

POWERING UP THE BLUE PACIFIC



How the Pacific
can be the
world's first
100% renewable
energy region

DISCUSSION
STARTER

Foreword

President Surangel S. Whipps, Jr.

Palau and our brothers and sisters in the Pacific contribute the least to global emissions, however, we suffer the most from the climate crisis. Rising sea levels and extreme weather threaten our hospitals, schools, infrastructure and food security, putting our children's future at risk.

Nevertheless, we have long believed that the best form of leadership is leadership by example. Which is why we have already taken the lead with some of the most ambitious renewable energy and decarbonisation plans of anywhere in the world.

These plans are supported by bodies such as the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific, which has helped ensure a solar farm in Palau can deliver 20 percent of our energy needs alone.

Changes in the availability of green technology such as solar photovoltaic panels, batteries, and electric vehicles now mean that we can rapidly move to the next step of achieving 100% renewable energy—becoming the first region in the world to do so.

In doing so, we can be a beacon to the world for rapid decarbonisation to keep the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C within reach.

This discussion paper highlights the great work already underway across the Blue Pacific to decarbonise energy systems.



“Imagine how different our societies will be if we can keep that money in our communities and give everyone access to clean affordable electricity?”

From solar kits in PNG to big batteries supporting grids in Cook Islands.

From sail power in the Marshall Islands to retrofitting electric outboard motors in Solomon Islands.

Even a privately-operated electric vehicle fast charging network in Fiji. There are many initiatives underway.

But we have now reached a pivotal moment where with the right support, the right platforms, and with our region's profound political will in our sails, we can now take the next step to reach 100% renewable energy.

This would be good for our energy security.

This would be good for our economy, providing jobs and business opportunities.

This would be good for our health and wellbeing.

This would give our children the best chance of a future.

As things stand, and even in light of our efforts to decarbonise, most of our countries still spend between 10 to 25% of our GDPs on importing fossil fuels.

Imagine how different our societies will be if we can keep that money in our communities and give everyone access to clean affordable electricity and electric mobility?

As I said at the Smart Energy Conference in Sydney in April 2025, we cannot let the opportunity of Australia's potential hosting of COP31 in partnership with the Pacific go by without demonstrating to our people the tangible benefit for them through a landmark outcome such as this.

Hosting COP31 in our region is not just about symbolism, it is a test of fairness, balance and integrity in the global climate process.

Bringing COP to the Pacific at this moment would allow the world to witness both the climate crisis and our leadership up close.

To see not only the devastating impacts of climate change, but also the real, local and scalable solutions that Australia and Pacific nations are already delivering.

Now is the time for us to tackle the difficult challenge of removing fossil fuels from our energy systems and the Pacific once again can lead by example.

Will you join me in advancing this ambition?

I commend this discussion paper to you as a timely contribution on the pathway to achieving 100% renewable energy in the Pacific.

President Surangel S. Whipps, Jr.
Republic of Palau



A 100% Renewable Pacific Partnership Key Messages

1 Powering island countries with renewables can save billions on imported fossil fuels

- Diesel imports cost Pacific Island countries USD 6 billion per annum.
- Fossil fuel imports are between 10 to 25% of GDP for some Pacific nations.
- Imports of fossil fuels account for nearly 80% of the Pacific's total energy spend.
- Falling technology costs mean solar and battery systems now outperform fossil fuels for electricity generation, offering immediate savings for Pacific Island countries.

2 The technologies are available right now to power the Pacific with renewable energy

- Pacific utilities can replace diesel and oil generators with renewable generation from solar and wind, backed up by battery energy storage systems, biomass, and hydropower.
- Installed costs for solar power generation have dropped more than fivefold since 2010, and the levelised cost of energy for solar is now cheaper than fossil fuels.
- Solutions also exist for Pacific island transport, including electric vehicles for urban centres, battery-electric motors for banana boats and decarbonising inter-island shipping.

3 Moving to renewable energy can boost economic development in the Pacific

- Accelerating the shift to renewable energy can help Pacific nations expand access to electricity, create new jobs and skills, enhance energy security and save on fuel bills.
- At least 3.7 million people in the Pacific currently don't have access to electricity. Off-grid renewable systems can help to deliver energy to the 74% of Pacific islanders who live in rural and remote areas not well-served by existing grids.
- A just energy transition for the region must be co-created with Pacific peoples through widespread community consultations.

