

PART III. NATIONAL REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR CSD-14/15 THEMATIC AREAS

B. ENERGY

Government focal point: Energy Planner, Energy Planning Unit,

Responding ministry/office: Ministry of Public Works & Utilities

You are invited to write about issues of importance to your country in dealing with energy in the context of sustainable development, in the context of sustainable development, highlighting in particular:

- 1. concrete actions taken and progress made in implementation**
- 2. lessons learned and good practices**
- 3. trends and emerging issues**
- 4. constraints and challenges**

In its analytical reports for CSD 14, the secretariat will cover a range of issues. For many of these issues, including those listed below, national information is not readily available from all member States. You are therefore invited to reflect on as many of these in your response as appropriate.

Decision-Making: Strategies, policies, programmes and plans, legislation, policy instruments and the regulatory framework; involvement of Major Groups

- Access to electricity and other energy services, through either grid extension or decentralized energy technologies, in both urban and rural areas, including main programme objectives, impacts and progress;

On the capital South Tarawa (Betio to Tanaea villages) the access to grid extension is about 95% for the residential sector due mainly to the slow development of power utility to meet the growing electricity demand. However the grid extension extend to the rural areas of North Tarawa namely Buota, Abatao and Nabeina villages with the grid access of around 50%.

- Efficient use of energy in the household and commercial sectors through, e.g., introduction of improved cook stoves or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for cooking, minimum energy performance standards for appliances and lighting, energy efficient building codes, and metering.

The use of LPG for cooking is now increasing especially in the urban area with two major suppliers KiriGas and KOIL. It had been experienced this year that LPG shortage was recorded where both LPG suppliers could not meet the increasing

demand for LPG mainly for households, hospital and Boarding Schools on urban South Tarawa.

Regarding the improved cook stoves, there had been no implementation of this technology in the country except for the pilot institutional woodstoves implemented by FSP under SOPAC projects back in 1998. This institutional woodstoves were installed one in the outer island Marakei and one on South Tarawa. After the evaluation done in 2000, the woodstoves after a couple of years of use, the structure had some structural cracks on the cement wall due to heating

The other household wood stove project was carried by AMAK with the aim of transferring the technology and technical capacity through training locals from the outer islands. The objective of the training is to train locals in constructing and installation of household woodstoves so that upon return to their respective islands they will teach the islanders how to build woodstove. So far there had been no installation of woodstoves on the outer islands after then. As collected by the energy survey on the outer islands part of the reasons were the abundant availability of firewoods, conventional way of cooking using open fire is fast and usual habit and finally building woodstoves would require cost that will affect the rural average level of incomes and priority spendings.

- Improved efficiency in energy supply (e.g. energy generation, transmission and distribution).

The first phase of installing a new power generation and transmission which started in 2001 was completed in 2003 with the installation of 2.4MW in Bikenibeu Power Station and laying of 11kV transmission line from Bikenibeu to Teaoaraereke funded by JICA. Another 1.25 MW genset was installed in early 2004 in Betio Power Station replacing the old generators funded locally. In late 2004, the second phase of JICA project started with the installation of another 1.2MW generator and replacing of the old 11kV transmission line from Betio to Bairiki.

With this new milestone scope of modernizing the PUB energy generation and transmission from the old ones would improve the efficiency of the only conventional electricity supply source on the urban area of the country.

- Policies to facilitate the transfer of modern energy technologies, such as export promotion policies or establishment of an enabling environment for investments, including their objectives, the types of financing available and other incentives provided to facilitate technology transfer.

Currently there is no energy policies on white paper but there is need for this.

- Reform or restructuring of the energy sector within the last ten years to improve the functioning of energy markets.

Currently there had been no reforms or restructurings specifically for the electricity sector in the urban area. The electricity market on South Tarawa is monopolized by the government statutory company (Public Utilities Board) as stipulated in the existing legislation. There is a need for the

In the rural areas, there is no clear legislation in the provision of energy services making good rooms for energy markets functioning.

- Legal and regulatory frameworks related to overall energy policies that have been adopted.

Kiribati currently have no energy policy statement and have not adopted any energy legal and regulatory frameworks except for the existing acts for Public Utilities Board covering water and electricity on the capital island only and the Petroleum Act.

The Public Utilities Board Act is now considered as one of the barriers particularly for renewable energy electrification since there is no clear government electrification act mandated by the Government Ministry.

- The use of economic instruments, including pricing and tariff reform.

The electricity tariff on the capital South Tarawa, the Public Utilities Board (PUB) a statutory company mandated for the electricity generation, transmission and distribution usually sets up the electricity tariff to sustain their operation fixed and variable costs. It is interesting that though the tariff was set and enforced usually government will provide subsidy to PUB when requested.

