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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX III

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Asia Pacific region for 2022 Part 1

Action Document for the Pacific NDC Hub

ANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes an annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and an action plan in the sense of Article 23(2) of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Pacific NDC Hub OPSYS number: ACT-60647 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	Yes. This action will contribute to the TEI “Green-Blue Alliance for the Pacific”.
3. Zone benefiting from the Action	The action shall be carried out in Papua New Guinea and in the following 13 Pacific Island Countries (PICs): Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Steps will be taken to also cover Timor-Leste.
4. Programming document	Regional Multi-Annual Indicative Programme Asia and the Pacific 2021-2027 ¹
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Sector 1 ‘Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability’ Specific Objective 1 ‘Support Pacific partners in their sustainable responses to the impacts of global warming’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ER 1.1 ‘Increased capacity (including research capacity and use of digital tools) for anticipation of, adaptation and resilience to the impacts of global warming; • ER 1.2 ‘Increased capacity to deliver on international climate commitments and to implement multilateral environmental agreements legislation while ensuring just transition’.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Climate change (DAC sector: 410 – General Environment Protection)
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: SDG 13 ‘Climate Action’ Other significant SDGs:

¹ Commission Implementing Decision of 15.12.2021 – C(2021) 9251 final

	SDG 5 ‘Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls’ SDG 6 ‘Clean Water’ SDG 7 ‘Affordable and Clean Energy’ SDG 11 ‘Sustainable Cities and Communities’ SDG 14 ‘Life Below Water’ SDG 15 ‘Life on Land’ SDG 17 ‘Partnership for the Goals’			
8 a) DAC code(s)	41010 – Environmental policy and administrative management (100%)			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	Third Country Government (Delegated co-operation) – 13000			
9. Involvement of multilateral partners	No			
10. Targets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
11. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women’s and girl’s empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal

12. Internal markers and Tags:				objective
	Digitalisation digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Migration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
13. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): BGUE-B2022-14.020132-C1-INTPA Total estimated cost: EUR 6.850.000 to be confirmed (waiting for other donors' confirmation) Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 3 000 000 This action is expected to be jointly co-financed by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Germany², for an approximate amount of EUR 1 700 000, ▪ New Zealand, for an approximate amount of EUR 1 500 000, ▪ Australia (to be confirmed), for an approximate amount of EUR 650 000. 			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
14. Type of financing	Indirect Management with the entity(ies) selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.1.			

1.2 Summary of the Action

<p>Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are among the first to have been impacted by the earth's aggressively changing climate.</p> <p>During the first Climate Action Pacific Partnership (CAPP) Conference in 2017, leaders of Pacific Island Governments and stakeholders from across the region called for a mechanism to support Pacific Island Countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The same year, Conference of the Parties (COP) 23 President and Hon. Prime Minister of Fiji, Frank Bainimarama officially launched the Regional Pacific Nationally Determined Contributions Hub (hereinafter referred to as the Pacific NDC Hub) during the twenty-third session of the COP in Bonn, Germany.</p> <p>This action directly supports the Pacific NDC Hub.</p>
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² Via the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

The overall expected impact of this action is to support PICs to finance and implement their countries' NDCs driving sustainable and resilient development and transition to a low carbon development pathway, while considering gender-sensitive aspects. Implementation of the action will follow a demand-driven approach.

In particular, this action is expected to contribute to achieving the following results:

- PICs implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Climate Change Agreement through coordinated and coherent actions that promote resilience, reduce climate risk, and contribute to reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions;
- PICs have better framework conditions for financing, implementing and monitoring their NDCs;
- PICs advance knowledge and understanding of gender-responsive climate action and its coherent mainstreaming in the implementation of the UNFCCC and the work of Parties, the secretariat, United Nations entities and all stakeholders at all levels, as well as women's full, equal and meaningful participation in the UNFCCC process.

This action will support the 13 PICs as well as Papua New Guinea (PNG), which are already members of the Pacific NDC Hub. Currently, the Hub does not include Timor-Leste (TLS) as the GIZ Pacific Office leading the implementation of the Pacific NDC Hub does not cover that country. However, steps will be taken to widen the geographic scope of the NDC Hub to also cover TLS.

The action intends to contribute mainly to Sector 1 "Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability" of the Regional Multi-annual Indicative Programme Asia and the Pacific 2021 – 2027.

The action is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the European Consensus on Development³ priority 3.2 – climate change, environment. It contributes directly to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 – climate action, as well as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The action is also aligned with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent⁴, the post-Cotonou Pacific Regional Protocol⁵ and the European Green Deal⁶.

The action is aligned with the commitments made in the enhanced five years Lima work programme on gender⁷ and its gender action plan adopted at the COP.

