

VANUATU NATIONAL WORKSHOP

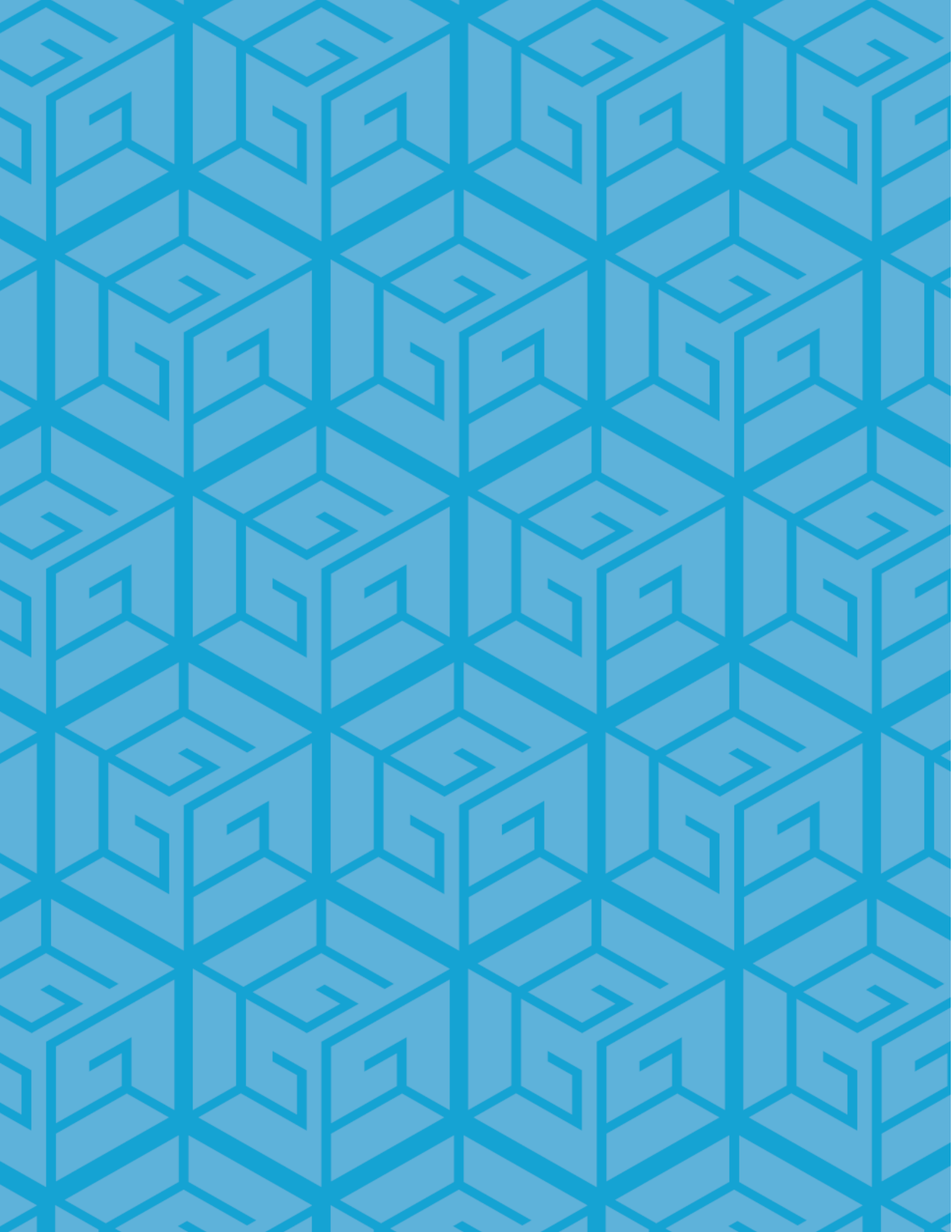
Capacity Building to Strengthen Sustainable Implementation of Renewable Energy Technologies for Rural Energy Access

Project Inception and Planning Workshop Report

24 May 2019

Vanuatu Cultural Centre Conference Room, Port Vila, Vanuatu





Acronyms and Abbreviations

GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
DOE	Department of Energy
DLA	Department of Local Authorities

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1 Introduction

To strengthen informed and inclusive decision-making by resource owners and local government officials for integration of green economy (GE) and renewable energy (RE) into local level planning and to strengthen implementation of renewable energy (RE) infrastructure for rural electrification, the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) partnership, with funding from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), has led to the development of a project titled ***Capacity Building to Strengthen Sustainable Implementation of Renewable Energy Technologies for Rural Energy Access Project***.

