding formula that will share education costs between the government, community and parents.

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NZAID support for post-basic and tertiary education includes distance learning, technical/vocational education and training, financial and technical assistance, and scholarships. The agency gives priority to strengthening existing higher education institutions and systems in the region, and works to produce secondary and tertiary education programmes that are gender-balanced, disability-inclusive and cost-effective.

As outlined in its new Education Strategy, NZAID's support for all levels of education (basic, secondary and tertiary) incorporates approaches and mechanisms designed to strengthen local leadership and accountability, and increases integration of funding agency and partner government effort. NZAID applies these principles in its core bilateral partner countries and encourages their wider application through support for multilateral agencies and in international and regional education arenas. The agency appreciates that its assistance to educational development in core bilateral partner countries is a two-way process and educational benefits flow in both directions.

An example of New Zealand's support for education goals comes from the Solomon Islands. Although there has been considerable education progress since independence in 1978, there is a serious risk that the country may not achieve any of the EFA goals or the education-related MDGs. With this in mind, the Solomon Islands Government has developed a national vision for educational development called the Education Strategic Plan (ESP). Through the ESP the Solomon Islands Government aims to rebuild and reform the education system and, in particular, to provide access for all to quality basic education (a total of nine years for all children) by 2015. New Zealand has provided financial support and technical assistance for the ESP, and has also worked with other donors, notably the European Union (EU), World Bank and AusAID, to develop harmonised, simplified, results-based approaches for financial support to education.

New Zealand is also working with partner governments and other donors to develop sector wide approaches to basic education in Viet Nam, Tonga, Timor-Leste, Cook Islands, Kiribati and potentially Indonesia.

Under New Zealand's Treaty of Friendship with Samoa, New Zealand's Ministry of Education is involved in a Shared Teaching Resources Project, while in Niue the Ministry is engaged in the delivery of education services under the Strengthened Cooperation Programme.



New Zealand recognises that the globalisation of education and education policy has far-reaching implications for the development of education in partner countries. The agency respects, and is sensitive to, diversity in educational development and differences in local tradition, convention and politics within the framework of its commitments to the EFA goals and the MDGs.

4.3 Promote gender equality and empower women (MDG 3)

There is overwhelming evidence that ignoring gender inequality comes at a great cost to people's wellbeing. Gender inequality also affects a country's ability to govern effectively, grow sustainably and eliminate poverty. Inequality and poverty are not simply development issues. Working to eliminate poverty and remove inequalities directly addresses fundamental principles of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and other international human rights instruments. Equality, equity and empowerment are fundamental human rights principles. While there are many forms of inequality, the most pervasive is that based on gender. Gender inequality cuts across other forms of inequality and intersects with economic deprivation to produce more intensified forms of poverty for women than men.

Kofi Annan (UN Secretary General) summed up these ideas to the Commission on the Status of Women in 2005:

“Sixty years have passed since the founders of the United Nations inscribed, on the first page of our charter, the equal rights of men and women. Since then, study after study has taught us that there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women. No other policy is as likely to raise economic productivity, or to reduce infant and maternal mortality. No other policy is as sure

to improve nutrition and promote health – including the prevention of HIV/AIDS. No other policy is as powerful in increasing the chances of education for the next generation. And I also venture that no policy is more important in preventing conflict, or in achieving reconciliation after a conflict has ended. But whatever the very real benefit of investing in women, the most important fact remains: women themselves have the right to live in dignity, in freedom from want and from fear.”

Progress on achieving MDG 3 and the associated four targets – covering the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women – is uneven across regions. Gender equality therefore remains an unfulfilled goal and the education parity target for 2005 will be missed in many countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Access to sexual and reproductive health information and services remains inadequate in many countries. In the Pacific, net primary school enrolment rates for girls remain below 80 percent, maternal mortality remains high and HIV and tuberculosis infection rates are rising. The Beijing Platform for Action and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action provide the international blueprint for the promotion and protection of women's rights, and must remain at the heart of international human rights and development.

