



REGIONAL
PACIFIC
NDC HUB

Regional Pacific Nationally Determined Contribution Hub

HIGHLIGHT OF ACHIEVEMENTS
FROM THE 1ST & 2ND PROJECT PHASE

MARCH 2022





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INTRODUCTION



This document consolidates the outcomes of the NDC Hub’s Achievements Evaluation. This voluntary evaluation was conducted between August 2021 – February 2022, aiming to understand the significance of the NDC Hub’s work and highlight the NDC Hub’s impact on Pacific Island Countries. The evaluation is based on the 27 country activities which have been completed during the NDC Hub’s first and second project phases. The NDC Hub is implementing a total of 36 country activities during these project phases, with the remaining activities still in progress.

The information in this evaluation is based on consultation with over 25 stakeholders including the NDC Hub’s technical staff, NDC Hub Focal Points, as well as donors and external partners of the NDC Hub. A desk review of all activity documents has similarly informed this evaluation. Each statement in the document is backed up by a reference to either of these sources, and the data collection methodology can be further elaborated upon request. All information represents the status of the NDC Hub’s work as of February 2022.

OUR STORY

In 2017 Fiji's Prime Minister, Hon. Voreqe Bainimarama officially called for a platform to support Pacific Island Countries in enhancing, implementing, and financing their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement at the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 23rd Conference of the Parties (COP 23) in Bonn, Germany. This formed the beginning of the Regional Pacific Nationally Determined Contribution Hub (NDC Hub).

The NDC Hub works with 14 Pacific Island Countries (PICs) which are the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. The NDC Hub engages directly with one Focal Point in each country which is a high-level government representative from the ministry responsible for climate change. The NDC Hub is guided by a Steering Committee consisting of one Focal Point from each Pacific Sub-region (Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia), as well as Fiji as the host country.

The implementation of the NDC Hub is led by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). The NDC Hub works in contribution to the NDC Partnership Support Unit. An implementation unit, consisting of technical staff from each partner organization, is responsible for the implementation and day-to-day management of the NDC Hub's work. The NDC Hub is grateful to be funded by the governments of Germany, New Zealand



and Australia, with initial support also from the United Kingdom during the first project phase.

The NDC Hub follows a demand-driven approach, inviting Focal Points to submit the requests for NDC-related support, which are of greatest relevance to their country. These requests are divided between the NDC Hub's four implementing partners, who work with the Focal Points to implement the request through technical support. These requests fall within the following topics, which outline the four strategic objectives of the NDC Hub's Long-Term Strategy 2030:

- 1. Improved NDC planning, policy, strategy and legislation
- 2. Strengthened enabling environment for NDC implementation
- 3. Accelerated NDC project implementation
- 4. Enhanced NDC measurement, reporting & verification and transparency of climate action

NOTE FROM THE PROJECT MANAGER



The NDC Hub has come a long way since it was initially called for in 2017. After initial work setting up governance structures and funding arrangements, we received the first official requests for support from our 14 member countries in December 2018. Since then, we have followed an ongoing process of learning and adapting as we delivered our support. We reflected on our mode of implementation both internally and with our Focal Points during our planning workshops in Samoa, November 2019 and in Fiji, February 2020, and incorporated this learning as we started our second project phase and launched a new call for country requests in June 2020.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic brought significant challenges to all Pacific Island Countries and presented a new opportunity for the NDC Hub to adjust its mode of delivery, to ensure countries continued to receive the support they had requested. We shifted to providing our trainings online and implementing activities through a combination of in-country

national experts who worked with regional consultants and staff of the four implementing organizations SPC, SPREP, GGGI and GIZ through virtual formats. This flexible approach presented several co-benefits, supporting regional capacity development by increasing demand for national and regional experts, and allowing a broader number of participants to join our virtual trainings. Therefore, despite the challenges and delays COVID-19 brought, I am proud to announce that as of February 2022, the NDC Hub has completed more than 75% of its 36 activities across Pacific Island Countries.

