

ANNEX 2 - Cook Islands Official Development Assistance (ODA) December 2017

FY2017/18 ODA Budget less Direct Budget Support (NZ\$'000)	69,392
FY2017/18 Core Sector Support (NZ\$'000)	7,766
FY2017/18 Performance Based Budget Support – Bonus Payment (NZ\$'000)	604
FY2017/18 Total ODA Budget (NZ\$'000)	77,762
FY2017/18 ODA estimated actual spend (NZ\$'000)	36,527
ODA Conversion Rate December 2017 (%)	47 per cent
Number Current Overseas Development Partners	28
Approved Third Party Programmes/Projects	19
Cook Islands Government Budget Support	2
Approved Grants including Small Grants	34

TE TARAI VAKA (TTV) ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM REVIEW

Implementing Agency: MFEM

TA was recruited to review and revise government's activity management system TTV. The TTV objective is to streamline and provide a transparent process for activity (programme/project) management in the Cook Islands. The TTV reference group was excellent for providing guidance to simplify the new activity management system.

The main impact of this activity has been the promotion of using the system through user consultations during the review phase, delivering user training, and fostering interest and ownership of the system through convening a TTV Reference Group consisting of key stakeholders: DCD-MFEM, OPM, CIIC, OPSC, ICI, & Budget Division-MFEM.

Next steps are clarity in national approval mechanisms for ODA with this work lead by Budget Division-MFEM, OPM and OPSC for recognition in the TTV. Finalising the review of the Environmental and Social Safeguards is work in progress under the Green Climate Fund TA with expectation for this to be finalised in March Quarter 2018.

Training of key users has started with DCD staff and planning is in progress for training of other key TTV users outside of DCD in February 2018. Use of new TTV guides and templates are underway with launch proper on the website final steps for this work.

NEW ZEALAND PROGRAMMES

Cook Islands Core Sector Support (CSS): Output 4 TA Programme

Programme Management Oversight: DCD-MFEM & Policy Division-OPM

NZ CSS including Output 4 estimated spend to date: NZ\$4,893,968

The CSS makes up 32% of total New Zealand Aid in the ODA Schedule. The NZ CSS Programme includes direct budget support to Ministry of Education, Cook Islands Tourism and the Ministry of Health. The following are reporting only for NZ CSS Output 4 as the reporting for Output 1-3 are due in the December Quarter 2018. To date there are 12 TA projects in progress for CSS Output 4:

CSS TA Project Name

& Implementing Agency December Quarter 2017 Progress

Online Registry	Companies	Implementation of September Quarter 2017 milestones in progress and in collaboration with ADB TA support
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Ministry of Justice

CSS TA Project Name & Implementing Agency	December Quarter 2017 Progress
Audit House Keeping Treasury Division- MFEM	Focus remains for ICI accounts and the Pa Enuva accounts specific to capital and infrastructural projects. In addition clearing audit back logs. TA bi monthly reporting due to Treasury Division-MFEM.
Cook Islands Aviation International Compliance Ministry of Transport (MOT)	Improving and strengthening Civil Aviation continues with the completion of the Annual Safety Oversight Audit Programme by PASO in late November. TA for updating of Civil Aviation Rules (CAR) started in October with initial contacts made in late November to key stakeholders.
Cook Islands Maritime International Compliance Ministry of Transport (MOT)	Scope for Maritime Division TA support has changed in consultation with Ministry of Transport. Instead a locally sourced fixed-term Maritime Technical Manager is now engaged as local counterpart to TA services under the upcoming 3rd Phase of the Pacific Maritime Safety Programme 2018. The Quality Management System for MOT is ready for market procurement pending Cook Islands Government (CIG) Tender Committee approval.
Occupational Health and Safety Legislation Review Ministry of Internal Affairs	TA contract award targeted for March Quarter 2018 with review implementation thereafter.
Prison Review & Warden Training Office of the Prime Minister & Prison Services - Ministry of Justice (MOJ)	TA terms of reference (TOR) required finalisation between OPM, NZ Corrections and NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (MFAT). NZ Corrections & MFAT will take the lead in TA procurement. NZ Corrections will assess and evaluate Cook Islands Prison Services under this funding also. Review implementation & Warden Training will be an agreement between MOJ, MFAT and NZ Corrections. TA work is planned for Jan-Feb 2018.
Asset Management Stocktake	TA TOR finalized with a two phased work plan, a project steering group (PSG) has been formed also with MFAT approval. TA procurement will be managed by MFAT with project implementation oversight managed by the PSG.
Study of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the Cook Islands Ministry of Finance and Economic Management	TA quote procurement is now underway using CIG procurement system with TA work planned for Jan 2018.
Public Expenditure Review of the Economic, Social & Environmental Sectors Ministry of Finance	TA open tender procurement is underway using CIG procurement system with TA work planned for implementation in March Quarter 2018.

