



The Cook Islands and the Secretariat of the
Pacific Community

Joint Country Strategy

in support of
the Cook Islands National Sustainable
Development Plan
2007–2010

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1 Introduction

The Cook Islands and Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Joint Country Strategy (JCS) is designed to guide the provision of SPC technical assistance and other support services over the next three years, from 2007 to 2010. It is firmly based upon Te Kaveinga Nui and the Cook Islands National Sustainable Development Plan 2007–2010 (NSDP) and takes into consideration SPC’s capacity and comparative advantage in relation to previously supported activities and future priorities as described in the SPC Corporate Plan 2007–2012.

SPC and the Government of the Cook Islands recognise that the Cook Islands’ national development challenges, as outlined in Te Kaveinga Nui and the NSDP, are very broad and will require substantial time and the involvement of many sectors, to a far greater extent than what SPC offers through this JCS. With this understanding, the Cook Islands – SPC JCS 2007–2010 is founded on an established and fruitful partnership and is framed as the first three-year component of the longer-term relationship between SPC and the Cook Islands.

The timing of the Cook Islands – SPC JCS is significant as it comes during the early stages of implementation of the NSDP and coincides with its timeframe (2007–2010). The Government of the Cook Islands is moving towards monitoring its programmes systematically.

The NSDP addresses a wide range of sectors, covering all areas of business and service delivery of the Cook Islands Government. SPC has the technical expertise to contribute to the achievement of priorities in many of these sectors. In particular, it can contribute to: improved access to education, health and social services; maintenance of an inclusive, vibrant, resilient and productive society in harmony with Cook Islands culture; good governance; sustainable use and management of the environment and natural resources; strong basic infrastructure; community resilience; and strengthened institutional support systems for development planning, monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

This Cook Islands – SPC JCS 2007–2010 is based upon four components:

1. Te Kaveinga Nui and the Cook Islands NSDP (Section 2), which clearly sets out national development priorities and identifies strategies that the Government of the Cook Islands intends to use to address these priority areas;
2. the SPC programme of assistance to the Cook Islands (Section 3), which summarises key areas of assistance that will be, or have been, provided under the JCS from 2007 to 2010;
3. development partnerships and synergies (Section 4); and
4. the JCS monitoring framework (Section 5).

Annexes contain more detail about SPC assistance under the JCS and background information regarding the Cook Islands development context, SPC’s services, and the Cook Islands – SPC partnership.

2 Te Kaveinga Nui and the Cook Islands National Sustainable Development Plan 2007–2010

The development background of the Cook Islands and the challenges that it faces highlight the necessity for long-term strategic planning to guide national development into the future. The Cook Islands has embarked on this process in developing Te Kaveinga Nui, a 15-year visionary framework launched in January 2007. Likened to a journey, Te Kaveinga Nui provides guidance towards achieving the nation’s vision which is:

To enjoy the highest quality of life consistent with the aspirations of our people, and in harmony with our culture and environment¹

Achieving this vision requires the accomplishment of the strategic outcomes identified in Living in the Cook Islands – A 2020 Challenge. This document asserts the following strategic outcomes are desired by the Cook Islands in 2020:

Strategic Outcome 1: Well educated, healthy and productive people and resilient communities

Strategic Outcome 2: A secure society built on law and order, and good governance

Strategic Outcome 3: Sustainable economic growth in harmony with our values, culture and environment

Strategic Outcome 4: Responsible and mature foreign relations with New Zealand and other regional and international communities in the interests of the people of the Cook Islands

Strategic Outcome 5: Enhanced cultural and environmental values

The starting point for Te Kaveinga Nui and the 2020 Challenge is the Cook Islands National Sustainable Development Plan 2007–2010. The objective of this four-year strategic plan is to build a sustainable future that meets the economic and social needs of the Cook Islands without compromising prudent economic management, environmental integrity, social stability, the Cook Islands Maori culture or the needs of future generations. To achieve this objective, eight strategic goals are identified:

Strategic Goal 1: Equal opportunities for education, health, and other social services towards maintaining an inclusive, vibrant, resilient and productive society in harmony with our culture

Strategic Goal 2: A society built on law and order and good governance at all levels

Strategic Goal 3: Innovative and well-managed private sector-led economy

Strategic Goal 4: Sustainable use and management of our environment and natural resources

Strategic Goal 5: A strong basic infrastructure base to support national development

Strategic Goal 6: A safe, secure and resilient community

Strategic Goal 7: A foreign affairs policy that meets the needs and aspirations of the Cook Islands people

¹ Te Kaveinga Nui, p 7

Strategic Goal 8: Strengthened national coordination and institutional support systems for development planning, evaluation and monitoring

Te Kaveinga Nui was developed through wide consultation amongst the government sector, private sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society. This consultative foundation is evident in the NSDP. It is upon the NSDP goals, strategies and strategic targets that all the Cook Islands Government short- to medium-term initiatives and programmes, including national budgetary allocation, are centred. The Cook Islands Government is committed to implementing the NSDP; the Central Policy and Planning Office of the Office of the Prime Minister is tasked with ensuring its success.

Furthermore, Te Kaveinga Nui demonstrates the commitment of the Cook Islands Government to its international and regional partners through the alignment of Cook Islands development to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Mauritius Declaration, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), Pacific Plan, Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement, Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations, and other conventions and agreements. Te Kaveinga Nui's consistency with regional and international commitments therefore not only provides a platform for the achievement of national priorities through strategic planning but also allows these efforts to be complemented by harmonised and coordinated assistance from development partners.

3 SPC Programme of Assistance to Cook Islands

Six of the eight goals of the NSDP contain key strategic targets to which SPC technical expertise can contribute.

