

Supporting the Energy Transition in the Solomon Islands

9 – 12 April 2024 - Honiara & Noro port

Concept Note

1. Background

Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

The SPC's Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) was established in 2017 as an arm of the Georesources & Energy Programme (GEP) with its headquarters in Nuku'alofa, Tonga. The Centre has a strong focus to accelerate the private sector's participation and increase investment in Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) programs to achieve Pacific Islands Countries and Territories (PICTs) targets and to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of key industries with high job leverage in the Pacific (e.g., agriculture, tourism, fishery, manufacturing, creative industry).

Overview - Solomon Islands (SI) Energy Sector

The Solomon Islands National Energy Policy (SINEP) sets out to pursue the development aspirations of the people of Solomon Islands. Energy policies are critical to job creation and socio-economic development through electricity access, reducing oil imports, energy balance, energy security, improving the reliability of the electric grid, lowering energy prices, and addressing climate change and air pollution.

In response to the world oil market and to ensure enhanced energy security, SI submitted its updated (Second) Nationally Determined Contribution in July 2021, with the commitment to reduce its emission by 14% by 2025 below 2015 and by 33% below by 2030 compared to a business-as-usual projection.

Through discussions between the Ministry of Mines Energy and Rural Electrification and the PCREEE, the following three (3) have been identified as areas needing support:

1. Refresher training and operationalize the MEPSL at Honiara and Noro port.

Solomon Islands was amongst the five countries that has adopted the MEPSL programs during the Pacific Appliance Labelling and Standards project which ran from 2012 – 2019.

The Consumer Protection (Approved Standards for Restricted Electrical Products) Regulation came into force in 2016 and the Energy Division was led with administrating and enforcing of the regulation.

There are three (3) electrical appliances that are regulated under the Consumer Protection Regulation:

- i) Air Conditioners
- ii) Refrigerators and Freezers
- iii) Lights.

The permits for the import of the above electrical appliances by any of the importers in SI are issued by the Energy Division's Director after assessments from the Division's Energy PALS unit. The imported appliances must meet and comply with the Consumer Protection regulation and restrictions.

Application Procedure for PALS Registration and Permits

- i) Open an account with Pacific Appliance Database (PAD) in the User Account page.
- ii) Register appliance to the database and wait for approval from Regulator.
- iii) Upon Registration approval, pay the appropriate fee at MOF for the units to be imported. Note a fee of \$150 for every 50 units of imports for the respective restricted appliances.
- iv) Apply for permit by inserting the receipt number of fee paid at MOF and wait for regulators' approval.
- v) Upon permit approval, print permit and bring to customs for your clearance purposes.

It was noted from the recent collaboration with the SI Department of Energy, the MEPSL program is operationalized in Honiara but yet to activate the program at the second international port at Noro, Western Province. There is a need to review the MEPSL legislations and to expand the regulated appliances to also cover additional equipment such as televisions etc were also noted. Hence, the Department of Energy has requested the support of the PCREEE to address these areas:

- a. Operationalize PALS in Noro
- b. Identify loopholes in the legislation
- c. Addition of new appliances to the existing regulated products
- d. Refresher workshop for Honiara and Noro clients

2. Sustainable Energy (SE) Business Start-up and Entrepreneurship.

The MMERE believes the private sector has a key role to play in pursuing SI's NDC targets. It therefore believes that support should be provided to enable people to start and / or expand their business into energy services. MMERE is also supportive of establishing a sustainable energy industry association which provides a united platform for the private sector to cooperate, network and liaise and provide inputs to government's energy sector plans and policies.

Within the PCREEE 10 years (2021-2030) Business Plan, RE and EE Business start-up and Entrepreneurship Support is one of the four (4) strategic areas that guided the work of the PCREEE. The objective of this programme area is to provide differentiated support to entrepreneurial RE&EE businesses across the enterprise development life cycle (start-up, early-stage, growth, and maturity). This objective is guided by four(4) key outputs:

- i. Project preparation Technical Assistance (TA) to support companies to progress until achieving financial close.
- ii. Financial support in the PICTs to increase RE & EE business opportunities for local companies and industry.

- iii. Access to finance via different instruments, including connecting with existing financing facilities (i.e. local development banks, targeted local stimulus packages, local energy/environment funds, or the Asian Development Bank (ADB))
- iv. Support to improvement of the policy and regulatory frameworks and business enabling environment both at the regional and national levels.

The above technical supports will seek to enhance the awareness, capacity skills, and expertise of eligible businesses such as electrical contractors, established community (women) group and other potential local businesses that are willing to participate in the RE & EE systems market.

