Investment Scenarios for Achieving Energy Transition in Developing Countries: a Case Example from Fiji.

Jale Samuwai Curuki^a, Jeremy M. Hills^b and Evanthie Michalena^c

- ^a Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development, The University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji Islands, e-mail: jalecuruki5@gmail.com
- ^b a. Institute of Marine Resources, Faculty of Science, Technology & Environment, Private Bag, Laucala Campus, Suva, Fiji.
- b. Sustainability Research Centre, University of the Sunshine Coast, Maroochydore DC Qld 4558 Australia. Tel: (+679) 323 2995, e-mail: jeremy.hills@usp.ac.fj
- ^c Sustainability Research Centre, University of the Sunshine Coast, Maroochydore DC Qld 4558 Australia. Tel: (+679) 9085271, e-mail: michalena@hotmail.com¹

Abstract:

Private finance is seen as the financing panacea for resourcing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)submitted by>160 countries to the UN system Mobilizing private investment is challenging, especially for vulnerable Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS). The fourteen PSIDS have submitted ambitious NDCs, in which transition towards a sustainable energy environment through investment in renewable energy (RE) is central. Presently, RE investments in PSIDS are primarily external aid, however, reliance on limited and uncertain external finance is unlikely to deliver the required energy transition. A future scenario methodology was used with Fiji as a case-study; the analysis provided insight into alternative trajectories towards transition. Conclusions suggest that development partners should re-orientate their priorities from investments in RE installations, towards investments that upgrade the current RE readiness levels and promote a long term perspective of 'organically growing' the local private RE sector. Channeling resources to target initiatives that will 'organically grow' the indigenous private sector is critical for PSIDS, as well as other developing countries, which represent a majority of the NDCs and which are projected to dominate global growthin energy demand for decades to come.

Keywords

Climate Change; NDC, Pacific SIDS; Renewable Energy; private sector; financing

E-mail address: michalena@hotmail.com, Present address: Alkiviadou 186-188, 18536, Piraeus, Greece

¹ Corresponding author