



MFAT Management Response to Evaluation of the New Zealand-Maluku Access to Renewable Energy Support Programme

Evaluation Report Recommendation	MFAT Response and Action (Agree, Partially Agree, Reject)
<p>Expanding NZMATES geographical scope to include Maluku Utara</p> <p>With NZMATES now firmly established and well-connected in Maluku, compelling arguments emerge for expanding its reach to include North Maluku if the programme continues to a new phase.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Design for the new phase of support considers expansion to Maluku Utara, though MFAT's ability to expand is subject to funding availability.</p>
<p>Enhancing NZMATES engagement and funding strategies at the national level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NZMATES' visibility in Jakarta could be enhanced. A stronger national presence may foster partnerships and facilitate connections with potential funding sources. The programme could enhance efforts to collaborate and exchange knowledge with peer programmes to maximise impact. In particular, there are potential synergies between NZMATES and the Renewable Energy – Accelerated Transition in Indonesia (RE-ACT) programme also funded by MFAT. A new phase should also consider bolstering expertise in renewable energy financing and funding to navigate diverse funding channels and enhance funding opportunities. 	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Design for future support considers strengthening the Programme Management Office function to develop stronger relationships with the relevant Jakarta teams.</p> <p>Agree.</p> <p>NZMATES can demonstrate solutions at a regional level, informing national regulation through REACT's knowhow for implementing provincial energy plans that meet provincial renewable energy targets being developed by both NZMATES and REACT.</p> <p>Partially Agree.</p> <p>Design for future support considered the need to enhance funding opportunities, however after completing further scoping into this recommendation, we do not believe any additional specialist skills are required in energy financing. We assess this can be achieved through greater and more intentional focus on partnerships with the relevant national bodies that are key to ensuring funding is leveraged and made accessible for development.</p>
<p>Planning for Asset transfer (pro-actively address challenges regarding asset transfer)</p> <p>A potential upcoming phase represents a valuable opportunity to proactively address asset transfer challenges from the outset. By doing so, NZMATES and MFAT can pave the way for a more streamlined processes going forward.</p>	<p>Partially Agree.</p> <p>Design of future support considers lessons learned from the Pulau Tiga renewable energy mini-grid project, though MFAT appreciates it has limited ability to influence the Government of Indonesia's asset transfer requirements.</p>

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<p>Strengthening local capacity within NZMATES</p> <p>Recognising the relative scarcity of renewable energy technical skills in Maluku and the challenges associated with bringing in outside expertise, NZMATES made a strategic shift from external hiring to building the capacity of local Maluku-based staff. This transition is proving effective and warrants continuation.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Design of future support considers the need for continuing to build local capacity in Maluku.</p>
<p>Progressing technical assistance and capacity development</p> <p>A potential future phase presents an opportunity to expand technical assistance and capacity building to encompass critical areas such as procurement, implementation, and ongoing operations and maintenance.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Design of future support considers the need to continue with NZMATES core focus on technical assistance and capacity development.</p>
<p>Enhancing monitoring and evaluation</p> <p>A future phase should provide sharper insights for enhanced decision-making and facilitating adaptive management. With a key focus on closely monitoring the progress of projects through each stage of the pipeline, including the proportion of projects at each step. Identify bottlenecks and imbalances which should trigger management responses and changes in programme emphasis.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Design of future support considers the need to improve the monitoring and evaluation frameworks; including closer monitoring and analysis of the project pipeline activities.</p>
<p>Leveraging collaborations with education providers for sustainable impact</p> <p>Collaborations with educational institutions have emerged as a potentially powerful catalyst for long-term change within the NZMATES programme. While substantial progress has been achieved, the true milestone lies in successfully introducing autonomous and self-sufficient renewable energy programmes within these institutions.</p> <p>This requires continued investment and support beyond the current programme period.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>MFAT agrees that collaborations with educational institutions will be a contributor to creating long-term change. The design of future support has proactively planned for partnership with key education providers to ensure the programme develops sustainable capacity to enable the renewable energy transition after NMZATES ends.</p>

