

CUSTOM LAND MANAGEMENT OFFICE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

CLMO Mandate

Our Vision:

A nation where there is peace, justice, Security and harmony in custom lands, belonging to indigenous custom owners and their descendants.

Our Mission:

Provide effective and professional land dispute management services, registry of customary land ownership and ensure good land management practices among customary land owners. We strive to promote harmony, peace, respect in customary land throughout Vanuatu and protect custom owners grouping while settling land disputes in an effective, efficient and professional service to the public at large.

Our Values:

- Transparent
- Accountable
- Ethic
- Fair
- Respect
- Honest and Integrity
- Timely in professional service

Key Achievements

1. Institutional Changes

Commencement of Reforms with a minor Review of the Act: The office has identified the need for wider and more comprehensive changes as detailed in the Vanuatu Land Reform Paper by AusAid and Implementation difficulties experienced by the CLMO. The changes currently pursued may not be the appropriate one for Vanuatu, and further in our humble view the potential for these proposed changes to solve Vanuatu's Customary Lands Problem is very Minimal. There is a real and urgent need to draw up a proper policy framework for these sweeping changes. This also includes change of Name for the Institution.

Launched New Vision, Mission and Value: We have revised and Produce our New Vision, Mission and Value statements and printed them on Banners for provincials' offices.

Identify 4 functions of CLMO Office: a) Case & Customary Land registry b) Dispute Resolution c) Education, Awareness, Technical and Legal d) Customary land management.

- a) Case & customary Land Registry functions currently exists in the act, there are opportunities for improvements. 2020 work included registering new cases and scanning of files, entering finalised cases into customary lands registry, clean-up work to be completed in March 2021. Proposals made for reversion of current structure, currently engaging 3 persons through student internship facility.
- b) Dispute Resolution- Quais court functions currently exists under the act. There are opportunities for improvements, proposed new structure, new position titles, need to review JDs and Salary Structure for this section to fit for paralegal work.
- c) Education, Awareness, Technical & Legal function currently exists under the act. Proposed New Structure, JDs and salary yet to advance.

- d) Customary Land Management Function does not exist under the current act, blue print and descriptions for this new section are written up and proposals required for more resourcing of the function and its fruitful existence.

Work on New Proposed Organisational Structure: We have started working on the new proposed structure to capture the 4 sections identified in the above statement. This will require a total review on Salary Scales, Job descriptions and new position names. HR officer has already provided a draft on this proposal.

Develop Slogan, New Pamphlets, posters, and Revised Content of existing ones: We have developed a Slogan for the Office and also through the Training officer we have produced new awareness pamphlets, posters and made changes to the existing ones.

Creation of Office Group Emails, Messenger groups, CLMO FB Page: we have created all this Messenger groups and CLMO page as a means of awareness, education and information. We have around 4000 plus viewers on the CLMO page.

Training Hand book produced for Adjudicators: Training Officer has developed a training hand book for Adjudicators.

Recruitment of Land Reform Officer: We have requested a review of the current organisational Structure to include the position for Land Reform and Driver for Port Vila Office. The structure was approved and the position for Land Reform was fill through a direct appointment process. developed a training hand book for Adjudicators.

2. Tools and Equipment

Uniforms: We have purchase two new sets of Uniform. We have launch the official office uniform during our business plan meeting early this year at the Gideon's landing. Also for the Yumi 40 independence Celebrations we have purchase our new uniform to reflect that celebrations.

New Vehicle Purchase: We have purchase a replacement for our Port Vila Office Vehicle G 1082 and also purchase a New quad for CLMO office In Tafea (Tanna Office)

Appropriate Resourcing of Provincial offices: We have resourced all CLOs with direct credit on both Voda phone and Digicel phones. We have supported all CLOs with WIFI equipment to use when network is down and not working. All CLOs are equipped with GPS machines for Court Meetings and We have resources the Sanma, Tafea and Port Vila Office with New Printers. have revised and Produce our New Vision, Mission and Value statements and printed them on Banners for provincial offices.

Renovation of CLO Malampa Office: We have renovated the CLMO Office In Malekula.

3. Program Activities

Awareness Activities Produced: We have run 12 awareness in 2020. This were done in South Pentecost, Mota, Aneityum, Ambae (East/South/North), West Vanua lava, Tutuba, Aore, Emae, Makira, Mataso, Epi and Mavea.



