Creating an Enabling Ecosystem for EV Adoption in Pacific Small Island States

A comprehensive implementation plan for establishing governance structures, technical standards, and circular economy policies to accelerate the transition to sustainable electric mobility through coordinated multi-stakeholder action in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Anant Jha, Senior Officer Sustainable Transport – Pacific, GGGI

gef

UN environment programme

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GEF Global Support for Climate Change Mitigation

The GEF provides financial resources to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for climate action, investing strategically to support enabling environments and policy reforms, while piloting new technologies and business models.

GEF-8 Provides New Opportunities to Support Implementation of the Paris Agreement

Pillar I: Promote innovation, technology development and transfer, and enable policies for mitigation options with systemic impacts

Accelerate the efficient use of energy and materials

Enable the transition to decarbonized power systems,

Scale up zero-emission mobility of people and goods

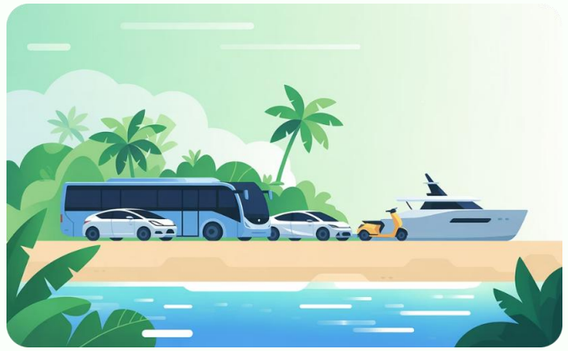
Promote Nature-based Solutions with high mitigation potential

Pillar II: Foster enabling conditions to mainstream mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies.

Support capacity-building needs for transparency under the Paris Agreement through the Capacity building Initiative for Transparency

Support relevant Convention obligations and enabling activities

National Climate Commitments Drive EV Adoption Ambitions



Vanuatu's NDC 3.0

Target: 1,608.57 Kt CO2e reduction by 2035

- Under BAU, **fuel imports grow 104%** by 2050 (majority diesel)
- Transport sector uses **46% of total fuel demand**
- Transport emissions reductions up to **14.1 ktCO2e by 2035**

Key Strategies: 10% transport efficiency boost; 100% carbon-free maritime by 2050; scale e-mobility (10% e-buses, **10% govt e-cars**, 1,000 e-2/3-wheelers); biodiesel; fuel/vehicle emission standards; NMT infrastructure

Solomon Islands' NDC 3.0

Target: 8% reduction unconditional, 17% conditional, 34% including removals by 2035

- Vehicles switched to **more efficient ICE technology: 0 to 7,500**
- Introduced **e-vehicles/buses: 0 to 40**

Key Strategies: Biofuels; efficient imported vehicles with labelling; LPG and LNG vehicles; Euro IV standard adoption

Fiji's NDC 3.0

Target: 36% of BAU reductions in energy sector by 2035 (12% unconditional, 24% conditional)

Key Strategies: 100% RE by 2035.
2.0: Low-carbon vehicles (hybrids, PHEVs, EVs); public transport expansion; vehicle renewal programs; promote non-motorized transport (NMT)

2.0: Reduce energy sector CO2 emissions by 10% through energy efficiency economy-wide, implicitly addressing transport, industry, and electricity demand-side subsectors

Projects Overview

	Project Duration	Funding & Investment	Partnerships & Execution **Executing Partners:**
Solomon Islands	48 months (August 2025 – August 2029)	Global Environment Fund Grant: US$ 1.7 million Co-financing: US$ 12.86 million	• Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM)
Fiji	48 months (August 2025 – August 2029)	Global Environment Fund Grant: US$ 1.7 million Co-financing: US$ 16.6 million	• Ministry of Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport (MPWMST)
Vanuatu	36 months (August 2025 – August 2028)	Global Environment Fund Grant: US$ 870,000 Co-financing: US$ 27 Million	• Department of Energy, Ministry of Climate Change (DOE, MoCC)

GGGI **Executing Partner**

UN environment programme **Implementing Partner**

gef **GEF – 8 cycle**

Enabling Ecosystem for E-Mobility

A comprehensive, coordinated approach across four critical pillars can create the foundation for successful EV transition in Pacific island states.

