2022

Project Implementation Report (PIR)

Empowered lives.
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SPIRES (Rural Electrification)

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A. Basic Data

Project Information	
UNDP PIMS ID	6089
GEF ID	9787
Title	Stimulating Progress towards Improved Rural Electrification in the Solomons (SPIRES)
Country(ies)	Solomon Islands, Solomon Islands
UNDP-NCE Technical Team	Energy, Infrastructure, Transport and Technology
Management Arrangements	CO Support to NIM
Project Implementing Partner	Government
Joint Agencies	*(not set or not applicable)*
Project Type	Full Size
Implementation Status	1st PIR
GEF Fiscal Year	FY22
Trust Fund	GEF Trust Fund

Project Description
Facilitation of the achievement of increased access to electricity in rural communities in the Solomon Islands.

Project Contacts	
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B. Overall ratings

Overall DO Rating	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall IP Rating	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	low

C. Development Objective Progress

It is mandatory for all reported progress to be substantiated by evidence. Please upload evidence files for each objective/outcome via the DO PROGRESS section in the online PIR platform. If there is no evidence to upload, the Project Manager is required to provide an explanation.

Description					
Objective **GOAL:** **Reduced annual growth rate of GHG emissions in the energy and energy end use sector of the country.**					
Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**Midterm target level**	**End of project target level**	**Level at 30 June 2021**	**Cumulative progress since project start**
Cumulative incremental GHG emission reduction from the electricity sector in rural areas, tons CO2	0	6,376	19,147	*(not set or not applicable)*	Zero (0) - Demonstration sites are yet to be installed. Procurements for demos at three sites have been accomplished. Awaiting arrival of the rest of the PV equipment and shipment to the sites.
National electric energy consumption index, ktoe/US$ GDP	6.42	6.20	5.87	*(not set or not applicable)*	The energy division of MMERE have noted that baseline project sites were installed in 2019 and 2020, however report reports to provide evidence for this has not been shared with the PMU. According to MMERE, baseline activities projects have installed solar PV systems in schools including Selwyn college, Moli, Luesalemba, Saint Patison schools across the Solomon Islands and a mini hydro

					system at Beulah secondary school in Western Province., Moli, Luesalemba, Saint Patison) note-installation has been done and now systems are not replaced and operational). This will be calculated. However, a report to confirm this installations is not available.
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	**Off track**				
Evidence uploaded:	N/A				
Explanation why the evidence was not provided:	Evidence cannot be provided as gathering of data is still ongoing for the baseline projects in identifying the system capacity and their status. Yet to acquire a report showing the national energy consumption index after the project was launched and late recruitment of the PMU team (late August 2021) to carry out the task.				

Objective **OBJECTIVE: Facilitation of the achievement of increased access to electricity in rural communities in the Solomon Islands**					
Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**Midterm target level**	**End of project target level**	**Level at 30 June 2021**	**Cumulative progress since project start**
Cumulative incremental fossil fuel savings due to sustainable energy and low carbon interventions implemented, toe	0	697.6	2,095	*(not set or not applicable)*	Zero (0) - Demos are yet to be installed and placed in operation. A cumulative incremental fossil fuel savings due to sustainable energy and low carbon interventions has not been calculated during year1. This delay was due to the fact that the

					project started late, Q2 2021, PMU was recruited late into Q3 2021. Therefore, to date SPIRES has yet to influence or stimulate the growth of the RE. The pockets of RE project currently happening around the country are outside of the SPIRES Project. Nonetheless, the influence (if any) of SPIRES to such projects will be determined in the next PIR reporting period.
% electricity access in rural areas, %	5%	15%	25%	*(not set or not applicable)*	No increase in electricity access until the demo sites are installed. The indicator value will be determined using a survey of the impacts on electricity access in rural areas that are brought about by the SPIRES Project.
No. of new jobs created due to enhanced electricity access in off-grid areas in the country	10	60	200	*(not set or not applicable)*	NIL - Yet to be determined once the first sites are installed. Approximately 8 jobs were created and influenced by SPIRES (Hunana'awa committee number, Rokera community), Garanga community members. A

					research/survey to determine job creations brought about not only by the demos but also by the other interventions (e.g., promotions, capacity building, etc.) implemented by SPIRES will be carried out under the project.
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	**Off track**				
Evidence uploaded:	N/A				
Explanation why the evidence was not provided:	The work towards this objective is in progress. Results will be realized and documented from electricity consumption studies as well as the operations of the installed demo facilities. Appropriated studies will be will conducted to document information gathering on this sites.				

Outcome 1

Outcome 1: Enforcement of approved policies and rules and regulations to support enhanced application of cost-effective RE technologies for electricity generation in the off-grid areas in Solomon Islands

Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**Midterm target level**	**End of project target level**	**Level at 30 June 2021**	**Cumulative progress since project start**
No. of implemented off-grid rural electrification projects facilitated by the approved and enforced energy access, RE and EC&EE policies.	0	2	5	*(not set or not applicable)*	Zero (0). The project has initiated work on a rural electrification policy as identified by MMERE. This has led to the completion of the overarching national policy framework- Solomon Islands National Energy Policy was completed. This policy is in the thematic area 3 (Electric power - Rural) of the Solomon Islands National Energy Policy (SINEP) which was

					launched in 2019. Initial discussions have been held with the development of the RE strategy, however nothing substantive has resulted out of this.
No. of designed and implemented pilots on the implementation of applicable policy and regulatory framework for rural electrification	0	1	2	*(not set or not applicable)*	Zero (0). As policy development is still in very early stages, there is no design and implementation pilots during year 1.
No. of formulated, approved and implemented rural electrification plans.	5	7	9	*(not set or not applicable)*	Zero (0)
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	**Off track**				
Evidence uploaded:	N/A				
Explanation why the evidence was not provided:	The framework and Policy of the Rural Electrification is yet to be approved and implemented. The drafting and consultation of the Rural Electrification policy is still in progress. (SINEP can be uploaded as an endorsement of the rural electrification strategy). No document has been uploaded as rural electrification policy is still in early stages of discussion.				

