SAMOA

and the Paris Agreement

Sectors
Energy

National Implementing Agency
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) submitted
November 23, 2015

Paris Agreement signed
April 22, 2016

Paris Agreement ratified
April 22, 2016

Background

Samoa is a small island developing state located in the South West Pacific that has been heavily impacted by an increase in severe tropical storms and other climate change impacts. The country has proactively and continually engaged in the sustainable management of its environment and natural resources. Given its vulnerability to climate change, concerted efforts have been undertaken and are underway to build resilience and adapt to the adverse effects. To underscore its commitment to climate action, Samoa set forth in its NDC an ambitious target of generating 100% of its electricity from renewable energy sources by 2025. The INDC Project was implemented to provide technical and capacity building support primarily for the implementation of Samoa's NDC.

About the INDC Project

The UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) Programme was launched in January 2011 as part of a joint collaboration between the European Union, the Governments of Germany and Australia and UNDP. In the run up to the historic Paris Agreement, the European Commission and others provided financial and technical support specifically to advance the preparation of countries' INDCs. This support, in the context of the larger global LECB Programme called the INDC Project, continued post-Paris and has enabled advances in implementation and country-driven action.

ACTIONS & IMPACTS

Development of NDC implementation strategy

The government developed an NDC implementation strategy and action plan to guide Samoa in achieving its commitments, specifically its goal of transitioning to 100% renewable energy with support from the INDC Project. The implementation strategy was prepared in close consultation with line ministries and key stakeholders. In this process, existing policies, plans and legislation were reviewed; barriers and data gaps for implementation in the context of the Paris Agreement were identified; and a strategic plan and priority actions for NDC implementation were devised.

Design of Monitoring Plan and establishment of Renewable Energy Registry

In close collaboration with the government, the INDC Project helped design a monitoring plan to assist with the monitoring and reporting of Samoa's progress towards achieving its NDC targets. It outlines a detailed monitoring program for identifying and measuring indicators in order to track renewable energy penetration in the country. Through this support a Renewable Energy Registry was created to capture information on renewable power generation and related greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction from renewable energy projects; government officials from the energy sector were also trained to operate the Registry.

Sensitization of multiple actors on climate action

Consultations were conducted to enhance awareness among public sector officials, stakeholders and communities on Samoa's INDC, Monitoring Plan, and the Renewable Energy Registry. An extensive awareness campaign carried out in schools and colleges helped to sensitize over 3,000 students on climate change, Samoa's NDC and the country's international climate commitments.

Base established for NDC implementation

The government of Samoa, with support from the INDC project, devised a roadmap for implementation of its climate targets. The NDC Monitoring Plan and Renewable Energy Registry ensure availability of up-to-date information for tracking, reporting, and decision-making with regard to NDC progress while also enhancing the transparency of Samoa's climate actions both domestically and internationally.

Heightened awareness and capacity of various public sector and community actors

As a result of the awareness campaigns and knowledge-sharing events, these actors are now able to lead and engage in NDC actions and support the country's transformation to 100% renewable energy.

Resources mobilized for advancing renewable energy generation

Successful mobilization of approximately USD 52 million in funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund, by the Government of Samoa and other partners through Improving the Performance and Reliability of RE Power System in Samoa (IMPRESS) project. The IMPRESS project aims to improve sustainable and cost-effective utilization of indigenous renewable energy resources for energy production in Samoa, thereby supporting on-going efforts to increase renewable power generation.

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