Those goals outside of SPC's areas of technical strength are: Strategic Goal 3, 'Innovative and well-managed private sector-led economy'; and Strategic Goal 7, 'A foreign affairs policy that meets the needs and aspirations of the Cook Islands people'. In relation to Goal 3, it should be understood that SPC works with the private sector in many of its programmes, and contributes to industry development and standards through training and technical assistance. Its ability to contribute to these areas is reflected under other strategic goals. However, SPC does not work directly in the specific key strategic target areas identified under Strategic Goal 3, which are focused on macroeconomic management, the financial services industry and reform of national economic structures. Assistance under the Cook Islands – SPC JCS 2007–2010 is therefore linked to the remaining six NSDP goals.

To support key strategic targets under **Strategic Goal 1**, 'Equal opportunities for education, health, and other social services towards maintaining an inclusive, vibrant, resilient and productive society in harmony with our culture', SPC will assist in the following key areas:

- vocational training in paravet skills, livestock husbandry, forestry, crops, floriculture, food safety and meat hygiene, with a focus on ensuring inclusion of women and young farmers;
- technical support of staff development in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Cultural Development and community service organisations;
- technical assistance with data collection and management regarding noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), vaccinations and tobacco control;
- technical support to strengthen adult education;
- technical and funding support for programmes targeting women with disabilities, with a focus on outer islands;
- technical support to establish rehabilitation programmes for victims of abuse and crime;
- technical support to the Ministry of Health and community service organisations to seek additional resources for and implement the National Non-communicable Disease Plan and Tobacco Products Control Act;
- technical assistance for testing, surveillance and mapping of infectious human diseases and vector control, and investigating animal disease outbreaks;
- provision of information and teaching resources on nutrition to teachers, and technical support to develop a nutrition course targeting health workers, student nurses and community service organisations;
- technical support to the Ministry of Education to improve school-based health education, and seek additional resources for teacher training in alcohol education;
- technical support to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and community service organisations in relation to the National Youth Policy and National Youth Council, and financial support for youth entrepreneurship training targeting outer islands;
- technical support to address gender issues, including establishing a database of gender development indicators, reviewing and updating the National Policy on Women/Gender, and awareness raising;
- technical support to the Ministry of Cultural Development in areas of equipment purchase and publication; and
- technical support to the Cook Islands team to the Pacific Arts Festival 2008.

To support key strategic targets under **Strategic Goal 2**, ‘A society built on law and order and good governance at all levels’, SPC will assist in the following key area:

- training for improved data collection and analysis of crime statistics.

To support key strategic targets under **Strategic Goal 4**, ‘Sustainable use and management of our environment and natural resources’, SPC will assist in the following key areas:

- technical support to the Ministry of Marine Resources in relation to the Human Resource Development Plan and Management System, and in relation to the Offshore Fisheries Management Plan and Industry Development Plan;
- training for Ministry of Marine Resources staff;
- training and technical support to the pearling and fishing industries;
- technical support and training in land management, with a focus on land use practices, zoning, and managing the impacts of climate change;
- technical support for management of local tree crops and introduction of suitable new tree crops;
- technical support for crop and livestock pest and disease management;
- technical support with crop improvement for better nutrition and resistance to the effects of climate change;
- technical support in strengthening biosecurity and quarantine systems and practices; and
- technical support in livestock and fisheries waste management.

To support key strategic targets under **Strategic Goal 5**, ‘A strong basic infrastructure base to support national development’, SPC will assist in the following key area:

- technical support to the National Statistics Office to increase access to information across the public sector.

To support key strategic targets under **Strategic Goal 6**, ‘A safe, secure and resilient community’, SPC will assist in the following key areas:

- technical support and training in land management, with a focus on land use practices, zoning, waste management, and managing the impacts of climate change; and
- technical support to prepare for public health risks, including preparedness exercises, checklists, and access to regional emergency medical stockpiles.

To support key strategic targets under **Strategic Goal 8**, ‘Strengthened national coordination and institutional support systems for development planning, evaluation and monitoring’, SPC will assist in the following key areas:

- training and technical support to staff of the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Internal Affairs and nongovernmental organisations (and, potentially, other ministries) in statistical data collection, analysis and report writing;
- technical support for population census and household survey;

- training in Population Geographical Information System (PopGIS) and the Pacific Regional Information System (PRISM);
- facilitation of networks with other partners who can collaborate on statistical and demographic activities;
- technical support in the adoption of new data collection technologies; and
- technical support to the National Statistics Office to develop and implement a statistical master plan.

4 Development Partnerships and Synergies

The Cook Islands maintains close relations with a number of countries and various development partners. It continues to sustain its unique relationship with New Zealand, partly because of its colonial past and its political status as a self-governing country in free association with New Zealand, and partly because the majority of Cook Islanders reside in New Zealand. The Cook Islands maintains a friendly connection with Australia too.

Since 2004 New Zealand and Australia have harmonised their development assistance programme to the Cook Islands, which is now managed by NZAID. The Cook Islands – New Zealand – Australia Joint Country Strategy 2007–2017 will focus on strengthening the Cook Islands’ own capacity to achieve its long-term development goals (Te Kaveinga Nui). Priority areas in this partnership focus on: investing in people; good governance; and sustainable livelihoods and economic growth as a means of increasing resilience and reducing vulnerability in the Cook Islands.

In recent times significant development assistance has also been forthcoming from the People’s Republic of China. Assistance has focused on discrete infrastructure projects such as the construction of new government buildings. It is likely that future assistance from China will continue to target projects of this kind, where they are priority to the Government of the Cook Islands.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been a major player in Cook Islands development initiatives and is likely to remain as a key actor in the future development initiatives of the country. ADB has indicated that it will be primarily supporting the implementation of the Preventative Infrastructure Master Plan 2007–2020 through the provision of concessional loans to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability in the Cook Islands.

The European Union has provided development assistance to the Cook Islands in education, health, policy development and cyclone recovery, as well as in supporting various projects of nongovernmental organisations and civil society. The European Union has indicated that its primary focus for 2007–2010 will be on renewable energy and water and sanitation which will contribute to the achievement of Goals 4 and 5 of the NSDP.

Other development partners include France, Canada, Britain, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). Another is the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP), to which SPC, the Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat are substantial contributors.