CSS TA Project Name
& Implementing December Quarter 2017 Progress
Agency

and Economic
Management

Improving Audit TA TOR is soon to be finalised by CIAO. This includes staff incentives
Performance for training and returning graduates employment bonds with CIAO.
Cook Islands Audit
Office (CIAO)

Revenue Management Construction of phase 4 system is complete with testing now scheduled
System Phase 4 – instead to run into March Quarter 2018. This now means extension of
CUSMOD project completion date from December 2017.
Revenue Management
Division-MFEM

Financial Contract awarded to Agylix NZ on 24 November 2017 with final phases
Management of contract award in place. Upon completion of contract award, FMIS
Information Systems project timeline next steps are full incorporation of public sector
(FMIS) agencies accounts into the new CIG FMIS by 2019. Project progress
updates will be available with significant spends estimated in March
Treasury Division- Quarter 2018.
MFEM

National Tereora College Redevelopment Phase 1

Implementing Agency: Cook Islands Investment Corporation

Tereora College's newest buildings came into focus in October when local contractor, Landholding Ltd kicked off the practical completion for the construction of the new buildings and furnishing in time for handover to Tereora College in December 2017. Civil works were completed before start of the 2018 school year including the construction of concrete pathways and earth works for new access road along the school's western boundary.

The old administration building was demolished in October 2017, to make way for the two new buildings and clear line of sight into the lower quad to aid lunch time student supervision from the new staff room.

The two new buildings has finishing touches to the first floor of the Technologies building with a timber façade inspired by Polynesian motif of the 'weave' – a traditional form of technology and creativity. This unique feature will also serve as shading device or security barrier but a representation of subjects that the building is dedicated too for Design and Visual Communications, Food, Digital and Textiles. A façade symbolizing the core functions that drive the College has also been placed on the western face of the Student Research & Administration building.

Rooms within these buildings are fitted with furniture designed to support various learning and teaching needs. Furniture and joinery items manufactured by overseas suppliers Vidak Ltd have arrived according to schedule at end of October 2017. In the Food Technology room, stainless steel range hoods manufactured by the local contractors at Nikao Sheetmetal Ltd have been fixed into place, bringing the College closer to being equipped with a commercial style kitchen that will serve students with a taste of experiences in the hospitality industry.

New Zealand construction funding for this project was previously reported at \$10,850,000 but has now reduced to \$10, 815,000 for this quarter. The \$35,000 difference was transferred to further technical assistance. By this it has meant Cook Islands contribution increases in Stage 1

towards support of additional works and costs. The formal opening of Tereora College will take place end of January 2017.

CIIC provides up to date progress for this project on the project Facebook page [Tereora College Redevelopment Project](#).

CHINA PROGRAMMES

In the pipeline is a China Strategy inclusive of development programmes management of the Peoples Republic of China development programmes. At least four China programmes/projects are captured in the ODA Schedule including China contributions to the Te Mato Vai project.

China Building Repair

Implementing Agency: Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC)

Total spend to date is estimated at NZ\$7,586,666

The renovations projects are for public buildings in Rarotonga namely the Indoor Sports Arena, Ministry of Justice, and Police Headquarters.

CIIC hosted two technical assistance teams from China in September 2017. The two teams conducted technical and structural inspections on the three buildings that will undergo renovations. The teams consisted of engineers specializing in electrical, structural, water supply and drainage, heating and ventilation as well as a revision to construction costing. The preliminary results from these inspections were discussed and signed off between CIIC and the China working groups.

The Implementation Agreement for this project was finalized and signed in October 2017. Furthermore, on the 07 December 2017, Government of the Cook Islands and Peoples Republic of China Government signed the Grant Agreement for CNY¥30,000,000, to fund the renovations project. Planned start date for the renovations project is in the last quarter of FY2017/18.

Apii Nikao Construction

Implementing Agency: Cook Islands Investment Corporation

The construction of the Apii Nikao School project has evolved significantly since construction start in May 2017, despite delays this quarter caused by unfavourable weather.

October 2017 included plastering of interior and exterior face of the buildings and the laying of sewer lines with local contractors. CCECC also worked in collaboration with local contractor Landholdings Ltd construction timber block fence with timber paling surrounding the entire school. With the Tapatea public road right next to Nikao School this will ensure a safety barrier between the school and vehicles.

Contract signing milestones for supplier of school and office furniture with local supplier Prestige Furnishing Ltd engaged for supplier of teacher storage units.

December 2017 focus was on completing roof installation, procurement of material with bulk order deliveries from local suppliers of good such as bathroom fixture, paint, joinery and such.

CIIC continues to provide up to date project progress on the Facebook page [Apii Nikao Rebuild Project](#).

