

COOK ISLANDS COUNTRY PROGRAM, INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND PRIORITY SETTING

The priority sectors identified through existing national and sectoral documents, specific island plans and community consultations have been synthesised into eleven programmatic areas and interventions which are characteristically inter-thematic and needs multi-stakeholder input in order to achieve the climate change policy goals where climate change action will progress the transition of the Cook Islands on a low carbon development pathway; build the resilience of the country and people to the impacts of climate change through a coordinated, inclusive, culturally appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures; and affirm the Cook Islands as a leader in addressing climate change. The eleven priority programmatic areas identified are:

1. Renewable Energy Development (including clean energy transportation)
2. Coastal Protection and Restoration
3. Water Security
4. Disaster Risk Management
5. Waste Management
6. Climate Proofing Infrastructure
7. Flood Management
8. Agriculture and Ecosystem Based Adaptation
9. Oceans Management and Climate Change
10. Livelihoods of People and Communities
11. Knowledge, Research and Innovation

The priority programmatic areas are underpinned by the following pillars:

- Promoting gender responsive, participatory and transparent low carbon and climate resilient development pathways.
- Developing resilience through climate proofing key productive sectors, while improving human wellbeing and ecological integrity through sustainable livelihoods, food, water, energy security and opportunity creation using a cohesive approach.
- Encouraging participation of the private sector, civil society and communities to complement government and climate finance partnerships in mobilizing resources and implementing climate change initiatives.
- Integrating climate information in decision making at all levels.

THE COOK ISLANDS PRIORITY PROGRAMMATIC AREAS

This section outlines specific interventions in each key sector that climate finance can support to build resilience in the Cook Islands. It should be noted that there are interlinkages and crossovers between programmatic areas reflecting the multifaceted nature of addressing the impacts of climate change in the context of people-centred development. It should also be noted that the elements of the programmatic areas will be reviewed annually. This will ensure their impact, paradigm shift and sustainable development potential, how they are responding to the country's and community's needs, and the actual and potential efficiency and effectiveness in delivery. Given that these programmatic areas and elements, have been identified by the people and therefore the means of implementation have to compliment the ability to achieve what has been set out in this strategy, including the support from development partners. The majority of these programmatic areas and element of the programmes builds on existing work that is ongoing nationally, within sectors and in communities whether funded by the government, development partners, the private sector, CSOs and communities themselves.

Programmatic Area 1: Renewable Energy Development

The Cook Islands has made good progress towards the achievement of its aspirational renewable energy targets of 50% of islands powered by renewable energy by 2015 and 100% by 2020. The transformation of electricity supply has been undertaken through four main work streams. The first, completing the northern islands with the construction of 8 photovoltaic systems on 6 islands. The second, is the conversion of Mangaia, Mitiaro, Mauke and Atiu in the south. This is scheduled for completion in 2018. The third work stream addresses the transformation of Aitutaki. A staged approach is envisaged for Aitutaki's conversion. The final work stream focuses on Rarotonga, the more complex of the four work streams. The Cook Islands hopes with the support of partners to further progress the advances made in ensuring that the country is powered by renewable and clean sources of energy, including the transformation of energy use in the transport sector.

Elements of the Programme	Strategic Impact Areas	Key Partners
Expand renewable energy such as solar, wind, biomass, and other relevant electricity generation sources with a focus on tried and proven technologies	Low emission energy access and power generation	Renewable Energy Development Division (REDD) of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM); Te Aponga Uira o Tumutevarovaro (TAU); Aitutaki Power Supply (APS); Island Governments, Private Sector, CSOs, Communities
Improve renewable energy storage capacity	Low emission energy access and power generation	Renewable Energy Development Division (REDD) of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM); Te Aponga Uira o Tumutevarovaro (TAU); Aitutaki Power Supply (APS); Island Governments, Private Sector, CSOs, Communities

