

## 6<sup>th</sup> PCREEE STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC) MEETING

1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2022

MODE: HYBRID

### AGENDA ITEM 4 – INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

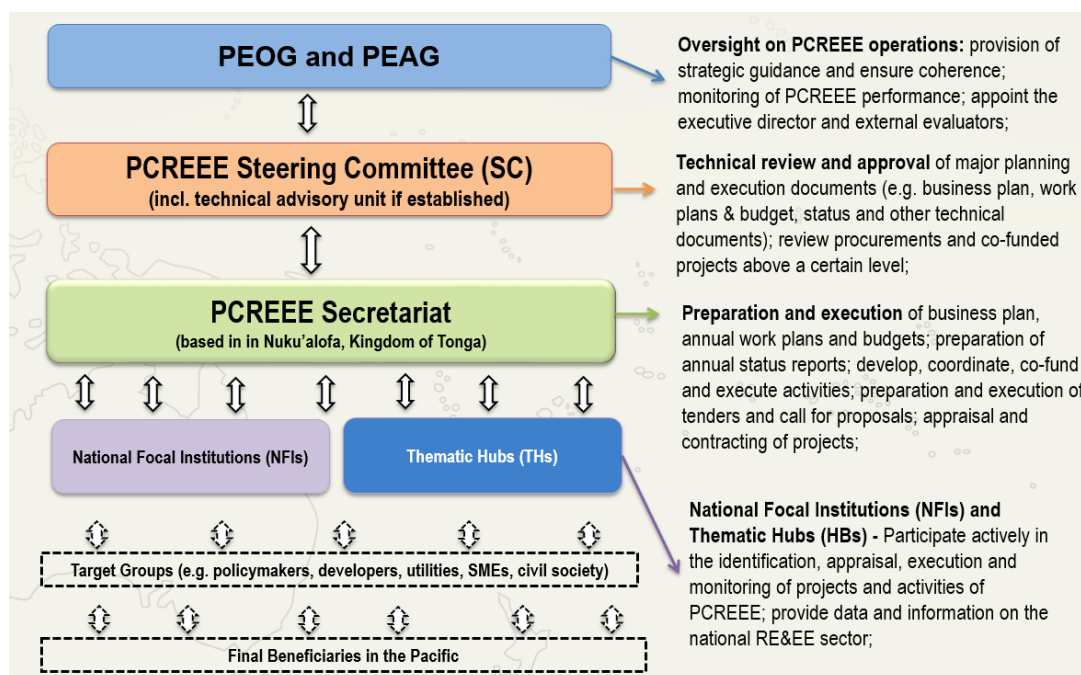
#### Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to update the PSC on the institutional structure of the PCREEE.

#### Background

##### Regional Coordination

2. The PCREEE was established with the governance structure which was aligned to the coordination structure of the Framework for Action in Energy Security in the Pacific (FAESP: 2010 – 2020). The FAESP has been replaced with the August 2021 Forum-adopted Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific (FESRIP).
3. Under the FESRIP, the FAESP coordinating mechanisms of the Pacific Energy Oversight Group (PEOG) and the Pacific Energy Advisory Group (PEAG) are replaced by the following:
  - FESRIP oversight by the heads of the relevant CROP agencies
  - A CROP Energy Technical Working Group (ETWG), whose main functions are sharing information, coordination, and collaboration vis-à-vis implementation of the framework.
  - An Energy Security Working Group (ESWG) with the functions of assessing progress and providing advice, including priority actions.
4. The PEOG and PEAG, as in the diagramme below, are now replaced with the ETWG and ESGW, both reporting to the Pacific Energy Officials Meeting.



#### Corporate Coordination

5. The Pacific Community has adopted its Strategic Plan 2022-2031. The Geoscience Energy and Maritime Division, which houses the PCREEE, is now developing its Business Plan. PCREEE's focus areas and indicators are being integrated into this Business Plan, allowing for a One SPC monitoring and evaluation framework.

