REGIONAL PACIFIC NDC HUB

Strategy 2030

A Blueprint for NDC Implementation in Pacific Island Countries

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Contents

Tables and Figures iv
Abbreviations and Acronyms v
Acknowledgements vi
Foreword vii
Message by the Steering Committee Chair viii

Executive Summary 1

PART I INTRODUCTION 3
1.0 Context 4
1.1 Overview of Climate Change in the Pacific 4
1.2 Regional Pacific NDC Hub: The journey thus far 12
1.3 Multi-Partner Platform for Climate Action: The value-add 15

PART II VISION, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES 17
2.0 Our Mandate 18
3.0 Our Vision, Goals and Objectives 19
3.1 Our Vision 19
3.2 Our Goals and Objectives 19
4.0 Our Guiding Principles 20

Part III STRATEGIC OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION 22
5.0 Theory of Change for the Regional Pacific NDC Hub 23
6.0 Strategic Outcomes 24
6.1 Strategic Outcome 1: Improved NDC planning, policy, strategy and legislation 24
6.1.1 Barriers 24
6.1.2 Response 25
6.1.3 Results 26
6.2 Strategic Outcome 2: Strengthened enabling environment for NDC implementation 27
6.2.1 Barriers 27
6.2.2 Response 28
6.2.3 Results 29
6.3 Strategic Outcome 3: Accelerated NDC action and project/program implementation 30
6.3.1 Barriers 30
6.3.2 Response 31
6.3.3 Results 32
6.4 Strategic Outcome 4: Enhanced NDC measurement, reporting & verification and transparency of climate action 33
6.4.1 Barriers 33
6.4.2 Response 33
6.4.3 Results 34
6.5 An Underlying Response from the NDC Hub 35
6.6 Overall Impact 35
7.0 Implementation 36

Tables and Figures

Tables

Table 1: Selected Indicators for Pacific island countries....6
Table 2: Summary of NDC Hub's Support to Pacific island countries....13

Figures

Figure 1: Key Steps to Enhance Ambition....5
Figure 2: Climate Warming....7
Figure 3: Mitigation Actions with Economic, Social and Environmental Co-Benefits....8
Figure 4: Policy Framing of the Regional Pacific NDC Hub....10
Figure 5: A simplified typology for green recovery in the Pacific....11
Figure 6: Theory of Change....23

Abbreviations and Acronyms

COP	Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
ETF	Enhanced Transparency Framework
GCA	Global Commission on Adaptation
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
GCF	Green Climate Fund
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
MRV	Measurement, Reporting, and Verification
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution(s)
PICs	Pacific island countries
PSIDS	Pacific Small Island Developing States
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SPC	Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Acknowledgements

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Foreword

The launch of the Regional Pacific NDC Hub in 2017 was a historic moment for Fiji, for the Pacific, and for every Small Island Developing State that is facing the worst effects of a rapidly warming planet. It marked a milestone in Pacific leadership on climate change - a unified voice demanding urgent climate action. Pacific island countries are a moral compass in the multilateral processes. Our call for a dedicated regional facility - a facility that would provide a range of services to Pacific island countries to advance their nationally determined climate pledges - demonstrated our commitment to the 1.5°C temperature target of the Paris Agreement, to the collective progress of our societies, to our people, our children, and our future.

In this decade of climate action, a coalition of like-minded institutions, including the Regional Pacific NDC Hub, is critical for unlocking the innovation and expertise needed for home-grown climate solutions. Such institutions empower our public and private institutions, build national capacity and drive action on the ground. It is for this reason I would like to sincerely thank the Government of Germany, as well as the governments of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, for their support for the establishment of the Regional Pacific NDC Hub. With long-term support from our international development partners this Regional Pacific NDC Hub can inspire solutions in our region that can change the world for the better.

The Strategy 2030 of the NDC Hub lays out the game plan for NDC implementation in the Pacific region for the next 10 years. It is a blueprint that mirrors the Paris Agreement's processes and aligns with the sustainable development agendas of the Pacific island countries. The strategy elaborates specific priorities across four broad outcome areas with measurable results. The implementation of the proposed interventions in the strategy will pose some challenges, but well-coordinated country support systems and informed decision-making, along with the support from the international community can bring its goals within reach.

Climate action and the sustainable development agenda are inseparable. As we rebuild our economies from the effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic, climate investments present a unique opportunity for Pacific economies to build back better and ensure a green, blue, and inclusive recovery. This will require policy ingenuity, as well as genuine partnerships that translates these policies into action.

As the Chair of the Pacific Small Island Developing States and the incoming Chair of the forum leaders, it is my hope that Strategy 2030 will boost momentum for regional climate action and bring together new partners, new funding and new synergies for the sustainable development of our Blue Pacific.

Josaia V. Bainimarama
Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji &
Chair of Pacific Small Island Developing States

Message by the Steering Committee Chair

At the heart of the Paris Agreement are the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that describe each country's self-determined plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in pursuit of limiting global temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, while pursuing efforts to keep temperature rise to 1.5°C. Pacific island countries contribute negligibly towards the global greenhouse gas emissions but are at the frontlines of human-induced climate change. This calls for the urgency of climate action and the full implementation of the NDCs, especially building the adaptive capacity and resilience of vulnerable island and atoll nations of the Pacific.

In 2017, the vision of the Pacific leaders for a dedicated regional facility that is focused on supporting the Pacific island countries in the full implementation of their NDCs came to fruition with the launching of the Regional Pacific NDC Hub in Bonn, Germany. The launch of the NDC Hub marked a commitment of the Pacific leaders for urgent climate action and their commitment to the Paris Agreement. The NDC Hub is a unique multi-partner platform that draws on the experiences and expertise of the partner institutions in advancing climate action in the region. The setup is especially useful for fostering nationally appropriate climate solutions and one that encourages national capacity building and peer learning.

The Strategy 2030 of the Regional Pacific NDC Hub represents the collective climate change commitments of the Pacific island countries consistent with the climate pledges under the Paris Agreement. The strategy presents the vision for a sustainable, low-carbon and climate resilient Pacific. Specifically, the 10-Year strategy aims to:

- Improve NDC planning, policy, strategy and legislation in Pacific island countries;
- Strengthen enabling environment for NDC implementation;
- Accelerate NDC action on the ground through project/program implementation; and
- Enhance NDC measurement, reporting and verification and transparency of action.

Deepened engagement and collaboration with donors, partners and the broader development community is critical for achieving the core objectives of Strategy 2030, a product of robust consultation with Pacific island countries and other key stakeholders. We hope that Strategy 2030 will provide the signal for new and additional resources for NDC implementation in the Pacific region that tends to lose decades of development from climate-induced natural disasters, compounded further by the effects of COVID-19.

I want to congratulate the Regional Pacific NDC Hub on the publication of this long-term strategy. I am confident that the strategic direction provided by Strategy 2030 will add vigour in our efforts on climate action and the full implementation of the NDCs.

Tutii Chilton
Executive Director, Palau Energy Administration
Chair of the Steering Committee, Regional Pacific NDC Hub

Executive Summary

Pacific island countries contribute the least towards the global greenhouse gas emissions but are at the frontlines of climate change.

Climate change constitutes a major threat to the Pacific way of life despite the region's countries contributing negligibly towards climate warming greenhouse gas emissions. It poses a substantial risk to the economic, social and environmental progress of the region and exacerbates threats to the realisation of fundamental human rights. With the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-induced events such as cyclones and droughts, Pacific economies run the risk of losing decades of development gains in a matter of hours to the perils of a rapidly changing climate. Slow onset events like sea level rise increase the risk of inundation and coastal flooding, exacerbate erosion and saltwater intrusion into rivers and underground aquifers, and cause infrastructural damage. The problem is acute in the region's atoll states.

Pacific leadership on climate change has also been immensely progressive – from Pacific island countries (PICs) pushing the 1.5°C temperature target at the Paris climate conference, to being the front runners in the ratification of the Paris Agreement – with a unified voice calling on the rest of the world to act on climate change with urgency. Fiji and the Republic of the Marshall Islands have also committed to low/net zero emissions by developing and communicating their long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in accordance with Article 4 Paragraph 19 of the Paris Agreement.

The creation of the Regional Pacific NDC Hub (the Hub) is also a hallmark of Pacific leadership. The Hub – managed 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) – is mandated by Pacific leaders to support PICs in the full implementation of their climate plans under the Paris Agreement. Since becoming operational in 2018, the Hub has advanced two phases of technical support for PICs, providing the policy clarity and the necessary institutional and systemic changes required at the national level for NDC implementation. The efforts of the Hub contribute to the NDC Partnership.

The Regional Pacific NDC Hub's Strategy 2030 articulates the Hub's vision for PICs of sustainability, low-carbon growth and development, and climate resilience. The strategy fleshes out the goals and objectives of the Hub and interventions grounded in the principles of urgency of climate action, alignment of development agenda, gender equality, people and well-being, green recovery and build back better, ownership and build in-country capacity, and collaboration and partnership.

Goals and Objectives

The central goal of the Hub is to realise the vision of a sustainable, low-carbon and climate resilient Pacific. By supporting processes for the full implementation of the NDCs committed to by PICs under the Paris Agreement considering their national circumstances, including mobilising support through its internal and external partners and its broader network, the Hub aims to advance the following specific objectives:

>> Improve NDC planning, policy, strategy and legislation in PICs.

>> Strengthen enabling environment for NDC implementation.

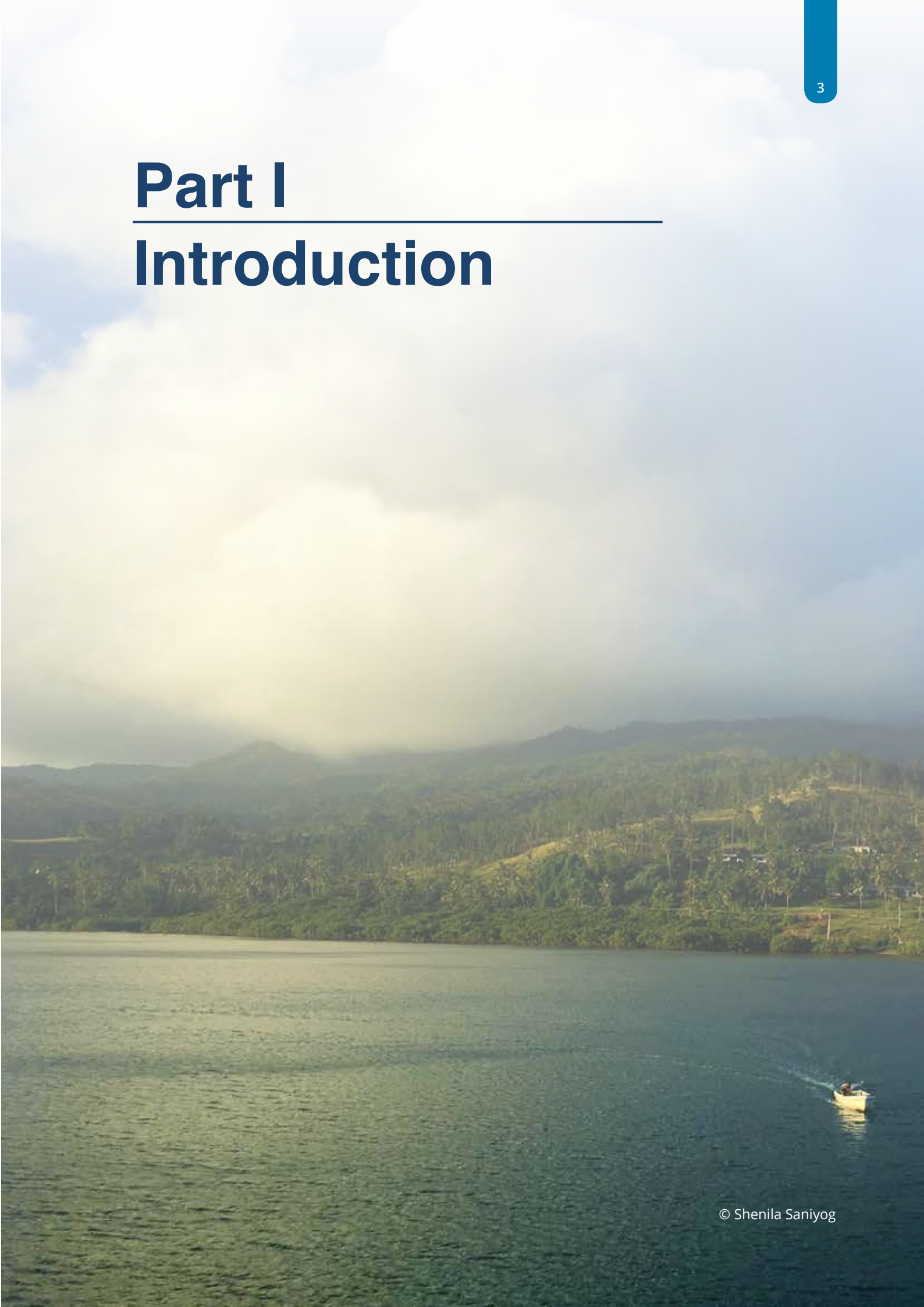
>> Accelerate NDC action and project/program implementation in PICs.

