

Planning Meeting for the Pacific Component of the Rapid Assessment and Gap Analysis of the UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Energy Programme for Poverty Reduction (REP-PoR), Apia, Samoa, 5-6 September 2005

Meeting Summary Report

Introduction

A two-day planning meeting for the Pacific component of the Rapid Assessment and Gap Analysis of the UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Energy Programme for Poverty Reduction (REP-PoR) was held in Apia, Samoa from 5-6 September 2005. The objectives of the meeting were as follows:

1. Provide an introduction to and overview of the REP-PoR;
2. Discuss and plan the REP-PoR Rapid Assessment and Gap Analysis including: a) agree on the methodology, framework and structure for the Pacific gap analysis and report; and b) discuss the management and implementation arrangements for the rapid assessment; and
3. Discuss status of on-going sub-regional programs and explore possible joint activities and areas of cooperation.

Sessions included: introduction to REP-PoR; consultancies for REP-PoR preparatory activities; Pacific status in the context of the program from the perspectives of the UNDP country offices, national and regional levels; and working sessions on the thematic framework and implementation arrangements for the rapid base-line assessment and gap analysis. The agreed agenda for the meeting is provided as Annex A.

The meeting was attended by UNDP Fiji and UNDP Samoa represented by the energy/environment focal points. UNDP PNG was unable to attend. So far three Pacific Island Countries (PICs) - Cook Islands, Samoa and Tokelau - have officially endorsed the REP-PoR Project Document. Representatives of those countries were invited to attend to provide country perspectives. Samoa and Cook Islands were represented by government energy officers but the Government of Tokelau was unable to send a representative. In addition representatives from ongoing and planned UNDP supported sub-regional energy/environment initiatives hosted and executed by the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) participated. These two regional inter-governmental organizations provided a sub-regional perspective and possible synergies and areas of collaboration among the Pacific Islands Energy Policy and Strategic Action Planning (PIEPSAP) project and the Pacific Islands Renewable Energy Project (PIREP)/ Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP) and the Pacific component of REP-PoR. Furthermore, the lead consultant for the Asia-Pacific rapid assessment and gap analysis and the team leader for the Pacific component of the REP-PoR rapid assessment and gap analysis were key facilitators. Senior representatives from the UNDP Regional Centre Bangkok (RCB), the overall focal point for REP-PoR, and the Pacific focal point for the program were organisers and facilitators for the meeting. For a list of participants please refer to Annex B.

The context and some of the key issues and considerations discussed and decisions made are mentioned below.

The meeting started with an introduction to the focus and activities of UNDP, RCB and a brief overview of REP-PoR. Further discussions were held on the scope of REP-PoR during the meeting. It was mentioned that this programme, now in its inception phase, aims to contribute toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) targets through interventions in three thematic areas: 1) improving access to energy services, 2) promoting efficient use of energy, and 3) increasing access to financing for sustainable energy. Overall the interventions of REP-PoR are focusing on the three strategic services of: 1) policy advocacy, 2) capacity development and 3) knowledge management. With regard to energy-poverty linkages, REP-PoR focuses on covering key aspects related to needs assessment and analysis of the energy sector at the country level, policy advocacy modalities and tools, policy studies, productive uses of renewable energy (PURE) and the clean development mechanism (CDM).

Currently the REP-PoR team consists of the following persons: 1) Mr. Thiyagarajan Velumail, Programme Specialist; 2) Ms. Bhava Dhungana, Associate Programme Specialist; and 3) Mr. Thomas Lynge Jensen, Associate Programme Specialist. Mr. Jensen is out-posted from the RCB and based at UNDP Samoa. He will act as the focal point for the Pacific component of REP-PoR.

For the Pacific component of REP-PoR, a desktop type consultancy has been initiated to carry out an overall base-line assessment and needs/gap analysis concerning policies, capacities, and knowledge repositories in the three thematic areas for the fifteen Pacific Island Countries (PICs) that potentially can participate in REP-PoR.⁷ This preparatory exercise will enable the identification of the specific gaps/needs in the three thematic areas covered by REP-PoR as well as providing an outline of practical options under the three strategic services. The team consists of Mr. Herbert A. Wade and Mr. Peter Johnston. This consultancy was initiated 15 August 2005 and will be finalized by 30 of November 2005.

