

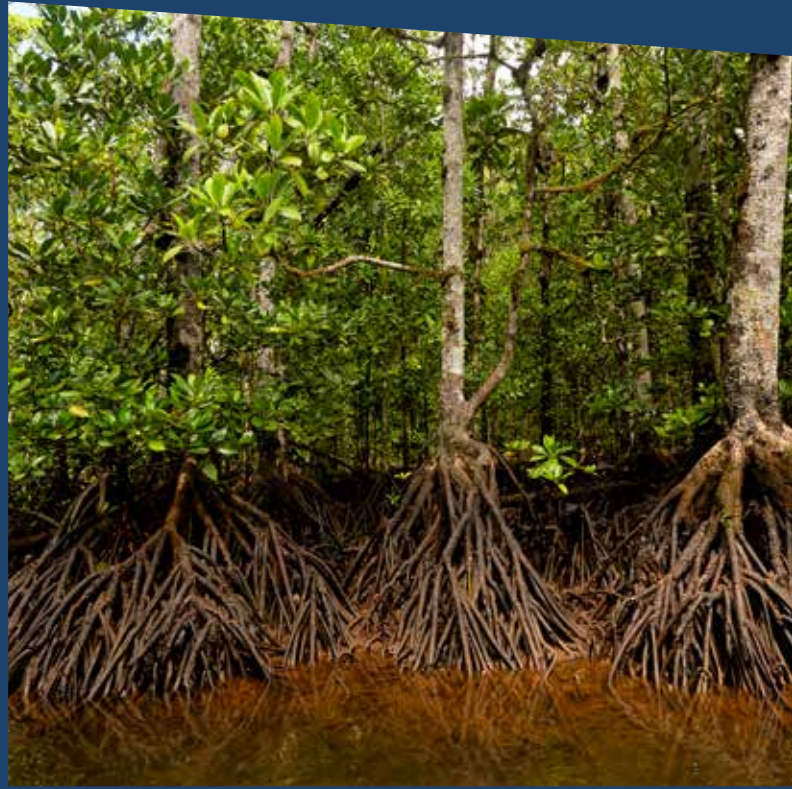


REGIONAL
PACIFIC
NDC HUB

Executive Summary

Strategy 2030

A Blueprint for NDC Implementation in Pacific Island Countries



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 the 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 the Strategy 2030, a product of robust consultation with Pacific island countries and other key stakeholders. We hope that the 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 the 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

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

Climate change poses a major threat to the Pacific way of life despite the region's countries contributing negligibly towards the climate warming greenhouse gas emissions. It poses a major risk to the economic, social and environmental progress of the region and exacerbates risks of realising the 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 risk of inundation and coastal flooding, exacerbation of erosion, 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 Marshall Islands have also committed to low/net zero emissions by developing and communicating their long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies (LT-LEDS) 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 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 the 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 NDC Hub contribute to the NDC Partnership.

The Strategy 2030 of the Pacific NDC Hub lays out the Hub's vision for PICs – the vision for sustainability, low-carbon growth and development and climate resilience. 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 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 and complements the forthcoming 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, 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 (FRDP), Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development and the planned Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific (FESRIP) 2021 - 2030.

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.¹

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.² It was envisioned that the new regional facility would make a contribution to the NDC Partnership.



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- 1 PSIDS Leaders Statement at the 2017 Climate Action Pacific Partnership meeting. Available at: <https://cop23.com.fj/pacific-small-island-developing-states-statement/>
 - 2 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/>

Our Vision

A sustainable, low-carbon and climate resilient Pacific.

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 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:



Our Guiding Principles

Urgency of Climate Action

The latest scientific evidence by the IPCC 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 including 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 multi-disciplinary 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, in part such 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 crisis³ with the COVID-19 pandemic, that 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 the 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 the 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.

Collaboration and Partnership

Deepened collaboration and partnerships are critical for promoting urgent, effective and equitable responses to climate change and 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.

