



# **Net-zero Investment Lab: Public and Private Collaboration on Accelerating Green Investment in SIDS**

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**Tuesday, 30 March 2021  
12:00 – 14:00 BST**



# Welcoming and Opening Remarks

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**Selwin Hart**

Special Advisor and Assistant Secretary-General for Climate Action, United Nations



You are all **muted** to avoid background noise



Kindly ensure to limit your intervention to **5 minutes**



If you have **Questions** to the speaker, please use the **chat box**



If you encounter any technical issues, please write your issue in the **chat box**



Time	Sessions and Speakers	Time	Sessions and Speakers
07:00 – 07:20	<p><u>Welcome</u> Scene Setting: Mr. Selwin Hart, Special Advisor and Assistant Secretary-General for Climate Action, United Nations</p> <p>Opening Remarks: Mr. Francesco La Camera, IRENA Director-General Mr. Nigel Topping, High Level Climate Action Champion H.E Diann Black-Layne, Ambassador of Climate Change and Director of Environment, Antigua and Barbuda</p>	07:35 – 07:45	<p><u>Private sector developer perspective</u> <i>Experience of working in SIDS, benefits, barriers etc</i></p> <p>Speaker: Ms. Alexandra Sombsthay, Vice President for European and International Affairs, Akuo Energy</p>
07:20 – 07:25	<p><u>SIDS Lighthouses Initiative and Climate Investment Platform</u> <i>IRENA framing with examples of successful projects, models and pipeline, especially where private finance has been leveraged</i></p> <p>Speaker: Mr. Gurbuz Gonul, Director of Country Engagement and Partnerships, IRENA</p>	07:45 – 07:55	<p><u>MDB perspective</u> <i>How concessional finance can catalyse private investment</i></p> <p>Speaker: Mr. Rohit Khanna, ESMAP Manager, World Bank</p>
07:25 – 07:35	<p><u>Private sector finance perspective</u> <i>Experience of working in SIDS, benefits, barriers etc</i></p> <p>Speaker: Mr. Martin Vogt, Managing Director, MPC Renewable Energies</p>	07:55– 08:55	<p><u>Discussion</u> <i>How public and private collaboration can accelerate green investment in SIDS</i></p> <p>Scene setters: Dr. Kamlesh Dookayka, Research Officer, Mauritius Renewable Energy Agency (MARENA) Ms. Racquel Moses, CEO, Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator</p>
		08:55 – 09:00	<p><u>Conclusion and steps towards COP26</u></p> <p>Speaker: Mr. Francesco La Camera, IRENA Director General</p>



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**Francesco La Camera**

Director General, IRENA



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## **Nigel Topping**

High Level Climate Action Champion



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## **Diann Black-Layne**

Ambassador of Climate Change and Director of Environment, Antigua and Barbuda



# SIDS Lighthouses Initiative and Climate Investment Platform

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**Gurbuz Gonul**

Director of Country Engagement and Partnerships, IRENA

# Facilitating Small Island Developing States Access to Investment through the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative

Net-zero Investment Lab: Public and Private Sector Collaboration on Accelerating Green Investment in SIDS  
30 March 2021



# Overview of the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative

| 36 SIDS and 31 Development Partners | Framework to facilitate SIDS climate action through energy transformation |

| Addresses all elements of energy transition | Operationalises the Ambitious SIDS Climate Package and IRIE initiatives | NDC Support for 21 SIDS |

## Caribbean

1. Antigua & Barbuda
2. Aruba
3. Bahamas
4. Barbados
5. Belize
6. British Virgin Islands
7. Cuba
8. Dominican Republic
9. Grenada
10. Guyana
11. Montserrat
12. St. Lucia
13. St. Vincent and the Grenadines
14. Trinidad and Tobago
15. Turks and Caicos

## Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea

1. Cabo Verde
2. Comoros
3. Maldives
4. Mauritius
5. Sao Tome and Principe
6. Seychelles

## Pacific

1. Cook Islands
2. Federated States of Micronesia
3. Fiji
4. Kiribati
5. Republic of the Marshall Islands
6. Nauru
7. New Caledonia
8. Niue
9. Palau
10. Papua New Guinea
11. Samoa
12. Solomon Islands
13. Tonga
14. Tuvalu
15. Vanuatu

## Other Partners: Non-SIDS countries and Partner Organisations

- |                |   |   |  |  |
|----------------|---|---|--|--|
| 1. Denmark     | 8. Norway   | 14. Clinton Climate Initiative            | 21. Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States   | 29. United Nations Development Programme   |
| 2. France      | 9. United Arab Emirates   | 15. ENEL                                  | 22. Pacific Community                          | 30. United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and SIDS |
| 3. Japan       | 10. United States of America  | 16. European Union                        | 23. Pacific Islands Development Forum          | 31. World Bank   |
| 4. Italy       | 11. Association of the Overseas Countries and Territories of the European Union | 17. Greening the Islands                  | 24. Pacific Power Association                  |  |
| 5. Germany     |   | 18. Indian Ocean Commission               | 25. Rocky Mountain Institute - Carbon War Room |  |
| 6. Italy       | 12. Caribbean Electric Utility Services   | 19. International Renewable Energy Agency | 26. Solar Head of State                        |  |
| 7. New Zealand | 13. Clean Energy Solutions Center   | 20. Island Innovation                     | 27. Sustainable Energy for All                 |  |
|                |   |   | 28. Sur Futuro Foundation                      |  |

# SIDS Lighthouses Initiative Priority Areas

 Support SIDS in reviewing and implementing **NDCs**, with **technical assistance** and **capacity building**

 Expand from assessment and planning to **implementing** effective, innovative solutions.