The action contributes to the Gender Action Plan III, specifically to the thematic area of engagement "Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition".

The implementation modality is indirect management with GIZ, based on a Contribution Agreement. However, in case GIZ ends its leadership of the NDC Hub before the end of the proposed action, a second Contribution Agreement may need to be signed with the new lead partner.

The action is an excellent example of the Team Europe Initiative, aligning and bringing together the cooperation priorities of the EU and of one of its Member States, Germany. Together with other EU funded projects, the action will demonstrate the EU's leadership in the area of climate action in the Pacific Region.

The partners of the Pacific NDC Hub are: 1. GIZ, 2. the Pacific Community (SPC), 3. the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and 4. the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). The lead implementing partner is currently GIZ under GIZ's global project NDC Assist II.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the Pacific NDC Hub, and increase its regional ownership, it is important to transition the Regional Pacific NDC Hub to an entity which is owned and led by the PICs, such as SPC or SPREP. This transition is one of the key outputs of this action.

³ European Consensus on Development – 'our world, our dignity, our future', European Commission, 26/6/2017 - https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/european-consensus-on-development-final-20170626_en.pdf

⁴ The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, 2017 <https://www.forumsec.org/2050strategy/>

⁵ Still to be signed - https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/post-cotonou-negotiations-new-euafrica-caribbean-pacific-partnership-agreement-concluded_en

⁶ A European Green Deal, European Commission, 2019 - https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

⁷ The Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2020

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

As a result of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 21st Conference of the Parties (COP) and the resulting Paris Agreement, all 197 signatory nations committed to developing NDCs, outlining national targets to mitigate and adapt to climate change, with the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 °C.

This global commitment to support climate action is similarly reflected in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda)⁸, with efforts to address climate change, and contributes towards several additional SDGs such as SDG 17 'Partnership for the Goals', SDG 7 'Affordable and Clean Energy', SDG 6 'Clean Water', SDG 11 'Sustainable Cities and Communities', SDG 14 'Life Below Water' and SDG 15 'Life on Land', depending on the specific activities requested by the countries.

The EU recognises the importance of working to prevent global warming beyond 1.5 °C with its ambitious commitment to becoming climate neutral by 2050. This commitment is at the heart of its European Green Deal, which outlines policy proposals to achieve climate neutrality. In the same way, the European Consensus for Development echoes the importance of addressing climate change and commits to promoting resource efficiency and sustainable consumption⁹.

As recognized in the EU-Pacific Green-Blue Alliance, the Pacific is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world to the impacts of climate change. Chapter 29 of the 5th International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report outlines sea level rise, tropical cyclones, increasing air and sea surface temperatures, and changing rainfall patterns as the key threats to small islands¹⁰. To the island nations of the Pacific, these challenges present significant threats to the long-term development and security¹¹ of the region, and significantly compromise populations' livelihoods and food security. With rates of sea level rise in the Pacific being 4 times greater than the global average¹², the existence of many islands is threatened.

However, despite their negligible contribution to climate change, PICs and PNG are taking ambitious action to meet their commitments under the Paris Agreement and implement ambitious NDCs. All PICs, as well as PNG, supported by the Pacific NDC Hub, have ratified the Paris Agreement and submitted at least one NDC. The majority of PICs have developed ambitious roadmaps, investment plans and Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems to implement their NDCs, most of which have been developed with the support of the Pacific NDC Hub. Approximately 7 PICs have committed to achieving net zero GHG emissions, and approximately 10 PICs have committed to developing Long Term Low Emissions Development Strategies¹³. This global leadership serves as an important encouragement for the rest of the world to increase their climate ambition.

The action will be an important contribution towards increased visibility of the EU as a key player supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as sustainable development in the Pacific. The EU's previous support to another GIZ administered Project, "EU-GIZ Adapting to Climate Change and Sustainable Energy" (ACSE), generated awareness of the EU across the Pacific, at the regional, national and community levels, which suggests that this action may make a similar contribution to the EU's public diplomacy.

⁸ Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations, 2015

⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/european-consensus-on-development-final-20170626_en.pdf

¹⁰ Chapter 29: Small islands. In: Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part B: Regional Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/WGIIAR5-Chap29_FINAL.pdf

¹¹ <https://www.forumsec.org/2018/09/05/boe-declaration-on-regional-security/>

¹² Chapter 29: Small islands. In: Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part B: Regional Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/WGIIAR5-Chap29_FINAL.pdf

¹³ This is based on feedback from national Focal Points, in a survey distributed by the Pacific NDC Hub, with several iterations throughout 2020 – 2021.