REP-PoR in Pacific Context and associated Key Issues

The context and key issues that were identified and discussed during the planning meeting mainly include:

- In general energy considerations and issues are not priority/focus areas either at a national or a sub-regional level. This is illustrated by the fact that the word "energy" is mentioned only once in the draft Pacific Plan where renewable energy is referred to only in the context of improving environmental and natural resource management;
- Poverty (reduction) concept in the context of Pacific socio-economic conditions;
- How will the gaps/needs of the different PICs be addressed under REP-PoR? It is believed that many countries in the Pacific are facing the same basic issues and needs, as far as the three thematic focal areas of REP-PoR concerned but there are also known to be specific gaps/needs that only apply to sub-sets of the countries in the region;
- Lessons learned from past and on-going national and sub-regional initiatives;
- Linkages and synergies with on-going and planned national and sub-regional initiatives;

⁷ These PICs are as follows: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

- Converting preparatory work e.g. (feasibility) studies to “real” projects is a challenge. Many PICs have complained that too many studies have been undertaken with too few “on-the-ground” hardware interventions. “Software” and “hardware” interventions need to go hand-in-hand for real impact and progress to take place;
- Access to funding is a major issue at country level. Countries that have action plans and work programs in place need support for the implementation of specific activities and projects;
- Two of the three UNDP country offices are multi-country offices. UNDP Fiji serves 10 PICs and UNDP Samoa 4 PICs. In addition UNDP Samoa hosts several sub-regional energy and environment projects that are hosted and executed by sub-regional inter-governmental organizations;
- Capacities at national as well as country office levels to plan, facilitate and monitor new initiatives. For example UNDP country offices have different strengths, capacities, etc. in the six focus areas of UNDP including the energy and environment focus area. This is a reflection of the development priorities of the countries served. In the current UNDP cycle there appears to be a greater focus on democratic governance, poverty reduction and crisis prevention & recovery in Melanesian countries whereas many of the Polynesian and Micronesian countries have energy and environment as a focus area;
- Ensuring that specific Pacific issues, needs, concerns, priorities, projects, etc are not sidelined in Asia-Pacific regional programs. Specifically that this not will happen during the preparation of the synthesis report that combines the Asia and the Pacific sub-regional rapid assessment and gap analysis reports; and
- Suitability of the Pacific sub-regional report as a detailed REP-PoR programming/planning tool seen in the context of the generally poor data quality and availability in the PICs. Furthermore the arrangements for the consultancy for the Pacific component of the REP-PoR rapid assessment and gap analysis consultancy (including it being a desk-study) also needs to be taken into consideration.

Key Decisions

The key decisions include:

- Country representatives and representatives of regional and international organizations and donor partners at the Pacific Regional Energy Meeting (REM) held in December 2004 Medang, PNG, noted the development of the REP-PoR and looked forward to participating in its activities as they proceed in 2005. The Apia REP-PoR planning meeting with its representatives from countries, regional intergovernmental partners and UNDP country offices reaffirmed their interest in participation in REP-PoR and acknowledged the timing and relevance of the overall focus of the Program in the Pacific sub-region;
- As part of their assignment, the Team for the Pacific rapid assessment and gap analysis was requested to discuss and outline the concept of poverty (reduction) including an operational level definition as seen in the PIC context;²

³ In addition to relevant UN(DP) publications on this matter a useful reference for this discussion and outline is the very recent hardship and poverty studies funded by ADB (covering 8 PICs)

- To the greatest extent possible use existing coordinating mechanisms at national as well as regional levels for the preparation and implementation phases of REP-PoR. This includes, for example, climate change/PIREP/PIEPSAP cross-sectoral county teams at national levels and the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) Energy Working Group (EWG) at the Pacific regional level;
- To the greatest extent possible build on and collaborate with the several on-going and planned sub-regional and national activities in the area of energy and relevant cross-cutting areas such as governance and gender. Limited capacities in national governments, inter-governmental organizations and UNDP country offices and the number of on-going and planned interventions in the area of energy makes this strategy essential. Complementarities and cross-sectoral approaches are also something that is stressed in the REP-PoR Project Document;
- That a Pacific consultation meeting on the draft Pacific rapid assessment and gap analysis is needed. The main objectives are to: 1) discuss, verify and endorse the draft Pacific rapid assessment and gap analysis report before it is submitted to the Lead consultant as part of the Asia-Pacific synthesis process; and 2) inform all PICs that potentially can participate in REP-PoR about the Program. The CROP EWG members and all 15 PICs are to be invited. The possibility of having this consultation meeting back-to-back with other meetings, e.g. the consultations for the Pacific Renewable Energy Training Initiative (PRETI) and the final PIREP multipartite review (MPR), is to be looked into. The consultation meeting is planned for sometime during the first half of November 2005;
- That the participants from the Apia planning meeting will act as an informal advisory group to the REP-PoR team concerning the Pacific component. This will be the case at least until the consultation meeting in November 2005 at which time the group composition might be changed or no longer serve an advisory function. An e-mail network/distribution list is to be established to facilitate discussions and input;
- That the consultant Team for the Pacific rapid assessment and gap analysis is to prepare an action plan/time table for the consultancy covering the time from the inception phase until the final report is available. It will be distributed to the meeting participants by the REP-PoR Pacific focal point;
- Representatives from the Pacific are to be invited to attend the Asia-Pacific synthesis workshop that is planned to take place beginning of December 2005. Priority will be given to signatory countries as well as other representatives present at the Apia planning meeting;
- Explore the option of using sub-regional centres of excellence (COE) in energy to be involved in delivery of Program outputs where appropriate (as mentioned in the REP-PoR Project Document). As specified in the Project Document, an operational principle for REP-PoR is to build on - and thereby strengthen - capacity already available. In the Project Document SOPAC (hosting PIEPSAP) is specifically mentioned as a possible option for program delivery in the Pacific sub-region. Other options (including SPREP) will be looked into as well;
- The UNDP country offices are planned to play an important role in planning, coordinating, and facilitating the REP-PoR preparation and implementation phases. Due to the particular setting in the Pacific including that two out of the three country offices are multi-country offices and their having limited capacities in the sub-focus area of energy, the option and appropriateness of coordinating the Pacific component of REP-PoR via one country office could be investigated. Another possibly more realistic option is for the REP-PoR Pacific focal point to be able to contact and deal directly with relevant partners at national and regional levels under the specific condition that REP-PoR focal

