

Lending in the Pacific by sector

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES, OTHERS

SUPPORT FOR SMES

THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK IN THE PACIFIC

The European Investment Bank supports the policy priorities of the European Union and its Member States in the Pacific region.

We lend to projects in the public and private sectors with a **strong development impact** that promote **economic stability**, **sustainable growth and employment**. In this way, the Bank seeks to reduce poverty in its partner countries. We work in these countries under the Cotonou Agreement and the Overseas Association Decision.

The EIB's commitment to **climate action** remains strong in the Pacific region. A large percentage of the world's small island developing states are found here, and they are particularly vulnerable to climate change, which affects vital infrastructure, livelihoods, food security, health and ecosystems.



PITCAIRN ISLANDS



ENERGY TRANSPORT WATER &WASTE MANUFACTURING

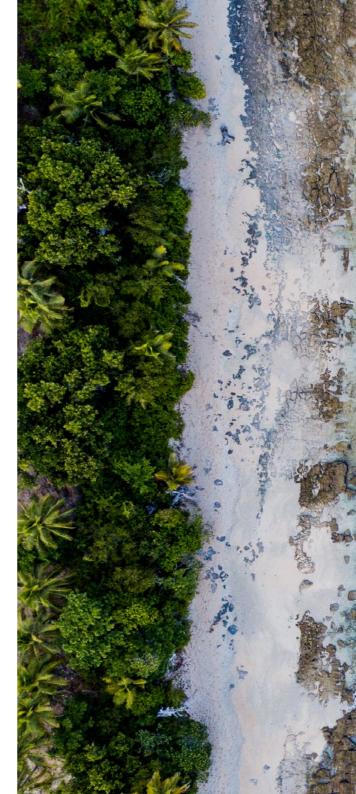
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IMPROVING WATER SERVICES IN FIJI

Climate change poses an existential threat to the Pacific Islands, through rising sea levels and an increase in extreme weather events such as cyclones. The effects can be devastating, from ruined crops to the proliferation of waterborne diseases. In Fiji, current water systems are not adequate to withstand the effects of flooding.

The EIB has teamed up with the Fijian Government, the Green Climate Fund and the Asian Development Bank to strengthen the resilience of water services and wastewater infrastructure in Suva, Fiji's capital. The EIB will provide \$75 million in financing as part of a \$405 million investment programme undertaken by the Water Authority of Fiji to reinforce water systems after the mass destruction caused by Cyclone Winston, a record-breaking storm that hit Fiji in February 2016.









More than 275 000 people living around Suva will benefit from the new EIB-supported investment, which will improve access to clean water and reduce leaks and breaks in service. The upgraded system will also be adapted to withstand increasingly intense tropical storms, resulting in fewer interruptions to service. The project includes the construction of a new water treatment plant and the upgrading of existing wastewater treatment facilities, as well as the improvement and expansion of water networks.

Once completed, the project will support a number of United Nations sustainable development goals including good health, economic development and sustainable urban growth. This inclusive project will promote gender equality as the Water Authority of Fiji will employ a social impact specialist to make sure the project provides equal opportunities for women to work in both technical services and maintenance.

EIB PROJECTS IN THE PACIFIC INCLUDE:

- replacing rural bridges in Papua New Guinea
- constructing a new hospital on the outskirts of Nouméa, the capital of New Caledonia
- constructing the first wind farm in Vanuatu
- boosting access to finance by providing funds to small businesses across the region, including in the Federated States of Micronesia, New Caledonia and French Polynesia
- constructing a sea water air-conditioning (SWAC) system for the main hospital in Tahiti, French Polynesia, using renewable energy
- providing finance to microenterprises and low-income households in
 Timor Leste, with a focus on agriculture and education







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WE ARE the long-term lending institution of the European Union. We support projects that contribute to sustainable development in the EU's partner countries in the Pacific, working closely with European bodies such as the European Commission and international financial institutions.

