



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

FIFTH YEAR PROGRESS

PACIFIC CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE
ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY



INTRODUCTION

This Progress Report marks the Fifth Anniversary of the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) and is the first report under the Second Operation Phase [SOP 2021-2025]. The PCREEE continues with its mission as an agency to effectively assist member countries in accelerating the transition to low carbon and resilient economies, driven by renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and businesses in the Pacific Island Territories (PICTs).

The covid-19 pandemic put strains on the effective delivery of PCREEE programmes over the past year. Travel restrictions and border control since 2020 prompted remote working arrangements and online meeting platforms to conduct meetings and deliver capacity building trainings with staff based at SPC headquarters in Noumea and Suva for member countries. These challenges were further compounded by the Hunga Tonga and Hunga Ha'apai volcanic eruption on the 15th of January 2022, that caused severe damage to the fiber-optic cable which resulted in the disruption of international communication services for more than a month.

Despite the challenges, PCREEE was able to explore opportunities for more efficient and cost-effective ways of conducting business. The first was to increase its in-country presence and therefore, country coordinators were recruited in the Cook Islands, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. Secondly, a short-term consultant was recruited rather than long-term SPC staff to assist in the delivery of PCREEE's business plan. Lastly, in anticipation of more online service deliveries, the PCREEE conference room was fabricated and furnished with a new video conference facility.

One of the key highlights of the year was the rolling out of the regional sustainable mobility readiness programme, a response to one of the directive outcomes of the 4th Pacific Energy and Transport Ministers meeting held in Samoa in 2019. Moreover, the registration of the national qualification on Sustainable Energy Levels 1 & 2 in Tonga was also one of the key milestones achieved this year.

The PCREEE acknowledges the support of its partners and member countries and anticipates ongoing collaboration in advancing integrated coordination for the management of its programmes with the newly-adopted Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific (FESRIP), as directed by its 6th Steering Committee meeting in 2021.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN OUR FIFTH 12 MONTHS

Effective and Efficient Management and Operation

- Completed the PCREEE office fabrication; conference room, the manager's office and server room
- Recruited 3 Country coordinators for Cook Islands, Solomon Islands and PNG
- Recruited a Programme Delivery Officer consultant
- Completed the PCREEE Communication Strategy
- Regular updates of the PCREEE website on RE & EE developments in the PICT and globally
- Attended the monthly meetings of the Georesources and Energy Programme and Development Partners' webinars and workshops on RE and EE.
- Developed a GCF concept note- Simplified Approval Process (SAP), with Vanuatu Department of Energy and the Department of Climate Change to achieve rural electrification in Vanuatu through the National Green Energy Fund (NGEF).
- Completed the PCREEE 6th Steering Committee Meeting in November 2021
- Signed Contribution Agreement with the Austrian Development Agency
- Recruited the 3rd Pacific Islander to the position of Pacific Islands Energy Professional



ACHIEVEMENTS CONT'D

RE & EE Business Start-up & Entrepreneurship Support

- Completed joint business start-up, safety and resilience training workshop with the Tonga Electricity Commission in 4 island groups in Tonga
- Confirmed and commenced preparations for the Samoa Sustainable Energy Forum in June 2022
- Joint Collaboration with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to provide TAs to PICT.
- Recruited a Sustainable Energy Instructor to accredit TIST to deliver Levels 1 & 2 and to assist in the development of Sustainable Energy Levels 3 & 4 for Tonga.
- Supported the private sector in supplying 200 solar lanterns for tsunami recovery in Tonga
- Completed TVET training of Trainers in PNG
- Signed Letter of Agreement with Navara Saving & Credit Cooperation Society Ltd to support Renewable Energy Business start-ups and Entrepreneurship in Vanuatu's rural areas.

RE and EE for Sustainable Mobility

- Developed the EV charging guideline for the PICT
- Conducted a regional EV webinar [physical workshop in the Cook Is] to update on developments in the region and abroad
- Drafted EV awareness and promotional materials
- Supported Samoa's sustainable transport awareness programme
- Provided legal support for the LEAF Capital to assess compliance of proposed EV charging and solar leasing arrangements with existing legislations and government / power utility requirements
- Finalized concept note for an EV Charging station demonstration project in Tonga
- Commenced the process for establishing the Pacific Island EV task force
- Supported CTCN-funded transport-related studies and policy/ roadmap developments in PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Sustainable RE mini-grid systems

- Coordinated the ISA-STAR C network for the PICT
- Completed ISA-INES-PCREEE mini-grid training workshops in Tonga and Palau with upcoming programmes planned for PNG, and Cook Islands
- Submitted funding proposal to ISA-Care for additional solar capacity for the Ha'afeva Health Centre in Tonga
- Completed a series of radio talkback programmes to support the private sector and the general public in the areas of compliance, safety and resilience in Tonga
- Drafted International Solar Alliance – Pacific Community draft roadmap for cooperation
- Completed ISA - PCREEE Regional RE Webinar: Micro-grids Supporting Resilience in the Pacific Islands