This national workshop conducted in Vanuatu by GGGI in partnership with the Department of Energy (DOE), ensued the official launching of the regional project in Suva, Fiji. It was organized particularly to engage and get support of the key national stakeholders before the national implementation of the project. The workshop turnout was good, with participants representing different institutions including the Department of Local Authorities, Department of Cooperatives, Department of Tourism, Vanuatu Skills Partnership Program, Youth Challenge Vanuatu and Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce.

1.1 Objectives of the Workshop

The national workshop had four main objectives:

1. To introduce the project to national stakeholders, and to seek support towards implementation of the project,
2. To review and confirm pre-selected sites in country for the project implementation,
3. To review and confirm the type of training modules relevant for the locally targeted groups, and
4. To identify potential individuals/organizations/agencies to assist in delivering the training workshops at the national and provincial levels

With good mix of sector and institutional representation during the workshop, the workshop deliberations, though quite informal, were quite effective in addressing the above stated objectives.

1.2 Participants

A total of 14 people attended the national workshop, out of 25 people whom earlier confirmed their participation. The institutions represented in the workshop were GGGI, DoE, Department of Local Authorities, Department of Cooperatives, Department of Tourism, Vanuatu Skills Partnership Program, Youth Challenge Vanuatu and Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce. There were 8 men and 6 women, who attended the workshop. The list of attendees is presented in the table in Appendix A.

2 Workshop Opening

Opening Address by Helen Wilson Tom, DOE Finance Manager



In her opening remarks, Helen took the opportunity on behalf of DoE and GGGI to acknowledge the presence of all workshop participants. She reminded the workshop participants on the Vanuatu National Sustainable Development Plan and the National Energy Road Map goals for the energy sector, more specifically, the 100% electricity access and close to 100% renewable energy use targets by 2030. The ongoing and pipeline Government projects such as VREP, BRANTV, NAMA, etc, aim to achieve these targets. The KOICA regional project will complement these other projects by enhancing capacity at the community level to sustain these RE technologies, she said,

Helen also acknowledged funding support from KOICA and regional support from GGGI and PIDF for administering the project.

3 Project Overview

3.1 Project Overview and Details

The project overview was presented by Paul Kaun, Senior Program Officer-Vanuatu, who is also the Vanuatu National Coordinator of the Project. With the objective, to strengthen informed and inclusive decision-making by resource owners and local government officials for integration of Green Economy (GE) and Renewable Energy (RE) into Local Level Planning and to Strengthen Implementation of Renewable energy (RE) infrastructure for Rural Electrification, the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) partnership, with funding from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), has led to the development of a project titled **Capacity Building to Strengthen Sustainable Implementation of Renewable Energy Technologies for Rural Energy Access Project**.

The project will be implemented in the Melanesian countries of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, with the aim of training 3000 people, around 750 per country. Therefore, the sites selected locally must have sufficient people in targeted groups to achieve this figure. There will be national trainers selected to attend regional trainings, who will then provide trainings to other identified trainers who will run these capacity building trainings at the selected rural communities. In Vanuatu, the project will be coordinated by GGGI in partnership with the Department of Energy. A regional project coordinator will be recruited soon to oversee the project implementation in the region. A project steering committee (PSC) has been set up with its first meeting held on the 11th of April in Suva, and consists of government officials from the four participating countries and a representative each from GGGI, PIDF and KOICA. One of the roles of the PSC is to provide recommendations and advice for project's planning and implementation and assist with M&E and provide high-level guidance and oversight of the project as well as ensure smooth internal communication. The project will run from beginning of 2019 to mid of 2021.

Targeted audiences for this project will be community leaders, vulnerable groups (women's group's leaders, youth leaders), local government leaders, local technicians, small businesses.

For Green Energy Training Modules will include General Principles, Energy Efficiency Basics, Green Business Basics, and Inclusive Development. For the Renewable Energy Module, this would include RE General Principles, Solar in the community, Pico hydro in the community, Solar O&M basics, Pico hydro O&M basics, RE Financial management.

To gain the maximum benefits in terms of capacity building and to initiate a data base of Green Education, once set up, a Web-based Knowledge Platform on Green Education will be available to a broad audience around the Pacific and to other Small Island Developing States, which will virtually host training materials suitable for local government and communities of the Pacific region.

3.2 Presentation of Vanuatu Country Needs Assessment Summary

The Vanuatu pre-implementation mission took place from the 10th to 13th of February 2019. A couple of related meetings with local project stakeholders occurred after the mission by the country coordinator to discuss the objectives of the project, project timelines and activities, potential project sites and role of local stakeholders in the project. The stakeholders consulted during the mission included national government and provincial government officials, representatives of a couple of the locally registered training institutions and energy project officers.

