

Concept Note
Regional Pacific Nationally Determined Contributions Hub
in Pacific Island Region

Inception / Kick off phase

(Version 14 September 2018)

Contributions of the Foreign Commonwealth Office (FCO) of the United Kingdom, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through the GIZ Global NDC Assist Programme

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Abbreviations

ACSE	Adaptation to Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (EU/GIZ)
ADB	Asian Development Bank
BMU	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CAPP	Climate Action Pacific Partnership event
CCCPIR	Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region programme (BMZ/GIZ/SPC)
COP	Conference of Parties
DFAT	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
EU	European Union
FCO	Foreign Commonwealth Office of the UK
FRDP	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
GCCA	Global Climate Change Alliance (EU)
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
LULUCF	Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NDCP SU	Nationally Determined Contributions Partnership's Support Unit
PIC	Pacific Island Country
PIPSO	Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PPA	Pacific Power Association
PRIF	Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
RTSM	Regional Technical Support Mechanism
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals

SPC	The Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Regional Environment Programme
UK	United Kingdom
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WB	World Bank Group

1.1. Project summary

Title	Regional Pacific Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Hub – Inception / Kick-off phase
Strategic frame of reference	<p>Pacific Island Countries (PICs) strengthen their resilience to climate change through adaptation and risk reduction measures, and accelerate a transition to a fossil-fuel free, energy secure future. The NDC Hub will contribute and complement actions under the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) in the region.</p> <p>The 18/20 Commonwealth Fund Sustainability Programme is targeting a more sustainable future for Commonwealth countries that proactively deploy mechanisms for anticipating and handling negative impacts to the environment and society. Within the context of this project this means achieving greater resilience and responsiveness to climate change impacts (outcome) through improved knowledge, co-operation between countries and capacity of the public sector to deliver a reduction in emissions and adapt to a changing climate (intermediate outcome).</p> <p>As a close neighbour in the Pacific region, Australia recognises the particular vulnerability of PICs to the impacts of climate change. Australia is committed to the Paris Agreement and helping PICs to meet these climate challenges. This program forms part of Australia's commitment to spend \$300 million (over four years) on climate and disaster resilience support to the Pacific.</p> <p>There are substantial global efforts being undertaken to assist countries mobilise support to achieve their ambitious climate change goals. For example, the NDC Partnership is working with their member developing countries to support them access technical knowledge and financial support to achieve their climate and sustainable development goals.</p>
Project objective (outcome)	PICs enhance and implement their NDCs driving sustainable and resilient development and a transition to a low carbon development pathway.
Contribution to national / regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda	The project primarily contributes to goal 13 (urgent action on climate change and its impacts), as well as goal 7 (energy), 9 (resilient infrastructure), 11 (resilient cities and human settlements), 15 (terrestrial ecosystems) and 17 (partnerships). The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and FRDP are reflected in national policies and plans for sustainable and resilient development of PICs.
Core problem	<p>PICs are among the countries most vulnerable to climate change, and whilst their overall contribution to global greenhouse gases is negligible, a transition to a low carbon and green economy is essential for overall sustainable development.</p> <p>In order to lead by example Pacific NDC's outline ambitious targets. However, Pacific (Intended) NDCs were hurriedly developed and in</p>

	<p>many cases focus on renewable energy and transport without considering other relevant sources of emissions such as electricity, land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF), agriculture and blue carbon. Half of the PIC's NDCs do not include adaptation, even though building resilience to climate change is critical for PICs and most of them have national adaptation plans.</p> <p>PICs lack the appropriate policy and legislative framework, monitoring, reporting and verification systems and necessary resources (finance, technology, human capacity) to implement their NDCs effectively.</p>
Target groups	<p>Pacific men, women, children and communities and their respective governments, in particular focal ministries and agencies responsible for NDC implementation. Target group also include civil society and private sector involved in NDC implementation and monitoring for a whole-of-society approach.</p>
Lead executing agency	<p>Lead executing agency for this module is the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, in partnership with The Pacific Community (SPC) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The NDC Hub Coordination Group, consisting of the three lead executing agencies mentioned above, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and the NDC Partnership's Support Unit (NDP SU), establishes the Hub's operations and facilitates coordination, development of collaborative partnerships and match-making of needs with international resources and services.</p>
Methodological approach (including instruments)	<p>The NDC Hub is implemented through a multi-donor and multi-partner effort. It will provide country- and sector-specific technical assistance and/or facilitate match-making of support to PICs on identified needs related to NDC implementation, enhancement, and financing. Furthermore, the NDC Hub will support improved knowledge sharing and coordination between NDC Hub partners and other partners to ensure complementarity of support provided by multiple actors. This includes technical assistance in the following areas: policy, strategy and legislation (NDC roadmaps, gap and policy analysis, NDC enhancement and review, social and gender integration), budgeting and investment (investment plans, leveraging climate finance, private sector engagement), and monitoring and evaluation (national and sectoral reporting, strengthening statistical capacity). The Hub will also provide a regional platform for countries to exchange knowledge and share lessons.</p> <p>The programme will be implemented in the following 14 PICs that are all members of SPC and SPREP: Cooks Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. (Fiji, Marshall Islands and Vanuatu are also NDC Partnership members and PNG, Kiribati, Fiji and Vanuatu are also GGGI members).</p>