>> Enhance NDC measurement, reporting and verification, and transparency of climate action.

Implementation

Strategy 2030, developed through thorough consultations with PICs, calls for and will facilitate both soft (policy level) and hard (on the ground implementation of climate projects/programs) actions and interventions. The strategy will be implemented through logically framed and costed two to three-year work programmes. Deepened collaboration and partnership with relevant stakeholders will be key for the implementation of Strategy 2030.

Part I
Introduction



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1.0 Context

1.1 Overview of Climate Change in the Pacific

Climate change poses a profound threat to the hard-earned development gains of PICs. Climate-induced disasters debilitate Pacific economies, cause loss of lives and livelihoods, and can lead the region's small economies to lose decades of development to the perils of a rapidly changing climate in a matter of hours. Slow onset events like sea level rise increase the risk of inundation and coastal flooding, exacerbate erosion and saltwater intrusion into rivers and underground aquifers, and cause infrastructural damage. The problem is acute in the region's atoll states. As a result of sea level rise, communities in Fiji and the Solomon Islands have already had to be relocated. Despite the region contributing 0.14 per cent[1] of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions, it is amongst the most vulnerable to its effects.

Accentuating the grave distress from the impacts of climate change, the leaders of the Pacific Islands Development Forum adopted the Suva Declaration on Climate Change[2], calling for increased support for adaptation measures and echoing strong support for limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. This was a key input by Pacific leaders at the 2015 Paris climate conference (COP21), who pressed that limiting global warming to 2°C was no longer safe for the survival of the small states of the Pacific.

Understanding the vulnerabilities of Pacific island countries

Pacific island countries are on the frontlines of climate change given their comparative smallness, remote location, and archipelagic character. Specifically, they are affected by:

(a) ***increased climate variability***, climate change will exacerbate spatio-temporal climate variability associated with ENSO cycle.

(b) ***changes in climate extremes***, there will be increased incidence of extreme events including incidence of intense tropical cyclones, floods and droughts.

(c) ***temperature rise*** impacts the ecosystem services and livelihood of Pacific people.

(d) ***sea-level rise***, will inundate coasts, erode shorelines, and impact shallow coastal groundwater lens.

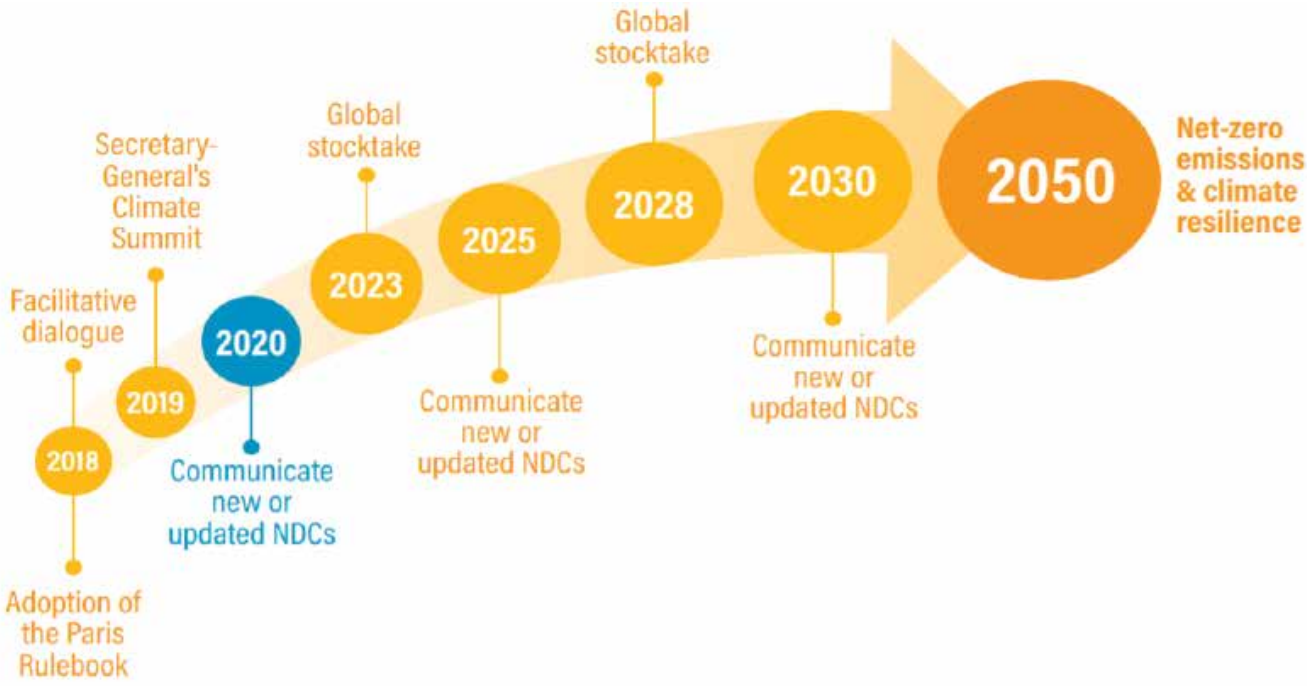
Paris Agreement and NDCs

Adopted at UNFCCC COP21 in December 2015, the Paris Agreement is the first-ever universal and legally binding global climate change agreement that came to fruition after years of negotiation, where governments agreed to limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C while pursuing efforts to keep temperature rise to 1.5°C (Article 2.1a of the Paris Agreement). At the heart of the Paris Agreement are the NDCs that describe each country's self-determined plans for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, typically in five- or ten-year periods (i.e., currently until 2025 or 2030). Most countries also include adaptation actions in their NDCs or identify needs for adapting to a rapidly warming planet. A key feature of the Paris Agreement is that countries will ratchet up the ambition of their NDCs every five years starting from 2020. **Figure 1** describes the ambition mechanism of the Paris Agreement.

1 Secretariat of the Pacific Region Environment Programme 2020. State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report. Available at: https://pacific-data.sprep.org/dataset/advanced-copy-state-environment-and-conservation-pacific-islands-2020-regional-report

2 Pacific Islands Development Forum 2015. Suva Declaration on Climate Change. Available at: http://sdg.iisd.org/news/pacific-islands-development-forum-adopts-suva-declaration-on-climate-change/

Figure 1: Key Steps to Enhance Ambition[3]



Pacific leadership in ratifying the Paris Agreement

Fiji, Nauru, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa and Tuvalu were six of the 14 countries that first ratified the Paris Agreement by depositing their instruments of ratification to the United Nations on 22 April 2016, thereby demonstrating Pacific leadership and a unified call on the urgency of global climate action. In ratifying the Paris Agreement, which came into force earlier than expected, the Pacific region put forward bold initial commitments for climate action. The intended NDCs put forward by the PICs identified their GHG reduction plans primarily through transition to renewable energy, and in some instances to almost 100 per cent renewable energy-based electricity production by 2030, including a few decarbonisation efforts in the transport sector. In addition, some included energy efficiency measures. These commitments underscored conditional and unconditional elements of the NDCs, the latter signalling the external support (finance, technology etc.) these countries would require in making the transition towards decarbonisation and climate resilience. The bold decarbonisation commitments of PICs uphold the common but differentiated responsibilities principle of the Paris Agreement. In the first NDC submissions, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) analysis showed that all 14 Pacific SIDS mentioned renewables, whilst 13 of the Pacific SIDS had quantified renewable energy targets in their NDCs that equated to 1.979 GW. A total of USD 5.2 billion will be needed by 2030 to implement these NDC renewable energy targets, of which 93 per cent will be conditional on external investment.[4]

Pacific island countries also identified adaptation actions and priority areas to build adaptive capacity and transition towards climate resilience. Some of the areas include coastal protection, water security, agriculture and food security, forestry, fisheries and marine conservation, waste, tourism, land use and land management, human settlements, including health, disaster risk reduction, urban development and early warning systems. These, especially the resource-based sectors and priorities, represent the key economic base of Pacific countries, hence there is a human, environmental and economic imperative for the Pacific nations to make these key economic systems resilient to climate change.

3 Fransen, T., Northrop, E., Mogelgaard, K. and Levin, K. 2017. Enhancing NDCs by 2020: Achieving the Goals of the Paris Agreement. Working Paper. Washington, DC. World Resources Institute. Available at: http://www.wri.org/publication/NDC-enhancement-by-2020

4 https://www.irena.org/irenaforcip/Pacific-Islands

Table 1 Selected Indicators for Pacific island countries

Pacific Sub-region	Country	Land Area (sq. km)*	Sea Area/ EEZ (sq. km)*	Island Type*	Popula-tion*	GDP in 2019 (US$ bil-lions)**	GDP per Capita in 2019 (current US$)***	Carbon dioxide Emissions (kilotonnes in 2016)****	Carbon dioxide Emissions (metric tonnes per Capita in 2016)***	Total Green-house Gas Emissions (kilotonnes of CO2e); 2012 or most recent year***	% of electricity generat-ed using renewables; 2018 or most recent year****
Melanesia	Fiji	18,272	1,290,000	High island with a few minor atolls	894,961	5.5	6,175.9	2,046.2	2.3	2,258.0	60%
	Papua New Guinea	462,840	3,120,000	High island with a few small atolls	8,934,475	25.0	2,829.2	5,078.8	0.9	11087 (2016)	62%
	Solomon Islands	28,370	1,340,000	High island with a few atolls	712,071	1.4	2,373.6	183.4	0.3	4,591.0	10%
	Vanuatu	12,190	680,000	High island with a few small atolls	294,688	0.9	3,115.4	113.7	0.5	446.0	6%
Micronesia	Federated States of Micronesia	701	2,980,000	High islands & atolls	105,503	0.4	3568.3 (2018)	124.7	1.3	58 (1996)	5%
	Kiribati	811	3,550,000	Predominantly atolls	118,744	0.2	1,655.1	66.0	0.6	53 (2009)	17%
	Nauru	21	320,000	Raised coral island	11,690	0.1	9,397.0	40.3	3.7	19 (2000)	2%
	Palau	444	629,000	High islands & atolls	17,930	0.3	14,902.0	216.4	12.6	248(2005)	2%
	Republic of the Marshall Islands	181	2,131,000	Atolls	54,590	0.2	3788.2 (2018)	135.7	2.5	5 (1989)	2%
Polynesia	Cook Islands	237	1,830,000	High islands & atolls	17,434	0.4	24,913.0	60.0	4.0	73(2014)	26%
	Niue	259	390,000	Raised coral Atoll	1,562	0	18,757	5	1	11.45 (2009)	0
	Samoa	2,935	120,000	High islands	198,646	0.9	4,324.0	198.0	1.3	356.0	42%
	Tonga	650	700,000	High island with a few small atolls	99,780	0.5	4,903.2	106.3	1.3	155 (2011)	10%
	Tuvalu	26	900,000	Atolls	10,580	0.1	4,059.0	11.0	1.0	5.0	23%