Sustainable Development Infrastructure

Policy & Regulatory Ecosystem

Social Ecosystem

Financial Ecosystem

Common Market Features Across Pacific Islands

Emissions Profile

Transport represents a high share of national emissions, creating urgent need for decarbonization

Fiscal Burden

Heavy costs from imported diesel and gasoline threaten energy security and government budgets

Urban Concentration

Few concentrated centers with limited road infrastructure across dispersed islands

Climate Vulnerability

High exposure of population and infrastructure to climate disasters and extreme weather

Public Transit Usage

Historically high public transit and walking mode shares

Shorter Trip Distances

Shorter average trip distances to urban centers

Women's Participation

Strong women's participation as public transport users, low participation in transport sector

Limited Enabling Policies

Limited EV roadmaps and coordination mechanisms

Insufficient Grid Capacity

Insufficient grid capacity and charging infrastructure

Awareness and capacity

Low technical skills and awareness levels

Differentiated Contexts

While Fiji, Vanuatu, and Solomon Islands share common challenges, each nation presents unique circumstances requiring tailored strategies for EV adoption.

			
⚡ Energy	~60% renewable electricity, 100% energy access	70% diesel generation, lower access rates	90% diesel generation, lower access rates
🌆 Urbanization	Largest market with major centers (Suva, Nadi, Lautoka, Nasinu) and higher vehicle volumes	Small market concentrated in Port Vila with limited private sector	Small market concentrated in Honiara with small private sector
🏦 Financial Sector	Developed sector with commercial banks, FDB, and insurers	Smaller sector but NGEF fund exists for green financing	Very limited financial infrastructure dominated by banks
🚗 Status of EV Adoption	Private sector taking initial electrification steps	Government leading with fleet electrification initiatives	Minimal EV presence with no major initiatives yet

Policy Ecosystem

Based on the recommendations from Regional Electric Mobility Policy for Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), PCREEE

	Fiji	Vanuatu	Solomon Islands
NDC ambition and National Transport Policies	📈	📈	📈
Inter-ministerial Coordination Mechanism	❌	❌	❌
ICE vehicle efficiency improvement		❌	❌
Direct and Indirect Incentives for EVs	✅	📈	❌
Energy Pricing policy framework (TOU pricing)	❌	❌	❌
National EV adoption and Implementation Roadmaps	❌	❌	❌
Technical Standards and Interoperability Roadmaps	❌	❌	❌
End of Life Vehicle and Battery Management Regulations	❌	❌	❌

📈 Scale up ❌ Required ✅ Exists

Infrastructure Ecosystem

	Fiji	Vanuatu	Solomon Islands
Renewable Energy Supply	📈	📈 📈	❌
Grid Capacity & Integration	❌	❌	❌
Charging Infrastructure	❌	❌	❌
Sustainable Urban Planning	❌	❌	❌
Public Transport Electrification	📈	🕒	🕒
Multimodal Integration	🕒	🕒	🕒
EV value chain integration	-	-	-

📈 Scale up 📈 📈 Significantly scale up ❌ Required 🕒 Future Policy Action - Not applicable in context

Financial Ecosystem

Blended Finance Solutions	🌐	🌐	🌐
Viability-Gap Funding	✅	✅	✅
Green Bond Alignment	🏛️		
Dedicated EV Products, loans	🌐	🌐	🌐
Pooled Procurement	✅		
Leasing Models	✅	✅	✅
Battery-as-a-Service	✅		

🌐 Development Banks, Commercial Banks, MDBs ✅ Applicable and recommended 🏛️ Commercial Banks 🏛️ Government Bond

Social Ecosystem

Workforce Development	❌	❌	❌
Professional & Vocational Programs	❌	❌	❌
Public Awareness Campaigns	❌	❌	❌
Sustainable Mobility Advocacy	❌	❌	❌