We are now looking ahead, and planning for our third project phase, which will start on July 1st 2022 and go until December 31st 2024 and based on recommendations collected through an evaluative process of the first two project phases, which was undertaken in close consultation with our Focal Points. With this, we aim to ensure that the NDC Hub works effectively for the region, and continues to be truly 'by the Pacific, and for the Pacific'.

To conclude, I extend a sincere thank you to our Focal Points and Steering Committee, our implementing partners, and key stakeholders whose support has been essential in realizing the results highlighted in this evaluation.

I am similarly very grateful to our donors, the governments of Germany, New Zealand and Australia, for making our work to date possible.

Sincerely,
Christian Görg,
Project Manager,
Regional Pacific NDC Hub

PACIFIC NDCS



COOK ISLANDS

- Strengthening of MRV system across all relevant sectors



FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

- Support to MRV system
- Energy Efficient Retrofitting



FIJI ISLANDS

- NDC Investment Plan & Project Pipeline
- Support to MRV system in the transport sector
- Alignment of Fiji's Revised Forest Bill with Draft Climate Change Bill



KIRIBATI

- NDC Implementation Roadmap; NDC Investment Plan & Project Pipeline



MARSHALL ISLANDS

- Cross-Sectoral Implementation Framework for NDC Partnership Plan
- Support to MRV System



NAURU

- Peer review of Water and Sanitation Master Plan
- Climate-Smart Agriculture Plan
- Integrating Climate Change Education in school curriculum
- Developing an Electrical Code for the Housing and Infrastructure Sector



NIUE

- NDC Training on Nationally Determined Contribution
- Climate Change Communication Strategy



PALAU

- Develop baseline measurement for transport & waste sector
- Support development of Palau 2050 Strategy
- Energy Efficiency Regulation



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- Enhancing NDC to include quantifiable adaptation targets
- Stocktaking and updating of PNG's Enhanced NDC



SAMOA

- Raising awareness of Samoa's NDC enhancement
- Regional Technical Support Mechanism (Regional Capacity Building)
- NDC Enhancement, NDC Implementation Roadmap, NDC Investment Plan & Project Pipeline
- Energy audit for the tourism sector



SOLOMON ISLANDS

- Support to MRV System
- Preparatory Phase for Solomon Islands Long-term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS)



TONGA

- NDC Review and Enhancement
- Development of awareness materials on Tonga's Second NDC
- NDC Implementation Roadmap, NDC Investment Plan & Project Pipeline
- Support to MRV System



TUVALU

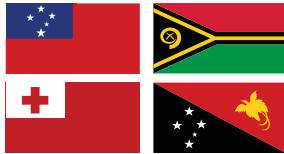
- NDC Implementation Roadmap, NDC Investment Plan & Project Pipeline



VANUATU

- Review & Update Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction Policy
- Coconut for Fuel Strategy
- NDC enhancement to include quantifiable adaptation targets
- Review challenges of NDC implementation including gender to be included in enhanced NDC
- Biogas Installation in rural educational institutions

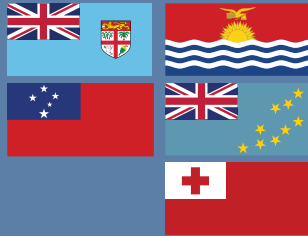
ENHANCED NDCS: RAISING AMBITION FOR CLIMATE ACTION



The NDC Hub has supported Samoa, Vanuatu, Tonga and Papua New Guinea in enhancing their NDCs.

Based on the NDC Hub’s review and recommendations for the enhancement of Samoa and Tonga’s NDCs, both nations have, for the first time, included robust adaptation targets, and strengthened the existing mitigation targets, in their second NDCs. Similarly, both nations have expanded their sectoral coverage, to include specific targets for the Waste and AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and other Land Use) sectors.