MULTILATERAL PROGRAMMES

The ODA Schedules lists several multilateral – either governments from more than two countries and/or funding mechanisms coming together to fund regional programmes for access by the Cook Islands where the regional programme is aligned to the Cook Islands national priority development areas in the Cook Islands National Sustainable Development Plan.

Pacific Information and Communication Technology Investment Planning and Capacity Development Facility: Phase 2

Programme Oversight Management: Asian Development Bank, Cook Islands

No project activities nor expenditure reported for this period. Else refer to September 2017 Quarterly Report of background information about this project.

Online Registry

Programme Oversight Management: Asian Development Bank, Cook Islands
The Ministry of Justice is pursuing a legislative package primarily towards private sector development in the Cook Islands. The new Companies Act will streamline company formation with ease of compliance for doing businesses in the Cook Islands. The new Personal Property Securities Act aims to expand collateral options to include movable property – not just land as is current practice. The amendments to the Incorporated Societies Act will modernize the process to incorporate and increase transparency in the operations of incorporated societies to its members.

Fundamental to this effort is to establish an electronic, fully online registry to allow business owners registered in the Cook Islands to register and maintain business legislation requirements over the internet as opposed to face to face paper work submissions to the Ministry of Justice. The legislation also contemplates that standardized forms will be set out in the regulations, for ease of filing necessary business returns.

Uploading information to the online registry database will lead to efficiency gains and reduced expenses and time consuming over the counter lodgement with Ministry of Justice. The project recognises the need to properly implement critical first steps, foremost the passing of the proposed bills in Cook Islands Parliament.

Late November saw the passing in Parliament the Companies Bill, Incorporated Societies Bill and in December 2017 the passing of the Personal Properties Bill.

Renewable Energy

Programme Oversight Management: Asian Development Bank (ADB), Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM), Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and Te Aponga Uira (TAU)
Total spend for Oct – Dec 2017 is NZ\$3,029,910

The programme has a blended funding arrangement, primarily the ADB loan attached to the European Union (EU) Grant, Global Environment Fund (GEF) Grant and Green Climate Fund Grant administered by ADB.

The renewable energy sector programme is towards the Cook Islands ambition for increase power generation from renewable sources and to enhance the government's institutional capacity for implementing the Cook Islands Renewable Energy Chart Implementation Plan (CIRECIP), 2012–2020, which sets a target of supplying electricity from renewable energy sources on all inhabited islands by 2020. The goal of the Renewable Energy Programme Support is to establish a solid foundation for renewable energy sector development and operations in the Cook Islands.

Under the umbrella of the Cook Islands Renewable Energy Sector Project, the Southern Group Renewable Energy Programme is in progress. Phase 1 is site preparations for construction of solar energy plants on the islands of Atiu, Mauke, Mitiaro and Mangaia.

With GEF Grant, the Rarotonga Battery Energy Storage (BESS) was awarded to overseas contractor MPower Ltd in June 2017. Overseas based Entura Ltd, is the contractor project engineer and who has confirmed 90% of Entura Ltd's design submission is accepted subject to review feedback.

For this quarter, Phase 2 is market procurement of goods and service for the Aitutaki renewal energy plant with tender evaluation report completed and sent to ADB and supporting no objections formal advice from the Cook Islands Government Tender Committee. Phase 2 funding is from Cook Islands Government FY2017/18 capital budget appropriations inclusive of remaining funds from Phase 1.

GCF Grant approved in December 2016 is planned for implementation of three battery storage sites in Rarotonga with invitation for bids advertised in November 2017. As advertising for procure of goods and services for this work is over the festive season break, a two weeks

extension to advertising with new closing date in February 2018. TAU is the lead agency for this project with OPM and Entura Ltd support. A pre bid meeting was held in late November followed by a site visit.

The required ADB Semi-Annual Safeguard Monitoring Report for 1 July – 31 December 2017 was planned for submission at the end of December 2017. The purpose of the report is to document social and environmental safeguard monitoring activities as well as environmental safeguards. Monitoring is being managed by Entura Ltd and will continue during the civil works period in the Pa Enea. A key outstanding item for action is finalisation of legal land title arrangement to allow for solar power transformer station sites for the project.

