



Managing the Ecosystem and Livelihood Implications of Energy Policies in the Pacific Island States

Project Report – 4th Quarter 2010



 **Austrian
Development Cooperation**

Quality Record Sheet

PROJECT:	PACIFIC SMALL ISLANDS DEVELOPING STATES ENERGY, ECOSYSTEMS AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD INITIATIVE
DESCRIPTION:	Quarterly Report – 4 th Quarter 2010 (October – December 2010)
ORIGINATOR:	ANARE MATAKIVITI, ENERGY PROGRAMME COORDINATOR
REVIEWERS:	Salote Sauturaga, Assistant Project Officer
FUNDING:	Governments of Italy (€3 million) and Austria (€1 million)
IMPLEMENTING AGENCY:	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) through its Oceania Regional Office, Suva, Fiji Islands
PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES:	Republic of the Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

CONTENTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
2. NATIONAL EESLI COMPONENTS (COUNTRY PROJECTS)	1
2.1 VANUATU	1
2.2 MARSHALL ISLANDS	1
2.3 PALAU	2
2.4 TONGA	2
2.5 SAMOA	2
2.6 TUVALU	2
3. SPECIAL INITIATIVES	3
3.1 LIFE CYCLE FIJI INITIATIVE	3
3.2 LIFE CYCLE TONGA INITIATIVE	3
3.3 NAHU COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECT – SOLOMON ISLANDS	3
3.4 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE - FOCUS ON THE PACIFIC	4
3.5 TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL & IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS IN THE PACIFIC	4
3.6 SIGATOKA SAND DUNES RENEWABLE ENERGY (SOLAR) PROJECT	4
3.7 GENDER MAINSTREAMING TRAINING WORKSHOPS INTO EESLI PROGRAM	4
4. EESLI MANAGEMENT – IUCN ORO	5
4.1 PERSONNEL	5
4.2 BUDGET	5
4.3 TRAVEL AND COUNTRY VISITS	5
4.4 COP16 SIDE EVENT	5
5. CHALLENGES AND ISSUES ENCOUNTERED	6
6. CONCLUSION	6
ANNEX - FINANCIAL REPORT	7

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The fourth quarter saw some very interesting developments in the Pacific SIDS EESLI Project. Apart from the progress in the implementation of the countries' projects our principal donor, the Government of Italy has committed an additional three million EURO for the second phase taking the programme implementation period to year 2013. On the countries' projects, it is encouraging to see the efforts of Project Coordinators as they strive to ensure that they meet their targets on schedule. Of interest is the marked increase in progress in the Vanuatu project, despite the absence of the Project Coordinator for about two and half months, all the three components of the projects made substantial progress. The wind resources assessment tender has been evaluated and a suitable company has been identified to supply and install the equipment in the six provinces. The solar rehabilitation in Santo and Malekula has been completed and the supply and installation of the hydro project in Talise on Maewo Island has been tendered out. Likewise for the other five countries, progress during the fourth quarter is being noted.

2. NATIONAL EESLI COMPONENTS (COUNTRY PROJECTS)

The following activities were carried out during the fourth quarter of 2010.

2.1 VANUATU

Talise Hydro Project: The supply and installation of the hydro project as been tendered out. The tender will close in mid February 2011.

Wind Resources Assessment: The tender for the supply and installation of the six wind monitoring equipment has been evaluated and a suitable company identified. The award has yet to be made, awaiting SPREP's formal endorsement of the Tender Committee's evaluation report. It is envisaged that the tender will be awarded during the first quarter of 2011.

Solar Rehabilitation: There was a slight change in the rehabilitation programme. The solar systems in Malo were targeted first in addition to those in Santo because of their close proximity. All systems in both islands are now operational. Work in Malekula will be undertaken during the first quarter of 2011.

2.2 MARSHALL ISLANDS

Retrofitting of Street Lights: The street lights retrofitting work has been completed in both Majuro and Ebeye. MEC in collaboration with the Energy Division will be monitoring the performance of the lights to ensure that all lights perform to the specifications stated by the manufacturer and as specified in the tender contract agreement. The second component of the project is the installation of solar street lights. An additional allocation of USD150K has been agreed to by the Joint Committee to be used for the solar street lights. Discussion with the Marshall Islands Project Coordinator is continuing on how best to move forward the solar street lights component.