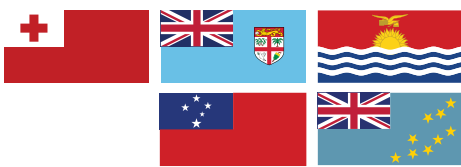
IDENTIFYING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES



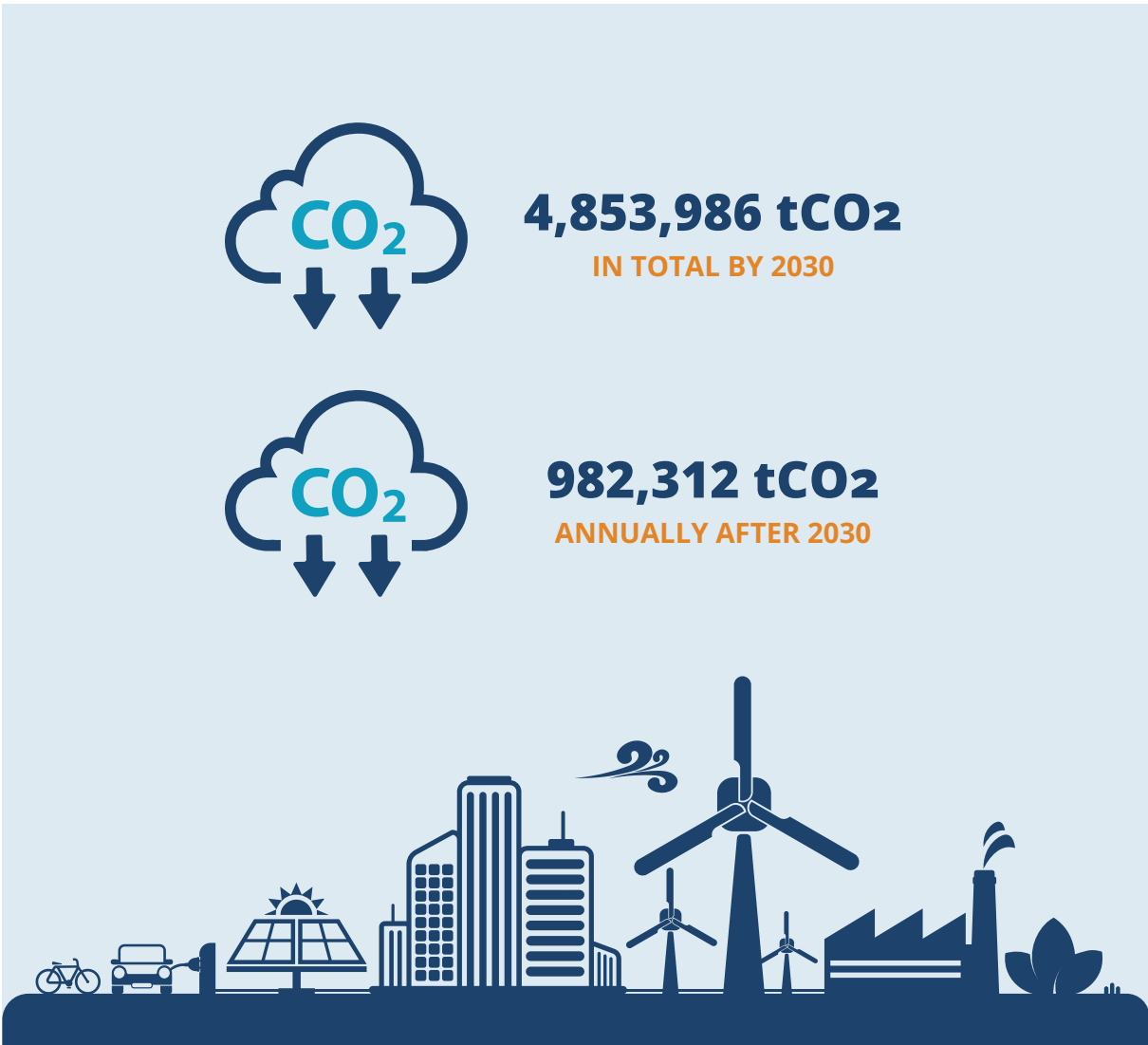
The NDC Hub’s support to investment planning in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu has identified a combined investment need of 2.3 Billion USD across all 5 countries. These investment plans outline tangible mitigation and adaptation projects, which can support each country in fulfilling the GHG mitigation targets outlined in their NDCs. These bankable projects provide an important evidence base for investors and are therefore a key step in leveraging the finance countries need to achieve their NDC targets.