Development assistance to the Cook Islands is not pecuniary; much of it involves technical assistance for capacity building and capacity supplementation. Since the launch of Te Kaveinga Nui, the focus of development partners will now be guided by the NSDP and is increasingly focused on strengthening the Cook Islands' capacity to achieve the goals of Te Kaveinga Nui. The role of the NSDP in facilitating donor synergy will align all activities as closely as possible with the priorities of the Cook Islands identified in Te Kaveinga Nui. The Cook Islands – SPC JCS 2007–2010 has been designed specifically to achieve such synergy. Discussions with NZAID and AusAID around cooperation and coordination are reflected in the matrix of possible SPC assistance to the Cook Islands at Annex 1.

5 JCS Monitoring Framework

Monitoring, review and evaluation will be an integral element of the Cook Islands – SPC Joint Country Strategy implementation. At the activity level, SPC will make provision for monitoring, review and evaluation at the beginning of all activity implementation cycles.

It is suggested that the Cook Islands – SPC JCS 2007–2010 be reviewed once a year. Such reviews will form part of the consultations between the Cook Islands and SPC, in line with the SPC Corporate Plan initiative concerning efforts to improve communications and collaboration with national decision-makers and officials through senior management visits to SPC member countries and territories, including small island states. The review process will be a joint activity, and will take account of the monitoring and evaluation framework of the NSDP.

A full review will be conducted at the end of the Joint Country Strategy period. Again, this approach is consistent with the NSDP monitoring and evaluation framework. As well as assessing the implementation of the current strategy and identifying lessons for future reference, this review will propose strategic directions for the subsequent Cook Islands – SPC Joint Country Strategy.

Annex 1: Proposed SPC Assistance to the Cook Islands under the Joint Country Strategy

Strategic Goal 1: Equal opportunities for education, health and other social services towards maintaining an inclusive, vibrant, resilient and productive society in harmony with our culture

CI NSDP strategies	CI NSDP key strategic targets 2007–2010	Possible SPC activities
<p>Enhance human resource development on all islands, focusing on vocational and technical training.</p>	<p>Increase basic foundational skills for all people of the Cook Islands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality and accreditation of all formal / non-formal educational services targeting vocational/technical training needs. • Upskill people with limited foundational skills to increase their integration into, and retention in the workforce. 	<p>Land Resources Paravet Training Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocational training in crop production and improvement, livestock management and animal husbandry, forestry and floriculture. <p>Human Development Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate opportunities for counselling and report-writing training and attachments for staff of Children and Families Division. • Include youth and women with disabilities in Human Development Programme activities, including Community Education Training Centre courses and life skills education. • Support training in radio and television programme production for the Communications Officer of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. • Facilitate training attachments for Ministry of Cultural Development staff. • Provide technical assistance to strengthen adult education programmes (TVET) and develop ‘student well-being’ programmes. • Provide technical and funding support for leadership and capacity building training initiatives for leaders of NGOs, church-based organisations (CBOs) and CSOs.
<p>Improve and protect the health of all Cook Islanders.</p>	<p>Improve the health of children by reducing the mortality and morbidity rate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the health of young people through reducing the incidence and impact of risk taking activities. • Improve the health of women and mothers through preventing maternal mortality and reducing morbidity. • Improve the health of men and women through 	<p>Public Health Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide in-country assistance with data management in support of reducing NCDs. • Provide in-country assistance with the collection and analysis of vaccination data. <p>Land Resources</p>

	<p>reducing the incidence and impact of non-communicable diseases, tobacco, cancer, alcohol and trauma.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen health support services for older people. • Strengthen health services that support independence for people with disabilities in partnership with CINCD and DAT. • Develop a multi-disciplinary community rehabilitation service addressing disability and the rehabilitation needs in the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical advice regarding agricultural chemical use and safety. <p>Human Development Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance for Training of Trainers in sexual and reproductive health, in collaboration with organisations that focus on disability. • Provide technical support for the implementation of an audit on ‘disability’. • Support the extension of programmes targeting women with disabilities to the outer islands.
<p>Encourage healthier lifestyles and safer environments.</p>	<p>Strengthen mental health services and programmes in partnership with NGOs that specifically target mental health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen HIV health services and programmes in partnership with relevant NGOs. • Develop and implement a comprehensive drug and alcohol, tobacco and gambling cessation strategy. • Implement Tobacco Control Plan of Action and establish smokefree zones. • Enact alcohol and drug, tobacco and gambling legislation. • Improve environmental health, focusing on food safety, safe water, clean air, improved sanitation, and waste management in partnership with other agencies. • Enact the sewage regulations and train stakeholders in sanitation. • Enact the food safety legislation. • Reduce the incidences of communicable diseases with an emphasis on STIs/HIV/AIDS, vectorborne diseases, hepatitis and tuberculosis and other new communicable diseases that may emerge. • Implement the Non-communicable Diseases Strategy Action Plan. • Reduce the incidences of non-communicable diseases and injury with an emphasis on obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, cancer and 	<p>Land Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance in food safety and meat hygiene. • Provide technical assistance in investigating animal diseases that threaten public health. • Provide agricultural technical assistance and advice to the health and education sectors. <p>Human Development Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with other agencies to provide technical support for the establishment of rehabilitation programmes for abused women and victims of crime. • Work with SPC NCD section (Public Health Programme) to identify interventions targeted at youth, women and other vulnerable groups. <p>Public Health Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance (as required) on implementation of National NCD Plan, including assistance with seeking funding for NCD focal point/ coordinator. • Assist with seeking funding for technical assistance and work with community service organisations for NCD education and training, including in the outer islands. • Assist with local implementation of the Tobacco Products Control Act, including an M&E framework for tobacco action plan, implementation of smoke-free public places, the concept of a

