

## **Background**

By way of background, the International Centre for Not-for-profit Law (ICNL) based in Washington DC implemented the Pacific Civil Society Law Programme (PCSLP) from March 2006 with three years funding from NZAID of NZD1.28m. The PCSLP sought to improve the legal and regulatory environment for the operation of civil society organisations in the Pacific through awareness raising, education, capacity building, and working with local partners to draft changes and develop new legislation. It aimed to transfer its responsibilities to the University of the South Pacific (USP) Law School.

## **Purpose and Objectives**

The review's purpose was to assist in decision making regarding the future of the programme by assessing whether the strategies of ICNL and its partners had been effective, progress in achieving objectives, whether the programme design was functional and valid, and the level of demand from Pacific partners for ongoing technical advice. The review's approach was to consider relevant documents, and to visit Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Samoa to interview key stakeholders.

## **Main Findings**

The review's findings noted that the PCSP appeared well aligned with NZAID and regional policies and priorities. However, the review identified concerns about the programme design including the need for an improved outcome focus, planning processes and monitoring and evaluation arrangements. It also identified the need for the work to be better placed in a Pacific context, building up the role of local partners that would be able to sustain the work, and providing mentoring support to them. The review was not convinced that the work should transfer to the USP, and considered that other regional organisations were better placed for involvement. The review saw opportunities for NZAID to link the work with its other initiatives in civil society capacity building and a need for increased donor coordination in the area.

## **Follow-up**

Review recommendations suggested that NZAID continue to support civil society law reform in the Pacific, and that any follow-on initiative should demonstrate improved programme design. The review recommended that the programme have a greater emphasis on involvement of local organisations for capacity building purposes, that NZAID coordinate this work with its civil society capacity building work in the Pacific, and promote coordination with other donors supporting civil society in the Pacific.

To request a copy of the full report email [aidevaluation@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:aidevaluation@mfat.govt.nz) and quote the reference number - Eva0912.