POTENTIAL EMISSION REDUCTIONS

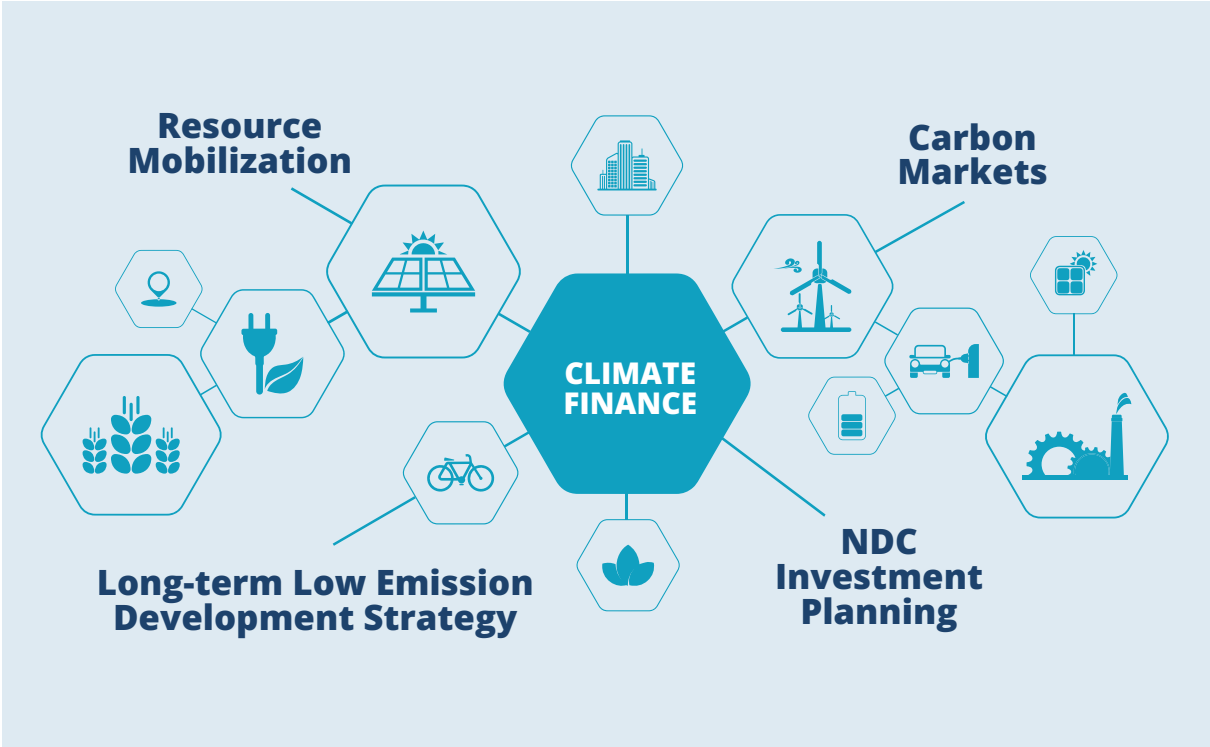


If the mitigation projects outlined in the investment plans for Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu are implemented, these projects present the potential to save over 4.8M tCO₂ in total by 2030, and after 2030, save an annual 900,000 tCO₂, combined for all five countries*.



**These numbers are calculated with the acknowledgement that not all mitigation projects can be implemented simultaneously in each country. The numbers are therefore reduced, to reflect the realistic scenario of countries implementing high-priority projects first and delaying the commencement of low-priority projects.*

LEVERAGING CLIMATE FINANCE



The NDC Hub’s support to investment planning, as described on the previous pages, has been important in supporting countries to leverage the climate finance needed to achieve their NDC targets.