	<p>oral health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure the prevalence of sports injuries and its impact on financial resources. 	<p>telephone Quit helpline, and use of excise taxes to fund health promotion/ tobacco control activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include tobacco control indicators for PopGIS software training. • Assist with seeking funding from Bloomberg Tobacco Control Initiative, and include Cook Islands in all three of SPC's regional funding bids to Bloomberg Initiative. • Provide technical assistance to finalise the Cooks Islands Alcohol Strategy. • Assist with seeking funding for additional training in alcohol education for secondary school teachers. • Adapt existing materials on alcohol education to local conditions. • Provide technical assistance to develop 'community service announcements' on tobacco and alcohol. • Compile existing educational resources on nutrition education for use in primary and secondary schools, and provide new materials. • Assist in developing intensive in-country nutrition training for health workers, student nurses, NGOs and CBOs. • Promote the benefits of locally grown agricultural produce and locally caught fish in collaboration with SPC agriculture and fisheries programmes, including a reduced reliance on imported unhealthy foods. • Provide technical assistance with school-based health education: needs analysis; workshop on health curriculum and health promotion in schools; and teacher training on identified needs in health education and health promotion. • Support local laboratory testing for infectious diseases and include these laboratories in regional referral network. • Provide technical assistance in Quality Assurance. • Provide technical assistance with integrating disease surveillance and vector surveillance, mapping (PopGIS) of cases and mosquitoes, and community involvement in vector control. • Build capacity in collection, management, analysis and interpretation of health data.
<p>Encourage participation of youth in the</p>	<p>Implement the National Youth Policy 2007–2010.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-establish the National Youth Council in 2007. 	<p>Land Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train young farmers in agriculture, forestry and floriculture.

development of the Cook Islands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that 40% of national committees have a Cook Islands National Youth Council representative to participate in national decision-making processes by 2010. • Increase by 25% the number of active national programs targeting youth leadership, entrepreneurship and sports development opportunities by 2010. • Achieve a 25% reduction in unemployment (892 – 400) by 2010. 	<p>Human Development Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance for the development of an implementation, monitoring and evaluation plan for the National Youth Policy. • Provide technical support for the revival of the Cook Islands National Youth Council. • Support youth entrepreneurship training for the outer islands. • Provide technical assistance for the development of a long-term strategy for income generation for youth and women. • Provide technical assistance for the establishment of ongoing training programmes for parents on ‘parenting teenagers’.
Improve and increase participation of women in the development of the Cook Islands.	<p>Endorse and implement the National Policy on Gender by the end of 2007.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and update the National Policy on Women by the end of 2007. • Integrate gender equality policies into all sectoral plans by 2010. • Achieve equitable remuneration scale and career advancement in all sectors. • Increase the number of businesses owned or co-owned by women. 	<p>Land Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train women in agriculture, forestry and floriculture. <p>Human Development Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance for the review and update of the National Policy on Women/Gender. • Provide technical assistance for the development and maintenance of a database on gender development indicators in the Cook Islands. • Provide technical assistance for CEDAW reporting. • Provide technical assistance for training of Justice of the Peace (JPs) on CEDAW, in partnership with UNDP and Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team. • Provide policy support for CEDAW implementation, addressing parliamentary select committees. • Provide technical assistance for the development of local advocacy DVDs on Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC), CEDAW and gender mainstreaming. • Provide technical assistance to research the impact on women of the decision to keep women’s development programmes in Palmerston and Rakahanga with OMIA.
Strengthen national	Ratify the World Heritage Convention in 2007.	Land Resources

<p>archives, library and museums.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve the preservation of 30% of historical documents, publications and artefacts by 2010. • Install on a database 40% of all archived information by 2010. • Ensure easy accessibility of 30% of natural heritage and historical material by 2010. • Preservation, protection and restoration 20% of audiovisual recording of national artists and documentaries by 2010. • All research reports to be collated within the National Library. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop agriculture and forestry resource centre. <p>Human Development Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate access to Pacific Islands Museums Association (PIMA) training for new staff of the Ministry of Cultural Development.
<p>Strengthen programmes on Cook Islands Maori language, traditional sports, performing and visual arts and recording of oral traditions.</p>	<p>Increase by 25% the number of oral compositions at primary and secondary school level and during festive periods to promote Cook Islands Maori Language, traditional sports, visual and performing arts and oral traditions by 2010.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase by 20% the number of art and other cultural exhibitions by 2010. • Record and store all national and cultural festivities in the National Archive. • All major cultural festivities to be hosted at the National Auditorium. 	<p>Human Development Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote partnerships with PIMA, Pacific Islands Association of Libraries and Archives, and Polynesian Languages Forum in support of cultural development programmes. • Support for the publication of oral traditions manuscripts by the Ministry of Cultural Development.
<p>Develop intellectual property rights, research and other related policies and legislation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement National Intellectual Property Rights policy and legislation by the end of 2007. 	<p>Human Development Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPC cultural affairs to collaborate with Research Adviser in developing intellectual property rights policy and legislation.

Strategic Goal 2: A society built on law and order and good governance at all levels

CI NSDP strategies	CI NSDP key strategic targets 2007–2010	Possible SPC activities
Strengthen national justice system to meet the changing needs of law and justice in an environment of increasing globalisation and international crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the investigation and intelligence gathering and analysis capacity of the Cook Islands Police. • Strengthen the administration and management support for the Cook Islands Police. <i>(Ministry of Justice, Police Department, Punanga)</i>	<p>Statistics and Demography Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In cooperation with Statistics Office, provide assistance and training in the data collection and analysis of crime statistics. <p>Human Development Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In collaboration with SPC Statistics and Demography Programme, provide technical assistance to link data collection and analysis to CEDAW, CRC and PSY2010 implementation.

