

Establishment of a Regional Pacific NDC Hub within the Framework of the NDC Partnership

Draft Design Document 21.05.18

1. Background

The actions and ambitions provided in each country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) provide a strong measure of whether the world will achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement. These goals are: to hold the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C, to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C and, to increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development.

An assessment of actions in the NDCs submitted so far indicates that current actions are still not ambitious enough to keep global temperature increase to well below 2°C. There is a need to enhance current NDCs and accelerate the scale and pace of climate action globally in order to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

For some Pacific Island Countries (PICs), the development of INDCs was hurried to meet the deadline before the Paris COP21 in 2015. This meant that many INDCs were often developed by external consultants based on pre-existing plans to increase access to renewable energy, which is crucial for PICs as a way to reduce emissions while also reducing dependency on fossil fuel imports for diesel electricity generation and fostering greater resilience of their economy.

In 2016 all of the PICs' INDC were automatically converted to NDCs when countries ratified the Paris Agreement. This process means that for many PICs their NDCs may not include significant sources of emissions or emission reduction opportunities, such as transport, forestry, waste and agriculture or oceans. Given the critical importance of resilience and adaptation priorities in the region, enhancing Pacific NDCs through including actions to mitigate emissions in these sectors, as well as the electricity sector, also has the potential to provide significant social and economic benefits and enhance resilience more broadly. The process to revise and enhance NDCs by 2020 will provide PICs with the opportunity to review, where appropriate, relevant sources of emission reductions and assess these other potential areas for inclusion.

PICs emphasise the interconnectedness of all mitigation and adaptation actions in the context of small island developing states. Implementation of the existing NDCs and future enhanced NDCs will therefore require an embedded, whole-of-government approach that helps translate NDC targets into detailed and well-understood national investment plans and align them to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The NDC Partnership (NDCP)¹ and its accompanying Support Unit has been established to assist countries with their NDC implementation processes. Fiji, the

¹ The **NDC Partnership** is a coalition of countries and institutions working to mobilize support and achieve ambitious climate goals while enhancing sustainable development. Launched at COP22 in Marrakesh, the NDC Partnership aims to enhance cooperation so that countries have access to the technical knowledge and

Republic of the Marshall Islands and Vanuatu are Pacific members of the NDC Partnership. The *Climate Action Pacific Partnership Conference* held in Suva in July 2017 called for increased support to NDC implementation and, amongst others, also for more Pacific Island countries to join the NDCP. The proposed Regional Pacific NDC Hub, facilitated in the region by the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) to support Pacific Island Countries, will be implemented within the framework of the NDCP. As a regional initiative in association with the NDCP, the Hub is an integral part of the wider Partnership network² of 70 countries and 14 international organisations. However, all Pacific countries as members of SPC and SPREP will benefit from the proposed Regional Pacific NDC Hub's services, irrespective of their membership or non-membership in the NDCP.

While developed and driven as a regional initiative, the Regional Pacific NDC Hub will adopt and operate in accordance with the NDCP's Guiding Principles (see figure 1 below) and will leverage, complement, and strengthen the Partnership's existing activities for country engagement³, knowledge sharing and learning, as well as leveraging climate finance opportunities.

Although PICs' contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions are negligible, a transition to a low carbon economy is the path needed for overall sustainable development. Most of the PICs' NDCs focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency actions, and most recognise this as also economically smart given the negative implications of a high reliance on fossil fuels. For PICs, their priority remains adaptation and resilience. There is a need to strengthen NDCs to better reflect adaptation priorities and the economic, environmental and social co-benefits of ensuring that societies and communities, infrastructure and ecosystems are resilient by taking into account climate and disaster risks.

In strengthening the resilience of PICs and promoting low carbon development that ultimately results in net zero emission economies, the Regional Pacific NDC Hub will contribute to and also build on initiatives under the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP).

The Hub will be steered by a small Steering Committee comprising of one representative per sub-region (Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia) in addition to the Fiji Government as the host (see Annex x). It will be affiliated to the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP), the regional governance mechanism for the FRDP, to strengthen

financial support they need to achieve large-scale climate and sustainable development targets as quickly and effectively as possible. The NDC Partnership builds in-country capacity and increases knowledge sharing so that climate policies have meaningful and enduring impacts, and drive increasing global ambition over time.
<https://ndcpartnership.org/about-ndc-partnership>

² <http://ndcpartnership.org/members>

³ NDC Partnership Country Engagement Strategy:
http://ndcpartnership.org/sites/all/themes/ndcp_v2/docs/country-engagement/NDCP_CountryEngStrategy_Final.pdf

ambition, coordination, cooperation and enable complementarity of actions to promote resilient low carbon development and strive towards net zero emissions economies. The Hub will also partner with other institutions and contribute to other relevant processes in the region such as the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, the Pacific Climate Change Centre, and others.