The NDC Hub has helped laying out an important foundation for Fiji’s ability to leverage climate finance through ensuring streamlined objectives for engagement with carbon markets in the country’s draft Climate Change Bill and Revised Fiji Forest Bill.

This is similarly exemplified in the NDC Hub’s support to the preparatory phases of the Solomon Island’s Long-term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS), which provides an important basis to mobilize resources for the full strategy, as well as providing the planning needed to ensure further support is coordinated and relevant for the country.

BROAD ENGAGEMENT

The NDC Hub’s workshops, consultations & trainings have directly engaged

1,334 Individuals across the Pacific

14 Pacific Island Countries

47% are Women



NDC ENABLING ENVIRONMENT



Participants in the NDC Hub’s Planning Workshop, Samoa 2019.



The NDC Hub’s broad engagement has been important in creating an enabling environment for NDC implementation in the Pacific. With a broad range of different government ministries, private sector & civil society organizations

represented in the number of people the NDC Hub has engaged, the NDC Hub increases understanding among a wide range of actors of the importance of working together in achieving their country’s NDC targets.

POLICY ALIGNMENT



As part of the NDC Hub's support to Vanuatu's NDC enhancement, over 100 existing policy statements have been reviewed, to be incorporated in the next NDC update. Ms. Pauliane Basil Adaptation Officer at Vanuatu's Department of Climate Change, describes this activity:

“We have taken all of Vanuatu sectors' existing climate policies word for word and plan to put them in the NDC, that way everyone around the world will see how much Vanuatu has committed to climate action, and what we aim to achieve by 2030.”

The NDC Hub's support to policy alignment is important in creating an enabling environment for NDC implementation.

The Energy Efficiency regulation in Palau, developed with support from the NDC Hub, is an important step towards achieving Palau's NDC targets of 35% energy efficiency by 2025 through regulating imports of electrical appliances and mandating energy efficiency standards for buildings.

Approximately 108 actions in Vanuatu's Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2015 have been analysed, to ensure alignment to national, regional and international development frameworks and policies. This support to policy alignment is important in helping Vanuatu coordinate its actions and work effectively towards achieving its NDC targets.

EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS



The NDC Hub utilizes its broad network and partnerships to ensure effective use of funds. As a result, with the combined 7.8M EUR the NDC Hub has received since it was initiated, the NDC Hub has been able to provide relevant support to 36 activities across 14 countries.

Through regular coordination meetings with the United Nations Development Programme and International Renewable Energy Agency, both organizations have taken over the implementation of one country request submitted to the NDC Hub. This has ensured Pacific Island Countries received the support needed while allowing the NDC Hub to dedicate its funds towards other activities.

Similarly, through the NDC Hub's partnership with SPREP, the Government of Ireland and the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility have both committed additional funding to further develop the activities initiated by the NDC Hub.

This helps countries receive the full scope of support requested, while again freeing up NDC Hub funds towards other activities.

The NDC Hub's collaboration with the NDC Partnership Support Unit has in the same way been important in providing coordinated support to the region, which is exemplified as the NDC Hub has supported 7 activities in 4 Pacific Island Countries under the NDC Partnership's Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP).

Therefore, as a multi-donor platform, the NDC Hub can achieve a significant impact with both small and large funds.

SUSTAINABILITY



The NDC Hub's basis on Pacific ownership is important in ensuring the sustainability of the Hub. This is highlighted by Mr. Tutii Chilton, Chair of the NDC Hub Steering Committee.

Similarly, by following a demand-driven approach, the NDC Hub helps ensure its activities are directly relevant to countries' needs, and will continue to benefit the countries in the long-term, as stated by Mr. Reagan Moses, NDC Hub Focal Point.