4 A 100% Renewable Pacific Partnership can be a COP31 signature initiative

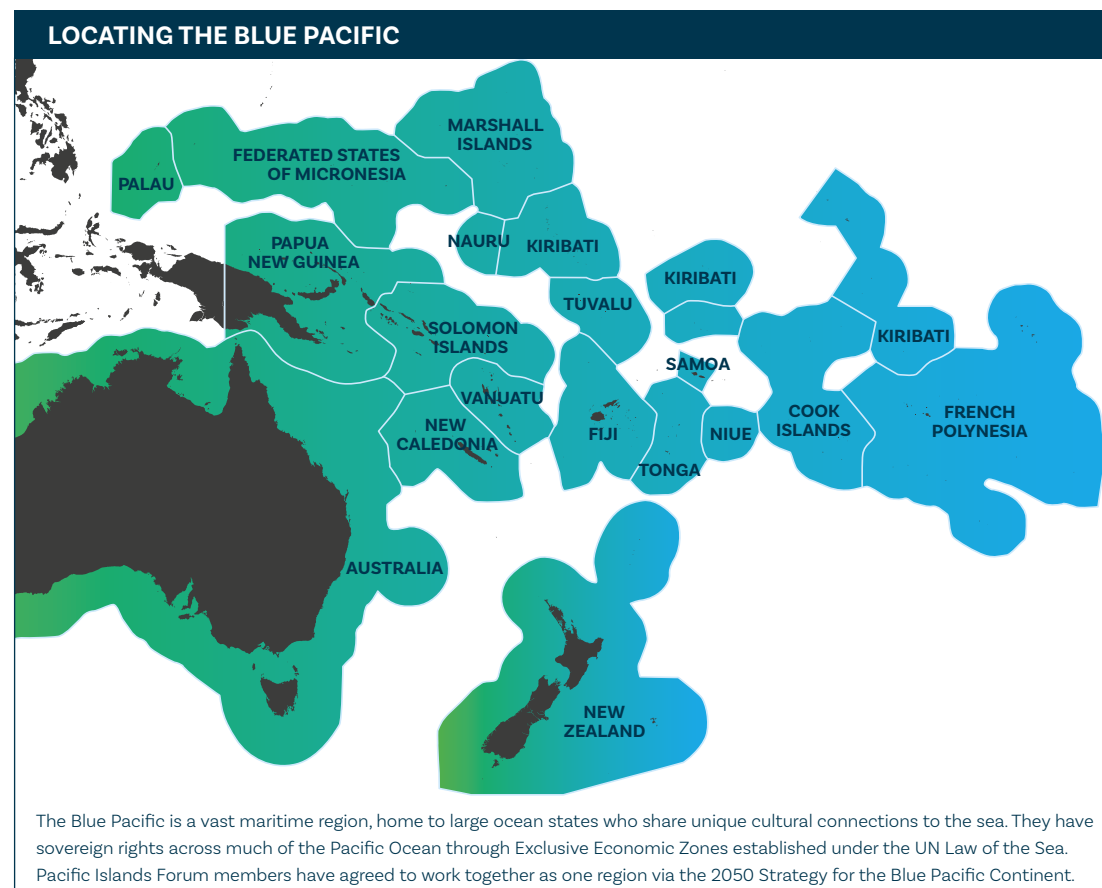
- Pacific Island countries are working with Australia to host the 2026 UN climate talks. This will be the largest summit held in the region, with tens of thousands of delegates expected.
- Pacific Island countries have been climate leaders for decades. Island countries have set bold renewable energy targets in national commitments under the Paris Agreement and have called for a Fossil Fuel-Free Pacific.
- Meeting these Pacific goals will require new international finance. Recent estimates suggest replacing fossil fuel electricity generation in eight Pacific countries would entail up front costs of up to USD 1 billion (offset by ongoing savings on fuel costs).
- A 100% Renewable Pacific Partnership can be a flagship COP31 initiative—helping to attract international resources to invest in renewable energy infrastructure.
- By committing to a 100% Renewable Pacific, the region can chart the course for a global movement to create a 100% Renewable Planet.