 Promote **all renewable sources**, including geothermal and ocean energy, and step up work on wind and PV

 Support the development of bankable projects, **access to finance** and co-operation with the **private sector**

 Strengthen **institutional and human capacity** in all segments of the renewable energy value chain

 Expand focus beyond power generation to include **transportation and other end-use sectors**

 Expand focus beyond power generation to include **transportation and other end-use sectors**

 Leverage synergies between renewables and **energy efficiency**

 **Nexus** between RE and agriculture, food, health and water – to foster broad **socio-economic development: job creation, gender equality and women's empowerment** through renewables.

 Link renewable energy uptake to climate resilience and more effective disaster recovery.

 Enhance collection and dissemination of **data and statistics, supporting informed decision-making**

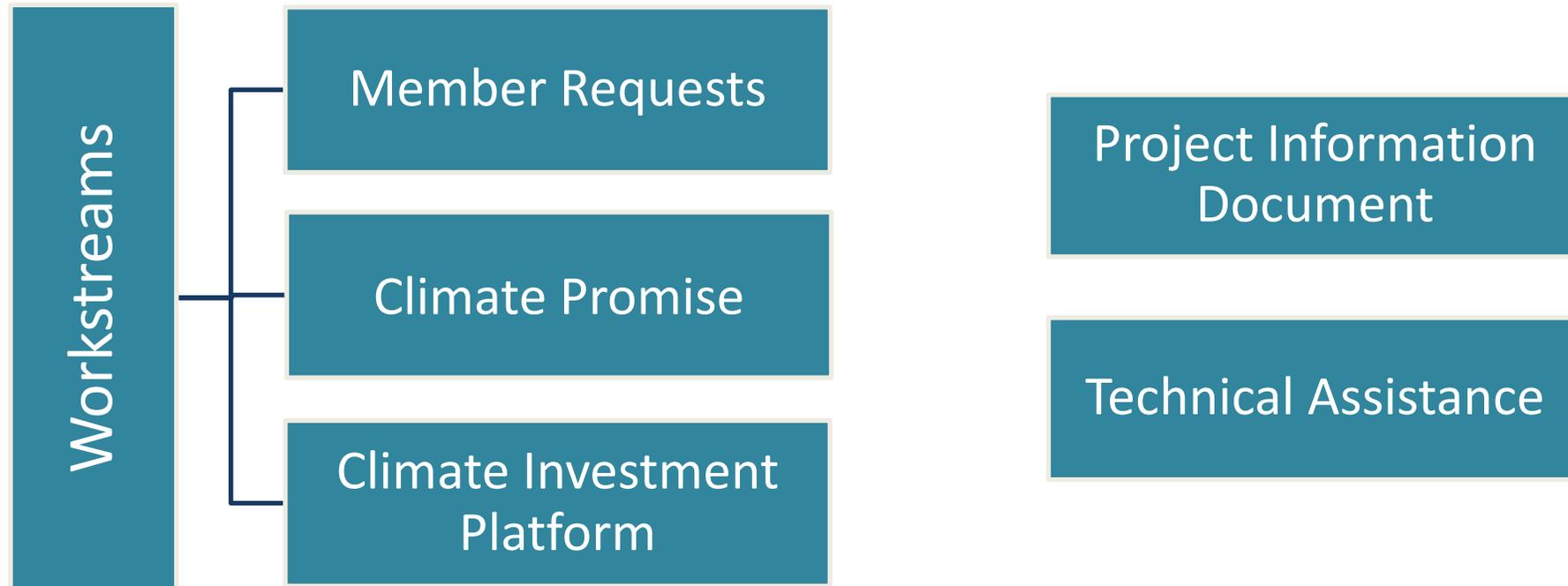
 Reinforce and expand **partner engagement**, leveraging synergies with other SIDS initiatives

Boost renewable power deployment, aiming for a target of **5 GW of installed capacity** in SIDS by **2023**