#### Reporting PCREEE to the Pacific Energy Officials and Ministers Meetings

6. In July 2022, the Pacific Energy Officials met virtually and noted the progress with the implementation of the PCREEE Business Plan and encouraged member countries to make use of the services provided by the PCREEE.
7. The Pacific Energy Officials meeting also acknowledged the progress in the roll out of the regional e-mobility program by SPC/PCREEE in collaboration with various development partners including ADB, GGGI, NREL, UNIDO, PRIF, PPA, World Bank, and UNESCAP. It also supported the convening of an in-person meeting to discuss the coordination of the EV developments in the PICTs and the early adoption of EV policies, standards, and roadmaps at the national level to guide and facilitate the transformation in the energy and transport sectors.
8. The margins of the Pacific Energy Officials Meeting would have been a perfect opportunity for the PCREEE Steering Committee meeting, except that it was held a bit early in the year. The Pacific Energy Ministers Meeting is planned for May 2023 in Vanuatu.

#### HR and Financial Policies

9. The PCREEE operates under the HR and Financial rules and policies of the SPC. SPC is an accredited entity of the EU and the GCF and this is proof of the compliance of SPC's management and governance structure with internationally-accepted standards and practices.
10. In terms of the Secretariat, the PCREEE piloted the recruitment of In-country Coordinators in the Cook Is, PNG and Solomon Is during the COVID lockdown in order to accelerate project deliveries.
11. The Band 11 Programme Delivery Officer resigned in August 2021 and it opened up an opportunity to provide more capacity building opportunities to emerging professionals in the region. The PCREEE therefore recruited two Pacific Islands Energy Professionals and a Sustainable Energy Instructor consultant. Currently PCREEE has 4 full time staff – Manager, 2 Pacific Island Energy Professionals (PIEP) and a Programme Assistant. They are supported by Legal, Procurement, HR and Finance support from the wider SPC teams in Noumea and Suva.
12. The PCREEE Staff are complemented by professional staff from the Tonga Department of Energy.
13. PSC 6 approved that the NFIs and the THs be open-ended, allowing people with interests in RE and EE in the PICTs to participate in the PCREEE meetings.

#### Current Status

14. The integration of PCREEE to the other works of SPC continues and is getting stronger. The coordinating and reporting mechanisms under the SPC Strategic Plan and FESRIP are still being rolled out and the PCREEE continues to report to the Energy Officials and Ministers meetings.

15. The PCREEE continues to operate effectively under the rules and policies of SPC. SPC continues to review its policies post-covid to accommodate the circumstances of the day.
16. There are currently 4 fulltime staff and a consultant at the PCREEE office.
17. The PSC 6 endorsed that the NFIs and THs be open ended and this has emphasized the importance of having the PSC meetings back-to-back with other related regional energy events.
18. The PCREEE deliveries for 2021 & 2022 have mostly focused on 5 active PICs [mostly in Tonga & Vanuatu and to a lesser extent at PNG, Samoa and Tuvalu].
19. On the THs, players such as CAMCO and SPREP's PCCC are already collaborating with the PCREEE.
20. The PCREEE steering committee members from the PICTs are selected for a term in office of two years. The current members are Fiji, FSM, Tuvalu, French Polynesia and Tonga. Despite all effort, the responses from Fiji, FSM and French Polynesia to PCREEE-related correspondences have been minimal.

### **Issues**

21. The PCREEE is operating successfully and effectively under the institutional and governance structures of SPC.
22. Given PCREEE is not an autonomous entity, it is very important that its management is clearly seen to be aligned to the FESRIP and Goal 2 of the FRDP and to be managed, reported and coordinated under the structure of those two key regional frameworks, including reporting the Pacific Energy Officials and Ministers.
23. There is a need to be more flexible with the PIC representation to the Steering Committee just as the flexibility with the NFIs and THs representations.
24. Given we are at the post pandemic period, the PCREEE has prepared well to work virtually should the pandemic return or a similar event arise in the future.

### **Recommendations**

25. The meeting is invited to:
  - i. Acknowledge the effective operation of the PCREEE under SPC's rules and policies.
  - ii. Note that the management of the PCREEE is already aligned with those of the FESRIP and Goal 2 of the FRDP.
  - iii. Note the key role of SECs in the implementation of the PCREEE work programme.

[1<sup>st</sup> December 2022]