French Polynesia – Waste-water Treatment and Capacity Building

A 10th EDF regional programme to support the waste-water treatment project of the Papeete commune (island of Tahiti) and the strengthening of institutional capacities

Objectives:

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the institutional capacities of French Polynesia to improve the efficiency of the provision of public services in the domain of waste-water treatment and to develop a sectoral programme which would lead to the creation of a water sector policy. Specific objectives are:

- to revise the plan for the reform of Public Financial Management (PFM) implemented by the government;
- to foster sustainable economic, social and environmental development through the improvement of living conditions, the preservation of Papeete's wharf, and of the environment in general;
- to contribute to the establishment of an effective public service in the domain of waste-water treatment.

Expected results:

- the establishment of a water sector policy backed by a sector programme, and the adoption of a plan for PFM reform;
- the construction of networks, their connections to the global network and putting into service a part of the network for waste-water treatment in the Papeete commune.

The EU has supported the waste-water treatment programmes of French Polynesia since the 7th EDF by concentrating its support on this sector with a total allocation of EUR 37 million.

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The contribution from the 10th EDF will support the territory’s institutional capacities but also the implementation of the waste-water treatment programme in Papeete on the island of Tahiti, thus responding to a priority need for improved living conditions and for an improved urban environment, all in pursuit of sustainable development. This support should therefore:

- address the constraints which Papeete’s lack of sanitation imposes on public health and on economic development (attractiveness of the town centre) and tourism;
- allow for the completion of works on constructing public sewerage networks in the form of a gravity and pressure sewer collection system, as well as network connections to the waste-water treatment plant (WWTP);
- enable the extension of the backhaul network, meaning that approximately 8 km of the network would be connected to the WWTP, allowing connections to about 244 users (i.e. 1 000 inhabitants) for an approximate volume of 1 200 m³/day;
- enable the introduction of a charging system which would include the costs of both drinking water and the treatment of waste-water.

Implementation:

The allocation of EUR 19.79 million is implemented via a project-approach modality in partially decentralised management. Two Financing Agreements were signed to support the waste-water treatment project of the Papeete commune and will support the institutional capacities of the territory in:

- developing a water sector policy;
- improving its good governance;
- properly managing the European funds;
- improving the living environment, in the segments of public health, water quality (surface, underground and lagoon), and preservation of Papeete’s wharf and of the environment in general.

1° Papeete waste-water treatment: Ongoing.
Financing Agreement signed in 2013 with implementation projected until January 2023. One works contract signed in June 2016 with implementation projected until May 2020. Another works contract signed in June 2017 in two lots (1 and 2), with works to be completed by July 2019.

2° Capacity building: Ongoing.
Recruitment of technical assistance. Financing agreement signed in 2013 with implementation projected until February 2021. Four contracts have been signed, of which two have been implemented and paid. Two remain underway:

- signed in May 2015, works to be completed by November 2018;
- signed in August 2016, works to be completed by September 2018.