Pacific Energy and Gender Network (PEG)

“Where Energy is Women’s Business - Pacific

30 April – 11 May 2007, New York

Presented by:
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Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)
**OUR VITAL STATISTICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EEZ [excluding Papua New Guinea]</td>
<td>38.5 million km² (35 million km²)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land [excluding Papua New Guinea]</td>
<td>550 000 km² (93 500 km²)</td>
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<td>7 500 Islands</td>
<td>Volcanic Islands</td>
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<td>500 Islands [excluding PNG]</td>
<td>6.9 million people</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Ocean:Land [excluding PNG]</td>
<td>70 : 1</td>
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The Pacific region faces special constraints due to the small size and isolation of its island states, limitations on transportation and market access, lack of indigenous energy resources, environmental vulnerability, and political instability.
Energy and Gender Issues - Pacific

• Access to energy is key to meeting both basic and development needs;

• Lack of documentation and analysis on energy and gender issues in the Pacific region poses a great challenge for decision-makers;

• At the community level, the time taken for collection of fuel wood can be quite significant as the distance travelled gets further and further away from the homes;

• In rural areas, cooking with fuel wood in open fires is still widely practiced, and women are subjected to the smoke and negative health effects

• The lack of access to electricity in rural areas adds to the hardships faced by women and other disadvantaged groups in the communities.
Energy and Gender Issues - Pacific

• Many times women have to do their household chores with poor quality lighting, including improvised hurricane lamps;

• School children and youths cannot easily study at home without proper lighting and;

• Many rural health clinics cannot provide basic health services due to lack of refrigeration units for vaccines;

• PICs remoteness, and the infrequent and irregular supply schedules for diesel fuel, make their electricity unpredictable;

• There are some successful renewable energy lighting projects in the Pacific which have brought some relief to households in terms of access to good-quality lights. However, decision making about where the lights are located in the house usually rest with the men, and in many instances the kitchen is not a high priority for them.
PEG is a “gender focused baby” that evolved through the following sequence of events:

- ESCAP Workshop on “Gender Energy and Sustainable Development” – Perth June 2001
- Regional Energy Meeting July 2002, Rarotonga, Cook Islands – recommended SOPAC to assist in coordinating the follow-up initiative on an action plan for women and energy
- SOPAC Regional Energy Workshop on Gender, Energy and Sustainable Development – Nadi August 2003
Current Activities

Pacific Energy Gender Network (PEG)

- Articles to the Pacific Energy Newsletter (Gender Column).
- PEG Dgroup [http://www.dgroups.org/groups/cta/PEG](http://www.dgroups.org/groups/cta/PEG)
- Information sharing, networking and linking with other networks in the region and international.
- Through funding from CTA, Netherlands Technical Centre for Agriculture & Rural Cooperation, delivered a programme on awareness raising on gender and energy. This included:
  
  (a) Flyers and posters on gender and energy linkages;
  (b) Awareness raising radio programmes;
  (c) Video production on energy and gender;
  (d) Website [http://www.sopac.org/About+PEG](http://www.sopac.org/About+PEG) and online contact database [http://www.sopac.org/PEG+Database](http://www.sopac.org/PEG+Database) for PEG; and
  (e) Pacific Energy and Gender Annotated Bibliography
PEG Achievements

- Published Flyers in 3 languages – English, Fijian, and Hindi;
PEG Achievements

Published Posters in 3 languages – English, Fijian, and Hindi

http://www.sopac.org/About+PEG
PEG Achievements

• A video – 20 mins
• Presents rural sustainable energy projects:
  - Driti Community Solar Refrigeration Project (Fiji),
  - Lakhan Family Biogas Project (Fiji),
  - Atata Community Solar project (Tonga); and
  - Palau Entrepreneur Laundromat experience.
• Video already aired on Fiji National Television – on the Pacific Way programme, and other PICs.
PEG Achievements

• A radio spots programme
• Targeting 6 Countries, in English and and 7 local languages:
  - Fijian, Hindi, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Pidgin, Tuvaluan and Vanuatu Bislama
PEG Achievements

- PEG Online Contact Database – personnel in the field of energy and gender;

http://www.sopac.org/PEG+Database
PEG Achievements

• Pacific Energy and Gender Annotated Bibliography

• Through ENERGIA and CTA funding

• This document summarises the most important materials on gender/ or energy, which refers to the Pacific region
Pacific Energy Gender Network (PEG)


The following key outputs were delivered:

(i) PEG Strategic Action Plan (PEGSAP), 2006 – 2008;

(ii) A regional energy & gender paper to CSD 14/15; and

(iii) PEG Terms of Reference

(iv) Training – Capacity building of Energy officers
PEGSAP – Constraints and Challenges

i) Addressing energy linkages with gender is not a priority for government

ii) insufficient research and information on energy and gender linkages in the Pacific;

iii) lack of gender analysis of energy projects in the Pacific;

iv) limited technical, human and institutional capacity for gender analysis;

v) women in the Pacific are generally unaware or uninterested in energy and gender linkages;

vi) limited representation of women in the energy sector;

vii) cultural restrictions influencing gender roles; and unequal participation of men and women in decision-making.
Pacific Energy Gender Network (PEG)

**PEGSAP Strategies:**

1. Incorporate gender concerns into energy policies and plans nationally and regionally.
2. Raise awareness on energy and gender linkages in the Pacific Islands region.
3. Conduct research and analysis on energy and gender linkages in the Pacific islands region.
4. Build the capacity of energy decision makers, project officers, NSAs, village electrification councils & local communities in incorporating gender sensitive participatory approach and gender mainstreaming tools to energy project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
5. Increase the representation of women in energy education and training programmes and decision-making committees.
6. Strengthen networking and cooperation with relevant international, regional and national groups and institutions.
Energy and Gender
Training Modules
Adapted to the Pacific Context

- 2 Sub-Regional Training Workshops carried out
  - Fiji (5-9 March), targeting Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon Is, Fiji, Niue.
  - FSM (19 – 23 March)
CONCLUDING REMARKS FOR PEG

• Energy programmes are of low priority in national development plans of Pacific island countries, as is evident from the poor energy infrastructure and the absence of appropriate regulatory framework for energy sector developments in Pacific island countries;

• Need to raise awareness on energy and gender issues, at all levels of decision-making – within the government and also at the community level;

• While it has been recognised that women are significant energy users, they are poorly represented in energy policy, planning, and development;

• Governments will have to allocate adequate resources to build the capacity in the region to be able to respond to the myriad of challenges facing the energy sector in the Pacific.
Thank You

PACIFIC ENERGY AND GENDER NETWORK