Notes

* https://sdd.spc.int/

** http://wdi.worldbank.org/table/4.2

*** https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/

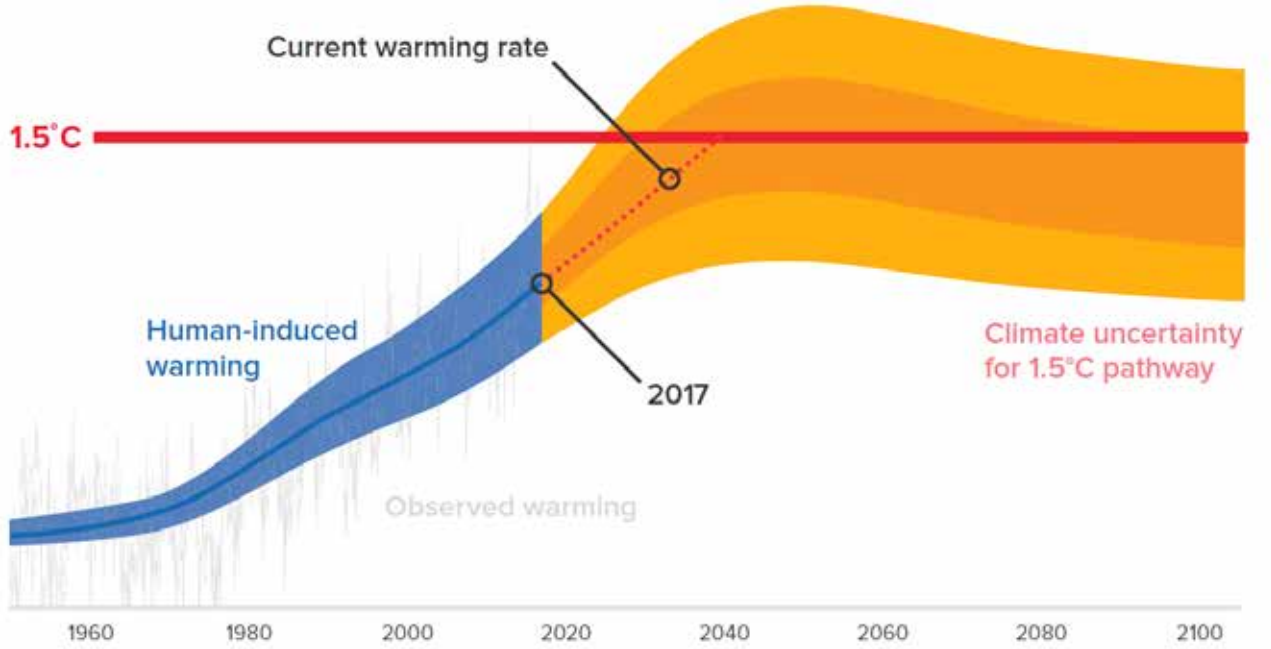
**** SPREP (2020) State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report. Straza TRA (author). Wheatley A, Anderson P, Callebaut J, Reupena L (eds). Apia, Samoa: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. Available at: https://library.sprep.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/SOE-conservation-pacific-regional-report.pdf

Respecting climate science

The Special Report on 1.5°C by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) expresses the urgency of climate action.[5] The report warns that limiting global warming to 1.5°C will require global greenhouse gas emissions to peak by 2020, reduce by 45% below 2010 levels by 2030 and be reduced to net zero by around 2070, with carbon emissions to reach net zero around mid-century and the upholding of negative emissions thereafter. This would entail unprecedented transformations of energy, land, urban and industrial systems, including measures to remove carbon from the atmosphere, and bolstering adaptation efforts to reduce the negative consequences of climate change. **Figure 2** demonstrates that based on current trends, warming will reach 1.5°C above pre-industrial times between 2030 and 2052 (red dotted line). Staying below 1.5°C in 2100 (red/pink projection) will require cuts in GHG emissions of 45 per cent below 2010 levels by 2030 and to net zero by 2050.

In welcoming the IPCC's Special Report on 1.5°C, Pacific leaders called on the world to take dramatic steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in particular they called on countries to significantly raise the ambition of their NDCs.[6] Seen from a common but differentiated responsibility and different national circumstances standpoint, the PICs, as negligible contributors of global greenhouse gas emissions, have made ambitious initial NDC commitments, including through enhanced NDCs submitted in 2020. The PICs have further expressed their intentions to minimise emissions through the planned Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific 2021–2030.

Figure 2: Climate warming[7]



5 IPCC 2018. Global Warming of 1.5°C – an IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C. Available at: https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/

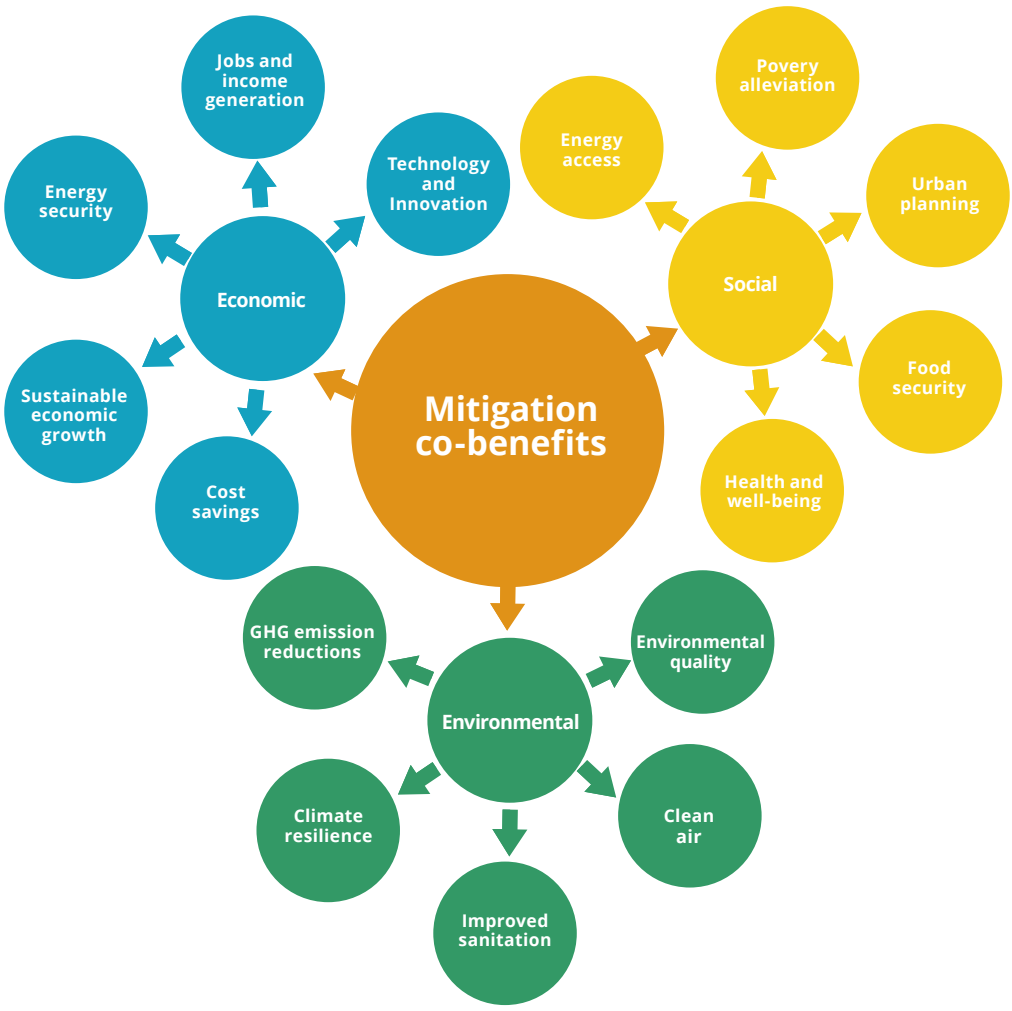
6 See the 2018 high-level statement by Pacific Small Island Developing States, available at: https://cop23.com.fj/pacific-small-island-developing-states-appeal-universal-support-ipcc-special-report/

Responding to climate changes presents an opportunity like no other

Addressing climate change through action on mitigation and adaptation presents a huge opportunity for PICs to transform their fundamental economic, social and environmental systems. If PICs, for example, fully achieve their renewable energy goals as articulated in their NDCs, they would be able to transform their electricity systems and thus reduce the import of diesel fuel for electricity generation and the pressure on foreign exchange. The transition to cleaner energy would also potentially result in green jobs and numerous other economic, social and environmental benefits. **Figure 3** illustrates the potential economic, social and environmental benefits of mitigation actions.

Building the adaptive capacity and resilience of people, institutions and infrastructure can also drive positive change. The Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) states that accelerating adaptation in key systems – food, natural environment, water, cities, infrastructure and disaster risk management – yields a triple dividend: avoided losses + economic benefits + social and environmental benefits.[8] The GCA further states that for every US dollar invested in climate adaptation, investors could see between USD 2 and USD 10 of net economic benefit. Investing USD 1.8 trillion globally by 2030 in five key systems could generate USD 7.1 trillion in total net benefits.[9]

Figure 3: Mitigation Actions with Economic, Social and Environmental Co-Benefits[10]



8 Global Commission on Adaptation 2019. Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience. Available at: https://gca.org/reports/adapt-now-a-global-call-for-leadership-on-climate-resilience/

9 Ibid.

10 UNFCCC 2015. Climate Action Now: Summary for Policymakers. Available at: https://unfccc.int/resource/climateaction2020/media/1173/21789-spm-unfccc-lowres.pdf

The long-term vision: Strategy 2030

The Pacific NDC Hub's Strategy 2030 lays out the Hub's vision for PICs of sustainability, low-carbon growth and development, and climate resilience.[11] Strategy 2030 is the outcome of a consultative process that builds on: (i) work undertaken by the NDC Hub in the first two phases since becoming operational in 2018; (ii) needs expressed by PICs through the rapid survey deployed in October–November 2020; (iii) inputs from the Steering Committee and the internal partners of the NDC Hub; and (iv) lessons drawn from the multi-partner setup of the NDC Hub. The strategy fleshes out the goals and objectives of the Hub and the overall interventions grounded in the principles of urgency of climate action, alignment of development agenda, gender equality, people and well-being, green recovery and build back better, ownership and build in-country capacity, and collaboration and partnership.