Figure 1: Guiding principles

✓ Support country-driven processes	✓ Enhance integration into national planning
✓ Promote long-term climate action	✓ Advance adaptation and mitigation
✓ Enhance efficiency and responsiveness	✓ Align development and climate change
✓ Build in-country capacity	✓ Support multi-stakeholder engagement
✓ Improve coordination	✓ Promote gender parity

2. Rationale

The Regional Pacific NDC Hub aims to address identified needs and priorities of Pacific Island Countries to enhance and successfully implement their NDCs.

On July 3 and 4 2017, around 200 stakeholders from different organisations and sectors gathered in Suva, Fiji for the inaugural Climate Action Pacific Partnership (CAPP) Conference. Also attending were Leaders and Ministers from 14 Pacific Island Countries. During this conference and reflected at the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) leaders meeting, stakeholders raised the need for a **regional NDC platform or mechanism to support Pacific Island Countries in enhancing and implementing their NDCs**. This was further developed at the CAPP Partnership Days during pre-COP meetings in October in Nadi, Fiji, and side-events during COP23 in November.

At the NDC Partnership high-level event on November 14, 2017, the Hon. Prime Minister of Fiji and President of COP 23 formally launched the Regional Pacific NDC Hub.

Based on consultations held since November 2017, and in particular as part of the NDC Dialogue in Suva in March 2018, this design document describes the objectives of the Hub, proposed services to be offered, mechanisms for service delivery and proposed governance and institutional arrangements.

3. Objectives of the Hub

The expected objectives of the Hub are that:

1. Access to targeted technical assistance, climate support initiatives and climate finance for implementation of NDCs is leveraged and accelerated
2. NDCs are streamlined and integrated into national / subnational policies, legislation, plans, processes, monitoring and reporting (e.g. budget, plans, M&E framework) and aligned to FRDP and SDG reporting

3. NDC related actions and successes are rapidly replicated and scaled up through diversity of financing options including through partnerships with the private sector

Knowledge sharing and learning, including peer to peer exchange will be promoted throughout to accelerate action to achieve NDC goals.

The Hub will promote partnerships with the private sector for financing and implementation of NDCs in the Pacific Island region.

These objectives respond and align to regional and nationally identified priority actions. In particular, as part of the FRDP, a priority action identified as part of Goal 2 guides countries to 'Seek technical and financial support to develop and implement NDC targets and long-term low carbon development strategies'. All FRDP priority actions in Goal 2 and others within Goals 1 and 3 are also relevant to the Regional Pacific NDC Hub.⁴ They also align with development

and adaptation pathways necessary to achieve the Paris Agreement goals. These goals, especially the Pacific aligned goal to limit warming to 1.5 degrees by 2100 above pre-industrial levels require steep global emissions reductions post 2020 and global net zero emissions in the next few decades.

Article 4; 3 - Each Party's successive nationally determined contribution will represent a progression beyond the Party's then current nationally determined contribution and reflect its highest possible ambition, reflecting its common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.

Article 4; 4. - Developing country Parties should continue enhancing their mitigation efforts, and are encouraged to move over time towards economy-wide emission reduction or limitation targets in the light of different national circumstances

Paris Agreement, 2015

Through supporting PICs to enhance and better implement their NDCs, the Regional Pacific NDC Hub will contribute to the following higher level impacts:

- 1) **Strengthening Pacific Island Countries' ability to contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement goals and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** through improved investment planning and access to finance.
- 2) **Improving Pacific Island Countries' capacity to attract investment and manage climate risks** through long-term sustainable investment programmes, conducive legal frameworks, private sector integration and innovative policy development.

The Hub will promote exchange between countries and share lessons and best practices from all sectors, including those sectors currently not part of Pacific NDCs, to stimulate discussion about future NDC enhancement and the inclusion of adaptation where requested. Support for identification, replication and scaling up transferable national initiatives will be provided. Where appropriate, regional initiatives that support

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⁴ <http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/embeds/file/Annex%201%20-%20Framework%20for%20Resilient%20Development%20in%20the%20Pacific.pdf>

increased regional investment and risk reduction initiatives will be supported. The Hub will be inclusive of governments, private sector and civil society.

