

PACIFIC COMMUNITY

**FIFTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENERGY AND TRANSPORT MINISTER'S MEETING**

(Port Vila, Vanuatu, 8-12 May 2023)

**AGENDA ITEM E12 – DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL E-MOBILITY POLICY AND PROGRAMME**

[Jointly submitted by SPC's Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) and United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)]

**Purpose**

1. The purpose of this paper is to (i) highlight the progress with the development and implementation of the regional e-mobility policy and programme, and to (ii) seek support for the early adoption of e-mobility policies, standards and roadmaps.

**Background**

2. At the Fourth Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers' Meeting, held from 18 to 20 September 2019, in Apia, Samoa, Ministers noted the efforts of PICTs to introduce e-mobility solutions are fragmented, hardly integrated and non-inclusive. The meeting therefore directed SPC/Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the SIDS Dock to develop a regional electric mobility (e-mobility) policy document and a regional e-mobility program.
3. A comprehensive process that included national and regional consultations and a commission to an international team of Electric Vehicle (EV) experts resulted in the development of a regional e-mobility program, which PCREEE began to roll out in 2021. Much of this work was supported by funding from UNIDO, Norway and Austria.
4. The regional program addresses barriers to regional e-mobility by promoting regional interventions in the areas of policy and regulation, knowledge management, qualification/certification, as well as the promotion of investment, entrepreneurship and innovation.

**Achievements in the target areas**

5. **Policy and Regulation** – PCREEE has provided legal advice and training in support of the establishment of the first electric vehicle charging business in Fiji; PCREEE is supporting the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility's (PRIF's) technical assistance (TA) project identifying PICT-appropriate guidelines and standards for e-mobility; and PCREEE is also supporting the development of EV roadmaps for PRIF's member countries (including Papua New Guinea). The PCREEE and UNIDO has also developed draft guidelines for EV charging. This important pioneering work attracted the interest of the World Bank to come with a technical assistance aimed at designing a regional EV policy framework and Technical Guidelines.

6. **Knowledge Management** - In 2021 and 2022 the PCREEE conducted and supported over 10 regional and national webinars and workshops on e-mobility (including a regional e-mobility workshop held in Suva in November 2022 and attended by approx. 40 people); developed an information portal accessed through PCREEE's website (the links [Pacific Islands Workshop on Electric Mobility | PCREEE](#) and [PCREEE EV Readiness Programme \(PEV ReadPro\) | PCREEE](#) are provided as examples); and PCREEE has also established the Electric Vehicle Working Group (EVWG) aimed at providing an active hub for knowledge development and outreach, as well as to drive and coordinate e-mobility activities in the PICTs.
7. **Qualification / Certification** – Through the Global Network of Sustainable Energy Centres, nine on-line training modules on sustainable energy solutions for islands have been developed, one of which is on sustainable mobility - [GN-SEC learning platform | PCREEE](#). Two training workshops have been conducted under the auspices of PCREEE and UNIDO on the delivery of these modules and more than twenty people participated.
8. **Promotion of investment, entrepreneurship and innovation** – PCREEE has supported the development of various funding proposals for the Solomon Is. and Vanuatu, including a GCF Concept Note. A GCF-targeted project is also currently under development for PNG. PCREEE is also supporting Tonga with an e-mobility demonstration under the framework of its recently developed E-mobility Roadmap. Ultimately, e-mobility has been promoted in various sustainable energy investment forums led by PCREEE in Vanuatu, Tonga and Samoa.

### Supporting Resources

9. PCREEE's e-mobility efforts have been mostly funded by the Austrian Development Agency, Norway and UNIDO.
10. E-mobility was allocated NZD 100,000 under SPC's integrated climate change flagship proposal to the NZ MFAT.
11. South Korea, through the Asian Development Bank, is supporting PRIF's development of guidelines and standards for e-mobility.
12. Japan has recently announced a USD 36 million Green Transformation Fund to reduce reliance on fossil fuel in four PICs, which includes a project with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) aimed at accelerating the uptake of land and maritime e-mobility.

### Issues and Challenges

13. There are many ongoing initiatives in the e-mobility space across the region, with many different parties and agendas involved. These interventions could be delivered more efficiently and effectively through sharing of information and coherent coordination. In this respect, it would be beneficial to have regular meetings of an EV Working Group and the wider Pacific Community to share best practices, network and learn from each other.
14. It will take a few years to establish sound standards and implement effective legal and regulatory reforms that will have a real impact on industry practices and consumer

behaviour when it comes to major technology changes. Additionally, there are newly arising risks associated with the adoption of electric vehicles, so there needs to be some form of management to set minimum standards and technical requirements to protect the nascent market from inferior products and unsafe practices.

15. Considering the extended timeline required for the low carbon transitioning of the transport and energy sectors, PICs should begin formulating policies and regulations now to facilitate the increasing adoption of electric vehicles projected to occur over the next ten years.

### **Recommendations**

16. The meeting is invited to:
  - i. **acknowledge** the progress in the roll out of the regional e-mobility programme and the development partners' funding support to e-mobility.
  - ii. **support** the early adoption of EV policies, standards and roadmaps at the national level to guide and facilitate the transformation in the energy and transport sectors, and
  - iii. **encourage** SPC, PCREEE, UNIDO, ADB and interested partners to accelerate the roll out of the regional e-mobility programme and to convene regularly regional workshops and meetings of the EV Working Group.