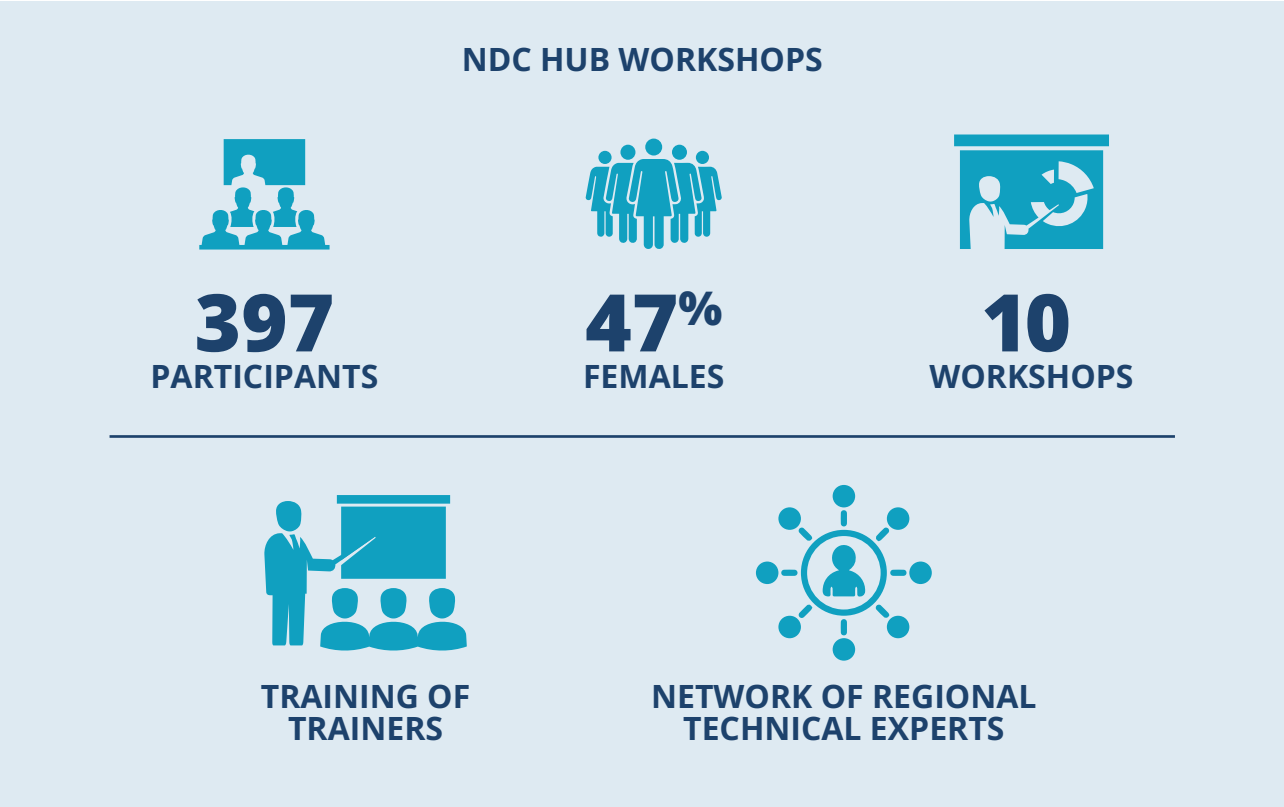
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The structure of the NDC Hub is committed to the Pacific Islands and shows them that they own it...The approach that the NDC Hub uses develops ownership, and ownership will have a lasting effect on the work done on islands.

Mr. Tutii Chilton
Executive Director,
Palau Energy Administration
Chair of the NDC Hub Steering Committee

“
With Nauru's NDC mainly focusing on adaptation, our needs for NDC support are different from other countries. The NDC Hub's demand-driven approach has been important in helping us get support for these unique activities.

Mr. Reagan Moses
Permanent Secretary,
Department of Climate Change
and National Resilience, Nauru
NDC Hub Focal Point

REGIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT



Through a variety of approaches, the NDC Hub's work develops regional capacity for NDC implementation.

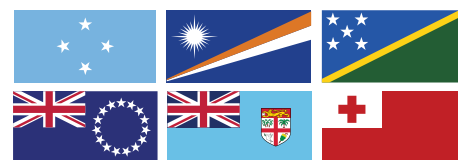
Approx. 397 participants from Pacific Island Countries, of which 47% are female, have taken part in the NDC Hub's 10 workshops. These workshops have been focused on topics all NDC Hub Focal Points expressed as a priority learning need for their NDC implementation.