	<p>A Hub Implementation Unit will be established at SPC in Suva, Fiji and at the Pacific Climate Change Centre at SPREP in Apia, Samoa, for the coordination and day-to-day management of the NDC Hub activities with the PICs. It will function as a secretariat to the Hub's Steering Committee, consisting of three sub-regional representatives (Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia) and Fiji.</p> <p>The programme will apply a multi-level approach (global, regional, national, and provincial/local) and will work in a range of sectors including renewable energy, transport, LULUCF and finance and adaptation.</p> <p>The programme will utilise the instruments of process, strategy and political advice through international, regional and national long- and short-term experts. The SPREP based Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM) will be utilised as a procurement service delivery mechanism. Trainings will be developed and delivered and ways will be explored to institutionalize these. To facilitate implementation and build regional ownership and service delivery of the Hub, financing agreements will be made with SPC (up to 450,000 Euro), SPREP (up to 570,000 Euro) and selected PICs (up to 50,000 Euro). Within these, each will employ two long-term experts covering sustainable energy, transport, integrated knowledge and data management and procurement. GGGI will second staff with expertise on programme and investment planning to the Hub in its first year of establishment. The NDC Partnership Support Unit may support activities in the knowledge and learning component (Output 5).</p> <p>This project will support specifically the inception and kick-off phase of the NDC Hub with a focus on establishing the NDC Hub (output 0) and specific country priorities in terms of enhancing, implementing and monitoring PICs NDCs. A longer term programme funded by the German Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation for the regional Pacific NDC Hub is in development (5 Mio. Euro, 3 years - March 2019 to March 2022) that will support the same outcome and outputs driven by PICs demand (except for output 0), but clearly distinct to the specific indicators and milestones described here.</p>
Key Outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 0. The NDC Hub Implementation Unit is established and operational 1. NDCs reviewed and enhanced 2. Roadmaps and investment plans developed to support NDC implementation 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, processes and legislation 5. NDC related information and knowledge, learning and partnership mechanisms enhanced to support NDC enhancement, implementation and monitoring
Commission value	2,172,523 Euro (with 500,000 Euro from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development; BMZ; 1.2 Mio Pound from the

	Foreign Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom; FCO) and 500.000 AUD from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; DFAT)
Term	10/2018 – 03/2020

2. Positioning the project

2.1. Strategic frame of reference

Even though PICs' contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions is insignificant, a transition to a low carbon and green economy is the path needed for overall sustainable development – PICs want to lead by example.

Support in increasing the resilience to the impacts of climate change should be an important component of Pacific NDCs due to the highly vulnerable status of the countries and their communities. The PICs' resilience also ties in very closely to the ability of countries to implement mitigation measures. The enhancement of NDCs in this area is crucial and necessary. In strengthening the resilience of PICs, the Regional Pacific NDC Hub (herein after NDC Hub) will also complement other actions taken under the FRDP. The FRDP outlines key strategic priorities and actions of PICs in building economies and societies that are resilient to climate change and disaster risks. It recognises the acceleration of investment in cleaner and greener technology as vital, not only for mitigation efforts, but also to enhance resilience and reduce dependency on fossil fuels. PICs' NDCs identify key priorities in meeting commitments under the Paris Agreement. During the Climate Action Pacific Partnership events held during Fiji's COP 23 Presidency in 2018 and 2019, PICs have requested and reinforced a regional mechanism to support them in their NDC enhancement and implementation and emphasised the desire to build as much as possible on existing regional mechanisms. Fiji launched the NDC Hub during COP 23 in Bonn in 2017.

The NDC Hub will provide country- and sector-specific technical assistance and/or facilitate match-making of support to PICs for NDC implementation, enhancement, and financing in the areas of policy, strategy and legislation, budgeting and investment and monitoring and evaluation to achieve and scale up priorities outlined in their NDCs and the FRDP. Furthermore, the NDC Hub will support improved knowledge sharing and coordination between NDC Hub partners and other partners to ensure complementarity of support provided by multiple actors, increase impact and efficiency and avoid duplication of work.

Adaptation and building resilience are key priorities for PICs. The NDC Hub will support PICs to review and enhance their NDCs and promote infrastructure investment and ecosystem enhancement that are more resilient to climate change impacts. Where requested, the NDC Hub will provide support to achieve sectoral coverage and to include adaptation explicitly.

To enhance coordination of services, the NDC Hub aligns to the NDC Partnership's Value Chain of Services, ranging from services relating to policy, strategy and legislation, budgeting and investment, strengthening monitoring and evaluation of NDCs to capacity building and ongoing learning.

In close cooperation with BMZ financed GIZ global programmes, this project complements the German contribution to the NDC Partnership through Pacific regional and country measures.

A number of values and principles will be adhered to by NDC Hub partners in line with the guiding principles of the NDC Partnership. These include support country-driven processes, build in-country capacity, improve coordination, enhance integration into national planning, advance adaptation and mitigation, align development and climate change, support multi-stakeholder engagement and promote gender parity.

The project contributes to goal 13 relating to urgent action on climate change and its impacts and also goals 7 (energy), 9 (resilient infrastructure), 11 (resilient cities and human settlements), 15 (terrestrial ecosystems) and 17 (partnerships). The SDGs and FRDP are reflected in national policies and plans for sustainable and resilient development of PICs.

The 18/20 Commonwealth Fund Sustainability Programme is targeting a more sustainable future for Commonwealth countries that proactively deploy mechanisms for anticipating and handling environmental and societal challenges (impact). Within the context of this project this means specifically achieving greater resilience and responsiveness to climate change in Commonwealth PICs (outcome) through improved knowledge and capability of the public sector to deliver a reduction in emissions and adapt to a changing climate (intermediate outcome).

2.2. Other development measures in the project's specific field of intervention

NDCs are cross-cutting strategic documents and as such many international, regional and national programmes provide technical services that are directly or indirectly relevant for NDC enhancement, implementation and monitoring. This includes support provided to PICs within the energy and transport sectors and work that contributes to the potential future enhancement of NDCs in agriculture, forestry and coastal zone management. However, limited coordination of this technical assistance occurs currently and as a result several agencies are providing support in a rather disjointed manner. The NDC Hub will complement existing initiatives by strengthening coordination of existing service delivery and addressing gaps that are not currently being provided.

A key rationale of the NDC Hub is to provide specific NDC-related support and add value by strengthening collaboration and enhancing coordination of relevant initiatives in the region. The NDC Hub will have a role in coordinating among many partner initiatives – in particular those delivered by Hub partners themselves but also those delivered by other partners – to ensure that support provided builds on all relevant contributions in this area and does not duplicate existing support.

A stakeholder mapping of existing initiatives and governance arrangements conducted as part of the appraisal process will be expanded and maintained by the NDC Hub once operational. To ensure ongoing sustainability, these will also feed into project databases maintained by PICs, the Pacific Regional Data Repository for Sustainable Energy and in due course the Pacific Data Hub as well as the Pacific Climate Change Portal (the latter two are both online web portals that provide key information on climate and energy related matters).