NZAID CASE STUDY [MDG 3]

Tamil Nadu Women's Resource Centre



A New Zealand supported Women's Development Resource Centre in Tamil Nadu, South India, has helped women and families in 300 communities dramatically change their lives.

The centre has worked to free Dalit (Untouchable) women and families from bonded labour, set up credit unions and a women labourers' bank, helped women to prepare to start small businesses and stand for local government, and has petitioned government for village access to water and electricity.

The centre has received support from New Zealand through Christian World Service. Under NZAID's Voluntary Agency Support Scheme (VASS), the project qualifies for a 4:1 matching grant.

The story of the centre and its founders has been told in a documentary film, "Now we are Fearless", made by New Zealand development workers.

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New Zealand recognises that gender equality and women's empowerment is both an MDG in its own right and a key means to achieving all the MDGs. If the goal is to be achieved by 2015, a number of key interdependent strategic priorities must be effectively addressed, including:

- guaranteeing sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- strengthening post-primary education opportunities for girls, while simultaneously meeting universal primary education;
- investing in infrastructure (such as water supplies) to reduce women's time burdens;
- guaranteeing women's and girls' property and inheritance rights;
- eliminating gender inequality in employment;
- eliminating violence against women and girls; and
- increasing women's political participation and representation at all levels of government.

While only one of the goals explicitly addresses gender equality and the empowerment of women, all the goals implicitly recognise that gender inequality exacerbates poverty, and poverty exacerbates inequality between women and men.

New Zealand is committed to achieving equitable development benefits for women and men, girls and boys. NZAID has been updating its Gender Policy to reflect this. At an international level, New Zealand calls for the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the ICPD. At the programming level, the strategic approach of NZAID is to ensure that women's empowerment and gender equality are actively pursued in all development activities.

Examples of New Zealand's support for gender equality and women's empowerment include its funding for the implementation of the CEDAW in the Pacific region through the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Pacific. This programme aims to strengthen governments' capacity to implement CEDAW and support civil society efforts to contribute to monitoring and reporting on CEDAW. New Zealand also supports the work of UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the UNIFEM in its global multilateral and Pacific programmes.

Another example of New Zealand's support is its assistance to the Vanuatu Women's Centre's (VWC) Advocacy Training Programme for men. This is run with the support of the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and has



provided VWC with funding to run a training course aimed at challenging and changing men's attitudes to women. Under its Voluntary Agency Support Scheme (VASS), NZAID has also provided co-funding for New Zealand NGO initiatives targeting gender equity and equality issues.

4.4 Reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, and combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases (MDGs 4-6)

Significant global progress has been made towards achieving MDGs 4-6. Nevertheless 11 million children under the age of five still die of disease each year and 500,000 women die in childbirth. Most of these deaths are preventable. In 2003 some 38 million people were living with HIV/AIDS and 2.9 million died from it. Each year one million people die from malaria and 1.6 million people from tuberculosis. Health is closely interrelated with a number of MDGs other than MDGs 4-6. Malnutrition, covered under MDG 1, is a contributing factor in 60 percent of all the deaths of children under the age of five. Safe water and access to affordable and essential drugs, covered under MDG 7 and MDG 8, are likewise closely linked to health. Gender equality and the empowerment of women (MDG 3), particularly in relation to sexual and reproductive health and rights, is inextricably linked to the achievement of all the MDGs, including MDGs 4-6.

The progress of NZAID's bilateral partner countries towards achieving the health-related MDGs is mixed, with some – including Melanesian countries – being at serious risk of not achieving some or all of the goals. Improving the health status of those living in poverty is a cornerstone of NZAID's commitment to achieving a safe and just world free of poverty. New Zealand focuses on improved health through approaches that strengthen local level capacity in health sector development.

NZAID's Health Policy prioritises support for development partners' efforts to increase people's wellbeing through:

- strengthening access to and provision of primary health care, including health promotion, health protection and disease prevention;
- providing some assistance for secondary and tertiary level care in selected Pacific partner countries in ways that are cost effective and strategic in focus; and
- promoting a multi-dimensional view of health through collaboration across sectors.