The action is an important contribution towards fulfilling the EU's ambitious policy for climate diplomacy internationally. The **European Green Deal** outlines that the "environmental ambition of the Green Deal will not be achieved by Europe acting alone. The drivers of climate change and biodiversity loss are global and are not limited by national borders"¹⁴. This is further confirmed in the European Council Conclusions on "Climate and Energy Diplomacy - Delivering on the external dimension of the European Green Deal"¹⁵ of January 25th 2021, in which "the Council calls on all parties to enhance the ambition of the nationally determined contributions and to present long-term low emissions development strategies"¹⁶.

The action also serves to contribute towards the soon to be signed **Post-Cotonou Agreement**, which emphasises climate change and sustainable economic growth and development as two key priority areas. In the same way, the action contributes towards the **EU Indo-Pacific strategy**¹⁷'s goals of supporting a green transition with shared and inclusive prosperity in the region. Focusing on the Pacific region, the action specifically contributes towards the **EU-Pacific Green-Blue Alliance**'s goals to enhance climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience in the Pacific, while supporting the underlying political planning for, and mainstreaming of, climate ambition needed to achieve this. As such, the action contributes towards the **Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway**'s commitment towards holistic sustainable development, both on land and in the ocean, as well as the **2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent**.

The EU and the Pacific share a high level of climate ambition and both recognise the climate emergency and the vulnerability of Pacific Island Nations to the impacts of climate change. Both parties promote and work towards a green and blue transition to a resilient and resource-efficient inclusive economy.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Climate change presents a fundamental challenge to the Pacific Region. From an economic perspective, climate change and extreme weather events present a high cost to Pacific Island Nations, which prevents them from dedicating funds to other social issues and developing their economies. From a social perspective, the impacts of rising sea levels, changing weather patterns and other environmental consequences of climate change present challenges to food security and livelihoods, which can exacerbate existing social inequalities, including gender inequalities¹⁸. As a result, climate change is seen as a security threat to the region¹⁹.

PICs, as well as PNG, are taking significant action to address this and have committed to ambitious NDCs to mitigate their greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. However, as highlighted by Pacific Small Island Developing States during the 2021 COP 26 in Glasgow, these countries face a significant need of leveraging finance and of attracting human capacity, technology and reporting systems to realize these targets.

The action aims to support countries in addressing these challenges, by working to improve conditions for financing and implementing NDCs and by supporting the dissemination of experiences from cooperation with members of the Pacific NDC Hub, between NDC Partnership members, the private sector and civil society including women's organisation.

The intended outputs of the action aim at strengthening countries' conditions for financing, implementing and Monitoring, Reporting and Verifying (MRV) their NDCs while considering gender-sensitive aspects (**output 1**), as well as disseminating knowledge and experiences on best practises for NDC implementation (**output 2**).

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

¹⁴ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:b828d165-1c22-11ea-8c1f-01aa75ed71a1.0002.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

¹⁵ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/01/25/council-adopts-conclusions-on-climate-and-energy-diplomacy/>

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ European Union Strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, Council of the European Union, 2021

¹⁸ There is a growing body evidence showing that women are generally more vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change than their male counterparts

¹⁹ <https://www.forumsec.org/2018/09/05/boe-declaration-on-regional-security/>

The ultimate beneficiaries are the public (rights-holders) and civil society of the 13 PICs and of PNG, who will benefit from increasingly resilient and less polluted environments. Depending on the specific activities requested by countries, the public can benefit from several co-benefits, which include increased access to renewable energy, access to new, green employment, as well as increased adaptation and resilience measures. Ultimately, these actors will benefit from the action's overall objective to drive sustainable and resilient development and transition to a low carbon development pathway in the region.

The Pacific NDC Hub's primary target groups are the governments (duty bearers) of PICs and PNG, who are supported in implementing their ambitious climate policies at the national and regional level. The support provided is nationally endorsed, effectively aligned with national development priorities, and supports the implementation of NDCs in a contextually appropriate manner.

In addition, the collaboration with the **NDC Partnership**²⁰ is strong and solid. This is proven by the fact that the Pacific NDC Hub has in the past implemented country requests from the NDC Partnership and worked in close collaboration with the NDC Partnership since the Pacific NDC Hub was inaugurated in 2017.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to contribute to a resilient and low carbon development of the PICs and PNG.