The project preliminary assessment has identified four islands in Vanuatu as potential rural sites for implementing this project. These included the islands of Santo, Malekula, Ambrym and Pentecost and they been prioritized based on current and pipeline RE projects earmarked for implementation. These RE related projects include the Vanuatu Rural Electrification Project (VREP), the BRANTV Project, and the Solar Water Pump Project, administered by the World Bank, UNDP and GGGI respectively. While the VREP focusses on whole of Vanuatu, BRANTV mainly focusses on Pentecost and Santo, the Solar Water Pump Project concentrates on the islands of Santo, Malekula and Ambrym.

The kickoff mission has also highlighted some challenges to implementing RE projects in rural areas of Vanuatu, and some of which are common to other Pacific Island countries, these include;

- Insufficient personnel with basic skills and knowledge to operate and maintain electrification systems in rural communities.
- Lack of proper management of systems in place to take care of the systems,
- Inadequate funding allocations for maintenance of the system,
- Community disputes,
- High cost of replacement parts,
- Insufficient information on where to access spare parts,
- Lack of spare parts,
- High logistics costs for shipping parts.
- Distance of from main market centers

A few of the current and pipeline RE projects identified within the preselected sites include;

- Vanuatu Rural Electrification Project (VREP), administered by World Bank, (mainly solar, SHS and mini-grids in whole Vanuatu)
- Barrier Removal to Achieve National Energy Road Map Targets (BRANTV), administered by UNDP (involves both solar and mini-hydro, in selected sites in Vanuatu)
- Vanuatu Solar Water Pump Project, GGGI administered Project (in selected sites in Vanuatu)
- Talise Hydro Project, Maewo Island (Funded through IUCN)

Some of the training gaps identified in these selected sites are;

- There is high GE, RE and EE knowledge gap between main urban and sub-national levels and the rural communities.
- Literacy level in rural communities.
- Most knowledge enhancement trainings are conducted in main urban centers.
- Inadequate rural training centers, plus, no GE, RE and EE courses offered in their training modules, even at the main centers which is minimal.

3.3 Group Discussions: Target Locations and Communities

Before the discussions, workshop facilitator presented the list of sites which were pre-selected from the country mission and the regional workshop conducted earlier this year. The sites presented are in the table 2 below;

Table 2: List of Vanuatu Pre-selected Sites for Project Implementation

Name of Community	Population	Island	Province	RE Related Projects
Matantas, Big Bay	180	Santo	Sanma	VREP and BRANTV
Hog Harbour	395	Santo	Sanma	VREP, BRANTV, and Solar Water Pump Project
Luganville town	15,120	Santo	Sanma	VREP and BRANTV
Parisa	135	Santo	Sanma	VREP and BRANTV
Craig Cove	30	Ambrym	Malampa	VREP and BRANTV
Loltong	240	Pentecost	Penama	VREP and BRANTV

Waterfall	90	Pentecost	Penama	VREP and BRANTV
Pangi	80	Pentecost	Penama	VREP and BRANTV
Travol 1	30	Malekula	Malampa	VREP and Solar Water Pump Project
Pinalum	445	Malekula	Malampa	VREP and Solar Water Pump Project
Southwest Bay	440	Malekula	Malampa	VREP, NAMA and BRANTV
Sola		Vanua Lava	Torba	VREP and BRANTV

The above sites were selected based on the energy projects that are currently implemented and those in pipeline such as the Vanuatu Rural Electrification Project (VREP) funded by New Zealand and SREP funding, and is administered by World Bank, the BRANTV Project funded by GEF, and administered by UNDP, the Vanuatu NAMA Project funded by Government of Austria, also administered by UNDP and the Solar Water Pump Project funded by Government of Luxembourg, administered by GGGI. The islands from which the sites are located are shown in map below, circled in black. Vanuatu has more than 70 sites which the above named projects are or will be implemented, however, only 12 sites are being selected at this stage based on their ease of access, and concentration of projects.

3.3.1 Discussion Outcome

The participants reviewed the above list of sites and made changes as reflected in Table 3 below;

Table 3: Pre-selected Sites with Recommended Changes

Name of Community	Island	Province	RE Related Projects
Matantas, Big Bay	Santo	Sanma	Change from Matantas to Malau. Malau has a provincial administrator, more central to a number of nearby communities.
Hog Harbour	Santo	Sanma	Unchanged
Luganville town	Santo	Sanma	Change to Small Nanuku, West Malo, Luganville is more urban, while Small Nanuku is more rural where nearby villagers can attend planned workshops.
Parisa	Santo	Sanma	Unchanged
Craig Cove	Ambrym	Malampa	Unchanged
Loltong	Pentecost	Penama	Unchanged
Waterfall	Pentecost	Penama	Change to Melsisi, more central to nearby communities
Pangi	Pentecost	Penama	Unchanged
Travol 1	Malekula	Malampa	Change to Vinmavis. Vinmavis has a larger community base, and will benefit from a community based solar system from BRANTV.