The NDC Hub support is provided through two BMZ commissioned programmes: First, the global programme NDC Assist (GIZ) supports the establishment and kick-off phase of the

Regional Pacific NDC Hub with co-financing from the United Kingdom's (UK) Foreign Commonwealth Office (FCO; 1.2 Mio. Pound) and the Australian Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT; 500,000 AUD). This is a continuation and expansion of UK co-financing that started in late 2017 and is available until March 2020. Its main focus is to establish the NDC Hub and kick-start high priority tangible activities of PICs and the region until March 2020. Second, a new tranche of funding for the Regional Pacific NDC Hub of 5 Mio. Euro is been programmed on behalf of BMZ from 03/2019 to 3/2022. It aims at providing short- to longer term services to PICs in implementing, enhancing and monitoring their NDCs. Both programmes support the same overall objective and outputs, but are clearly demarcated in terms of their respective indicators and activities. Setting up the NDC Hub (output 0) is only part of the Inception/Kick-off phase funded under "NDC Assist" with FCO and DFAT co-financing. Potential new co-financing will be attached to the longer term Regional Pacific NDC Hub programme.

This proposal is focusing on the NDC Hub Inception/Kick-off project and serves as an annex to the agreements with FCO and DFAT, who agreed to a "basket funding" model attached to the ongoing global programme "NDC Assist" (implemented by GIZ on behalf of BMZ).

The NDC Hub will complement GIZ support provided by the German government through the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety's (BMU) international climate change initiative to promote sustainable forestry management and REDD+ (Pacific region), maritime transport (in the Republic of the Marshall Islands) and the new regional programme 'Strengthening Coastal Biodiversity Conservation and Management through Protection and Rehabilitation Incentives for Coastal Carbon Sinks in PICs', implemented in partnership with SPREP and SPC. It will build on and learn from work undertaken by GIZ as part of the regional Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region (CCCPIR) programme, commissioned by BMZ, including its Climate Finance Readiness in the Pacific project (co-funded by DFAT) and implemented with the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat) to highlight best practice case studies of relevance for NDC implementation, enhancement and monitoring. The GIZ-managed and European Union (EU) funded Adaptation to Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (ACSE) project has also provided support for a number of feasibility studies, enabling environment activities and implementation of small scale projects in the energy sector.

By embedding the NDC Hub within SPC and SPREP, their existing programmes and expertise can provide opportunities for adding-value to the NDC Hub's services and vice versa, particularly within the energy, transport, agriculture, forestry and ocean related sectors, but also in terms of information and knowledge management.

SPREP, as the main focal point for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), will ensure strong links to UNFCCC processes and support services. The SPREP-hosted aspects of the EU Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) Plus programme includes analysis of country NDCs and the development of knowledge and learning tools to promote exchange among countries on best practice and resource mobilisation.

The NDC Partnership's country members in the region include Fiji, the Marshall Islands and Vanuatu and direct facilitation support on the Partnership's network's assistance is provided from the NDC Partnership Support Unit to these three countries if and as requested (recently for example the NDC Partnership facilitated the development of an NDC Partnership Plan in

the Marshall Islands). All requests coming from NDC Partnership members will be closely coordinated among the NDC Hub Implementation Unit and NDC Partnership Support Unit.

As part of the consultation process a number of partners confirmed interest in the secondment, co-location or contribution of in-kind time of staff working on partner initiatives. These include confirmed Hub partners (the NDC Partnership Support Unit and GGGI), along with potential partners such as the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Conservation International and IUCN. Furthermore, partnership with organisations or networks representing the private sector, such as the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO) or the Pacific arm of the Global Employers on Climate Action Forum and public utilities such as the Pacific Power Association (PPA) are of strategic interest to the NDC Hub. It will work with existing stakeholders to accelerate financing for implementation of NDC-related initiatives including the main multilateral banks – the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank Group (WB) – the Green Climate Fund (GCF), PIFS and the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub along with and other key development partners.

The NDC Hub will add value to the existing regional support services provided to countries to ensure that links are made and coordination is enhanced between the myriad of existing measures that are relevant for NDC implementation, financing and monitoring. Key match-making partners for the implementation of NDCs active in the region can be among others the EU, Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank Group (WB), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and GCF.

The EU, now through EDF-11, is supporting renewable energy development in the region. ADB and WB are providing assistance to PICs to evaluate opportunities and investments in sustainable maritime and land transport, sustainable cities, renewable energy analysis and investments, agriculture, re-forestation and forest protection.

A few PICs (including Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Vanuatu) are currently implementing GCF readiness projects as Readiness Delivery Partners through respective finance agencies, which is helping to build valuable experience in fiduciary management and the GCF's processes. This experience will be useful should countries consider working towards accreditation to the GCF in the future. Tuvalu is working towards accessing the Adaptation Fund. This will be instrumental for them to leverage finance to implement their NDCs. GCF Accredited Entities have already secured approval for GCF projects targeting renewable energy and adaptation in PICs (among these UNDP, ADB, WB, and SPREP).

UNDP supports PICs to implement a number of climate change and energy related initiatives that are relevant for successful NDC implementation. It also convenes a bi-annual NDC Dialogue. In early 2018 the 3rd Regional Pacific NDC Dialogue was utilized to also inform the NDC Hub design.

The Governments of Australia and New Zealand as major bilateral partners in the region provide support to address renewable energy, transport, coastal zone management and agriculture priorities and also channel multilateral funding, in particular through the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility (PRIF). Australia also supports the Pacific Climate Change Portal.

A potentially useful mechanism for the NDC Hub to engage with these development partners can be the Development Partner on Climate Change meetings convened by UNDP every second month in Suva.

3. Problem and potential analysis

The Leaders recognised climate change as the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, well-being and security of the Pacific region. They have prioritised building the resilience of their economies and societies to climate change and disaster risks and accelerating the transition to a low carbon development pathway but often lack the appropriate policy and legislative frameworks and access to climate finance, technology and knowledge to achieve these goals without external support. They are also severely capacity constrained.

A number of specific problems and barriers in achieving NDC-related goals can be identified.

In the lead up to the COP in Paris, the Intended INDC of most PICs were developed hurriedly, often with external consultants, and before an in-depth review of sectors, risks and data and information could be undertaken. As such, they largely focussed on existing data and targets, which in most cases meant only the energy sector, and therefore lack the strategic integration to other mitigation sectors (transport, agriculture, forestry, land use) or to sustainable development goals and associated national and sector development planning processes. It is recognised by many countries that their NDCs could be enhanced to better integrate further sectors and deliver co-benefits including building resilience as part of implementation strategies.

