

Prototyping and Pilot Implementation Statement

Design and Engineering

We will start with a site visit, It is important to know the people of Marou Village, the site and the constraints involved.

The basic (solar) module will be engineered, shop drawings and assembly instructions drawn up. Preliminary costing will be looked at to make sure we are not only within budget but also making sure we come up with the most economical product.

Fabrication

We will then fabricate the parts and a 1:1 scale model will be assembled. Testing and checks will then follow. Solar panels will be procured in Fiji.

Transportation

The model will be disassembled and packed making sure the right tools are provided to assist on site. Once the prototype is tested and installed, production in Fiji can be explored.

Installation

We will work with local partners in Fiji to transport the materials and assemble on site. We have working relationship with local consultants and builders should they be required, otherwise our aim is to make sure our design can be installed by locals.

Operations and Maintenance Statement

Minimizing maintenance and replacements is a main design principle for our submission. From the choice of materials, production, delivery and installation. Our approach to technology in remote areas should be one of engagement rather than a plug, play and forget approach.

A simple act of preparing for a cyclone every year will promote care rather than fear of this technology. Rather than waiting on a technician to travel in to repair and maintain this system, the locals could be educated to do more.

Similarly, with the rainwater harvesting, we have opted for both the passive underground storage system with the above ground collecting system. Like most houses in Fiji, the eaves gutters are the first to fail and without replacement, the rainwater from roofs cannot be harvested.

Finance is a big hurdle for remote communities when operating and maintaining any technology system. Our approach to this, was to include the Living Module that will provide the community with income that can utilised to pay for any operation or maintenance issues.