Implement energy efficiency in public buildings	Energy efficient buildings	Cook Islands Investment Corporation, Renewable Energy Development Division (REDD) of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM); Te Aponga Uira o Tumutevarovaro (TAU); Aitutaki Power Supply (APS); Island Governments, Private Sector, CSOs, Communities
Implement energy efficient businesses and households	Low emission energy access and power generation	Renewable Energy Development Division (REDD) of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM); Islands Governments, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities
Climate proof energy infrastructure through the integration of climate change risks and opportunities in the design, operation and management of infrastructure	Low emission energy access and power generation, Resilient infrastructure and built environments	Renewable Energy Development Division (REDD) of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM); Te Aponga Uira o Tumutevarovaro (TAU); Aitutaki Power Supply (APS); Island Governments, Private Sector, CSOs, Communities
Promote the use of electric vehicles and other forms of transformation	Low emission transport	Renewable Energy Development Division (REDD) of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM); Ministry of Transport; Private Sector, CSOs, Communities
Explore and implement means to incentivise the uptake of renewable energy, including the implementation of cheaper financing options for the private sector, households and communities	Low emission energy access and power generation, Low emission transport	Renewable Energy Development Division (REDD) of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM); Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM)

Programmatic Area 2: Coastal Protection and Restoration

As low lying islands, the entire Cook Islands is vulnerable to sea surges, sea level rise and extreme weather events. Communities have been experiencing over many years land loss, as shorelines recede into the sea, damaging infrastructure, housing, and natural habitats. This in turn results in other detrimental impacts such as salt water inundation of planting areas, threatening food security and livelihoods, increase in vector borne disease and so forth. This is particular acute on the northern group atolls. Consultations with communities have indicated that the problem is being exacerbated by the rising tides and more frequent sea surges caused by climate change. Coastal protection and restoration is essential for building resilience of both built and natural environments and for maintaining the livelihoods of communities.

Elements of the Programme	Strategic Impact Areas	Key Partners
Strengthen institutions, human resources, awareness and knowledge for resilient coastal management through capacity building, education and awareness	Resilient people and communities, built environments, ecosystems and ecosystem services	Ministry of Education, Infrastructure Cook Islands, National Environment Services, Private Sector, Island Governments, CSOs and Communities
Implement coastal protection and restoration measures (including both hard and soft structures) in key vulnerable areas identified on all islands	Resilient built infrastructure and environments, ecosystems and ecosystem services and communities	Infrastructure Cook Islands, Natural Environment Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Island Governments, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities
Reduce the vulnerability of key coastal infrastructure including homes, roads and other public infrastructure	Resilient built infrastructure and environments, people and communities	Infrastructure Cook Islands, Cook Islands Investment Corporation, Island Governments, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities
Implement small grants scheme for coastal protection in the pa enua	Resilient built infrastructure and environments, people and communities	Climate Change Cook Islands (CCCI) division of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM); Island Governments and Communities

Programmatic Area 3: Water security

Changes in rainfall patterns and variability is increasingly challenging the supply of water to meet the needs of our population. The quality of water is also a shared problem across all islands. This has negative health implications. Where there are water distribution networks, these are aged and losses add to the challenge. Agriculture also requires water and any reduction or limitations in the availability of water, compromises consistent food production and security. Sanitation and flush toilets also places pressure on limited water resources (particularly in the northern islands) where rainwater harvesting is the primary source of water. Climate proofing water infrastructure and ensuring water security is absolutely necessary for building resilience and preventing drought.

Elements of the Programme	Strategic Impact Areas	Key Partners
Increase water storage capacities on all islands	Building resilience through health, food and water security, building resilient livelihoods of people and communities	Climate Change Cook Islands (CCCI) division of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM); Infrastructure Cook Islands, Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, Island Governments, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities
Address water distribution losses and putting in place new distribution systems where required	Building resilience through health, food and water security, building resilient livelihoods of people and communities, Resilient infrastructure	Infrastructure Cook Islands, Island Governments, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities
Improve waste water treatment and recycling	Building resilience through health, food and water security, building resilient livelihoods of people and communities, Resilient infrastructure	Infrastructure Cook Islands, Island Governments, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities
Explore options for desalination	Building resilience through health, food and water security, building resilient livelihoods of people and communities	Infrastructure Cook Islands, Emergency Management Cook Islands (EMCI) division of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Island Governments, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities
Improve water management and water conservation, including rainwater harvesting, recycling and reuse of water, water conservation awareness campaigns, technology for water conservation in water services and supply, and improved watershed management	Building resilience through health, food and water security, building resilient livelihoods of people and communities	Infrastructure Cook Islands, Emergency Management Cook Islands (EMCI) division of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), National Environment Service, Island Governments, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities
Explore and implement options for water supply for agriculture, including	Building resilience through health, food and water security, building	Infrastructure Cook Islands, Ministry of Agriculture,