In most cases, Pacific NDCs drew from existing national commitments made to accelerate the investment and adoption of renewable energy. Nine reference transport, whilst only four reference agriculture and forestry and only one blue carbon. Many targets are conditional on additional finance being made available.

Adaptation is referenced in all NDCs as a critical priority but no PICs include targets that relate to adaptation goals. Several countries wish to expand the scope of their NDCs to include adaptation. However the main vehicle for detailed description of adaptation action and needs will be through the National Adaptation Planning processes and resultant Adaptation Communications.

Few make explicit reference to gender and social inclusion despite national and regional commitments to mainstream these issues.

Few NDCs include detailed analysis of how the achievement of the targets outlined within them would be realised in practice over the short, medium and long term or identify links to specific available or additional finance needed for implementation.

Access to international climate finance is constrained by weak public finance systems, limited capacity for project pipeline and proposal development and limited absorption capacity making large projects unfeasible.

Many existing actors provide support services to sectors of relevance to NDCs (see section 2 above) but this is often done through sector-based silos and limited coordination exists across the range of sectors relevant for accelerating low carbon development and promoting a transition to net zero emissions. The Pacific regional organisations are not yet in a position to provide sufficient support or effectively meet their mandates and are also very dependent

on external funding. Regional governance mechanisms within sectors covered by NDCs, in particular energy, are confused and disjointed. At the same time the close links between regional organisations and the countries' respective line and sector ministries and existing regional coordination mechanism on resilient development (through the Pacific Resilience Partnership, coordinated by PIFS and the Working Arm on Resilient Development, currently coordinated by SPC). The Pacific Resilience Partnership, intended to facilitate implementation of the FRDP, is being established, but progress has been slow.

The private sector is responsible for a large proportion of greenhouse gas emissions in most PICs and yet to date, engagement to better understand private sector perspectives and barriers to accelerating investment in green technology has been weak.

In consultations with Fiji based private sector businesses indicate that energy and transport costs represent a significant proportion of their costs and many had already made adjustments to investments and processes to reduce costs and emissions. All businesses consulted 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.

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.

In many cases, existing regulatory barriers to private sector investment that are within the power of governments to address may be as significant in unlocking green investment as attracting additional finance.

In small countries, limited human capacity at the national level results in limited analysis of opportunities for accelerating low carbon development. (Cook Islands, Nauru, Palau and Tuvalu all have fewer than 18,000 inhabitants, Niue has only 1,800.) The resulting lack of policy coherence and coordination across sectors can hinder the acceleration of investment including ongoing fossil fuel subsidies, weak development planning regulations, and limited incentives for the adoption of clean technology and barriers to private sector investment. However, national and regional coordination mechanisms on climate change have become stronger over the past years and can be utilized to synergize ongoing initiatives. Support provided by regional partners can provide critical technical assistance to address capacity gaps.

4. Objectives, results hypotheses, indicators and partners

The NDC Hub will contribute to the achievement of results under the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The results hypothesis underpinning the NDC Hub is that services provided by the Hub contribute to enhancing NDCs and accelerating implementation of NDC-related actions by addressing the problems and barriers and building on potentials identified above.

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. Given the critical importance of resilience and adaptation priorities in the region, enhancing Pacific NDCs through including actions to mitigate emissions in these sectors, also has the potential to provide significant social and economic benefits and enhance resilience more broadly (co-benefits).

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. When successfully reducing their import of fossil fuels, PICs are less dependent on fluctuating world market prices and likely, the supply of goods and services to outer islands becomes more economic. NDC enhancement and implementation show significant potential and opportunity to strengthen current national actions and align them to SDGs.

Furthermore, several PICs have expressed their desire to lead by example by outlining and achieving ambitious NDC targets in order to encourage high emitting countries to follow their lead through the UNFCCC process, among others.

4.1. Objectives, target groups, indicators and results hypotheses

The project objective of the Regional Pacific NDC Hub Inception/Kick-off Phase is aligned to the FRDP, NDC Partnership and 18/20 Commonwealth Fund: Sustainability Programme outcomes.

Objective: Pacific Island Countries enhance and implement their NDCs driving sustainable and resilient development and a transition to a low carbon development pathway.

Indicators	Baseline value	Target value
At a minimum two enhanced NDCs for Vanuatu, PNG and/or Niue submitted to UNFCCC in the first year, but aiming for at least three in the first phase	0	2 countries (by 03/2020)
The NDC Hub has facilitated learning/technical assistance and other support such that at least two PICs including private sector and civil society have started to take specific action to implement the (enhanced) NDCs.	0	2 by 01/2020
One project over USD 500k leveraged/catalysed to support the implementation of NDCs, roadmaps and NDC investment plans through enhanced regional coordination and partnerships in Nauru, Fiji or Samoa.	0	1 by 2/2020

To achieve the above objective indicators the activities will deliver under six outputs as requested by PICs as priority activities until 03/2020.

Targeted technical assistance to review and enhance Pacific NDCs will address gaps in sectoral coverage in reducing emissions of greenhouse gases or key priority areas such as adaptation in Niue, PNG and/or Vanuatu (output 1).

Support provided to develop roadmaps and investment plans will support Fiji, Samoa and Tuvalu to analyse specific projects, initiatives and the related policy and legislative enabling environment to realise the targets outlined in their NDCs (output 2). These roadmaps and investment plans will act as catalysts for matching identified priorities to sources of finance and improve access to finance for NDC implementation, with a focus on Fiji, Nauru, PNG and/or Samoa (output 3).

Technical support to streamline implementation and reporting of NDCs with national and regional planning, monitoring and reporting systems and embed these within national processes will reduce the resources (financial and time) to support NDC implementation, monitoring and reporting (output 4). Fiji, Kiribati, RMI, Solomon Islands and Palau are prioritizing enhancing their MRV systems to make regional, national, GHG and sector-specific datasets available for NDC reporting. Palau wishes to review its energy efficiency regulation and Kiribati its renewable energy enabling legislation.

The NDC Hub will strengthen data and information systems, learning mechanisms, peer to peer exchange, and partnerships with civil society and the private sector. Improved knowledge and a strengthened evidence base for decision making will lead to replication and upscaling of best practices for NDC implementation. Furthermore, strengthening partnerships between government, civil society and the private sector will lead to rapid and more gender and socially inclusive implementation of Pacific NDCs (output 5). One of the first initiatives under this project will be to establish a dedicated web page on NDCs on the Pacific Climate Change Portal.

