

# HEALTHY PACIFIC ENVIRONMENTS

## ESR'S PACIFIC STRATEGY



ESR

THE SCIENCE  
BEHIND THE  
TRUTH

ESR is a Crown research institute of New Zealand, focused on delivering four core people-focussed outcomes for the benefit of New Zealand.

- Safeguarding the health and wellbeing of people.
- Increasing the effectiveness of forensic science services.
- Protecting the food-based economy.
- Improving the safety of freshwater.

In delivering benefit to New Zealand, we also support the sustainable development of our Pacific neighbourhood. Each of ESR's core outcomes has value for the Pacific, and mapping directly onto what are considered the enablers of achieving sustainable economic development – safe water and food, good health, education, and safe and just environments.

ESR's Pacific Strategy, *Healthy Pacific Environments*, defines how it wishes to support the Pacific region for the period 2015–2020. It outlines ESR's strategic focus on priority issues, science areas, country relationships, funding sources and donor relationships, delivery partners, and service types.

Importantly, ESR's strategic priorities have been informed by the external influencing environment (global agreements and obligations, donor priorities, country and regional strategies and priorities, and regional technical support agency strategies and capability gaps).

Resilience, food security, water security and non-communicable diseases (NCDs, lifestyle diseases), separately and collectively, are already showing through as major challenges for the next decade or more. These challenges are on top of the existing challenges of economic and social development, and burden of communicable disease. Understanding the inter-related causes, effects of, and responses to "double" and "triple" challenges require new ways of thinking and working together.

*Healthy Pacific Environments* recognises that ESR's expertise can strengthen and supplement national and regional capability and capacity to address many of the sustainable development needs of the Pacific region. In particular, ESR's expertise from its health, environmental science and justice core sector services in New Zealand are transferable to the Pacific region.

#### ESR PACIFIC VISION

With ESR support, Pacific island countries make progress towards achieving their national sustainable development goals, the UN Millennium Development Goal targets and post-2015 Sustainable Development Goal targets, and UN Human Rights obligations.

#### ESR PACIFIC MISSION

ESR will translate its recognised reputation of delivering high-impact public health and environmental and forensic science support in New Zealand into sustainable development and resilience support to the Pacific islands.

#### PRIORITY ISSUES FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

**We support what matters.** ESR is committed to being issues and demand-driven, and results-oriented and is clearly aligned to national sustainable development goals.

ESR takes its cue from the current Pacific islands development agenda, and aligns its response with its core science capabilities and broader competencies, and its comparative advantage as a Crown research institute.

#### ESR will provide science support to issues of:

**Living day-to-day.** Developing, maintaining and supporting healthy, safe and secure communities and nations.

**Resilience and preparedness.** Developing, maintaining and supporting resilient communities and nations that can respond, mitigate or adapt ahead of the impacts of demographic change, climate variability and change, and natural disasters.

**Humanitarian response.** Responding, mitigating or adapting to the impacts of local disasters, and crises triggered elsewhere in the world (financial, pandemic, conflict, nature).

**Sustainable economic development.** Overcoming non-tariff barriers to trade, particularly product/goods quality assurance, border protection, and protecting and strengthening the value of domestic tourism.

#### PRIORITY SCIENCE AREAS

**We play to our strengths.** To support these priority issues, ESR makes available the following cross-cutting scientific expertise to strengthen and supplement national and regional capability and capacity.

- Health-related water, food and environmental microbiology, chemistry and radiation science.
- Disease surveillance and public health intelligence.
- Public health outbreak and incidence investigation and response.
- Public health data management, analysis and reporting.
- Environmental hazards and exposures assessments (water, sanitation, food, built environment), public health risk assessment, modelling and management.
- Forensic scene investigations, evidence and expert witness.
- Specialist and to international standards accredited laboratory and monitoring services.
- Complex social systems.
- Participative engagement, evaluation.
- Health and justice policy and regulatory framework development, implementation and adherence.

#### SERVICE TYPES

**We are flexible and responsive.** ESR will use its knowledge, skills and networks to deliver agreed practical and solution-oriented support, tailored to the Pacific islands. Its support will strengthen and supplement national and regional capability and capacity in planned programmes and responses to urgent requests.

#### Knowledge and skill strengthening and supplementation

- Short-term contract/project.
- Long-term specific project, ESR lead.
- Long-term specific project, ESR as partner.
- Long-term support or retainer service.

#### Knowledge generation

- Research in partnership with Pacific universities, based in the Pacific.
- Externally funded research in partnership with a New Zealand university on Pacific issues, based in New Zealand or the Pacific.
- As a follow on to the above, ESR Studentships for Pacific people to work on Pacific issues.

#### RELATIONSHIPS

**We are in this together.** To deliver on this strategy, ESR needs to build and maintain relationships with four groups: those who (i) we work with in-country or in-region; (ii) we need to partner to provide a complete service/solution; (iii) can benefit by partnering with ESR to access complementary or supplementary expertise; and (iv) hold the power (donors and in-country decision-makers).

We consider these relationships in the next three sections.

#### COUNTRY FOCUS (WHERE WE WILL FOCUS OUR SERVICES)

- Because in-country relationships are so important for support of project conceptualisation, design, approval and implementation, ESR will focus on supporting a few countries very well. We will become respected, trusted and sought after advisors for these countries.
- ESR will give attention to identifying the countries and the areas where it can strengthen or supplement capability and capacity, building effective relationships with the relevant agencies and individuals.
- ESR will give priority to countries where it currently has a strong presence.
- If opportunities arise outside ESR's priority countries, these will be considered through a clear set of qualifying rules as outlined in the business plan.
- ESR will consider delivering regional activities where these are not the mandated domain of a regional support agency, or where ESR expertise can complement or supplement the regional agency.

#### DELIVERY PARTNER FOCUS

- ESR acknowledges that the priority issues facing the Pacific region cannot be addressed through a one-sector or one-agency approach.
- ESR may be requested to provide self-contained packages of work, but will more likely need to work with others. ESR will take the lead in projects where it makes sense, and will make its expertise available to other project teams.
- ESR will give attention to identifying its key delivery partners, in New Zealand and from the Pacific region, and build effective relationships with the relevant agencies and individuals.
- ESR will give priority to partners where it currently has a strong relationship.
- ESR will consider increasing its partnerships with volunteer organisations and Civil Society Organisations/ Non-Government Organisations to (i) improve its presence and reach in-country, and (ii) improve value-for-money project delivery without compromising quality.

#### DONOR FOCUS

- The Pacific region is supported by many development-focused donors in its drive for sustainable economic development, poverty reduction, and improved security and equity.
- ESR will give attention to identifying key donors, in New Zealand and wider, and build effective relationships with the relevant agencies and individuals.
- ESR will increase its engagement with research-focussed donors, so it can support the Pacific region in much-needed knowledge generation.
- Where ESR is not eligible for direct access to donor funds, it will work closely with gateway agencies from the Pacific region that do have access.

# KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE AND HEALTHY THROUGH SCIENCE

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