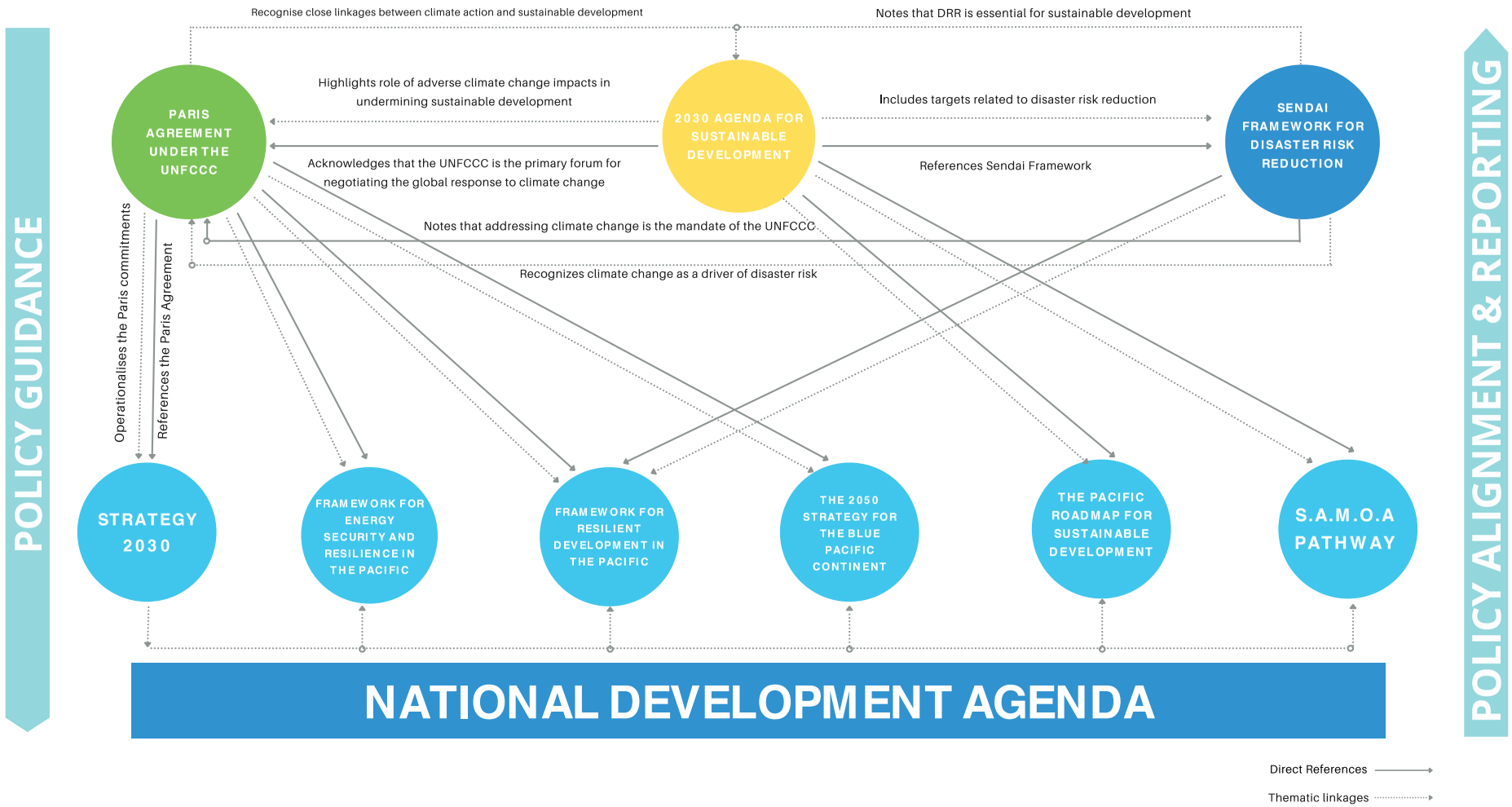
The vision of a sustainable, low-carbon and climate resilient Pacific through NDC implementation is an embodiment of the broader development agenda for the PICs. The NDC Hub's 2030 Strategy reflects the urgency expressed in the Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Change Action Now[12] and complements the forthcoming 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent[13], which represents the ongoing commitment of the region to work together as one to develop long-term approaches to critical challenges such as climate change, sustainable development and security. Furthermore, it represents the region's effort to implement and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including other relevant international and regional frameworks such as the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific, Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development and the planned Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific 2021–2030. **Figure 4** presents the policy framing of the Regional Pacific NDC Hub.

11 The Strategy 2030 also aligns (for impact) with regional commitments such as the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science.

12 See details of the Kainaki II Declaration at: https://www.forumsec.org/2020/11/11/kainaki/

13 See details of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific at: https://www.forumsec.org/pacific-regionalism/

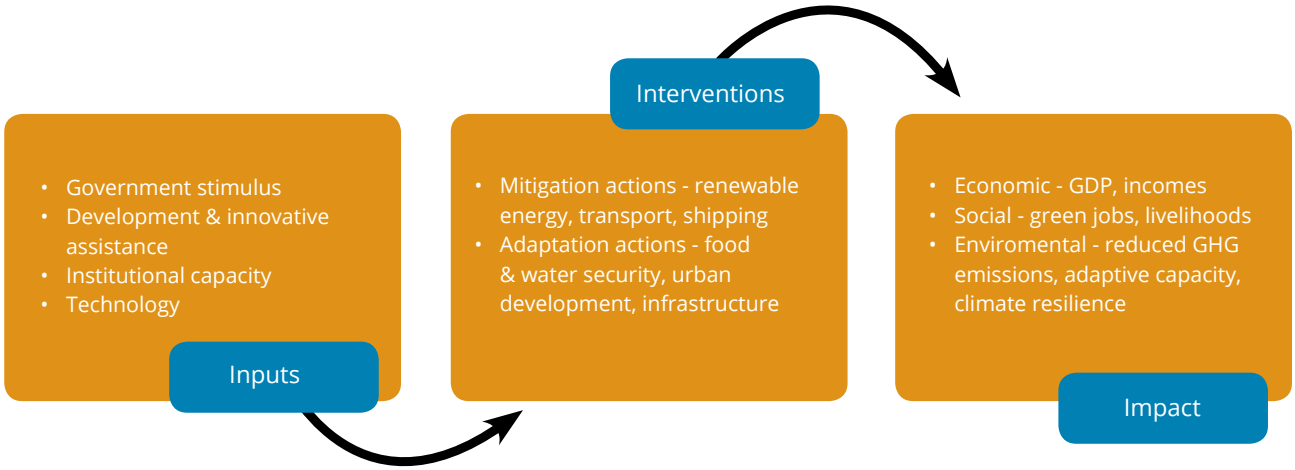
Figure 4: Policy Framing of the Regional Pacific NDC Hub



Climate action and the COVID-19 pandemic

In promoting climate action, the strategy embeds at its core the need for the region to build back better from the unprecedented effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, recognising that climate action is inseparable from sustainable development. The pandemic unleashed a multi-pronged global health and humanitarian emergency, and an economic crisis of historic magnitude. While the Pacific has generally been COVID-19 contained[14], the pandemic-induced shutdowns and slowdown in the regional economy, especially through the travel and tourism industry pathways, has had massive impact on jobs, government finance and overall economic performance.[15] While there is a need for regional economies to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the need is equally greater for the region to maintain momentum on climate action given the particular vulnerabilities of PICs. Thus, the convergence of the two crises offers an opportunity to build back better and ensure a green recovery and just transition that will simultaneously create jobs, incomes, address climate change and build resilience and environmental sustainability.

Figure 5: A simplified typology for green recovery in the Pacific



Who is the Strategy 2030 for?

Strategy 2030 reflects the vision and mandate of the Pacific leaders. It reflects the priorities of PICs with respect to the Paris Agreement and the vision for sustainability, low-carbon development and climate resilience. The NDC Hub is a unique multi-partner platform that promotes climate action in the region. As such, Strategy 2030 will provide guidance to PICs, Hub partners, the Hub Implementation Unit and to the donors of the Hub:

Pacific island countries/governments: Strategy 2030 provides guidance to PICs, specifically in setting the national climate change agenda in alignment with the Paris processes and mapping out the implementation needs.

Hub partners: For Hub partners, the strategy shapes their programmatic approach and assistance.

Hub Implementation Unit: Strategy 2030 is the basis of the work/services delivered by the Hub Implementation Unit. The strategy is useful for the development of logically framed and costed two to three-year work programmes by the Hub Implementation Unit.

Donors: For donors and financial partners, Strategy 2030 gives guidance on priorities and interventions in the regional climate action space. The strategy will be useful for determining financial assistance to the Hub, including potential development assistance to PICs by donors.

14 With the exception of Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

15 ADB 2020. Pacific Economic Monitor. Available at: https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/662406/pem-december-2020.pdf

1.2 Regional Pacific NDC Hub: The journey thus far

The NDC Hub is a regional multi-partner platform mandated by Pacific leaders and owned by the Pacific island countries to support the full implementation of nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement. Envisioned at the inaugural Climate Action Pacific Partnership conference in 2017 and launched at the 23rd Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP23) later in year, the Regional Pacific NDC Hub became operational in 2018 with initial funding support from the governments of Germany, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand. The Hub supports 14 Pacific island countries: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.[16]

The Pacific NDC Hub is managed 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 Hub also works with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).[17] Together, these entities provide guidance and institutional support for the implementation of the work streams of the Hub. The NDC Hub collaborates closely and contributes to the NDC Partnership.

Since becoming operational in 2018, the Hub has advanced two phases of technical work in 14 Pacific island countries. The technical support provided is in various stages of progress. In terms of themes, the work of the Hub thus far can be broadly categorised into the following: (i) NDC planning, policy and legislation; (ii) NDC enabling environment; (iii) NDC project/program implementation; and (iv) NDC measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) and transparency of action. **Table 2** summarises the support provided to PICs by the Pacific NDC Hub.

16 The NDC Hub also supports climate change initiatives of Tokelau, noting that it is a territory of New Zealand and therefore has not submitted a national climate pledge or NDC to the UNFCCC.

17 Currently, external partners do not receive funding from the Pacific NDC Hub to support PICs. The network of external partners is expected to grow as the Hub expands its services consistent with Strategy 2030.

Table 2 Summary of NDC Hub's Support to Pacific island countries

NDC planning, policy and legislation	NDC enabling environment	NDC project/program implementation	NDC data infrastructure and measurement, reporting & verification systems
NDC review and enhancement: completed in Tonga and currently underway in Samoa, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea. For Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea support provided by the Pacific NDC Hub will help incorporate quantifiable adaptation targets in the enhanced NDCs. **Development of NDC implementation roadmaps, investment plans, project pipelines and investment strategies:** completed in Fiji and Kiribati. This support will also be provided in Samoa, Tuvalu, Tonga, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Vanuatu to help these countries unpack their NDC commitments into tangible project ideas and bankable projects. **Development of sector adaptation plans:** this support to Nauru will include the development of a climate smart agriculture plan and will also include review of their water & sanitation plan. **Development and review of climate change and disaster risk reduction plans:** support provided to Vanuatu. **Development of codes and standards for buildings:** support provided to Nauru to develop national building codes and standards. **Development and implementation of integrated vulnerability assessment framework:** support provided to Vanuatu. **Development of long-term low emission development strategies:** support provided to Solomon Islands and Palau to help establish their decarbonisation pathway to 2050. **Integration of NDC into legislation and standards:** support provided to Palau to integrate NDC commitments into energy efficiency regulation.	**Assessment of NDC implementation challenges:** support provided to Vanuatu to identify NDC implementation challenges as well establish gender dimensions of NDC and how they can be addressed through NDC project implementation. **Climate change curriculum development:** support provided to Nauru and includes development of curriculum, training materials as well as teacher training. **Assessment of national capacity for renewable energy technology:** support provided to the Federated States of the Micronesia and the Republic of Marshall Islands. **Climate finance support:** support provided to Samoa to enable Samoa access climate finance for NDC implementation. **Climate change communications and advocacy and development of advocacy and awareness materials:** support provided to Niue and Tonga.	**Implementation of climate change mitigation projects:** support provided to Vanuatu for the installation of biogas in schools. **Infrastructure retrofit:** support provided to Nauru to retrofit the only public hospital in the country to make it climate resilient.	**Assessment of baseline NDC data:** support provided to Palau. **Development of national greenhouse gas inventory:** support provided to Tonga. **Development of monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) systems:** completed in Solomon Islands and is underway in Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of the Marshall Islands. The support will improve compliance with the reporting format of the biennial transparency report (BTR) that stipulates the need for GHG inventories, reporting progress in NDC implementation and achievement, climate change impacts and adaptation as well information on financial, technology transfer and capacity building support needed and received under Articles 9, 10 and 11 of the Paris Agreement.

Key lessons learned

A number of key lessons can be drawn from the initial phases of work, engagement with PICs, and from the experiences of the Hub's internal partners. These considerations are important for shaping the services of the NDC Hub going forward.

Political will for climate action
There is strong political will for climate action in the region as observed from the demand for services from facilities like the NDC Hub. PICs are eager to fully implement their NDCs through policy clarity, institutional capacity building, and improvements in governance mechanisms that serve as the basis for crowding in new and additional financial resources for climate action.

Need for new and additional resources for climate action
With PICs deepening their understanding of NDCs through formulation of implementation roadmaps and investment plans etc., there is a need for new and additional funding and technical resources to translate policy into action. This is key to maintaining the momentum on climate action and possibly help national economies build back better from the social and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Greater alignment with the national development agenda
The alignment of the climate change agenda with national development and sectoral plans fosters greater ownership of the plans and action by stakeholders. Such an approach will maximise benefits for PICs in terms of synergies and resource mobilisation.

