The Pacific Islands Forum leaders have long recognized climate change as a priority development issue that requires coordinated global efforts for a more effective response. ADB’s position allows it to analyze the complex problems at all levels, identify appropriate solutions based on a comprehensive understanding of the countries’ needs and capacities, and mobilize technical and financial assistance. For their part, Pacific developing member countries (DMCs) have begun to mainstream climate change considerations in their national policies and planning processes.

STEPPING UP ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is considered the greatest environmental, social, and economic challenge facing the Pacific countries today. ADB, through its Climate Change Implementation Plan for the Pacific, is committed to providing its Pacific DMCs a broad spectrum of technical and financial support, along with capacity development, for implementing national measures that will ensure continued economic growth in the face of climate change. ADB is also developing new assistance modalities to integrate the policy and investment components needed to build greater resilience in the region.

Regional Initiatives
Since the first regional climate change adaptation project was implemented in the Cook Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) in 2003–2005, ADB has supported the climate change response of its Pacific DMCs through these regional initiatives:

- mainstreaming of climate change adaptation and mitigation in country partnership strategies with the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu to incorporate climate change implications in economic development policies and planning processes;
- conduct of climate risk studies in 10 Pacific DMCs (Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu) and preparation of their climate risk profiles to serve as bases for climate change adaptation initiatives;
- a technical assistance—Promoting Climate Change Adaptation in Asia and the Pacific—designed to (i) mainstream adaptation issues into investment planning in Asia and the Pacific, (ii) develop national capacity for adaptation, (iii) coordinate and strengthen international community responses for adaptation, and (iv) support participating governments in adopting climate-sensitive investment programs, plans, and policies;
- ADB Pacific Climate Change Program, which supports capacity building (including toward accessing finance), creating data and information resources, and designing climate-resilient projects and programs;
- Coral Triangle Initiative—funded by ADB, United States Agency for International Development, Australian Agency for International Development, and the Global Environment Facility—which supports Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, and Vanuatu in strengthening their marine and coastal resources management systems, with emphasis on increased resilience and adaptation to climate change; and
- Pilot Program for Climate Resilience, being implemented by ADB and the World Bank under the Climate Investment Funds, designed to help integrate climate resilience into Pacific DMCs’ policies, strategies, and programs, and strengthen related capacities.

Country-Specific Responses
In support of the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006–2015, ADB incorporates climate change adaptation options in the design of climate-sensitive investment projects to enhance their resilience to, and reduce the risks posed by, climate change. Examples are:

- Rehabilitation and expansion of the Avatiu Port Development Project (Cook Islands) and Highland Region Road Improvement Project (PNG);

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2 The Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.
Solomon Islands Second Road Improvement Sector Project (2009–2015), which includes climate adaptation strategies in the design of road projects;

Timor-Leste Road Network Development Sector Project (2009–2015), incorporating climate change adaptation into the design and implementation of road works;

PNG Town Electrification Investment Project (2010–2014), including climate proofing of rural electrification facilities; and

Port Vila Urban Development Project (Vanuatu), which includes climate proofing drainage and sanitation infrastructure.

In general, projects to be implemented in ADB’s priority sectors (natural resource management including agriculture and rural development, water, energy, transport, and urban development) will be supported with climate risk reduction and resilience measures; policy and legal reform; institutional capacity building; and information, education, and communication campaigns on climate change.

**Sector Development Programs**

ADB has recognized the need to adopt a coordinated program of sector-wide interventions that deal with climate change in a systematic and sustainable manner. ADB is proposing a sector development program modality that combines a policy-based program (to which technical assistance is attached) and an investment component.

Climate change sector development programs (CC-SDPs) can provide budget support to assist Pacific DMCs to mainstream climate change considerations into their sector plans. Budget support fosters greater country ownership, with funds channeled through national systems, and promotes improved coordination between the government and partners.

Investment funds and implementation support are also provided to enable the DMCs to undertake priority climate-responsive projects in line with their existing development strategies. Such investments may include support for climate proofing infrastructures, low-carbon development, and specific adaptation measures addressing climate change vulnerability.

As part of country programming activities, ADB will engage in dialogue with Pacific DMCs on the use of CC-SDP modalities to deliver climate-responsive sector assistance.

**Way Forward**

ADB’s Pacific Department will continue to work within the overall framework of Strategy 2020 and the Pacific Approach 2010–2014, under which new activities, including adaptation, will be formulated, taking into account the envelope of internal resources, availability of cofinancing, and the absorptive capacity of Pacific DMCs.

The Millennium Development Goals of Pacific DMCs will not be achieved without proactive efforts to mitigate the causes, and adapt to the impacts, of climate change. The climate change agenda has become one of the defining challenges that ADB—and the entire development community—must face in achieving further progress in poverty reduction.

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**ADB Climate Change Sector Development Program Modality**

- **Budget support**
- **Technical assistance**
- **Investment funds**

**Sector-Level Policy Support**

- Strengthening of policies, institutions, and regulations, e.g., incorporating climate risk assessments into investment screening and other due diligence processes, updated land use plans, and building codes to reflect climate risks.

**Climate Responsive Sector Development**

- Use of climate risk information in feasibility assessments to analyze vulnerability of investments to climate change, assessment of climate-proofing options, and integration of climate proofing measures into project design.

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