3. Sustainable E-Mobility

In 2021, the CTCN was requested to provide support under its Technical Assistance facility to conduct a feasibility study on low carbon transport in the SI. The technical assistance conducted a market analysis for the promotion and implementation of low carbon transport through electric vehicles. The outcomes of the market analysis were used to develop draft policy and a roadmap of action plans for the implementation of EVs in the SI.

By August 2022, the Draft Policy Roadmap for E-mobility in SI was published which aimed to guide the development and scale-up of electric vehicles in the country. Within the Draft Policy Roadmap, it contained lists of policy measures for EV roadmap, institutions responsible for the implementation of prioritized policy measures, scheduling of policy measures, estimation of resources needed for policy measures as well as estimation of benefits for EV adoption.

The workshop is to support the e-mobility development in SI through a knowledge-sharing platform built on the Draft Policy Roadmap. Experts from the regions who are currently implementing e-mobility development projects will share their knowledge, experiences and challenges in e-mobility technology applicability, institutional and regulatory framework, enabling environments, investments and capacity development.

2. Objectives

- a) To empower MMERE and the SI to regulate the importation of electrical appliances more effectively.
- b) To accelerate the establishment of Sustainable Energy businesses and foster cooperation among private sector on sustainable energy, and
- c) To support the national e-mobility strategies and roadmaps in Solomon Islands.

3. Expected Outcomes

- a) Enhanced understanding of the MEPSL legislations and how it will be effectively administered and monitored, the roles of the regulator, suppliers, and border control (Custom).
- b) Increased awareness of alternative resource mobilization opportunities to strengthen MEPSL implementation.
- c) Increased new business start-up and entrepreneurship opportunities that would be created by the national energy plans /strategies that are in place.

- d) Promoted the gender balance in the energy sectors and raise awareness of business and employment opportunities for women and youth on sustainable energy.
- e) Increased awareness of PCREEE supporting initiatives to strengthen the capacity of private sectors on business creation, the regulator on regulating the utility, Energy Association etc.
- f) Enhanced understanding of the national e-mobility strategies and roadmaps in Solomon Islands.
- g) Strengthened partnerships and coordination of EV efforts in Solomon Islands.

4. Target Outputs

- a) Successfully conducted and documented the outcomes of the workshops on MEPSL including the experiences being shared on its implementation since 2016.
- b) Successfully conducted and documented the SE business start-up and entrepreneurship workshop.
- c) Successfully conducted and documented the E-mobility workshop.

5. Consultation Strategy, Participants Composition and Contents

- A one-day training workshop is planned to be held in Honiara on Tuesday 9th April and will be focused on Sustainable Energy Business Start-up, E-mobility and MEPSL. The Training workshops are targeted to invite representatives from the:
 - Energy Division, Electrical appliances importers and suppliers – wholesalers and retailers, as well as Department of Customs officials
 - financial institutions, Ministry of Labor and Commerce, electrical contractors including those with no license, solar installers, and entrepreneurs and women from any energy sector
 - Tentative Agenda for training workshop at Honiara is in ANNEX 1
- The second part of the training workshops are to be held on Thursday 11th – Friday 12th at Noro port and will be focused on MEPSL. These two training workshops are targeted to invite representatives from the electrical appliances’ importers and suppliers – wholesalers and retailers, as well as Department of Customs officials
 - Tentative Agenda for the training workshop at Noro is in ANNEX 2.

**** Women are much encouraged to participate during the workshop and will be mentioned in the invitation.**

6. Budget

Cost Item	PCREEE (AUD)	Solomon Islands (cash & in-kind, AUD)	Comments
Return ticket and DSA for 1 PCREEE staff to travel Solomon Islands	7,000		PCREEE to fund
Return ticket for 2 PCREE officers – Noro, Munda airport	1,400		PCREEE to fund
Return ticket for 4 SIG officers (1 ODS officer, 2 PALS officers and 1 SPIRES officer)		2,700	SIG to fund
Venue – 2 days in Honiara and 2 days at Noro		1,600	SIG to secure venue at both locations – Honiara and Noro
Catering, – 2 Days in Honiara and 2 days at Noro (morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea)	2000	2000	PCREEE to fund catering at Honiara and SIG at Noro
Workshop Materials – projectors, printing (agendas) and wifi connection		500	SIG to provide will provide these.
TOTAL(AUD)	AUD 10,400	AUD 6,800	