Strategic Goal 4: Sustainable use and management of our environment and natural resources

CI NSDP strategies	CI NSDP key strategic targets 2007–2010	Possible SPC activities
Strengthen Cook Islands Marine Resources Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) Corporate Plan by the end of 2008. • Increase by 30% the gross value of product from the marine sector by 2010. 	<p>Fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide inputs into the development of MMR’s human resources. • Provide technical assistance to develop MMR website and train MMR staff in website maintenance (2008).
Develop and implement Offshore Fisheries Development/ Management Plan in partnership with Tuna Industry Association and other stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce and implement the Cook Islands offshore fisheries management plans including management objectives, fishing strategies, research, monitoring and compliance. • Prepare and implement the Offshore Fisheries Industry Development Plan for marketing, product development and capacity building in partnership with the fishing industry and stakeholders by the end of 2007. • Establish certification and sanitary systems to enhance market access to international markets. 	<p>Fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update National Tuna Fishery Status Report and present it to fisheries industry and MMR (2009). • Facilitate industry study tour in Tahiti (Development of Tuna Fisheries in the Pacific: DEVFISH) (2007 – <i>completed</i>). • Finance office manager position at Tuna Industry Association (DEVFISH) (2007 – <i>completed</i>). • Provide technical assistance and training in tuna longlining, tuna grading and handling, at-sea loining, and live bait fishing. • Explore Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification of Cook Islands offshore fisheries (FFA/SPC) (2010). • Train vessel skippers and enterprise managers (SPC funding permitting).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical advice and course materials for development of vessel crew training programme. • Support attendance of MMR staff at Stock Assessment Workshop (2007) and fisheries compliance and prosecution techniques (August 2007). • Advise on observer / port sampling programmes (ongoing). • Assist with production of country reports to Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (ongoing). • Assist with development of regulatory framework with Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) seafood safety regulations (DEVFISH?) (2008–2009). • Assist in setting up national Competent Authority (DEVFISH?) (2008–2009). • Provide HACCP training for industry (DEVFISH?) (2008–2009). • Assist with development of an HACCP plan for vessels loining/freezing at sea (2008–2009).
Increase profitability of pearl farming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Pearl Authority to produce an industry development/recovery plan. • Develop and implement management plans for each pearl farming community, based on an ecosystem approach to management. • Promote research and implement management decisions using improved knowledge and information, to improve profitability. 	<p>Fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training of Manihiki trainers in small business management (2007). • Update pearl promotion posters (2008). • Conduct regional workshop on pearl farming with focus on farming techniques / pearl quality (2009).
Achieve sustainable ecosystem management of inshore fisheries, and increase community management of the resource.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement inshore fisheries and integrated coastal zone fisheries management in partnership with key stakeholders by 2008 including strategies for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o increasing by 25% the area of well-managed community-based Raui initiatives by 2010; o developing effective inshore fisheries information system; and o developing and implementing inshore fisheries based policy and legislation by 2010. 	<p>Land Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance to raise awareness of and develop a land use policy. • Provide technical assistance, in cooperation with SPC fisheries programmes, to reduce negative impacts of agriculture on coastal fisheries, especially in the outer islands. <p>Fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train MMR staff in inshore fisheries survey techniques (2007) and data storage and analysis (2007). • Provide printed materials for fisheries information and awareness. • Support MMR staff to attend SPC workshop on policy development

		and planning (2008).
Increase income and employment opportunities (particularly in the outer islands), through further development of aquaculture and inshore fisheries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct analysis and determine priorities for investment in the development of new and existing aquaculture and commercial inshore fisheries opportunities. • Develop industry development plans for species identified as having the most potential (<i>chosen from trochus, giant clams, live rock, seaweed, prawns, milkfish, aquarium, snapper, parrot fish, etc</i>). • Maintain research programmes in place to identify and develop new management and market opportunities, increase profitability and add value to marine resources. 	<p>Fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake comparative analysis of potential aquaculture commodities (sea urchin, freshwater eels, pearl oyster meat, tilapia, milkfish, freshwater prawns) (2008). • Provide technical assistance for the development of an ecologically and economically sustainable deep-bottom snapper fishery in Penrhyn – FAO funding permitting (2008). • Conduct workshop on tilapia husbandry techniques in Rarotonga – MMR–SPC cost-sharing required (2007). • Provide technical assistance and training to support development of freshwater prawn aquaculture (2007–2008). • Transfer post-larvae capture and culture technology from French Polynesia to MMR (2007–2008). • Train MMR staff in inshore fisheries survey techniques (2007) and data storage and analysis (2007). • Conduct inshore fisheries aggregation device (FAD) trials in outer islands, funding permitting and pending result of SPC project in Nauru (2009). • Produce and print a small boat safety checklist (in Maori) in line with the national legislation (2007).
Revitalise the agricultural sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the agriculture sector in 2007. • Develop and implement National Agricultural and Livestock Development Strategy by 2008 for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o specialised, financially viable crops and commodities for domestic use; import substitution; and/or export where Cook Islands can create and maintain niche markets; o agroprocessing of local and export markets; and o increasing food and nutrition security through increased production of economically viable food products that are nutritious and safe. • Promote women and family gardening activities, food processing and preservations for domestic use and generating income. 	<p>Land Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance to support the National Agricultural and Livestock Development Strategy. • Provide technical assistance in the management of invasive species and plant diseases and pests, including surveillance, control and eradication. • Provide technical assistance to identify and develop agricultural and forestry commodities including maire, senile coconut timber, sandalwood and use of local trees for building materials and carving. • Provide technical assistance in preserving and promoting local livestock breeds. • Provide technical assistance in animal disease surveillance. • Provide technical assistance in piggery waste management. • Provide technical assistance to assess stock feed economics (importing feed vs importing meat), and use of local raw materials for