Purpose

This discussion paper aims to ignite dialogue and build momentum for a 100% Renewable Pacific Partnership. It showcases how renewable energy can deliver energy sovereignty, drive economic growth and strengthen resilience across the Pacific. It outlines the partnerships, financing arrangements, and capacity-building initiatives necessary to make it a reality,

and highlights how a 100% Renewable Pacific Partnership could be a flagship COP31 initiative that helps attract international resources to invest in renewable energy infrastructure.

After further stakeholder consultations, a comprehensive report on a 100% Renewable Pacific Partnership will be launched at COP30 in Brazil in November 2025.



1/ The 100% Renewable Energy Opportunity

Pacific Island countries are working with Australia to host the COP31 UN climate summit in 2026. The Blue Pacific can be a global beacon for action by setting a clear target to be the first region that is 100% powered by renewable energy, and set the target for the world to follow suit. This can become a signature initiative of the COP31 summit and a chance to promote energy security and resilient development.

Pacific Island countries have led the global climate fight for decades. Pacific nations helped secure the 2015 Paris Agreement which now guides global cooperation to limit warming to 1.5°C. Pacific nations also pressed the International Court of Justice to clarify the legal obligations countries have to protect the Earth's climate system.

We all know what we need to do now. We must move as fast as possible to renewable energy and away from polluting fossil fuels. Pacific countries have set bold renewable energy targets in national commitments under the Paris Agreement, and they can again lead the way by moving to 100% renewable energy for electricity, transport and shipping. These can be consolidated in a regional goal for 100% renewable energy.

Across the Pacific Islands, renewable energy accounts for approximately 17% of total energy support and 28% of electricity generation, with most of this derived from hydropower, on larger islands. Renewable energy and renewable electricity penetration

varies, depending on each country's particular set of economic, political and environmental factors.

There is strong potential to increase the Pacific's renewable energy uptake. Many Pacific countries have excellent solar resources, which are already being harnessed, most notably in Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, and Tonga. Developments in Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Niue, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu demonstrate the potential of hydropower, while geothermal power also has potential in many locations.

Moving to renewable energy is a massive economic and development opportunity for island nations. Today, Pacific nations spend between 10-25% of their GDPs—USD6 billion per year—to import diesel fuel. Wind, solar and battery storage can deliver energy at lower costs than imported fossil fuels, and create new jobs and industries. Investing in renewable energy will also improve energy security, enabling many island communities to access electricity and improving the resilience of energy systems during disasters.

In the lead up to COP31, the 2026 Pacific Islands Forum will be held in Palau, and President Surangel S. Whipps, Jr. hopes to launch a signature new initiative for a 100% Renewable Pacific Partnership. To develop this initiative, the conversation must start now, with widespread consultation among Pacific Island countries and development partners.

Renewable Energy Sites Underway

1 PALAU 15.2MW solar PV installation and 12.9MWh battery blended finance package from the Australian Government by way of an USD16.9 million loan and a USD3.7 million grant to Solar Pacific Pristine Power Inc.

2 PAPUA NEW GUINEA 1400 remote area families received a portable solar power unit in a partnership with solar energy company Sola PayGo, payment services provider Bmobile, product manufacturer d.light, and the Australian Government.