Tonga - TEC Business start-up, safety and resilience training



Vanuatu - Sustainable Energy Investment Forum



Fiji - LEAF Capital's: removing barrier to EV taxi



Samoa - Sustainable Transport Awareness



Palau - Renewable energy mini-grids training



Tonga - Renewable energy mini-grids training

ACHIEVEMENTS CONT'D

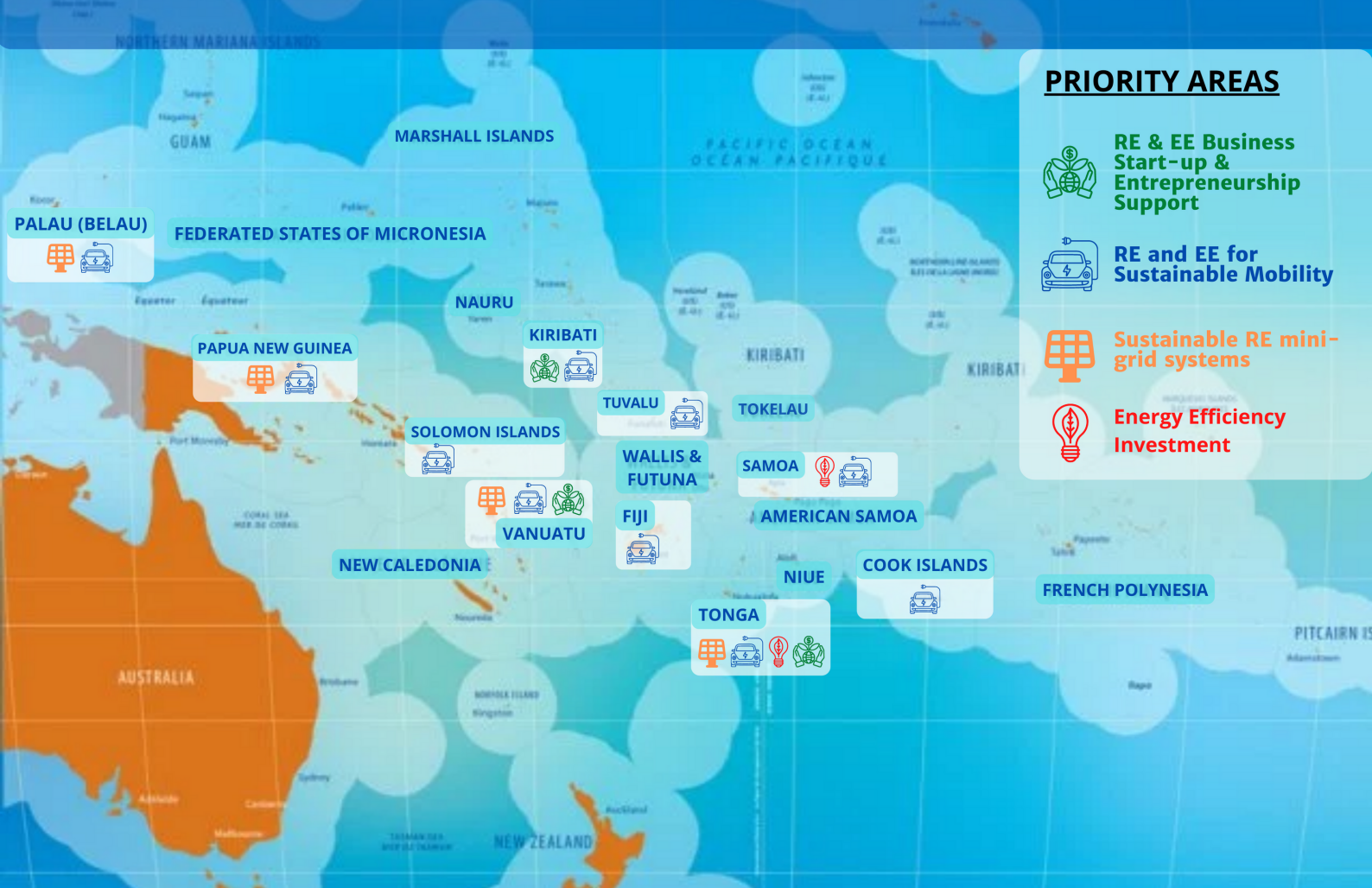
Energy Efficiency Investment

- Supported the development of Samoa Energy Efficiency Policy
- Advanced discussion with UNIDO on regional training kit on EE for the private sector
- Supported Tonga with training and the transition phase of the MEPSL regulations
- Conducted public awareness programmes on Sustainable Energy National Certificate Levels 1 & 2 in 4 Secondary Schools in Vava'u Tonga.



Samoa - Sustainable Energy Investment Forum

PCREEE INTERVENTIONS IN THE PACIFIC



PRIORITY AREAS

-  **RE & EE Business Start-up & Entrepreneurship Support**
-  **RE and EE for Sustainable Mobility**
-  **Sustainable RE mini-grid systems**
-  **Energy Efficiency Investment**



Contact Details

PCREEE Secretariat
4th Floor O.G.Sanft Building, Nuku'alofa, Tonga
+676 25209

www.pcreee.org 
infor@pcreee.org 