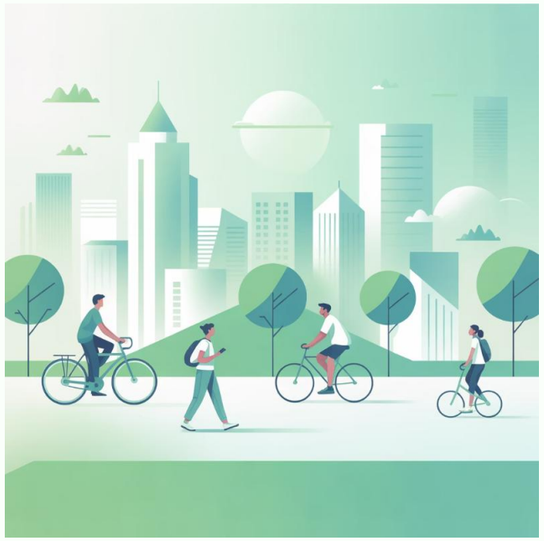
❌ Required

Project Outputs and Deliverables

Component 1: Policy & Coordination

Mechanism and Policy Support

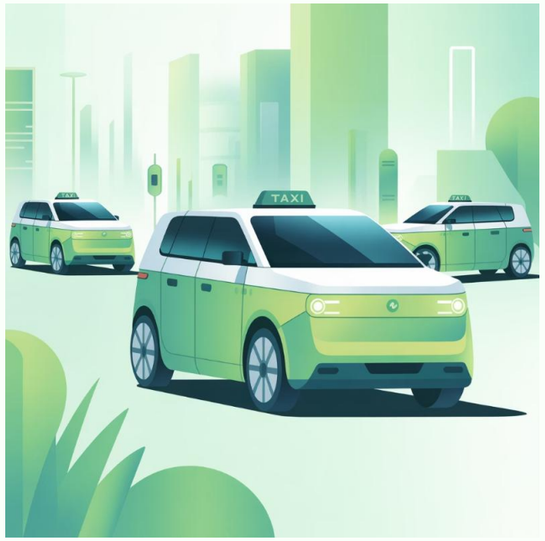
- Inter-Sectoral Coordination Platform (ISCP)
- EV Infrastructure Technical Standards
- Circular Economy: EV & Battery Management
- Fiscal and Financial Incentives (SI)
- EV Roadmap (Vanuatu)



Component 2: Sustainable Urban Transport

In the Metropolitan Areas

- Non-Motorized Transport & E-Bike Model and Zero-Emission Public Bus Transition Strategy in SUVA.
- SUMPs for Honiara and Port Vila



Component 3: EV Pilot Viability

Technical & Financial Demonstrator

- EV Taxi Pilot Fleet and Financial Product in Fiji .
- EV pilot in Solomon Islands
- EV Financial Product in Vanuatu.

Component 4: Awareness & Capacity Building

Busting EV Myths

- Training of Regulators and Utility providers.
- Training of mechanics, drivers, personnels.
- Social Media Campaigns & Trainings
- EV Curricula & Technical Education
- Mobility Events.

The Case for E-Mobility transition in the Pacific

PICs stand at a critical juncture where electrification and sustainable transport must be approached from a **mitigation-development nexus approach**. By reducing dependency on fossil fuel imports, PICs can strengthen fiscal resilience while leapfrogging traditional car-centric development.

Energy Security

Significant % of all imports are Mineral Imports. Reducing fossil fuel imports strengthens fiscal space and energy independence

Inclusive Mobility

Focus on women beneficiaries. Benefits women, children, elderly, and people with disabilities

Health Benefits

Direct and Indirect emissions reduction targets. Zero emissions improve air quality and reduce pollution-related health risks

