



## Quality Record Sheet

**Project:** Pacific Islands Small Developing States – Energy, Ecosystem and Sustainable Livelihood Initiatives (EESLI)

**Date:** 4 October 2008

**Revision:** 1

**Description:** Quarterly Report, 2nd Quarter 2008 (August - October)

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## QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

1. **Countries:** Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu
  
2. **Project Title:** Pacific SIDS Energy, Ecosystem and Sustainable Livelihood Initiatives (EESLI)
  
3. **Executing Agency:** IUCN-Oceania
  
4. **Period Covered:** 6 August – 6 October 2008
  
5. **Summary of Overall Project Progress**

The Pacific SIDS energy programme, Managing the Ecosystem and Livelihood Implications of Energy Policies in Pacific Island States now has five countries in total. The countries are Palau, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The sixth is the Marshall Islands but its project proposal has yet to be approved. The five countries whose funding have been approved have had their 'Work Plans' in place.

During the reporting period the Energy Programme Coordinator has carried out consultations with various regional organisations operating energy programmes in the Pacific region on possible collaboration. While IUCN-Oceania has received positive reaction from these regional organisations, there has been no formal agreement in place with any of the organisations. However, IUCN-Oceania has agreed with PIGGAREP a GEF project and executed by the Secretariat of Pacific Environmental Programme (SPREP) that it funds the socio-economic, financial and environmental impact assessment of the countries' projects. On this PIGGAREP has provided funding for the assessment for the Tonga project and a team of consultants has already been deployed to carry out the socio-economic, financial and environmental impact assessment in Mounga'one and Mango.

IUCN-Ocean has also struck a deal with the Secretariat of the Pacific Applied Geosciences Commission (SOPAC), SPREP and the Pacific Power Association (PPA) to use their respective websites for posting advertisements. The tender calls for the Tuvalu TA and the supply of solar home systems for Tonga were posted on the above organisations websites.

The First Quarter Report has been distributed to all countries' representatives including their UN Representatives in New York. A copy has also been forwarded to the Italian Government.

The Project Document has been submitted to the Italians for consideration. It is envisaged that the implementation of the energy programme will flow once the Project Document is approved and endorsed. It is also important to note that other project initiatives outside the agreed country projects can only start once the Project Document is approved.

Contract Agreements between the countries and IUCN-Ocean have been developed. The Contract Agreement specifies the responsibilities of the two parties and act as a guideline for ensuring that the country project is implemented successfully.

The tender for the Technical Assistance for the Tuvalu project has been awarded to Gerhard Zieroth. Altogether there were four bidders and the Evaluation Panel decided to award the TA to Gerhard Zieroth.

A tender call has been made for the supply of solar home systems for the Tonga project. The tender call closes on 31 October.

The Energy Programme Coordinator attended a meeting organised by the World Bank in Sydney Australia on 14 September. The meeting discussed amongst other things how best donors can best coordinate their respective programme of assistance in the Pacific. A major decision reached at the meeting is the establishment of a 'working group' to be the forum for discussing issues affecting the Pacific region and how best donors through their respective programme of assistance can address these issues.




The Energy Programme Coordinator also met with REEEP Australia and discussed potential collaboration in the delivery of our respective energy programmes. One potential area of collaboration is on capacity building and REEEP has indicated its support to fund training programmes to address skills gap identified under the IUCN energy programme.

The Energy Programme Coordinator also attended the IUCN World Congress meeting in Barcelona from 4 – 10 October and coordinated an event for 'Energy and Small Islands Ecosystems'. More information on the WCC will be provided in the next quarter report.

## **6. Specific Outputs/Results Achieved**

Project activities during the reporting period are on track with the Tuvalu and Tonga projects progressing steadily.

Details of the progress in the implementation of the country projects are provided below.

Countries	Activities	Comment
<p>Palau</p> 	<p>A work plan for the Palau project has now been finalised after going through a number of revisions following comments from members of the Technical Team.</p>	
<p>Tonga</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The work plan for the Tonga project is now firmed up.</li> <li>• A Team of Consultants visited Mounga'one and Mango to carry out the socio-economic, financial and environmental impact assessment in September.</li> <li>• The call for tender for the supply of solar home systems for Mounga'one and Mango islands was posted late September. The tender will close on 31 October.</li> </ul>	<p>The Team of consultants comprises of local experts.</p>
<p>Tuvalu</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work plan has been finalised.</li> <li>• Tender call for a TA has been evaluated and awarded to Gerhard Zieroth.</li> <li>• Consultant has started and carried out the scoping mission to Vaitupu Island.</li> </ul>	
<p>Samoa</p>	<p>There has been no progress on the implementation of the Samoa project. Latest update received from the Samoa Technical Expert on the Samoa project shows the</p>	