points in all three country offices are kept informed through copies of all correspondence and consulted on principal matters before decisions are made. Either of these possible operational arrangements will require prior discussion and approval from the three country offices;

- That the Pacific UNDP country offices, participating governments and relevant regional-intergovernmental organizations will assist the Team for the Pacific rapid assessment and gap analysis to the extent possible in the gathering and collection of needed data for the assignment;
- That the Team for the Pacific rapid assessment and gap analysis as part of the assignment will propose relevant and realistic indicators reflecting the Pacific specificities. Most of the proposed energy-poverty indicators for the Asia component of the REP-PoR rapid assessment and gap analysis were deemed to be unsuitable in a Pacific context;
- That an add-on consultancy be initiated to support the Team for the Pacific rapid assessment and gap analysis in the area of energy and gender linkages; and
- To the extent that proposed interventions identified via the Pacific rapid assessment and gap analysis are unable to be supported in the context of REP-PoR (e.g. due to resource limitations in the Program) the recommended activities, (pilot) projects, etc if appropriate should be presented to other development partners for possible support. Once the Pacific report has been discussed, verified and endorsed at the consultation meeting in November 2005 it should be distributed to possible development partners for their consideration and possible support.

ANNEX A

Final Agenda

Monday 5 September 2005	
Session 1:	Registration and Opening
8.00 – 8.30	Registration
8.30 – 8.35	Opening prayer by Mr. Mata Nooroa, Director, Energy Division, Government of the Cook Islands
8.35 – 8.45	Opening Remarks by Ms. Joyce Yu, Resident Representative, UNDP Samoa
8.45 – 8.55	Address by Ms. Elizabeth Fong, Regional Manager, UNDP Regional Center in Bangkok
8.55 – 9.05	Introduction to the participants
9.05 – 9.10	Adoption of program, Mr. Thiyagarajan Velumail, Programme Specialist, REP-PoR
Session 2:	Introduction to REP-PoR
9.10 – 9.30	General overview of REP-PoR and main activities for 2005, Mr. Thiyagarajan Velumail, Programme Specialist, REP-PoR
9.30 – 9.45	Governance and energy, Ms. Roohi Metcalfe, Gender and Governance Specialist, UNDP Regional Center Bangkok
9.45 – 10.00	Mainstreaming gender in energy, Ms. Roohi Metcalfe, Gender and Governance Specialist, UNDP Regional Center Bangkok
10.00 – 10.15	Questions and discussion
10.15 – 10.45	Morning tea
Session 3:	Consultancies for REP-PoR Preparatory Activities
10.45 – 11.15	Overview of REP-PoR Rapid base-line Assessment and Gap Analysis, Mr. Hafeezur Rehman, Lead consultant
11.15 – 11.45	Presentation of Pacific Rapid base-line Assessment and Gap Analysis including Inception Report, Mr. Herbert A. Wade, energy consultant
11.45 – 12.45	Preliminary summary overview of the energy situation in the each of the PICs with regard to REP-PoR focus areas, Mr. Herbert A. Wade, energy consultant
12.45 – 13.45	Lunch
13.45 – 14.15	Questions and discussion
Session 4:	Pacific status in the context of REP-PoR
14.15 – 14.30	Pacific component of REP-PoR – Setting the Pacific Scene: On-going and Planned Pacific Regional/sub-regional Energy Interventions, Mr. Thomas Lyng Jensen, Associate Programme Specialist, REP-PoR
14.30 – 14.45	Samoa, Ms. Silia Ualesi, Energy Coordinator, Ministry of Finance, Government of Samoa
14.45 – 15.00	Cook Islands, Mr. Mata Nooroa, Director, Energy Division, Government of the Cook Islands
15.00 – 15.15	UNDP Fiji, Mr. Alvin Chandra, Environment/GEF/Energy Associate
15.15 – 15.30	UNDP Samoa, Ms. Easter Galuvao, Assistant Resident Representative (ARR), Energy and Environment Unit
15.30 – 15.50	Afternoon tea
15.50 – 16.10	Pacific Islands Renewable Energy Project (PIREP) & Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP), Mr. Solomone Fifita, PIREP Chief Technical Advisor, SPREP