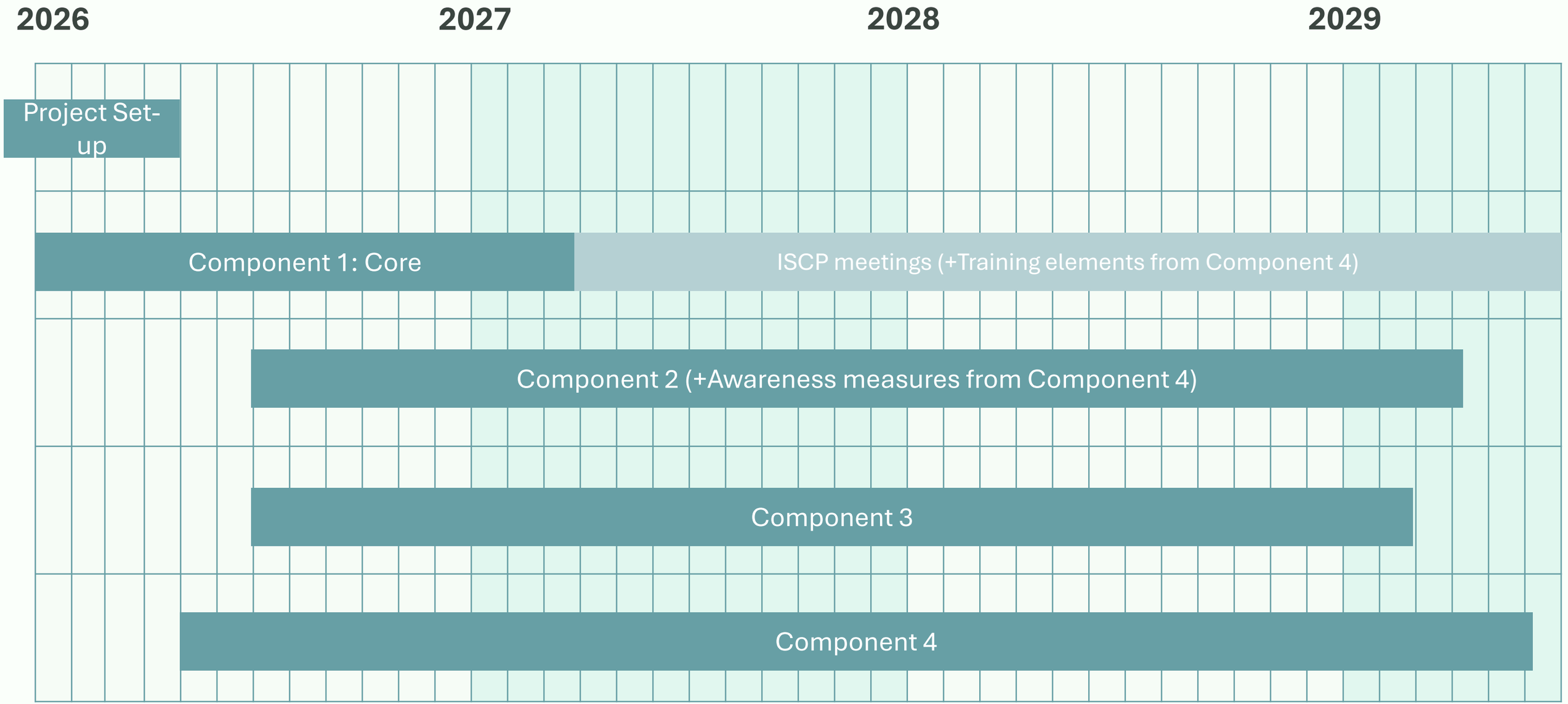
Disaster Resilience

Vehicle-to-grid integration enables rapid deployment after climate events, strengthening community resilience

Economic Opportunity

Drivers and mechanic trainings, recycling markets. Creates new technical jobs and skills development to meet future EV demand

GGGI: Facilitating the Adoption of E-mobility & Smart Transport Systems for the Sustainable Development (Available Here)


2026
2027
2028
2029
Project Set-up
Component 1: Core
ISCP meetings (+Training elements from Component 4)
Component 2 (+Awareness measures from Component 4)
Component 3
Component 4