# IRENA-ADFD Facility: SIDS Projects



# Project Facilitation Workstreams



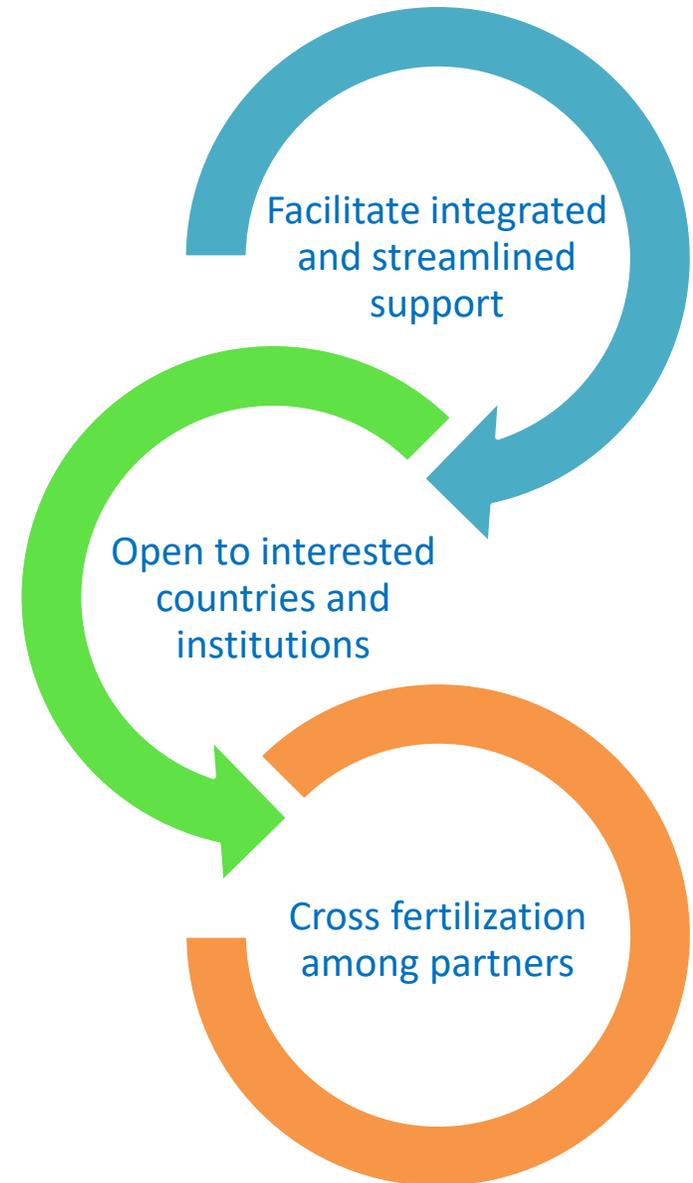
**Upstream support to achieve the goal of matching climate finance with investment-ready projects.**



Announced on the occasion of  
the UN Climate Action Summit  
(Sep 2019, New York)



Inclusive partnership to promote accelerated, transformative and scaled-up investments to support ambitious NDCs and the pursuit of the SDGs, **with the initial focus on energy transition.**



## Investment Forum [in Cluster X]

**Enabling Frameworks  
for Investment**

**Project Support**

**Highlighting needs to improve  
investment conditions**  
- Policy and regulation -

**Matchmaking of bankable  
projects and financiers**

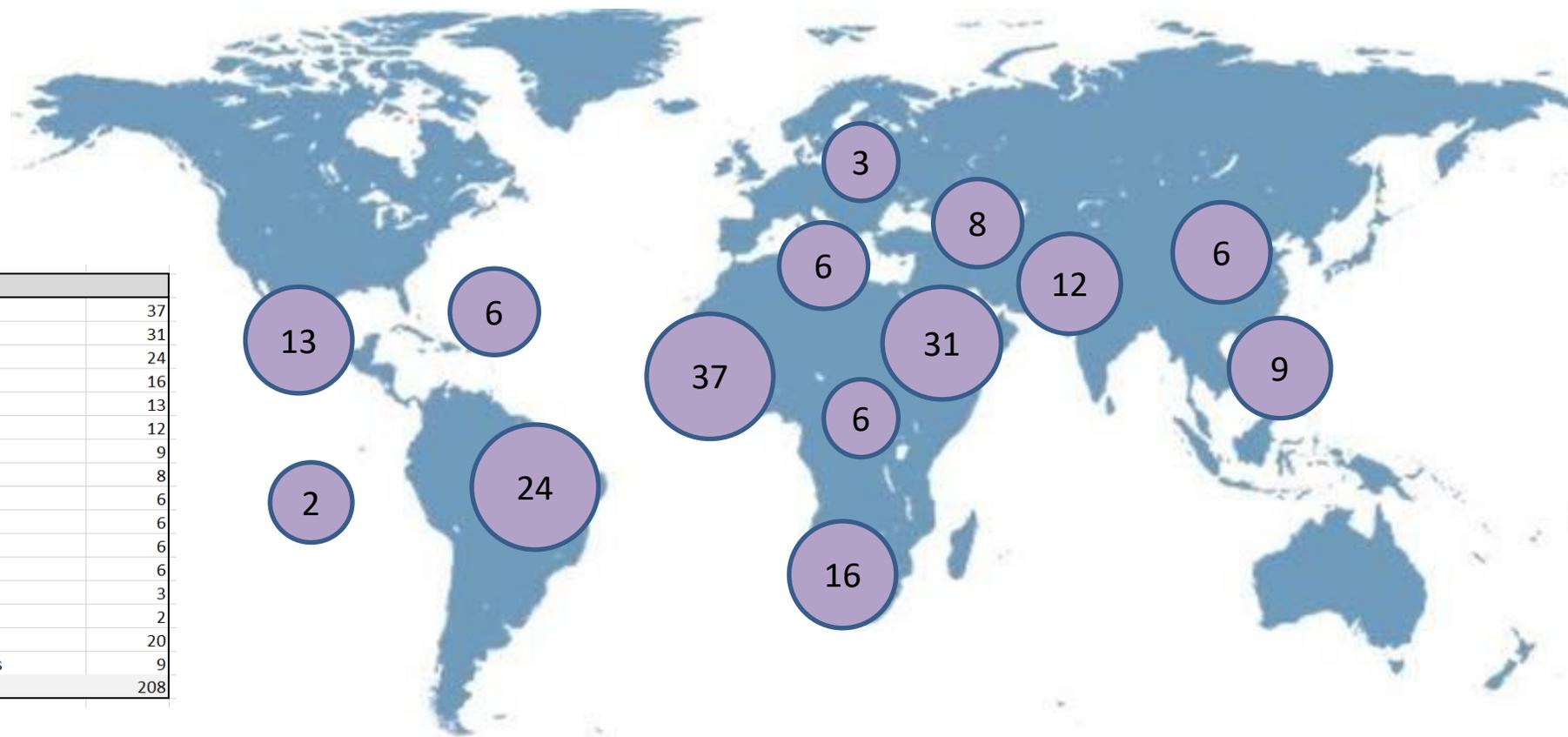
**Knowledge  
Dissemination and  
Capacity Building**

