



Mandate Spotlight: 003 Fiji

Pacific Energy and Gender (PEG) Network - Phase 2

Location: Fiji

Beneficiary: The Pacific Community (SPC)

Consultant: Econoler, with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Start Date: November 2019

End Date: December 2020

CTIF Contribution: CAD \$283,033

Context

The Pacific Energy and Gender network was established in 2003 to promote gender mainstreaming in energy development processes and projects across the Pacific region and to ensure that at any level of intervention, be it at policy level, community level, or project level, the views and interests of both women and men would be taken into consideration. Its target audience included governments, universities, women's organizations, and other non-governmental groups. The PEG network developed awareness raising materials, undertook workshops, and developed the PEG Strategic Action Plan (PEG SAP) 2009-2014. These efforts contributed to increased awareness among national governments on the value of and means to mainstream gender into energy policy and planning work. Nevertheless, gender equality remains largely rhetorical for far too many women in the Pacific where women's economic inclusion continues to remain a challenge. Additionally, between 2014 and 2019 the PEG Network was largely inactive, mainly due to financial constraints.

Brief Description of the Mandate

This project sought to increase women's engagement in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sector across the Pacific region by reviving and strengthening the effectiveness of the PEG Network. CTIF's consultant provided technical support to SPC's Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division, based in Fiji. The division is tasked with leading consultations with other Pacific governments and partners to support the development of the 2021-2030 Pacific Energy and Gender Strategic Action Plan.

Task 1: Gender-based Analysis

To inform the new PEG SAP, CTIF's consultant was tasked with preparing a gender-based analysis (GBA) of the energy sector in the Pacific region. The review was to further understand the drivers and consequences behind the following issues and to identify opportunities to address them through the PEG Network:

- Lack of gender mainstreaming in energy policies and plans nationally and regionally;
- Common beliefs that women are not suited for technical work in the energy sector;
- Lack of participation or involvement of women and youths in decision making in community driven energy projects; and,
- Limited participation of women on public utility boards and senior management

Since information on gender equality, services, and the engagement of women in energy was limited or non-existent, this activity focused on gathering information through surveys and focus groups in a representative sample of six Pacific island countries, representing all sub-regions, namely Melanesia, Polynesia, and Micronesia.

Findings from this GBA became the backbone of the PEG SAP. For example, the PEG SAP includes plans for developing Institutional Gender Action Plans (IGAPs) for main energy stakeholders (such as national energy offices and electricity utilities) to support their efforts in mainstreaming gender in their internal policies and procedures. The PEG SAP also includes a gender mainstreaming and capacity development plan tailored to the SPC's Geoscience, Energy and Maritime (GEM) division as the main implementing agency behind the PEG's Strategic Action Plan.

Task 2: Develop Draft PEG Strategic Action Plan

Informed by its GBA and environmental sustainability assessment, CTIF's consultant drafted the PEG SAP in close consultation with the SPC. The PEGSAP includes the following core content: (1) a context and problem analysis, overviewing the findings and recommendations of the GBA; (2) a series of four objectives aligned with the four key areas of intervention (institutional, service providers, society/ community/ households and individual); (3) an organizational structure at the regional and national levels (including the need for permanent staff at SPC GEM and at the NEO, the regional steering committee and national steering committees); (4) a strategic framework of action detailing each objective, sub-objective and activity; (5) an implementation schedule over a 10-year period; (6) an overview of budget requirements; and, (7) human resource requirements. The PEG SAP was validated by stakeholder Pacific island countries during a final workshop in November 2020.

Task 3: Developing the Supporting Documents of the PEG SAP 2020-2030

This final task involved developing supporting tools to the PEG SAP, including a monitoring and evaluation framework (MEF), a detailed budget/cost-benefit analysis (CBA) framework, and a resource mobilization plan for the PEG SAP's implementation between 2021 and 2030. The MEF is aimed at identifying what data the implementation team, steering committees, and donors need to: understand the progress of the program; make decisions about strategy implementation; identify successes; and reflect on areas for improvement. The detailed budget/CBA framework will be an essential tool to guide the PEG SAP's implementation and to seek funding from other international partners. The detailed budget presents human resources requirements, expenses, and external consultancy needs at the national and regional levels. Finally, the resource mobilization plan provides a policy and institutional analysis, illustrates PEG SAP's implementation costs, and assess potential donor partners, including international financial institutions, bilateral development agencies, private foundations, and partners from civil society.

Figure 1: PEG SAP consultation participants in the Solomon Islands
(Photo credits: Econoler)



Lesson Learned

In preparing the GBA, CTIF's consultant found that group consultations and community visits proved to be key means for collecting data from women end-users from rural off-grid areas.

In this regard, CTIF's consultant made sure to meet stakeholders outside urban centers to grasp the urban-rural divide in terms of access to energy and gender equality. Site visits involved group discussions with village committees, village members and women's committees, household visits and site observations. Group consultations and community visits in outer islands of Solomon Islands (Malaita) and Fiji (Vanua Levu) proved to be highly informative and enabled Econoler to directly consult women end-users from rural off-grid areas. These consultations provided key information on gender differentiated energy needs, access to energy, and economic activities.

Key outputs:

- GBA report produced covering six Pacific countries
- Internal gender analysis report prepared for SPC
- Three supporting tools produced (Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, Budget/Cost-benefit Analysis Framework, and Resource Mobilization Plan)
- One training session and one validation workshop conducted with SPC staff and PIC representatives
- PEG institutional structure updated as part of the PEG SAP
- Draft PEG SAP documents circulated to at least 25 stakeholders from 60% of Pacific island countries.