Workshop Calendar: Synergistic Approach

2026	2027	2028	2029
March • ISCP & PSC Co-creation	**March** • PSC Meeting 3 & Capacity Building • Validation & Socialization - Feedback consolidation • Consultation workshop: EV feasibility report	**March** • PSC Meeting 5 & Capacity Building • NMT strategy launch • Workshop with USP, FNU • Communication & Engagement	**March** • PSC Meeting & Capacity Building • EV pilot final findings workshops • Workshop with USP/FNU • E Bike final workshop
July • PSC Meeting and Capacity Assessment • Inception Workshop: EV standards • Inception Workshop: EV Pilot feasibility	**July** • Consensus & Capacity Building on Battery EOL Combined workshop • EV pilot plan validation workshop. • E-Bike PPP Workshop	**July** • PSC Meeting 6 & Capacity Building • Public Bus Strategy Workshop	**July** • PSC meeting • Project Finalization workshop
October • PSC Meeting 2 & Capacity Building • Standards Co-development - Draft standards (10-10) • Stakeholder Workshop on EV Pilot	**October** • PSC Meeting & Capacity Building • NMT strategy Consultation Workshop • EV product launch Workshop	**October** • PSC Meeting & Capacity Building • EV pilot stakeholder workshop • E Bike PPP workshop 2	

Component 1: Coordination Mechanism and Policy Support

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Building the Foundation: Inter-Sectoral Coordination Platform

Establishing a gender-balanced coordination platform to align government ministries, regulators, utilities, and civil society around EV policy implementation.

01

Platform Design & Governance

Define mandate, scope, governance structure, and gender-balanced representation principles. Prepare operational guidelines.

Timeline: December 2025 – January 2026

02

Capacity Assessment

Conduct stakeholder mapping across ministries, regulators, and private sector. Identify gaps in skills, data, and gender representation.

Timeline: February 2026 – March 2026

03

Platform Operationalization

Convene bi-annual inter-sectoral meetings for policy dialogue. Facilitate technical discussions and ensure gender-inclusive participation.

Timeline: June 2026 – May 2029

04

Continuous Technical Support and Trainings (Includes Component 4)

Provide ongoing secretariat support, agenda setting, and progress monitoring against agreed action points.

Timeline: Mid-2026 – End-2028

Establishing Technical Standards for EV Infrastructure

Developing context-appropriate technical standards and implementation plans to ensure safety, interoperability, and grid compatibility for electric vehicles and charging equipment in Fiji.

Standards Development Process

1

International Review

Assess global and regional EV standards for technical relevance and grid compatibility in Fiji's context.

2

Documentation

Draft minimum technical standards with compliance checklists and guidance notes tailored to local conditions.

3

Validation

Conduct stakeholder consultations with regulators, utilities, and industry actors to refine and endorse standards.

4

Implementation

Deliver training modules for regulators and inspectors on standard application and enforcement.

Timeline Overview

Review Phase: February – April 2026

Development: April – July 2026

Consultation: Late 2026 – Mid-2027

Training: Early 2027 – August 2027

Circular Economy: End-of-Life Vehicle & Battery Management

Creating comprehensive policies for vehicle and battery end-of-life management with a focus on circular economy principles and inclusive participation of women and youth in recycling sectors.

1 Policy Landscape Assessment

Review existing laws, regulations, and recycling practices. Benchmark international circular economy approaches.

June – December 2026

2 Policy Development

Develop tailored policy options with decision-support tools. Integrate gender and youth participation considerations.

December 2026 – March 2027

3 Consensus Building

Convene multi-stakeholder workshops. Engage women- and youth-led organizations in recycling markets.

April – June 2027

4 Policy Adoption

Finalize policy instruments and support formal government adoption with implementation guidance.