LED Light Project in the RMI (LED lights in yellow)

2.3 PALAU

While there has been a wide interest in the Energy Efficiency Home Loan programme from both potential new home owners and existing home owners, the time taken to construct new homes has been much longer than anticipated. Normally it takes about six months to complete constructing a new home and this has caused a bit of delay in the implementation of the programme. As part of the continuing programme of raising awareness about the programme, the NDBP carried out three community consultations and produced and distributed brochures and pamphlets to the general public that visited their office. The Energy Division continued with their energy efficiency awareness programme through all local media outlets.



A newly constructed energy efficient home

2.4 TONGA

The funding for the electrification of Lofanga island has been received from the Government of Italy. Work on the installation of the solar system will commence in the first quarter of 2011.

2.5 SAMOA

IUCN initiated consultations and discussion with the Samoa Project Coordinator as a result of the proposal forwarded by the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa (SROS) promoting the wide scale planting of jatropha in Samoa as feedstock for biodiesel production. IUCN recommended to Samoa that an environmental impact assessment of such proposal be carried out first before commencing with the project. The Samoa authority concurred with the recommendation and a Terms of Reference for the impact assessment was developed by IUCN and circulated to the Samoa authority for their comments. IUCN has also consulted its Invasive Species Commission on the draft TOR. The assessment will be carried out in the first quarter of 2011.

2.6 TUVALU

The tender from the supply of the solar street lights was developed and quotations were requested from a number of prominent solar equipment suppliers in Tuvalu, Fiji and the region. After careful assessment of the submissions from the companies the Tuvalu Project Coordinator in consultation with IUCN agreed that negotiations with Clay Engineering (Fiji) should be pursued. Clay Engineering offered the best price and specifications but the delivery timeline was an issue. This issue was amicably resolved following negotiations and a new timeline for equipment delivery was produced by the company, cutting the original timeline by two weeks. Installation is earmarked to commence in the first quarter of 2011.



Densely populated Funafuti where solar street lights will be installed

3. SPECIAL INITIATIVES

3.1 LIFE CYCLE FIJI INITIATIVE

The Life Cycle Fiji Initiative (LCFI) Task Force met to discuss the slow progress in the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan and to identify the best way forward. IUCN raised during the meeting its concern on the slow utilisation of the funds. One of the reasons for the slow disbursement of the fund was attributed to the fact that most activities identified in the Strategic Action Plan had been budgeted for by the various organisations in the Task Force. Members present during the meeting felt that a meeting of all members would be necessary to relook at the activities in the Strategic Action Plan and to determine the validity of the activities. To assist in coordination of the cycling initiative, the Director of Youth and Sports was selected to chair the Task Force with coordination assisted by the Department of Environment. Despite the good intentions of members to see things moving, very little was achieved during the quarter as the Coordinator left for two month training in China shortly after the meeting.



Life Cycle Fiji Members during one of their membership drives

3.2 LIFE CYCLE TONGA INITIATIVE

With the development of the Strategic Action plan, the Task Force' main focus for the quarter was the conversion of a used container that serves the double purpose of a mobile cycling base and also as an office for promoting cycling into the local communities around Tongatapu. One of the main features of the Life Cycle Tonga Initiative is its close association with the healthy living promotion carried out by the Ministry of Health and in close collaboration with the Tonga Health Association. Life Cycle Tonga looks forward to the completion of the mobile cycling base so that they can reach out to communities around Nukualofa.

3.3 NAHU COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECT – SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Nahu community solar project was commissioned in November. The home owners expressed satisfaction with their system highlighting not only the convenience of flicking on and off the switch but also the illumination from the solar light is far superior than the kerosene lights they are used to.

The leader of the Women's group, Ms Basilisa Hasiau highlighted that before the solar lights the community heavily depended on kerosene lights. When kerosene runs out - which happens many times before the next boat schedule – they rely on traditional lights (dried sap of a local tree). With the solar lights they are now saving on kerosene and time used for searching for wood sap.

Ms Hasiau further added that it has been their dream since the establishment of the group five years ago to have better lights in their homes. With the commissioning of the solar lighting project this dream is now a reality. She expressed her gratitude to the Solomon Islands Department of Energy



Women of Tetepare showing off some solar lights



Women dancing in celebration

and IUCN Oceania for assisting in realizing the women's dream.

The entire village community gathered in the community meeting house later in the evening to celebrate the commissioning of the solar lights. Celebration was marked with feasting and dancing.

