

## Energy storage policy updates cook islands

This Country Program was developed as part of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness and Preparatory Support program. The key objective of the Country Programme is to outline the priorities that can be supported by the GCF and other development partners to progress the paradigm shift in the Cook Islands to achieve low emissions and climate resilient development. It serves as a roadmap for coherent engagement with partners in order to maximise financial opportunities and ensure that resources are directed efficiently towards national climate and development priorities.

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2021 and the draft Cook Islands Climate Change Policy 2018-28. It has been informed by the community, the public and private sectors, and nongovernment and civil society partners, through participatory approaches, under the guidance of the National Designated Authority, the Climate Change Cook Islands division of the Office of the Prime Minister.

The national government will provide the oversight for the implementation of this Country Programme, including the operationalising of a system of national coordination. All sectors and levels of government will be responsible to integrate, where appropriate, climate finance considerations in their plans and programmes.

The Cook Islands economy is heavily dependent on natural resources for economic activities. Once dominantly agriculture based (up till the 1970s), the economy has shifted to a services driven economy, with tourism contributing about accounts for approximately 80% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The Cook Islands is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, in particular coastal erosion and inundation, droughts, flooding, cyclones, increasing temperatures, changing ocean currents and abnormal weather patterns. To respond to these challenges, the country has conducted vulnerability assessments and national consultations from 2016 to 2018 to determine climate change priorities for inclusion in this Country Programme.

The Cook Islands Second National Communications under the UNFCCC revealed that per capita GHG emissions rose by 56% between 1994 and 2006 (3.6 t CO<sub>2</sub> per capita). This largely resulted from the increased use of electricity with higher consumption of energy dependent appliances and the significant increase in tourism.

The Cook Islands INDCs recognises that renewable energy and clean forms of transportation is a priority for reduction of GHG emissions. It also contributes to ensuring energy self-sufficiency and security.

Average annual rainfall projected to remain similar to the current climate, with more extreme rain events, and a decrease in northern Cook Islands from May - October



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