Best practice case studies, data and information will be made available through the Pacific Climate Change Portal and the Pacific Regional Data Repository thereby strengthening these existing platforms, amongst other actions and support to existing platforms. The NDC Partnership, GIZ, GGGI, SPC and SPREP will also promote learning from the region and provide a platform to share experiences from other regions.

4. Regional Pacific NDC Hub – Results framework

The Regional Pacific NDC Hub will contribute to the achievement of results under the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. As a key principle, also expressed during the consultations and within the FRDP, the results framework for the Regional Pacific NDC Hub should strengthen existing reporting frameworks and avoid the creation of additional reporting burdens for countries.

The Theory of Change underpinning the Hub is that services provided by the Hub contribute to accelerated implementation of NDC-related actions through their incorporation into national development planning processes and the enhancement of NDCs as well as to strengthened monitoring and reporting processes.

The objectives of the Regional Pacific NDC Hub are aligned to the intermediary outcomes of the NDC Partnership. A full results framework will be developed during the establishment phase of the Hub, with a view to ensuring streamlined reporting wherever possible.

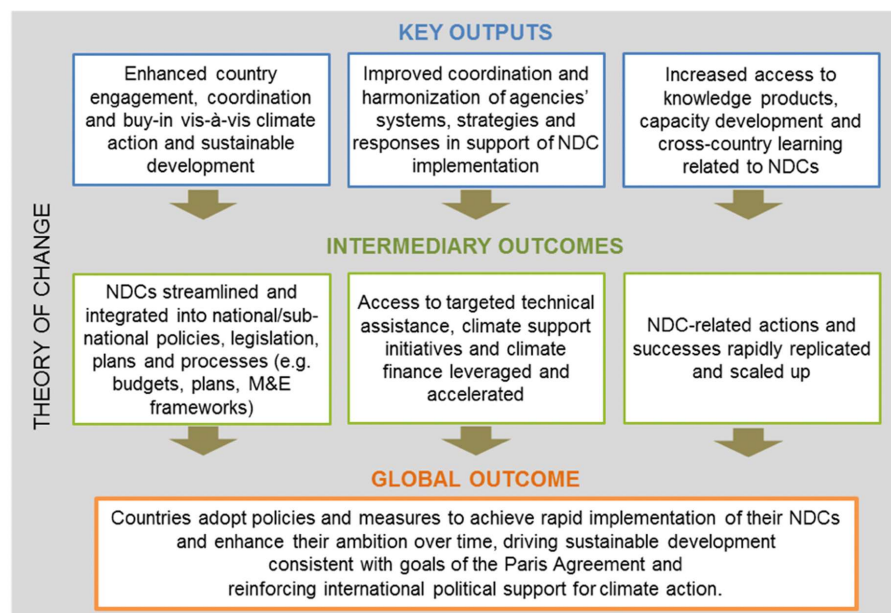
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Figure 2: NDC Partnership Theory of Change



Specific outputs to be delivered include:

1. NDCs reviewed and enhanced
2. Roadmaps and investment plans developed to support NDC implementation informed by lessons and exchanges within the Pacific
3. Finance leveraged to support NDC implementation through improved regional coordination
4. Guidance and technical assistance provided and tools produced to streamline and integrate NDCs into national and regional plans and processes
5. NDC related information, best practices and learning mechanisms easily accessible to national, regional and global audiences
6. Partnerships and engagement with the private sector and civil society organisations support NDC financing and implementation

5. Regional Pacific NDC Hub Design Process

Following the call for its establishment in July 2017 and subsequent consultations at pre-COP in October 2017 and COP23 itself in November 2017, consultations were held between January – March 2018 to seek views on the following issues:

- **What** kind of technical assistance is required by countries and other stakeholders to implement, review and monitor their NDCs?

- **How** should this technical assistance be delivered? What types of mechanisms are preferred in terms of delivering this technical assistance?
- What governance and institutional arrangements should be used to steer the activities of the Hub?

5.1 What?

The Regional Pacific NDC Hub (hereafter the Hub) will provide a range of technical services to PICs to support the implementation and enhancement, review and monitoring of Pacific NDCs.

The following descriptions of types of services reflect priorities expressed during consultations to date (May 2018), including those during the NDC Dialogue and Hub consultation (March 2018). Priorities expressed have been aligned to the NDC Partnership's Value Chain of Services.