		<p>livestock feed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance in soil improvement (charcoal, compost, cover crop). • Extend trial findings from Centres of Excellence in Atolls.
Review and reform land use and zoning policies and supporting structures to reflect better resource ownership, the economic needs of the people and environmental sustainability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop long-term land use policies through a process of consultation and negotiation by 2009 that will determine zoning areas for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o communal, residential and private property rights over land; o economic development needs; o biodiversity and environmental protection; and o agricultural and recreational use. 	<p>Land Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of good land use practices. • Develop and implement land care concepts. • Develop regional online ‘soil portal’. • Provide technical assistance to establish a national Agriculture and Forestry Policy Network.
Implement National Environment Strategic Action Framework (NESAF).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement immediate priorities listed in NESAF in relation to each of the broad thematic areas such as biodiversity conservation, waste and climate change relevant to land, freshwater and marine resources by the end of 2007. • Implement short-term priorities listed in NESAF in relation to each of the broad thematic areas such as biodiversity conservation, land, waste and climate change relevant to coastal zone and freshwater resources by 2010. 	<p>Land Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance to manage the effect of climate change on agriculture. • Provide technical assistance in coastal land use zoning.
Strengthen national capacity in biosecurity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement National Biosecurity Strategy for reducing the risk of introduction of foreign plant and animal pests and diseases and the risk of their spread and establishment in the Cook Islands, through community awareness, improved quarantine services and border control, and other technical and institutional control mechanisms in 2007. 	<p>Land Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to Biosecurity Bill consultation. • Strengthen border control practices. • Provide technical assistance to assess phytosanitary standards of imported products. • Provide technical assistance and training in the conduct of import risk analyses and market access submissions. • Provide technical assistance to strengthen internal quarantine systems. <p>Fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support MMR and Ministry of Environment staff to attend

		regional workshop on biosecurity (2007).
Improve management of solid, liquid and other forms of wastes, minimising the human health effects and impacts on the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a prioritised Cook Islands National Waste Strategy and subcomponent strategies by 2008, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o a prioritised solid waste management plan to strengthen infrastructure, enhance institutional capacity, to encourage private sector businesses and individual actions in increasing recycling and reducing by 30% residual solid wastes by 2010; o a harmonised and integrated liquid waste management policy reducing waterborne diseases and environmental costs by 2010; and o Rarotonga sewage management facilities upgrade project implemented in 2007. 	<p>Land Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance in animal waste management, including composting. <p>Fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice and technical assistance for the introduction of silage/fertiliser production from fish wastes (2008–2009).

Strategic Goal 5: A strong basic infrastructure base to support national development

CI NSDP strategies	CI NSDP key strategic targets 2007–2010	Possible SPC activities
Strengthen e-government initiatives for increased public sector efficiency and the reduction of barriers to public access to government information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement web portal, ensuring that 50% of government agencies have their websites operational by the end of 2007. 	<p>Statistics and Demography Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance in the management of the PRISM website. • Provide technical assistance to help National Statistics Office (NSO) and Central Planning and Policy Office reduce barriers to the access of information across public sector through e-government and other ICT initiatives.

Strategic Goal 6: A safe, secure and resilient community

CI NSDP strategies	CI NSDP key strategic targets 2007–2010	Possible SPC activities
<p>Establish a coordinated and effective national disaster risk reduction and disaster management system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enact and implement legislation for disaster risk reduction and disaster management for hazards that pose a threat to the country in 2007. • Implement in 2007, the National Risk Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management, to put into effect the 2005 Cook Islands National Disaster Risk Management Policy. • Adopt a government-wide approach and stakeholder-driven public-private partnership towards disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management efforts. <i>(Emergency Management Cook Islands)</i> • Strengthen the response to national disasters and the meteorological warning system for all islands. <i>(Meteorological Office)</i> • Develop and implement a National Pandemics Prevention and Response Strategy for the management of pandemics, such as the avian flu and SARS, by the end of 2007. • Improve community cyclone shelters and disaster management facilities on all islands. 	<p>Land Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of good land use practices. • Develop and implement land care concepts. • Develop regional online ‘soil portal’. • Provide technical assistance to establish a national Agriculture and Forestry Policy Network. • Provide technical assistance to promote disaster risk reduction based on traditional agricultural practices. <p>Public Health Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Workshop. • Review checklist in comparison with other Pacific Island countries and territories. • Facilitate preparedness exercises. • Provide access to regional emergency medical supply stockpiles.

Strategic Goal 8: Strengthened national coordination and institutional support systems for development planning, monitoring and evaluation

CI NSDP strategies	CI NSDP key strategic targets 2007–2010	Possible SPC activities
<p>Improve coordination and harmonisation of regional, national, sectoral issues, strategies and policies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and strengthen the Central Planning and Policy Office within the Office of the Prime Minister to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o strengthen and coordinate the national development planning activities; o prepare, implement, monitor and review the NSDP; o ensure the planning processes are consistent with the macro-economic, social and environmental policies that are determined in conjunction with NSDP Advisory Committee; o prepare in conjunction with the sectoral ministries and agencies, sectoral plans and strategies for incorporation into a national development plan; o in partnership with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, assist sectors in preparation of annual budgets and ensure that the budgetary allocations reflect priorities listed in the NSDP and the sector strategies; and o facilitate capacity building programmes to sectoral agencies. • Continue to implement and improve the NSDP development, implementation and support mechanisms and structures as identified in Appendices A1, A2, B and C. <p><i>(Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Finance and Economic Management)</i></p>	<p>Statistics and Demography Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training assistance in data analysis, report writing and PopGIS to staff in the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. • SPC and Central Planning and Policy Office to work with National Statistics Office to improve methods of data collation in other sectors to improve (quantitative) baseline datasets. <p>Human Development Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In collaboration with the SPC Statistics and Demography Programme, provide technical assistance to apply data collection and analysis to policy and planning relating to women and youth.
<p>Explore mechanisms for strengthening and institutionalising</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate and implement policy to enable NGOs and community based agencies to access funding for delivery of supportive programmes identified in this plan – e.g. 	<p>Statistics and Demography Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include NGO partners in any in-country statistical related training courses where appropriate.