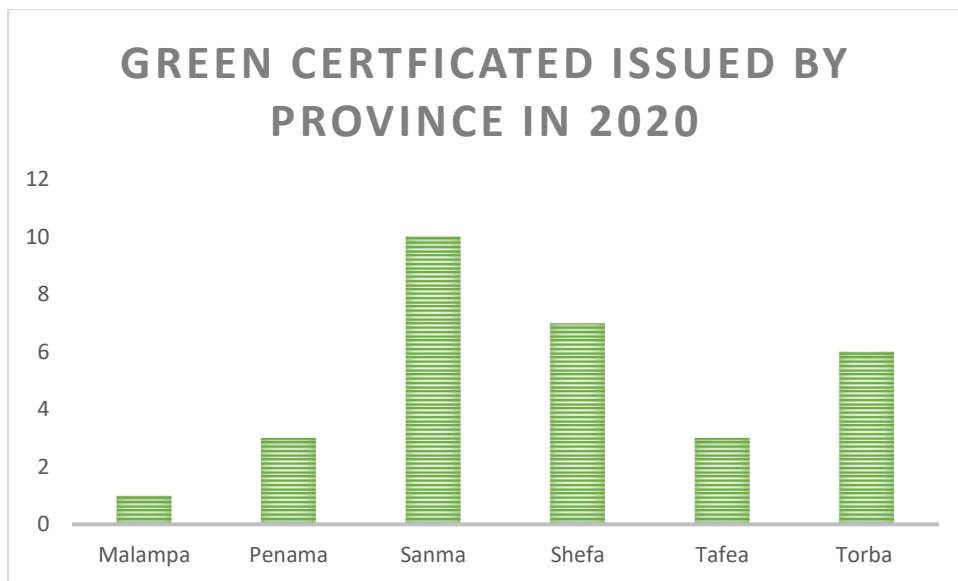
Awareness on Mataso.



Awareness on Ambae

Training Activity produced: Due to the COVID 19 pandemic all training activities for 2020 has been moved to 2021. We have only completed 2 training in 2020 which was done in Ambrym and Paama.

Certificate of Recorded Interest in land Produced: Due to the Covid 19 pandemic the Office has produced only 30 Green Certificates. We planned to record 40 green certificates. We have recorded only 75% of the total to be recorded.



Nakamal meetings, billboard erections, consultations, reports on LPMC application, custom owner listing & representative listing. During the CLMO Business plan drafted in the beginning of 2020, the office has targeted for 40 nakamal meetings to happen, 40 billboards, 40 consultations, 40 reports on LPMC applications and 40 custom owner and representative listing to occur. At the end of 2020, with the activities mention, the office has held 33 Nakamal meetings, 36 billboards, 30 consultation and 36 custom owner Listings.

Case Management and Registry System Developed: The Registry team has Scan a total of 10614 cases into the new Case management system. They have completed moving all files from Salmon into the CMS and are now working on Cleaning the files which has reduced the cases in the CMS to 1301 case. Out of the total case 1155 cases are finalised and 146 cases are still open or active.

Key Challenges

Weak governance system: The weak governance system is an ongoing major contributing factor of distracting the implementation the CLMO act in many islands. Ongoing weak governance such as chiefs prolonging in resolving their chiefly title for a very long time, arguments over custom boundary marks and nakamal jurisdictions etc. Were some of the major weak governance system which have caused many cases to be disputed for a very long time. It is an issue that it must be solve quickly for the implementation of the CLM Act to function properly.

Land cases pending in high courts for a very long time: Few CLMO relating major land cases were pending in the high courts for a very long time. Cases such as Eluk in Efate and Belbarav in Santo have been pending in the supreme court and Island court ever since 3 to 5 years ago. They have caused many billboards, consultations and lease applicants applying to those areas to be ceased by the CLMO until such time the high court's clears those cases. Belbarav custom land itself has the highest number of lease applications received every year, around 40 leases, all were ceased. It is a challenge for this office since it may affect citizens, investors etc. who which to apply for a particular lease in some of those interested areas.

Reforms and Amendments: The CLMO has identify few loop halls in the CLMO act during its implementation in the field and has made few recommendations' some years ago. some authorities involved at the highest level (politic level) contributes to the delay of the CLMO amendments. CLMO staffs believed that if the amendments are passed as recommended, it will contribute to reduce many challenges experiences in the field. This will also enhance the new Organisational Structure review.










Financial constraint: Even though many trainings, awareness, nakamal meetings occurred in 2020, inadequate finance is still an ongoing issue for this office. The CLM act has provided for more cost to be spend to implement it self. Some of the key activities which requires high cost are awareness, trainings of adjudicators, refresher trainings to be conducted around the Islands of Vanuatu, increase in the number of billboards every week, CLO's traveling to Islands to attend nakamal meetings to spent at least 1 to 2 week, do lease consultations every two weeks, and additional human resources are needed, are some of the important activities which requires high cost. The CLMO budget is still insufficient in 2020, Our NPP for training and awareness has been removed and not included in 2021 budget. therefore, it is quite difficult to implement those activities mentioned at one time.

Recruitment process for some CLMO vacant positions are very slow: Recruitment of two officers still pending The Principle custom land officer south (PCLO south) and the Finance and admin officer north. The two position have been pending since November of 2017 and 2016. The authorities involved for recruiting those positions at the PSC are very slow. We believed that if all those positions are occupied, it will be very helpful by speeding up the process of land disputes.

Big Events: Disturbance in delivering our program – General Elections, Covid 19, TC Harold in North, Ash fall on Tanna, Yumi 40 independence Celebrations.