Several stakeholders suggested that the Hub should focus, during its first year, on the scope within current NDCs and provide focussed, targeted assistance in a number of key areas, rather than trying to spread support too thinly and cover a broader area of services. Others raised the importance of support for enhancement and review processes and in particular the inclusion of adaptation within the NDC Hub, keeping in mind that revised NDCs would be submitted by 2020.

5.2 Key recommendations and priority areas of support

General principles

- Ensure support provided responds to an identified country need.
- Engage in a socially inclusive manner - across the whole-of-government (particularly ministries of planning, finance, energy, transport, forestry, agriculture, women), private sector and civil society.
- Be inclusive and accessible to provide advice and support to countries, private sector and civil society partners as required.
- Strengthen existing regional initiatives, engagement and cooperation by Hub partners as well as technical agencies and donors in the region.
- Add value to existing national and regional initiatives by ensuring close coordination, complementarity and regular communication with relevant regional mechanisms and initiatives.
- Align the governance structure of the Regional Pacific NDC Hub to relevant regional initiatives and mechanisms including the Pacific Resilience Partnership to streamline governance arrangements.
- Complement efforts of other initiatives to build institutional capacity to effectively absorb technical and financial assistance.
- Identify areas of common, multi-country needs that can be provided by the Hub and focus on a few key areas of support initially rather than trying to be everything to everyone.
- Add value at the regional level, including by identifying opportunities to generate economies of scale for climate investment.

- Focus initially on supporting NDC implementation in sectors currently included within existing Pacific NDCs (mainly energy, land and forestry, and transport)
- Support countries to expand the scope of their NDCs to include adaptation and other sectors where this is requested.
- Promote dialogue and knowledge exchange relating to NDC implementation.
- Promote dialogue and knowledge exchange relating to NDC enhancement and the inclusion of adaptation within future review processes.
- Ensure links are made to regional and national processes for data and information management, reporting (including for energy and transport more generally, but also SDGs) and planning.
- Strengthen data and knowledge management systems building upon existing platforms (e.g. the Pacific Regional Data Repository for Sustainable Energy, the Pacific Climate Change Portal).

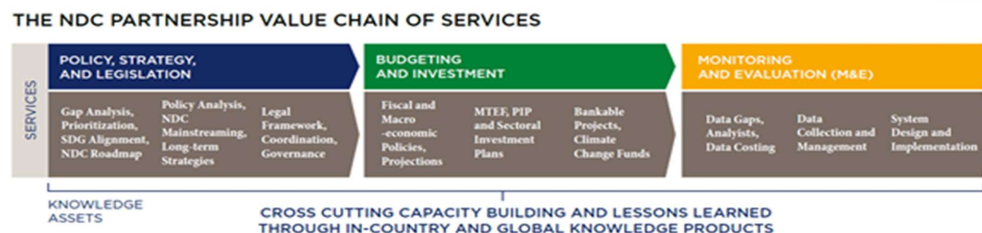
5.3 Summary of priority areas of technical assistance

The following areas of technical assistance were identified as priority areas for support.

- Complement efforts of other initiatives in the region to support countries in building institutional and absorptive capacity to analyse and translate current NDCs targets into specific short, medium and long-term actions required to achieve targets (e.g. via the development of NDC roadmaps, through strengthened modelling capability, disaggregating targets, etc.).
- Support investment planning, to facilitate access to concessional and non-concessional finance and provide support to proposal development, as appropriate and complementing other mechanisms supporting project development.
- Strengthen data and information management to support countries to accurately report on greenhouse gas emissions as part of NDC reporting processes and align these to other reporting mechanisms (National Communications, NAPs, NAMAs, SDG, etc).
- Support private sector engagement to accelerate investment in mitigation and adaptation solutions by facilitating dialogue, documenting case studies and promoting a shared understanding of and adjustments to regulatory barriers and opportunities.
- Facilitate NDC review and enhancement processes.

Based on these identified priorities, the following proposed areas of technical services to be offered by the Hub are below. Their description is aligned to the NDC Partnership.

Figure 3: NDC Partnership Value Chain of Services



Policy, strategy and legislation

- Support to the development of NDC Roadmaps to assist countries unpack how targets set out in the NDC can be achieved in practice.
- Support gap and policy analysis and prioritisation exercises and tools to determine which opportunities should be addressed first in meeting country commitments as part of their NDCs.
- Support processes to enhance and review NDCs, in particular to include adaptation and other sectors.
- Support integration of social and gender issues in to short, medium and long-term goals envisaged as part of country NDCs.
- Support the development of legislation, regulations and standards where this is relevant to the achievement of NDCs and in particular where these could prompt significant investment of the private sector.