Mei Te Vai ki te Vai Project

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Finance and Economic Management

Total estimated spend to date NZ\$1,162,285

The purpose of the Mei Te Vai Ki Te Vai Project is to improve the water quality of the lagoons in Rarotonga and Aitutaki for the benefit of our health, environment and economy. The following are project activities progress to date:

Project Activity	December Quarter 2017 Progress
Master plan and road Map	Work is in progress towards January 2018 release of a draft master plan for the safe collection, treatment and disposal of domestic and commercial wastewater on Rarotonga and Aitutaki.
Environmental investigations and monitoring	<p>This is to establish a firm scientific and environmental understanding of the current situation to ensure that the final technical options developed are robust and can be clearly justified.</p> <p>Preliminary investigations was completed to inform areas for main investigations. The main investigations are currently underway which includes drilling boreholes and installing groundwater monitoring wells, some temporary and some permanent.</p>
Wastewater Infrastructure	Designs are in progress for wastewater infrastructure, specifically a Muri/Avana area reticulation system with replication of this system in all other parts of Rarotonga. The purpose of the reticulation system is to collect wastewater (from toilets, sinks and other drains) from properties and feed it into a network of pipes, pump stations and other infrastructure to transport it to a single point (off-site). This will help to better treatment of wastewater on a larger scale and reduce the likelihood of overwhelming amounts of nutrients in the soil.
Muri Wastewater concept design	<p>Conceptual design work has been undertaken to assist in informing the community on the technical solutions that are being considered. Workshops and consultations with the public are underway, where options concerning the disposal of the treated effluent generated from the reticulation system. One which includes land treatment and the other disposal through an outfall beyond the reef.</p> <p>Cost estimates, environmental and engineering information will go into the Concept Design report, together with a summary of community feedback</p>
Early Mitigation	Among the early mitigation measures considered to alleviate the

	deteriorating condition of the lagoon water quality. Proposed Dredging of sediment from the mouth of Are mango stream, in order to improve flushing in the lagoon and reducing the favourable conditions for algae growth.
Establishment of a Water and Wastewater Authority	<p>The Statement of Intent discussion paper produced is the most recent progress to date on the establishment of the water and wastewater authority. The paper documented the process and consultations to date and the proposed analytical framework for its establishment.</p> <p>To date, CIIC has established the legal entity for the Authority and is now in the process of appointing a board of directors and the recruitment of a CEO for this new state owned enterprise.</p>

Te Mato Vai (TMV)

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Finance and Economic Management

Total estimated spend to date NZ\$4,373,543

The purpose of the Te Mato Vai project is to replace Rarotonga's aging water network, improve storage and introduce treatment to provide our people with clean and reliable drinking water.

The following are project activities progress to date:

Project Activity	December Quarter 2017 Progress
Stage 1 Rarotonga water ring mains construction works	<p>Overseas based contractor CCECC Ltd completed the Stage 1 Ring main Construction Works in December 2016.</p> <p>Commissioning Contract The wider stage 1 commissioning contract was awarded to Land Holdings Ltd, where they will connect the new ring mains to the existing sub mains. Planned start date is early January 2018, with the DCD-MFEM Project Management Unit (PMU) supervising this work.</p>
Stage 2 works contract	<p>Land Negotiation support</p> <p>Landowners meetings are an ongoing process, as the Cook Islands Government works toward obtaining consent from landowners to enable site preparations and construction by overseas based contractor McConnell Dowell Ltd. Overseas based contractor McConnell Dowell Ltd was awarded the Stage 2 Contract, it is currently undergoing land surveys and ground investigations hoping for Stage 2 Construction to be underway by 2018.</p>

EUROPEAN UNION PROGRAMMES

EU Budget Support

Programme Management Oversight: DCD-MFEM

Total spend to date estimated is NZ\$20,000

The European Union (EU) provides ODA via budget support modality. The 10th cycle of funding (EDF10) has now concluded with focus moving to the 11th cycle (EDF11) to continue with its incentive based budget support using the Cook Islands national systems up until the year 2020.

The focus of the 11th EDF funding will continue to improve the Sanitation Sector, this was ratified through the signing of the Financing Agreement (EDF11) in September 2017. The Cook Islands government will be receiving a fixed tranche of EUR\$1,350,000 for budget support for the Sanitation Sector. A further EUR\$50,000 has been earmarked for evaluation of the effectiveness of the programme. These funds are estimated to be accessed in the 2019/20 Fiscal Year, and have been targeted for the Ministry of Health to support programmes in sanitation, towards resource mobilisation, sanitation upgrades, strengthening compliance and capacity building. The agreed primary focus of this programme would be review support towards

improved robust plans to upgrade sewerage systems by commercial properties in compliance with 2014 Regulations administered by Ministry of Health.

The EU funded two TA programmes under the 10th EDF. The first TA proposal relates to interdisciplinary studies to be carried out on the Muri Lagoon area, this programme is expected to be completed in the second quarter of the financial year. The second TA for feasibility study for a Centralised Laboratory on Rarotonga and Central Lab Implementation Plan and Feasibility Study Report were endorsed in the last quarter.

EU Partnership Multiyear Fisheries Policy Support

Implementing Agency: Ministry Marine Resources

MMR Estimated Total spend to date is NZD\$306,538

The Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement includes an annual fisheries sector contribution of EUR\$350,000 by the European Commission under the 4 year protocol. The first tranche of the protocol was received to begin implementation of programmes in the Multi-Annual Sectoral Support Matrix.

