



Cook islands europe renewable energy

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In the current NDC, the Cook Islands committed to a future powered by renewable energy with targets for renewable-sourced electricity of 50% by 2015 and 100% by 2020.

To support the Cook Islands Government, the New Zealand Government - through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, installed mini-grid photo-voltaic power systems in a number of villages on six remote islands. We helped manage this logistically enjoyable project.

Complexities of this project began with the remoteness of the islands: isolated atolls, thousands of kilometres from the Cook Islands' capital, Rarotonga. The islands are served by irregular visits from a local freighter, with small barges taking goods to shore. Bad weather and other events often prevent goods arriving on the islands.

Previously, electricity was provided by diesel generators, usually for around 12 hours per day. Power supply was effected by issues of reliability, maintainability, capacity and access to adequate, regular diesel supplies.

There were no sources of hard aggregate for concrete or reliable earthmoving equipment on the islands, so all materials, equipment and tools required for construction were supplied via a freighter.

Using the latest equipment and smart metering, the systems can be supported remotely. And with local residents trained during the installation process, the community is empowered to maintain and operate the systems themselves.

RAROTONGA, COOK ISLANDS (1 November 2017) — The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is providing a \$12 million grant as additional financing to the ongoing Cook Islands Renewable Energy Sector Project, which will help the country transition to a renewable energy future.

The project, cofinanced by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the European Union, and the Government of Cook Islands, was approved in October 2014, with the Global Environment Facility approving it in 2016. The project is designed to lower the Cook Islands's reliance on fossil fuels under a plan to build solar-powered plants on five of its islands.

"The project aims to increase energy security in the Cook Islands in an environmentally sustainable manner, while increasing the share of renewable energy in the country's energy mix without negatively affecting the grid," said ADB Pacific Department Energy Specialist Woo Yul Lee.

The project should free up government funds for other needs while improving national energy security and sustainability, while assisting the Cook Islands fulfill its goal of delivering renewable energy to all its islands by 2020.

ADB has worked with the Cook Islands since 1976, approving 20 loans for \$86.9 million, 3 grants for \$12.3 million, and 36 technical assistance projects for \$12.1 million.

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