



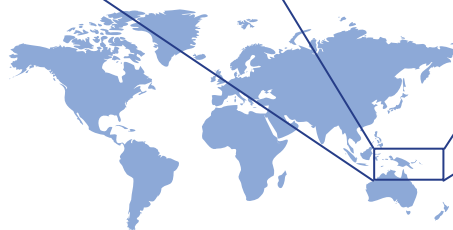
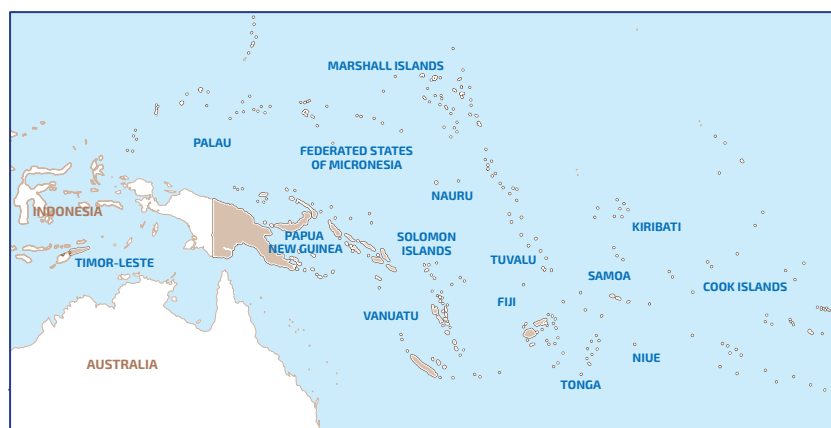
European Union action in the **PACIFIC**

The Pacific countries and the EU are key partners in support of multilateralism and the rules-based international order and we share important priorities: climate change, 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 partnership. 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 the **2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent**. The Team Europe Initiative "Green Blue Alliance for the Pacific" is a key vehicle for making a reality of our shared vision in the Pacific. It brings together the EU, EU Member States, the European Investment Bank, and the 18 countries and territories of the Pacific region to work. The sustainable use of the natural capital in the Pacific will be the basis for inclusive and sustainable economic development.

The EU's development assistance for the Pacific for the years 2021-2027 amounts to around **€750 million** (including the PICs, PNG, Timor-Leste and 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. Over time, the EIB has provided €763 million in loans and equity, mobilizing €5.1 billion investment.

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 Pacific island countries, including through its International Climate Initiative (IKI).



The 15 Pacific island countries 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 a Dialogue Partner of the **Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)**, the region's main political organisation. The EU has significant political engagement with the Pacific Islands Countries (PICs) through regular Political Dialogues. France, Germany, Italy and Spain are also Dialogue Partners of the PIF. 21 Member States are accredited to the Pacific Islands countries; France, Germany, Spain and Portugal have diplomatic presences in the region.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are an essential partner of the EU in the Pacific 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 2018-2024, the EU has provided over € 38 million either directly or indirectly to CSO partners.



1. Sustainable and inclusive prosperity



The EU is committed to supporting the economic development of its Pacific partners. Its **Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)** with several PICs (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands) offers full tariff-free and quota-free access for goods from these countries to the EU single market.

The EPA has had a positive impact in the region. In 2022, EU trade with the Pacific region totalled **€4 billion**, double compared with 2012.

Tonga, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Niue and Vanuatu are in the process of **joining the EPA**.



The EU is both a significant market destination and source of goods and services for Pacific countries. The value of trade in services between the EU and Pacific was worth **€9 billion** in 2021. Via the EIB, the EU also contributes to the development of local small- and medium-sized enterprises in the region by improving their access to financing. In the last three years, **€35.7 million** were disbursed to help these enterprises in tackling the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis.



2. Green transition



Green Climate Fund (GCF): the EU, its Member States and EIB, contribute **45%** of the total funds. Since 2015, GCF funding has approved projects from **9 PICs**, amounting to **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 EU and France support the **Kiwa Initiative**, a multi-donor program that aims to strengthen the climate change resilience of **Pacific Island ecosystems, communities and economies through Nature-Based Solutions**. It has a total capitalization of €75 million.



3. Ocean governance



EU & Pacific team up to promote sustainable fishing and marine resources management, maritime domain awareness, scientific research through the Pacific-European Union (EU) Marine Partnership with a funding of **€45 million** (€10 million provided by Sweden).

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

The programme **Critical Maritime Routes in the Indo-Pacific (CRIMARIO II)** can also contribute to ocean governance, through fisheries data (monitoring, control and surveillance as well as fight against IUU).

4. Digital governance and partnerships



The EU provides **€8 million funding** for the "Pacific Digital Economy Programme", that supports the development of inclusive digital economies in the Pacific. The EU supports with **€1 million** the **Pacific Digital Democracy Initiative**, together with UNDP, in order to advance participatory digitalisation processes in Fiji, FSM, the Solomon Islands and Tonga.

5. Connectivity



The EU's actions in the Pacific (**under the Global Gateway strategy**) aim to promote all dimensions of connectivity with its partners in the region, especially via investments supported by the EIB but also other EU Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) as well as the private sector:



Global Gateway

€75 million

Water and wastewater infrastructure project in Fiji

€58.4 million

Project to replace obsolete bridges with permanent, climate-resilient structures in Papua New Guinea

€4.7 million

Fiji hydropower feasibility study

€18 million

Water and wastewater infrastructure project in the Solomon Islands

€5 million

Technical Assistance supporting investments in water, wastewater and forestry in Timor-Leste



6. Security and defence



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



Within the "**Enhancing Security Cooperation in and with Asia**" project (ESIWA) the EU works with Asian partners on maritime and cyber security, counter-terrorism and peacekeeping. Some areas of ESIWA could also support Pacific partners.



7. Human security



Humanitarian and disaster support

€3 million

for **Pacific Response to Disaster Displacement (PRDD) Project** (2019–2022)

€22.3 million

in **humanitarian aid** by the EU's DG ECHO provided to the Pacific, of which €12.4 million supported disaster preparedness/risk reduction in Pacific countries. EIB has also made two donations: one in Tonga (volcanic eruption and tsunami, 2022) and one in Vanuatu (cyclones and earthquake, 2023), amounting a total of €0.2 million.

The EU's Copernicus Rapid Mapping was activated since 2015 for Pacific countries that were hit by natural disasters. The Mapping provides geospatial information in support of emergency management activities immediately following the disasters (Tonga, Timor-Leste, Fiji, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea).

€14 million

To make disaster risk information more accessible from government to household levels, and to inspire a societal change.

Implemented in 15 PICs, the "Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific Phase II" (BSRP II) project aims to promote strengthened disaster risk governance, better monitoring and mapping of risks and the impacts of extreme events.



Health

€2.85 million

in EU funding to support Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN)

€120 million

to tackle COVID pandemic

More than **2,418,070**

EU-supplied vaccine doses through COVAX



Supporting education

The **Global Partnership for Education** (GPE), aiming at transforming education in lower-income countries, granted over USD 21.1 million to 9 Pacific Island States in 2021–2022. Additionally, the Czech Republic and Malta provided support on education in PNG and scholarships to Fiji and Niue.

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.

€ 36.5 million provided by the **Global Partnership for Education**. It supports regional collaboration under the Pacific Regional Education Framework 2018–30.



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).