Budgeting and investment

- Support to develop investment plans for NDC implementation.
- Facilitate access to climate finance through coordination with existing (and explore new) funding bodies and explore various innovative mechanisms and modalities for accessing concessional and non-concessional finance.
- Facilitate dialogue and partnerships with the private sector to strengthen their participation in climate action.
- Support to develop project proposals for accessing finance for implementation, as appropriate and in coordination with other mechanisms that support proposal development.

Monitoring and evaluation

- Strengthen underlying national and sector planning, budgeting and reporting processes to ensure they are suitable for reporting on NDCs.
- Support the enhancement of statistical capability in-country to support sector-specific and NDC reporting
- Identify opportunities to streamline reporting methodologies with other relevant processes (SDGs, UNFFF etc).

Capacity building / lessons learned

- Strengthen information and knowledge tools (portals, e-discussion forum, webinars etc) to facilitate learning, and scaling up
- Facilitate peer to peer learning between PICs and with countries outside the region

Across all of the services provided by the Hub, processes and platforms will be utilised to ensure regional knowledge exchange and capacity building. These include online knowledge platforms such as the Pacific Climate Change Portal and the Pacific Regional Data Repository for Sustainable Energy. Facilitated e-discussions, such as the UNDP-hosted Pacific Solution Exchange will also be used to share regional experiences and best practices. The Hub and the NDC Partnership Support Unit will work closely to ensure that lessons learned at the regional level are shared internationally, and that regional knowledge exchanges are informed by global experiences.

Regional Pacific NDC Hub members (GIZ, SPC, SPREP, GGGI and NDCP) will ensure that any training and capacity development builds on their existing training and capacity development support to countries.

5.4 How?

Types of mechanisms

The Regional Pacific NDC Hub will be managed by a Hub Implementation Unit. The Hub Implementation Unit, with a core team of experts, will be based at SPC in Suva and SPREP in Apia (and funding permitting SPC in FSM). It will undertake the delivery of the NDC Hub activities, including direct technical assistance. A Hub manager will provide overall management and coordination of services provided by the core team of experts (see Annex 1). In addition to the core team additional technical assistance will be provided through Hub partners directly and additional short-term consultants/attachments as required through the Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM).

Views were sought on the various mechanisms listed below to deliver technical assistance.

- Peer to peer exchange between countries
- Training courses / workshops
- Short term experts or consultants providing advice / assistance remotely
- Short term experts or consultants providing advice / assistance in-country
- Short term attachments of Hub staff to (your) country(ies)
- Short term staff positions to deliver key NDC related activities
- Remote assistance provided by Hub staff (e.g. policy document review)
- Communication platforms providing regular up-to- date information and advice on NDC related activities and developments including funding opportunities and COP negotiations relating to NDCs
- Access to NDC Partnership tools, services, and global network
- Longer term experts attached to countries, and/or co-financing of staff

Most stakeholders consulted (countries, private sector, civil society, partners) felt that all of the mechanisms listed above could have a role depending on the specific technical assistance being requested. The delivery of services will be monitored after the first year of operations and adjusted as per feedback from countries and during semi-annual stop and reflect exercises.

The various annual fora of regional organisations and initiatives such as the Climate Action Pacific Partnership workshops and fora were also identified as reflection opportunities.

In reflecting on existing successful mechanisms of regional technical assistance, a number of key principles emerged that will inform the Hub's approach to the delivery of technical assistance.

5.5 Principles for technical assistance delivery

- The Hub will utilise wherever possible experts from within the region to deliver technical assistance.
- Peer to peer exchange will be used wherever possible to facilitate learning between countries.
- Internships and attachments of young graduates from within the PICs will be used where possible to strengthen long term national capacity.
- Engagement with existing providers of technical expertise – such as those already provided within CROP agencies, the Micronesia Centre for Sustainable Transport, the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, the Regional Maritime Centre of Excellence, the Pacific Green Business Centre, the Pacific Business Resilience Council and others - is critical to ensuring that the Hub can access the most relevant expertise.
- The Hub will minimise wherever possible large regional meetings and trainings that are recognised as having limited lasting impact on capacity development, are expensive and generate significant emissions.
- The Hub will strengthen existing information and knowledge management systems (such as the Pacific Climate Change Portal and the Pacific Regional Data Repository for Sustainable Energy amongst others) to ensure regular and ongoing communication of activities.
- The Hub will utilise facilitated email exchanges (such as the Pacific Solution Exchange), newsletters, webinars, social media, existing communities of practice and other virtual methods to share information and promote engagement in key topics of interest.
- The Hub will provide a simple, flexible and responsive mechanism for requesting support⁵.
- The Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM) will be revamped to provide the overarching mechanism for procuring any additional technical assistance that cannot be provided by countries or partners to the Hub.