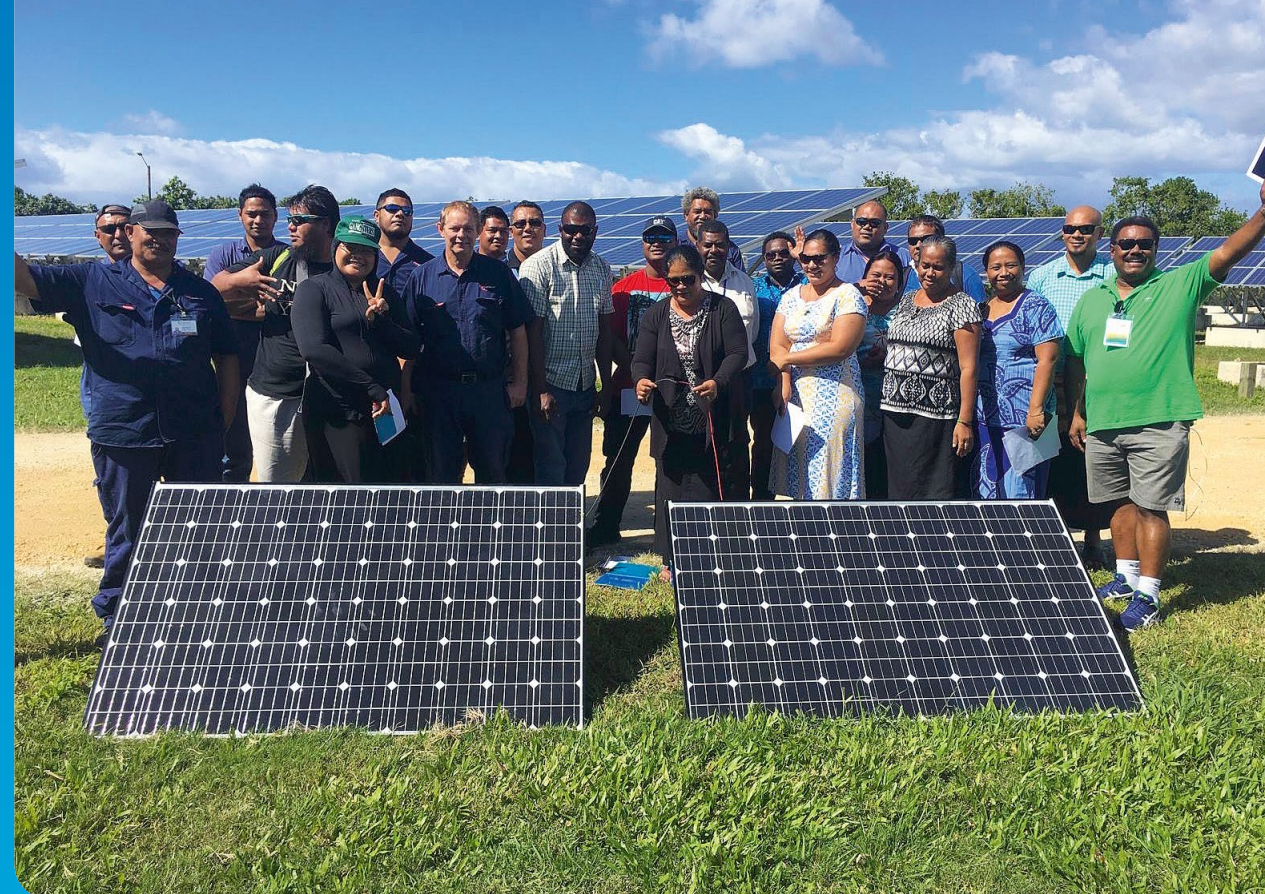
3 FSM USD42 million World Bank-funded project to deploy solar and batteries to achieve 70% RE by 2030.

4 MARSHALL ISLANDS Since 2017, RMI has been working with German development agency GIZ and has deployed two sail-powered vessels, SV Kwai and the SV Juren Ae, to deliver cargo and passengers at lower cost than marine oil-fuelled vessels.

5 SOLOMON ISLANDS Innovative Australian firm eClassOutboards conducting a trial retrofit of an existing outboard motor to battery electric using kit supplied from Australia.

6 VANUATU Respond Global's health and logistics vessel, HELPR-1, received additional financial assistance to employ three electricians and one plumber to repair or upgrade remote health centre solar PV and battery systems, as well as water pumps.

Solar PV training in Tonga, led by the Smart Energy Council's Geoff Bragg



7 NAURU 6MW solar farm and 2.5MWh BESS to go from 3% to 47% renewable energy by 2025.

8 KIRIBATI The ADB-funded South Tarawa Renewable Energy Project Phase 2 introduces 9MW of floating PV systems, plus BESS & 33kV transmission networks.

9 TUVALU A 500kW rooftop solar system and a 2MWh battery energy storage system (BESS) were installed in 2024, increasing renewable power in Funafuti from 15% to 32%.

10 FIJI Entrepreneur Alex Reddaway set up Fiji's first EV Fast Charging Network with funding from UK Aid.

11 TONGA Renewable Energy Project to achieve 70% RE by 2030 with a mixture of solar and BESS, as well as a 2.25MW wind power project, funded by ADB and other donors.

12 NIUE USD12.1 million solar farm and USD1.5 million BESS to reach 80% RE by 2025 funded by NZ Govt.

13 SAMOA Tesla installed 13.6 MWh Power Pack on the island of Upolu to promote renewables growth and maintained the system following storm damage.