On the outer islands in the use of PV solar home systems, the Solar Energy Company (SEC) set the tariff also to sustain their operation fixed and variable costs also covering the replacements of parts during technical failures or after reaching their lifetime. However, the tariff is usually debated by politics and therefore the actual sustainable tariff calculated by the company is not enforced but a rather a lower and affordable tariff for the rural dwellers is taken. In terms of subsidy to the SEC for increasing the solar home systems, there has been none provided except during one incident when the request was forwarded to pay for the outstanding loan of the company.

- Participation of private companies in the electricity sector, their impact on electricity services and their involvement (e.g. generation; transmission; distribution).

The PUB Act monopolies the electricity sector on the South Tarawa (Capital) and the act clearly state that the only electricity supplier (generation, transmission and distribution) on South Tarawa will be the PUB. This act was established in the 1970s and now seen as one of the barrier in utilizing renewable energy on South Tarawa.

- Major Groups^[3] participation in energy decision-making, whether at the national or community level.

Cabinet is the major decision making body in setting the national policies. From there on the Ministry of Public Works & Utilities coordinated by the Energy Planning Unit and in conjunction with the Public Utilities Board, Solar Energy Company and Kiribati Oil Company setup strategies in meeting this policy.

- Women's participation in needs assessments or planning and policy formulation related to energy at the local and/or national levels; other means.

Currently women participation is not yet significant since there has been no indication or

expression coming from the women group in relation to energy. However, during energy surveys conducted in the rural areas the views from the women is usually taken for the need of electricity and cooking.

- Programmes designed to increase the share of renewable energy in the national energy supply mix, including information on their goals and targets.

There is plan for increasing the share of RE in the energy supply but before embarking on it, significant barriers must be removed first. Kiribati is now working with the international and regional organization in finding ways to remove such barriers covering fiscal, economics, human capacity, legislation and others.

- Measures and programmes adopted to improve fuel efficiency for transport vehicles. Such as vehicle fuel efficiency standards; vehicle inspection and maintenance programmes; introduction of cleaner fuels; any other.

The fuel quality is usually checked by the Kiribati Oil company, Mobil and BP. vehicle and maintenance inspections is done by the Police Patrol Unit for any vehicles that will get a registration to use the public roads.

At end of May 2005, the demonstration on using coconut oil blended with diesel on two pick-up cars of the Ministry of Public Works and Utilities just started and will continue to the end of the year. During the trial period studies will be progressing on the quality of the fuel mix and its results on the engine parts and mileage.

- Existence of nuclear energy programme and information on nuclear materials transported within or across national boundaries; national programmes that ensure nuclear safety; arrangements in place for public review and hearings.

Not applicable in Kiribati and faces negative remarks from the Environment Unit.

Capacity-Building, Information and Research & Technologies

- Efforts to establish new, or strengthen or reform existing national and local institutions responsible for national programmes on energy for sustainable

development.

The Energy Planning Unit had brought up proposal on a new structure seen as the most effective and responsible in completely dealing with energy sectors but this had not been enforced lately.

- Training or other capacity-building activities undertaken to strengthen energy planning, management of energy efficiency or development of new and renewable sources of energy.

There is a lack of capacity building in terms of training all related to the cost of training.

- Launching of public information campaigns and educational programmes to raise awareness of energy efficiency and environmentally sound energy systems.

Awareness programs on energy efficiency and energy environment impact is usually carried out to schools in the form of competition coordinated by the Energy Planning Unit and SOPAC.

- Networking between centers of excellence on energy for sustainable development that has enhanced information sharing, capacity-building and technology transfer.

The regional organizations usually carry out the networking to the nation.

- Internet websites related specifically to the issues contained in these Energy Guidelines, provide homepage addresses (URL).

- www.sopac.org

- Efforts to promote increased research and development of various energy technologies: renewable energy; energy efficiency; advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies; any other.

The research is now done on the use of biodiesel – coconut and diesel mix.

Another development in feasibility study will be on PV grid connection.

Financing

Specific measures taken to establish an appropriate enabling environment conducive to attracting investments in the energy sector: pricing/subsidy reform; fiscal and financial incentives; power purchase agreements; other arrangements.

Kiribati is still faced with the lack of fiscal and financial capabilities and therefore is very willing and working towards improving the conducive environment for attracting investments in the energy sectors.

Cooperation

- Cooperation with neighbouring countries in energy trade and/or interconnection of electricity or gas networks, including through transnational pipelines; nature of such cooperation.

Not applicable in Kiribati.

If some or all of this information is already available in other reports, or in strategic and policy documents issued by your country, you may prefer just to provide us with a copy.

- For this purpose, please do one of the following:
- Provide a hard copy of the material; attach an electronic copy; or
- Indicate a WEB link to the information.

Attached is the electronic copy of the Kiribati National Report an output of the Pacific Islands Renewable Energy Project.