The Specific Objective (Outcome) of this action is to support PICs and PNG s in realizing their commitments towards the UNFCCC and COP 21 Paris Agreement.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objective (Outcome) are to

- 1.1 Improve the framework conditions for financing, implementing, Monitoring, Reporting and Verifying NDCs, while considering gender aspects;
- 1.2 Strengthen the capacities of PICs and PNG to implement their NDCs, while considering gender-sensitive aspects.
- 1.3 Support the successful transition of the leadership of the NDC Hub to a regionally owned organisation.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1.1

- Support to PICs and PNG in defining or enhancing their NDC targets;
- Support to PICs and PNG in developing NDC Roadmaps, project pipelines and responsible investment plans;
- Feasibility studies to support the implementation of PICs' NDC project pipeline;
- Support to policy development that improves the enabling environment for NDC implementation and financing;
- Support to PICs in enhancing their NDC monitoring, reporting & verification and transparency of climate action.

Activities related to Output 1.2:

- Training and continuing education and capacity development measures in selected partner countries on NDC financing and implementation. The activity will include in-person and/or virtual training, education and capacity development measures to representatives from governments of Pacific Island Countries, including the Regional Pacific NDC Hub focal points, civil society, representatives from the media, the private sector, as well as other relevant stakeholders in the Pacific. The trainings, education and capacity development measures will focus on topics relevant

²⁰ The NDC Partnership is a global organization supporting developing countries from around the world implementing and enhancing their NDCs.

to NDC financing and implementation including but not limited to: NDC roadmaps, investment plans, feasibility studies, green recovery, etc. This is intended for knowledge sharing between the audience mentioned and the Regional Pacific NDC Hub.

- Use and further development of existing (digital) formats and approaches for knowledge exchange and communication of climate contributions / NDCs. The activity focuses on participating in and/or organising national events in order to foster exchanges between stakeholders that work in the area of climate change, finance, and implementation. This is crucial to ensure that new synergies can be identified, and existing synergies can be strengthened within a country. Audience includes government officials, including the Regional Pacific NDC Hub focal points, civil society, representatives from the media and the private sector, both within the Pacific and internationally. This is intended for knowledge sharing but will include external communication activities, to showcase and highlight the exchange.
- Processing and showcasing of successful experiences from country, regional and international cooperation on various existing platforms²¹ to disseminate best practices on NDC financing and implementation with particular attention to gender and human rights sensitivity. Whereas the first activity focuses on country exchange (mainly) within the Pacific, the third activity mainly focuses on international peer learning. The focus of this activity lays on processing and sharing lessons learned from the Regional Pacific NDC Hub at the regional and international level. Here input will be given to regional and international events, such as the UNFCCC, NDC Partnership and similar, in order to foster international peer learning mostly through digital, but also as in-person events, if need be. External communication activities will play a central role in this regard, to broadly showcase best practises on NDC implementation.

Activities related to Output 1.3:

- Conducting of consultations on how to sustainably transition the management of the Regional Pacific NDC Hub to a regionally managed project;
- Creation of a management document detailing the process and conditions for the transition;
- Ensuring a successful handover from GIZ to the new lead implementing partner by developing quality handover material (planning documents, management concepts, etc.), including hosting workshops between both organizations to agree on the operationalization of the work plans.

The commitment of the EU's contribution to the Team Europe Initiative foreseen under this action plan will be complemented by other contributions from Team Europe partners. It is subject to the formal confirmation of each respective partner's meaningful contribution as early as possible. In the event that the TEIs and/or these contributions do not materialise, the EU action may continue outside a TEI framework.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category C (no need for further assessment).

The requests received by the NDC Hub from the different beneficiary countries are a wide variety of projects. The implementation of most of the requests will not need an EIA since there are related to the development of strategic documents and policies. In the case of an investment project, an EIA screening will be done and if necessary an EIA will be undertaken.

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

²¹ For example the regional Climate Weeks of the UNFCCC Secretariat, exchange platforms of the NDC Partnership, NDC Partnership Knowledge Portal, National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Global Network, climate negotiations, conferences, existing platforms of the Regional Pacific NDC Hub and other regional platforms.

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action presents no or low risk (no need for further assessment). By supporting countries' efforts to implement their NDC targets, the Pacific NDC Hub supports Pacific Island Nations to take climate action. The action outlined will support countries in reducing their emissions, while also helping them to adapt, and increase their resilience towards the increasingly severe impacts of climate change.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that this action will ensure that gender is adequately and effectively mainstreamed. The Pacific NDC Hub ensures that gender equality and social inclusion are considered throughout its activities (in line with the COP/UNFCCC Gender Action Plan and the Lima work programme), so that support towards sustainable development is respectful of human rights and all social groups. When commencing each activity, the Pacific NDC Hub considers how women and vulnerable groups, for example, women and girls with disabilities will be impacted, and it will see how to associate them upfront, to ensure empowerment and that appropriate measures are taken to address gender and social inclusion in a manner that is relevant to the specific request.