14 COOK ISLANDS Utility Te Aponga Uira's Rarotonga Airport South BESS system uses a 2MW/8MWh Tesla Powerpack technology and controller, enabling it to respond instantaneously to the utility's commands.

2/ A Partnership for a 100% Renewable Pacific



Tonga's first large-scale wind farm project, the Li'o Manumataongo wind farm, consists of five 275kW wind turbines.

The Pacific's renewable energy ambition is reflected in policy frameworks at the regional and national level. The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent sets a clear direction toward renewable energy, supported by the adoption of innovative technologies. The Framework for Energy Security and Resilience 2021-2030 reinforces this vision, aiming for universal access to electricity, transport fuels, and household energy services that are not only resilient to climate and disaster risks, but increasingly powered by renewable sources.

In 2023, a grouping of Pacific energy and transport ministers issued a Port Vila Call for a Just Transition to a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific. At the 2023 Pacific Islands Forum, Leaders committed to "transition away from coal, oil, and gas in our energy systems" to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

At the national level, Pacific Island countries have set bold renewable energy targets in their Paris Agreement Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and in their national energy strategies. Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru,

Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu have all pledged to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2030. Meanwhile, Tonga and Solomon Islands have set a target of 70% renewable electricity by 2030 and complete renewable generation by 2050.

The Pacific's renewable energy efforts are supported by the region's scientific and technical agencies. This includes the Pacific Community (SPC) and its Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREE) and the Office of the Pacific Energy Regulators Alliance (OPERA) and the Pacific

Power Association (PPA), and the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). Development partners including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Australia, New Zealand, European Union, Japan, World Bank and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are playing a critical role in financing the renewable energy transition.

The next section sets out proposed components for a 100% Renewable Pacific Partnership, and key questions to invite ideas and feedback on the proposed initiative.

A 100% RENEWABLE REGION

KEY QUESTIONS

- How would political commitment to becoming the world's first region powered by renewables accelerate the energy transition in the Pacific?
- Can the shift to renewable energy be supported by a regional technical secretariat?
- How might new finance be allocated to accelerate the shift to renewable energy?

To initiate a 100% Renewable Pacific Partnership, Pacific Islands Forum Leaders could consider making a regional political commitment to be the first region of the world 100% powered by renewable energy. Such a commitment would reinforce existing policies including the 2050 Strategy, Framework for Energy Security and Resilience, Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific and the Port Vila Call. It would also act as a powerful signal to attract partnerships and investment for the Pacific's clean energy transition.

Delivering on a regional political commitment will require strategic planning, technical assistance and regional coordination. With the Framework for Energy Security and Resilience due for its mid-term review, there is an opportunity

to integrate an action plan for a 100% Renewable Pacific into a revised Framework, to collectively drive the regional approach. This could include considering regional coordination initiatives for economies of scale, for example on transport and logistics, insurance and bulk procurement for renewable solutions.

The Pacific's shift to renewable energy could be catalysed by establishing a Pacific Energy Commissioner for a Just Transition to a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific, as previously endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders. The Commissioner could be supported by a regional technical secretariat tasked with coordination and support for implementation. At present, the Pacific Community (SPC) is mandated to support Pacific Island governments to implement

“Decentralised energy systems, smart grids, and energy storage solutions are just a few examples of how technology can revolutionize our energy landscape”

PRIME MINISTER JEREMIAH MANELE, SOLOMON ISLANDS

energy priorities, and SPC organises meetings of Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers to set shared goals. The next meeting will be held in May 2026 in Papua New Guinea. A technical secretariat within SPC may help to deliver a region-wide goal of 100% renewable energy and monitor progress against that goal.

A regional commitment to a 100% Renewable Pacific must centre on a just transition, and one that places Pacific

Islanders at the centre of the energy transformation. This requires an inclusive and holistic policy approach to maximise opportunities for sustainable development and economic diversification, and ensure a just transition for workers and communities impacted by a fossil fuel production phase-out. There are opportunities for shared learning with Australia’s First Nations Clean Energy Network, which focuses on placing First Nations peoples at the centre of Australia’s energy transformation.

100% RENEWABLE NATIONS

KEY QUESTIONS

- What support do national policymakers and regulators need to accelerate the shift to renewable energy?
- How can national energy utilities be supported to invest in renewable energy?
- Can national governments support community-scale and household-scale renewable energy?