EU-GIZ ACSE Northern Island Water Project Phase II

Implementing Agency: Ministry Marine Resources

Total spend to date is NZD \$233,717

Following the tender in the last quarter, the contract for supply of materials Sections 1 & 3 was awarded to Cook Islands Building Supplies (CIBS) and Section 2 to Cook Islands Trading Corporation (CITC). For water tank cover – fabrication and installation was awarded to Aluminum and Stainless Steel Marine Construction.

The first required contract milestone payments for 50% total contract amounts approved were made to contractors in December 2017. Contractors are now sourcing materials and supplies with expected arrival date to project sites by late March or early April 2018.

GREEN CLIMATE FUND (GCF) READINESS 2

Implementing Agencies: MFEM and OPM

The spend to date is \$46,621

The second readiness programme is progressing well with three consultancy positions based at DCD-MFEM now filled and the National Designated Authority position based with Climate Change Cook Islands (CCCI), OPM.

The Green Climate Fund have launched a new Simplified Approval Process (SAP) which is aimed for smaller scale projects or programmes up to US\$10,000,000 per project. The Cook Islands are in the process of developing two SAP concept note proposal documents with one developed by the NDA and submitted to GCF Secretariat review and comments. The second SAP is in draft process in collaboration with accredited GCF regional implementing agency, UN Food Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Samoa and the Ministry of Agriculture.

UNITED NATIONS (UN) ADMINISTERED PROGRAMMES

The ODA Schedule has 16 programmes/projects either with direct UN funding or international funding mechanisms such as Global Environment Facility (GEF), Adaption Fund, administered by a United Nations programme. Progress to date for some of these programmes are as follows with reporting by highest budget allocations.

UNDP GEF Pacific Regional Ridge to Reef (R2)

Implementing Agency: National Environment Services

No recorded spends for this quarter

Although there are no recorded spends for this quarter the following is a summary of overall programme progress highlights together with project executing agencies:

Programme Activity	December Quarter 2017 Progress
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Programme wide highlights with lead agency NES

- Ridge to Reef support to Pa Enea in Environment Impact Assessments training, by-laws review processes on Atiu, Wetlands assessment on Aitutaki and midterm review meeting with overseas based TA and Aitutaki Island Council meeting with mid-term review TA and R2R Project Manager.
- Ridge to Reef Mid Term Review was conducted in November 2017 with draft report produced in December for finalisation
- R2R Retreat held in November 2017 for relevant stakeholders towards forward planning, taking into consideration recommendations provided by the Mid Term Review draft report.
- A UNDP mission for SRICC project included R2R Retreat participation and contributions
- Other highlights include
 - Unga (Birgus Latro) report for Mangaia has been completed
 - Signage for Mangaia – Tanga’eo sent by boat to Punas on island
 - Rarotonga and Aitutaki wetland assessment and development of wetland database system
 - Advertisement for Information Management Systems TA
 - Equipment for the Atiu Mokoero Reserve sent to Atiu for track management
- Binocular procured for Atiu – Remote monitoring of Takutea

Ministry of Marine Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aitutaki Lagoon Master Plan stakeholder analysis was started, with local TA engaged to complete this Plan. • Local marine expert counterpart to overseas marine continues with marine surveys • Manuae Marine assessment carried out and completed • Ongoing work MMR building renovation and capacity building for MMR officers in the Pa Enea
Cook Islands Tourism Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement from overseas suppliers with designated for shipment to Atiu, the Mokoero camping equipment are yet to be received. • Difficulty in implementation of project milestones this quarter due to competing priorities with approval to reschedule activities to March Quarter 2018.
Ministry of Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much needed tools and implements conducive to sustainable agriculture practices was purchased. Following the training for farmers in the Pa Enea, all these equipment will be sent to respective Island Administration to oversee its use and distribution to those farmers. • Bio Security kits – provide border control support for all Pa Enea who receive regular flights and ships on island. The increase in pests prompted the team to equip the Agriculture officers in the Pa Enea and Rarotonga to be more vigilant in their checks as it would be detrimental to food safety. • In the process of researching the procurement of AgIntel Software System that provides updates on importation of pesticides and insecticides with stocktake monitoring function to inform policy towards reducing pesticides and insecticides imports to the Cook Islands.
House of Ariki	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ra’ui Coordinator position following R2R Retreat has gained support from relevant stakeholders to enable traditional leaders’ efforts in managing the marine conservation.