Human Rights

A human right-based approach will be followed in this project. The action will promote sustainable development. The provision of a more sustainable and resilient economy will reinforce rights such as water, education, jobs, health, food, etc. The project will respect the following principles: Respect for all rights, Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination and Transparency. The project will focus the support on the duty-bearers (public institutions), but it will ensure that the right holders (women, men, children, persons with disabilities etc.) with a special attention on people living in vulnerable situations, profit and can participate from the project outputs.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that this action is not considered relevant for inclusion of persons with disabilities. However, mainstreaming disability as a right-based approach will be followed. It is expected that they will benefit from a more resilient and sustainable economy. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is an overarching frameworks that guide the NDC Hub work implemented in close co-operation with partners and commissioning parties. Through its activities, the Hub supports the development and delivery of initiatives and programmes towards NDC implementation and ambition raising in its partner countries, contributing to transformational change towards low-emission and climate-resilient development.

Democracy

Thanks to its right-based approach, the Action will promote participation and bottom-up democracy.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

In different Pacific Islands, social conflicts and violence dynamics are more present (PNG, Solomon Islands, Fiji, etc.) and post-conflict countries like Timor Leste. In these contexts, conflict sensitivity should be considered in all actions related to management of natural resources and ecosystems, with due regard to the rights of indigenous peoples such as FPIC (free, prior and informed consent) and the inclusion of more vulnerable sections of society such as women, people with disabilities, etc.

The issue of climate induced displacement and displaced communities, should be taken into account, in order for development initiatives to be opportunities to ease tensions among communities (e.g. displaced-host communities), pressure on natural resources, housing, creation of livelihoods, etc.

The validation processes of the instruments and approaches developed under this Action will include free, prior and informed consent process for projects that affect indigenous peoples' lands, territories or resources, with the participation of indigenous peoples' representative institutions.

PNG is undergoing a Conflict Analysis Screening being affected by different types of violence and social conflicts, also related to land and natural resources, etc. Therefore conflict Sensitivity and do-no-harm consideration will

always be considered, at least in relation to social, environmental safeguards in relation to any climate change investment. Also climate change initiatives may have unintended negative impacts on lands and natural resources and on local communities, including climate change displaced population. The action aims to strengthen environmental and climate change resilience, while in turn focussing on resilience of communities and vulnerable populations and better economic resilience too.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Disaster Risk Reduction is directly supported through the work done under the adaptation component of individual NDCs of participating countries. It will be indirectly supported through the work done under the adaptation component of individual NDCs of participating countries. The action will also reinforce the capacity of the authorities in terms of climate vulnerability analysis, adaptation and mitigation planning.

Other considerations if relevant

Good governance will be enhanced by the participation of the national Focal Points in consultations.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium /Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
The external environment	COVID-19 presents a risk of delaying implementation timelines and preventing travel to countries.	Medium	Medium	<p>The extent of the impact and its likelihood depend on individual countries as they apply different Covid-response strategies. In early 2022 travelling is allowed to and from just a few countries.</p> <p>Increasing work with in-country expertise, who either implement activities independently, or in partnership with regional and international consultants.</p> <p>Virtual and digital formats will be used to facilitate continued project implementation, respecting national and international restrictions.</p>
	Natural hazards and extreme weather events may cause implementation delays in countries, as well as climate change related displacement and social conflicts on land and natural resources	High	Low	<p>Ensuring appropriate planning and including space for potential delays in implementation timelines. Switching to remote and virtual work formats will be used, where possible, to ensure implementation continuity.</p> <p>Ensure conflict sensitivity and due diligence.</p>

Planning; Processes and Systems	With a demand-driven structure, there is a risk that the Pacific NDC Hub receives requests for support that are beyond its budget, timeline, and capacity to implement	Medium	Medium	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of clear guidelines on the types of requests that can be supported, 2. Only implementing the initial stages of requests, and 3. Coordination with other partners in the region who could take over the requests fully or partly, if necessary.
	No financing available for NDC ambition	High	Low	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exchange knowledge and best practises on NDC implementation and financing, 2. Participation in international events, which can attract future financing for NDC implementation in PICs, 3. Collaboration with the NDC Partnership, which supports “matchmaking” processes to finance and implement NDCs, and 4. Participation of PICs and PNG in international events such as COP to give visibility to the region’s needs.