16.10 – 16.30	Pacific Islands Energy Policy and Strategic Action Planning Project (PIEPSAP), Mr. Anare Matakiviti, Energy Advisor, SOPAC
16.40 – 17.00	Wrap Up of Day 1
Tuesday 6 September 2005	
Session 6:	Working Session on the Thematic Framework of the Rapid base-line Assessment and Gap Analysis
8.30 – 10.00	Mapping of baseline data, assessment of gaps and identification of needs
10.00 – 10.15	Morning tea
10.15 – 12.45	Mapping of baseline data, assessment of gaps and identification of needs continued
12.45 – 13.45	Lunch
13.45 – 14.15	Discussions and sum-up of session 6
Session 7:	Working Session on Implementations Arrangements for the Rapid Assessment and Gap Analysis
14.15 – 14.45	Management structure and implementation strategy at County Office, national and regional level
14.45 – 15.15	Action plan for the Pacific Rapid Assessment and Gap Analysis
15.15 – 15.45	Structure of the Rapid base-line Assessment and Gap Analysis Report, Mr. Herbert A. Wade
15.45 – 16.00	Afternoon Tea
Session 8:	Closing
16.00 – 16.30	Discussions and sum-up of planning meeting
16.30 – 16.45	Closing remarks by UNDP Samoa, Ms. Easter Galuvao, Assistant Resident Representative (ARR), Energy and Environment Unit
16.45 – 16.50	Closing prayer by Mr. Mata Nooroa, Director, Energy Division, Government of the Cook Islands
18.30 – 21.30	Reception hosted by REP-PoR at Apaula Heights

ANNEX B

List of Participants

Name	Title and Organisation	E-mail
1. Ms. Joyce Yu	Resident Representative, UNDP Samoa	joyce.yu@undp.org
2. Ms. Easter Galuvao	Assistant Resident Representative (ARR), Energy and Environment Unit, UNDP Samoa	easter.galuvao@undp.org
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4. Mr. Alvin Chandra	Environment/GEF/Energy Associate, UNDP Fiji	alvin.chandra@undp.org
5. Ms. Sili'a Kilepoa Ualesi	Energy Coordinator, Economic Policy and Planning Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Samoa	silia.kilepoa@mof.gov.ws
6. Mr. Mata Nooroa	Director, Energy Division, Ministry of Works, Government of the Cook Islands	punanga@energy.gov.ck
7. Mr. Anare Matakiviti	Energy Advisor, Pacific Islands Energy Policy and Strategic Action Planning (PIEPSAP), South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)	Anare@sopac.org
8. Mr. Solomone Fifita	Chief Technical Advisor, Pacific Islands Renewable Energy Project (PIREP), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)	solomonef@sprep.org
9. Mr. Hafeezur Rehman	Lead consultant for REP-PoR Rapid Assessment and Gap Analysis	ihrehman@teri.res.in
10. Mr. Herbert A Wade	Team Leader for Pacific Rapid Assessment and Gap Analysis	herbwade@compuserve.com
11. Ms Elizabeth Fong	Regional Manager UNDP Regional Center in Bangkok	elizabeth.fong@undp.org
12. Mr. Thiyagarajan Velumail	Programme Specialist, REP-PoR, UNDP Regional Center Bangkok	rajan.velumail@undp.org
13. Ms. Roohi Metcalfe	Gender and Governance Specialist, UNDP Regional Center Bangkok	roohi.metcalfe@undp.org
14. Mr. Thomas Lynge Jensen	Associate Programme Specialist, REP-PoR, UNDP Regional Center Bangkok/UNDP Samoa	thomas.jensen@undp.org