3.4 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE - FOCUS ON THE PACIFIC

IUCN ORO was part of the organizing committee for the International Conference on Renewable Energy and Climate Change - Focus on the Pacific, that was held from 6th – 10th December. Participants ranged from Pacific Island Countries and abroad. The Project Coordinator from Palau participated in the conference and she made a presentation of the Energy Efficiency Home Loan project. The project in Palau generated a lot of interest from participants as it is a unique way of promoting energy efficiency using the "subsidy" financing mechanism operated by the Palau National Development Bank. IUCN organised the session on "Environment Sustainability and Economics" and invited an international expert on CDM in Mr. Mattias Goldmann to speak on Programmatic CDM. Mattias had the opportunity to meet with several Pacific Island representatives during the course of the conference and discussed with them the potential CDM projects in their countries. Several countries in the Pacific have yet to access the CDM financing mechanism.

3.5 TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL & IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS IN THE PACIFIC

The Technical publications on Environmental Impact Assessment of Renewable Energy Technologies has been put on hold. Further discussion on how best to progress this task continued and work is envisaged to commence in the first quarter of 2011.

3.6 SIGATOKA SAND DUNES RENEWABLE ENERGY (SOLAR) PROJECT

This particular task has been put on hold due to the unfortunate destruction of the National Trust of Fiji's premises at the sand dune site caused by fire.

3.7 GENDER MAINSTREAMING TRAINING WORKSHOPS INTO EESLI PROGRAM

Gender Mainstreaming into the energy programme of countries working with IUCN is a project supported by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and ENERGIA (a gender based organisation based in the Netherlands). The project looks at training and raising the level of awareness of the IUCN Energy Project Coordinators and other key stakeholders in these countries on the energy needs and aspirations of the different social groups in the community. The key to this is the understanding and recognition that gender equality/equity is a necessary consideration when implementing energy programmes in these countries. There was a regional training where all project coordinators participated and this was held in Tonga. In addition, two national trainings targeting stakeholders in the countries were carried out - one in Vanuatu and one in Samoa. A full report on this joint activity is now available.

4. EESLI MANAGEMENT – IUCN ORO

4.1 PERSONNEL

With resignation of the Senior Project Officer, Ms Arieta Gonelevu (pictured) the energy programme had two staff members during the quarter. Consultations with the management of IUCN ORO resulted in the advertisement of a Senior Energy Programme Officer position created and advertised. There were a number of applications from the region and from further abroad. An interview Team which consisted of the IUCN ORO Regional Programme Coordinator, the Energy Programme Coordinator, IUCN ORO Environmental Lawyer and the IUCN ORO Human Resource Officer evaluated and short listed the candidates. There were four candidates interviewed and the Interview Team recommended that Ms Larissa Brisbane be offered the position.

At the national level, there has been no change in the project staff with project coordinators remaining the same during the quarter. The coordinators have been ably supported by the National Steering Committee (National Task Force) and it is pleasing to note that the commitment from these stakeholders has contributed positively to the progress in project implementation. The National Project Managers for all six countries are:

- (i) Mr Kennedy Kaltavara - Vanuatu
- (ii) Mr Thomas Kijiner Jnr - Republic of the Marshall Islands
- (iii) Ms Clarinda Ziegler - Palau
- (iv) Mr Ofa Sefana - Tonga
- (v) Mr Uaine Silailai - Samoa
- (vi) Mr Mafalu Lotolua - Tuvalu

4.2 BUDGET

The detailed budget for the fourth quarter of 2010 is appended to this report as [Annex 1](#).

4.3 TRAVEL AND COUNTRY VISITS

Solomon Islands – The Energy Programme Coordinator visited the Solomon Islands to attend the commissioning of the Nahu Community Solar project (see story above).

Vanuatu – Due to the departure of the Vanuatu Project Coordinator for further study in China, the Energy Programme Coordinator paid a quick visit to Vanuatu to meet and discuss with the Vanuatu Director of Energy and other key stakeholders an interim implementation plan to avoid further delays. As a result of the discussion it was resolved that the Energy Unit technicians would proceed with the rehabilitation of the solar systems and IUCN would look at the hydro tender specification. The wind resource assessment is not affected as this has been taken care of by the PIGGA-REP programme.

4.4 COP16 SIDE EVENT

IUCN was requested by the Italian Ministry of Environment in November to report on the Italian funded project in Pacific Island Countries. There are altogether 12 PICs participating including the six countries under IUCN. IUCN engaged a Video Production company (Niuwavemedia) in Fiji to produce the video. The video was presented at a Side Event during the COP16 meeting in Cancun, Mexico in December. The Side Event which was organised by the Italian Ministry of Environment was attended by the Energy Programme Coordinator at the invitation of the Italian Government.