Lessons Learnt:

The Pacific NDC Hub has recently completed an evaluation of its work since it was initiated. This included consultations with Focal Points, the Pacific NDC Hub’s technical team, partners, and donors. Based on this evaluation, the Pacific NDC Hub has identified the key lessons learnt, which will be incorporated in its next project phase. The main lessons learnt includes the following:

- Remaining demand-driven, by ensuring countries receive exactly the support required. It was similarly underlined that the Pacific NDC Hub’s work to ensure regional ownership was a key element of the NDC Hub’s overall approach.
- Increasing engagement of government-nominated alternate focal points in project implementation served as an important way to increase the Pacific NDC Hub’s in-country network and increase capacity for NDC implementation within the government.
- Ensuring gender and vulnerable groups are considered throughout project implementation was recommended as an important aspect of the Pacific NDC Hub’s future work, to ensure that support to the implementation of Pacific NDCs is inclusive of all social groups and follows a human rights-based approach. Specific measures will be included in relation to the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for indigenous peoples, as set out in the Council Conclusions on Indigenous Peoples of 2017.
- Virtual formats have allowed the project to effectively continue project implementation despite COVID-19 restrictions. In addition to this, less travel will also decrease the carbon footprint and GHG emissions of project activities. Virtual and hybrid formats of project assessment are the new standard.
- Integrating capacity building and training when implementing each request was a very effective way to increase the sustainability of the work, by ensuring that responsible government officers had the skills needed to undertake similar work in the future.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that

- *IF* support to PICs and PNG in defining or enhancing their NDC targets is provided, feasibility studies for the implementation of NDC project pipelines are undertaken, policies to improve the enabling environment of NDC implementation are developed, trainings are delivered, best practices are shared, informational material is prepared and disseminated and a successful handover from GIZ to a regional institution is prepared *AND* relevant stakeholders in countries and regional organizations take part in the training and communication formats offered and the Pacific NDC Hub can continue supporting PICs and PNG's efforts to implement their NDCs despite uncontrollable factors, such as extreme weather events or increased restrictions resulting from COVID-19, *THEN* the framework conditions for NDCs financing and implementation will be improved, the capacities of PICs will be strengthened and the leadership of the NDC Hub will be successfully transferred to a regional organization.
- *IF* the framework conditions for NDC implementation are improved, the capacities of PICs and PNG are strengthened and the leadership of the NDC Hub is successfully transferred to a regional organization *AND* interest between Development Partners (DPs) in the Pacific Region to collaborate on supporting countries' NDC implementation is maintained and regional institutions have interest in, and capacity to manage the Pacific NDC Hub in the long-term, *THEN* progress in PICs and PNG NDC implementation and enhancement will be demonstrated *BECAUSE* the implementation of the country requests by the Pacific NDC Hub so far has contributed to the expected outcome. Up to now the Pacific NDC Hub has supported 14 countries of the region in NDC enhancement, and implementation through the definition of NDC Roadmap, investment plans and project pipelines. There are other development partners in the region supporting PICs and PNG NDC preparation and implementation such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- *IF* PICs and PNG receive support for their NDC implementation and enhancement *AND* PICs and PNG remain dedicated to climate action and the implementation of their NDCs, *THEN* the action will contribute to PICs resilient and low carbon development. This is *BECAUSE* most of PICs and PNG NDCs define ambitious targets in both climate change adaptation and mitigation. By supporting PICs to reach those targets, GH) emissions should decrease, improving sustainability and adaptation measures should be implemented, improving the resiliency of their economies.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

Results	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines	Targets	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	PICs and PNG are resilient to climate change impacts and transition to a low carbon economy.	1. Number of Pacific Island Countries that have demonstrated progress towards their NDC targets.	0 in 2022	8 in 2024	National governments website, UNFCCC website and UN SDG website and other official communications.	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	PICs and PNG are strengthened in realizing their commitments towards the UNFCCC and COP 21 Paris Agreement.	1.1 Number of Pacific Island Countries that have taken further actions towards enhancing, financing and implementing parts of their NDCs.	0 in 2022	14 in 2024	Monitoring reports from GIZ, National governments' websites.	PICs remain dedicated to implementing ambitious NDCs and taking climate action.
Output 1 related to Outcome 1	1.1 Improved framework conditions for financing and implementing NDCs while considering gender aspects	1.1.1 Number of new and further developed instruments and approaches to financing and implementing NDCs (Monitoring, Reporting and Verification instruments or Roadmaps, investment plans or feasibility studies, etc. and % of instruments gender responsive).	0 in 2022	20 in 2024	Monitoring reports from GIZ, main donor annual reports.	The Pacific NDC Hub's support to PICs is feasible despite extreme weather events and COVID19 restrictions.
Output 2 related to Outcome 1	1.2 Strengthened capacities of PICs and PNG to implement and finance their NDCs while considering gender-sensitive aspects.	1.2.1 Number of events on NDC financing and implementation between PICs, NDCP members, the private sector and civil society are disseminated (% women participation) 1.2.2 Number of trainings and networking events delivered.. (% women participation) 1.2.3 % of respondents to an ex-post evaluation of exchange formats confirm, with an example, that they have applied - or intend to apply soon - learnings from the event in their respective fields of action.	1.2.1 (0 regional, international and NDCP member events by 10/2022) 1.2.2 0, 2022 1.2.3 50%	1.2.1 2 regional events; 2 international events, and 2 events with the NDCP members are supported, coordinated or conducted, by 2024 1.2.2 3 trainings and networking events by 2024	Monitoring reports from GIZ, main donor annual reports, post-events surveys.	The collaboration with the NDCP is strong. Relevant actors in countries and regional organisations take part in the training and communication formats offered.

