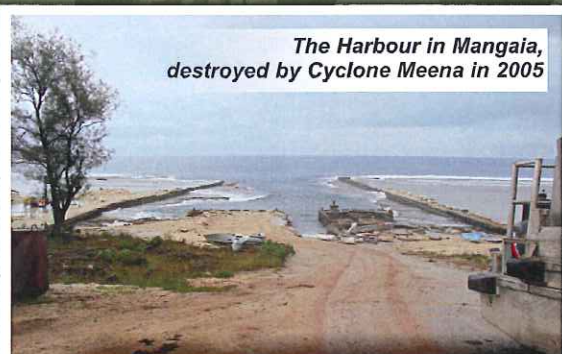


THE POWER OF CYCLONES

In 2005 Cyclone Meena caused extensive coastal damage to Mangaia, swamping the harbour and reaching inland where destruction and debris affected roads and the airport area. The waves overtopped the Mangaia harbour reaching the base of the outer makatea cliff some 100 metres from the coast. This affected four and a half kilometres of protective coastline and dumped debris and the road which links the main village of Oneroa to the airport and Ivirua. This also damaged the western half of the Mangaia airport.

The intensity of the damage to the community facilities and infrastructure caused by the 2005 Tropical Cyclones Nancy, Meena, Olaf and Percy to the outer islands of the Cook Islands highlights the vulnerability of these island communities to the adverse affects of climate change.



The Harbour in Mangaia, destroyed by Cyclone Meena in 2005



PARTNERS



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Cook Islands Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project



**Strengthening the Mangaia Harbour to be more
resilient to the impacts of climate change**

PACIFIC ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE:

The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change initiative is a regional effort that brings the Pacific nations together to enhance the capacity of countries to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change.

Known simply as PACC, this regional effort constitutes an implementation framework, which caters for a long term approach to adaptation measures by strengthening policy frameworks, instituting design guidelines, and improving capacity with technical expertise.

PACC projects are implemented nationally in any key areas; food production and food security, coastal management and water resource management.



Since its launch in February 2009, PACC project assessments and implementation steps have been conducted throughout the Region with the support of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). PACC is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Focal points, steering committees, coordinators and technical teams are working closely in a consultative and collaborative fashion with local communities.

COOK ISLANDS PILOT PROJECT: MANGAIA HARBOUR

In the Cook Islands, the PACC initiative is focused on coastal zone management.

The harbour is a key port of entry for vital goods and services to help ensure quality of life is maintained. When the Mangaia harbour is impacted, so are the residents on the island.



As a first step in the implementation process, a pilot project has been assessed and approved to strengthen the resilience of the Mangaia Harbour to climate change risks.



This site was chosen as a result of the increased levels of risk to the sustainability of national infrastructure, particularly in the Outer Islands where small communities have been vulnerable to intensifying and more frequent cyclonic weather.

As part of the CI-PACC project a geo-spatial survey was conducted that forecasts the climate change impacts on Mangaia in 10 years time. This provides the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning (MOIP) with the information upon which they can base their adaptation options for construction.



Once a design has been formed that takes the geo-spatial survey into consideration, MOIP will begin construction in 2012 to ensure that the harbour in Mangaia has a strengthened resilience to the adverse affects of climate change.

CI-PACC, BRINGING A BETTER FUTURE FOR US ALL