3 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.fi/nadi-bay-declaration-on-the-climate-change-crisis-in-the-pacific/>

Strategic Outcomes

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

Barriers

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

- >> Inadequate institutional capacity.
- >> Fragmented and isolated treatment of climate change.
- >> Inadequate NDC planning and policy.
- >> Legislative and regulative barriers.

Response

In order to assist addressing these barriers related to planning and policy, the Strategy 2030 proposes the following workstreams:

- >> Supporting processes to integrate NDC commitments into existing national level and sectoral plans and policies.
- >> Supporting the processes for unpacking NDCs through proper planning, development of implementation roadmaps, investment plans and project pipelines.
- >> Supporting processes to enshrine NDC commitments into regulations and legislations.
- >> Supporting NDC review and enhancement processes.
- >> Supporting long-term emissions reduction planning and development of 2050 Plans.

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.

Strategic Outcome 2: Strengthened enabling environment for NDC implementation

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 Strategy 2030 of the Hub will assist addressing the following key barriers:

- >> Low institutional capacity and technical expertise, including lack of data.
- >> Need to address barriers that hinder the development and transfer of climate technologies suited to the Pacific region.
- >> Insufficient climate finance compared to the actual needs for mitigation and adaptation in the region.
- >> Need to engage private sector and crowd in private finance for climate action and NDC implementation in the region.

Response

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

- >> Supporting capacity development of national institutions.
- >> Building PICs knowledge of technological advancements and improving their uptake of climate technologies.
- >> Supporting processes to leverage global public finance and help PICs secure finance (including grants and other concessional finance) for NDC implementation.
- >> Supporting processes to leverage private sector engagement and to crowd in private finance for climate action in the region.

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 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.

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

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.
- >> Inadequate project/program design and development capacity in the region.
- >> Inadequate project/program management and execution capacity.
- >> Need to address complicated project/program financing requirements as result of fragmented sources of financing.
- >> Lack of transformative project/program proposals on climate change mitigation and adaptation from the Pacific region.
- >> Need to address the issue of scale.
- >> Insufficient implementation of climate change projects/programs.
- >> Attracting private companies in PICs is challenging.

Response

In order to assist 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.
- >> Supporting the development of feasibility studies on NDC related mitigation and adaptation projects/programs.
- >> Promoting institutional strengthening and supporting the development of institutional capacity to manage and execute NDC related projects/programs.
- >> Supporting processes that help PICs navigate the complex climate finance landscape and identify grants and concessional finance for climate projects/programs.
- >> Supporting implementation of climate change projects in PICs including small-scale and demonstration projects.

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.

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

Barriers

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

- >> Lack of institutional capacity and technical knowledge.
- >> Lack of NDC and climate related data infrastructure in PICs.
- >> Lack of legislative and regulatory requirement for data.

Response

In order to assist 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.
- >> Supporting systems and processes for the development/improvement of national level NDC data infrastructure.
- >> Supporting governance processes relating to NDC and climate action data.

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.
- >> 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.

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 myriad 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.

Overall Impact

The 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 a 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 the 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 preindustrial levels and pursuing 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.



Implementation

The 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 the adjustments to the future implementation arrangements and would depend, in large part on the funding secured to implement immediate priorities emanating from the 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 work programmes—logically framed and costed—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 the 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 the 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 the 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 the Strategy 2030 will embody a process of adaptive learning that will be achieved through periodic review of the operations of the NDC Hub against the strategic outcomes of the Strategy 2030. Such learning processes, could, for example include comparisons with NDC implementation experiences of the Caribbean region.

Regional Pacific NDC Hub Partner Countries



Palau



Federated States
of Micronesia



Republic of
Marshall Islands



Nauru



Solomon
Islands



Tuvalu



Kiribati



Papua New
Guinea



Vanuatu



Fiji



Samoa



Niue



Tonga



Cook Islands

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