Results	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines	Targets	Sources of data	Assumptions
Output 3 related to Outcome 1	1.3 Successful transition of the leadership of the NDC Hub to a regional institution.	1.3.1 At least one regional organization institutionalizes the Regional Pacific NDC Hub.	0 in 2022	1 in 2024	Management concepts, handover notes and meeting minutes. Donors annual report.	A regional organization is interested and has the resources to take up the leadership of the Hub

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 36 months from the date of the adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures²².

4.3.1 Indirect Management with a Member State Organisation

This action may be implemented in indirect management with the German Agency for International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit, GIZ). This implementation entails supporting PICs and PNG to finance and implement their countries' NDCs driving sustainable and resilient development and transition to a low carbon development pathway, while considering gender-sensitive aspects. Implementation will follow a demand-driven approach.

The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria: 1) it has a long-term recognised experience in a wide variety of areas, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, energy and the environment; 2) it has extensive experience in the Pacific region.

GIZ has over 50 years of experience in a wide variety of areas, including economic development and employment promotion, energy and the environment, and peace and security. Its office for the Pacific, already has experience leading projects financed by the European Union in indirect management mode. GIZ has extensive experience in the Pacific region. More precisely, GIZ has been working in the Pacific region since 1977. In response to the particular challenges posed by climate change, GIZ is currently providing advisory services to 14 Pacific Island States and various regional organisations, in the following priority areas: (1) Climate change in the Pacific Island Region, (2) Adapting to climate change and sustainable energy, (3) Forest conservation, (4) Marine and coastal biodiversity management and (5) Transition to low-carbon sea transport.

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select a replacement entity using the same criteria. If the entity is replaced, the decision to replace it needs to be justified.

4.3.2 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances

Changes from indirect to direct management mode would not be recommended, due to the characteristics of the Initiative.

²² www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

4.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Third-party contribution (amount in EUR)
<i>Output 1, 2 and 3</i>		
Indirect management with with the German Agency for International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit, GIZ) – cf. section 4.3.1 Third party contributions expected from Germany, New Zealand and Australia (to be confirmed)	3,000,000	Approx. 3.850 000
Totals	3 000 000	Approx. 3.850 000

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

A project implementation unit will be created for the project and will be **managed by GIZ in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)**. GIZ will be the lead implementing partner and contractor and will set up sub-contracts with SPC, SPREP and GGGI through which they will support project implementation. The EU will not sign a multi-donor agreement, but a single contribution agreement with GIZ. Support to countries will be divided between these four partners, according to their technical expertise.

The Pacific NDC Hub's Implementation Unit will be responsible for the technical implementation and day-to-day management of the Pacific NDC Hub's work and will consist of staff from each partner organization. Each organization will dedicate a main representative responsible for the Pacific NDC Hub's work from their organization's perspective. These representatives will form the Hub Coordination Group (HCG), which will provide guidance to the Implementation Unit and coordinate work among partners. The HCG will meet with the Implementation Unit on a monthly basis to coordinate progress on the Pacific NDC Hub.

The Pacific NDC Hub will work directly with one politically nominated Focal Point from each country, who will be a high-level representative from the ministry responsible for climate change action. Focal Points will submit requests for support to the Pacific NDC Hub and will be the Pacific NDC Hub's main point of contact during implementation. As such, Focal Points will be essential in ensuring that the activities implemented are in line with national development policies and contextually appropriate. The Pacific NDC Hub will host bi-annual Focal Point meetings, to provide updates on project development and receive input from Focal Points to ensure the Pacific NDC Hub continues to work according to the needs of the region.

The Pacific NDC Hub's Steering Committee will consists of four Focal Points from each Pacific Sub-Region and Fiji as the host country, who are nominated on an annual basis to represent their regions. The Steering Committee will provide general oversight of the strategic direction for the Pacific NDC Hub's activities, ensuring they are in line with the Pacific NDC Hub's mandate and objectives, and represent the Pacific NDC

Hub externally. The Steering Committee will hold quarterly meetings and will be consulted on all major developments of the Pacific NDC Hub.