UNDP Adaptation Fund Strengthening the Resilience of our Islands and Communities to Climate Change (SRIC)

Implementing Agency: Office of the Prime Minister

Total spend to date is NZD \$702,775

Progress is on track with exceptional results for this quarter with the activities summary to date:

Total SRIC Projects	53
Small Grants	19
Agriculture & Marine	5
Water	4
Coastal Protection	4
Tourism	21
Total Projects completed	16

For this quarter, the SRIC team participated or provided support to a total of 11 workshops/events, of which six were national and five international. SRIC team support was towards Te Ipukarea Society Weather Stations in Manihiki, Rakahanga and Penrhyn schools with workshop participation and/or support hosted by Ministry of Agriculture, Business Trade Investment Board (BTIB), a Cook Islands Tertiary Training Institute (CITTI) held in Mangaia. SRIC jointly hosted with DCD-MFEM the public GCF Fostering Resilience Workshop held in Rarotonga that was open to the public.

SRIC communications component has been extremely active, not only through its online presence but also through local media and print, specifically via the Cook Islands Radio, Cook Islands TV and the daily newspaper, Cook Islands News. SRIC programme reach on social media has increased this quarter compared to previous quarters. To date SRIC Facebook (FB) page reach is 160,817 persons with a total 2,957 SRIC FB page likes. For SRIC stories posted on its FB page, there has been a total 472,598 post reach for 2017 calendar year.

The international funding mechanism, Adaption Fund (AF), also SRIC's funding source channelled through UNDP also recognises SRIC achievements. At least three project stories were featured internationally on the [AF website](#) and in the world wide distributed AF 10th Anniversary publication with [two SRIC stories](#) featured through UNDP own media forum Exposure.

UNDP GEF Strengthening the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on "Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing (ABS)" in the Cook Islands

Implementing Agency: National Environment Service

Total estimated spend to date is NZ\$274,441

In the previous quarter, the Cook Islands Audit Office carried out auditing for NES projects including Nagoya Protocol, Ridge to Reef and National Biodiversity Planning to Support the Implementation of the international Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 2011-2020 Strategic Plan in the Cook Islands. This has been completed to date and NES is now awaiting Audit report.

In December 2017, two local TAs were engaged and are currently carrying out consultancy work to develop the ABS policy starting with community consultations in Aitutaki.

A speech competition for secondary school students was held in November to create engagement and awareness of the ABS project. The chosen topic of discussion was "Traditional Medicine access and the benefit sharing in its properties." This was carried out in collaboration

with Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Environment and the Cook Islands privately owned company Cook Islands Medical Technologies (CIMTECH).

The key highlight of this quarter is the procurement of the Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometer (GCMS). This followed a site visit from the Australia based supplier with CIMTECH team based in Rarotonga and Australia who are also leading the facility re-design to encompass all requirements for facility modification for temperature and energy control prior to installation of GCMS in March Quarter 2018.

Video footage captured Shimadzu training laboratory and GCMS equipment in action. This is positive learning curve for the Cook Islands going forward with determination to maximise training and assistance provided. Long term support is offered beyond equipment to the provision of supervision of post graduate research.

CIMTECH is in receipt of the pre-installation manual for the GCMS. The manual has dimensions and also details all the required services, power, gases required. This will inform core focus of March Quarter 2018 towards further progress in facility re modification and equipment purchases to support operation of machine. Supplier Peak Australia has been co-ordinated with to ensure the H2 generator is underway to coincide with the delivery schedule.

UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme

Implementing Agency: Cook Islands Red Cross

Total spend to date is NZ\$335,567 (MFEM conversion rates)

This is the only agency outside of government reporting administration of a development programme targeted at Cook Islands civil society organization as small environment projects executing agencies. This UNDP Programme is funded by GEF with one successful project approval for this quarter by the national GEF SGP Steering Committee with necessary UN approvals, leading to drawdown of funds this quarter. This is the fastest turnaround of funds drawdown for any GEF SGP project since the inception of this programme in 2005.

In November 2017, the SGP Committee and new SGP Coordinator met with the GEF SGP Regional Coordinator for Samoa, Tokelau and Niue. The Regional Coordinator announced that the Cook Islands and Samoa are in lead with implementation of GEF SCP projects. In that Operational Phase 5 (OP5)) funding have for the Cook Islands have now been increased to US\$600,000. The Regional Coordinator was in the Cook Islands to provide support with facilitation of a one day GEF SGP outreach workshop.

Cook Islands Red Cross is currently advertising for project proposals of up to US\$50,000 in the area of waste management related to global environment focal areas.

UN FAO Improved production, processing and marketing of agricultural produce

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)

The actual title for this FAO programme is FAO Multi Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2013-2017.

This programme has come to an end in December 2017 with FAO Steering Committee final meeting held in December 2017 international development consulting TA ANZDEC providing programme management oversight on behalf of FAO for the implementation of this programme in the Cook Islands. In particular the project 'Improving the capacity of Cook Islands domestic farmers and agro-processors to supply the domestic market with safe and nutritious foods'. Over the 2017, this project has undertaken workshops and capacity building in food processing, hydroponics, agribusiness, participatory guarantee scheme, vanilla production and processing. The vanilla production and processing capacity building were conducted in the Pa Enuua of Mangaia, Mauke, Atiu & Aitutaki. Manuals have also been produced to main project activities farmers in the areas of food processing, vanilla production and processing, vegetable and hydronic productions.