**Strengthening competencies of  
regional and local stakeholders  
on a wide range of policy,  
regulatory, technical topics --  
tailored to specific needs**

**Climate Investment Platform**

# CIP registered projects

Regional Cluster	
West Africa	37
Eastern Africa	31
South America	24
Southern Africa	16
Central America	13
South Asia	12
Southeast Asia	9
Middle East	8
Central Africa	6
Central Asia	6
North Africa	6
Caribbean Islands	6
Southeast Europe	3
Pacific Islands	2
Others	20
Multiple Locations	9
Grand Total	208



**TARGET:** increase **efficiency and effectiveness** of scaling up investment through facilitating development of bankable projects

**Mr. Gurbuz Gonul**  
Director Country Engagement and Partnership (CEP)

[GGonul@irena.org](mailto:GGonul@irena.org)

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P.O. Box 236, Abu Dhabi  
United Arab Emirates

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**SIDS LHI Website:** <https://islands.irena.org>



[www.irena.org](http://www.irena.org)



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# Private sector finance perspective

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**Martin Vogt**

Managing Director, MPC Renewable Energies



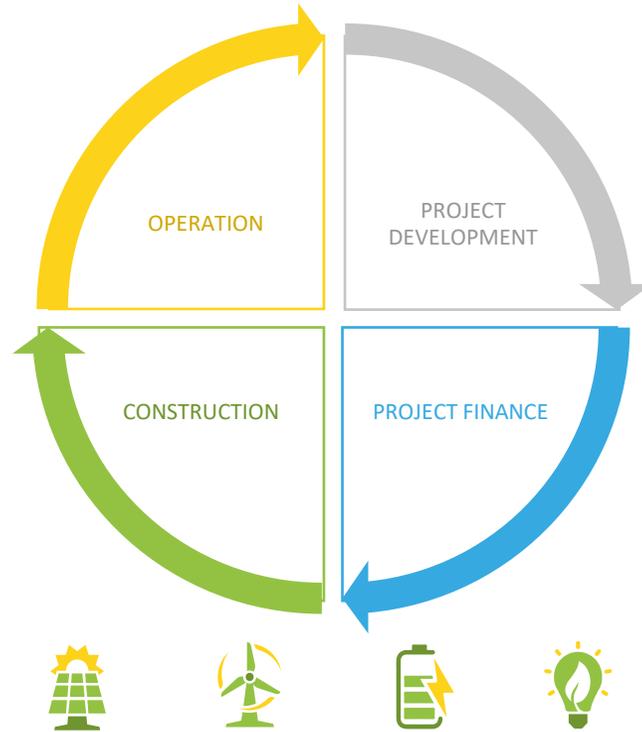
IRENA | NET ZERO INVESTMENT LAB

| → 2021

PRIVATE SECTOR FINANCE PERSPECTIVE  
*EXPERIENCE OF WORKING IN SIDS, BENEFITS, BARRIERS*

# MPC ENERGY SOLUTIONS (MPCES)

DEVELOPER, OPERATOR AND OWNER OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