Outcome 2

Outcome 2: Enforced improved institutional and financial mechanisms in the integrated planning and

implementation of rural electrification and RE-based energy production in the off-grid areas

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2021	Cumulative progress since project start
No. of formulated and recommended institutional and financing mechanisms that support the enhanced implementation of rural electrification initiatives.	0	2	2	*(not set or not applicable)*	Zero (0).Work in progress with two potential financial mechanisms (business models)

No. of rural electrification initiatives facilitated by adopted and enforced institutional and financial mechanisms.	0	2	2	*(not set or not applicable)*	Zero (0)
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	**Off track**				
Evidence uploaded:	N/A				
Explanation why the evidence was not provided:	The discussions on the financial and institutional mechanism are yet in its early stages and have yet to be documented. Therefore, no documents has been uploaded as evidence.				
Outcome 3 **Outcome 3.1: Increased confidence in, and application of, RE technologies and RE-based power generation to support socio-economic development in off-grid areas**					
Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**Midterm target level**	**End of project target level**	**Level at 30 June 2021**	**Cumulative progress since project start**
No. of planned and implemented rural electrification projects in both on-, and off-grid areas that are based on the findings are recommendations of conducted DREI assessments of RE-based electricity generation options.	0	2	5	*(not set or not applicable)*	Zero (0) - No DREI specialist was able to be found. Based on UNDP recommendation, this DREI assessment was down scaled to conducting of a techno -economic feasibility study instead. There were also challenges in recruiting a DREI consultant, this this activity was delayed in Year 1. Thus, this has not been achieved for year 1.
No. of follow-up rural electrification, sustainable energy and low carbon technology application projects (demo	0	4	6	*(not set or not applicable)*	1. Selwyn College PV Farm. We carried out a consultation meeting regarding the upgrading/revamp of the

replications and scale-ups) in on-, and off-grid areas.					Selwyn College Solar Farm System. Initial consultations has been carried out by the project with the Anglican Church of Melanesia that operates the Selwyn College solar hybrid system. However, the target for year 1 was not achieved.
Percentage of successful maintenance or repair work on demonstrations by MMERE and all RE-based rural electrification projects in the country	0	50% support	100% MMERE with no external support	*(not set or not applicable)*	Zero (0) This target has not been achieved due to lack of data on repair and maintenance for baseline projects/activities.
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	**Off track**				
Evidence uploaded:	N/A				
Explanation why the evidence was not provided:	No evidence has been uploaded. This is due to non-availability of baseline project/activities reports from the IP, MMERE Energy Division.				

Outcome 4

Outcome 3.2: Adoption and implementation of climate resilient and low carbon electricity applications in increasing access to electricity in off-grid areas.

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2021	Cumulative progress since project start
No. of successfully installed and operational systems of the implemented demonstrations of RE-	0	2	5	*(not set or not applicable)*	Zero (0) - Work has been initiated in terms of procuring and contracting of engineering companies to procure,

based electricity generation and low carbon technology application in the off-grid areas.					transport and install equipment's to two of the demonstration sites in Year 1 – Hunana'awa Community and Rokera Secondary School. Still in progress. Engineers are working on the scope of work before tendering out the construction works. Procurement of supplies have been completed for three sites (Rokera, Hunana'awa and Garanga). Justification Mobilization for the first two sites likely to happen in Q3 2022. This has been further delayed due to the delays in PMU establishment, covid-19 restrictions, political unrest end of Year 1. And community transmission and restrictions in q1, year 2.
No. of RE and EE technologies application projects designed and financed for implementation as influenced by the results and outcomes of the demonstrations	0	4	9	*(not set or not applicable)*	Zero (0) - This has not been achieved in Year 1 due to delays outlined in the above sections.
Percentage of women in community-based RESCO morally supported by village men to build their confidence in leadership	0	25%	50%	*(not set or not applicable)*	Zero (0) - There were no project activities implemented in Year 1 that contributes to the achievement of the target for this indicator.
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	**Off track**				

Evidence uploaded:	N/A
Explanation why the evidence was not provided:	No evidence available

Outcome 5

Outcome 4:

Enhanced awareness and knowledge of the government, private sector and communities on the cost-effective application of RE and EE technologies and practices

Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**Midterm target level**	**End of project target level**	**Level at 30 June 2021**	**Cumulative progress since project start**
No. of trained national and local government personnel that can ably plan and evaluate energy access, sustainable energy and low carbon technology application projects.	0	2	4	*(not set or not applicable)*	Training is underway for 5 people. Three (3) from the SPIRES Project and two (2) form the implementing partner (MMERE). No one is fully trained at this stage. 5 national and local government personnel are currently undergoing training at this stage.
No. of local firms that can capably provide technical, engineering and maintenance services for rural electrification and low carbon technology application projects.	1	1	3	*(not set or not applicable)*	Zero (0). Currently there is no certified company that can provide this, as this has been stated by Solomon Power. There are companies that can do the works, but with the supervision of foreign consultants.

					There is limited capacity in the country to do what Solomon Power is doing. Hence, the capacity building that is being provided by the SPIRES.
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	**On track**				
Evidence uploaded:	N/A				
Explanation why the evidence was not provided:	Reports of this are not available at this moment.				