Coordination with key agencies and relevant national institutions
A regional platform such as the NDC Hub is key for coordinating efforts across regional and international development agencies operating in the region, especially on the climate agenda. To avoid duplication of efforts and to better utilise the expertise of development agencies, a coordination platform is critical.

As climate change impacts and natural hazards present a great threat to PICs development, mitigating, adapting and being resilient to climate change is a priority for many PICs. These priorities represent multisectoral efforts and therefore it is critical to engage relevant national agencies in the NDC conversation, and possibly, in the processes of the NDC Hub. Such an approach ensures alignment of the development agenda at the national level for a nationally appropriate response to climate change.

1.3 Multi-Partner Platform for Climate Action: The value-add

The Pacific NDC Hub is a multi-partner platform comprised of GIZ, SPC, GGGI and SPREP. It also works with a network of external partners, currently the UNDP and IRENA, in delivering NDC related support to the PICs. SPC, SPREP, GIZ and the UNDP have been providing development support to PICs for several decades and therefore have a good understanding of the region, including the development needs of the countries.

Pacific NDC Hub's Internal Partners

SPC: As the region's principal scientific and technical organisation, SPC has been supporting Pacific countries since 1947 and covers more than 20 sectors. SPC is renowned for knowledge and innovation in such areas as fisheries science, public health surveillance, geoscience and conservation of plant genetic resources for food security, and focuses on a suite of cross-cutting issues like climate change, disaster risk reduction, statistics and human rights.

SPREP: SPREP was formally established in 1993 and is the region's key inter-governmental organisation for environment and sustainable development. The organisation prioritises work on climate change resilience, environmental governance, island and ocean ecosystems, and waste management and pollution control.

GIZ: GIZ has been working in the Pacific region since 1977 and supports PICs on climate change responses, including on adaptation to climate change, sustainable energy, forest conservation, marine and coastal biodiversity management, and supporting PICs on the transition to low-carbon sea transport.

GGGI: As a treaty-based international, inter-governmental organisation, GGGI supports Pacific countries to sustainably achieve national development goals and Paris Agreement commitments by developing strategic frameworks and mobilizing finance to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create green jobs, increase access to sustainable services and enhance resilience to climate change. The GGGI became operational in the Pacific region in 2015.

Contribution to the NDC Partnership

By providing NDC-related services in 14 PICs, the NDC Hub contributes to the overall objectives of the NDC Partnership, a global coalition of countries and institutions collaborating to drive transformational climate action and sustainable development.

Pacific NDC Hub's External Partners

UNDP: In the Pacific, UNDP provides regional and country support to 14 PICs and one territory (Tokelau) in three focus areas: effective governance, inclusive growth and resilience, and sustainable development.

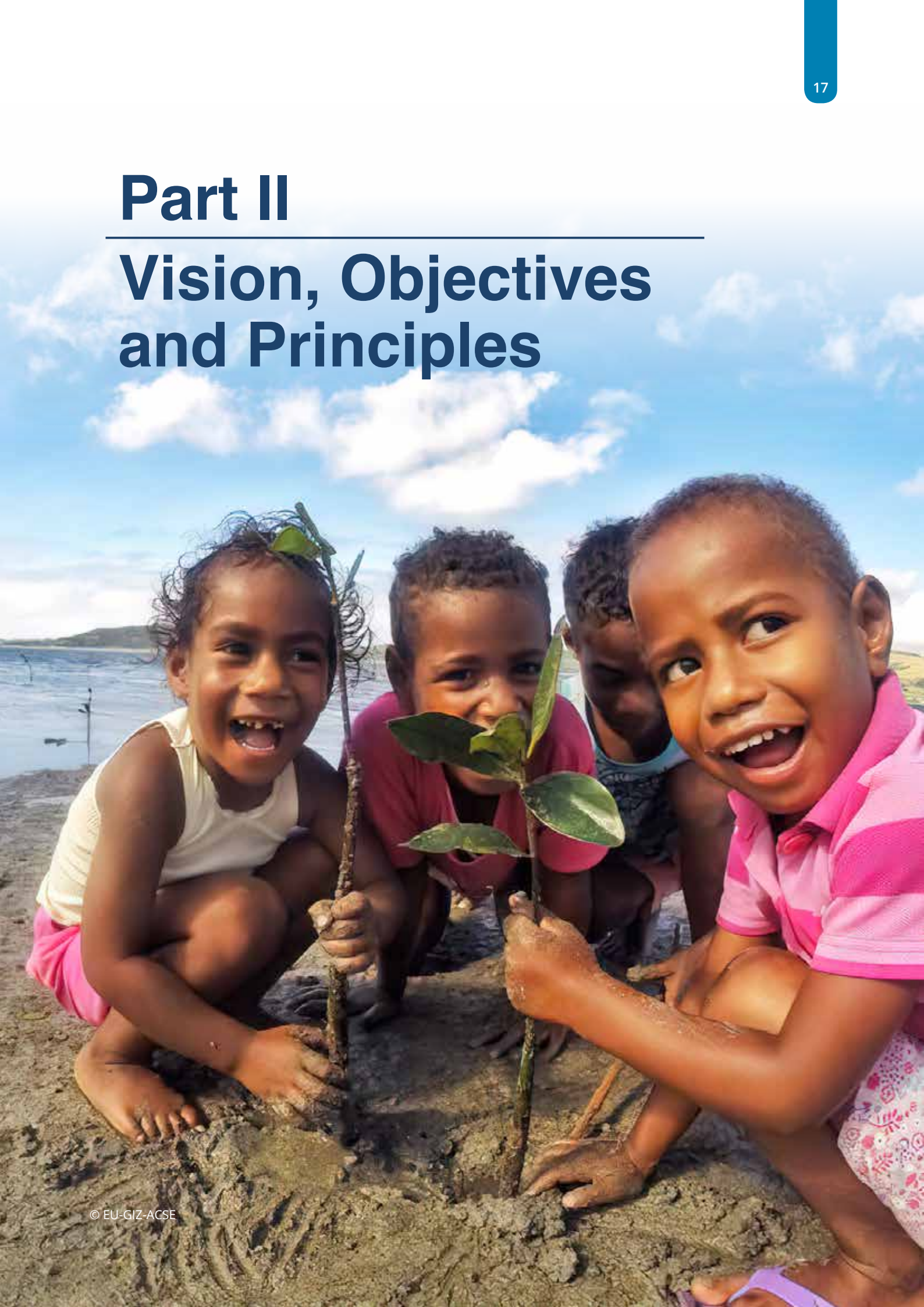
IRENA: By providing support on all elements of energy transition from policy to market frameworks, technology options, access to finance, project facilitation, knowledge sharing, data and statistics, and capacity building through the SIDS Lighthouse Initiatives (LHI), IRENA is helping Pacific SIDS energy transformation to a sustainable, low-carbon and resilient energy future grounded in the vision of national governments.

Together, these organisations bring to the table a unique combination of technical expertise, knowledge, know-how and physical presence to support NDC implementation in the Pacific region. They offer diversity, which is important for driving climate action through a multi-disciplinary approach. SPC, SPREP, GIZ, UNDP and IRENA are also accredited by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which offers opportunities for national governments to access climate finance to help the transition towards sustainability, low-carbon growth and development, and enhanced adaptive capacity and climate resilience. Though not accredited by GCF, GGGI is a readiness delivery partner of GCF and present an opportunity that could be explored by PICs to deepen their engagements with GCF. UNDP and SPREP are also accredited by the Adaptation Fund as multilateral and regional implementing entities, respectively.

Harnessing such organizational strengths, including sector expertise, is important for effective national-level responses to climate change. Climate change affects Pacific people and communities in myriad ways and the approach undertaken by the Hub towards regional climate change response could well be the test for and result of Pacific regionalism.

Part II

Vision, Objectives and Principles



2.0 Our Mandate

"The Pacific Hub is a tool that will use the valuable help of willing partners to energise our NDCs and produce more ambitious, concrete, coordinated actions. Sharing experiences, mobilising resources and raising political support for ambitious action: That's what we will need if we are to go further, to 1.5 degrees. That's how we will get the job done."

Extract from the Fijian Prime Minister's launch address, 14 November 2017, Bonn, Germany

The Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) leaders first envisioned the need for a dedicated regional facility to support the implementation of the nationally determined contributions of the Pacific island countries at the inaugural Climate Action Pacific Partnership Conference held in Fiji in July 2017. The PSIDS leaders expressed the urgency of climate action in pursuit of the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement and the need for PICs to bolster their adaptive capacity and build resilience.[18]

At the 23rd Conference of Parties (COP23) of the UNFCCC, the Fijian Prime Minister and COP23 President Josaia V. Bainimarama formally launched the Regional Pacific NDC Hub – a dedicated regional facility, created and owned by the PICs – to provide catalytic support for NDC implementation in PICs and support processes of ambition ratcheting and transparency of climate action.[19] It was envisioned that the new regional facility would make a contribution to the global NDC Partnership.

18 PSIDS Leaders Statement at the 2017 Climate Action Pacific Partnership meeting. Available at: https://cop23.com.fj/pacific-small-island-developing-states-statement/

19 Fijian Prime Minister's address at the launch of the Pacific NDC Hub in Bonn, Germany in 2017. Available at: https://cop23.com.fj/champions-for-climate-action-the-ndc-partnership/

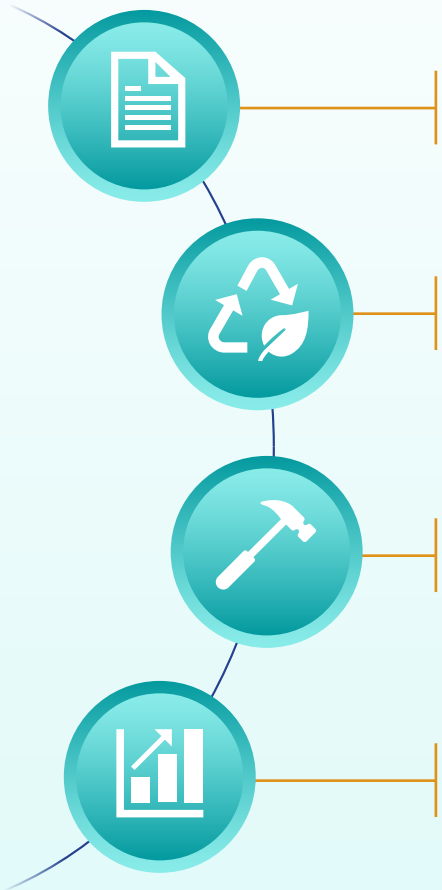
3.0 Our Vision, Goals and Objectives

3.1 Our Vision

A sustainable, low-carbon and climate resilient Pacific.

3.2 Our Goals and Objectives

The central goal of the Hub is to realise the vision of a sustainable, low-carbon and climate resilient Pacific. By supporting processes for the full implementation of the NDCs that PICs have committed to under the Paris Agreement considering their national circumstances, including mobilising support through its internal and external partners and its broader network, the Hub aims to advance the following specific objectives:



Improve NDC planning, policy, strategy and legislation in PICs.

Strengthen enabling environment for NDC implementation.

Accelerate NDC action and project/program implementation in PICs.

Enhance NDC measurement, reporting and verification and transparency of climate action.

4.0 Our Guiding Principles

Urgency of Climate Action

The latest scientific evidence by the IPCC[20] expresses the urgency of climate action in that limiting warming to 1.5°C requires dramatic emission reductions by 2030 and the need for climate vulnerable countries to ramp up adaptation efforts in order to reduce the negative impacts on key economic systems and development sectors. For the PICs, the need to urgently undertake concrete climate actions has never been greater.