A renewed political commitment to renewable energy could accelerate economic development in Pacific Island countries and help to achieve energy independence by reducing reliance on expensive fossil fuel imports while lowering energy costs and improving energy

resilience. Small-scale renewable systems—including rooftop solar, microgrids and small battery systems—can also extend energy access to more communities across the region. There is no one-size-fits-all approach: each country will need a country-led, tailored, approach supported by a renewable



Cook Islands’ power utility company Te Aponga Uira’s Rarotonga BESS Project Airport South is a 2MW/8MWh Tesla Powerpack battery energy storage system.

energy strategy and regulatory framework. Some countries and urban centres will be suitable for large-scale renewable energy infrastructure; many outer islands will face logistical and cost challenges.

Many barriers will need to be overcome. Pacific Island countries face unique challenges that make economic development more difficult than in other parts of the world. These include relatively small domestic markets, large distances from external markets, widely dispersed populations, high transport costs, a heavy reliance on imports, and a vulnerability to disasters and climate change impacts.

These challenges also impact energy delivery. Pacific nations depend on imported fossil fuels, especially diesel for power generation, and prices are highly volatile. With small retail markets and expensive infrastructure

outlays, national energy utilities face high per-unit costs to deliver electricity.

Energy utilities tend to focus on infrastructure for urban centres while rural communities and remote islands are often not well serviced. Many communities remain without electricity, especially in Melanesia, where it is estimated that eight million people (more than 70% of all households) continue to live in energy poverty. Decentralised small-scale renewable systems are increasingly important for rural electrification in areas not connected to central grids. Papua New Guinea—with a population larger than all other Pacific Island countries combined—will need distinct energy solutions. Today, less than 20% of PNG’s population has access to electricity.

Pacific energy utilities will need ongoing support to evolve their business models

to accommodate renewable energy technologies. Typically, the region's national utilities have a centralised monopoly on electricity generation and transmission infrastructure, with a heavy focus on diesel generation. These utilities tend to focus on long-term asset recovery and can view distributed energy generation from renewables as a potential threat to their revenue base. Utilities are also concerned

about maintaining grid stability. National policymakers and regulators can help by setting clear national targets for renewable energy, phasing out subsidies for diesel generation and considering incentives for businesses and households to convert to renewable energy solutions. Utilities may also need direct financial support to invest in utility-scale renewable energy infrastructure and battery energy storage systems (BESS).

PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING

KEY QUESTIONS

- How can bilateral donors support a regional partnership for renewable energy?
- How can multilateral organisations and development banks support a new regional partnership for renewable energy?
- What role for philanthropy? Can private donors support the Pacific's shift to renewables?

A new regional partnership for renewable energy could help to attract significant partnerships and financing for the renewable energy transition. It could also help to harmonise financial support for renewables. As obligated by the Paris Agreement, developed country Parties have a differentiated obligation to provide the resources to developing country Parties for both mitigation and adaptation.

To reap the benefits of renewable energy, Pacific Island countries face large upfront costs to replace fossil fuel powered generation systems, upgrade electricity transmission networks, and build the skills base needed to develop and maintain renewable energy systems.

Currently, the energy sector accounts for between 7-9% of total development assistance to the region, with development partners contributing USD 1.6 billion

since 2010. Partners, including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank, European Union, Australia, New Zealand and Japan have dedicated programs in place to support the Pacific's renewable energy transition, often with a focus on off-grid renewables for rural and remote communities.

The path to a 100% Renewable Pacific will require substantial and sustained investment to deliver on regional and national renewable energy plans, infrastructure and capacity building. The upfront cost of replacing all existing fossil fuel electricity generation in eight PICs alone ranges from USD 691 million to USD 1 billion, depending on the specific technology mix. However, with the Levelised Cost of Electricity of onshore wind and utility solar PV now below that of coal, oil or gas, these initial investments would result in a net economic gain over the lifetime of the generation assets.

“

We must face this fact head-on: if we are to keep 1.5°C alive, fossil fuels have no ongoing role to play in our energy systems—and I speak as the climate and energy minister of one of the world's largest fossil fuel exporters... we also live in the Pacific, and we are not going to see our brothers and sisters inundated and their countries swallowed by the seas.”