Action plan

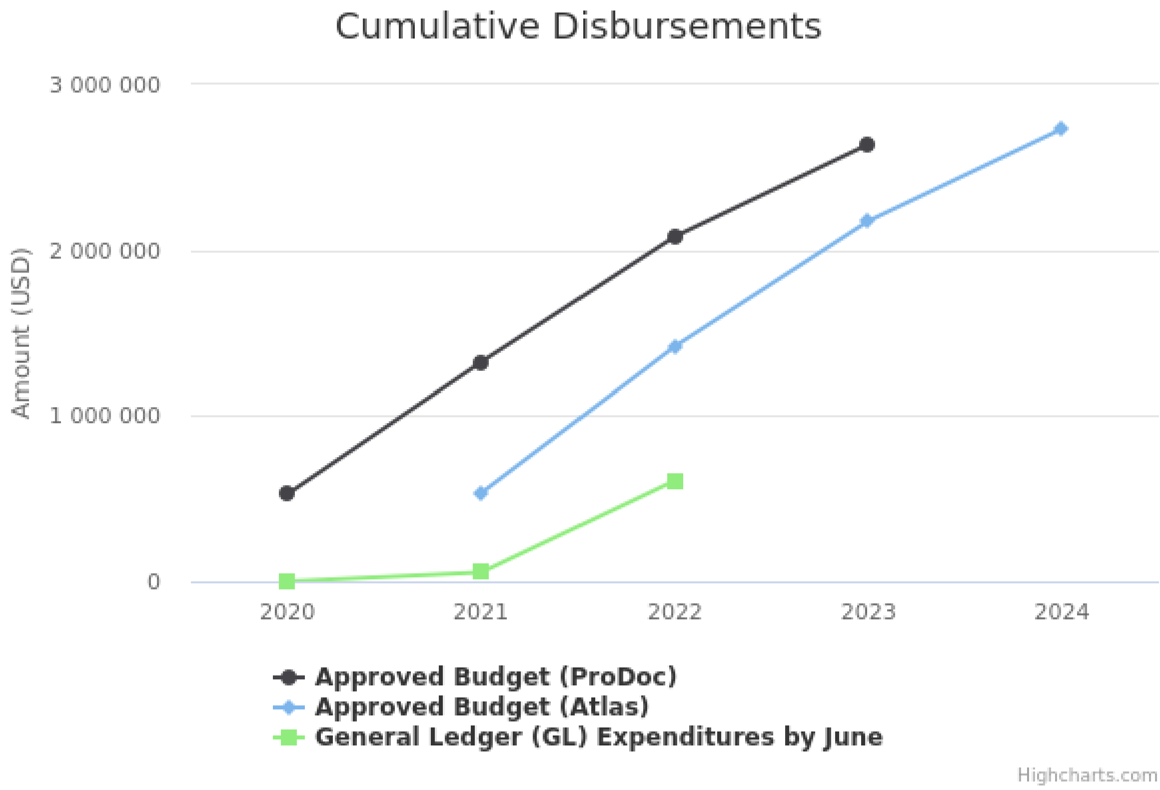
Off-track objective/outcome	Action(s) to be taken	Responsible party/ies	Due Date
Objective	- Conduct a survey/evaluation of the project baseline projects and other MMERE projects to gather data/information for the GHG calculations - Collect data from Solomon Power for the National electric energy consumption index - Fast track the implementation of the demo sites to reach the expected target - Consult Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI) –Contact person: Michael Kikiolo - Consult Climate Change –Contact person: David Tufi, Henry Tufa - Statistics -	- PMU / MMERE - PMU - PMU / MMERE	Dec 31, 2022

	- GDP – FEDU Division, Ministry of Finance and Treasury (MOFT) Banabas Vote		
Objective	Same actions applies/ use of above data/information collected Director Energy to provide report on electricity access to rural areas – 12% Cross check all committee established – members in the project demonstration sites/ those who supported the project campaigns/awareness in the project demos	PMU	Dec 31, 2022
Outcome 1	Initial work is currently underway within MMERE on drafting a skeletal of the rural policy framework for Solomon Islands. A consultant will be recruited to progress this work further.	PMU /MMERE	Nov 30, 2023
Outcome 2	Financial and institutional models have been identified in the final drafting stage, draft report to be presented at the SPIRES TWG meeting Introduce the recommended financial and institutional mechanism once the completion of installation of Rokera and Hunanawa pilot sites is achieved Follow up consultations with Anglican Church of Melanesia (COM) Selwyn College authorities and	PMU / MMERE	Dec 31, 2022

	foster the revival of the Selwyn College sinking fund		
Outcome 3	A techno economic feasibility study to be conducted for the demonstration sites Note* techno economical study findings will inform design, and installations for sites yet to be installed with solar system. However, for sites that procurement is underway, and solar pv systems are currently being installed such as Hunanawa and findings from the technoeconomic feasibility will be use to strengthen the solar pv systems there. -To consolidate / and to collect information/data from for Selwyn College-Contact Lemuel Liolea -Consolidate a report on the maintenance of systems installed as part of baseline project and activities -(collaborate with energy division team for report on Waisisi. *Waisisi School (maintenance has been conducted for 2 out of 4 schools)	MMERE/UNDP	Dec 31, 2022
Outcome 4	Installations of solar PV systems have been completed for 3 out of the 5 baseline project, a survey will be conducted to consolidate a report	PMU/MMERE	Dec 31, 2022