Alongside direct programme support for achieving the health-related MDGs, New Zealand works at the policy level, helping partners incorporate MDG goals and targets into their health policies and plans. An example is PNG, where rates of HIV/AIDS infection are now as high as two percent, New Zealand has worked with the National Department of Health and other donors to ensure that HIV/AIDS is recognised as a top priority in the health sector-wide approach.

Most of New Zealand multilateral, regional and bilateral assistance in health is aimed at supporting the achievement of the MDGs and the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights. For example, through its multilateral programme, New Zealand provides core funding to agencies such as the UNFPA, UNICEF, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and

NZAID CASE STUDY [MDG 4]

UNICEF Pacific partnership



NZAID has signed an agreement to contribute NZ\$2 million over three years to UNICEF Pacific programmes with a strong focus on preventing child mortality.

An immunisation programme is aimed in its current phase at getting essential life-saving vaccines to every child and woman of reproductive age. This will help the region eliminate measles and improve Hepatitis B control. The project will also support communicable disease surveillance in the Pacific.

A Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV Programme aims to lessen the impact of HIV/AIDS among women, their partners and children in seven countries: Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji and Tuvalu. The latter two have particularly high numbers of reported HIV/AIDS cases.

UNICEF is also running a Pacific Life Skills programme aimed at teenagers.

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the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). One-off payments have also been made to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) and the global polio eradication campaign.

4.4.1 Reduce child mortality (MDG 4)

The tools to reduce infant and child mortality are within our immediate reach. Each year routine immunisation saves the lives of 3000 Pacific children. New Zealand, through its support to UNICEF Pacific, is enabling our partners in the Pacific to achieve high immunisation coverage against such disabling and potentially fatal diseases as measles, tuberculosis and polio.

Support for our partners' efforts to combat child mortality is also channeled through grass-roots organisations like Save the Children New Zealand. In the remote East Sepik province of PNG, Save the Children is training village women to deliver basic health care, including maternal and child health services. In close to 400 villages, mothers are now supported to care for their infants and children have access to life-saving essential medicines.

4.4.2 Improve maternal health (MDG 5)

While long a silent tragedy, the MDGs have transformed the issue of maternal illness and death into one that is critical to the achievement of equitable and sustainable development. Universal access to sexual and reproductive health services (including HIV/AIDS

services), substantial health sector investment and a continuum of care is needed to combat the pregnancy and birth induced illness suffered by some 300 million women throughout the world today.

New Zealand is doing its part in the Asia and Pacific region to secure a healthy future for mothers and their communities. In PNG, New Zealand is supporting the National Department of Health to implement programmes aimed at making motherhood safer and in Viet Nam, New Zealand's support is ensuring that more mothers and children are able to live to invest in the development of their own communities.

4.4.3 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases (MDG 6)

It is clear how a lack of adequate investment in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care has the potential both to reverse hard won development gains and to render current and future development investment across all sectors ineffective. In high prevalence countries, HIV/AIDS is now the leading cause of death for women and children (below the age of five) and is a major contributing factor towards sharply declining human development indicators such as life expectancy and educational enrolment.

In our own region of the Pacific, HIV/AIDS now poses a significant threat to equitable and sustainable development.

NZAID CASE STUDY [MDG 5]

Viet Nam maternal health



Concern over high death rates among mothers and babies in Viet Nam lies behind a major NZAID maternal and child health project in Binh Dinh province. It is NZAID's largest single bilateral aid project outside the Pacific.

Over the next four years New Zealand will work with the Vietnamese Government and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to provide improved maternity and birth care, particularly in Binh Dinh's remote and mountainous back country. New Zealand funding will total some NZ\$4.2 million.

A major focus is on strengthening the province's health professionals through activities such as training and the standardisation of reproductive care across the province.

In some areas of Viet Nam more than 200 mothers from every 100,000 who give birth die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth. Child mortality nationally is five times higher than in New Zealand – 30 deaths for every 1000 babies born.