CHRIS BOWEN, MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY, AUSTRALIA

Children from Buakonikai Primary School, Rabi Island, Fiji celebrate the opening of their solar PV system.



The HELPR-1 health and logistics vessel has installed solar PV energy systems in more than 130 facilities and maintained over 275 off-grid energy systems at schools, clinics and community halls in remote villages across the Vanuatu archipelago.



The renewable energy transition requires financing at scale and financing mechanisms designed to ensure ease of access for small island countries. The Port Vila Call for a Just Transition to a Fossil Free Pacific calls on international partners to mobilise billions of USD for grant-based financing and direct investments for Pacific Island countries. It also calls for reform of the existing financial institutions and climate finance mechanisms to enable scaled-up, timely and accessible funding for the renewable energy transition. There is a need for financing that helps manage the socioeconomic impacts of transition within PICs, not just the techno-economic transition.

Pacific Island countries currently face considerable challenges in accessing the

finance needed for a just renewable energy transition. Multilateral climate finance instruments such as the Green Climate Fund are complex and are not well geared to support community-scale projects. Private firms are reluctant to invest where returns are low, and risks are high. Financial support from donor countries is not well coordinated, and reporting requirements are burdensome.

Pacific Island countries have tried to overcome some of these challenges by establishing a Pacific-led, owned and managed Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF)—a regional fund tailored to Pacific priorities and designed to help island communities build resilience to climate impacts. The PRF may be able to deliver community-scale grants for renewable energy projects.

A Partnership for 100% Renewable Pacific could provide an overarching financing platform to ensure substantial, long-term investment in renewable energy infrastructure and capability. This could include scaling up and enhancing coordination of existing renewable energy initiatives, as well as new funding mechanisms to meet gaps. For example, a specially dedicated regional fund to de-risk investment in larger-scale renewable energy infrastructure such as transmission upgrades; funding to support and incentivise the uptake of renewables by utilities, businesses, and households; funding for a just transition and to enable Pacific skills, research, and

technology development; and funding for maintenance to ensure sustainable solutions.

A 100% Renewable Pacific Partnership could also be key to supporting donor coordination on the renewable energy transition. CROP agencies have highlighted the value of donor coordination, including the important role already played by the Energy Technical Working Group of the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility.

A 100% Renewable Pacific Partnership could scale up this coordination across public and private donors and increase awareness and transparency on renewable projects.

A CRUCIAL ROLE FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR

KEY QUESTIONS

- What are key commercial opportunities for energy providers, transport companies and shipping lines to shift to renewable energy and cut the use of fossil fuels?
- What support is needed to de-risk private sector investment in renewable energy infrastructure?
- Can industry foundations or public private partnerships support the Pacific’s growing renewables sector?

The regional and international private sector will play a crucial role in scaling up the Blue Pacific’s renewable energy transition, through mobilising finance, implementation, technology innovation and supply chain development. The Climate Investment Forum, to be hosted in 2026 by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat ahead of COP31, provides an opportunity for Pacific Island countries to collectively consider the investment pipeline they need for their energy transition, and the appropriate mix of financial instruments to deliver it.

To meet the financing challenge, a 100% Renewable Pacific Partnership could

better incentivise and engage the private sector to invest in the Pacific’s renewable energy transition. Catalytic capital, in the form of public or philanthropic funds, can be used for feasibility studies and early-stage development costs, allowing private sector funds to kick in once the project has been deemed technically feasible and financially viable. This would build on existing initiatives like TIDES (Transforming Islands Development through Electrification and Sustainability), a new USD 100 million blended finance platform to provide flexible financing to local developers with the goal of catalysing investment in the Pacific’s renewable energy sector at scale. There is

also an opportunity to further enable the role of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) in the Pacific’s electricity market, to attract private investment, diversify energy sources and enhance market competition, ultimately benefiting consumers and the environment.

To maximise the economic development benefits, a 100% Renewable Pacific Partnership needs to focus on building

the capacity of the Pacific’s private sector to support the renewables transition. This includes private sector development initiatives; strategies and systems that enable local procurement of goods and services; and sustaining robust local support chains. Investing in local solutions will ensure greater economic opportunity for the region and the sustainability of its renewable energy systems.