Alignment of Development Agenda

This principle recognises the need for alignment of regional climate action with the Paris Agreement and other development frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant international and regional development frameworks, with the mandate of the Hub. It is also critical that climate change is mainstreamed in national and sectoral policy in PICs. The principle also recognises the need for an integrated and multidisciplinary approach to climate change response and one that embeds long-term climate change considerations into the national planning and development machineries of Pacific governments.

Gender Equality, People and Wellbeing

Women and men tend to experience the impacts of climate change differently, therefore climate action in the PICs ought to first and foremost address gender disparities. The PICs focus on gender dimensions in climate change response, and in part, this would help the region achieve SDG 5 on gender equality. This principle also recognises that Pacific people and their prosperity is both the rationale for and objective of regional climate change response. As such, the region's response to climate change should leave no one behind, address poverty, raise regional prosperity and promote social cohesion in Pacific island communities.

Green Recovery and Build Back Better

The convergence of the climate crisis[21] with the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected Pacific people and economies in unprecedented ways, means there is a need for transformative climate action that raises regional prosperity, creates new and additional income streams, green jobs and puts Pacific economies on a sustainable development pathway. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement thus need to become the guiding basis for a green and climate resilient recovery.

Ownership and Build In-Country Capacity

The NDC Hub is owned and driven by the PICs. It is a facility mandated by Pacific leaders to support PICs transition towards a sustainable, low-carbon and climate resilient future. This principle recognises the added value of the NDC Hub as a unique multi-partner platform and further recognises the need for in-country capacity building to sustain long-term climate action. PICs have the opportunity to learn from each other and develop institutional capacity that enhances efficiency and reduces reliance on international expertise for transformative climate change response.

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20 IPCC 2018. Global Warming of 1.5°C - an IPCC special report on the impacts of global. Available at: https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/

21 The climate crisis faced by PICs was first recognised in the 2019 Nadi Bay Declaration on the Climate Change Crisis in the Pacific. The declaration is available at: https://cop23.com.fj/nadi-bay-declaration-on-the-climate-change-crisis-in-the-pacific/

Collaboration and Partnership

Deepened collaboration and partnerships are critical for promoting urgent, effective and equitable responses to climate change and to provide a strengthened platform for evidence-based learning, advocacy, and exchange of knowledge and experiences. In a capacity-constrained environment, dialogue with stakeholders and partners can result in harmonised approaches and resource efficiency that is critical for climate action. This principle also recognises the need for regional coordination, especially amongst the development agencies operating in the Pacific region.

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Part III

Strategic Outcomes and Implementation

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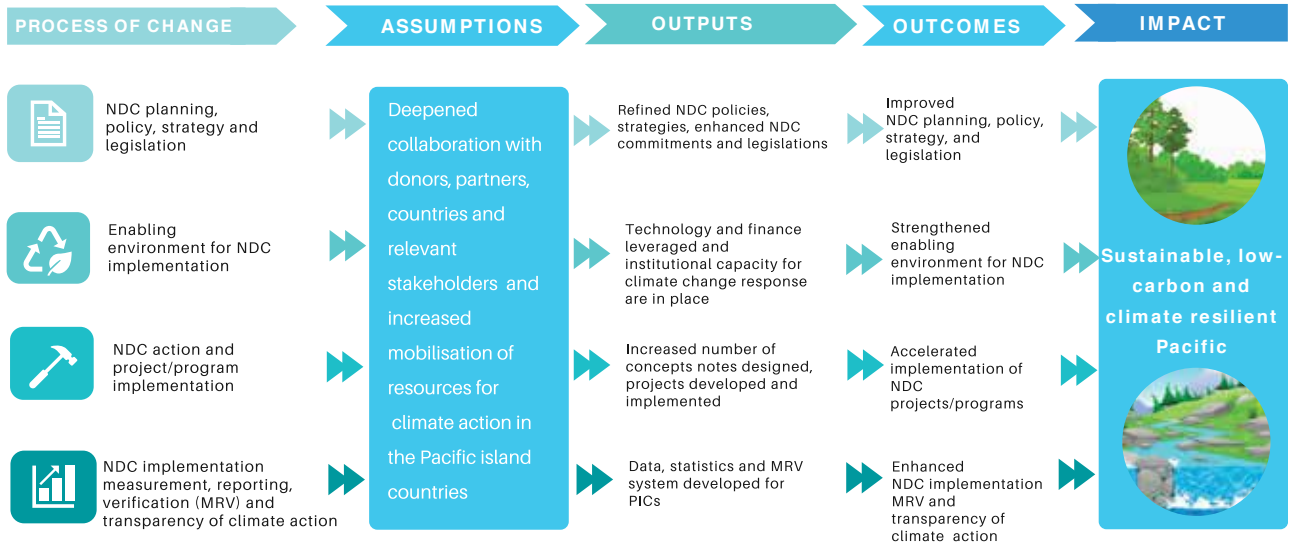
5.0 Theory of Change for the Regional Pacific NDC Hub

The goal of Strategy 2030 is to strengthen the Hub's developmental impact in the Pacific region and ensure that in the longer term PICs transition towards a sustainable, low-carbon and climate resilient society through the full implementation of their NDC commitments, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances. A summary of the theory of change underlying Strategy 2030, and thus the Pacific NDC Hub, is presented in **Figure 6** below.

Figure 6: Theory of Change



6.0 Strategic Outcomes

6.1 Strategic Outcome 1: Improved NDC planning, policy, strategy and legislation

The NDC Hub's interventions to support NDC planning, policy, strategy and legislation will support PICs to fully implement their climate change commitments, in particular in achieving the following overarching NDC goals:

- Reducing GHG emissions from mitigation actions communicated in NDCs.
- Increasing their adaptive capacity and resilience.
- Improving institutional capacity for effective climate change response.
- Designing NDCs based on national circumstances and aligned with national development strategies, policies and goals.
- Improving lives and livelihoods through climate action, achieving SDG 13, and ensuring Pacific economies and societies build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Support the enhancement of PIC NDCs (2020–2021, 2025 and 2030).

6.1.1 Barriers

A number of barriers exist in NDC-related planning and policy development in the Pacific. Through Strategy 2030, the Hub will assist with addressing the following:

- **Inadequate institutional capacity.** The region is generally characterised as having low institutional capacity for planning and policy development that is often stretched across functional areas in government departments. The gap is often filled by technical assistance provided by development partners, i.e., capacity supplementation, and substitution. There is a need to develop national-level institutional capacity to understand the complexities of climate change, the multi-disciplinary approach required to planning climate change responses, and in particular the need to understand the NDC landscape, resources and capacities required for NDC implementation and monitoring progress. This can be assisted by technical capacity supplementation, substitution and mentoring from regional partners, as envisaged under the Pacific NDC Hub. There is also a need to address data deficiencies in planning for climate change mitigation and adaptation projects.
- **Fragmented and isolated treatment of climate change.** Economic development, climate action, disaster risk reduction and environmental protection are often treated as separate issues in the region. This is largely due to the institutional setup in PICs and the associated national and sectoral planning and financing landscape. In some instances, national policies also suffer from the lack of cross pollination and a synergistic approach, for example disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are dealt with separately even though there are overlays between the two.
- **Inadequate NDC planning and policy.** Without much clear guidance at the time of preparation and submission of initial NDCs to meet the Paris Agreement deadline, many PICs made ambitious mitigation commitments (largely in the energy sector) through their NDCs with conditional and unconditional elements. Some PICs also identified their adaptation priorities in their initial NDCs, ranging from resource-based sectors to coastal resilience and human health. These NDC commitments need to be defined and unpacked into actionable strategies over the implementation period and are best done through action plans or NDC implementation roadmaps. For adaptation and resilience actions, countries have the option to define these further in national adaptation planning documents. There is also a need to develop investment plans with granular details of strategic investments (small and large) in identified sectors or those that have the highest impact (mitigation and resilience) potential. In addition, PICs would benefit from well-defined and planned projects that represent the priorities of PICs for investment by public, private and multilateral donors, in order

to advance NDC implementation. These projects need to be grounded in national development priorities and have the potential to raise national prosperity and help PICs build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic. There is also a need for PICs to develop the strategic foresight for long-term decarbonisation and for the formulation of their 2050 Plans as per Article 4 Paragraph 19 of the Paris Agreement. A long-term vision for GHG reduction is also critical for successive NDC planning and ambition raising.

- **Legislative and regulative barriers.** Implementing climate change projects, in particular NDC-related commitments on renewable energy and energy efficiency, require an enabling legislative and regulatory environment that is largely lacking in PICs. Where the necessary legislations and regulations exist, there are issues of enforcement and compliance rendering the policy initiative on renewable energy and energy efficiency ineffective. These issues need to be addressed in the PICs to create a legal basis for climate action, transformative finance and resource mobilisation. Similar issues exist for sector engagement such as transportation, waste and agroforestry emissions.

6.1.2 Response

In order to assist with addressing these barriers related to planning and policy, the strategy proposes the following workstreams:

- **Supporting processes to integrate NDC commitments into existing national level and sectoral plans and policies.** The climate change agenda is not an isolated one and has causal links with other development sectors. Therefore, climate concerns need to be mainstreamed into the planning and development machinery of governments in the region. There is a need to better leverage co-benefits and synergies across the development landscape in PICs. The NDC Hub will support PICs to review their existing plans and policies to facilitate alignment with their NDC targets in a holistic and sequenced manner.
- **Supporting the processes for unpacking NDCs through proper planning, development of implementation roadmaps, investment plans and project pipelines.** The Hub will provide technical assistance to define the NDC commitments of PICs and present a clear investment pathway for both the public and private sector, including the development of a pipeline of projects that would advance PIC NDC implementation, raise national prosperity and thus assist with achieving SDGs, gender parity and support recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Supporting processes to enshrine NDC commitments into regulations and legislations.** The Hub will support countries to develop appropriate legislations and regulations that enable NDC implementation, especially in the area of renewable energy, energy efficiency and transportation. Regulations that promote adaptation and resilience, for example in infrastructure, buildings and human settlements, are also key and will be supported by the Hub.
- **Supporting NDC review and enhancement processes.** The Paris Agreement is iterative in nature and requires parties to submit enhanced NDCs to the UNFCCC starting in 2020, with updates thereafter every five years. These enhancements are intended to reflect progression in ambition and the Hub, informed by realistic planning and processes such as the Global Stocktake[22], will support countries in their efforts to raise the ambition of their NDCs.
- **Supporting long-term emissions reduction planning and development of 2050 Plans.** Article 4 Paragraph 19 of the Paris Agreement requires all parties to formulate and communicate long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies, taking into account the common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances. The Hub will support countries to undertake an economy-wide assessment of their emissions and develop a pathway to (partial or full) decarbonisation and resilient development by 2050, with the NDCs as the starting point.

22 The first Global Stocktake will take place in 2023.

6.1.3 Results

Through the Hub's interventions on NDC planning, policy and strategy development and legislation, the following indicative results are expected:

- Climate-sensitised national plans and policies in the PICs.
- At least 12 NDC implementation roadmaps developed by 2025.
- At least 11 NDC investment plans developed by 2025.
- At least 11 project pipelines developed by 2025.
- Regional project pipelines developed and profiled.
- Legislations and regulations that operationalise NDC commitments developed for PICs.
- NDCs reviewed and enhanced by 2021 using the Katowice guidance on information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs.
- At least 14 NDCs updated and enhanced by 2025/2030 using the Katowice guidance on information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs, and using the results of the global stocktakes.
- Long-term low emissions development strategies formulated and communicated to UNFCCC by 2025.
- National Adaptation Plans and strategies developed.

Reducing carbon footprint through energy efficiency

Palau uses imported diesel fuel to generate nearly all of its electricity. So even as the share of renewable energy grows in future, diesel will remain the marginal generation fuel, noting that solar energy accounted for only 3.3% of Palau's total energy requirements in 2017. Therefore, every kWh of energy consumption avoided will save diesel fuel imports and reduce pressure on the country's national accounts, as well as contribute to reducing greenhouse gas reductions and pollution.