	<p>revised project proposal has yet to be submitted to the Italians for consideration. It is worth noting that despite any formal endorsement of the revised proposal the Technical Expert has developed an energy efficiency awareness programme and has started writing newspaper articles and publishing this on a weekly basis. The awareness programme is an integral component of the Samoa proposal.</p>	
<p>Vanuatu</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The work plan has still yet to be finalised pending the issue surrounding the National Coordinator.</li> <li>• A draft TOR for the socio-economic, financial and environmental impact assessment is in place.</li> </ul>	<p>The Technical Team and the National Steering Committee would like to recruit the National Coordinator at Director General level a point that appears to have little justification given that the responsibilities of the position are equivalent to or less than that performed by an Energy Officer.</p>
<p>Marshall Islands</p> 	<p>There has been no progress with the Marshall Island project because it has yet to be submitted to the Government of Italy and Austria for consideration. Like other country projects this will also be tabled in the JWC meeting for endorsement.</p>	<p>The project will most likely to be tabled during the next JWC meeting.</p>
<p><b>Regional Cooperation</b></p>		
<p>Consultations with regional organisations, especially the CROP agencies on potential collaboration are ongoing. IUCN-Oceania has managed to establish some working agreements with some organisations e.g. IUCN-Oceania has agreed to collaborate with SOPAC on the development of the energy policy framework for the Marshall Islands. This project is being initiated under the EU-REP5 project.</p> <p>Consultations have also been ongoing with regards a regional workshop on bio-fuel with SOPAC and SPC. The workshop which scheduled to be held in Fiji in mid November focuses on pressing issues relating to the promotion of bio-fuel in the region.</p> <p>As highlighted in the last quarter report IUCN-Oceania is also collaborating with the PIGGAREP</p>		

project where PIGGAREP will be funding the socio-economic, financial and environmental impact assessment of the proposed projects in some countries.

There is also the potential to work with REEEP (Australia) in the area of capacity building. Indications are that REEEP is willing to support regional training in the area of renewable energy and IUCN-Oceania intends to continue pursuing this potential collaboration with REEEP.

Consultations are ongoing with UNEP (Samoa) on the possibility of collaborating with their GEF-PAS programme for Tuvalu, Niue and Nauru.

## **7. Challenges/Issues Encountered**

The challenges facing the programme during the reporting period can be summarised by the following points.

- **Lack of staff:** While the need for an additional staff was identified in the first quarter, it has become apparent as the country projects begin to roll that a Project Assistant will have to be recruited as soon as possible.
- **A system for accountability:** It is highly likely that a project of such a magnitude will encounter problems that can adversely affect the progress of the implementation. And without any clear guideline in place, the risk of experiencing delays is a lot higher.
- **In-country capacity:** Progress in the implementation of projects in certain countries had been hampered by indecision on the part of the key stakeholders. For example, in the case of the Vanuatu project, a draft work plan was developed in July and up until now no firm decision has been made by the Technical Team and the National Steering Committee to finalise the work plan.
- **Strengthening of the US Dollars:** The value of the dollar against the EURO is slowly rising and if the trend continues it will have a profound impact on the budgetary provision. This will be a major challenge that the Pacific SIDS EESLI will have to face and address.

## **8. Solutions Applied to Address Challenges**

The Energy Programme Coordinator has started interviewing potential candidates for the position of Project Assistant. It is most likely that an incumbent will be in post by late December 2008 or early January 2009. The list of interviewees was drawn from the past applicants to the Regional Office earlier vacancies.

The IUCN-Oceania office is developing a contract agreement to be signed by participating countries and IUCN-Oceania. The contract agreement specifies the respective roles of the two parties in the implementation of the country projects.

A draft ProDoc has been developed and forwarded to the Italians for the consideration. The ProDoc provides a clear timeline and budgetary provision for implementing and managing the country projects.

Regular contact with the Technical Team and Experts in the countries is essential and maintaining dialogue to resolve pressing issues is a strategy that IUCN-Oceania is employing to maintain momentum in the implementation of the project.

The weakening of the EURO hopefully is a temporary phenomenon, however if this continues it will be prudent for IUCN to initiate dialogue with the Italian government to try and find an amicable solution.

## 9. Recommendation for Future Action

The focus of the next quarter will be the finalisation and implementation of the country 'work plans.' Three countries are ready to commence with implementation of the actual projects and they are, Palau, Tong and Tuvalu. Due to delays in the implementation of the projects during last quarter, very little changes in the budgetary provision for the next quarter are envisaged. The budgetary allocation proposed for the next quarter is US\$759,000.00.

Countries	Activities	Comments/Budget
Palau	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Energy efficiency home loans</li> <li>2. Inception workshop</li> </ol>	US\$58,000.00. The projected budget is high due to the late start in the implementation of the work plan.
Tonga	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supply of solar equipment</li> <li>2. Inception Workshop</li> </ol>	US\$175,000.00. The supply of the solar equipment is envisaged for the last quarter (2008).
Tuvalu	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hiring of consultant</li> <li>2. Design, supply and install</li> <li>3. Inception workshop</li> </ol>	US\$431,500.00. The budget is for hiring of the Consultant to oversee the design and supply of equipment and the Contractor that will be responsible for the design,

		supply and construction of solar system.
Vanuatu	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recruitment of National Coordinator</li> <li>2. Office equipment</li> <li>3. Inception Workshop</li> <li>4. Solar equipment for Malekula and Santo</li> </ol>	US\$49,000.00. We do not envisage the Vanuatu project to progress beyond the rehabilitation of the solar systems in Malekula and Santo this year.
Samoa	Work Plan has yet to be developed and finalised.	
Marshall Is	Project has yet to be approved hence no budgetary allocation provided.	
<b>Regional Activities</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Comment/Budget</b>
IUCN-Oceania	Joint Committee Meeting	US\$6,500.00
IUCN-Oceania	Inception Workshop	US\$40,000.00