

### **France, a driver of regional multilateralism in the South Pacific**

France plays an active role in the regional organizations of the South Pacific, which are key forums for the implementation of its initiatives. It therefore acknowledges the crucial work of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific, the Pacific Community, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the University of the South Pacific, the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency and the University of the South Pacific, in the development and regional cooperation of all its members and partners.

In the framework of these organizations, France facilitates the regional integration of its overseas communities and strengthens its commitments and presence in the Pacific, particularly in the fields of security training, climate change resilience, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, regional connectivity, person-to-person exchanges and sustainable and inclusive investments.

In the fight against climate change and adapting to its consequences, a priority for the populations of the South Pacific, France spearheaded the multi-donor KIWA Initiative for the resilience of ecosystems and populations. It also contributes to climate action financing initiatives such as the Loss and Damage Fund and the Pacific Resilience Facility, with a contribution of €2 million announced by the President of the French Republic at the 6<sup>th</sup> Pacific-France Summit (June 2025). It supports Australia's candidacy for the organization of the 31<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in partnership with the Pacific region.

France supports regional humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) mechanisms, particularly in the framework of the FRANZ mechanism with Australia and New Zealand, which has enabled more than 40 emergency operations to be carried out since it was set up over 30 years ago. France also contributes to the efforts made at regional level by the Pacific Humanitarian Warehousing Programme (PHWP) and the Pacific Islands Emergency Management Alliance of the Pacific Community (PIEMA).

In terms of economic and trade development, France also plays a driving role in the swift implementation of the partnership agreement between the European Union and its Member States on the one hand and the members of the Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States on the other hand (Samoa agreement).

### **The Pacific Community**

France is a founding member of the Pacific Community, and the three overseas communities of the Pacific have their own full seats alongside the French State within the Pacific Community. France and its overseas territories (New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna) are the leading contributors to the Pacific Community's regular budget. The relocation of the position of Ambassador for the Pacific to New Caledonia in 2023 has facilitated exchanges with this organization, which is headquartered in Nouméa, as the Ambassador is the Permanent Secretary for the South Pacific, Permanent Representative of France at the Pacific Community and at the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

France regularly provides its expertise in the territories (from the Institut Pasteur and Institut Louis Malardé, IRD, IFREMER, CIRAD, etc.) to Pacific Community initiatives and draws on the

Pacific Community to implement projects in the field of healthcare, climate change adaptation, emergency humanitarian assistance and the preservation of cultural heritage in the Pacific.

France has also taken the initiative to propose the creation, in the framework of the Pacific Community, of a support programme for audiovisual works in the South Pacific in order to preserve the region's audiovisual archives and foster audiovisual and cinematographic creation in the Pacific.

### **South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)**

France and its three Pacific communities are members of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). SPREP aims to promote cooperation in the Pacific region, provide its assistance in protecting and improving the South Pacific environment and preserve sustainable development in the region. So in partnership with the SPREP, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) supports the SWAP project which aims to strengthen sustainable waste management in the region.

Furthermore, the opening in 2025 of a French Embassy in Apia (Samoa), headquarters of the SPREP, helps boost cooperation with this organization.

### **The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)**

The territories of New Caledonia and French Polynesia are full members of the Pacific Island Forum, the main international organization of the Pacific, Wallis and Futuna is an associate member, while the French Government is a dialogue partner.

The PIF is the main political organization in the region, where discussions focus on priority strategic actions for the Pacific as outlined in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. France supports the 2050 Strategy and its implementation plan.

The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency also plays a key role in fighting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. In this framework, France contributes to these maritime operations and offers partner Pacific island States the possibility of having their officials embark on French ships to carry out their sovereignty missions (a practice known as "shipriding").

France is also committed to coordinate its actions with security initiatives conducted at the regional level as outlined in the Boe Declaration, such as the Pacific Policing Initiative, and the PIF's Regional Transnational Organised Crime Disruption Strategy.