Several countries are now experiencing a generalised epidemic, and infection rates are high and on the increase in parts of Micronesia and Polynesia. Like other regions in the world, women, especially those of childbearing age, are at particular risk of contracting the virus.

Non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular disease and obesity represent the 'other diseases' that must be combated in the Pacific region. Growing rates of mental illness, substance abuse and psychological stress, also classified as non-communicable diseases, intensify this burden and add to the difficulties Pacific nations face in effectively eliminating poverty.

New Zealand works to support our partners' efforts to achieve MDG 6 by supporting the implementation of the Pacific Regional HIV/AIDS strategy, through the mobilisation of leadership across all levels and sectors and through the promotion of policy to realise an effective and sustainable response to HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.



NZAID CASE STUDY [MDG 6]

Pacific Islands AIDS Foundation (PIAF)



PIAF is a charitable trust, established in the Cook Islands, that has been in operation since early 2003. It is the only regional NGO that focuses solely on HIV/AIDS in the Pacific.

The Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families throughout the region, and to preventing further spread of the disease through messages given by people living with HIV/AIDS.

NZAID is providing NZ\$720,000 in core funding for PIAF for three years from 2004.

MDG 7 aims to ensure environmental sustainability, including integration of the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reversal of the loss of environmental resources. New Zealand works to ensure environmental sustainability in developing countries through:

- strongly supporting and promoting international environmental organisations and multilateral environmental agreements; and
- assistance to developing countries so that they can pursue sustainable environmental goals.

4.5.1 Environmental sustainability

New Zealand pursues a sustainable development approach internationally through such means as international forums and bilateral, regional and multilateral negotiations. The Minister for the Environment attended the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and New Zealand has been actively represented at subsequent Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) meetings. New Zealand has also contributed to the sustainable development debate in multilateral organisations such as the OECD.

NZAID identifies “sustainable and equitable development” as one of its four strategic outcomes. The agency is currently in the process of developing its Environment Policy and Strategy to give greater clarity and direction to this outcome.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face a unique range of challenges and constraints to achieving sustainable development. They are often vulnerable to the effects of climate change, the loss of biodiversity, and natural disasters such as tropical cyclones.

New Zealand has a special interest in the sustainable development of Pacific SIDS. Pacific countries have a strong focus regionally and nationally on achieving sustainable development. Regionally they have identified the key priorities for their collective sustainable development. These represent a regional subset of the global targets of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Mauritius Strategy. They consist of 14 initiatives focused on:

- adaptation to climate change;
- energy;
- vulnerability and disaster management;
- water and sanitation and human settlements;
- mainstreaming conservation;
- waste management;

- health;
- community development and planning;
- oceans;
- information communication technology;
- capacity building and education;
- land resources;
- tourism; and
- governance.

At a national level Pacific SIDS are in the process of national sustainable development planning. This process seeks to build environmental sustainability into national development planning, helping national governments to more readily identify their priorities.

New Zealand seeks to align its development assistance with Pacific efforts to achieve sustainable environmental results from these regional initiatives and national strategies. New Zealand has developed a particular focus on:

- adaptation to climate change;
- water, sanitation and human settlements;
- the link between biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods, with a particular focus on ecotourism, management of invasive alien species and marine species protection;
- building resilience to natural disasters;
- human resource development for Pacific environment departments;
- sustainable energy; and
- waste management.

New Zealand is a major contributor to regional coordination of the Pacific sustainable development agenda through the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific. Current NZAID Pacific regional environment expenditure is NZ\$7.1 million annually.

4.5.2 Biological diversity

The main geographic area of focus for New Zealand’s aid programme is the Pacific. SIDS such as those in the Pacific are characterised by a high level of biodiversity but are especially vulnerable to biodiversity loss as a result of coastal erosion, the spread of invasive species and climate change.

In many places in the region, communities rely heavily on healthy ecosystems to support their livelihoods. Healthy ecosystems represent an increase in the assets of local communities and strengthen their resilience. On the other hand, degraded ecosystems with low biodiversity deprive communities of essential goods

and services and increase their vulnerability to poverty. Maintenance of biodiversity is therefore a key outcome for the achievement of sustainable development, particularly for island communities. This is well recognised by NZAID's Pacific partner countries, which rate environmentally sustainable development among their highest priorities in both regional and national strategies for sustainable development.

