



GLOBAL ISLANDS ENERGY PROGRAM

Islands are leading the next era of resilient clean energy

Turning national ambition into investable projects, stronger institutions, and energy systems that can withstand disruption.

ONE GLOBAL PLATFORM. COUNTRY-LED DELIVERY.

THE CHALLENGE - AND THE OPPORTUNITY

Island energy systems carry concentrated risk

Small, isolated grids depend heavily on imported fuels, exposing households, businesses, utilities, and governments to high electricity costs and volatile global prices. At the same time, storms, extreme heat, drought, and sea-level rise place critical infrastructure and essential services at growing risk.

The same systems can move faster

Abundant renewable resources, concentrated energy systems, and strong national leadership create the conditions to act. Done well, the transition can reduce fuel imports, stabilize electricity costs, protect essential services, create skilled local employment, and keep more capital circulating within island economies.

Clean energy is not only a climate solution. It is an energy security, economic development, resilience, and fiscal stability strategy.

13+ YEARS

working alongside island governments, utilities, regulators, and communities

35+ ISLAND MARKETS

experience across diverse grids, institutions, and development contexts in the Caribbean, Pacific and Africa

PLAN TO COMMISSIONING

support spanning policy, projects, procurement, finance, and implementation

"Islands are not peripheral to the global energy transition. They are showing what reliable, resilient, locally grounded clean energy systems can look like."

– David Gumbs, Director, Global Islands Energy Program

The technology is available. Delivery is the bottleneck.

Many island countries already have national energy policies, renewable targets, integrated plans, and promising project concepts. Yet too few projects move all the way to procurement, financing, construction, and operation.



RMI works shoulder-to-shoulder with island partners.

THE GAP BETWEEN AMBITION AND IMPLEMENTATION

1 Underprepared projects

Technical, commercial, environmental, and social risks remain unresolved.

2 Misaligned markets

Tariffs, interconnection rules, procurement approaches, and utility business models have not kept pace.

3 Limited delivery capacity

Governments, utilities, and regulators often manage several complex transactions with constrained teams and resources.

How Global Islands closes the gap

INDEPENDENT

Nonprofit, with no vendor interest or financing stake

COUNTRY-LED

Plans, decisions, tools, and work products stay with partners

THROUGH DELIVERY

Support continues beyond studies into procurement and implementation

1

PLAN

Integrated resource and resilience planning, grid analysis, investment roadmaps, and prioritized project pipelines.

Shared direction

2

ENABLE

Policy and regulatory reform, tariff and interconnection design, utility business models, and stakeholder alignment.

Investable market

3

PREPARE

Feasibility, modelling, environmental and social work, financing strategy, and RFP, PPA, and EPC packages.

Bankable projects

4

DELIVER

Procurement, bid evaluation, contracting, owner's engineer support, implementation, and commissioning readiness.

Built infrastructure

5

SCALE

Standardize tools, aggregate procurements, transfer knowledge, and replicate what works across island markets.

Market readiness

RMI's AI ENERGY LAB Using AI to accelerate the energy transition on islands

The Global Islands program is working with RMI's AI and Energy Lab to define and identify new solutions that use AI to accelerate the energy transition in island contexts.



GLOBAL ISLANDS PORTFOLIO IMPACT

Tangible results in difficult markets

105 MW + 139 MWh

SCALE

Solar generation and battery storage installed across completed projects.

US\$69M / YEAR

SAVINGS

Estimated fuel costs avoided each year through completed investments.

46M LITRES / YEAR

ENERGY SECURITY

Imported fuel displaced each year, reducing exposure to price and supply shocks.

84,000 HOMES

RESILIENCE

Potential to avoid or reduce outages, alongside 37 critical facilities and households equipped with DERs.

88,000 PEOPLE

JOBS

Benefiting from completed projects, with an estimated 4,200 direct local job-years.

US\$1B

INVESTMENT POTENTIAL

Clean-energy opportunity pipeline under development.

Proof in practice

Each project creates immediate value and leaves behind tools, standards, and institutional confidence that make the next project easier.

US VIRGIN ISLANDS

Home batteries working together as one power plant

A pilot links home batteries into a "virtual power plant" that discharges at peak demand, helping manage the grid without a new plant. Because storage is spread across many homes, there is no single point of failure, and owners keep backup power in outages.

SAINT LUCIA

Preparing eight critical-facility microgrids

RMI supported solar and storage portfolios for schools, healthcare facilities, government buildings, and water infrastructure.

GRENADA

Advancing utility-scale solar and storage

Approximately 15 MW of solar and 21 MWh of battery storage have been advanced, including a full critical-facility microgrid for the airport that builds resilience. RMI also helped curate the financing, from private-sector and blended finance to concessional finance and an enabling environment for small-scale PPAs and investors.



Resilient energy supports essential services, local economies, and everyday life.

Each project is both an outcome and a building block: infrastructure delivers value now, while stronger markets make future investment faster and less costly.

From Caribbean proof to Pacific partnership

A Pacific-led delivery platform, co-developed with national and regional partners.

The Pacific brings extraordinary leadership, ambition, and regional cooperation to the global energy transition. It also faces many of the structural barriers Global Islands was created to address: dispersed systems, imported fuels, high transaction costs, constrained delivery capacity, and acute climate exposure.

THE INITIATIVE Global Islands Resilience and Energy Security Investment Platform

RMI and onepoint5 are developing the platform with and for island countries, including Small Island Developing States, to turn resilience and energy-security priorities into investment-ready clean energy projects. It starts in the Pacific, with a delivery model built to replicate across the Caribbean, African SIDS, and other regions facing similar barriers.

A Pacific-led platform combines

- 1. Country-led energy and investment roadmaps**
 Connect national energy strategies, resilience objectives, and development priorities to a sequenced pipeline of investments.
- 2. Regional market creation and aggregation**
 Use common procurement tools, shared technical and legal resources, model regulatory approaches, and coordinated supplier and investor engagement.
- 3. Dedicated project preparation and delivery support**
 Provide flexible technical, commercial, environmental, procurement, and implementation support from concept through commissioning.

"I can't quantify how much RMI's support and collaboration has helped, it's been invaluable. Having RMI in the region...has propelled renewable energy and done miracles for the sector."

- Raheem Elliot, Regulatory Engineer, Public Utilities Regulatory Commission

A platform approach

- Unlocks larger downstream investment**
 Catalytic support absorbs early-stage risks that governments, utilities, and commercial capital cannot carry alone.
- Builds durable institutions**
 Skills, tools, data, procurement documents, and decision-making processes remain with national and regional partners.
- Reduces future transaction costs**
 Standardization, aggregation, and regional learning make each successive project faster and less costly.
- Delivers measurable results**
 Track investment, renewable capacity, fuel imports, electricity costs, reliability, critical facilities, jobs, and beneficiaries.



PARTNER WITH GLOBAL ISLANDS

Co-develop a Pacific platform that turns country priorities into investable, resilient infrastructure.

David Gumbs
 Director, Global Islands Energy Program
 dgumbs@rmi.org

Learn more



Governments & regional institutions

Utilities & regulators

Funders & development partners