The NDC Hub's support to NDC roadmaps, investment planning and MRV systems has included targeted trainings, ensuring the government officers responsible for these documents have the skills to further develop and maintain this work, ensuring it can continue to be useful for the country.

The NDC Hub has similarly followed a training of trainers approach in several of its activities, empowering selected trainers to pass on their learning. As a result, with an effective use of resources, many people are trained on NDC-related topics.

Finally, by supporting SPREP's development of a regional consultancy platform, Tomai Pacifique, the NDC Hub is enabling Pacific governments and development organizations in need of technical support to identify consultants from within the Pacific, which is important in building demand for regional technical experts.

TRANSPARENT REPORTING TO THE UNFCCC



“

“Measurement, Reporting and Verification is very important in pursuing sustainable and resilient development as the RMI aims for net zero emissions. I worked with government officers from many different ministries, and after this training we all feel more confident in collecting the data.”

Carthney Laukon Jr,
Junior Engineer, Marshalls Energy Company
Republic of Marshall Islands
Participant in NDC Hub MRV Training in the
Marshall Islands

The NDC Hub is supporting the development of Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems in Tonga, the Marshall Islands, Fiji, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Cook Islands, and the Solomon Islands. This support is important in helping countries develop the greenhouse gas baselines and inventories needed to enhance, and report on, their NDC targets, encouraging transparent reporting to the UNFCCC.

Effective MRV systems require collaboration across all government sectors to share and process information. Similarly, training is important to ensure government officers know how to collect, and report on, emissions from their sector. This is confirmed by Mr. Carthney Laukon Jr.

The NDC Hub’s Focal Point in the Solomon Islands, Mr. Hudson Kauhiona, similarly confirms that the improved institutional setup resulting from the NDC Hub’s support to the country’s MRV system has helped the Solomon Islands collect the greenhouse gas data needed for their Third National Communication to the UNFCCC.

ADVOCACY



After being officially launched at the UNFCCC’s 23rd COP (Conference of the Parties) in 2017, the NDC Hub has had a strong presence at each successive COP, as well as the UN Climate Action Summit in New York, 2019.

During COP 26, the NDC Hub enjoyed high-level participation from the governments of Germany, New Zealand, Australia, and Papua New Guinea. The NDC Hub also facilitated detailed discussions on NDC investment planning between representatives from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Samoa at COP 26. Hereby, the NDC Hub showcases the Big Ocean Sovereign States of the Pacific’s ambitious climate action.

The NDC Hub also works to communicate Pacific Island Countries’ efforts to address climate change within the region.

By integrating climate change in the school curriculum of Nauru, the nation’s approx. **2,500 children learn** about the importance of taking sustainable actions. Similarly, by supporting a **youth dialogue** and

awareness materials during Tonga’s Climate Change Awareness Week, youth are given space to **discuss, and reflect on, the importance of climate action.**

With over 30 Pacific Journalists and Media Officers trained in communicating climate change and NDCs, the NDC Hub encourages increased media coverage of these topics within the Pacific. Ms. Elenoa Turagaviu, FBC News, North Editor, shares the following reflection on the NDC Hub Media Training, October 2021:



“

“The Dialogue has enabled me to see the commitment and the progress Pacific countries are making in meeting their (climate) targets...it gives me so much pride to see what our Pacific countries are doing despite being the least contributors to the climate crisis.”

GENDER & VULNERABLE GROUPS





1,073

STUDENTS

54%

FEMALES

➔

Will have access to **clean energy** as a result of the installation of biogas systems at two schools in Vanuatu.

The NDC Hub specifically considers women & vulnerable groups throughout its work. When submitting a request to the NDC Hub, countries are required to describe how the work will impact gender and social inclusivity. This is important in ensuring these groups are considered from early stages when planning for the activity.