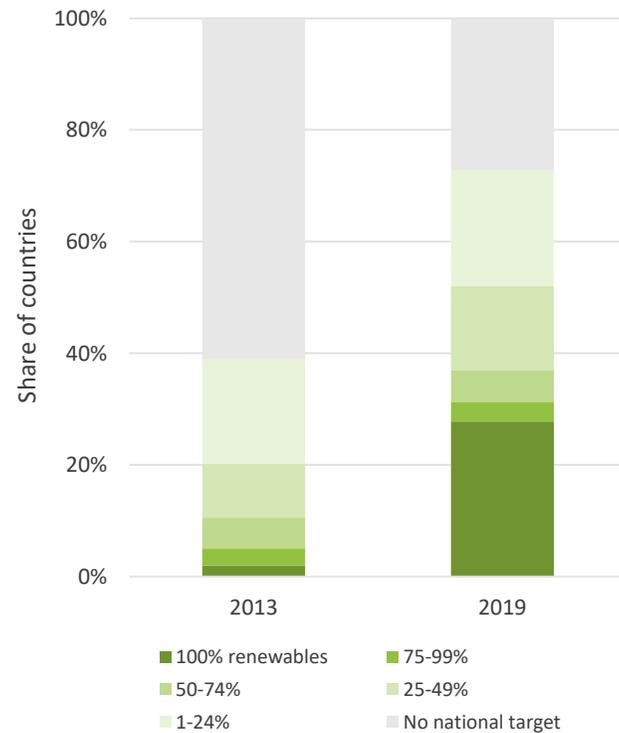


# OUR EXPERIENCE IN THE REGION



# AMBITIOUS RENEWABLES TARGETS IN CARIBBEAN

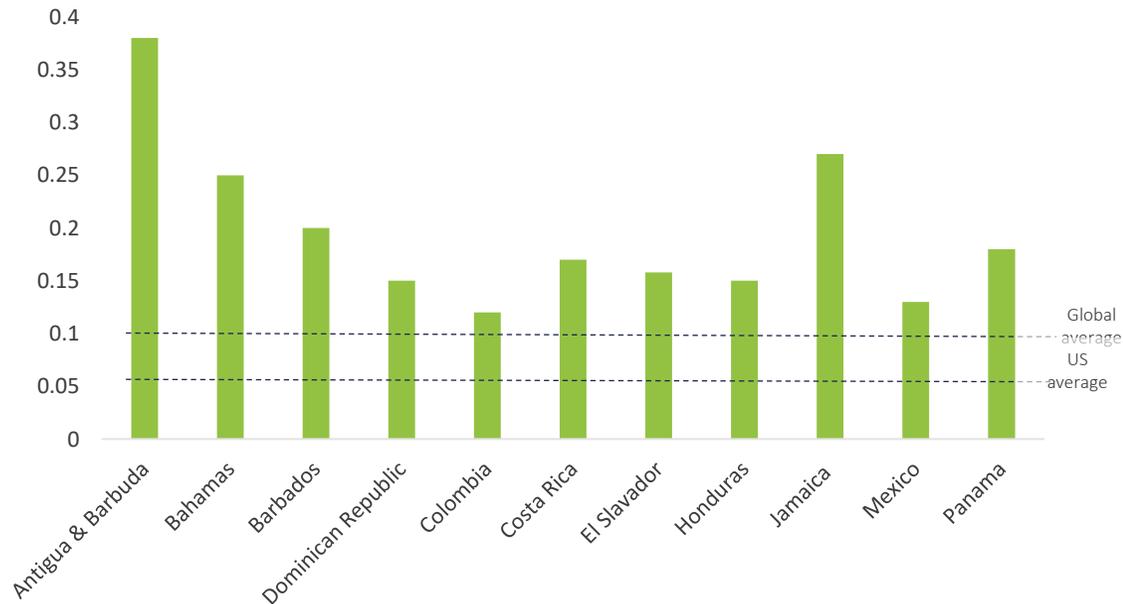
## COUNTRIES WITH RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY TARGETS (2019 VS. 2013)



- + Over 50 countries now aim to reach 100% share of renewables by 2050
- + Caribbean and Latin American countries in particular have firmly committed to renewables
- + Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Colombia among countries with a 2025 target of 25% renewables

# UNLOCKING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND GREEN RECOVERY

## AVERAGE ELECTRICITY RETAIL PRICES (US\$/KWH)



- + Most Caribbean markets pay significant premiums to the global average for electricity
- + Highly attractive to base new capacities on renewable energy and/or hybrid projects reducing power prices in the long-term
- + Corporate demand access to low carbon, reliable and affordable power supply
- + Unlocking economic growth potential while rebuilding more resilient energy infrastructure

# JAMAICA | 51 MW PARADISE PARK PROJECT



# EL SALVADOR | 6.4 MW SAN ISIDRO PROJECT



# Q&A

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

MORE INFORMATION:  
[WWW.MPC-ENERGYSOLUTIONS.COM](http://WWW.MPC-ENERGYSOLUTIONS.COM)



# Private sector developer perspective

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**Alexandra Sombsthay**

Vice President for European and International Affairs, Akuo Energy

# Akuo

Islands expertise

Corporate presentation 2021



# | ENTREPRENEURS BY NATURE

Leading French renewable energy **Independent Power Producer and Developer**



Wind



Solar



Hydro



Storage

2020 year-end

# ISLANDS : ENVIRONMENTS UNDER CONSTRAINTS

- There are more than **11 000 islands** with permanent residents worldwide. Islanders represent **over 730 million**, approximately **11% of the world's population**. And yet, several islanders lack of basic day to day necessities such as stable access to electricity or to affordable and clean energy, while they are in the front-line regarding climate change impacts.

And yet, islands have the potential to be at the forefront of technological, social, economic and political innovation.

Islands are rich in natural resources but often :

- Must **import fossil fuels** to meet their energy needs
- **Accessibility is a challenging dimension**
- **Land scarcity** and subject to strong competition of usages
- **Extreme weather events** such as cyclones, earthquakes or tsunamis
- **Lack of connection** to high networks power



# ISLANDS' POTENTIAL IN THE ENERGY TRANSITION

Because of their diversity, islands provide specific opportunities to deploy innovative solutions. We firmly believe that islands have the potential to become promoters of the energy transition.