<p>financial support to sustain delivery of NGOs' and community based agencies' supportive programmes.</p>	<p>disability programmes, mental health, tobacco control, domestic violence, elderly, HIV and NCD programmes. (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, DAT, Punanga Tauturu, Cook Islands Association of NGOs, Tobacco Control Working Group, Are Pa Taunga, Te Kainga, Are Pa Metua, Cook Islands Red Cross)</p>	<p>Human Development Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the inclusion of NGOs in decision-making processes and programme implementation, especially those working at community level with women, youth and people with special needs
<p>Strengthen statistical data and information systems to support evidence based development planning, monitoring and reporting under the National Sustainable Development Plan and against regional and international commitments, including MDGs, CEDAW, CRC and MEAs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete review of national and sectoral information systems by the end of 2007. • Develop and implement strategy for strengthening GIS based National Information System by the end of 2008 to support evidence based national development planning, monitoring and reporting in line with national, regional and international commitments. • Establish a National GIS Data Centre within the Ministry of Works. • Increase by 50% individual and institutional capacity in collecting, storing, accessing and analysing statistical information by 2010. (Cook Islands Statistics Office, Ministry of Works, Office of the Prime Minister) 	<p>Statistics and Demography Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with NSO to develop statistical master plan that outlines how to undertake its regular collection of social and economic statistics, including population census and household surveys. • Develop programme of technical assistance and capacity building in economic statistics (national accounts, balance of payments, trade), once Statistics and Demography Programme economic statistics capacity is strengthened. • Collaborate with NSO (and other interested partners/agencies, such as ADB, NZAID) through dedicated technical assistance programme that includes on-the-job training. Facilitate other statistical training needs for the Cook Islands with other partners such as Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre and ADB, Australian Bureau of Statistics and Statistics New Zealand. • Ensure population censuses and household surveys address data and information requirements pertaining to key sectors, and associated outputs address important cross-sectoral issues, such as gender and youth. • Sensitise national counterparts to ensure census and household survey reports address gender and youth dimensions. Produce gender-disaggregated population data, with special reference made to youth. • Engage in collaborative partnerships with regional and international technical agencies to undertake joint analyses, ensuring dual spin-offs of (a) on-the-job-training, and (b) stronger sense of ownership. • Provide formal training in data analysis and report writing to other line ministries (such as Health, Internal Affairs, Education as well as staff from other key government agencies).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide further in-country training/workshops and technical assistance in the use of data dissemination tools, such as Cook Islands PopGIS mapping software and PRISM website. • Facilitate attendance of NSO staff at regional technical workshops with a focus on data collection and information management. Help secure funding for Cook Islands presence in such meetings. • Introduce NSO and other sectors to use of new technologies used for collection of data such as Optical Recognition Software (OCR), geographical positioning system (GPS) technology and satellite imagery particularly for census and surveys. • In collaboration with NSO, plan and conduct Household Economic Survey/Census data debriefing and user workshops for targeted audiences (key government agencies; private sector; civil society/ specific NGOs). • In collaboration with NSO, ensure that national and sectoral development policies are based on the same and most up-to-date population data and demographic indicators. <p>Human Development Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work closely with SPC Statistics and Demography Programme to improve social statistics.
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Annex 2: Guide to SPC Services

Our vision for the region is a secure and prosperous Pacific Community, whose people are educated and healthy and manage their resources in an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable way.

Our mission is to help Pacific Island people position themselves effectively to respond to the challenges they face and make informed decisions about their future and the future they wish to leave for the generations that follow.

SPC **services** are provided primarily in the form of technical assistance, training and research. These services are available in both French and English, its two official languages. The focus of SPC's work can and does change over time in response to evolving regional needs and regional collaborative arrangements with other organisations. The organisation currently focuses on three sectors: Land Resources; Marine Resources; and Social Resources.

Land Resources provides advice, expertise, technical support and training to member countries on all aspects of agriculture and forestry, through its agricultural and forestry programmes.

- The **Agriculture Programme's** key objectives are to increase efficiency and sustainability of agriculture, improve food security and public health, facilitate trade in agricultural products, and decrease the impact of natural disasters. The programme includes:
 - the Regional Animal Health Service
 - the Crop Improvement Service
 - the Development of Sustainable Agriculture in the Pacific (DSAP)
 - Plant Protection Service
- **Regional Forestry Programme:** The **Forest and Trees Programme's** key objectives are in the areas of sustainable forest management (SFM), sustainable utilisation of forest products (SUFPP) and acting as a regional focal point and information clearing house. The **SPC/GTZ Pacific German Regional Forestry Project (PGRFP)** supports the following four strategic objectives: (a) strengthen national capacities in terms of policies and practices; (b) sustainable resource development to enhance the livelihood of local communities, and protect property rights; (c) strengthen national capacities in multiple land-use systems (land-use planning and agroforestry); and (d) strengthen regional collaborative forestry activities and forestry information distribution.

Marine Resources includes coastal, oceanic fisheries and maritime programmes.

- The goal of the **Coastal Fisheries Programme** is to help Pacific Community members optimise the social and economic values of small-scale fisheries and aquatic living resources, over the long term. The programme includes:
 - fisheries information
 - coastal fisheries management
 - aquaculture
 - fisheries development
 - fisheries training
 - reef fisheries observatory

- The **Oceanic Fisheries Programme** works to provide members with the scientific information and evidence they need to rationally manage pelagic fisheries (specifically those fisheries that exploit the region's tuna, billfish and related fish species). The programme includes:
 - fishery statistics and monitoring
 - stock assessment
 - tuna ecology and biology

- The **Maritime Programme** focuses on the maritime transport sector, working to strengthen the capacity of Pacific Islanders to manage, administer, regulate, control and gain employment in the sector.

Social Resources focuses on the following areas:

- **Public Health Programme** assists members in developing healthier Pacific Island communities.
- The **Statistics Programme** and **Demography/Population Programme** work to improve the availability, analysis and utilisation of socio-economic data.
- The **Cultural Affairs Programme**, **Pacific Women's Bureau**, **Pacific Youth Bureau** and the **Community Education and Training Centre** assist members to empower Pacific Island women and young people and build strong cultural identities.
- The **Regional Media Centre** aims to promote the benefits of increased participation by Pacific people and governments in the media.