Sustainable environmental development requires a long-term focus and careful planning. New Zealand is supporting the development and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans (NBSAPs) in the Pacific. These are required under the Convention on Biological Diversity as a way to plan for the maintenance of island biodiversity. The plans include the integration of biodiversity priorities into broader National Sustainable Development Strategies (or equivalent national-level development plans). New Zealand is also supporting the regional coordination and implementation of the Pacific Action Strategy for Nature Conservation.

At a Pacific regional level New Zealand is a primary funder of initiatives to manage alien invasive species and to mainstream conservation in development planning. At a national and local level New Zealand has responded to Pacific requests for assistance in developing livelihoods based on sustainable environmental management. In particular, development

partners have sought New Zealand assistance in the establishment of community ecotourism projects. Several of these have received international awards for improving community livelihoods whilst achieving nature conservation goals. Examples include Bouma Heritage Park village ecotourism in Fiji; Nam Ha village ecotourism in Lao; and Mt Rinjani National Park community ecotourism in Indonesia.

New Zealand also works at a national level to support the development of high priority tourism livelihood development. In Samoa there is an extremely high level of local management and ownership of the tourism industry and its unique ecotourism "product", beach *fale* tourism. Through a Tourism Support Fund, New Zealand has successfully worked to provide advice and practical support to local tourism operators (for example through funding of water tanks, first aid courses and building materials). The agency has given capacity building support for the Samoa Tourist Authority to ensure the sustainability of this important industry in the longer term. The Government of the Philippines has also received long-term New Zealand assistance to develop a national ecotourism strategy and key ecotourism sites.

In 2006, parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will consider a work programme focused exclusively on island biodiversity. In recognition of the fact that SIDS are particularly vulnerable to loss of biodiversity, this programme will place

NZAID CASE STUDY [MDG 7]

Fighting foreign pests



NZAID is helping to fight the spread of invasive introduced animals and plants in the Pacific, one of the major threats to island biodiversity.

Alien pests such as rats, ants and cane toads can also threaten people's livelihoods by affecting the natural resources on which people rely. Increasing trade and tourism provide new pathways for invasion.

The regional invasive species project aims to improve management capability and cooperation in the region. It will focus on "demonstration projects" involving both conservation and social and economic goals. Training and skill sharing is an important component.

The project is part of a global Cooperative Islands Initiative. New Zealand has committed NZ\$1 million over three years from 1 June 2004.

special emphasis on oceanic island ecosystems. Through the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), New Zealand has committed NZ\$250,000 to help the Pacific take part in the development and implementation of the biodiversity programme. The programme (through the Global Environment Facility as the convention's financial mechanism) is one of the most significant new sources of support for high priority national biodiversity actions for islands.

4.5.3 Efficient energy consumption

The Pacific SIDS face the following unique challenges associated with energy for sustainable development:

- Population centres and markets are small and isolated
- Most countries do not have indigenous petroleum resources, petroleum storage facilities are limited and island populations are small and widely scattered
- Energy infrastructure development has the potential to significantly affect fragile island ecosystems
- Despite being significant energy users, women are under-represented in energy policy, planning and development
- Current energy sources are inefficient and carry significant health risks (e.g. indoor cooking fires; poorly maintained diesel engines), especially to those with the least ability to gain access to clean and/or renewable technologies
- The development of renewable energy resources in the Pacific has been limited by poor availability of appropriate technology.

The South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) has the regional mandate for coordinating energy policies. SOPAC has led the revision of the Pacific Energy Policy, which is likely to be endorsed by Ministers at a regional meeting in 2005. This Policy forms the basis of the Pacific Island Energy Strategic Action Plan, which is implemented through the Pacific Energy Partnership.

