



## Pacific Calling Partnership information sheet

### Climate Finance: Australia and the Pacific

In signing the Paris Climate Agreement, Australia agreed that, along with other industrialised countries it would fund programs to help poorer and more vulnerable countries adapt to the impacts of climate change. Pacific Island countries are Australia's close neighbours and urgently need financial assistance to help them adapt to the impacts of climate change. Even if Australia and other industrialised nations strenuously cut back their emissions, the impacts from pollution already in the system will continue to increase disasters in Pacific Island nations.

#### Australia's Official Development Assistance (ODA)

- Australia gives only 0.25% of Gross National Income to ODA.
- In 2015/16 Australia budgeted AU\$4.051 billion for ODA.



#### Loss and Damage

Pacific Island nations are campaigning hard to get the international community to include 'Loss and Damage' in climate agreements. They see this as a matter of climate justice.



#### Australia and Climate Finance

- At the Paris Climate Conference in 2015, Australia pledged AU\$1 billion over the next 5 years to support vulnerable countries adapt to climate change.
- All climate finance that Australia contributes is included in its ODA budget yet there is no specific climate strategy within the Australian aid program.
- Most of Australia's climate finance to Pacific Islands goes to disaster-relief.

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- **'Loss'** would mean that industrialised countries give compensation for lives and places destroyed forever because of the effects of climate change.
- **'Damage'** would mean that industrialised countries give funding to pay for the repair of things that can be repaired.



*Australian aid is helping to re-build this road on Tarawa. Is this development assistance? Or is it payment for damage caused by climate change?*

## Improvements Australia needs to make

- More Australian funding needs to go to adaptation programs in Pacific Islands.
- As a rich country that mines and exports coal and that has one of the highest green-house gas emissions per person in the world, it is only fair that Australia contributes much more to funds such as the Green Climate Fund.
- **Climate Finance** must be in addition to Australia's contributions to development aid.
- Australia needs to integrate climate change strategies across all of its aid program.
- Australia needs to support Pacific Island campaigns at the international level to ensure that the Green Climate Fund provides a balance of large scale projects and small community-led projects and that climate finance for Pacific Island nations is more predictable and accessible.



## Follow up Activities:

1. What is the loss when a breadfruit tree dies?
2. Find and label photos from Pacific Islands that show examples of:
  - storm damage
  - effects of king tide
  - effective adaptation examples
  - negotiators at international climate change meetings
3. Give reasons why Australia needs to increase the amount of climate finance it pays to Pacific Islands
4. Suggest reasons why Australia needs to increase the amount of climate finance it pays to international climate funds.

## References:

1. After Paris: Climate Finance in the Pacific, Oxfam September 2016.
2. Hungry for Change Thirsty for Justice, October Caritas 2016.
3. Australian Foreign Aid, Lowy Institute, <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/issues/australian-foreign-aid>