It must be highlighted that producing the video within the short time frame was a big challenge. Firstly there was no budget provided though the Ministry of Environment promised to provide some funds (to be given post-production) to cover expenses. IUCN had to borrow from within its budget to carry out the necessary work related to the production of the video. Secondly, travelling to each of the 12 countries and visiting project sites was just impossible given the short time frame and the astronomical costs associated with these visits. As a way out IUCN made arrangements with the Project Coordinators in all the 12 countries and requested them to forward to us video footage of their projects. Even this option was proved to be a challenge for Country Project Coordinators as several projects are located in the outer islands and travelling to these sites would incur additional budgetary expenses, which many of these countries did not have. As a result not all countries were able to send to us raw video footage of their projects to IUCN. IUCN had to work only with those that were able to produce video clips. These video clips were edited (with narration) by Niuwavemedia into one 13 minute video documentary and was shown at the Side Event mentioned above.

5. CHALLENGES AND ISSUES ENCOUNTERED

The IUCN Energy Programme suffered a reduction in staff level through the resignation and departure of the Senior Project Officer during the quarter. With two staff members the Programme Management Team had to be strategic in planning and implementing the programme. Tasks that were of high priorities were identified and addressed first. Some hard decisions were made to postpone the implementation of certain tasks to the first quarter of 2011 when the Senior Energy Programme Officer would be joining the Energy Team.

Although the commitment to provide additional fund to the energy programme was made by the JC meeting in May, the fund was not received at IUCN Head Quarters until the fourth quarter. Further with the availability of fund in small allotments (USD250K) annually up to 2013, the Project Management and the countries will have to be more strategic with their approach to project selection. The small amount may mean a bias towards smaller projects. The Project Management Team will have to maintain regular communication with the Finance Department at IUCN HQ to keep track of the availability of project funds.

6. CONCLUSION

The last quarter has been a challenging one for the Project Management Team at IUCN. The Team lost one senior staff through resignation to join the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Energy Programme. As a result the number of countries visited were limited to two only and some activities put on hold. The team looks forward to the replacement starting in the beginning of the first quarter of 2011.

A number of countries are most likely to require additional time to complete the implementation of their projects. These countries include Palau, Marshall Islands, Samoa and Vanuatu. The Project Management Team plans to carry out an assessment of these countries' project during the first quarter to ascertain the extent of time required by each country.

ANNEX - FINANCIAL REPORT

DGCS PACIFIC ISLANDS STATES 76877-000		PROJECT BUDGET JAN-DEC =====	CURRENT QTR OCT-DEC =====	CURRENT Y-T-D ACTUAL =====	BUD less ACT Y-T-D =====	BUD vs ACT Y-T-D =====
INCOME						

21171-0001	EXTERNAL PROJECT INCOME	1,657,473	0	1,657,473		
TOTAL INCOME		1,657,473	0	1,657,473		
EXPENDITURE						

22411-0001	Project staff time	28,324	17,837	28,012	312	0.99
22421-0001	Project overhead fees	54,024	4,722	14,440	39,584	0.27
23111-0001	Staff Salaries	95,362	25,399	73,294	22,068	0.77
23911-0001	Travel Costs - IUCN	29,310	10,070	27,601	1,709	0.94
24141-0001	Travel Costs- Others	13,500	-	4,950	8,550	0.37
24321-0001	Office Equipment	6,199	2,947	7,503	(1,304)	1.21
24921-	Telecommunications, reporting and Miscelle	7,098	3,295	5,759	1,339	0.81

0001						
22421-						
0001	Project overhead fees	21,000	661	9,254	12,407	0.41
23111-						
0001	HQ Staff Salaries	63,975	7,233	43,782	27,426	0.57
23911-						
0001	IUCN Travel Costs	27,850	-	15,252	12,598	0.55
24111-						
0001	Travel Costs- Other Personnel	24,045	-	4,021	20,024	0.17
24831-						
0001	Office Equipment	3,313	-	578	2,735	0.17
24921-						
0001	Telecommunications, reporting and Miscelleaneous	4,500	194	2,260	2,434	0.46
	Special projects, events and Studies	29,000	9,486	16,071	22,415	0.23
25831-						
0040	W.SHOP TVL&PDIEMS-OTHERS	10,794	262	6,329	4,726	0.56
25911-						
9999	Advances to implementing agenc	546,200	-	222,883	323,317	0.41

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

750,031 32,622 339,774 442,878 0.41

CURRENT SURPLUS -Austria Energy

\$

410,257.00