July – August 2027

Circular Economy

Secondary markets for vehicle components and battery materials

Social Inclusion

Enhanced participation of women and youth in recycling sectors

Environmental Impact

Reduced waste and responsible disposal practices

Fiscal and Financial Incentives to support EV uptake in Solomon Islands

Charging Tariffs Evaluation Study & Plan

- Comprehensive analysis of current electricity tariff structure and its impact on EV charging costs.
- Recommendations for EV-specific tariffs that incentivize off-peak charging and renewable energy use, including innovative pricing models.
- Baseline assessment, Scenario and model analysis, Implementation planning,

Inception Meeting: Oct 2027

Timeline: October 2027 – March 2028

Fiscal & Financial Incentives Implementation Plan Finalization

Finalization of the implementation plan for fiscal and financial incentives, based on inputs gathered from the stakeholder workshop.
The completed plan is then submitted to the Ministry of Finance.

Timeline: April 2028 – July 2028

Stakeholder Workshop

Discussion of the report's findings and recommendations from the tariff evaluation study, incorporating feedback from key stakeholders.

Timeline: March 2028

Feedback Workshop: Mar 2028

Public Awareness Campaign Plan

Development of a comprehensive public awareness campaign to educate potential EV and e2W users about the newly introduced incentives and their associated benefits. This includes a social media video series on EV and sustainable mobility.

Responsible: Anant J

Timeline: May 2028 – July 2028

Validation Workshop:Jul 2028

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A high-level EV Roadmap developed for endorsement by the Government of Vanuatu

Analytical Paper & Risk Assessment

Analyzing tax revenue, fiscal policy instruments, and charging infrastructure framework.

Jul 2027 – Oct 2027

Inception Workshop: Jul 2027

Draft EV Roadmap Development

Drafting the Actionable and Localized Gender-responsive EV Roadmap.

Jul 2027 – Oct 2027

Stakeholder Workshop & Consultation

Workshops on findings, working sessions, and incorporating stakeholder inputs.

Oct 2027

Communication & Engagement Strategy

Developing and consulting on the communication and engagement plan.

Oct 2027 – Mar 2028

EV Roadmap Endorsement Package

Preparing the final package for government endorsement.

Mar 2028 – Aug 2028 **Validation Workshop: Jul 2028**

Component 2: Sustainable urban transport in the Suva, Honiara and Port Vila Metropolitan Area.

Non-Motorized Transport and Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans

Developing inclusive urban mobility plans and infrastructure as well as business models to promote non-motorized transport, e-bikes, and active transport solutions across urban centers.

Infrastructure & Mobility Assessment

Conduct public surveys, digital traffic analysis, and consultations with sub national governments, and civil society.

Vision and Tactical Urban Strategy

Co-develop NMT/SUMP promotion strategy based on survey findings.
Deliver training workshops for planning authorities and stakeholders.

Measures, Scenarios and Action Plan

Identification of measures and tactical pilots, formulation of scenarios and co-development of an action plan.

Feb 2027 – Oct 2027

Communication Strategy and Educational Campaign

Implement myth-busting campaigns to build public awareness and acceptance.

E-Bike Business Model & Public-Private Partnership Development

Suva E-Bike PPP Challenge

An innovative public-private partnership model focusing on women entrepreneurs to develop sustainable e-bike network infrastructure and services.

1 Business Model Development

Design e-bike network and station infrastructure with gender-responsive PPP assessment.

2 Entrepreneur Engagement

Launch challenge targeting women entrepreneurs and start-ups with capacity building support.

3 Support Mechanisms

Develop frameworks for imports, capital investment, and tariffing structures.

4 Pilot Implementation

Finalize programming and launch pilot PPP model with selected partners.

30%

Women Entrepreneurs

Minimum target for business model beneficiaries

12

Month Timeline

From model development to pilot launch

- **National Awareness Campaign:** Running alongside the E-bike PPP Challenge to promote EVs, e-bikes, and active transport benefits across all demographics.

  Timeline: April 2028 – February 2029

Zero-Emission Public Bus Transition Strategy

Developing a comprehensive, gender-responsive strategy to transition Fiji's public bus fleet to zero-emission vehicles through stakeholder engagement, regulatory reform, and public awareness campaigns.