	Baseline project sites of Sa’a site will need to be consolidated into a report. It is anticipated that 3 of these baseline project sites will be completed by December 2022. Consult donors to fund RESCO to utilize PURE in Agriculture, tourism and fisheries, gender to be considered- SAFE farm in East Guadalcanal, and Ginger, Nida and Doma Cove eco lodges. Note *Ginger and Doma Cove are operated by women		

D. Implementation Progress



Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc):	23.11%
Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year:	29.3%
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June:	610,072

Key Financing Amounts

PPG Amount	100,000
GEF Grant Amount	2,639,726
Co-financing	16,525,531

Key Project Dates

Project duration	48 months
PIF Approval Date	Nov 29, 2017
CEO Endorsement Date	Aug 3, 2020
Project Document Signature Date (project start	Nov 12, 2020

date):	
Date of Inception Workshop	Mar 23, 2021
First Disbursement Date	Apr 29, 2021
Expected Date of Mid-term Review	Apr 30, 2023
Actual Date of Mid-term Review	*(not set or not applicable)*
Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation	Aug 12, 2024
Original Planned Closing Date	Nov 12, 2024
Revised Planned Closing Date	*(not set or not applicable)*

Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2021 to 1 July 2022)
2022-05-06
2021-08-06
Project Manager: Please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones outlined in the above 'Key Project Dates' table. Include comments on COVID-19 related challenges, delays and impact. If there are no delays, please indicated 'not applicable'.
MTR has been rescheduled to April 2023 from its original expected date of 12 November 2022. 1.Late recruitment of project management unit, resulting in late implementation of project activities; (PM recruited on June 2021, the rest of the team in August/September 2021) 2.Late recruitment of the CTA who provides advisory role for the implementation of activities including engineering designs, policy advice; (CTA recruited in March 1, 2022, and has been supporting the project. 3.Delays in procurement of renewable energy systems, as suppliers have to procure outside of the country, due to non-availability of most equipment and components within the country; This has led to no tangible results to report in PIR 2022; (Delay/ limited shipment to Solomon Islands due to country lock down – state of emergency (SOE) imposed by the SIG from 2021 to May 2022. 4.This has been compounded by the first COVID community transmission which caused further delays to activity implementation as almost all of the PMU staff were infected with the virus in the first quarter of 2022; (Also Q1 2022 restriction of movement imposed by the SIG because of covid-19 community transmission).

Summary of the proposed action plan to address or, prevent the delays during the next PIR reporting period, and what will be needed from the PMU/IP and stakeholders to implement the plan.

1. Establishment of a database to monitor key indicators and output indicators.
2. Conduct feasibility studies on operational status of baseline projects, and other RE projects in the country and calculate.
3. Conduct a comprehensive study to calculate national energy consumption
4. Aligned to the climate change division to collaborate work with NDCs particularly on calculating incremental GHG emission reduction from the electricity sector in rural areas
5. quick turnaround of quarterly progress reports on a timely basis.
6. Development of rural electrification policy -component 1
7. Consolidation on a report of assessment of financial and institutional mechanisms.
8. Conduct a typical techno-economic study for the demonstration sites;
9. The Others mention in Joanne’s comments

- Under component 1- hiring of an international policy specialist to draft and develop the rural electrification strategy;

- Under component 2- PMU to collate report on assessment of financial and institutional mechanism- may need to hire a national

consultant.

- Under component 3- to conduct a typical techno-economic study for the demonstration sites. Need a person to deal with this if there is no inhouse capacity.

3 of the components are off track because they cannot be realistically achieved over a very short period (Mid-September 2021 to-date). The PMU is addressing this off-track component by putting extra effort,

- Pressing forward to complete the installation of three sites by the end of this year.
- Completing the Financial Mechanism drafts for the TWG review by end of this quarter

Planned action in implementing rest of the demonstrations include in year 1 and year 2:

• Rokera and Hunana'awa and Garanga demonstration sites-shipment of materials and equipment’s to the site; contracting of works providers. (Y1, Y2)

• Procurement of equipment’s for Nangu and West Guadalcanal tourism solar mini-grids.

• Techno economic studies for Malaita Outer Islands Community and water project; Gounatolo Health Facility. (Y2, Y3)

• Techno economic studies on a small medium enterprises (Makira Chocolate factory-extension) Y3 • Revised techno economic studies for Nangu, West Guadalcanal eco-tourism mini-grids, Aola. • Procurement, contracting, shipment and installations at all of the remaining demonstration sites Potential risks and risk mitigation measures: 1. Inadequate local capacity to implement the project activities- this is occurring at the project level, as local staff are unable to conduct comprehensive surveys and complete the much needed reports that is required to prove activities; international /local consultancies will be hired to conduct these assessments and at the same time build capacity of the project and MMERE; 2. Land issues could affect demo projects in areas owned and occupied by traditional resource owners (in the remaining demo sites)- risk mitigation measures may include continued FPIC processes to be carried out by the project team as part of the environment and social impact assessments to be completed, prior to installations of solar PV systems in the remaining demonstration sites. Or issues do arise in current project demonstration sites consultation and project board decision to address persistent issues. 3. Non-availability of committed -co-financing for specific activities (this is a risks as baseline activities covering installation within baseline project sites has not been documented in a report. This risk is high leading to difficulty in calculating national energy access and savings from the baseline activities- a risk mitigation measure is for the project team to conduct a study of baseline activity projects and calculate the baseline indicators.
CO Programme Officer: Please include specific measures to manage the project's implementation performance
Specific measures include: UNDP Solomon Islands will follow UNDP quality assurance requirements, policies, and procedures as stated in POPP. The office will ensure full compliance to UNDP project monitoring, quality assurance, risk management, and evaluation requirements. These will include: fortnightly meetings between the Implementing Partner, Project team and UNDP. This an opportunity for IP, project team to discuss with UNDP (RTA and CO) on activities and to get the required technical guidance to execute the project   programmatic visits to project demonstration sites. These visits will focus on validating project results, ensuring stakeholder engagement and communication.   Back to office reports will be prepared after programme missions. The BTORs serve as reference documents when reviewing the project risks, in addition to providing initial information on likely need for adaptive management.