## CHALLENGES

Geographic Insularity



Dependency on fossil fuels and energy imports



High energy prices and price volatility



Non-optimized energy systems



Air pollution, environmental degradation and early victims of the climate change



## OPPORTUNITIES

Energy Independency  
Promoters of innovative approaches

Access to local renewable sources as for strengthening independence from imports

Large Island Markets and high projects replicability

Multiplication of regional, national and european programs and funds

Energy transition as a long-term and sustainable solution

An aerial photograph of an island. On the left, there are several long, parallel rows of solar panels. In the center, there are several buildings, including a large one with a light blue roof and a smaller one with a grey roof. To the right, there is a dock extending into the water, with a small boat nearby. The island is surrounded by green trees and a body of water.

# Our solutions for Islands

# ISLANDS, AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE ENERGY TRANSITION

Akuo is the **global leader of renewable energy in islands.**

Our greatest asset? We understand Islands' needs to offer innovative and tailor-made solutions.



Photo © Serge Gelabert

## LA REUNION ISLAND

### Reunion Islands – 100% sustainable electricity by 2023

Increasingly becoming dependent on fossil fuels since 1980, the island has decided to green its energy sector. Hence, combining renewables and energy importations, La Reunion aims to have a 100% sustainable electricity mix by 2023.

### Akuo's projects beyond energy generation are thus key.

With **34.6 MW of installed capacity in the island**, we supply islanders with renewable energy, but also, we promote island's energy independency, sustainable farming and fishery and we create new economic and social opportunities.



Photo © Getty Images / Fernando Bandini

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

### Dominican Republic – Embracing sustainable tourism

The increasing demand for non polluted areas and sustainable tourism entailed the publication of a Roadmap for Low Carbon and Resource Efficient Accommodation in the Dominican Republic (2019) in partnership with the UN. Strong sign of the island's ambition of greening the tourism sector.

With **our 51,5 MW of installed power**, we contribute to provide a cleaner energy mix. For that purpose, we installed a wind farm adapted to the mountainous geography that decreases CO2 emissions and we deployed GEM solutions for non connected and isolated areas such as resorts, greening the whole tourism sector and improving island's energy independency.

- **Akuo** offers **adapted** and **tailor-made solutions** considering the specific constraints faced by Islands to foster a successful energy transition and promote renewables' integration.

- **Agrienergie®** - overcoming the lack of available land
- **Storage** — towards a more resilient and independent energy system
- **GEM®** - secure clean energy supply in off-grid areas
- **Floating Solar**- brings value to unused areas while avoiding competition for lands.
- **Anti-cyclonic Wind Farms** : tailor-made designed power plants for territories with complex geographical and climate conditions
- **AKUO COOP** — towards a more inclusive energy transition



# | AGRINERGIE®

Combining **clean energy** and **agricultural production** in the same area, Akuo is:

- Promoting Island energy independency
- Decreasing greenhouse gas emissions
- Solving conflicts over land uses
- Contributing to energy and food security
- Fostering business models tailor-made to the needs and conditions of each islands
- Securing farmer's income while creating new jobs



# BARDZOUR



**9 MWp Agrinerie®** cyclone-proof greenhouses combined with **9 MWh of storage**



**300 additional jobs** were created during the construction phase



Unique prisoner rehabilitation program  
**15,000h of training for the prisoners** to teach them skills critical for their future reintegration in the job market



Batteries, owned and operated by Akuo, stabilize the network and the energy production.  
The revenue for the electricity injected to the grid varies regarding Akuo's ability to forecast further productions.