Assessment Phase

Evaluate management, operational, financial barriers, and regulatory framework

July 2027 – January 2028

Strategy Development

Create gender-responsive transition strategy with targeted messaging for diverse groups

February – June 2028

Public Launch & Education (In line with component 4)

Launch strategy, build capacity, and disseminate myth-busting content

June – November 2028

Key Stakeholders

- Public transport authorities
- Bus operators
- Utility companies
- Regulatory bodies

Focus Areas

- Women passengers
- Student commuters
- Diverse demographics
- Operator training

Deliverables

- Transition roadmap
- Capacity building
- Public awareness
- Myth-busting content

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EV Taxi Pilot: Demonstrating Technical & Financial Viability

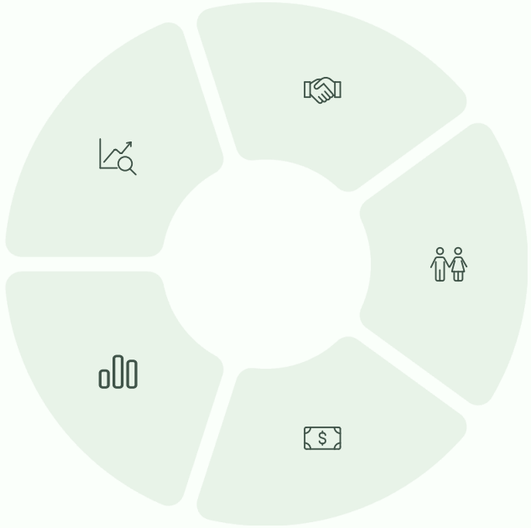
Implementing a gender-inclusive electric vehicle pilot program for Fiji and Solomon Islands, with financing products and scale-up strategies to accelerate commercial fleet transition.

1) Feasibility Study

Technical and economic analysis of EV models, training needs, and charging infrastructure requirements for taxi services.

5) Scale-up Strategy

Market analysis and recommendations for expanding financing to broader commercial fleets.



2) Stakeholder Engagement

Consultations with taxi associations, car dealers, financiers, and government agencies to design pilot parameters.

3) Women's Inclusion

Formalization of Women Taxi Driver Association in Fiji and encouraging women beneficiaries in Vanuatu.

4) Financial Product

Blended finance solution with Fiji Development Bank and NGEF in Vanuatu.

1 — **Assessment & Design**
Aug 2026 – Jan 2027

2 — **Financial Product Launch**
Jan – Aug 2027

3 — **Monitoring & Adaptation**
Aug – Dec 2027

4 — **Scale-up Recommendations**
Oct 2027 – Jan 2028

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Component 3: A designated E-Mobility financial product through the NGEF

Financial Product Design & Viability Assessment

Jun 2026 – Oct 2026

Grant: US$ 40,000

Design of gender-responsive e-mobility financial product

Oct 2026 – Mar 2027

Consultation Workshop: Oct 2026

Operationalization support package & Approval

Mar 2027- Oct 2027

Feedback Workshop: Mar 2027

Capacity Building & Market Awareness

Jul 2027 – Oct 2027

Capacity Building: Oct 2027

Fund Replenishment & Upscaling Strategy

Oct 2027 – Mar 2028

Capacity Building & Awareness: EV Training Materials & Technical Education

Developing gender-inclusive training materials and conducting workshops to build capacity across government, private sector, and civil society stakeholders for the EV ecosystem.

Curriculum Review & Stakeholder Engagement with Academia
Vocational Courses,
Training of trainers

Training of Government and Utility Regulators

Myth-busting campaigns and Social media awareness campaigns

Regional and National workshops. OPERA sessions

Regional and National workshops. OPERA sessions

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Project inception Workshops: Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji Q1 2026

Vanuatu: COM approves 20% electrical vehicle in gov’t fleet

GGGI supported the Vanuatu Government to develop the Council of Ministers (COM) paper which was endorsed on 17 April 2026.

The Government of Vanuatu, as the owner of the largest vehicle fleet in the country, will transition 20% of its fleet to Electric Vehicles (EVs) by 2030.

COM approves 20% electrical vehicle in gov’t fleet | News | dailypost.vu

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