close monitoring of the monitoring and evaluation plan and conducting of spot checks; provide support to project manager and weekly follows-up on delivery of procurement plan and travel plans; this in ensuring the PMU provide an updated procurement plan and travel plan on a monthly basis.
NCE RTA: Please include specific measures to manage the project's implementation performance.
Considering the project implementation and management performance during the PIR 2022 reporting period, the following measures are recommended to the project IP (MMERE) for adoption: Identify, specify and facilitate expeditiously the procurement and/or recruitment all the required resource inputs (e.g., demo equipment, international consultants) of the project. Revise the project implementation plan to prioritize the implementation of all critical activities (e.g., those that are have delayed starts) in each project component. Adjust accordingly the project's monitoring/tracking plan based on the project log frame to cover all project activities (baseline and incremental) and strictly implement it. Design and develop the monitoring plan for the demos to specifically determine the energy and environmental performance of each demo (i.e., energy savings/avoidance and associated GHG emission reductions); and actual economics of each demo. This includes determining the extent of co-financing that was realized for each demo. The demo monitoring plan must be discussed with the UNDP CO/NCE and endorsed by the Project Board. Monitor and report/document the results of all co-financed/baseline activities of the project, as well as the actual amount of committed and leveraged co-financing for the SPIRES Project. Continue regular coordination call between PMU and CO. Conduct regular coordination with the RTA to discuss implementation issues and keep track of progress in the planned project implementation and results monitoring. Include in the project's monitoring plan the tracking of specific parameters that will facilitate the quantification (or at least, estimation) of the levels of achievement of the annual targets of each Outcome indicator in each project component. Conduct specific research/study (as much as possible as part of the project activities or the project

monitoring plan) that will generate data for estimating the levels of achievement of the annual targets of each Outcome indicator in each project component.

Because of the non-achievement of the Year 1 targets, endeavor to expedite the implementation the delayed activities and those that are planned for implementation during the PIR 2023 reporting period that will generate the necessary data/information that will be used in gauging the level of achievement of each Outcome indicator in each project component. In this regard, it is very important to synchronize the revised project implementation plan and the adjusted project monitoring plan.

E. Project Governance

Dates of Project Board Meetings during reporting period (1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022). Please also upload all meeting minutes using the FILE LIBRARY button.
2022-05-06
2021-08-06

F. Ratings and Overall Assessments

Role	2022 Development Objective Progress Rating	2022 Implementation Progress Rating
UNDP-NCE Technical Adviser	Moderately Unsatisfactory	Moderately Satisfactory
UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	Moderately Satisfactory	Satisfactory

Role	2022 Overall Assessment
UNDP-NCE Technical Adviser	This is the first PIR report of the project. This report covers the period March 2021 to June 2022. For this PIR 2022 report, the progress towards the achievement of the project objective, and outcomes from each project component and sub-components is evaluated against the project's Year 1 targets. The successful implementation of the project (i.e., achievement of the project objective) will contribute to the achievement of the project's goal. However, with the rather not good performance during the PIR 2022 reporting period, it is understandable that realization of the project's contribution to its goal is not yet evident. Nonetheless, the project team will continue the monitoring of the level of achievement of the annual targets of each goal indicator (Cumulative incremental GHG emission reduction from the electricity sector in rural areas, tons CO2; and National electric energy consumption index, ktoe/US$ GDP) during each PIR reporting period using data/information from the applicable parameters that are also monitored to gauge the realization of the annual targets of the outcome and objective indicators. Regarding the project objective, the Year 1 targets of its 3 indicators (Cumulative incremental fossil fuel savings due to sustainable energy and low carbon interventions implemented; % electricity access in rural areas; and No. of new jobs created due to enhanced electricity access in off-grid areas in the country) were all not achieved. This is mainly because there were limited number of activities that were implemented during the PIR 2022 reporting period. As of 31 March 2022, of the total 59 project activities, only 22 (37.3%) were implemented. Only 3 of the implemented activities were completed. The ongoing activities continue as well as those that are planned in the AWP 2022 and AWP 2023 during the next PIR reporting periods. As reported by the project team, the reason for this is mainly the absence of technical capacity in the country, delayed setup of the PMU, and the travel restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In this regard, the progress towards the achievement of the project objective is off track, and is rated MU. While there were activities implemented under each project component, many of these are mainly preparatory and are still ongoing. Except in Component 4, the implemented activities did not produce results that will manifest the Year 1 target level of achievement for each outcome indicator. In Component 1, the 4