Office Infrastructure: Our Provincial Offices are small and need more space to proper keeping of files and also office assets.

Budget

Table 15: CLMO Performance Against 2019 Budget Narrative				
Description	Qty	Unit of Measure	Rating	Comments
Implement CLMO administration structures		No. of recruiting staffs Review of Organisational structure		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1 staff was appointed by PSC that is Land Reform Officer direct appointment ➤ Admin North, Diver Vila and PCLO South under recruitment process ➤ Organisational structure Under review
Scanning of cases	300	No of cases		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ More than 300 cases were scan. Over 8500 documents were migrated to the CMRS with the assistance of 3 attached students on contract basis.
Designing of CLMO Case management and registry system (CMRS)	1	No. of System		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CLMO Case management and registry system fully operating and cleaning process with 1301 Cases registered. ➤ 1155 cases finalized with 146 cases open
Provide adequate resources for transport and IT support.	1 3 2	No. of Vehicle No. of Laptops No. of Printers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New Vehicle for Vila Office and quad for Tafea Officer ➤ 5 Laptops were purchased for Land Reform officer, Data base officer, Training officer, Finance officer, Senior Executive officer ➤ 2 New Ricoh printer and scanner were purchased for the office in Vila and Santo ➤ Creation of Email Group, CLMO FB page and Messenger Group ➤ Website under construction
Conduct awareness, training and refresher training of adjudicators.	1 5	No. of custom areas. No. of Islands		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2 training conducted ➤ 5 awareness in different islands of Vanuatu.
Organize and prepare training program for Adjudicators on outer Islands.	100	No. of Adjudicators		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ More than 100 adjudicators were trained in 2 different islands of Vanuatu.
Implement the Land reform (amendment) act on the leasing process.	30	No. of lease applicants.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Over 30 lease applications were processed by the CLMO.
Facilitate nakamal meetings.	40	No. of nakamal meeting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 36 nakamal meetings were conducted in 2020.
Billboards erected on disputed sites.	40	No. of billboards		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ More than 33 Billboards were erected on disputed sites as per LR Act. The majorities were on Efate.

Facilitate custom owner listings.	40	No. of custom owner listing	●	➤ 36 custom owners listing were convened by CLO's of each provinces.
Facilitate lease consultations.	40	No. of lease consultations	●	➤ Over 40 lease consultations were conducted to lease applicants and custom land owners.
Deliver awareness on the process of obtaining certificate through radio	2	No. of radio awareness	●	➤ More than 2 awareness was delivered to radio.
Request for student attachment to strengthen human resources especially on scanning of cases and doing admin matters.	4	No. of student attachment	●	➤ 3 students were taken under the cadetship program to assist with scanning of cases, fillings and doing admin matters for 6 to 9 months in Port Vila ➤ 1 student in Santo office to assist with scanning.
Litigation matters supported and responded.	200	No. of litigation matters	●	➤ The National Coordinator is responsible for Litigation matters. In 2020, He dealt with more than 200 cases.

2020 Key changes of staffs' human resources

There were new changes of staffs in terms of human resources in 2020. We have the long-time Contract Position Land Reform Officer recruitment on permanent bases. We are looking forward to the recruitment also for the Assistant admin North and the PCLO South position to be filled and the Driver South to be Filled also. All positions are now under recruitment process.

Focus for the year ahead

Review of Organisational Structure: A main focus for the 2021 is for the office to recruit the Principle Land officer South, Admin & Finance officer north and to complete and submit it reviewed structure which will portrait the 4 main functions for the CLMO office. It will have 4 sections that will look at Dispute resolution, Registry and case management, Education, Training and Legal and Custom land management. We have already start work on that with the HR office for MOJC.

Continue to issue Certificate: In the 2021 BP, the office planned again to issue at least 45 green certificates by the end of 2021. It is a key focus for 2021.

Develop the Mapping System & CLMO Website: Developing the mapping system and CLMO website is another key target for 2021. It is a need for the office to have a mapping system and a website.

Continue with trainings and Awareness: Continuing with awareness on 6 island that is 1 island per province and training for 6 islands that 1 island per province.

Continue to implement the land reform (amendment) act: The focus of 2020 will also be based on the processing of negotiator certificate applicants and report to LMPC on leases.

Mota Island and South West Malekula Pilot Project: The CLMO office has already started awareness on the island of Mota last year 2020. This year will be the second awareness to be done in Mota as a mono cultural Community and the First awareness on south West Malekula as a multi -cultural community. We are piloting this projects to achieve land Finality for this two areas.

Infrastructure Improvements: The CLMO office in its business plan for 2021 made it a priority to secure a building for the CLMO Penama Office and Shefa CLMO. We are currently working at locating a building in Port Vila to house the CLMO office.

Apply for Training and awareness NPP in Supplementary Budget: Last year 2020 we have been allocated an NPP of 9.4 Million for Training and awareness. When the budget ceiling was shared this year the NPP was not roll over, thus this has cause a lot of problem with the current implementation of our Training and awareness program.