The next steps are for MOA to initiate consultations for agriculture and food projects of up to NZ\$250,000 to inform the CPF 2017-2020.

UN FAO Regional Funding

This is a third party programme capture also through MOA. Although the Cook Islands has accessed the regional FAO Technical Cooperation Programme, there are no new project activities reported for this period.

This regional fund has funded the Chamber of Commerce agribusiness project towards hands on technical assistance, training and equipment to farmers in vanilla, orchard farming, floriculture and such.

Third party expenditure for this programme is also ongoing for capacity building at the political and operational level but is not however included in the ODA Schedule due to difficulties in getting this information from FAO.

UNDP GEF Preparation of the Third National Communication under UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Implementing Agency: Office of the Prime Minister

Work is in progress by Project Coordinator and the Climate Change Cook Islands team towards bid for extending the Third National Communications (TNC) project to January 2019. Recruitment of additional person to assist the Project Coordinator has been successful with new person expect start date in January 2018.

The two TA engaged for Green House Gas (GHG) and MIT are due for the final visit that will include a technical training workshop and presentation of a draft for the GHG and MIT component. The visit is planned for late February. TA tasks completed this quarter also include engagement of a consultant to support technical working groups and to prepare TNC draft for 2019.

UNDP National Biodiversity Planning to Support the implementation of the CBD 2011-2020 Strategic Plan (NBSAP) in the Cook Islands

Implementing Agency: National Environment Services

The 5th Draft National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was completed and endorsed by the Government of the Cook Islands on the 16 November 2017 and submitted and accepted by the CBD Secretariat. The NBSAP Project also managed to develop a framework for the Cook Islands National Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism (www.biodiversity.gov.ck) with some information already uploaded. NES will take on the role of completing the upload of biodiversity information from stakeholders and managing the CHM moving forward.

An Internal Control Audit of NES was commissioned this quarter and includes an audit of NBSAP processes and arrangements. The Project is awaiting the results of the Audit to complete this activity. The final activity under the Project is the completion of the new NBSAP document. Overseas based TA engaged completed the final in-country visit and meetings with stakeholders in December 2017 with submission of revised draft for review by stakeholders. It is anticipated that the NBSAP will be finalised late February 2018 and launched in March 2018.

At the beginning of this quarter, NZ\$32,338 was returned to UNDP Samoa for direct payments to project suppliers of goods and services of up to NZ\$4,859 and US\$11,991. Thereafter, remaining project funds are allocated to final payment of audit services and printing of the endorsed new and updated NBSAP.

UN World Health Organisation Technical Cooperation Biennium Budget Support

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Health

Total spend to date is NZ\$152,137

There are no project updates for this quarter although MOH reports of total spend to date is more than the FY2017/18 budget of NZ\$148,397.

INDIA GRANT FUND

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Finance and Economic Management

Total spend to date is NZ\$1,446

Government of India approved the Cook Islands Government proposal of US\$690,846 to fund 16 approved grassroots projects for the India Grant Fund 2016/2017 funding round. Small grants focal area is to support, promote, and/or develop social, economic and/or cultural and development cultural, economic and social development and sustainability aligned to the National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2020.

Five of 16 approved projects have been completed to date. The remaining 11 projects are at various stages of implementation with required progress reports submitted to DCD-MFEM in accordance with grant funding agreements. Target completion dates for remaining projects will be before the next round of funding in March 2018.

KOREA GRANT FUND

Programme Oversight Management: Ministry of Finance and Economic Management

No expenditure to date

The Republic of Korea Government has allocated Official Development Assistance (ODA) through the Korean Small Grants Programme to the Cook Islands for amounts up to US\$200,000 annually.

Only one proposal was submitted in February 2017 to Korea Government for FY2017/18 funding round. The proposal was for a medical waste incinerator for the Rarotonga Hospital, valued at US\$200,000.

FORUM FISHERIES AGENCY (FFA)

Project Development Fund – US Fisheries Treaty

Project Management Oversight: Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR)

Total spend to date is NZ\$148,397

Although MMR reports of expenditure for this project, there are no project updates this quarter for this third party administered fund.

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITIES (SPC) PROGRAMMES

There are no project updates this quarter for the SPC funded Cook Islands Household Income & Expenditure Survey based with MFEM and the SPC Small Grants based with MOH.

NEW/EXISTING PROGRAMMES APPROVED FOR IMPLEMENTATION

These are programmes either finalised after the passing of National Appropriations in Parliament, omitted to inactivity, omitted in error and such.