	(out of 18) implemented activities did not bring about results to show achievement of the Year 1 targets of the 3 indicators of Outcome 1. In Component 2, the 3 (out of 11) implemented activities did not bring about results to show achievement of the Year 1 targets of the 2 indicators of Outcome 2. Similarly, the 11 (out of 13) implemented activities in Component 3.1 did not bring about results to show achievement of the Year 1 targets of the 3 indicators of Outcome 3.1. Also, the 2 (out of 5) implemented activities in Component 3.2 did not bring about results to show achievement of the Year 1 targets of the 3 indicators of Outcome 3.2. Because of this rather poor performance, the progress towards the achievement of Outcomes 1, 2, 3.1 and 3.2 are all off track, and rated MU. Component 4 is somehow considered on track despite the fact that the Year 1 target of only 1 of the 2 Outcome 4 indicators was somehow achieved. Out of the 12 Component 4 activities only 2 were implemented and these are still ongoing as of 30 June 2022. It would be fair to conclude that the progress towards achieving Outcome 4 is on track, and rated MS. To be able to track the achievement of the targets of all of the project indicators (goal, objective and outcomes), the PMU is strongly advised to develop a properly defined project monitoring scheme that is in line with the project results framework (log frame) and annual work plans must be prepared to enable tracking of the status of the implemented project activities and their results, as well as determine and verify the achievement of the annual targets of the project performance indicators. As it was done during the project conceptualization, design, and inception stages, and during the Year 1 project implementation, the UNDP CO can advise the PMU on the development and implementation of such monitoring plan, including advice on the data gathering work (what to gather, how to gather, how to process and analyze, etc.). For activities that were already initiated, and the preparatory work done on some of the demonstration activities, the PMU has to coordinate more closely with the pertinent project partners such as the demo hosts. Close coordination work must be done with the project partners that are implementing the co-financed project activities to ensure that the results are adequately documented and reported. For the next PIR reporting period, the implementing partner (MMERE) must continue working closely with the UNDP-Honiara in getting all the project partners, particularly the demo hosts, Solomon Power, etc. involved in the implementation of the planned project activities. Towards the last months of the PIR 2023 reporting period, the PMU should proceed with the originally planned mid-term review (MTR) of the project. Suggested measures for addressing the implementation issues of the project and for improved management of the project implementation are provided in Sec. D of this report. The PMU is encouraged to adopt them. Particular emphasis must be given in the monitoring of the results of the project activities (baseline and incremental) as well as the project expenditures (GEF funds and co-financing), especially the issue regarding the realization of the committed co-financing for the demonstrations, and the work to be done in supporting the project partners in financing the implementation of the replication projects.
UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	The overall project implementation was not on track, as there are significant constraints experience by the project management unit in collation of baseline

	project/activity data and information. These challenges were further impeded during the project inception and first year of implementation- delay in project staff recruitment and COVID 19 restrictions. However, these challenges will not impact progress towards achievement of the end-of-project targets by project as there are plans to get this project activities to be back on track. In spite of the fact that the majority of activities are off track, progress towards achievement of the end of project targets by project closure is rated at this stage is rated 'moderately satisfactory. These have been attributed to good progress made by the project management team, good financial audits outcome for the project in its first audit; and project is on track to deliver results. However, some concerns that the project needs to strengthen include reporting (submission of progress reports) and financial reports (FACE forms) on a timely manner; improvement in communication, monitoring of baseline project data/information and coordination between project team and with UNDP. Moreover, the Implementation progress of the project is satisfactory. This rating is based on the following justifications: the IP, MMERE has been observed to take ownership and have fully supported the project implementation; this support had ensured that UNDP/GEF mandatory requirements are undertaken. Going forward, implementation progress will be further strengthened with full installation of RE -based power generation equipment in the selected demonstration sites and collection of data and information from the baseline projects/activities.
Project Manager/Coordinator	Many of the set Year 1 is off targets. Reasons being. 1. Very late recruitment of the PMU – Limited time 2. Covid-19 restrictions 3. Absence of reports for the baseline projects 4. Un availability of the base line projects 1. The project was launched in late 2020. However, the PMU team was recruited in late 2021 and To-date the PMU team is yet to reach the 1 (one) year mark together. Therefore, it would be unrealistic to meet most of the target indicator. 2. Towards end on 2021, the country went through a political unrest, resulted in the restriction of the team to advance some of its activities. 3. The first quarter of 2022, SI experience the Covid-19 community transmission and moving the activities forward is further delayed. 4. There are no reports provided for the baseline projects by MMERE so that SPIRES could us to calculate/evaluate or monitor their performance If the team is given the correct timing To date, three (3) demos are in the procurement stage with the arrival of equipment for two (2) demos. If there is no interruption with the planned schedule, we should commission three demos by the end of 2022. There are also additional six (6) demos whose sites have been surveyed and confirmed

	for installation that are ready to go into the procurement process. 1. The team will do a survey and evaluation of the baseline projects and start reporting the findings together with the newly installed sites. The challenges face by the project stated in the IP RATINGS, affect the activities and outcomes of all the four (4) components of the project. The project hopes to see more activities delivered, start reactivating the lagged activities and meet more of its expected outcomes starting from the Quarter 3 (Q3) 2022, now that the PMU team is about eleven (11) months old, and we have gone pass the Covid-19 lockdown effects.
GEF Operational Focal point	*(not set or not applicable)*
Project Implementing Partner	*(not set or not applicable)*
Other Partners	*(not set or not applicable)*

G. Minor Amendments

A) Results Framework
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to the 'Results framework'
(not set or not applicable)
B) Components and cost
Yes
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Components and cost'
Budget adjustments and reallocation have been conducted for all components as International Consultant Budget allocation for Chief Technical Advisor position was not utilized in 2021. It was not until this year that a part-time CTA has been hired by the project. The unutilized budget has been reallocated to other budget lines this year, 2022.
C) Institutional and implementation arrangements
Yes
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Institutional and implementation arrangements'
there is no change in the institutional and implementation arrangement in Year 1.
D) Financial management
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Financial Management'
(not set or not applicable)
E) Implementation schedule
Yes
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Implementation schedule'
Implementation schedule has been delayed due to COVID 19 travel restrictions as was faced challenges due to delay in recruitment of project management unit staff, and impediments on procuring RE based power generation equipment outside the country.
F) Executing Entity
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Executing Entity'
(not set or not applicable)
G) Executing Entity Category

