



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Twenty-Second SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa

13 – 15 September 2011



Information Paper 6:

Current Status of the Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gases Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP) and the Challenges Ahead

Purpose of Paper

1. A progress report to the Meeting on the implementation of the Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP), the challenges and the need for the Secretariat to continue seeking resources to support the greenhouse gas mitigation and renewable energy development efforts of the PICs.

Background

2. The PIGGAREP is a regional greenhouse gas mitigation project funded under GEF-3. The PIGGAREP aims to remove barriers to the widespread utilisation of feasible renewable energy technologies in 11 PICs. The successful implementation of the PIGGAREP is estimated to reduce CO₂ emissions by at least 30% by 2015 as compared to the business as usual scenario.

Impacts of the PIGGAREP

3. The PIGGAREP has completed four (4) of its original five (5) years of implementation. PIGGAREP has led in Secretariat's effort to support the renewable energy developments of member countries. This is evident in its recognition, nationally, regionally and international as a key player on renewable energy for the Pacific Islands. For instance, the 2010 PMER listed the renewable energy feasibility studies completed. SPREP is also the regional hub for the EU/ACP Multilateral Environment Agency (MEA) Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Capacity Building component, which aims at improving the local consultants' and experts' capacity in identifying and progressing potential projects for CDM in the Pacific Island Countries to contribute to global greenhouse gas emissions' reduction.

4. PIGGAREP has also fostered closer cooperation and collaboration on renewable energy initiatives in the region with other CROP Agencies and donor partners. This include the GEF-funded Actions for the Development of Marshall Islands' Renewable Energies (ADMIRE), Palau's Sustainable Economic Development through Renewable Energy Applications (SEDREA), Renewable Energy activities of PPA, SPC and USP, IUCN's Energy, Ecosystems for Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative, the EU's Support to the Energy Sector in Five ACP Pacific Island Countries (REP-5), ADB's Energy for All Initiative, the World Bank's Energising the Pacific initiative, FAO's Bio-energy and Food Security effort and those of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP). These are all carried through a 'whole of sector' approach based on the concept of 'Many Partners, One Strategy, One Policy and One Plan' that the SPC, as the lead energy agency, is coordinating.

Commitments to Renewable Energy

5. The PIGGAREP is committed to continue to support the initiatives of the 11 PIC's that are under its programme to contribute to the realisation of their set targets. Accordingly, PIGGAREP will assist its 11 PICs in the following core activities, to support them in meeting their targets:

- Conduct solar, wind and hydropower resources assessments
- Conducting feasibility studies of RE projects and to identify least cost RE development plans for appropriate renewable energy technologies (RET)
- Develop institutional, financial and management systems/modalities to sustain the operation of renewable energy technologies
- Implement hardware renewable energy (RE) projects to improve productivity in rural households, tourism, schools, health centres and water supply
- Conduct training on technical aspects of renewable energy, including stand-alone grid connected systems

6. In addition, there are regional energy policy frameworks and decisions that SPREP will support. For example, the Communiqué of the 2009 Forum Leaders Meeting is upheld. That meeting observed that renewable energy offers the promise of cost-effective, reliable energy services to rural households and will provide a contribution to global greenhouse gas mitigation efforts. And in realising such promise from renewable energy, appropriate technology transfer through the expanding carbon markets must be pursued. The leaders also acknowledged the role that “renewable energy targets can play in driving the transitional of national energy sectors to a low carbon future...”

7. The recent 2011 Noumea Inaugural Regional Energy Minister's Meeting emphasised the need to examine strategic engagements to address challenges to the energy security of PICTs at a time when the price of oil exceeds USD 100 per barrel. This seems likely to be case in the foreseeable future. Accordingly, PICTs are urged to set time-bound targets for the sustainable development of renewable energy-based electricity, recognising that some countries have already adopted national renewable energy targets, such as a 100% renewable by 2020 by Tuvalu; 50% renewable by 2012 by Tonga as mandated by the Tongan Energy Roadmap (TERM), while others are revising and/or working towards setting their renewable energy targets.

SPREP's Ongoing Support

8. The Secretariat, through the PIGGAREP, has been instrumental in raising the profile of renewable energy in the PICs. With its software-related focus, it has complemented bi-lateral, regional and multilateral effort involving renewable energy hardware in the region. These are through targeted training workshops that address specific needs and current renewable energy developments of members, reviews and evaluation of renewable energy projects on the ground, conduct of resources monitoring and feasibility studies and the documentation and dissemination of best practices and lessons learnt from the renewable energy installations in and outside of the region.

9. While the PIGGAREP has got two more years to its conclusion on December 2013, since the approval of an extension of its project life by 1½ years, the Secretariat, through PIGGAREP has commenced identifying possible avenues, as recommended in its Mid Term Evaluation Report (MTER) to continue the momentum and deliver on its set objectives and services on renewable energy and greenhouse gas mitigation to members. The Secretariat acknowledges financial support through small project funds from the Japanese, Taiwanese and the Chinese governments for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency activities in the Pacific Island Countries, that are used for co-financing some of PIGGAREP regional activities. As with other GEF-funded regional projects, the Secretariat will be looking at the GEF-5 developments and possible opportunities for support from the GEF.

Recommendation

10. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** the progress with the implementation of the PIGGAREP, and
- **note** and **support in principle** the Secretariat's effort to seek additional resources for its renewable energy activities as an effort to mitigate greenhouse gas.

18 July 2011