Annex 3: Cook Islands Development Context and Country Facts

A3.1 Cook Islands development background

As a small island state that gained self-governing status in 1965, the Cook Islands has evolved from a country that was largely dependent on direct external budgetary assistance and remittances to one that is able to meet much of its own budgetary needs in regard to government operations. Following the economic restructuring programme of 1996, the performance of the Cook Islands economy has been one of those to stand out in the Pacific Islands region. This economic success can be largely attributed to an economy driven by the private sector, complemented by prudent financial management.

Economic growth has been heavily reliant on the tourism sector, where visitor arrivals have increased from under 50,000 in the 1990s to 92,000 in 2006. Tourism activities are predominantly based in Rarotonga, while there is also a growing market in Aitutaki. In addition, the offshore financial centre, the black pearl industry and, more recently, longline fishing have contributed somewhat to the growth and highlight the importance of diversifying and broadening the narrow economic base of the country.

While economic activity is clearly strong in Rarotonga and Aitutaki, the economic and social conditions in the outer islands have not improved significantly. Problematic disparities exist between the island of Rarotonga – and increasingly Aitutaki – and the other outer islands. On Rarotonga and Aitutaki, tourism and other private sector activities supplement public service employment as sources of cash income. Therefore although the Cook Islands as a whole is credited for having the highest Human Development Index rating in the Pacific, the reality is that the outer islands have a significantly lower gross domestic product (GDP) per person in comparison to Rarotonga. Consequently, those who reside in the outer islands feel that, despite the increase in resources targeting the outer islands, the development agenda of the Cook Islands has remained focused on Rarotonga while neglecting the developmental needs of the outer islands. For many in the outer islands, the only viable option has been to emigrate either to Rarotonga or, to a greater extent, to New Zealand or Australia.

Thus, while it is categorised as a stable middle income country, the Cook Islands continues to face many development challenges as a small island state in a rapidly changing global environment. These challenges have emerged as result of a changing socio-economic environment, rapidly intensifying globalisation, an expanding private sector, resource constraints, environmental pressures and a declining national population. The Cook Islands therefore remains vulnerable to economic and natural shocks despite its strong economic and social indicators.

A3.2 Cook Islands – country facts

The Cook Islands consists of 15 small islands scattered over 2 million square kilometres of the Pacific Ocean. It lies in the centre of the Polynesian triangle, flanked by Fiji 2300 km to the west, Tahiti 1140 km to the east, Hawaii 4730 km to the north and New Zealand 3010 km to the southwest.

Official name	Cook Islands
Head of State	Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, represented by the Queen's Representative in the Cook Islands, Sir Frederick Goodwin, KBE
Governance and legal status	Self-governing in free association with New Zealand
	Parliament – 24 members elected by universal suffrage
	Cook Islands Constitution Act 1964, 1965
Population enumerated on 1 December 2006	19,569
Exclusive economic zone	1.8 million km ²
Number of islands	15 (1 volcanic island, 4 makatea islands, 10 atolls and sand cays)
Land area	240 km ² (88% southern group islands)
Average rainfall	2000 mm/year
Average temperature ranges	21°C – 28 C
Official languages	Cook Islands Maori
	English
Ethnic composition	Maori Polynesians
	Europeans (NZ, USA, Canada, UK, Australian, others)
	Other Pacific Islanders and Asians
Religion	Cook Islands Christian Church, Roman Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist, Latter Day Saints, Assembly of God, Apostolic, Jehovah's Witness, Baha'i, and other faiths

Source: Cook Islands NSDP 2007–2010

A3.3 Cook Islands – SPC partnership and summary of recent SPC assistance

The Cook Islands, a self-governing state in free association with New Zealand, joined the Pacific Community as a full member in 1980. Since then, Cook Islanders have served the region through various key positions in SPC. Mr Tamarii Tuntangata held the position of Director of Programmes; Mr Jon Jonnassen held the position of Director of Programmes before becoming Interim Secretary General in 1989; and Mr Julian Dashwood held the position of Director of the Marine Resources. Many Cook Islanders have also worked as technical specialists within SPC programme areas such as aquaculture, agricultural extension, gender and youth development.

The Cook Islands has hosted two SPC annual meetings (Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations), in 1974 and 1988. As the host, the Cook Islands also chaired these meetings.

Major SPC programmes in the Cook Islands over the years have included the Public Health Programme in the area of communicable disease, and Land Resources in agriculture for food security and income generation. More recently, the Oceanic Fisheries Programme has helped the Cook Islands to realise the potential of regional tuna stocks to stimulate employment and economic activity more broadly.

From 2005 to 2007, most assistance from SPC to the Cook Islands has come through the Public Health, Land Resources and Coastal Fisheries programmes. In Public Health, assistance has largely comprised technical assistance, training, direct grants and funded participation to workshops and meetings relating to the Global Fund for Tuberculosis and HIV. Land Resources assistance has focused on technical assistance and training around emergency response planning; pandemic preparedness planning; animal disease surveillance and sampling; import risk assessment for agricultural products; and various plant disease surveys. A large part of Coastal Fisheries assistance is focused on research (resource surveys), and pearl farming development and training.

Other SPC programmes that have given consistent levels of support to the Cook Islands are the Maritime Programme and the Statistics and Demography Programme.

The recent contribution of each of these programmes is summarised in the following table.

Summary of SPC assistance to the Cook Islands, 2005–2007

Sector/type of assistance	Value by year (NZD)			Total value (NZD)
	2005	2006	2007*	
Coastal Fisheries	14,300	34,900	137,400	186,600
Human Development	23,804	46,100	73,607	143,511
Land Resources	17,820	45,200	52,420	115,440
Maritime	43,200	17,700	19,500	80,400
Oceanic Fisheries	7,700	17,000	11,700	36,400
Public Health	52,200	66,420	48,650	167,270
Statistics and Demography	28,930	25,800	23,400	78,130
Grand total	187,954	253,120	366,677	807,751

* Projected