The NDC Hub through SPC has supported the development of energy efficiency regulations for Palau. The appliance efficiency regulation prescribes the standards for energy testing, minimum energy performance, and energy labelling of appliances, lighting, and other equipment imported into and sold in Palau, and provides for related enforcement procedures and sanctions.

The energy auditing regulations, on the other hand, empower the Palau Energy Administration to initiate or order the initiation of energy audits by certain categories of persons (on their own premises or activities or those of other persons) to: (i) enforce qualifications and certification standards for persons undertaking the energy audits; (ii) enforce quality standards for energy audit processes and reports; (iii) require the submission of energy audit reports to the Energy Administration; (iv) require the persons initiating the audits to undertake actions that may be recommended in the energy audits; and (v) require those persons to report to the Energy Administration on those actions.

6.2 Strategic Outcome 2: Strengthened enabling environment for NDC implementation

By improving the enabling environment for NDC implementation in the Pacific, the Hub will contribute to the following goals for the PICs:

- Improving the capacity of national institutions responsible for climate change.
- Improving technological know-how and uptake to address climate change in the region.
- Improving access to transformative climate finance.
- Enhancing private sector engagement in climate action.

6.2.1 Barriers

A weak enabling environment is a key constraint for the implementation of NDC commitments and for the realisation of mitigation and adaptation investments across the region. The Hub's Strategy 2030 will assist by addressing the following key barriers:

- **Low institutional capacity and technical expertise, including lack of data. At the national level, there is limited capacity to plan and design mitigation and adaptation programs and projects.** This is coupled with lack of specific country data, especially baseline data to inform long-term transformative climate interventions, and appropriate data storage and retrieval systems. Key challenges also include lack of data and analysis on the specific needs of Pacific communities, technological and financial options, and poor access to relevant international best practices that inform appropriate solutions. There is also a need to bolster capacity to build long-term strategic foresight, to use evidence-based (or informed) decision-making tools and consider scenarios through a multi-disciplinary risk lens.
- **Need to address barriers that hinder the development and transfer of climate technologies suited to the Pacific region.** The Pacific island region is largely at the receiving end of technologies, and this extends to technologies that help Pacific island governments, industries and people to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate. Climate technologies need to be relevant, effective and sustained over time through capacity development. An important consideration, therefore, is that technological solutions for climate change in the Pacific should acknowledge their unique structural characteristics, including their high insularity ratios (coastal length to land area), their topographic and geological diversity, and the raw materials available to support adaptation. This argument also applies to technological solutions for climate change mitigation, especially technologies relating to solar, hydro, wind and biofuels, and their relevance in the island context.
- **Insufficient climate finance compared to the actual needs for mitigation and adaptation in the region.** A recent assessment of the climate change and disaster risk finance of 11 Pacific countries revealed that they had received an estimated USD 2 billion[23] for climate change and disaster-related activities between 2012 and 2019. A 2017 assessment by the Stockholm Environment Institute[24] for 14 PICs reveals that just USD 648 million trickled to these countries between 2010 and 2014. With Pacific countries committed to implementing plans for electricity generation to run on 100% renewables and transition to cleaner, more efficient power reducing dependency on imported fossil fuels, increasing access to affordable and reliable electricity and reducing carbon dioxide emissions, the financing requirement runs into billions. IRENA calculations estimate that the Pacific SIDS will need to install an additional 1.8 GW to meet NDC targets. To achieve these goals, investments will amount to approximately USD 5.9 billion.[25] Costing out adaptation measures is also critical for ascertaining the total financing requirements for the region, and a relatively complex task. For instance, an assessment done by Fiji with technical support from the World Bank established investment needs estimated

23 The figure of USD 2 billion for the Pacific over the past decade is calculated from the Climate Public Expenditure/Pacific Climate Change Finance Assessment conducted in ten Pacific Islands Forum countries and is based on the latest data of approved projects from the GCF.

24 Atteridge, A. and Canales, N. 2017. Climate finance in the Pacific: An overview of flows to the region's Small Island Developing States. Working Paper. States Stockholm Environment Institute. Available at: https://mediamanager.sei.org/documents/Publications/Climate/SEI-WP-2017-04/SEI-WP-2017-04-Pacific-climate-finance-flows-FM.pdf

25 See calculations by IRENA. Available at: https://www.irena.org/irenaforcip/Pacific-Islands

around USD 5 billion over 10 years for adaptation interventions in five areas.[26] This figure would grow manyfold with a proper assessment across all the PICs and with scarce public funding there is an increasing need to look at innovative financing instruments and modalities offered by climate financing mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility. There is an essential need to look for concessional and grant financing opportunities for climate change projects in PICs.

>> **Need to engage private sector and crowd in private finance for climate action and NDC implementation in the region.** The private sector can be a powerful catalyst in boosting the resilience of PICs and helping them transition towards decarbonisation through innovation, production and supply of environmental goods and services, and providing finance to implement mitigation and adaptation projects. This potential of the private sector is fostered through climate-sensitive policies and strategies, including incentives and fiscal policy measures to stimulate climate-centric and green investments. With early-stage private sector involvement in climate action in the region, in particular in the renewable energy space, there is a need for concerted efforts towards bolstering private sector engagement and for crowding in private finance for climate projects at scale in PICs.

6.2.2 Response

In order to assist in overcoming these barriers and challenges, the Hub, through its Strategy 2030, proposes the following workstreams:

>> **Supporting capacity development of national institutions.** The Hub will support capacity development of national institutions to plan, design, finance, implement, sustain and monitor climate change initiatives, particularly NDC projects on mitigation and adaptation. The Hub will also support the use of data and evidence for assessments and decision making, and for informing context-specific climate change interventions that promote climate resilient and green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

>> **Building PICs knowledge of technological advancements and improving their uptake of climate technologies.** The Hub will help identify appropriate climate technologies, undertake technology needs assessments in key sectoral areas and could support processes for technology diffusion in the PICs. The Hub could also support the piloting of potential technological solutions prior to its rollout at scale in the region.

>> **Supporting processes to leverage global public finance and help PICs secure finance (including grants and other concessional finance) for NDC implementation.** With a deepened understanding of the climate change priorities and NDC projects of the region, the Hub will support processes for directly and indirectly securing global public finance and will also support approaches for securing bilateral and multilateral funding for climate change projects in the region.

>> **Supporting processes to leverage private sector engagement and to crowd in private finance for climate action in the region.** The Hub will support processes that enable or enhance existing private sector engagement in climate action, including by making available data, evidence and comprehensive analyses that inform private sector climate-related investment decisions. The Hub will also support processes of project planning, design with scalability considerations at the core, and the development of project pipelines that will influence private sector decisions and serve as a basis for channelling private sector funds into climate change adaptation and mitigation projects in the region. Other support streams could involve direct engagement at the private entity level in establishing risks and their mitigation strategies, including financing modalities and instruments best suited for private entities that have the potential to create green jobs and promote sustainability.

26 Government of Fiji 2017. Climate Vulnerability Assessment: Making Fiji Climate Resilient. Available at: https://www.gfdrr.org/sites/default/files/publication/Fiji%20Climate%20Vulnerability%20Assessment%20Summary.pdf

6.2.3 Results

Through the Hub's interventions to improve the enabling environment, including on climate finance and private sector engagement, the following indicative results are expected:

- Strengthened institutional capacity to plan, design (with green recovery and broader development concerns[27] embedded), assess, finance, implement and sustain NDC-related climate change interventions.
- Assessments completed on technological needs for NDC implementation in PICs and optimal solutions identified.
- Increased uptake of technological solutions by PICs.
- Climate finance strategies and roadmaps developed.
- Increased global public finance allocated for NDC project implementation that will support PICs to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic and achieve SDGs.
- Private sector engagement framework for the Pacific NDC Hub developed.
- Increased private sector engagement with clear investment pathways established.
- Increased private finance allocated to mitigation and adaptation initiatives that will complement public investments in climate action in the Pacific.
- At least 10 concrete private sector opportunities identified and facilitated.

Enhancing nationally determined contributions

In accordance with decision 1/CP.21, Tonga communicated its second NDC to the UNFCCC in 2020. The NDC Hub, through its implementing partner GGGI, facilitated the process to develop Tonga's 2020 NDC which included a review of the 2015 INDC, determining the progress made towards achieving its targets and identifying recommendations for the formulation of the 2020 NDC. A thorough investigation of data sets, academic studies, policies, strategies, roadmaps and other reports was undertaken including structured interviews with stakeholders in Tonga to inform the following targets of the enhanced NDC:

- GHG emission reduction target: sector-specific target of reducing GHG emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels by 13% (16 Gg) by 2025 compared to 2006.
- Non-emission targets: (i) identification of a GHG emission target for agriculture, forestry and other land use sector by 2025; (ii) planting one million trees by 2023; and (iii) identification of a GHG emission target for the waste sector by 2025.

The 2020 NDC was approved by the Tongan Cabinet before submission to the UNFCCC.

27 Relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific and other global and regional development frameworks.

6.3 Strategic Outcome 3: Accelerated NDC action and project/program implementation

In supporting NDC implementation in PICs, the Pacific NDC Hub, through its Strategy 2030, will support the following goals:

- Actions that contribute to overall global greenhouse gas reduction.
- Actions for climate adaptation and resilience building in PICs.
- Development of transformational project ideas, concepts and proposals related to NDCs that will assist countries build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Implementation of small-scale, demonstration projects or as requested by countries.
- Facilitating regional and international forums, and specific capacity building training webinars to support NDC implementation.
- Development of project management systems in countries and project implementation support (technical backstopping, quality assurance etc.)

6.3.1 Barriers

The Pacific NDC Hub, through the implementation of its Strategy 2030, will assist addressing the following key barriers:

- **Need to make a case for climate change projects/programs.** PICs by default face an ever-increasing exposure to the vulnerabilities of a rapidly warming planet. With the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-induced events, there is a need to assess and communicate the risks and opportunities of climate change to governments, businesses and communities. There is a need to assess the opportunities created from the transition to a low-carbon and climate resilient economy and the myriad potential benefits of climate action. PICs need to translate these opportunities into concrete project/program ideas with clear climate change rationale.
- **Inadequate project/program design and development capacity in the region.** There is limited capacity in the region to design and develop transformative climate change projects/programs that maximise development gains and embeds into the design issues such as gender, youth, community engagement, local context, green jobs and overall sustainability concerns. There is also a significant challenge in oversight, monitoring and evaluating projects in a coherent, transformative manner that can bring about some lessons learned and provide insights and a way forward for future program/project design and implementation. This requires a renewed focus on the capacity and expertise in the region to design and develop NDC-related projects/programs, marking a departure from the conventional way of looking at projects/programs.
- **Inadequate project/program management and execution capacity.** In PICs, generally small government teams manage delivery of a wide array and often competing set of projects/programs. There is, therefore, a need for project/program implementation support.
- **Need to address complicated project/program financing requirements as a result of fragmented sources of financing.** The developing world is confronted with multiple choices for project/program financing. These include the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility, the Least Developed Countries Fund, the Special Climate Change Fund, the Adaptation Fund[28], and other multilateral and bilateral sources. While the proliferation of financing mechanisms is welcome given the large amount of financing required for climate change mitigation and adaptation projects in PICs, it also presents challenges in terms of meeting the different and often complex proposal development and procedures, as well as financing requirements of the various mechanisms. These complexities need to be addressed in a manner that respects and promotes country ownership and ensures that developing countries have sufficient capacity to effectively absorb and

28 The Adaptation Fund is now exclusively serving the Paris Agreement. The relevant CMP decision is available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/08a1e.pdf

use the financial resources for their intended purposes. A harmonisation of approaches between financing mechanisms is critical for capacity-constrained PICs as much as there is a need to identify grant and concessional financing opportunities.

