



# Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2016-2030

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU





Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



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NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD  
on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction  
GOVERNMENT OF VANUATU



# Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2016-2030

**GOVERNMENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF VANUATU**



**SPC**  
Secretariat  
of the Pacific  
Community

Suva, Fiji, 2015

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This Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy has been developed with support from the United Nations Development Programme, Secretariat of the Pacific Community – German Agency for International Cooperation (SPC/GIZ), and the Australian Government.

The policy draws on work undertaken over a three-year period, including programs from 2011 funded by SPC/GIZ and the Risk Governance Assessment of the National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction.

A wide range of national government ministries and departments have contributed to the development of this policy, including participation in delivering provincial consultation workshops.

The advice and assistance of provincial governments and area councils in arranging and participating in provincial workshops and providing feedback is acknowledged.

Many stakeholders, including the Council of Churches, Chamber of Commerce, and civil society organizations including the Vanuatu Climate Action Network and the Vanuatu Association of Non-Government Organizations have made contributions to this policy.

The policy working group guided the development of the policy, with membership from the Prime Minister's Office, Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department, Department of Energy, Department of Environment, National Disaster Management Office, Vanuatu Climate Action Network, Vanuatu Humanitarian Team, Vanuatu Association of Non-Governmental Organisations, United Nations Development Programme and SPC/GIZ.

## FOREWORD BY THE PRIME MINISTER

Vanuatu's society, environment and economy are highly vulnerable to climate change and disaster risks. The devastating consequences of the category 5 tropical cyclone in March 2015 and the subsequent severe El Nino event highlight our country's risk from natural disasters. Predicted increases in extreme weather from climate change means we will face even greater impacts in the future. We also live with the threat of volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis.

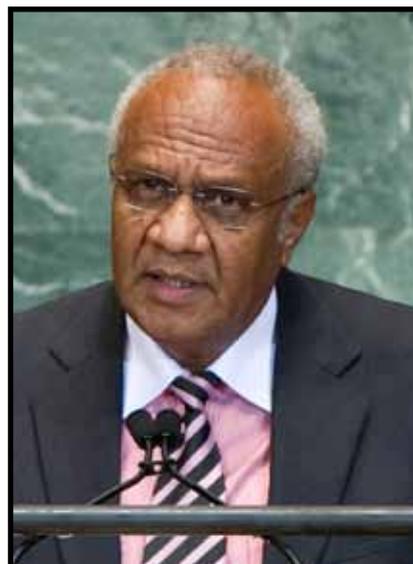
A key priority for the Vanuatu government is achieving sustainable and resilient development across all levels and sectors in our small island nation, by addressing the risks we face from climate change and disaster impacts. We need to collaborate with our partners to plan and prepare for, and respond to, these challenges.

It is vital that we make the best use of our human, natural and financial resources. For decades, climate change and disaster risk reduction were treated at global, regional and national levels as separate policy issues, leading to duplication of structures and funding. The Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy is an important advance in integrating work in these overlapping fields, placing Vanuatu at the forefront of innovative approaches in the Pacific and internationally. The contributions of partners in government, private sector, international agencies and especially civil society is acknowledged in the development of this policy.

This policy promotes good governance and establishes clear priorities for future action. It will deliver better information on and assessment of our climate change and disaster risks. Our key strategies are set out transparently to all stakeholders, including the community we serve, international donors and agencies. The policy builds on our existing systems and cultural heritage to improve Vanuatu's resilience, and incorporates monitoring and evaluation of projects and outcomes, and capturing experience and lessons learned to inform planning and good practices.

Coordination and communication at all levels of government and across sectors and communities are crucial to the effective implementation of this policy. Provincial authorities and area councils play key roles, in line with decentralization.

The policy promotes active participation and engagement of all groups in society, recognizing their different priorities, skills and knowledge in addressing climate and disaster risks. Women and vulnerable groups – including the elderly, disabled and youth – will share in planning, decision-making and community action. I welcome this initiative to build Vanuatu's resilience and support the sustain development of our community, environment and economy.



  
**Honorable Meltek Sato KILMAN LITUVANU (MP)**  
Prime Minister



REPUBLIC OF VANUATU  
PREMIER  
MINISTRE  
MINISTER  
REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

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## ABBREVIATIONS

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CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (German Agency for International Cooperation)
MCC	Ministry of Climate Change
NAB	National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
NSDP	National Sustainable Development Plan
PMO	Prime Minister's Office
PRRP	Pacific Risk Resilience Program
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SRDP	Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Vanuatu is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change and disaster risks. The island nation experiences cyclones, storm surges, landslides, flooding and droughts, which may become more intense as a result of climate change. Vanuatu is also highly exposed to geophysical threats such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis, as well as human, animal and plant diseases, and human-caused disasters.

The vision of this Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy is for Vanuatu to be a nation whose communities, environment and economy are resilient to the impacts of climate change and disaster risks. Risks cannot be completely eliminated, however this policy provides a framework through which risks can be identified, assessed, reduced and managed.

At the global, regional and national levels, disaster risk reduction and climate change agencies, activities and funding have been previously managed separately. A recent shift in philosophy now views the integration of climate change and disaster risk reduction initiatives as the best way to make use of resources and avoid duplication of effort. Vanuatu started this process with the establishment of the National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in 2012.<sup>1</sup> The government undertook a risk governance assessment to analyse Vanuatu's climate change and disaster risk governance capacity and needs at both national and local levels.<sup>2</sup> The policy incorporates recommendations from that assessment and draws on local, provincial and national consultations.

