



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM

Pacific Quality Infrastructure Principles Summary Principles

To lift the quality of regional infrastructure investment and development in line with Pacific-identified priorities and support the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, including economic growth, climate resilience and improved quality of life



Local Content

Use local labour, develop local talent, support local businesses



Value for Money

Generate positive social and economic values



Climate Resilience

Build resilience to future impacts of climate change



Responsible Borrowing and Governance

Borrow sustainably, spend transparently and accountably



Social and Environmental Safeguards

Protect the environment, people and livelihoods



Inclusivity

Infrastructure for all, inclusively developed



Private Sector Investment

Incentivise private sector to finance and develop infrastructure



The principles are designed to improve the integrity of decision making to maximise the positive impacts of infrastructure investments and development in the Pacific. They reflect a regional strategic direction and aspiration for infrastructure to deliver for the people who use and pay for it. Implementing the principles will ensure that infrastructure financing and development generates local employment and benefits, integrates social and environmental considerations, strengthens climate resilience and is economically efficient.



1. Local Content

Promote sustainable, local, and inclusive economic development, including greater access to jobs, business, and training opportunities for Pacific Islands people.

- Align with the objectives of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and national/local development strategies;
- Generate local and inclusive employment opportunities, contributing to building the supply of vocational and technical skills/knowledge and strengthening the regional labour force;
- Adopt procurement models that prioritise local industry participation across the supply chain, including in the design and construction of infrastructure.



2. Value for Money

Integrate value-for-money principles across asset life cycles to ensure financial considerations are balanced against non-financial objectives such as quality and generating sustained social and economic benefits for local communities.

- Project appraisal based on life cycle assessment, including ongoing maintenance, ensuring projects deliver value for money across the asset life cycle;
- Ensure procurement prioritises outcomes that support high-quality and resilient infrastructure, generating local, inclusive economic opportunities;
- Effective project monitoring and evaluation and a strong focus on the long-term operation, maintenance, and disposal of assets, including through building local capacity to operate and maintain infrastructure.



3. Climate Resilience

Ensure projects are resilient to future impacts of climate change and natural disasters and are fully aligned with the Pacific's international commitments and agreed pathways towards 2050 net-zero emissions under the Paris Agreement.

- Encourage the adoption of energy efficiency measures and deployment of renewable energy sources;
- Address climate and disaster risks in infrastructure plans, designs, and materials.



4. Responsible Borrowing and Governance

Support sound public financial management, debt transparency and project-level and country-level debt sustainability. Ensure good governance, including transparent procurement, protections against corruption, and opportunities for local participation in governance/oversight.

- Strengthen public financial sustainability, including adherence to responsible borrowing and debt servicing practices;
- Effective project governance and oversight mechanisms, including debt disclosure, public reporting, and audit regimes;
- Compliance with anti-corruption legislation and regulations.



5. Social and Environmental Safeguards

Incorporate in all projects' applicable standards on social and environmental safeguards.

- Strengthen the environmental and social outcomes of projects;
- Avoid adverse impacts where possible, and where unavoidable, apply the mitigation hierarchy of minimisation, mitigation, and compensation/offset;
- Strengthen regional and national agencies' capacity for managing environmental and social risks and impacts.



6. Inclusivity

Promote non-discriminatory access to infrastructure services, and ensure inclusion of women, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and under-represented groups in the design and delivery of infrastructure projects.

- Increase women's participation in infrastructure planning, design, management and construction;
- Ensure infrastructure reflects Universal Design Principles;
- Encourage the application of traditional knowledge, two-way knowledge sharing, and the incorporation of Pacific features, suitable to local contexts, in the design of infrastructure projects.



7. Private Sector Investment

Promote market-driven and private sector-led investment, supported where appropriate by judicious use of public funds, as the most efficient driver of sustainable quality infrastructure development.

- Encourage private sector participation, including through regulatory settings that establish certainty for long-term investment and create a competitive business environment;
- Consider a range of financing models and tools, including public-private partnerships.