⁵ All mechanisms and procedures reflected here will be developed during the establishment phase

Emphasis will be placed on expanding the roster of experts available and ensuring sector-specific experts with knowledge of the region are available.

- The Hub will have a key role in coordinating technical assistance relevant to NDCs. Upon receiving a request for support it will be screened to ensure that it is not currently being addressed under an existing initiative. Existing Hub partners and Hub staff will be approached first to determine whether the request can be met from within the Hub and Hub partner resources. Where this is not possible the RTSM will be used to procure external support.
- The Hub will seek to leverage access to additional expertise through its partners including the NDC Partnership.

The Regional Pacific NDC Hub will seek to leverage technical assistance within the Hub team and Hub partners initially. Where additional technical assistance is required, the Hub will utilise the RTSM, hosted by SPREP, as the mechanism for processing requests for technical assistance to be delivered by external assistance as required. The Hub will strengthen the RTSM to ensure that it can be responsive and flexible to countries' needs. An initial activity during the Hub's establishment phase will be to review the RTSM and develop a strategy for strengthening its operations.

The RTSM coordinator, under guidance from the Hub Manager, will have a key role in coordinating requests that come through the RTSM.

A marketing and outreach strategy for the RTSM will be developed to ensure that it engages broadly with potential providers of technical assistance from the private sector and civil society. The roster of experts will be enhanced to ensure adequate sectoral coverage and sufficient availability of experts that are familiar with the region.

The RTSM coordinator will also run regular trainings with consultants in the Pacific to support them in understanding the requirements for registration and applying for opportunities listed as part of the RTSM.

Where possible, existing mechanisms such as LinkedIn will be used to streamline registration processes and also offer the opportunity for feedback received on previous work.

5.6 Leveraging support from the NDC Partnership

The NDC Partnership, the NDC Partnership Support Unit (NDCP SU) and the Hub will collaborate closely. The NDCP SU will support the development of Partnership Plans in the Pacific region, where of interest to countries that are also members of the NDCP.

The Partnership Plan is a planning and mobilization tool used to organise and harmonise support activities of NDC Partnership members and in-country stakeholders, as well as a country's own activities, that contribute toward the implementation and achievement of the NDC, generally structured along the Value Chain of Services. This can be particularly valuable when a country is requesting multiple support services across the different areas (policy, strategy, and legislation; budgeting and investment; monitoring & evaluation; capacity building and knowledge

products) and is interested in structuring this support in a harmonised manner for greater benefit.

Through the existing process and system for developing Partnership Plans, the global network of the NDC Partnership can be leveraged to respond to a government's needs and objectives for NDC implementation. Partnership Plans add value by:

- Matching country-led demands for services with supply;
- Projecting future needs, based on analysis of where a country is in the Value Chain of Services;
- Providing a framework for investment and mobilising resources by identifying gaps in supply;
- Coordinating initiatives between government and Implementing Partners; and
- Ensuring transparency on who is doing what for stronger collective impact.

5.7 Private sector needs and priorities

Private sector businesses surveyed indicated that energy and transport costs represented a significant proportion of their costs and many had already made adjustments to investments and processes to reduce costs and emissions. All businesses surveyed suggested that a key role for the Hub would be in sharing information relating to opportunities for private sector organisations to support the implementation of NDCs.

Challenges in investing in green technology included access to capital (particularly concessional finance), competitive constraints, risks to small and new businesses, the lag with which new technology reaches the region and a lack of expertise locally.

Opportunities included a request that government factor in the long term environmental and resilience benefits of a particular project when public tenders are assessed. This often requires a higher expenditure but can deliver greater overall benefits in the long term. Expanded use of tools such as cost benefit analysis may assist.

Businesses already collect and monitor information that is relevant for NDC reporting and a closer partnership with the private sector could promote information sharing and strengthened reporting systems. These include fuel and electricity usage, monitoring funding for infrastructure on resilience strengthening and the ability to use SMS platforms to source data and information where relevant.

