The case of Vanuatu: strategic
Role of government libraries in
Providing evidence to support the
Preparation of VNRs - 10th APFSD
Side Event Concept Note (IFLA)

27 - 30 March 2023
The case of Vanuatu

Vanuatu is divided into 6 Provinces. Each province represents a group of islands. The provincial structure includes a President, a Secretary General (SG) and Area Councils that administer the provincial affairs for each province.

Library work is more essential than ever if we want to continue to broaden the impact of our network in line with the SDG’s and National Goals.

By Betty Eni Williams - Librarian at Reserve Bank of Vanuatu.

Vanuatu Library Association (VLA) is a non-political, non-profit organization, owned, governed and sustained by members through annual membership fees and fund raisings. VLA goal is to support members to develop and implement successful strategic plans and policy framework to address country specific Library challenges to the overall National Government Development Strategic Plans.

Vanuatu recent Population is 334,506

A growth rate of 2.39%

Representing around 32% of Ni-Vanuatu adult unbanked population

Literacy rate with a rate of 1.59% Annual growth change bases
Before being a member of the Pacific Libraries Network; Vanuatu Library professionals and managers in VLA have very little knowledge and most were not aware of the SDG’s and the important role that Libraries plays a part until they were invited to be part of developing the statement of intent and convening on development of the Pacific Strategic Action plans back in 2018 and 2019 in Suva, Fiji and in Brisbane, Australia.

The Vanuatu Library Association resprentatives came away with a strong will to inspire, engage, enable and connect. We decided to revisit our traditional way of doing things in a Library to running a wider library programs and services to link with the SGD’s in a more inspired, aspirational and innovative Libraries and SDS’s initiatives.
Direct outcome
RBV KERE LIBRARY AS A GOVERNMENT STATUDORY BODY: INVOLMENTS;

RBV Librarian represented VLA to participated in the Pacific Libraries Network convention in Brisbane, Australia resulted in funding and hosting a successful one day VLA workshop

The Power of partnership and collaboration was highlighted in the launching of a Friends of Vanuatu Libraries (FVL) involving the current Hon. Minister for Climate Change as the Patron

A resolution discussion was pointed out during this workshop especially due to the ongoing insufficient Library budget/funds for Vanuatu libraries; it is suggested a need to have a proper legislation in place

National Library in partnership with RBV Library embarked on a journey to develop a legal framework and conducted a wider consultation to guide a proposed Library Services Act in Vanuatu back in 2018 and now in its second draft to be passed in the Parliament this year

The Library continues to develop and run its programs and activities to promote some of SDG’s/NSDG’s
Our Vision

Building a strong Library Association and Library Networks in Vanuatu and around the World.

Our Mission

Empower Libraries as important institutions to increase the access and usage of quality library services for the unserved and underserved guided by proper legislations, establishment and global advocacy of sustainable, inclusive Library services for all in Vanuatu.

VLA Core Objective

To provide all VLA Members with the right tools and resources to develop capacity building and technical support through networking, sharing and implementation of Libraries SDG’s/NSDG’s initiatives.
Vanuatu 2030: The People’s Plan
National Sustainable Development Plan 2016 - 2030

This was developed by the Department of Strategic Policy,
Planning and Aid Coordination (DSPPAC), office of the Prime
Minister

✓ This People’s plan was further developed into 3 main
pillars of the National Sustainable Development Goals
(NSDGs)

✓ With a National vision statement: “A stable,
sustainable and prosperous Vanuatu”

✓ The 3 main pillars are Society Pillar, Environment
Pillar and Economic Pillar
Impact of RBV KERE LIBRARY

Focus: alignment to people’s plan ECO 1.8 & ECO 1.9

ECO 1.8 – Ensure financial sector stability and make financial services affordable and accessible for all through pursuing financial inclusion strategies

ECO 1.9 – Promoting financial literacy and consumer empowerment

STUDENTS of NAWORAONE & KATUNDAWLA French and English Primary school assembled outside their school compound for school presentations.

RBV Promotional items given as gifts for quiz.

BOARD GAME shown to Class 1 to 6 students of Hiwelo English Primary School in Tonga.
Impact of RBV Kere Library

✓ RBV has maintained strong partnership in second steering the commitment on the Vanuatu proposed Library Services Act

✓ As Vice-Treasurer of the Vanuatu Library Association

✓ Represent Vanuatu in Regional and International Library seminars, workshops, conferences and meetings

✓ Run Library basic training for school intends during school holidays

✓ Always reaching out to partner with Vanuatu Cultural Centre to stage exhibitions and promote Vanuatu Tradition and cultures

✓ Hosting school field trips to Reserve Bank of Vanuatu

✓ Putting on grand exhibition to mark important event organised by the Bank

✓ Staging Library talks

✓ Coordinating the Central Banking Awareness through Vanuatu

✓ Running Financial Literacy awareness
RBV Exhibition of Traditional Weaving and Baskets Launched

Sand-drawing during the 40 years of Central Banking in Vanuatu
How We would like to Achieve Our Impact

✓ Develop Working Group/ Technical Committee /Strengthen our Library Association

✓ IMPLEMENTATION
1. IN-COUNTRY SUPPORT
2. CAPACITY BUILDING
3. REGIONAL INITIATIVES PARTNERSHIPS

✓ AGENDA-SETTING
1. PACIFIC LIBRARIES NETWORK
2. ASIA OCEANIA REGIONAL DIVISON (IFLA)
3. PIALA
4. LEADERS ROUNDTALBE
5. GLOBAL VOICE
Our Impact as VANUATU LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (VLA)
Vanuatu Library Association has managed to established new sub-association in Luganville/Santo and Lakatoro/ Malekula branch and they are called;

- Santo Library Association; and
- Malekula Library Association

But there is much work to be done so to cover the 6 Provinces
Our Partners
Our Partners

Our hope for the future

Funding Partners
- Australian Government
- Vanuatu Government
- New Zealand Government

Knowledge Partners
- IFLA
- UNESCO
- PIALA

Private Sector Partners
- BANKS
- TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES
- NGO/ROTARY CLUB
Thank You