As part of New Zealand's voluntary commitment towards climate change-related activities in developing countries, New Zealand is considering how to contribute to the Pacific Energy Partnership so that people with the greatest needs have sustainable access to clean and healthy energy supplies. In the meantime New Zealand is assisting a number of Pacific partners bilaterally with energy projects. In Tonga, for instance, New Zealand is funding a renewable energy project to advance social and economic development by providing solar electricity to households on remote Niuafu'ou Island. New Zealand will contribute NZ\$950,000 to this project between 2004 and 2007.



4.5.4 Climate change

Because of its many low-lying islands and naturally dynamic climate, the Pacific is one of the regions most vulnerable to the effects of global climate change. Anticipated outcomes of global climate change include declining water availability, reduced agricultural productivity, increased flooding from sea level rise and heavier rainfall in some areas. These negative effects are likely to impact disproportionately on the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable countries and communities. Internationally, climate change is increasingly recognised as one of the most significant global environmental issues for the poor.

The SIDS of the Pacific recognise the threat of climate change to their future sustainable development. Pacific Islands Forum leaders have included the issue as a priority in the Pacific Plan currently under development. A Pacific Framework for Climate Change already exists and is under further development. There are other major initiatives to bring about sustainable development in response to the challenges of climate change, focusing on adaptation to climate change; vulnerability to climate change; and water supply and sanitation in the face of changing climate patterns.

New Zealand sees the Pacific Framework on Climate Change as the key strategy against which donors should align support for climate change work in the Pacific. As a first priority, New Zealand is working to ensure the current framework review clearly articulates the region's priorities, as defined by Pacific countries themselves.

It is likely the framework will provide impetus to the development of the Pacific's adaptation initiative, which is not yet operational. New Zealand will support the implementation of the framework and the adaptation initiative through its new Pacific Climate Change Allocation. This comprises NZ\$1.5 million per annum in 2005 and 2006 and there is an expectation that this will increase from 2007.

The majority of the projects to be funded under NZAID's Pacific Climate Change Allocation have yet to be identified. Already agreed, however, is three years' funding for the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme for an adaptation officer, and continued support to the framework review process. Under consideration are the following projects:

- An adaptation project by Conservation International on the island of New Guinea that seeks to protect natural and agricultural ecosystems from the effects of climate change by identifying what communities can do to reduce their vulnerability
- An adaptation project by The Nature Conservancy in Palau that aims to protect and promote sustainable livelihoods through the establishment of resilient marine protected areas
- An awareness-raising project by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) aimed at helping NGOs in Niue and the Cook Islands to participate in national climate change processes and identify opportunities to reduce their vulnerability to climate change.

4.5.5 Support for housing, sanitation and safe drinking water

Access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation remains a challenge for significant numbers of people in many of New Zealand's partner countries. In the Pacific, New Zealand helps to find sustainable and gender-sensitive solutions to water and sanitation development and management. Water is a key resource for the achievement of sustainable development. In SIDS, the effective management of water resources is a particular challenge owing to their small size, competing land uses and vulnerability to drought, cyclones and pollution. In the Pacific, forum leaders have endorsed a Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Water Management as the guiding strategy for the management of water resources. This is to be facilitated by SOPAC.

New Zealand has already provided support for SOPAC to manage the production of monthly island climate updates (which increase planning effectiveness in climate

sensitive sectors by communicating the probability of national climate extremes) and to run a four-week course to train Pacific hydrologists in the collection and use of water data. Further support is under consideration for a water quality monitoring project and a water demand management project, both to be managed by SOPAC.

New Zealand is also supporting water, sanitation and human settlement projects through NZAID regional and bilateral programmes. For example in remote parts of China, Viet Nam, Vanuatu and Tonga, New Zealand has supported the establishment of community drinking water supply systems. In the Solomon Islands, New Zealand is supporting the construction of school toilets as part of its broader support of the education sector. In Fiji New Zealand plans to work with the Squatter Settlement Division of the Fiji Ministry of Local Government, Housing, Squatter Settlements and Environment (MLGHSSE) and its partner NGOs, Habitat for Humanity and Rotahomes, to develop plots for displaced farmers and destitute squatters, and to fund infrastructure such as electricity, drainage and water supply.