Pinalum	Malekula	Malampa	Change to Tisman. Tisman has a provincial administrator and a number of surrounding villages, which can participate in the workshop.
Wintua, Southwest Bay	Malekula	Malampa	Unchanged
Sola	Vanua Lava	Torba	Not recommended, due to distance, but also has installed a min-grid system.
Utas, SE Ambrym	Ambrym	Malampa	New recommendation. Has growing Tourism activities with use of RE systems
Liro,	Paama	Malampa	New recommendation. A very successful provincial administration center with high use of RE systems
Beterara	Maewo	Penama	New recommendation. One of the provincial hubs of Penama Province.
Morua	Tongoa	Shefa	New recommendation. Morua is a provincial area hub for the Shefa province. It has a PV solar system planned for installation soon by the government. It also has ease of access to the island compared to few others.

Given the above changes, the recommended list of project sites for Vanuatu are as follows;

Table 4: Recommended Project Sites for Vanuatu

Name of Community	Population	Island	Province	Recommended changes
Malau, Big Bay	300	Santo	Sanma	VREP and BRANTV
Hog Harbour	395	Santo	Sanma	VREP, BRANTV, and Solar Water Pump Project
Small Nanuku	300	Santo	Sanma	VREP and BRANTV
Parisa	135	Santo	Sanma	VREP and BRANTV
Craig Cove	30	Ambrym	Malampa	VREP and BRANTV
Loltong	240	Pentecost	Penama	VREP and BRANTV
Melsisi	370	Pentecost	Penama	VREP and BRANTV
Pangi	80	Pentecost	Penama	VREP and BRANTV
Vinmavis	360	Malekula	Malampa	VREP and BRANTV
Tisman	800	Malekula	Malampa	VREP, government funded solar systems
Wintua, Southwest Bay	440	Malekula	Malampa	VREP, NAMA and BRANTV
Utas, SE Ambrym	446	Ambrym	Malampa	VREP, government funded solar systems

Liro,	600	Paama	Malampa	VREP, government funded solar systems
Beterara	300	Maewo	Penama	VREP, government funded solar systems
Morua	500	Tongoa	Shefa	VREP, government funded solar systems
Total	5,036			

Consequently, a total of 15 project sites have been endorsed by the workshop, and all these sites have established offices for the provincial area administrators. The Department of Local Authorities has given the ok for the training workshops to be held in these area centers, which is a benefit to the project. In addition, they have recommended that all community information relating to the workshop be channeled through their area administrators, which is a more effective way of getting information to rural communities.

The recommended project sites are shown in the Vanuatu Maps in Annex B of this report.

3.4 Group Discussions: Training Module

The workshop facilitator presented the list of training modules that would be delivered during the capacity building training workshops. These included;

1. Green Economy (GE) Module
 - a. General Principles
 - b. Energy Efficiency Basics
 - c. Green Business Principles, and
 - d. Inclusive Development

2. Renewable Energy (RE) Module
 - a. RE general Principles
 - b. Solar in Communities
 - c. Pico Hydro in the Community
 - d. Solar O&M basics
 - e. Pico-Hydro O&M basics
 - f. Re Financial Management

The participants were generally in support of the training modules and many thought that these were very relevant to rural communities in Vanuatu, especially given the number of RE related projects which are currently and about to be implemented. The module on pico-hydro, however, may only be applicable to some areas.

In terms of targeted community groups, there was a comment made by Department of Local Authorities, that financial management module should not be restricted to businesses only, but open to other community players, given many rural households also participate in some form of income generating activities. Also, if possible, the training materials be translated into Bislama, to make it easy for rural people to read and understand.

On the financial management module, there was strong suggestion to use Cooperatives and Chamber of Commerce training modules and a guide when developing the financial training module.