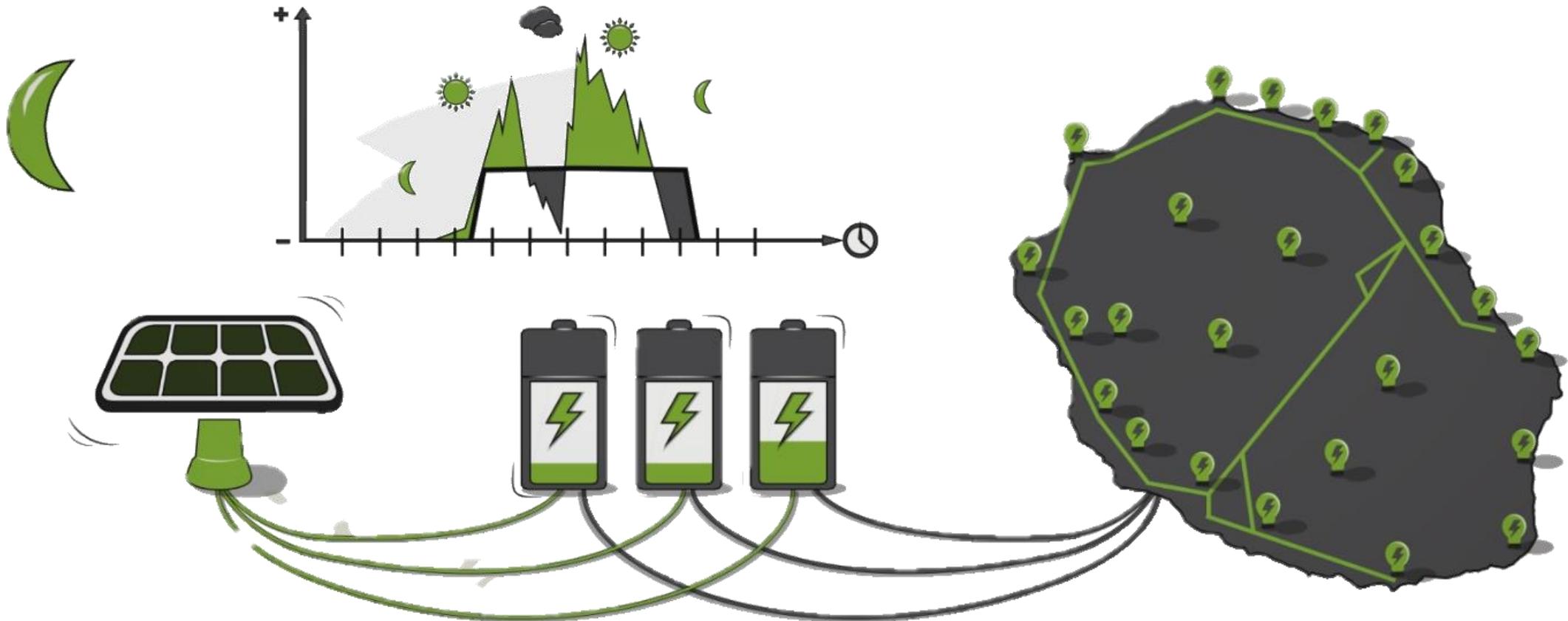


Prison of Le Port, Reunion Island  
Commissioning in 2014



# STORAGE: KEY FOR A CLEANER AND INDEPENDENT ENERGY SYSTEM

- Islands and microgrids are often **disconnected** from continental and large grid systems.
- **Storage** improves the **reliability and flexibility** of island's grids, secures a **balanced and steady supply of clean energy** and **increases the penetration of renewable energy sources**.



# | AKUO – Leaders in storage solutions on islands

Entering french islands market

Today, we have **installed more than 70MWh** of storage capacity by combining our hybrid projects, GEMs and storage projects.

**And most of this capacity is on islands!**



# | 52 MWh under construction in 2020/2021

Akuo EMS controls the whole grid island

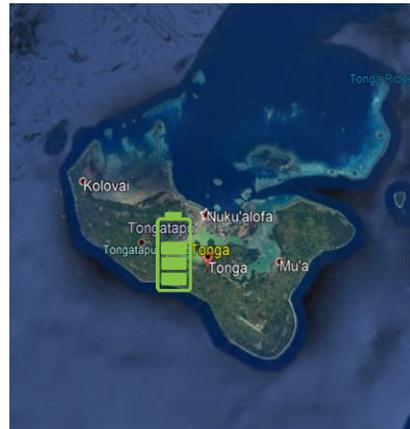
Martinique  
19 MWh



## French CRE tender

- 12 MW/19,2 MWh
- Arbitrage
- About to be commissioned

Tonga island  
5 MWh



## ADB tender

- 7,2 MW/5,3 MWh
- Frequency and voltage regulation
- Commissioning mid-2021

Tonga island  
24 MWh



## ADB tender

- 6 MW/24,0 MWh
- Arbitrage
- Commissioning mid-2021

New Caledonia  
3 MWh



## Solar + Storage Plant

- Integration of renewable energy
- Ability to commit the power profile communicated the day before
- Construction about to start

## Rural electrification of 3 villages through Millenium Challenge Account (MCA) call for tenders



Merabu, Long Beliu et TelukSumbang



2 MWp of SolarGEMs®



2.1 MWh of storage GEM®



Cyclone-proof

Storage **supports the grid** and manage the generation of solar electricity



480 households

A mini-grid between the three villages was created to supply the villagers with clean energy. The 3 mini-grids are operated by a local board owned by the villagers.



Implementation of a special training to promote socio-professional integration of women into the labor market. Also, Akuo trained the villagers so that they have the necessary skills to maintain and operate a mini-grid and run an electricity board.

Grant awarded in 2016 by MCA Indonesia  
Commissioning in March 2018



# GEM® - CLEAN ENERGY FOR OFF-GRID AREAS

- **Solar GEM** and **Storage GEM** are containerized solutions (20 feet) for solar energy production and energy storage. **A solution for off-grid areas**, GEM® are fully operational in isolated areas, supplying with energy a wide variety of direct consumers (whether they are communities, resorts or industrials).
- Fully mobile and portable, both can be used **for long-term and short-term purposes**.

## Solar GEM®

74 kWc solution, is pre-assembled and has optimized and pre-wired solar panels



## Storage GEM®

0,2 to 1,5 MWh of storage in a 20-foot High Cube container.



AKUO – At the forefront to develop solutions responding to the local context and challenges



## FLOATING SOLAR

A floating structure supports PV modules producing renewable energy. This innovative technology brings value to unused areas while avoiding competition for lands.

**Benefits:** the technology can be implemented in several types of water bodies such as reservoirs, hydropower dams or mine subsidence areas. Our technology is compatible with drinking water reservoirs and is cyclone-proof.