The private sector engagement at local and national level will be strengthened through engaging them throughout the delivery process across all outputs. When defining NDC targets and roadmaps, the NDC Hub will encourage governments to include them in the consultation process and to commit to contribute achieving these. Businesses can play a fundamental role when monitoring and reporting information that is relevant for NDC implementation, such as for example fuel and electricity usage or infrastructure investments for resilience. In the design of new projects geared towards achieving NDCs, the private sector as well as civil society organisations can become a key implementing partner of a government. At global level, private sector companies could become funding and technical implementation partners for governments and the NDC Hub will seek avenues to engage with these in its effort to support matchmaking for PICs.

The results hypotheses described above are based on a number of assumptions, some of which the project can influence and others that are external to the project:

- The priority actions at country level described above remain the same during the next year
- Strong ongoing political will to implement NDCs and prioritise their streamlining with existing planning and reporting processes
- Strong coordination mechanisms at national and regional level to avoid duplication

- Support from multiple partners based on their areas of expertise, including the private sector and civil society organisations, to collectively implement NDCs
- Ongoing availability of finance to address climate change related issues
- Willingness to share capacity and expertise as part of regional learning mechanisms and peer to peer

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 achievement of the outputs above and the resulting objective is based on the results hypotheses described below and at Annexes 1 and 2.

The primary target groups of this initiative are Pacific men, women, children and communities and their respective governments, in particular focal ministries responsible for NDC implementation. Secondary target groups are the civil society and private sector organisations involved in NDC implementation.

4.2. Executing agency and partner structure

The lead executing agency is GIZ in partnership with the SPC and SPREP who both will host the NDC Hub. Further partners and members of the Regional Pacific Hub Coordination Group are GGGI and the NDC Partnership Support Unit.

Through its diverse climate-related activities, GIZ on behalf of BMZ, BMU and a range of co-financing partners makes key contributions to sustainable development in more than 50 partner countries in the areas of greenhouse gas emission reduction, carbon sink conservation, climate change adaptation and climate finance. GIZ and BMZ have started to mainstream NDC support through all their cooperation programs across all sectors. NDC implementation is supported through the deployment of technical assistance, steering change processes in complex stakeholder environments and shared learning through a broad network of programmes assisting NDC enhancement and implementation; including NDC Assist, Climate Policy Support, Climate Finance Readiness and Strategic Partnerships for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement. GIZ has in-depth sectoral knowledge across all NDC relevant sectors. It directly supports the NDC Partnership through NDC Assist and the NDC Implementation Hub in the Caribbean region with obvious similarities and potential synergies to the Regional Pacific NDC Hub.

Since 2009 GIZ is supporting and very closely collaborating with 14 PICs, SPC, SPREP and PIFS in building their capacities in climate change in a range of areas; including adaptation in agriculture, forestry, land-use, water, fisheries and marine biodiversity, climate finance, climate change education, integrated knowledge management, REDD+ and renewable energy and integrated joint partnership approaches at various levels (local, provincial, national and regional) – the latter includes facilitation support to enhance coordination. GIZ has established networks across several sectors in 14 PICs and maintains offices in Fiji, PNG and Vanuatu.

SPC is the largest regional technical organisation with over 600 staff across 15 PICs (excluding French territories). Its mandate includes the delivery of technical assistance in many sectors directly relevant to NDCs including energy, transport, agriculture, forestry and coastal

zone management. SPREP has the lead role on providing technical assistance to support UNFCCC related processes and is hosting the RTSM. It furthermore also provides technical assistance relevant to NDCs such as a direct access accredited entity for GCF and an accredited entity for the Adaptation Fund including in integrated waste management and biodiversity covering land, coasts and oceans.

These agencies currently deliver support that is relevant for NDCs but is at times provided in isolation from each other – and its relevance for NDC related reporting is not recognised. By locating the NDC Hub and its technical experts within these two regional agencies, the NDC Hub's opportunities to capitalise on synergies with work already delivered in this area are maximised. Furthermore, PICs have requested to utilize as much as possible existing regional mechanisms.

GIZ will sign financing agreements with both SPC and SPREP to finance experts to be recruited by SPC and SPREP and to deliver on the NDC Hub's results framework and operational plan for the benefit of the PICs NDCs.

GGGI is an international organisation established in 2012. The primary objective of GGGI is to promote sustainable development in developing and emerging countries, including the least developed countries, through a development approach that seeks to deliver economic growth that is both environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive. PNG, Fiji, Kiribati and Vanuatu are GGGI's current Pacific members. It has technical expertise in developing investment plans and roadmaps particularly with reference to energy, transport, water and sustainable landscapes/oceanscapes. It provides NDC-related support to its members in the region on a bilateral basis with countries with regional knowledge sharing and coordination through regional workshops and meetings with partners.. Improved coordination of services provided by GGGI with those provided by SPC and SPREP will enhance and strengthen their collective impact in supporting PICs.

The NDC Partnership (NDCP) is a global mechanism to support countries implement their NDCs. Currently Fiji, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Vanuatu are NDCP members (in the Pacific region). The NDC Hub may work with the NDC Partnership Support Unit to identify opportunities to leverage additional support for PICs from their wider network and to transfer and exchange knowledge, information products and learning opportunities to the region.

The NDC Hub Implementation Unit will work closely with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) which acts as the Secretariat for the FRDP and its related governance mechanism, the newly established Pacific Resilience Partnership. It also has the lead role on supporting countries with climate finance assessments and advisory services.

At regional level, the NDC Hub will be steered by a steering committee consisting of nominated sub-regional representatives (Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia) and Fiji (see annex 3). At the national level, each PIC nominated focal points for the Pacific NDC Hub who will be the first point of contact and coordinate the Hub's service delivery at country level with the respective ministries responsible for specific NDC related priorities (including: Ministries for Climate Change, Energy, Transport, Agriculture and Forestry, Waste, Tourism, Environment, Finance, Economy etc.), their local structures and the civil society.

