

Fiji europe renewable energy

In recent years, the European Union (EU) has provided financial support to the European Investment Bank (EIB) to carry out feasibility studies on the Qaliwana (with Upper Wailoa Diversion).

In this context, the EIB had entered into an agreement with the then Fiji Electricity Authority (FEA), now Energy Fiji Limited (EFL), in 2015 to undertake a technical economic feasibility study for hydro-power scheme development in Viti Levu.

The initial scope of the technical economic feasibility study only covered the Qaliwana Hydro-electric scheme (with Upper Wailoa Diversion). In 2020, at the request of EFL, the EU and EIB agreed to extend the scope of the feasibility study to include the Lower Ba Hydro-electric schemes.

Through its own procurement process, the EIB appointed Studio Pietrangeli, an Italian consulting company, to undertake the technical economic feasibility study. Due to challenges imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic from 2020 to 2022, progress on the technical economic feasibility study was affected and it was only completed in late 2022, with final reports submitted to EFL in January 2023.

EFL is currently in the process of appointing an independent agency to conduct a peer review of the hydro-electric scheme feasibility study reports, before the EFL Board makes a decision on the development of the hydro-electric scheme projects.

EFL CEO & Director, Mr. Hasmukh Patel thanked the EIB and the EU for its vision to provide support towards renewable energy development and stated that EFL is keen to embark upon the development of these projects.

Following the completion of the feasibility study, EIB has expressed interest in further supporting EFL with the development of the hydro-electric schemes, and this support will be formalized through the signing of a Letter of Intent between EFL and EIB.

The Ambassador and Head of the Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific, His Excellency Sujiro Seam said: "Because climate change remains the most existential threat for the Pacific, the European Union and Fiji agree to direct the European Union Budget Support to the implementation of the climate act of Fiji. The letter of intent between the European Investment Bank and Energy Fiji Limited complements the European Union Budget Support, with a commitment to assist with infrastructure investment, optimising synergies and reflecting a Team Europe approach."

This is another step towards the implementation of Fiji's National Development Plan (NDP), Fiji's National Energy Policy (NEP), Fiji's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), Fiji's Low Emissions Development

Strategy (LEDS) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is the European Union's long-term financing institution owned by its Member States. It makes long-term finance available for sound investment in order to contribute towards EU policy goals.

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Fiji's updated NDC sets out 12 mitigation targets, including reaching close to 100% renewable energy power generation by 2030, thus reducing an expected 20% of the energy sector's CO₂ emissions under a BAU scenario. It also commits the country to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and to operationalize its National Adaptation Plan. Fiji has also published the NDC Implementation Roadmap 2017 - 2030 which is a living document that sets out the strategies to achieve the NDC targets.

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