TECHNOLOGY AND SKILLS

KEY QUESTIONS

- What education and skills programs are needed to support Pacific jobs installing and maintaining renewable energy?
- Can Pacific and Australian universities provide engaged and iterative research to accelerate the shift to renewable energy?

Shifting to a renewable energy-powered Pacific will create new job opportunities across the region. The Pacific’s renewable energy workforce will require a blend of skills to design, install, operate and maintain renewable energy systems. Technical and vocational training initiatives such as the Pacific Australia Skills Platform could help to deliver new training modules to upskill technicians and electricians.

Regional solutions can support the renewable energy workforce of smaller Pacific island countries. The University of the South Pacific, through its USP Pacific TAFE, currently offers online short courses in designing and installing grid and off-grid solar PV and battery storage systems. National universities and training centres will also have a key role to play. The Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands (SEIAPI) is establishing a Pacific Regional Sustainable Energy Training Centre at the University of the South Pacific’s TAFE in Suva, Fiji. The International

Solar Alliance has also established the Solar Technology Application Resource Centre (STAR-C) at Kiribati’s Institute of Technology. Additional centres are being considered for Fiji, PNG and Vanuatu. Formal training programs can be paired with train-the-trainer programs, community-scale training hubs and structured mentoring that embed renewable energy capabilities in communities and create career pathways for women and youth.

In addition to vocational training, universities in the Pacific can provide engaged research that integrates the technical, economic and social dimensions of the Pacific’s energy transition. Researchers can support Pacific governments to develop enabling policy and regulation and appropriate technologies that accelerate the shift to renewable energy. Researchers may also work with governments and the private sector.

GLOBAL COMMITMENT: BUILDING A RENEWABLE BLUE PLANET

A Partnership for 100% Renewable Pacific is an opportunity for the region to lead on climate change ambition and action—again. The world must follow suit.

To secure the future of the Blue Pacific, climate change mitigation must happen at scale, right now. Surpassing the 1.5°C limit risks triggering climate tipping points including the collapse of coral reef systems and disrupted ocean circulation, which would have irreversible impacts on not just the Pacific Islands, but the whole planet.

For Pacific atoll nations, such as Tuvalu, Kiribati, and the Marshall Islands, exceeding the 1.5°C limit will accelerate sea level rise

that may submerge entire communities and even nations.

Hosting an Australia-Pacific COP31 is an chance to highlight the climate emergency confronting Pacific Islands countries and the scalable solutions at hand for the region and the world to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. By committing to a 100% Renewable Pacific Partnership, the region can chart the course for a global movement for a 100% Renewable Blue Planet. This would give action to the commitment at COP29 to transition away from fossil fuels and drive global policy, financing, technology transfer and partnerships for a collective clean energy future.

LAUNCHING A 100% RENEWABLE PACIFIC AT COP31



Australia—in partnership with Pacific Island countries—is in the box seat to host the COP31 global climate talks in 2026. This will be the largest summit ever held in the region, with thousands of delegates expected to attend in Australia and at Pacific satellite events.

With the world’s attention focused on the region over the next 12 months, Pacific countries have the chance to shape the agenda for a new 100% Renewable Pacific Partnership as part of the push for the global transition to renewable energy and as a signature initiative at COP31.

Key milestones in 2026, including the Pacific energy and transport ministers meeting and the Pacific Islands Forum in Palau are a chance to shape expectations. Palau’s President Surangel Whipps Jr. has called for a regional pre-COP31 gathering to channel international resources toward a 100% renewable energy initiative for the Pacific.

3/ Next Steps: Help us shape the Partnership

In response to this discussion paper, we invite ideas, proposals, and collaborations to collectively map the path to a 100% Renewable Pacific Partnership. The development of a regional roadmap requires deep consultation and collaboration with the region's stakeholders.

Together, we can unlock the Pacific's renewable energy potential, attract the financing and partnerships that we need.

At COP31, our leadership toward a 100% Renewable Pacific can set the course to a 100% Renewable Planet.

Event	Date / Location
UNFCCC COP30	November 2025, Belem, Brazil
Pacific Climate Investment Forum	April/May 2026, Suva, Fiji
6th Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting	May 2026, PNG
UNFCCC intersessional meeting	June 2026, Bonn, Germany
55th Pacific Islands Forum	September 2026, Palau
UNFCCC COP 31	November 2026

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