Funding partners share a strong interest with its members in the success and sustainability of the NDC Hub and play a key role in supporting and promoting the Hub's successes. While not involved in the day-to-day operations of the NDC Hub or in the Steering Committee, donors will require regular updates of key decisions of the steering committee on Hub priorities, progress towards the key deliverable of the Hub, and information on any key operational issues or risks that may impact on achieving planned outcomes. Where concerns arise, donor partners will feed in views to the NDC Hub Implementation Unit. Where serious concerns about strategic direction are not resolved, donors will be able to raise to the Steering Committee directly.

5. Design of activities

The region has called for regional support to NDC implementation since the adoption of the Paris Agreement, however without any detailed suggestions. As part of the inaugural Climate Action Pacific Partnership Conference (CAPP) held in Fiji in July 2017, based on the need for regional support, stakeholders introduced the need for a regional NDC platform or mechanism to support PICs 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 2017.

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

Consultations held since November 2017, as part of the NDC Dialogue in Suva in March 2018, and during a specific NDC Hub meeting back-to-back with the second CAPP Conference in July 2018, further assessed country needs and priorities in relation to services to be offered, mechanisms for service delivery, governance and institutional arrangements and the overall results framework.

Through extensive consultations with PICs, civil society and private sector organisations, regional agencies and development partners, the areas of service delivery outlined in chapter 5.1 were identified as priority areas for support by the NDC Hub.

5.1. Methodological approach and term

The NDC Hub will utilise a range of technical assistance delivery modalities in line with the specific needs of countries and building on and strengthening existing regional mechanisms. Given the diversity of PICs and their respective capacities, this approach will ensure assistance can be tailored to meet diverse needs. Instruments include long- and short term experts providing advice remotely and in-country, short term attachments of NDC Hub staff, financing agreements, consultations, trainings and workshops in country, match-making and collaboration beyond the core group of Hub partners, and communication through web-based portals. The NDC Hub will be operationalised through a Hub Implementation Unit. With a core team of experts, it will be based at SPC in Suva and SPREP in Apia (and future funding permitting SPC in FSM). It will update and monitor the NDC Hub's work plan based on its results framework, receive and communicate on country requests, undertake the delivery of the NDC Hub activities, including direct technical assistance and match-making. The NDC Hub will seek to leverage technical assistance within the team and partners initially. A Hub Manager will provide overall management and coordination of services provided by the core team of experts. SPC will provide one expert in energy/transport and one in integrated knowledge

management and SPREP two procurement experts. GGGI will second a senior officer for the first year of the Hub's establishment with a focus on programming, project concept development and engaging the private sector.

The NDC Hub will have a flexible approach to technical service delivery and as an underlying principle, utilise expertise from within the region wherever possible. This includes the use of experts from the regional Hub core partners (SPC, SPREP) and beyond (such as PIFS, University of the South Pacific, the Pacific Power Association) and a pool of regional and national experts, partnerships and engagement of technical expertise from within existing local institutions such as the Micronesian 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 Fiji University and the Pacific Business Resilience Council.

Where additional technical assistance is required, the NDC Hub will utilise the RTSM, hosted by SPREP, as the mechanism for processing requests. The NDC Hub will strengthen the RTSM to ensure that it can be responsive and flexible to countries' needs.

Where neither the Hub Implementation Unit, the RTSM nor its core partners' (SPC, SPREP, GGGI, NDCPSU and GIZ) programmes can provide the technical assistance requested directly, the Hub Implementation Unit in close coordination with the NDC Partnership's Support Unit will reach out to NDCP members and further development partners in the region and beyond. This match-making service can also be accessed by PICs on request and whenever other partners clearly provide comparative advantages and opportunities for action (for example where another agencies' program is already being implemented in country and/or they are better positioned to provide that support; e.g. in case of larger scale investments in infrastructure projects to achieve NDC targets). The existing regional Development Partners on Climate Change coordination mechanism, facilitated by UNDP, will be a useful entry point for match-making and coordination. The UNFCCC/UNDP facilitate regional dialogue on NDCs can be another useful avenue to provide PICs and partners with updates and opportunities and seek feedback.

Existing regional platforms such as the Pacific Climate Change Portal, newly developed communications tools (e-newsletters, social media campaigns and email exchanges such as Pacific Solutions Exchange) and data repositories such as the Pacific Energy Data repository will provide regular up-to-date information and advice on NDC related activities and developments. Access to NDC Partnership tools, services, and global network will be leveraged.

The NDC 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. Instead, targeted trainings at national or sub-regional level and webinars will be identified and/or developed and in the mid- to medium-term ways will be thought of how to institutionalize these.

The delivery of services through the Hub Implementation Unit will be monitored on a regular basis through the Hub Coordination Group and after the first year of operations through the Hub's Steering Committee as per feedback from countries.

The term of this inception/kick-off project is from 10/2018 to 03/2020.

Specific outputs, activities and instruments to be delivered are provided in the table below. Annex 1 provides an overview over outcome and output indicators, milestones and sources of verification.

Outputs	Key activities	Instruments to be used
Output 0: The NDC Hub Implementation Unit is established and operational.	Setting up the NDC Hub Implementation Unit through finalizing governance arrangements and work plan, reviewing the RTSM, establishing service delivery mechanisms and a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system with PICs, developing a communications strategy, concluding financing agreements with SPC and SPREP, hiring staff and equipping the office.	Long- and short-term technical experts, financing agreements, travel, consultations and workshops
Output 1: NDCs reviewed and enhanced	Provide support to review and enhance NDCs, in particular to ensure coverage of all appropriate sectors, and to include adaptation where requested, in Niue, PNG and/or Vanuatu.	Long- and short-term technical experts, financing agreements, travel, in-country consultations and workshops, match-making and collaboration (involving partners outside the Hub Coordination Group where required and/or favourable/opportunity), publications
Output 2: Roadmaps and investment plans developed to support NDC implementation	<p>Support sectorial gap and policy analysis, prioritisation exercises, and tools to determine which opportunities should be addressed first in meeting Tuvalu's and Samoa's commitments as part of their NDCs.</p> <p>Support the development of NDC roadmaps in Tuvalu and Samoa to outline how targets set out in the NDC can be achieved in practice.</p> <p>Support the development of investment plans for NDC implementation in Fiji.</p>	Long- and short-term technical experts, financing agreements, travel, in-country consultations and workshops, match-making and collaboration, publications
Output 3: Finance leveraged to support NDC implementation	Develop project pipelines for NDC implementation in PNG, Nauru and Fiji (specifically energy and transport in Fiji)	Long- and short-term technical experts, financing agreements, travel,

