

Fiji Submission to Climate Investment Funds on Renewable Energy Integration

On 3 October 2023, Fiji's Ministry of Finance held a *Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on Fiji's Draft Renewable Energy Integration Investment Plan*, which was to be submitted to Climate Investment Funds (CIF; cif.org) for consideration 6 October. SEI-API Executive Committee member Peter Johnston was invited, participated, and on 4 October, provided written comments to the Ministry Finance.

The draft plan sought finance and technical assistance for investments to enhance the flexibility of Fiji's energy system that allow for the integration of variable renewable energy, and for greater access to renewable energy in areas with limited connectivity. There are two components: 1) to create a 'Green Energy Circuit' on Viti Levu, and 2) further electrifying the outer islands, plus a range of targeted technical assistance.

The draft plan should be available from: <https://fijiclimatechangeportal.gov.fj/ppss/climate-investment-funds-cif-renewable-energy-integration-rei-investment-plan-ip/>. If not it can be obtained from the SEI-API Secretariat. The submission to the Ministry of Finance is available at SEI-API.com. As there was insufficient time for the Executive Committee to review it, the submission is not formally from SEI-API. The final plan as submitted to CIF is not yet online.

On 10 October, the CIF considered and endorsed Fiji's revised submission as summarised by the CIF below:

CIF Endorses Renewable Energy Integration in Fiji

Abridged and slightly edited from: <https://www.cif.org/news/cif-endorses-100-million-energy-integration-costa-rica-and-fiji> (10 November 2023)

The governing board of the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) has endorsed a wide-ranging investment plan to transform the energy system of Fiji and help enable the grid system to absorb and channel more clean power. The plan represents a first-of-its-kind effort, with funding in highly concessional capital to scale clean energy transmission solutions, enhance the flexibility of energy systems, and finance other efforts to make integrating renewable energy more flexible, cost-efficient, and resilient. Fiji received US\$30.51 million (about F\$68 million) as an initial allocation, funded through CIF's Renewable Energy Integration (CIF REI) investment program.

As a Small Island Developing State, Fiji wants to grow solar generation and has ambitious goals to achieve 100% renewable energy generation by 2036, with net zero annual GHG emissions by 2050. Fiji's plan, supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), and the World Bank, will help upgrade transmission lines and power stations throughout the country, create new solar plants on Fiji's largest island, provide technical assistance on energy grids and systems, and finance the electrification of outer islands — bringing electricity access to rural communities. At full implementation, Fiji plans to increase renewable energy generation capacity by 40 MW and provide an additional 91,104 MWh of renewable energy output per year by 2026; connect 200,000 people to the grid; provide 7,000 Fijians on the outer islands with more affordable, reliable, and clean energy by 2026; and reduce emissions by 50,000 tCO₂e per year by 2026.