- **Lack of transformative project/program proposals on climate change mitigation and adaptation from the Pacific region.** There is a general lack of transformative climate change proposals developed in the region. This is clearly the case when it comes to climate change adaptation priorities, where it is difficult to make a business case and hence left for national budget financing consideration. There is also a need to look at the development of climate change proposals from a multi-disciplinary lens that takes into account broader development concerns.
- **Need to address the issue of scale.** With blended financing modalities for climate change projects gaining traction, especially those that involve private sector finance, there is a need to design projects/programs that have scale and guaranteed appropriate returns on investments. At the country level, individual projects may not have the scale, hence the need for project bundling that requires detailed planning and assessment within a regional frame and with due consideration of the complex financing requirements of the various financial mechanisms and instruments. Bundled projects need to be profiled and made investor ready.
- **Insufficient implementation of climate change projects/programs.** Implementation of climate change projects/programs, in particular those seeking to boost the adaptive capacity and resilience of PICs, is sporadic and often at small scale. The need for climate action in the region is great and as reported by the IPCC, 1.5 degrees warming warrants urgency of action by governments, partners, the private sector and communities. Implementation in the PICs needs to happen at scale and speed, and in a manner that is transparent and sustainable. Given its smallness, the Pacific region is also a great test case for climate solutions and is ideal for the implementation of small-scale and demonstration projects.
- **Attracting private companies in PICs is challenging.** Private companies and contractors often have the relevant skills, experience, supply chain and internal capacity to develop, build and operate complex projects. Companies delivering climate-resilient and low-carbon projects are active in the Pacific (e.g., from New Zealand, Australia, Republic of Korea and Japan), and they could become more active in PICs. To do so, they must be convinced that there is a pipeline of concrete and scalable projects that can be implemented in PICs in the short- and medium-term.

6.3.2 Response

In order to assist in overcoming these barriers and accelerate NDC project implementation, the Hub, through its Strategy 2030, proposes the following workstreams:

- **Supporting the design and development of concrete climate change project ideas, concepts and proposals that are transformative, address gender disparity and are inclusive, promote sustainability and help PICs build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic.** The Hub will adopt an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach to project design and development and will ensure that climate concerns are mainstreamed into the national planning and development machinery of governments for effective implementation. Support could also include regional bundling of projects to achieve scale and to entice private interest in bundled projects. Support will also be provided to profile regional climate change projects in investment and development forums.
- **Supporting the development of feasibility studies on NDC-related mitigation and adaptation projects/programs.** Key areas include, but are not limited to, renewable energy, energy efficiency, transportation, waste management, adaptive infrastructure and climate-resilient marine protected areas.
- **Promoting institutional strengthening and supporting the development of institutional capacity to manage and execute NDC-related projects/programs.** This will be done through training, support towards the development of project/program management systems and implementation support, including but not limited to, capacity supplementation and substitution, technical backstopping, mentoring and quality assurance.

- **Supporting processes that help PICs navigate the complex climate finance landscape and identify grants and concessional finance for climate projects/programs.** This will be done through identification of relevant financing mechanisms and instruments suited to the needs of PICs, and importantly, to the nature of projects/programs. It will build on the existing Climate Finance Navigator on the Pacific Climate Change Portal. Support will also be provided to meet the often complex requirements of the financing mechanisms and to identify grant and concessional financing opportunities.
- **Supporting implementation of climate change projects in PICs including small-scale and demonstration projects.**[29] The NDC Hub could provide overall project implementation or technical oversight and coordinate implementation efforts with the Hub's internal and other partners, including with national governments.

6.3.3 Results

Through the NDC Hub's interventions on NDC action and project implementation, the following indicative results are expected:

- Strengthened institutional capacity to design and develop transformative project/program ideas, concepts and proposals that address gender disparity and are inclusive, promote sustainability and help PICs build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Gender equality and social inclusion policy for the Pacific NDC Hub developed.
- Gender equality and social inclusion applied in the work of the Pacific NDC Hub.
- National institutions will have improved capacity to implement and manage NDC projects/programs.
- At least 6 feasibility studies on bankable projects completed by 2025.
- Enhanced applied understanding of the climate finance architecture and the requirements of various financing mechanisms and instruments.
- At least 6 scaled-up, regionally bundled and bankable projects developed and profiled by 2025.
- Accelerated implementation of NDC related projects/programs including small-scale and demonstration projects.

29 Large scale project implementation could be done through SPC and SPREP as regional Hub partners or other partners (as determined by the countries) with project implementation mandate and depending on their capacity. The Pacific NDC Hub can facilitate this process and support implementation as required.

6.4 Strategic Outcome 4: Enhanced NDC measurement, reporting & verification and transparency of climate action

In supporting the measurement, reporting and verification of NDC implementation in PICs, the Pacific NDC Hub will support the following goals:

- Reviewing and aligning existing data (from ongoing projects) with NDC targets, assessing progress, gaps and challenges in alignment with the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) of the Paris Agreement.
- Improving compliance with the reporting format of the biennial transparency report, which stipulates the need for GHG inventories, reporting progress on NDC implementation and achievement, climate change impacts and adaptation as well as information on financial, technology transfer and capacity building support needed and received under Articles 9, 10 and 11 of the Paris Agreement.[30]
- Establishing MRV systems for NDC sectors and actions.
- Document findings from NDC implementation in PICs.
- Development of knowledge products and tool kits that support NDC implementation as well as its measurement, reporting and verification.

6.4.1 Barriers

Strategy 2030 of the Pacific NDC Hub will assist in addressing the following key barriers and challenges with respect to PIC NDC data infrastructure and its monitoring, reporting and verification:

- **Lack of institutional capacity and technical knowledge.** There is a general lack of capacity in national climate change institutions in collating, analysing and disseminating climate-related data and evidence in a timely manner. There are issues also of quality and verifiability of data collected owing to the weak institutional governance on data management.
- **Lack of NDC and climate-related data infrastructure in PICs.** The reporting requirements under the enhanced transparency framework require collaborative and improved data and information systems for effective and transparent reporting. The data infrastructure in some Pacific states is inadequate and hence can lead to inaccurate reporting and potentially affect the flow of resources to the region for climate action.
- **Lack of legislative and regulatory requirements for data.** Not all Pacific states have climate change legislations and regulations that enforce compulsory industry reporting on GHG emissions. There is a need for legislations and regulations that allow for systematic reporting by sectors and industries.

6.4.2 Response

In order to assist in overcoming these barriers and improve NDC implementation and climate action monitoring, reporting and verification, the Pacific NDC Hub, through its Strategy 2030, proposes the following workstreams:

- **Supporting the capacity development of national institutions.** The Hub will support the collation and submission of country-level NDC and climate action data and information under the enhanced transparency framework, specifically information on progress in NDC implementation and achievement, climate change impacts and adaptation as well as information on financial, technology transfer and capacity building support needed and received under Articles 9, 10 and 11 of the Paris Agreement.
- **Supporting systems and processes for the development/improvement of national-level NDC data infrastructure.** The NDC Hub will support a regional approach for the improvement and development of NDC data systems and processes.

30 UNFCCC 2019. Report of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement on the third part of its first session, held in Katowice from 2 to 15 December 2018. Available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2018_3_add2_new_advance.pdf#page=18

- **Supporting governance processes relating to NDC and climate action data.** The Hub will support governance processes and the development and review of appropriate legislation and regulations for the systematic and comprehensive collection of sector- and industry-level data on GHG emissions.

6.4.3 Results

Through the NDC Hub's interventions on measurement, reporting and verification, including transparency of climate action in PICs, the following indicative results are expected:

- Strengthened institutional capacity to map data needs and establish sources, processes and systems for data collation, analyses and reporting, including the sustainability of systems for data collection and sharing.
- National institutions will have improved data infrastructure that will enable reporting under the ETF.[31]
- 14 sectoral or national MRV systems developed by 2024.
- Information for 14 PICs on progress in NDC implementation and achievement, climate change impacts and adaptation as well as information on financial, technology transfer and capacity building support needed and received under Articles 9, 10 and 11 of the Paris Agreement collated and submitted to the UNFCCC by 2024.
- PIC GHG emissions data collated, analysed and published on relevant data portals.
- Adaptation communications developed.
- Learning and training sessions conducted on developing and using data and MRV systems.
- Knowledge products developed.

Embracing enhanced transparency

Solomon Islands needs to create an NDC MRV system to clearly understand where it stands in terms of its NDC implementation and its progress towards achieving the targets set in it. Building on the GHG Inventory it is preparing with IPCC 2006 Guidelines, Solomon Islands is building the necessary data and information gathering systems needed for future reporting under the enhanced transparency framework of the Paris Agreement. The NDC MRV System Roadmap, which the NDC Hub through GGGI helped develop, includes a gap assessment of existing systems against the INDC, lists the key stakeholders and the type and data and information they could provide and indicates the next steps needed for the country to prepare its future NDCs.

31 Details on the ETF available at: https://unfccc.int/enhanced-transparency-framework

6.5 An Underlying Response from the NDC Hub

Deepening collaboration with donors, partners and the broader development network
The NDC Hub is a multi-partner platform supported by donors. As such, the NDC Hub's support to PICs across the four strategic areas discussed above is dependent, in a large part, on deepened collaboration and engagement with donors, partners and the broader development network. This is key for coordinating multi-partner efforts, avoiding duplication and mobilising donor funding for NDC implementation. With deepened engagement and collaboration with a myriad of stakeholders, the NDC Hub can realise the following results:

- Increased vertical and horizontal communications on NDC action in PICs including in multilateral, international, regional and other development platforms.
- Increased financial and non-financial resources for NDC implementation in PICs.

6.6 Overall Impact

Strategy 2030 of the Pacific NDC Hub outlines four strategic outcomes that are directly aligned to the NDC commitments of PICs and will help achieve the vision of a sustainable, low-carbon and climate resilient Pacific through the implementation of NDCs. The interventions proposed seek to build capacities of national institutions, improve the enabling environment and mobilise finance and private sector engagement for NDC project/program implementation at scale and with speed. This will potentially raise national prosperity and create green jobs that will address gender disparity in PICs, promote sustainability, just transition and the achievement of SDGs, and helps PICs build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The successful implementation of Strategy 2030 will further demonstrate Pacific leadership in addressing the climate crisis and the contributions made towards the central objective of the Paris Agreement: to hold global average temperature increase to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial, levels despite being one of the most climate vulnerable regions of the world.

7.0 Implementation

Strategy 2030 calls for and will facilitate both soft (policy level) and hard (on the ground implementation of climate projects/initiatives) actions and interventions in PICs. It was developed through robust consultations with Pacific countries, building on the initial phases of work of the Pacific NDC Hub and reflects the NDC implementation priorities of the countries.

By the time the strategy was developed, the Regional Pacific NDC Hub had defined its governance arrangements and had a fully resourced Hub Implementation Unit. Before the end of the current funding phase (February 2022), an evaluation will be undertaken to ascertain lessons learnt from the initial phases of work. This will naturally inform adjustments to the future implementation arrangements and would depend, in large part, on the funding secured to implement immediate priorities emanating from Strategy 2030.

Development of work programmes

Drawing from the 10-Year strategy, the Hub Implementation Unit, with guidance from the Steering Committee, will develop two to three-year logically framed and costed work programmes to advance NDC implementation in the region. This has the inherent value of providing clarity to Hub partners and importantly to donors in terms of critical areas requiring financing and support. The formulation of work programmes to implement Strategy 2030 will also logically reflect the Paris Agreement processes and the Hub's contribution to the NDC Partnership.

Financing

Currently, all donor funding is channelled to/through the Hub Implementation Unit and disbursed to Hub partners/ Hub coordination group for service delivery in PICs. Under this arrangement, the key responsibility for funding lies with the administrator of the NDC Hub. However, in the event the Hub partners secure funding for service delivery in PICs consistent with Strategy 2030, arrangements would need to be made to continue supporting the Pacific island countries through the Hub Implementation Unit in the best possible way.

Partnership

Collaboration and partnership are the bedrock of Strategy 2030. The network of partners linked to the NDC Hub will most probably increase over time and modes of delivery might be adjusted.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

The implementation of Strategy 2030 will embody a process of adaptive learning that will be achieved through the periodic review of the operations of the NDC Hub against the strategic outcomes of Strategy 2030. Such learning processes could, for example, include comparisons with NDC implementation experiences of the Caribbean region.

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