Outputs	Key activities	Instruments to be used
through improved regional coordination	<p>Take stock of ongoing supported through regional and bi-lateral programmes in PNG and Nauru (as well as in Tuvalu and Samoa during roadmap development and Fiji during investment planning, see output 2)</p> <p>Ensure new regional programmes relevant for NDC implementation of Hub Coordination Group members in PNG, Nauru, Tuvalu and Samoa as pilot countries align to NDC targets</p> <p>Promote investment plans and facilitate matchmaking for Nauru, PNG, Samoa and Tuvalu at regional level, for example through the DPCC or the Climate Finance Working Group and in-country for example during development partner forums or through specific NDC dialogues or partnership planning events (in NDCP member countries through NDC Partnership), including private sector and civil society</p>	in-country consultations and workshops, match-making and collaboration
Output 4: Guidance and technical assistance provided to streamline and integrate NDCs into national and regional plans, processes and legislation	<p>Provide an enabling environment and incentives for private sector in the energy sector legislation to in Nauru and develop a regulation for energy efficiency in Palau.</p> <p>Support the establishment of national and sector statistics and reporting processes (MRV) towards achieving NDCs in the Solomon Islands (energy, forestry, waste) and in RMI (waste, land-based transport and electricity)</p> <p>A data sharing agreement on petrol is established with at least one more PIC (FSM, Nauru, Vanuatu) and the respective fuel companies and uploaded to the Pacific Regional Data Repository (on Energy, SPC)</p>	Long- and short-term technical experts, financing agreements, travel, in-country consultations and workshops, match-making and collaboration, publications
Output 5: NDC related information and knowledge, learning	Collect, make accessible and interlink NDC related information resources that are relevant to the Pacific on the Pacific Climate Change Portal, NDC knowledge portal, PRDR, etc., including those developed by the NDC Partnership Support Unit.	Short-term technical experts, financing agreements, travel, dialogue event

Outputs	Key activities	Instruments to be used
and partnership mechanisms enhanced to support NDC enhancement and implementation	Strengthen participation in achieving the NDCs by promoting engagement and partnerships with public sector, private sector and civil society through one dialogue event	

5.2. Ensuring the long term effectiveness of the measures

This NDC Hub inception/kick-off project will focus on setting up and operationalizing the NDC Hub while implementing specific priority activities as determined by PICs following the same overall objective/outcome and outputs (except for output 0) like the longer term NDC Hub programme, starting in March 2019 and operating for 3 years. The longer term programme will continue to support PICs more ambitious NDC implementation and monitoring and, if and as appropriate and requested, build on and continue initiatives started by this project.

Within PICs, the NDC Hub's outputs and service delivery will be always guided by NDCs and streamlining these with existing or new policies and strategies relevant for achieving or determining NDC targets. As much as possible, national mechanisms and capacities will be strengthened to ensure the long term effectiveness of the measures.

SPC and SPREP are membership-based organisations that have long-term relationships and service delivery to all of their PIC members. By embedding support provided by the NDC Hub within SPC and SPREP, technical assistance and knowledge produced will contribute to strengthening the existing institutional knowledge and capacity of these organisations. This will also promote the identification of synergies with other programmes within these organisations, for example of renewable energy development, land and maritime transport, forestry protection etc.

Regional knowledge platforms such as the Pacific Climate Change Portal and the Pacific Regional Data Repository for Sustainable Energy (and in due course the Pacific Data Hub) will be used to provide repositories for all NDC Hub resources. All knowledge products will be produced in a participatory way making use of facilitated email exchanges or events to co-produce knowledge products with PICs participants to promote ownership of their key messages. A mitigation planning tool will also be developed for the Pacific Climate Change Portal similar to the existing adaptation planning tool. This will assist in developing proposals as well as in decision making on options.

Wherever possible, the Hub will utilise expertise from within the region to provide technical assistance. Rather than create a new mechanism for the deployment of additional technical assistance required, the RTSM will be reviewed and enhanced. A key focus will be a marketing strategy, including training for local consultants, to ensure a high-quality consultants' roster familiar with the Pacific context. The use of local consultants promotes knowledge retention in the region and supports capacity development within the private sector. Moreover the RTSM will seek to ensure the close interaction between local counterparts at all times during the deployment of technical experts.

The NDC Hub will leverage existing partnerships and coordination groups. For example, the lean Steering Committee structure (4 individuals representing three Pacific sub-regions and Fiji) will be held in the margins of existing regional meetings. Existing coordination groups such as the Pacific Resilience Partnership under the FRDP, the Development Partners on Climate Change (DPCC), the Climate Finance Working Group coordinated by PIFS and/or the broader NDC Partnership will be utilised to share information within a wider partnership and identify ways to collaborate.

The NDC 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.

Facilitated email exchanges will be utilised (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 delivery of services will be monitored on an ongoing basis and assessed after the first year of operations.

5.3. Commission value and detailed cost estimate

The NDC Hub is envisaged as a multi-partner, multi-donor facility. With the Governments of the UK, Germany and Australia a number of partners are providing financing to support the implementation of initial priority NDC Hub activities through this project.

The total commission value amounts to EUR 2,172,523 and the following are the direct financial contributions by each partner:

Donor	Amount	exchange rate infoeuro 23/07/18	Amount Euros	Share in %
FCO/ BHC	GBP 1,200,000.00	1.12969	EUR 1,355,628.00	62.4
DFAT	AUD 500,000.00	0.63379	EUR 316,895.00	14.6
BMZ	EUR 500,000.00	1	EUR 500,000.00	23.0
Total funding			EUR 2,172,523.00	100.0

GGGI will second staff for one year to the Hub to support its establishment as a direct contribution with an estimated value of EUR 149,674 (USD 175,000). SPC, SPREP and NDC Partnership will contribute in kind.

Below table shows the cost estimate according to main budget lines (for details see annex 4).