No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Executing Entity Category'
(not set or not applicable)
H) Minor project objective change
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'minor project objective change'
(not set or not applicable)
I) Safeguards
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Safeguards'
(not set or not applicable)
J) Risk Analysis
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Risk Analysis'
(not set or not applicable)
K) Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%
No
Provide a description of the change to GEF project financing up to 5%
(not set or not applicable)
L) Co-financing
Yes
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Co-financing'
UNDP has been providing cash co-financing for the project in 2021 and 2022 respectively. These cash co-financing arrangements have been allocated to cover for cost of staff time engaged under the project as GEF policy does not allow for charging of Direct Project Costs of the GEF Agency.
M) Location of project activity
Yes
Provide a description of the change(s) to project location activity
Changes have been made during PIR 2022 reporting period to demonstration project locations, which differs from the initial project demonstration sites. Particularly, one was a shift from two boarding

schools located in Makira/Ulawa Province to two boarding schools in Malaita and Isabel Provinces.
Other
No
Please provide a description of other types of minor amendments that do not fall under any of the above categories. For example, minor changes to the project's Gender Action Plan and/or gender activities can be captured here.
(not set or not applicable)
Upload any supporting documentation related to responses in this section.
(not set or not applicable)

H. Gender

Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

1) Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.
(not set or not applicable)
Atlas Gender Marker Rating
GEN2: gender equality as significant objective
2) Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):
Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: No
Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes
Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes
Not applicable: No
3) Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women. **Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.**
The project is in the process of developing activities that will be able to benchmark Gender participation more especially for women in the different project sites. Currently, their attendance to meetings can be the only measure that is used as a tool to be able to scale women's participation and empowerment but other than that there is none. Multiple gender activities and tools will be devised to be able to capture the required data.
4) Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.
As tools and activities are still under development with no installation of any actual infrastructure on any site, the project cannot be certain on women's input at this stage. Otherwise, it is anticipated that during the actual installation of tangible infrastructure then such environmental resilience plans and actions can be visible.

I. Risk Management

A) Review of Risks outlined in Risk Register and PIMS+ risk tab

CO Programme Officer: Has the Atlas Risk Register been updated during this reporting period?
Yes
NCE RTA: Please provide an assessment of project risk management (including risks reported in Risk Register and risks included in the project's risk tab in PIMS+) undertaken in the reporting period and summarize the key risk management measures to be taken in the coming year. This text will be pulled into the risk management action plan in this project's risk tab in PIMS+.
The following are comments on the stated risks in the project's risk register that are rated either to be highly likely or moderately likely to happen and those expected to happen during the course of project implementation: Risk 1 Risk: Government not approving policies needed to support this project Proposed Treatment: Campaigns to get adequate support from the SIG authorities on the adoption of the recommended policies and regulations. UNDP will assist if necessary RTA Comments: Assess which aspects of the formulated a recommended policy and regulatory measures must be further communicated and negotiated, and possibly adjusted to meet the implementation requirements/limitations of the target stakeholders. Risk 2 Risk: Limited local capacity within MMERE to implement the project Proposed Treatment: While the project implementation approach is through UNDP's National Implementation Modality (NIM), other qualified and capable SIG entities will be assigned as Responsible Parties to assist the Implementing Partner (MMERE) in the implementation of the SPIRES Project. Extensive capacity development in Component will be provided to MMERE, MECDM and other key stakeholders to support the efficient implementation of the project components and sustainable systems are established for the operation and maintenance period. Additional capacity development activities for MMERE, MECDM and others will be provided during the project implementation. The PMU will develop and implement coordination and monitoring mechanisms with the local implementers and demo host organizations to expand the capacity of people in off-grid

areas in the implementation of the relevant project activities.

RTA Comments: The proposed treatment to the cited operational risk is acceptable. However, specify the qualified and capable entities that are planned to be designated as RPs. The capacity development of MMERE and MECDM can be covered in the capacity development interventions of the Project.

Risk 3

Risk: Non-availability of committed co-financing for specific activities of the project at the scheduled time

Proposed Treatment: The SIG (through MMERE and MECDM) assurance of co-funding shall be confirmed and secured prior to project launching through the commitment letters that will be part of the ProDoc

RTA Comments: Not clear how the SIG co-financing can be assured, let alone confirmed and secured. The MMERE must discuss and liaise with the entities that committed to provide co-financing as to their requirements for the PMU to secure their committed co-financing, and together with the PB (and if necessary, UNDP) come up with win-win course of actions to secure the co-financing.

Risk 4

Risk: Government commitment reduces due to other commitments or competing priorities or other priorities that are more urgent to address.

Proposed Treatment: Continuous SIG support and working relationship, particularly among MMERE, MECDM and other stakeholders will be strengthened and sustained during PB meetings and key activities of the Project.

RTA Comments: The how aspect of the proposed treatment of the identified political risk is not clear. The PMU must always work closely with the MMERE (and MECDM), which is the project owner, on the project activities inasmuch as the project activities are connected with the current activities and projects of this SIG entity.

Risk 5

Risk: Reduced interest of RE -based power generation

Proposed Treatment: The project's awareness raising interventions are expected to sustain the overall interest of the country in transforming their power generation system to RE-based systems even when the petroleum fuel prices are relatively low. Significant savings are expected in the operation of the RE systems because of the high logistics cost of bringing diesel fuel in rural areas. The general down trend in the investment cost of RE systems is a positive motivation also for acquiring these energy solutions for rural electrification.