The Regional Pacific NDC Hub will strengthen private sector engagement and partnership by promoting information sharing and dialogue between governments, civil society and the private sector to identify key partnership opportunities. The Hub should enable the private sector to access technical assistance from the Hub on a co-financing basis. The Hub will also provide regular training (including via webinars), information and knowledge to support private sector organisations to better understand opportunities to support low and net zero carbon resilient development and in particular, understanding the opportunities and requirements of tenders relating to climate change technical assistance.

The Hub will support initiatives to promote greater concessional and non-concessional investment in the Pacific region to support NDC implementation.

5.8 Civil society needs and priorities

Responses from civil society groups were limited given the time constraints for the consultations and further consultations with this group are required during the Hub's establishment phase. In general, language used in discussions on NDCs is inaccessible to many stakeholders (civil society, the general public) that are not regularly engaged in UNFCCC processes.

Feedback received from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) indicated a strong desire to ensure that NDC implementation processes are socially and gender inclusive and that requires CSO presence on the governance mechanisms for the Regional Pacific NDC Hub. Pacific NDCs are generally relatively weak on social and gender analysis and the extent to which gender specialists and women's groups fed into the development of NDCs is unclear. Going forward, CSOs highlight that including diverse representation as part of the governance and implementation mechanisms for all NDCs is critical.

The energy sector is largely a male dominated profession and in promoting women's economic empowerment it is vital that women are given equal access to training and skills development to support a growing sustainable energy industry. The same consideration to decent and green job creation being equally accessible to men and women should be taken into account when NDCs are reviewed and enhanced and other sectors (transport, forestry, etc.) are included.

The Regional Pacific NDC Hub should ensure that adequate time and resources are available to consult more broadly with CSOs during the establishment stage of the Hub. Specific meetings with the Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO), the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network (PICAN), and other relevant NGOs will be conducted to better understand the opportunities and needs of NGOs. In particular, language used in fora such as the NDC Dialogue can make them seem irrelevant to every day hardships facing Pacific Islanders – including access to energy, water, health services etc – and yet these issues are relevant for NDCs. Removing jargon from these processes and the Hub design was also strongly recommended.

6. Proposed institutional arrangements

Core partners: SPC, SPREP, GGGI, and GIZ, and NDC Partnership Support Unit, in association with the broader NDC Partnership. The involvement of the Pacific Private Sector Organization (PIPSO) is under discussion.

The facilitation of the establishment of the Hub has been a collaborative effort of SPC, SPREP, GIZ, GGGI and the NDC Partnership Support Unit in close collaboration with countries, development agencies and other stakeholders.

Once operational, it is envisaged as a broad regional partnership, and the Hub will seek to engage further interested partners in committing financial and/or in-kind (staff)

resources. A number of partners have expressed potential interest during consultations.

The Hub will be a multi-partner, multi-donor initiative and it will be both physical – with a small team of core staff (see below) and virtual (with a network of partners providing various support).

The UK, Germany and Australia have committed initial funding and further resource mobilisation will be required.

The Hub's establishment will be facilitated by GIZ and embedded within SPC in Suva (and FSM should funding allow) and SPREP (in Samoa), membership-based organisations that include all 14 Pacific Island Countries, and that provide existing technical services in sectors relevant for NDC implementation (energy, transport, agriculture, forestry, UNFCCC reporting, climate finance). Their commitment to the Hub will entail providing office space and services, as well as access to their existing technical staff for further support.

The Hub will employ a core team of specialists to provide services to countries as proposed below (resource dependent). The Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) has committed to supporting a full-time seconded staff member for 12 months. The NDC Partnership has indicated that support would be available for a seconded member of staff for 3 months to support the establishment of the Hub.

- Manager (Suva)
- Energy/transport specialist (Suva)
- Data and information management specialist (Suva)
- Financing / investment / private sector engagement specialist (Suva)
- Administrative and finance officer (Suva)
- RTSM manager (Apia)
- RTSM procurement officer (Apia)

Partners that are working on NDC implementation will also be invited to contribute staff time to the Hub that could be made available for service delivery to countries.

Organisations that expressed interest in potentially contributing staff time where it aligns to existing work on NDCs included IRENA, Conservation International, IUCN and PIDF.

The Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM), hosted by SPREP and reporting to the Hub Implementation Unit, will act as the mechanism for deploying additional short term technical assistance when requested by countries. Countries that utilised the RTSM over the past few years, particularly for project design and feasibility, provided positive feedback of their experiences. During consultations at the NDC Dialogue, countries proposed a strengthening of the RTSM to ensure that the roster of experts is sufficiently broad to include sector-specific advisory services by experts from and familiar with the region. Improved marketing of the RTSM to ensure countries are aware of services provided and how to access support are also needed. The RTSM will be reviewed to provide greater emphasis on engagement with countries to support them in identifying the type of technical expertise that is best suited to their needs. Strong private sector engagement is also critical to ensure active participation

from potential providers of expertise. A review of the RTSM will be conducted during the establishment phase of the Hub. The review will inform a revised strategy for the RTSM.

The Hub will act as the regional arm of the NDC Partnership, learning from the NDC Partnership's experiences and where relevant drawing on services available within the NDC Partnership membership of 71 countries and 14 international institutions. Knowledge exchange, including targeted information and webinars aimed at different target groups including private sector stakeholders and civil society groups, will form a core component of the Hub's activities. Every six months (approximately), the Hub and NDC Partnership Support Unit will do a stop-and-reflect exercise to allow for information exchange, facilitation of lessons learning, and consequently the enhancement of support processes.

7. Governance and Steering

A Hub Implementation Unit will manage the Hub and its activities on a day to day basis.

The Governance and Steering mechanisms proposed below seek to balance the need for strong country ownership of the Hub, the desire to ensure it remains flexible and responsive to country needs and to avoid the creation of additional steering mechanisms and bureaucracy. A description of the proposed governance structures is at Annex 1.

The steering structure of the Hub will be lean and will comprise a nominated representative from each of the three sub-regions (Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia) in addition to the Fiji Government as the host. It will provide overall steering and guidance for the Hub on strategic issues – such as reviewing the types of services provided annually.

The Steering Committee will provide information to the steering structure under the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) within the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP).⁶ The PRP Taskforce comprises 15 members, including representatives from the PICTs, private sector and civil society, and development partners,

As Hub partners, SPC and SPREP meetings will also provide opportunities for countries to provide guidance to steer the activities of the Hub and agenda items or side events as part of those fora will be organised as appropriate.

The Steering Committee will be supported by a Coordination Group comprising all the core partners (those contributing staff time, office space, resources etc) and consisting of one person each from the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Global Green Growth Institute

⁶ Pacific islands Forum Leaders endorsed the proposed Governance arrangements (described as the Pacific Resilience Partnership) at their 2017 meeting in Apia, Samoa. The PRP Taskforce will be the key coordinating body that will advance the resilience agenda through the implementation of the FRDP.

(GGGI), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the NDC Partnership (NDCP).

The Coordination Group will meet physically or virtually each quarter to facilitate coordination across the overall workplan for the Hub.

Regular information (monthly) will be provided by the Hub Manager to all stakeholders interested in the Hub's operations. A feedback mechanism for services accessed will be developed, based on the RTSM evaluation form, to ensure service delivery standards are of high quality. Regular (six monthly) electronic surveys will be conducted to gauge feedback on the Hub's operations.

These arrangements should be revisited once the PRP and the Hub are fully established. Wherever possible existing meetings and/or virtual meetings should be used to facilitate steering.

Terms of reference for the Regional Pacific NDC Hub Implementation Unit will be developed during the establishment phase and discussed at the first steering committee meeting. A draft will be provided to countries for their input and feedback.

Feedback on all relevant arrangements will also be sought at the 2018 CAPP Conference and PSIDS leaders meeting to be held 26 and 27 July 2018.

8. Timeframe and next steps

- November – March – Consultation and design process
- March – NDC Dialogue and consultation on the proposed design
- March – April - Confirmation of key services, mechanisms and governance arrangements
- March – May - Finalisation of project design document
- May – June - Development of Hub staff Terms of Reference and Hub management Terms of Reference for country feedback
- June – July – Nomination of country representatives for the steering committee
- June – October – Recruitment of initial staff (Team Leader, admin and finance officer, one technical staff, RTSM staff)
- June – July - Presentation of proposed Hub to SPC CRGA and Forum Official Committee meetings
- July - Feedback on relevant establishment details during the 2018 Climate Action Pacific Partnership Conference along with sessions highlighting outcomes and engagement opportunities
- July – initial Steering Committee meeting
- Oct – March - Hub operationalisation and recruitment of additional staff (resource dependent)