The organization of the Pacific NDC Hub is documented in the project's Governance Arrangements, which have been reviewed and endorsed by the existing Focal Points, the Steering Committee and current donors. The main Pacific NDC Hub office is based with SPC in Suva, Fiji, but staff are also based with SPREP in Apia, Samoa and with SPC in Noumea, New Caledonia.

As part of its aim to act as a coordinating entity for NDC support in the Pacific Region, the Pacific NDC Hub collaborates with several external partners who support activities related to NDC implementation in the region. Currently, this includes the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under their Climate Promise, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the NDC Partnership Support Unit. The Pacific NDC Hub engages its external partners in regular coordination meetings to discuss harmonized support to NDC implementation in the Pacific. As a result of this coordination, IRENA and UNDP have both taken over requests for support submitted to the Pacific NDC Hub. Through its partners, the Pacific NDC Hub collaborates with further organizations on implementing activities. Similarly, further actors including the Asian Development Bank and Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility are regularly consulted.

Within GIZ, the Pacific NDC Hub is currently implemented under the global project, NDC Assist II, which provides support to developing countries in financing and implementing their NDCs. Regular and close coordination between the Pacific NDC Hub and NDC Assist II, with weekly meetings and frequent correspondence, ensures the Pacific NDC Hub's work is coordinated and aligned to the objectives of NDC Assist II.

SPC is a regional organization based in the Pacific, which provides technical and scientific development support to PICs and PNG. Being owned and governed by 26 countries and territories of the Pacific, the organization is rooted in the region, enjoying strong regional endorsement and ownership. With technical departments specializing in climate change, disaster risk management, food security, gender equality, human rights, non-communicable diseases and youth employment, and being known for knowledge and innovation in these areas, SPC has strong technical capacity to support implementation of the Pacific NDC Hub's work.

SPREP is a regional organization responsible for protecting and managing the environment and natural resources of the Pacific. The organization has strong regional expertise in topics including Climate Change Resilience, Environmental Governance, Island and Ocean Ecosystem Services, as well as Waste Management and Pollution Control. With 21 members from Pacific countries and territories, SPREP has leading skills in addressing environmental issues of the region, and an in-depth, contextual understanding of addressing climate change topics in PICs.

Headquartered in Seoul, Republic of Korea, **GGGI** is an international organization supporting sustainable economic growth across the globe. It enjoys partnerships and support from a wide range of governments and international organizations and has strong technical expertise supporting areas including green investments, climate finance, green entrepreneurship and climate policy. The organization ensures gender and social inclusivity are respected throughout its work.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action.

4.7 Pre-conditions

The pre-condition is that the NDC Hub facility is still in place at the moment of the signature of the contract.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner will establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report will provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix. All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach and gender equality.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

The Pacific NDC Hub has established strong processes to monitor and evaluate progress towards its achievements against the objectives and outputs outlined in its LogFrame. An online Project Management Tool (PMT) has been developed specifically for the Pacific NDC Hub, which documents progress on all activities implemented across the region and serves as a database for key documents related to each activity. Through monthly coordination meetings with the Hub Coordination Group and Implementation Unit, the Pacific NDC Hub's 4 partners coordinate all progress on activity implementation. Similarly, regular bilateral meetings within the project provide a continued oversight of progress. SPC, SPREP and GGGI submit bi-annual progress reports to GIZ, which furthermore provide an important basis for all monitoring and evaluation of the project's progress. Furthermore, the Pacific NDC Hub conducts voluntary, in-depth evaluations which provide a more detailed understanding of the project's progress and potentials for improvement.

Within GIZ, thorough knowledge management processes are in place. All project documents are saved on GIZ's online Document Management System (DMS), and the global project, NDC Assist II, conducts operational planning associating costs to each activity implemented, which serves as an addition to monthly financial reporting.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a mid-term, final or ex-post evaluation(s) may be carried out for this action or its components via an implementing partner.

It will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to the possibility of launching a next phase with a regional organization as the lead implementing partner.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

All evaluation shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment. Expertise on human rights and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

It will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

Primary Interventions are those contracts or groups of contracts bearing reportable results and respecting the following business rule: ‘a given contract can only contribute to one primary intervention and not more than one’. An individual contract that does not produce direct reportable results and cannot be logically grouped with other result reportable contracts is considered a ‘support entities’. The addition of all primary interventions and support entities is equivalent to the full development portfolio of the Institution.

The present Action identifies as

Action level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Action	Present Action: all contracts in the present Action