RTA Comments: This proposed treatment to the identified financial risk is actually part of the consideration in the design of the program for the promotion of RE and EE in the country and part and parcel of the awareness raising and capacity development interventions of the project.

Risk 6

Risk: Climate related risks such as heavy rainfall, flooding, strong wind and also geohazards such as earthquake and tsunami

Proposed Treatment: The design and implementation of the RE-based power generation and other low carbon technology applications shall follow proper engineering and construction design and construction that ensure not only structural integrity but also climate resilience

RTA Comments: The addressing of the identified risk must focus on the need to make the design, construction and operation of power infrastructures more resilient to extreme climate events and natural disasters. Addressing extreme climate risks in the implementation of the demos have to do with compliance with national/state safety and health regulations in the implementation of power infrastructure projects, or whatever is recommended in the ESIA/ESMP.

Risk 7

Risk: Low economy in rural areas and low incentives for local communities and overpriced systems in place within rural areas

Proposed Treatment: Proper selection, based on agreed criteria, of the recommended RE-based electricity generation schemes will done, and their design properly done to facilitate financially sustainable schemes to be showcased, aside from the social benefits from increased electricity access.

RTA Comments: The important thing to remember is that whatever RE and EE technology applications the project will demonstrate must not only be technically viable but also economically feasible. The PMU must see to it that these 2 primary criteria for the demo selection are strictly

followed.   Apart from the RTA comments in the above list, the following are the recommended measures to address the project implementation risks for consideration in the next PIR reporting period: The PMU must closely work with the project partners in the design and installation of the project demos, paying attention to the demo hosts and implementers concerns about the required ESIA and the ESIA recommendations. If there are still concerns about Covid-19, the project team must be mindful of the potential delays due to the public health regulations/restrictions. The PMU and MMERE, with the assistance of the relevant SIG agencies, must work closely with the project partners and suppliers of the necessary technical resource inputs for the project demos. Considering the need for proper accounting of the results of the project activities to mitigate the above stated risks, the PMU must follow the suggestions provided by the RTA is Sec. D of this report to improve its documentation of the project results. In the case of the demonstration activities, proper monitoring/tracking and/or quantification of the attributable energy savings and GHG emission reductions must be done.

B) Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards) Risks

For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review. If the project has updated its SESP during implementation, then please upload that file below.
(not set or not applicable)
1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?
No
If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during the reporting period please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.
A review of the social and environmental risks is yet to be conducted. And if this is undertaken, then risk status and categorized and further updating will be known.
2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks become more severe and/or has the project's SESP categorization changed during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to substantial/high.
No
If any existing social and/or environmental risks have become more severe and/or if the

project's SESP categorization has changed during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it. Note that any change to the project's SESP categorization should be confirmed by the Project Board and by the NCE PTA (and potentially cleared by the NCE safeguards team).
An environmental and social risk review will be conducted later in the year. This will inform the project's risk status.
3) Have any social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared or updated, and/or has the SESP been updated in the reporting period, as required? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.
No
If yes, please upload the document(s) above using the FILE LIBRARY button. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.
No updates were conducted for the environmental assessments, environmental management, and there is no update for the SESP in this reporting period. Once that is conducted in later part of the year then, all these environmental and social requirements will be updated.
4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period?
No
If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.
There are no reports received by the project this reporting period.
5) Is this project on track with the preparation and/or implementation of all safeguards measures required for compliance with the UNDP SES?
No
If no, please explain:
The project is not on track due to delays in recruitment of the community liaison officer, as he was only recruited in the quarter 3 of 2021, last year. Further delays on project implementation and delivery were caused by COVID 19 travel restrictions for travel to the site demonstrations which are located in outer islands. Safeguards have been initiated in the site demos. However, these needs to be reviewed as some sites have changed and additional sites have been identified.

J. Knowledge Management & Communications

The **Project Manager** must complete the three questions below.

1) Please provide progress on the implementation of the project's Knowledge Management approach approved at CEO Endorsement/Approval. If there is no KM approach/strategy, please comment on how the project is capturing and disseminating best practices and lessons learned.
The KM Strategy is still in the process of getting it started. Currently SPIRES has been collecting and storing data of project works in our shared drive that can only be accessed by SPIRES team and the Ministries. SPIRES has officially launched its website and is using this platform, with our Facebook Page, in providing information to the public. This includes current, previous and future activities related to SPIRES.
2) Please provide URLs specific to this project in the relevant field below. Please categorize the URLs appropriately (for example: project websites, social media sites, media coverage, etc.)
Website: https://spires.gov.sb/ Face Book - https://www.facebook.com/SPIRES2022/ UNDP Solomon Islands launching of SPIRES website- https://www.undp.org/pacific/press-releases/promotion-renewable-energy-and-rural-electricity-through-spires-website
3) In the PIR platform, please upload any supporting files, including the project's Communications Strategy, photos, videos, stories and other communication/knowledge materials.
COMMUNICATION STRATEGY.pdf

K. Stakeholder Engagement

(A) Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent documentation submitted at CEO Endorsement/Approval. **(B) Upload all available documentation of the project's stakeholder engagement, including surveys, FPIC reports and others using the FILE LIBRARY button in the upper right corner of the PIR.** **(C) If the project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been updated during the reporting period, please upload that file using the FILE LIBRARY button above.**
The Stakeholder Engagement Plan as annexed in the project document will be updated. This will capture an updated list of stakeholders and partners that project has engaged since the project inception. The stakeholder engagement will be updated on a monthly basis.

L. Annex - Ratings Definitions

Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.