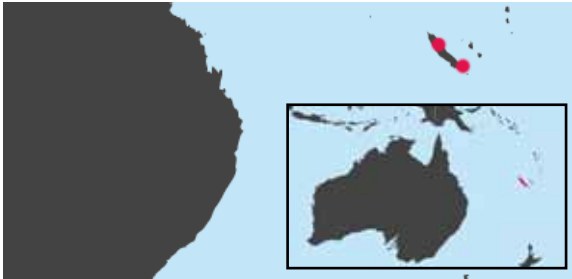


Wind Farms, New Caledonia

Wind Power is one of the most sustainable sources of energy, generating no waste or emissions at all. The *Prony and Kafeate Wind Farms* are among a dozen South Pole wind power projects spread over half the globe.

The Locations



The project activity involves six small wind farms of 5 MW circa each situated in two different provinces of New Caledonia (NC). The Prony site is located in the South province of New Caledonia in the village of Mont Dore whereas the Kafeate site is located in the North province in the village of Koné.

New Caledonia which is surrounded by the world's largest lagoon, is well known as a major biodiversity hot spot. Its one thousand kilometer long coral reef

and its rain forest are the host of many endemic species.

New Caledonia also hosts 25% of the world's Nickel reserves, on which almost 100% of its economy is based. One century of intense mining activity has transformed the island. Most of its forests have been cut down, and erosion has brought million of tons of sediments into the lagoon, severely damaging the coral reef. Locals are therefore active supporters of wind-energy which is seen as the symbol of an environmental respectful development to which local tribes are really sensitive.

The Projects

The wind farms, with a total installed capacity of 31 MW, are owned and operated by a French based company that between 2003 and 2009 has installed more than 100 wind turbines in New Caledonia, providing an estimated yearly electricity production of 32 GWh. The project displaces about 40,000 Tonnes of CO₂/year.

This is approximately the amount of CO₂ that is absorbed on an annual basis by a 6,000-hectar forest. The electricity generated by the wind turbines is exported to the New Caledonian national grid, displacing power produced through the combustion of fossil-fuels.

New Caledonia is located in a cyclonic area of the globe; the wind turbines used in the project are specifically designed for this type of climate, meaning that they can be tilted down in the event of a cyclonic alert.





The Benefits



- Contribution to the development of wind energy sector in New Caledonia, coupled with technology stimulation and know-how transfer thanks to the innovative and first-of-its kind large application of this technology in New Caledonia.
- Creation of local employment and know-how during both the construction and operational phases: more than fifty jobs have been occupied by local Kanak people, lowering migration pressure. Thanks to the local staff, the manufacturer uses its New Caledonian base for O&M for the whole Pacific. South Pole strongly supports and encourages projects that contribute to the creation of jobs for local communities, which allows for economic development of rural areas while contributing to the preservation and transmission of cultural heritage and local traditions.
- Reductions in the annual release of air pollutants, including 600 tonnes of sulphur dioxide (SO₂), 700 tonnes of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), as well as other particulates that are typically associated to electricity generation from fossil fuels
- Reduction of energy import dependency (mainly heavy oil and coal), improvement in the diversification of power sources and contribution to reduction of the overall emission factor of the national power grid, where the share of fossil fuels is equal to 80%.

Moreover, the Pacific islands region faces increasing environmental and socioeconomic pressures exacerbated by global climate change. Under the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC), small island developing states are recognized as being particularly vulnerable to climate change. Already severely affected by climate variability and extremes, they remain extremely vulnerable to future changes in the regional climate that could increase the risks.



Unfortunately, several factors, such as the limited size of projects, the low knowledge of CDM, and/or the detachment, have so far limited the development of CDM activities in the Pacific region (only one CDM has been developed in Fiji). The development of this first GS-VER project activity is a strong positive signal for future emission reduction projects in the Pacific region.

The Details

KEY DATA South Pole Project No. 300344
 Annual average of estimated reductions over the crediting period: 32' 775 t CO₂e
 Commissioning date: 2003
 Standard: Gold Standard VER



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