Annex 1- Tentative Agenda for Training Workshops at Honiara, SI

Day 1: Tuesday 9th April 2024 – Honiara

08:30	Registration	Facilitator /Presenter
Opening Session		
09:00 – 09:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Remarks – Director SI Department of Energy • Statement by PCREEE • Opening remarks - Permanent Secretary - MMERE 	
Session 1: Introduction to the Workshop		
09:15 – 09:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants introduction • Setting the scenes - overview of the workshop objectives and what will be covered. 	PCREEE
Group Photo and Tea Break		
Session 2: Overview of the Solomon Islands Energy Sector		
09:45 – 10:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to current National Energy Strategies Plan, NDCs etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are renewable energy and energy efficiency targets, progress to date? Etc. On-going energy projects 	SI DoE
Session 3: Background of PCREEE and its roles – experiences, challenges and achievements		
10:15 – 10:45	PCREEE Business Plan 2021-2030 and its 4 strategic areas and its progress to date.	PCREEE
Session 4: MEPSL program in SI and the PICs		
10:45 – 11:00	Experiences with MEPSL implementation in SI	SI –DoE
11:00 – 11:30	National Ozone Unit – background and its roles	SI - NOU
11:30 – 12:00	Regional PALS program – current status and experiences from Fiji, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu	PCREEE
12:00 – 12:30	Recap on overview of the PAD system structure and its general principles	PCREEE
12:30 LUNCH [1 hour]		
Session 5: SI MEPSL regulation & Group Discussion		
13:30 – 14:45	Overview of MEPSL regulation in SI and group discussion on identified loopholes /gaps.	SI DoE
14:45– 15:00 TEA BREAK		
Session 6: E-Mobility		
15:00 – 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of e-mobility in SI NDCs and national energy plans /strategies. • EV policy roadmap for SI • Solomon Islands E-Bus project with Commonwealth 	SI DoE Dr Michael Ha'apio (local consultant)??
14:30 – 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional e-mobility programs – Progress to date, experiences • EV developments in the PICs 	PCREEE

Annex 2- Tentative Agenda for Training Workshops at Noro port, SI

Day 1: Thursday 10th April 2024 – Noro port

08:30	Registration	Facilitator /Presenter
09:00 – 09:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Remarks by the SI Department of Energy • Statement by PCREEE • Participants introduction • Setting the scenes, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overview of the workshop objectives and what will be covered. 	
Session 1: Overview of the Solomon Islands Energy Sector		
09:30 – 09:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to current National Energy Strategies Plan, NDCs etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are renewable energy and energy efficiency targets, progress to date? Etc. • On-going energy projects 	SI DoE
Tea Break		
Session 2: MEPSL program in SI and the PICs		
10:00 – 10:30	Experiences with MEPSL implementation in SI	SI DoE
10:30 – 11:00	National Ozone Unit – background and its roles	SI - NOU
11:00 – 11:30	Regional PALS program – current status and experiences from Fiji, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu	PCREEE
Session 3: Regional MESPL SOPs and the PAD system		
11:30 – 12:00	Refresher on the MEPSL Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) /Manual guides for regulators and Customs (drafted back in 2016)	PCREEE
12:00 – 12:30	Recap on overview of the PAD system structure and its general principles	PCREEE
12:30 LUNCH [1 hour]		
Session 4: Hands-on refresher training session on PAD as an applicant/regulator		
13:30 – 15:30	<p>Group of 2 or 3 participants will work through a number of mock applications for both product registration and import permits. At least one participant in each group will need to have a Wi-Fi-connected laptop.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Registration of new applicants ○ Registration of Products (Type A, Type B, Type C) ○ Type C Registration requirements - Test reports Requirements 	PCREEE
15:30– 15:45 TEA BREAK		
15:45 – 16:00	Wrap Up session	PCREEE

Day 2: Friday 10th April 2024 – Noro port

08:30	Registration	Facilitator /Presenter
09:00 – 09:15	Recap from Day 1 and agenda for Day 2.	PCREEE
Session 5: SI MEPSL regulation		
09:15 – 09:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background and Intro to SI MEPSL regulations/legislations and highlight its key components. 	SI DoE
Tea Break		
Session 6: MEPSL program in SI and the PICs		
10:00 – 10:30	Identification of Loopholes within the MEPSL regulations	SI DoE
10:30 – 11:00	NOU presentation 2 [topics to be confirmed by Richard]	SI - NOU
Session 7: Hands-on refresher training session on PAD as an applicant/regulator		
11:00 – 12:30	<p>Group of 2 or 3 participants will work through a number of mock applications for both product registration and import permits. At least one participant in each group will need to have a Wi-Fi-connected laptop.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration of new applicants Registration of Products (Type A, Type B, Type C) Type C Registration requirements - Test reports Requirements 	PCREEE
12:30 LUNCH [1 hour]		
13:30 – 15:30	Time permitting, one-to-one consultation with the Customs Officer, SI Department of Energy counterparts at Noro etc.	PCREEE
15:30– 15:45 TEA BREAK		
15:45 – 16:00	Wrap Up session	PCREEE