Australia Pacer Plus

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Total spend to date is NZ\$4,460

Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) as a part of the PACER Plus Readiness Package, committed AU\$25,000 to each signatory of the Pacer Plus Agreement in order for these countries to carry out PACER Plus outreach and consultations. Of the 11 signatories, only Kiribati and Tonga have accessed their total amount – Cook Islands is the only other country to have utilized any of their allocation, but have not yet accessed the full AU\$25,000.

In November 2017, the Cook Islands held a three day outreach programme. Two of these days were on public sector agencies visits with a full day of presentations and training opened to the public. Remaining funds allocation are planned for Pa Enea outreach visits and training, Cook Islands Maori translation of the pertinent parts or a summary PACER Plus Agreement into Cook Islands Maori.

New Zealand & Australia Funded Scholarships

Implementing Agency: New Zealand Aid

Total estimated spend to date is \$60,019

These cover Tertiary Scholarships NZ, Tertiary Scholarships Pacific Regional, Training and Professional Development and Commonwealth Scholars these are recorded as third party grants managed directly by New Zealand.

Special TMV Select Committee

The Te Mato Vai Project Special Select Committee was established by Parliament in June 2016 to consider the grievances and concerns of the petitioners of the Te Mato Vai project in light of the existing status and progress of the project and to report the findings and conclusions of the Committee to Parliament by December 2016.

Committee meetings were held at Parliament Chamber on 24 & 27 October, 03, 10 & 23 November to discuss the petition and to hear presentations from the petitioners, landowner representatives, staff from CIIC, MFEM, NES and the TMV Project Management Unit.

The staff from the different agencies dedicated their time to attend the committee meetings over the period but welcomed the opportunity to work with the Special Select Committee

To date, NZD10, 000 have been spent. All other expenses came from Government budgets.

NEW PROGRAMMES APPROVED FOR IMPLEMENTATION

In August 2016, it was brought to the attention of the Development Coordination Division of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management that several government agencies received funding from Donor partners to execute programmes in the financial year 2016/17. These new programmes were not included in the appropriation schedule for FY2016-17 due to non inclusion in the annual budget process. Given that these omissions are less than 5% of the total appropriation for ODA, legal advice allowed for the implementing agencies to expend funds to ensure timely implementation of programmes and transparency in reporting of programmes already implemented but not captured in the ODA appropriation. The table below outlines ten new programmes and projects to be implemented. The programmes will formally be appropriated in Parliament during the supplementary budget process scheduled for the end of 2016 as the Appropriation Amendment Bill 2016/17.

Govt Agency	Project Name	Development Partner	Start Date	End Date	FY2016-17 Budget NZD ¹
MOCD	National Auditorium Indoor and Outdoor Sound Equipment	China	Jul-16	Dec-16	586,180
NES	HCFC Phase-out Management Plan for PIC Countries through Regional Approach Stage 1 Second tranche	MLF/UNEP	Jul-16	Jun-21	35,308

¹ Exchange rate is based on rates provided by BSP dated 18.08.2016. USD conversion rate is 0.7647

Govt Agency	Project Name	Development Partner	Start Date	End Date	FY2016-17 Budget NZD ¹
NES	Review and Update the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in the Cook Islands	UN Environment Programme (UNEP)	2016	2018	76,831
NES	Pacific POPs Release Project	GEF/UNEP/SPREP	Jul-16	Jun-18	25,173
NES	Development of Minamata Convention Mercury Initial Assessment in Pacific	GEF/UNEP/SPREP	2016	2018	39,296
NES	Survey of ODS Alternatives at the National level in the Cook Islands	GEF/UNEP/SPREP	2016	2018	35,714
MFEM	RSA Cemetery NZ PDCT Project	New Zealand	2016	2017	50,000
MFEM	The Project for the Upgrade of Avana Harbour	Japan	2016	2017	110,071
MFEM	The Project for the Improvement of the Fire Station in Teimurimotia	Japan	2016	2017	93,653
MFEM	The Project for the Improvement of the Te Kainga Mental Health Respite Centre	Japan	2016	2017	113,000
MFEM	Non Project Grant Aid	Japan	2016	2017	1,335,113
MFEM	Project for Reinforcing Meteorological	JICA (Japan)	2016	2017	1,095

Govt Agency	Project Name	Development Partner	Start Date	End Date	FY2016-17 Budget NZD ¹
	Training Function of FMS				
MFEM	JICA Training Program for Young Leaders/Local Governance Course	JICA (Japan)	2016	2017	33,151
MFEM	JICA Training Program for Basic Education science, maths, local governance and law and order	JICA (Japan)	2016	2017	90,748
MFEM	Germany Small Grants - Fire Station in Teimurimotia	Germany	2016	2017	14,400
Total					2,639,733