appropriate management and irrigation	resilient livelihoods of people and communities	National Environment Service, Island Governments, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities
Explore and implement options for water supply for sanitation	Building resilience through health, food and water security, building resilient livelihoods of people and communities	Ministry of Health, Infrastructure Cook Islands, National Environment Service, Island Governments, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities

Programmatic Area 4: Disaster Risk Management

The Cook Islands by virtue of its geography is extremely vulnerable to disasters and extreme climate events. While the country has in place legislative and institutional structures to enable preparedness, response and recovery, national funding for adequate preparedness is insufficient. With the lives of people at risk during disasters and extreme climate events, and the prediction that extreme events will intensify with climate change, further investment is required to build resilience and safeguard lives. Strengthening national meteorological and hydrological services is also essential for preparedness, monitoring of the climate, forecasting climatic conditions and so forth.

Elements of the Programme	Strategic Impact Areas	Key Partners
Improve cyclone and disaster safety shelters through upgrading existing facilities and constructing new shelters in Rarotonga, Aitutaki, Mangaia, Mauke, Atiu, Mitiaro, Nassau, Rakahanga, Penryhn and Suwarrow	Resilient Infrastructure and built environments, and livelihoods of people and communities	Emergency Management Cook Islands (EMCI) division of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Infrastructure Cook Islands, Cook Islands Investment Corporation, Island Governments, Communities
Construct a National Operations Centre, including telecommunications services	Resilient Infrastructure and built environments, and livelihoods of people and communities	Emergency Management Cook Islands (EMCI) division of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Cook Islands Police Service, Infrastructure Cook Islands, Cook Islands Investment Corporation
Strengthen national, community and sectoral participatory and gender responsive disaster risk management planning (relating to events resulting from climate conditions), including mapping of key vulnerabilities	Resilient livelihoods of people and communities	Emergency Management Cook Islands (EMCI) and Climate Change Cook Islands divisions of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Public Service Commission, Private Sector, CSOs, Island Governments and Communities
Strengthen National meteorological and hydrological services, including capacity building	Resilient livelihoods of people and communities	National Meteorological Services, Island Governments, Private

		Sector, CSOs and Communities
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Programmatic Area 5: Waste Management

Waste management is a significant issue for the Cook Islands. In relation to solid waste, although efforts are undertaken to encourage practice of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, with limited land availability for landfill on all islands and the fragility of the environment from leaching into the ground and onwards into the sea affecting soil, ground water and the lagoon, this places significant stresses of resilience building. Currently there are built waste management facilities on only Rarotonga and Aitutaki, which are currently near capacity.

Likewise in sanitation, although the Ministry of Health has established sanitation standards, given the age and condition of the majority of systems, there is evidence that excess nutrients from septic systems are ending up in the lagoon. The impact of both solid waste and sanitation through not directly attributed to climate change, does exacerbate the negative impacts being experienced in the lagoon, as a result of climate change and extreme weather events. The health of the land and lagoon is strongly linked to climate change impact areas of ecosystems and ecosystem services; health, food and water security and livelihoods of people and communities. Waste management cannot be ignored in the context of climate change. Rather, solutions to these issues will strengthen resilience and the ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Elements of the Programme	Strategic Impact Areas	Key Partners
Explore and implement opportunities for better management of solid waste, including the construction of waste management facilities on all islands and turning waste to energy	Health, food and water security, ecosystem and ecosystem services, infrastructure and built environments, resilient livelihoods of people and communities, energy generation and access, land use	Infrastructure Cook Islands, National Environment Service, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Marine Resources, Island Governments, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities
Explore and implement opportunities to safely use non-biodegradable waste products to substitute natural materials in construction and development	Infrastructure and built environments, resilient livelihoods of people and communities, energy generation and access, land use	Infrastructure Cook Islands, National Environment Service, Ministry of Health, Islands Governments, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities
Implement appropriate and relevant sanitation solutions on all islands, including the replacement of current systems and the use of waterless/compost toilets	Health, food and water security, ecosystem and ecosystem services, infrastructure and built environments, resilient livelihoods of people and communities	Infrastructure Cook Islands, National Environment Service, Ministry of Health, Islands Governments, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities

Programmatic Area 6: Climate Proofing Infrastructure

As all islands are vulnerable to impacts of climate change, including more severe extreme weather events, sea surges and sea level rise. It is essential that key public, private sector and domestic infrastructure are not only protected, but also constructed and developed in a manner that takes into account the mentioned impacts. Priority infrastructure requiring climate proofing are ports, airports and buildings.

The airports on all islands are close to the sea and susceptible to damage. With the exception of Rarotonga and Aitutaki, where there are airports on other islands, these are constructed from crushed coral and therefore also vulnerable to deluge conditions in addition to damage from the sea. They need to be strengthened to allow them to withstand torrent and sea surges. Strengthening of airports should also be done in parallel with protection of the coast near airports.

With the exception of Rarotonga, current harbours in the outer islands require ships to moor offshore for unloading and loading of cargo and passengers. Handling of cargo and passengers is a challenge and can be dangerous, particularly when the weather conditions are not ideal. Harbour facilities, therefore need to take into consideration the predicted worsening climate impacts. Additionally, when boats are unable to offload cargo and passengers, they drift until the weather clears, burning fuel. Improvement of harbours is also thus, a means of reducing emissions by limiting drift time for boats. Consideration should also be given to the possibility to ensure quick evacuation and safety during time of disaster.

Future infrastructure development in all islands should incorporate climate proofing in design and construction. This will equate to increased costs, which is an additional burden on either government, the private sector or homeowners depending on the development project. The private sector and individuals require some assistance such as cheaper financing options to incentivise climate proofing infrastructure.

Overall climate proofing will ensure that infrastructure will be able to withstand the impacts of climate change, maintain connectivity, enable economic activity and build the resilience of livelihoods, people and communities.

Elements of the Programme	Strategic Impact Areas	Key Partners
Climate proof and develop harbours facilities in Aitutaki, Penryhn, Pukapuka, Nassau, Palmerston, Rakahanga and Atiu	Resilient infrastructure and built environments, livelihoods of people and communities	Infrastructure Cook Islands, Cook Islands Investment Corporation, Island Government, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities
Climate proof the airports across all inhabited islands	Resilient infrastructure and built environments, livelihoods of people and communities	Infrastructure Cook Islands, Cook Islands Investment Corporation, Island Government, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities
Provide climate friendly shipping vessel to service the pa enua, including an inter-island vessel between Manihiki and Rakahanga, and Pukapuka and Nassau	Resilient infrastructure and built environments, livelihoods of people and communities	Infrastructure Cook Islands, Cook Islands Investment Corporation, Island Government, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities

Explore and implement cheaper financing and grant options to incentivise and support the private and communities to climate proof their infrastructure	Resilient infrastructure and built environments, livelihoods of people and communities	Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM), Infrastructure Cook Islands, National Environment Service, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities
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Programmatic Area 7: Flood Management

Flood management is an issue on Rarotonga resulting in the erosion of river banks and the foreshore and with the run off into the lagoon causing stress on the marine environment. Increase in severe tropical storms and rainfall variability, the impacts of storm surges seriously undermines flood protection. The related issue of waste management becomes more profound during flood events. The combination of these factors critically affects the livelihoods of people and communities, infrastructure and built environments, and ecosystem and ecosystem services.

