



From Fossil Fuels to Renewable Energies – Transforming the Energy Sector on Islands

The International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) is a key element of Germany's climate financing agenda and plays an important role in honouring the funding commitments made under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. The Initiative focuses on climate change mitigation, adaptation to the impacts of climate change and the protection of biological diversity. These efforts provide various co-benefits, not least the improvement of living conditions in partner countries.

The German Government is supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement in order to achieve the climate and mitigation goals set by the global community. For this reason, Germany not only seeks to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at home, but also works together closely with emerging economies and developing countries on concrete climate change measures – for example in the energy sector – and on the development of a low-carbon economy.

Since the IKI was launched ten years ago, the Small Island Development States (SIDS) have played an important role in IKI cooperation. Bilateral projects alone have been funded with almost 37 million euros. This is in addition to the funding of regional and global projects.

Accelerating the Uptake of Renewables and Energy Efficiency on Islands

Small islands share characteristics that make them especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Many SIDS are still heavily dependent on imported fossil fuels for the majority of their energy needs. However, despite the often significant potential and cost-effectiveness of renewable energies (RE), especially solar, wind and, in some

regions, geothermal and hydro power, many islands face political, administrative, technical and financial barriers that are slowing the advance of ambitious energy reforms.

By promoting the transition of the energy sector towards a low-emission and more sustainable future, it is possible not only to improve energy security but also to free up fiscal space in national budgets that can be used to fund other development priorities. Deploying RE and efficiency technology in relevant economic sectors, such as transport, industry, agriculture and tourism, can also be beneficial. A clear commitment to a more climate-friendly energy system is therefore often reflected in the climate commitments (Nationally Determined Contributions, NDCs) of SIDS.

There are number of IKI-funded projects being carried out to support these efforts. In close cooperation with partner governments, national and international experts, technology providers and financial institutions, the projects aim to raise the domestic capacity to transform energy systems in line with the countries' NDCs.

IRENA SIDS Lighthouses Initiative

To accelerate the Small Island Developing States' transition to a sustainable energy future, IRENA launched the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative (SIDS LHI) at the Climate Summit in New York on 23 September 2014.

The Initiative brings together SIDS members and partners, including bilateral, multilateral, public, private and non-profit organisations, to provide support for SIDS members in advancing RE deployment. 51 partners (36 SIDS and 15 other partners) from the Caribbean, the Pacific, Africa, the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean and the South China Sea (AIMS) and 19 stakeholders have joined forces to work to-

wards: (i) deploying renewable energy systems; (ii) mobilising financial resources and investments in RE; (iii) developing RE roadmaps and RE-enabling frameworks.

SIDS LHI provides a platform for the strategic deployment of RE and supports SIDS members in accessing knowledge, tools and services that can help facilitate planning and implementation of RE solutions in line with their NDCs. Workshops, webinars, advisory services and other formats increase the capacity of SIDS members to develop and implement RE strategies. With resource assessment and planning tools in place – for example Quickscans (19 completed), Renewable Readiness Assessments (RRAs, five completed), Renewable Energy Roadmaps (four developed and two in progress), Grid Integration Studies (two ongoing and five completed), Project Navigator Island Modules and the Sustainable Energy Marketplace – SIDS LHI facilitates support for the implementation of sustainable RE projects. The activities of the Initiative have built on the groundwork carried out via the knowledge platform Global Renewable Energy Island Network (GREIN), which has now been integrated in the SIDS LHI. Between 2014 and 2016, an IKI-funded project supported the development of GREIN and assisted Barbados, Cabo Verde, Kiribati and Vanuatu in their energy transition efforts through support provided by IRENA and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

The BMUB has been supporting the IRENA island-related work since 2012 through the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative and the GREIN project, providing funding of up to 5.4 million euros.

Supporting the Dominican Republic in Advancing Climate-Compatible Development – Focus on Energy

Building on IKI-funded projects that have been supporting the Dominican Republic in the development and implementation of its National Climate-Compatible Development Plan (CCDP), a new project has been launched in July 2017 that aims to support the development of a low-carbon energy system as laid out in the NDC of the Dominican Republic.

In this project, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) will work with local partners to support the Dominican Republic in its transition towards a climate-friendly energy sector. Currently, Dominican power generation is largely based on fossil fuels, which account for around one third of the country's GHG emissions. Far-reaching reforms at the political, institutional, regulatory and financial level are intended to increase the share of renewable energies in the energy mix and to improve energy efficiency. In order to promote investments in renewable energies, approval procedures are to be accelerated and innovative financing mechanisms developed. In addition, the project will support the preparation of promising Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) and the implementation of the NDC in the energy sector, including reliable monitoring and evaluation (MRV) mechanisms. In the long term, this will contribute to increasing the ambition of existing climate targets. With the aim of establishing a sustainable energy supply in rural areas, a RE pilot project with an innovative operator and finance structure (e.g. cooperatives) will be implemented.

The energy project will complement the ongoing IKI project ZACK, which provides climate policy support with a special focus on the waste and cement sectors. ZACK activities comprise the development of a strong MRV system, the implementation of climate-compatible integrated waste management systems and the necessary reforms to the legal framework.

The two projects cooperate with the same national partners and organisations, such as the National Council for Climate Change and the Ministry for Energy and Mines as political partners and a wide range of other stakeholders including private sector and civil society organisations. This demonstrates how closely key sectors of the Dominican economy are linked in their efforts to transition towards a climate-friendly and sustainable future.

The above bilateral projects in the Dominican Republic have received up to 9.3 million euros in funding from the BMUB.

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