

NDCs 3.0 Regional Forum & Regional Capacity-Building Workshop on Carbon Pricing and Article 6 Training for the Pacific

Dates: 12-16 August 2024

Venue: Apia, Samoa

I. Background

The Pacific nations, while contributing negligibly to global emissions, are on the frontlines of climate impacts. They are building resilience through adaptation planning and investments while also making bold commitments to reduce their carbon footprints through ambitious climate policies and projects. All 14 Pacific Island Countries have submitted their first NDC,¹ 11 have submitted updated, revised or second NDCs,² and 5 countries have submitted their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).³

Mitigation and adaptation strategies are increasingly incorporated into domestic policy frameworks and regulations. However, the region faces many challenges, including access to resources, information and knowledge management, as well as the monitoring and coordination of these measures at local, national and regional levels. There are gaps in capacity for data collection and monitoring, and in accessing technology and finance on the ground. The challenges faced by the Pacific Islands underscore the necessity for support and collaboration to build solutions and bolster resilience of these vulnerable islands against adverse impacts of climate change.

The next generation of **NDCs (so-called NDCs 3.0)**, due in 2025, are an opportunity to set the world back on track for achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement and to align climate action with sustainable development. New NDCs must be informed by the first Global Stocktake (GST), and they need to drive transformational implementation in each country, unlock finance, identify technology and capacity needs, increase resilience, and ensure that no one is left behind.

This year also marks a pivotal moment for the implementation of the **enhanced transparency framework (ETF)** under the Paris Agreement, as Parties shall submit their first biennial transparency reports (BTRs) and national inventory reports with the acknowledgment that least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS) may submit at their discretion. There is significant interest among LDCs and SIDS to prepare and submit their BTRs, to showcase their progress under the Paris Agreement and communicate their gaps and support needs. Therefore, providing technical support and advice to the Parties from the Pacific region to facilitate their BTR preparation efforts and timely submissions is crucial, aiming to fast-track the preparation of their BTRs and facilitate submission in 2024.

Participation in international **carbon markets and Art.6** can attract foreign investment into renewable energy, reforestation, and other green projects, thereby providing potential significant revenue for Pacific island nations, supporting local economies, and funding sustainable development projects. The Pacific island nations have not benefited much from the Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol (CDM), as awareness raising and capacity building were lagging behind. Technical expertise in measuring, reporting, and verifying emissions reductions can benefit greatly from carbon market participation. While some Pacific island states receive support, there is still much room for enhancing regional dialogues on effective carbon pricing strategies, stakeholder engagement strategies, and implementation pathways.

¹ Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

² Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

³ Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands and Tonga.

The final GST outcome from COP28 highlights the importance of ‘multi-stakeholder engagement, enhancing ownership by beneficiary countries, and sharing experiences and lessons learned, particularly at the regional level’,⁴ while recognizing the significant capacity constraints of the least developed countries and small island states,⁵ making the Pacific region a priority area for collectively providing support.

II. Objectives

The overall objective of a week-long event is to serve as a platform for development partners to strengthen their commitment to serve the Pacific countries to address the challenges posed by climate change, highlight the importance of regionally-specific, locally-driven initiatives, and discuss ways to accelerate climate action and just, inclusive transition in the region. The event offers a multi-faceted and practical approach to understanding, planning and implementing climate change mitigation strategies.

Specifically, the event is designed to:

- Enhance understanding of NDCs 3.0 whereby participants gain clear guidance on developing and submitting their new NDCs in 2025, including identifying support needs and addressing gaps and challenges.
- Empower stakeholders, in particular national experts, in the Pacific region by sharing best practices between Pacific countries and their partners, and providing them with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the ETF and prepare BTRs; as well as promote peer exchange and networking among participants;
- Share information and provide knowledge on Article 6, emissions trading and carbon markets with key stakeholders to increase their understanding and readiness for participation;
- Gain a comprehensive assessment of actions taken and progress made to address knowledge, capacity-building, monitoring and evaluation, technology and policy gaps in the Pacific region;
- Improve the understanding of the Pacific region's progress in addressing climate knowledge gaps, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation, finance mobilization, technology adoption, and policy development.
- Strengthen regional support for Pacific Island Countries from the UNFCCC secretariat through the RCC Asia-Pacific, fostering a long-term partnership for future climate action and ensuring heightened visibility of the Pacific countries;
- Co-create support frameworks between Pacific countries and support partners to address the challenges posed by climate change through a multi-faceted and multi-pronged practical approach;
- Provide an opportunity to convene a meeting of the NDC Hub Focal Points in the region, and update them on Phase 3 NDC implementation in the Blue Pacific through the Pacific Regional NDC Hub as well as provide more clarity and guidance on Phase 4 implementation commitments.

III. Participants

The event aims to target technical personnel from Pacific countries (listed in the Annex) responsible for preparing NDCs and BTRs and engaging with the Article 6 processes under the Paris Agreement, but it will also be open to other participants from Parties and Non-Party Stakeholders in the Pacific.

IV. Organization of the event

The event is co-organized by the UNFCCC secretariat, including through its Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RCC Asia Pacific), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the NDC Partnership in cooperation with the UN Environment Programme and the Regional Pacific NDC Hub, with support from the UN Development Programme.

⁴ Outcome of the first global stocktake (FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/L.17), Paragraph 113.

⁵ Outcome of the first global stocktake (FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/L.17), Paragraph 41, 75, 106.

Annex I: List of Pacific countries

No	Country	Category
1	Australia	Developed country
2	Cook Islands	Developing country
3	Fiji	Developing country
4	Kiribati	LDC
5	Marshall Islands	Developing country
6	Federated States of Micronesia	Developing country
7	Nauru	Developing country
8	New Zealand	Developed country
9	Niue	Developing country
10	Palau	Developing country
11	Papua New Guinea	Developing country
12	Samoa	Developing country
13	Solomon Islands	LDC
14	Tonga	Developing country
15	Tuvalu	LDC
16	Vanuatu	Developing country

Annex II: Proposed Agenda

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TIME	12 AUGUST	13 AUGUST	14 AUGUST	15 AUGUST	16 AUGUST
08:30-09:00	Registration, Networking				
09:00-10:30	NDC Hub Focal Point Meeting	Opening Plenary	Article 6 NDC	Article 6 NDC	Article 6 NDC
10:30-11:00	Coffee/ Tea Break				
11:00-12:30	NDC Hub Focal Point Meeting	Plenary Keynotes	Article 6 NDC	Article 6 NDC	Article 6 NDC
12:30-14:00	Lunch				
14:00-15:30	NDC Hub Focal Point Meeting	Article 6 NDC	Article 6 NDC	Article 6 NDC	Plenary Session on Finance
15:30-16:00	Coffee/ Tea Break				
16:00-17:00	NDC Hub Focal Point Meeting	Article 6 NDC	Article 6 NDC	Article 6 NDC	Closing Plenary