Elements of the Programme	Strategic Impact Areas	Key Partners
Build capacity to pursue an integrated approach to reduce the vulnerability of communities to flooding. This includes understanding the connectivity of properties to streams, watersheds and rehabilitation, health, awareness building, regulatory and permitting, early warning systems, and so forth	Resilient health, food and water security; infrastructure and built environments, ecosystem and ecosystem services and livelihoods and communities	Infrastructure Cook Islands, Ministry of Health, National Environment Service, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities
Rehabilitation of rivers and stream banks (including both hard and soft responses) to accommodate increased water flow and decrease flood risks and impact on-flows	Resilient health, food and water security; infrastructure and built environments, ecosystem and ecosystem services and livelihoods and communities	Infrastructure Cook Islands, Ministry of Health, National Environment Service, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities
Upgrading key drainage systems, bridges and roads affected by excessive water flows in agricultural areas, occupied/habitable areas	Infrastructure Cook Islands, Ministry of Health, National Environment Service, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities	Infrastructure Cook Islands, Ministry of Health, National Environment Service, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities
Regulating use of wetlands for development as a resilient measure	National Environment Service, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities	National Environment Service, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities

Programmatic Area 8: Agriculture and Ecosystem Based Adaptation

Rising temperatures, variable rainfall, salt water intrusion, pollution of the ground and water table, all impact on ecosystems and agricultural production. With the predictions of more adverse impacts of climate change these effects will become more acute on the livelihoods of people and communities, food security and the ability of ecosystem services to fulfil their purposes. Impacts experienced are reduced agricultural production, changes in the suitability of land for crop production, availability of water, changes in the duration of growing seasons, lower yields, loss of income, increase in negative coping mechanisms, and instability of food supply, reduced nutrition and wellbeing. This is exacerbated by human actions, such as land clearance and overuse, intensive agriculture and unsustainable agricultural practices. These actions contribute to land degradation, water insecurity and erosion.

Elements of the Programme	Strategic Impact Areas	Key Partners
Strengthen climate change and agriculture individual and institutional capacities of improved ecosystem management, including: defining guidelines for sustainable land development (incorporating the use of taro wetlands) and climate smart agriculture; mapping specific areas for specialised use; disseminating climate and agriculture information to communities; and training and outreach.	Enhanced livelihoods of people and communities, increased health wellbeing, food and water security, resilient ecosystems, sustainable land use and forest management	Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, National Environment Service, National Metrological Services, Island Governments, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities
Promote reforestation and protecting soil against erosion with activities including: replanting of native and fruit trees; practice mulching as erosion prevention; eradication of invasive species.	Enhanced livelihoods of people and communities, increased health wellbeing, food and water security, resilient ecosystems, sustainable land use and forest management	Ministry of Agriculture, National Environment Service, Island Governments, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities
Strengthen sustainable agriculture including: improving water supply and irrigation; increasing planting of climate resilient crops; scaling up of climate resilient and organic farming practices; improving conservation, processing and marketing of farm productions; organising producer groups and facilitating partnerships; creating and enhancing income generating activities for farmers	Enhanced livelihoods of people and communities, increased health wellbeing, food and water security, resilient ecosystems	Ministry of Agriculture, National Environment Service, Island Governments, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities
Implement alternative agriculture technologies including greenhouses, hydroponics, etc.	Enhanced livelihoods of people and communities, increased health wellbeing, food and water security, resilient ecosystems	Ministry of Agriculture, National Environment Service, Island Governments, Private Sector, CSOs and Communities

Programmatic Area 9: Oceans Management and Climate Change

The Cook Islands exclusive economic zone, recently designated as a large multiple-use marine protected area called Marae Moana, is being impacted by changing climatic conditions. Whilst local impacts on the marine environment can be managed, climate change presents issues beyond our control. Ocean acidification weakens the physical structure of skeletons and shells of living things. Coral bleaching causes mass mortality of coral reefs. Warmer sea surface temperatures and increased runoff to coral reefs have also been implicated as a contributing cause of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and nuisance algal blooms. The prescription for addressing these issues is to manage local impacts better. This includes reducing sedimentation as a result of earthworks and road construction, reducing pollution from wastewater, storm water and the leachate of solid waste, minimising contamination from coastal development, and establishing marine protected areas. Such actions require a holistic and multidisciplinary approach, using transparent and socially responsible processes.

The impacts of warmer oceans will affect migratory fish species through changes to their feeding patterns as well as to how those species are themselves resilient to changes in their environment.