3.4.1 Discussion Outcome

- a. Based on the discussion outcome, participants feel that the proposed modules for this capacity building workshop are relevant and adequate for local communities, however, some of the module content may not be relevant for all communities, but depending on the source of RE.
- b. There was general agreement to have a summary of the each module translated into Bislama, and with use of pictorial illustrations.
- c. Copies of these materials can be left at the area administration offices where community people can access them. There was a general consensus to use provincial area administrators to communicate workshop information to the local communities using their existing communication networks.
- d. On the financial module, GGGI would discussion further with Department of Cooperatives and Chamber to share their existing training manuals to assist with development of the financial training module.
- e. For the RE systems, the following groups to be consulted during the development phases of the training materials:
 - Department of Energy;
 - Local RE equipment suppliers;
 - Pacific Vocational and Training Centre;
 - Vanuatu Institute of Technology; and,
 - Certified suppliers of electrical appliances in Vanuatu.
- f. There was a suggestion to include waste disposal such as battery in the training module.

3.5 Group Discussions: Identification of Potential Partners to assist in training delivery at National and Community Level

The workshop participants deliberated on the above point and some of the ideas raised were as follow;

- Training has been conducted by Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce & Industry (VCCI) who provided Small business training and business management training and Cooperative who has been conducting financial training. TVET REP has suggested that Energy training be accredited to Cooperative through Vanuatu Qualification Authority (VQA)
- Director DLA suggest;
 1. Separation of business focus; Business vs. Households. We must not lose sight as HH also would involve in making small businesses.
 2. Trainers; training to be interactive. Selection of trainer is important. Select trainers (institutions/individuals) that have the heart for the people and know the rural communities well.
 3. Localized trainer; challenge is retaining those trainer in local community.
- Director DLA also stress the importance of involving and working with the 72 Area council and also connecting with the area administrators.
- Train the trainers and identify the local trainers.
- We cannot use trainers that are teaching accredited courses, as per Vanuatu Qualification Authority requirements.
- Local training – suggest to use existing Government institution trainers, existing power providers and RE vendors
- VCCI Rep has confirm that No qualification certificate to be provided to trainer. We can issue certificate of attendance or participation. Training provided is only to enhance local knowledge.
- DLA has stressed the importance of the flow of information to communities; use of area council and administrators.
- There was suggestion to use Rural Training Centers to deliver the trainings,
- Some of the local people who could be used to develop the national training manuals are Charles Pierce and Phil Hampshire

4 Conclusion

A total of 14 participants have attended the workshop, 6 of whom were women and 8 men, representing government institutions such as the Department of Energy, Department of Local Authorities, Department of Tourism and Department of Cooperatives. Other institutions which were also represented were, Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce, Skills Partnership Program, Vanuatu Youth Challenge, National Green Energy Fund, BRANTV Project and the GGGI.

The workshop was successful in achieving its four objectives, which include;

1. To introduce the project to national stakeholders, and to seek support towards implementation of the project,
 - a. Workshop participants were well-informed of the project and there was general support for the project.
2. To review and confirm pre-selected sites in country for the project implementation,
 - a. Based on the recommendations, 6 of the 12 initial project sites were changes, with 3 other sites being added. The main reasons for the changes include;
 - i. High population base
 - ii. Presence of provincial administration centers, and
 - iii. Ease of access and logistics
3. To review and confirm the type of training modules relevant for the locally targeted groups, and
 - a. All proposed training modules were approved as relevant to local communities, with recommendation to have Bislama version of the materials
4. To identify potential individuals/organizations/agencies to assist in delivering the training workshops at the national and provincial levels.
 - a. A number of institutions and individual names have been proposed as potential partners to assist with development of training materials and delivery of the training workshops.

Annex A: Participants List



Capacity Building to strengthen Sustainable Implementation of Renewable Energy Technologies for Rural Energy Access

National Workshop

Vanuatu Cultural Center Conference Room, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Friday, 24 May 2019

List of Participants


Name	Position	Organization
1. Antony Garae	Director	DOE
2. Leith Veremaito	Director	Dept. of Local Authorities
3. Helen Wilson	Manager, Finance	DoE
4. Doreen Leona	Project Manager, BRANTV Project	DoE
5. Warren Gama	Productive Sector Manager	Skills for Development Partnership
6. Linda Gibson	Product Development Officer	Dept. of Tourism
7. Florida Bona	Front Officer Assistant	Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce
8. Devo Wari	Provincial Administrator	Dept. of Local Authorities
9. Rosita Taleo	Finance Assistant	Youth Challenge Vanuatu
10. Chris Simelum	Investment Officer	GGGI
11. Georgewin Garae	Fund Manager	National Green Energy Fund
12. Iven J	Product Development Officer	Dept. of Cooperatives.
13. Terry Mael	Petroleum Officer	DoE
14. Paul Kaun	Senior Program Officer	GGGI


Annex B: Map of Recommended Project Sites in Vanuatu



Symbols

 Capital City

 Main Provincial Centers

 Recommended Project Sites