Cost estimate	
1 Human Resources	EUR 691,307.66
2 Travel Costs	EUR 88,250.00
3 Procurement Materials & Equipment	EUR 44,995.00
4 Financing agreements	EUR 1,019,159.67
5 Human Capacity Development	EUR 0.00
6 Other direct costs	EUR 118,215.19

7 Total direct costs	EUR 1,961,927.52
8 Indirect costs	EUR 210,595.11
Total estimated price	EUR 2,172,522.63

6. Evaluation of the sustainability and risks of project

6.1. Economic, environmental and social sustainability

Climate change presents significant risks to the sustainability of the economies, environments and societies of PICs.

The NDC Hub will support PICs to accelerate the transition to a more sustainable development pathway that takes into account the environmental and social costs of business as usual development.

The economies of PICs are fragile and often based on a few key sectors (tourism, agriculture, forestry, fisheries) all of which are vulnerable to climate and disaster risks. The NDC Hub will strengthen the long-term resilience of PICs economies by reducing the dependence of PICs on imported fossil fuels and indirectly by strengthening the resilience of critical infrastructure that support economic development.

All PICs are heavily dependent on natural resources to support economic development, livelihood opportunities and social and cultural practices. Broadening the scope of NDCs to include agriculture, forestry and adaptation related goals provides the opportunity to leverage finance and political will to protect and conserve these vital resources and ensure they are available for the use of future generations.

Due to short term benefits and other potentially conflicting development priorities, PICs could no longer prioritise implementation of their NDCs. The NDC Hub, steered by PICs, will establish close relationships with PICs leadership to promote international, regional and national commitment to NDC implementation including through the UNFCCC negotiation process. Furthermore, support to streamlining NDC targets with national policies and strategies, where requested, should assist PICs in prioritizing NDC conform initiatives.

Pacific Islanders have a strong cultural connection to land, oceans and the environment. Climate change undermines their ability to manage their environments in accordance with their cultural practices. For example, many Pacific Island languages reference the time associated with harvesting or planting certain resources in the names of their months. Promoting a culturally-sensitive approach to NDC implementation requires technical assistance providers to be conscious of traditional knowledge and its importance in sustainable development.

Technical assistance provided by the NDC Hub must be culturally appropriate to be useful and to result in any behaviour change. Promoting the use of local experts that understand the cultural context of the Pacific is a key factor in providing the most relevant support to PICs and in developing the growing pool of Pacific Island consultants. All technical assistance providers should be screened for relevant PIC experience and expertise.

Support for gender and social inclusion within the NDC review and enhancement process presents opportunities for contributing to the broader sustainable development goals of realising critical human rights and progressing gender equality. Guidance will be taken from the Pacific Climate Change and Gender Toolkit. Ensuring appropriate stakeholders with skills in mainstreaming human rights approaches and gender and involved as part of the consultation and implementation processes is important to developing practical actions to ensure at a minimum a 'do no harm' approach and can identify specific gender and socially-responsive actions. If technical assistance providers do not have appropriate skills in these areas they risk undermining the approach taken by NDC Hub partners. All providers of technical assistance will be required to include as part of their reports details of how they have mainstreamed gender and human rights into their support packages. The review of the RTSM will include a review of values and skills statements that technical assistance providers must sign for inclusion in the roster.

Many of the sectors covered by NDCs (e.g. transport and energy) are male dominated. Specific attention will therefore be necessary to ensure an appropriate gender balance in terms of technical assistance providers and stakeholder representation.

There is a critical balance in providing support to PICs to address climate change related issues and ensuring this does not undermine PICs own resilience in the process. Cultivating ownership and participation of all relevant stakeholders in the process of review, enhancement and implementation of NDCs is a necessary process to developing ownership of the vision of a transition to an energy-secure, fossil fuel free, resilient future. Partnerships with civil society organisations and the private sector are critical for this. Poor engagement of relevant partners will undermine the whole-of-society approach needed. Tools to support participatory approaches will be developed and used by all NDC Hub partners to ensure full participation of relevant stakeholders.

Various approaches are used to ensure sustainability of services provided through the NDC Hub. Embedding the services within SPC and SPREP ensures that the knowledge and experience of supporting PICs with NDC related services remain within the main regional organisations. Building on existing institutional arrangements and processes and strengthening knowledge sharing platforms such as the Pacific Climate Change Portal and the Pacific Regional Data Repository for Sustainable Energy will ensure information and knowledge developed by the Hub feeds in to wider learning mechanisms.

Strengthening the RTSM and further developing the roster of experts from the region will be beneficial for the Hub but also for other climate change related support needed in the region.

Coordinating services across multiple providers of technical assistance will reduce duplication of effort and contribute to more sustainable approaches to NDC support regionally.

6.2. Assessing of the risks to the effectiveness of the project

The following risks and management measures have been identified.

Risk	Rating*	Influence ability*	Risk management measure
Political risk			
PICs no longer support their initial priority actions, for example because the formal request process to the NDC Hub is yet to be established	2	3	The NDC Hub formal request process through national NDC Focal Points will be established once the Hub is operational and where needed, technical assistance can be provided to strengthen national NDC governance arrangements. Where changes occur, these will be communicated with funding partners and the activities and milestones adjusted accordingly.
Implementation risks			
NDC Hub partners do not sufficiently commit to delivering coordinated support through the Hub, resulting in continued disjointed support and advice	2	3	The NDC Hub invests significant time in facilitating Hub Coordination Group Meetings, providing updates to the Development Partner on Climate Change Meetings and other regional coordination systems, facilitates national level partnership dialogues where requested and follows a communication strategy.
Risks to long-term mainstreaming			
PICs do not streamline NDC actions in to national policies resulting in disjointed national actions	2	3	The NDC Hub provides specific support to streamline NDC actions in to national policies and measures and promotes joint reporting. It furthermore encourages its core partners (Hub Coordination Group) to also mainstream NDC targets into their own regional programmes
Impact of the measure on the natural and social environment (unintended results)			
The political priority of NDC related actions results in a relaxation of environmental and social safeguard measures in order to meet ambitious targets.	2	3	PICs will be supported to develop environmental and social safeguard processes to implement their NDCs
Corruption risks			
The political priority of NDC related actions results in a relaxation of procurement policies and safeguards measures in order to meet ambitious targets.	2	2	PICs are supported by the NDC Hub to develop robust investment plans and appropriate emphasis given to following financial and procurement best practice.
Overall risk	2	3	

*) Levels: 1=low, 2=medium, 3=high, 4=very high