The NDC implementation roadmaps and Investment plans supported by the NDC Hub include robust plans for energy efficiency projects. This will play an important role in ensuring access to affordable, sustainable and reliable energy, which will benefit women and populations in outer islands. This will furthermore benefit these vulnerable groups by reducing the need to purchase fossil fuels, thereby increasing household budgets. As a result these activities can contribute towards several SDGs including no poverty, reduced inequalities, gender equality and affordable & clean energy.

A total 1073 students, of which 54% are female, will have access to clean energy as a result of the installation of biogas systems at two schools in Vanuatu. Whiles reducing energy emissions from waste sector, this work results in several co-benefits including freeing up time collecting firewood, which is often done by women, and improving health for school children by replacing the polluting conventional burners. Activities can contribute towards several SDGs including:

1

NO POVERTY



5

GENDER EQUALITY



7

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



10

REDUCED INEQUALITIES



GREEN RECOVERY

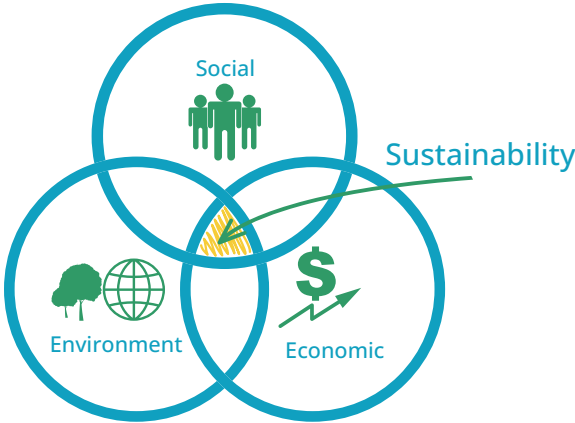


SUPPORTING COUNTRIES TO RECOVER FORWARD



Supporting a green recovery fundamentally aligns with the NDC Hub’s objective of **encouraging low carbon development in the Pacific.**

The NDC Hub’s support to investment planning provides a pipeline of ready-made investment projects that can help to spur a green economic recovery in the Pacific.



The country-driven mitigation and adaptation actions outlined in the investment plans include planning for appropriate training and capacity building. This will be important in helping build the skills and human resources at the national level to support countries in recovering forward.

The NDC Hub has provided tangible support to green entrepreneurship, which includes publishing green entrepreneurship guidelines for Fiji, Kiribati and Vanuatu, and hosting annual workshops and networking events for emerging entrepreneurs in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Through supporting adaptation and resilience in countries, the NDC Hub is working to ensure the long-term sustainable development of the Pacific. For example, the Hub’s support to Climate Smart Agriculture and Water and Sanitation Planning in Nauru, ensures plans are in place for a long-term, contextually appropriate supply of food and water. Combined with raising awareness of climate change among youth of the Pacific, the NDC Hub works to ensure structures and understanding are in place for a green recovery to be maintained in the long-term.

LESSONS LEARNT

National Ownership
+
Country-led Implementation
+
Capacity Development
=
Sustainability



Demand-Driven



Partnerships & Coordination



Pacific Ownership



Regional Capacity Development

Since the NDC Hub was launched, and throughout its two project phases, several lessons learnt and best practises for NDC Implementation in the Pacific have been collected, which could be applicable to other actors working in the Pacific on a more general level.

Prioritizing Pacific Ownership has been important in ensuring the NDC Hub would continue to be actively supported by the region.

Maintaining a demand-driven structure, responding to the specific needs of each Pacific Island Country, has been important in ensuring the NDC Hub’s support was contextually relevant, and would continue to benefit each country in the long-term.

Partnering with other organizations supporting NDC implementation in the region and working in contribution to the NDC Partnership Support Unit, has allowed the NDC Hub to provide coordinated and efficient support to countries.

Finally, supporting regional capacity development has been important in ensuring the NDC Hub’s work would have a lasting impact in the region. This has furthermore allowed the NDC Hub to continue implementation despite COVID-19 travel restrictions, by working with in-country consultants.





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