Elements of the Programme	Strategic Impact Areas	Key Partners
Improve information on ocean biodiversity, particularly the deep ocean, including improved information management systems	Enhanced knowledge for building resilient livelihoods of people and communities, ecosystems and ecosystem services	Marae Moana division of the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Marine Resources, Seabed Minerals Authority, Research Institutions, CSOs, Communities
Establish a process of marine spatial planning, surveillance and review	Enhanced capacity for building resilient livelihoods of people and communities, ecosystems and ecosystem services	Marae Moana division of the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Marine Resources, Seabed Minerals Authority, National Environment Service, Private Sector, CSOs, Communities
Building human resources capacity for ocean management including capacity in the private sector to achieve tourism accreditation	Enhanced capacity for building resilient livelihoods of people and communities, ecosystems and ecosystem services	Marae Moana division of the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Marine Resources, Seabed Minerals Authority, National Environment Service, Cook Islands Tourism Corporation, Private Sector, CSOs, Communities

Programmatic Area 10: Building Resilient Livelihoods of People and Communities

The Cook Islands and peoples are extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and the socio-economic, infrastructure and environment pressures intensifies this vulnerability. The key characteristics of building resilience in the Cook Islands context is to ensure that the government, private sector, communities and households have the ability to adapt to changes, anticipate what might happen next and absorb shocks when they do come along. With more frequent dry periods, stronger storms, creeping sea level rise, changes in agriculture productivity and the marine environment, it is essential that families, communities and the private sector can manage and improve their ability to bounce back. It is important to build the adaptive capacity to reduce the impact of future hazards.

During private sector and community consultations for the development of the Green Climate Fund Country Programme, people have indicated that one of the hindrances to building their resilience to climate change as well as investing in mitigation is the lack of and cost of funding. Funding availability either through grants, cheaper financing and enabling policies such as tax breaks will assist people to build resilience.

Elements of the Programme	Strategic Impact Areas	Key Partners
Establish funding mechanism/s to support mitigation and adaptation actions for communities, private sector and households	Enhanced mitigation and adaptation capacities of people and communities	Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, Climate Change Cook Islands and Renewable Energy Development divisions of the Office of the Prime Minister, Bank of the Cook Islands, Private Sector, CSOs, Communities
Explore and implement incentive programmes to increase private sector and communities participation in mitigation and adaptation actions	Enhanced capacity for building resilient livelihoods of people and communities, ecosystems and ecosystem services	Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, Climate Change Cook Islands and Renewable Energy Development divisions of the Office of the Prime Minister, Bank of the Cook Islands, Private Sector, CSOs, Communities

Programmatic Area 11: Knowledge, Research and Innovation

Our capacity to implement climate change activities is constrained by a shortage of human resources in the relevant technical areas. Building knowledge, including traditional knowledge, on climate change will close gaps in comprehension, awareness and action in dealing with both the challenges and opportunities presented and anticipated as a result of climate impacts. We must also build capacity for efficient and effective use of climate knowledge, together with enhancing research on the many aspects and the multifaceted nature of climate change. It is anticipated that this will result in some innovative, locally relevant solutions to the challenges of climate change.

Elements of the Programme	Strategic Impact Areas	Key Partners
Provide incentives for the private sector and institutions of higher learning to undertake research and innovation to develop affordable and locally appropriate adaptation and mitigation technologies	Enhanced livelihood of people and communities, increased health and wellbeing, and food and water security, resilient ecosystems and ecosystem services, resilient infrastructure and built environment to climate change	National Research Committee, Climate Change Cook Islands division of the Office of the Prime Minister, Higher learning institutions, Private Sector, CSOs, Communities
Establish mechanisms to encourage and facilitate locally appropriate climate change responses, including traditional knowledge and science based initiatives	threats, energy efficient buildings, industries and communities, low emission energy access and power generation, low emission transport, improved land use	Climate Change Cook Islands division of the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, National Environment Service, Traditional Leaders, Private Sector, CSOs, Communities
Link government, private sector, academic and civil society organisations with global climate change innovation institutions		Climate Change Cook Islands and Renewable Energy Development divisions of the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, National Environment Service, Traditional Leaders, Private Sector, CSOs, Communities
Strengthen the incorporation of climate change into the school curriculum		Ministry of Education
Provide incentives for the study of climate change related courses, and training to build capacity in areas related to climate change		Ministry of Education