The German Government is advocating that the rise in the average global temperature be limited to a maximum of 2° C above the pre-industrial level. To achieve this goal, all countries will have to significantly reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and develop a sustainable low-carbon economy. That requires worldwide access to technologies and know-how and an appropriate policy environment. For that reason, the German Government not only focuses on climate change mitigation at home, but also closely works together with emerging and developing countries, playing an active role there.

The International Climate Initiative (IKI) is a central instrument towards this goal. It is driving forward the development of a climate-friendly economy and sustainable energy supply. BMUB has commissioned Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to jointly implement with IRENA a project under the IKI for renewable energies on islands. It aims both at accelerating the uptake of clean and cost-effective renewable energy technologies on islands and at strengthening the knowledge basis on energy related topics that are relevant to islands states.

Small islands states are most vulnerable

Small islands have characteristics that make them especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change. They are also heavily dependent on imported fossil fuels for the majority of their energy needs. Despite the high potential for renewables, many islands face political, administrative, technical and financial barriers, blocking the implementation of ambitious renewable energy programmes.

Accelerating the uptake of renewables on islands

The project will therefore address typical barriers and energy challenges on islands by establishing roadmaps, providing implementation support such as capacity building, pooling knowledge, sharing best practice, challenges and lessons learnt, and seeking innovative solutions.

The key components to be implemented through the project consist of the following:

- Support governments of island states in the development of renewable energy roadmaps for an effective and efficient transition towards renewable energies;
- Assist in the operationalization of national roadmaps, energy policies and strategic action plans for energy transition and low carbon development;
- Strengthen the structures of the Global Renewable Energy Islands Network (GREIN) through improved knowledge management, active interest clusters and thematic studies (http://grein.irena.org).

The project is being implemented in island states in the Pacific, West Africa and the Caribbean. Currently, IRENA is supporting Kiribati and Barbados in the development of roadmaps for renewable energies, and GIZ assists Vanuatu and Cabo Verde in the operationalisation of their existing energy roadmaps. Furthermore, thematic studies with a particular focus on desalination, tourism and renewable resource assessment are being commissioned under this project and will feed into the GREIN knowledge platform.
The global approach of the project ensures cross-learning between different regions, a broad outreach and balanced support to GREIN. The project term is two years and extends until mid-2016.

Showcase Cabo Verde

On the occasion of the 2014 UN Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Conference in Samoa, the delegations of Germany and Cabo Verde met and discussed a possible participation of Cabo Verde as a showcase within this project. The government of Cabo Verde appreciated this initiative and indicated their interest in receiving assistance from GIZ in the operationalization of their renewable energy roadmap.

In September 2014, GIZ conducted a mission to Cabo Verde and assessed issues and needs in view of an effective and efficient implementation of Cabo Verde’s ambitious renewable energies roadmap. The initial target of 50% renewables in electricity generation was recently revised in the National Action Plan for Renewable Energies and was increased to 100% to be reached on all islands of the archipelago by the next decade.

In close collaboration with the Direcção Geral de Energia it was agreed that GIZ assists Cabo Verde in the development of a grid code and in the development of a regulatory framework for independent power producers. The implementation of these interventions is currently underway and aims at overcoming significant obstacles for private sector participation in the development of renewable energy projects.

Results and lessons learnt from these interventions will be shared with stakeholders and fed back into the GREIN to serve as a showcase and to be replicated on other island states.

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