**Target market:** mining areas.

**Island Flagship project:** Mignot in Martinique



**OMEGA 1:** Biggest floating solar plant in Europe, installed in a quarry lake in the south of France. 23 GWh of annual energy yield.

1st awarded floating solar project by a public call for tenders in **Martinique** (April 2020)



**3,3MWp** of floating solar combined with a **7 MWh** storage facility



**Martinique**



AKUO – At the forefront to develop solutions responding to the local context and challenges



## WIND FARMS IN CYCLONIC AREAS

Convinced that with a **flexible and inventive approach**, renewables can be adapted to all type of geographical context, AKUO has developed **wind farms in mountainous and cyclone's hit areas characterized by their extreme climatic conditions.**

Through the selection of **high-tech turbines** that guarantee the maximum output and resistance, combined with a **modern plant design** that consider weather variability, AKUO energy is able to provide with clean energy rural, island and isolated communities.

**Island Flagship project:** Pecasa in Dominican Republic





Wind parc of **50 MW**



The power supply per year is equivalent to the consumption of **151 636 households**



Dominican Republic  
Commissioning in 2019



# Akuocoop – towards a higher acceptability of renewables in islands

AkuoCoop is Akuo's **crowdfunding platform for renewable energy projects**.

At Akuo Coop, we work to bring citizens into the governance of renewable energy projects in order to increase their acceptability and territorial engagement, while creating positive economic fallouts for the territories and the local populations. Also, Akuo Coop brings together businesses, companies, stakeholders and citizens to invest in the energy transition and allows citizen's who wants to make the transition real to take part of the process.

**Also, we ensure that :**

-  You have access to simple and secure low-risk investments that truly promote the energy transition
-  All projects are approved by an independent investment committee

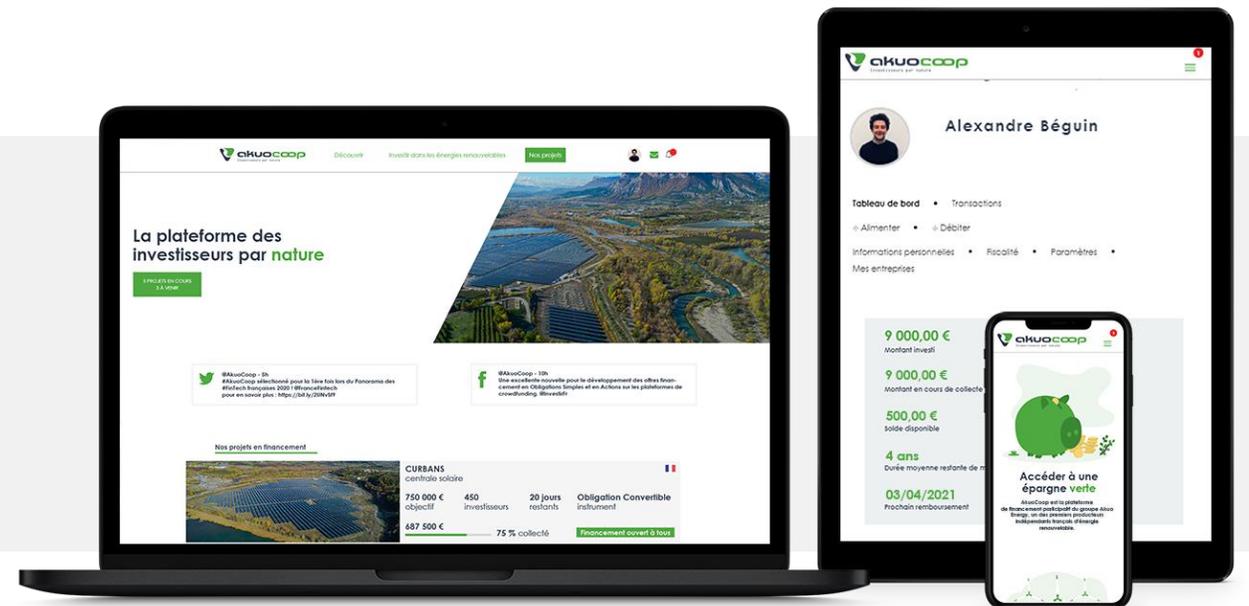
+ **4000** members

+ **7 million €**

**13 projects** financed

**2 in islands**

- **Focola** - 317 000€ collected (90%)
- **Kwita Wije** – 770 000€ collected (100%)





# MDB perspective

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**Rohit Khanna**

ESMAP Manager, World Bank



# Discussion

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**Kamlesh Dookayka**

Research Officer, Mauritius Renewable Energy Agency (MARENA)



# Discussion

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**Racquel Moses**

CEO, Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator



# Conclusion and steps towards COP26

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**Francesco La Camera**

Director General, IRENA

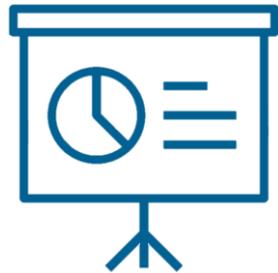


# Closing Remarks

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**Selwin Hart**

Special Advisor and Assistant Secretary-General for Climate Action, United Nations



The **slides** will be shared via email after the end of the webinar



A **recording** of the webinar will be available on demand on [irena.org/events](https://irena.org/events) website within 48 hours





**THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!**

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