The policy will apply six principles: 1) accountability, 2) sustainability, 3) equity, 4) community focus, 5) collaboration, and 6) innovation. It aims to be accessible to and implemented by all government agencies and non-governmental stakeholders. The policy takes a practical approach, taking into consideration Vanuatu's resources, exposure to risks, and demographic situation. It seeks to strengthen existing capacity at national, provincial and area council levels, drawing on the country's rich heritage, traditional knowledge and the lessons learned from the broad range of initiatives regarding climate change and disaster risk reduction.

The government of Vanuatu is committed to six key priorities to direct the country's climate change and disaster risk reduction efforts. These priorities fall into two categories – systems and themes.

Systems include governance, finance, knowledge and information, while themes include climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, low carbon development, and response and recovery.

A number of cross-cutting issues have also been considered in developing this policy and will be applied during implementation, including social and gender inclusion, capacity building, multi-hazard approaches, partnerships and mainstreaming into the business of a broad range of agencies and sectors. While the policy includes high-level strategies, detailed actions, lead and support agencies, resources and timelines will be further developed for implementation.

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<sup>1</sup> The National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction was officially established by the Council of Ministers Decision in 2012, and is supported in its design and establishment by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community-German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) 'Coping with Climate Change' programme.

<sup>2</sup> The risk governance assessment, which resulted in the 'Risk Governance Assessment Report: Strengthening Climate and Disaster Risk Governance in Vanuatu', was undertaken from August to December 2013 by independent consultants supported by the United Nations Development Programme's Pacific Regional Risk Resilience Programme and Australian Aid, and endorsed by the National Advisory Board in February 2014.

## 1 PURPOSE

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The purpose of this policy is to:

- articulate Vanuatu's vision, principles, strategic goals, priorities and strategies for climate change and disaster risk reduction;
- provide the framework for mainstreaming climate change and disaster risk reduction into sustainable development processes;
- improve coordination and planning of programmes, projects and funding across ministries, departments, development partners, academia, civil society organisations (CSOs) and the private sector;
- ensure that stakeholders, including donors, CSOs, the private sector and communities understand and align themselves and their actions with Vanuatu's policy direction;
- strengthen the ability of governance and financial systems to access additional funds, enabling more equitable sharing in resourcing relative to Vanuatu's high level of vulnerability; and
- facilitate accountability through monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

## 2 VISION

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The vision for the Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy is: 'Vanuatu is a resilient community, environment and economy'.

## 3 PRINCIPLES

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The principles guiding development and implementation of this policy are:

- **Accountability** – incorporating rigorous processes, transparent decision-making and public reporting to ensure appropriate use of resources, and steering the climate change and disaster risk reduction agenda;
- **Sustainability** – strengthening existing systems through building on experience, learning from events, activities and good practice to ensure continuity beyond the short and medium term;
- **Equity** – providing opportunities for meaningful participation by all groups in society, including women, youth, the elderly, people with disabilities, remote communities; valuing traditional practices; and engaging with all levels of government, industry sectors, development partners, donors, academia, regional and international bodies;
- **Community focus** – empowering communities at the local level through a bottom-up approach, drawing on local skills, values and traditional knowledge, and enhancing decentralisation in planning, programmes and projects;
- **Collaboration** – partnering among government, regional, global and national CSOs, private sector, development partners, donors, and academic institutions to build networks and share knowledge and information; and
- **Innovation** – enabling dynamic systems that are science and evidence based, adaptable to changing situations, incorporating traditional knowledge and practice, emerging trends, technological advances and local contexts.

## 4 DEFINITIONS

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To avoid confusion surrounding the terminology for climate change and disaster risk reduction, definitions used in this policy are in line with those that have been internationally and regionally agreed upon. While nationally relevant terminology has been developed for Vanuatu for disaster risk management, climate change terms will be addressed through the National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (NAB). For the purpose of this policy, climate change terms are defined in Attachment 1.

## 5 CONTEXT

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### 5.1 POLICY CONTEXT

#### 5.1.1 GLOBAL

At the global level, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 seeks to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks, and aims to achieve a substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of people, businesses, communities and countries over the next 15 years. The Sendai Framework carries forward from the UNISDR Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.

The four priorities for action under this framework are:

- understanding disaster risk reduction;
- strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk;
- investing in disaster reduction for resilience; and
- enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to build back better in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was endorsed in 1992. Since that time, a large number of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures and approaches have been agreed to at the international level. Tools to achieve these goals include national adaptation plans (NAPs) for priority activities to address climate change adaptation needs and priorities.

Under the UNFCCC, national communications are required to report on national greenhouse gas emissions and actions taken or to be taken to reduce these. These communications also report on current and expected climate change on various sectors, and include implemented and anticipated adaptation activities. The document is valuable for planning and development related to climate change. Vanuatu's priority actions related to climate adaptation and mitigation are contained within the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution document.

The UNFCCC provides a number of climate change funding initiatives. Implementing entity accreditation enables countries to directly access substantial funding under the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund. A new international agreement on climate change is expected to be made in 2015 and will include enforceable actions to be undertaken by all parties of developed and developing nations.

#### 5.1.2 REGIONAL

At the regional level, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme have jointly facilitated the development of a proposed Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP) 2016, with an overall goal to strengthen the resilience of Pacific Island communities to the impacts of slow and sudden onset natural hazards by developing more effective and integrated ways to address climate and disaster risks, within the context of sustainable development. The new strategy is proposed to replace the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006–2016 and the Pacific Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Framework for Action 2005–2016.

The proposed SRDP identifies three goals:

- 1) strengthened integrated risk management to enhance climate and disaster resilience;
- 2) low carbon development; and
- 3) strengthened disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

The Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy is aligned with these goals through its themes of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, low carbon development, and response and recovery. The strategies

under this policy have been developed in light of the regional direction provided in the SRDP. This policy is also aligned with the Melanesian Spearhead Group Declaration on Environment and Climate Change 2012.

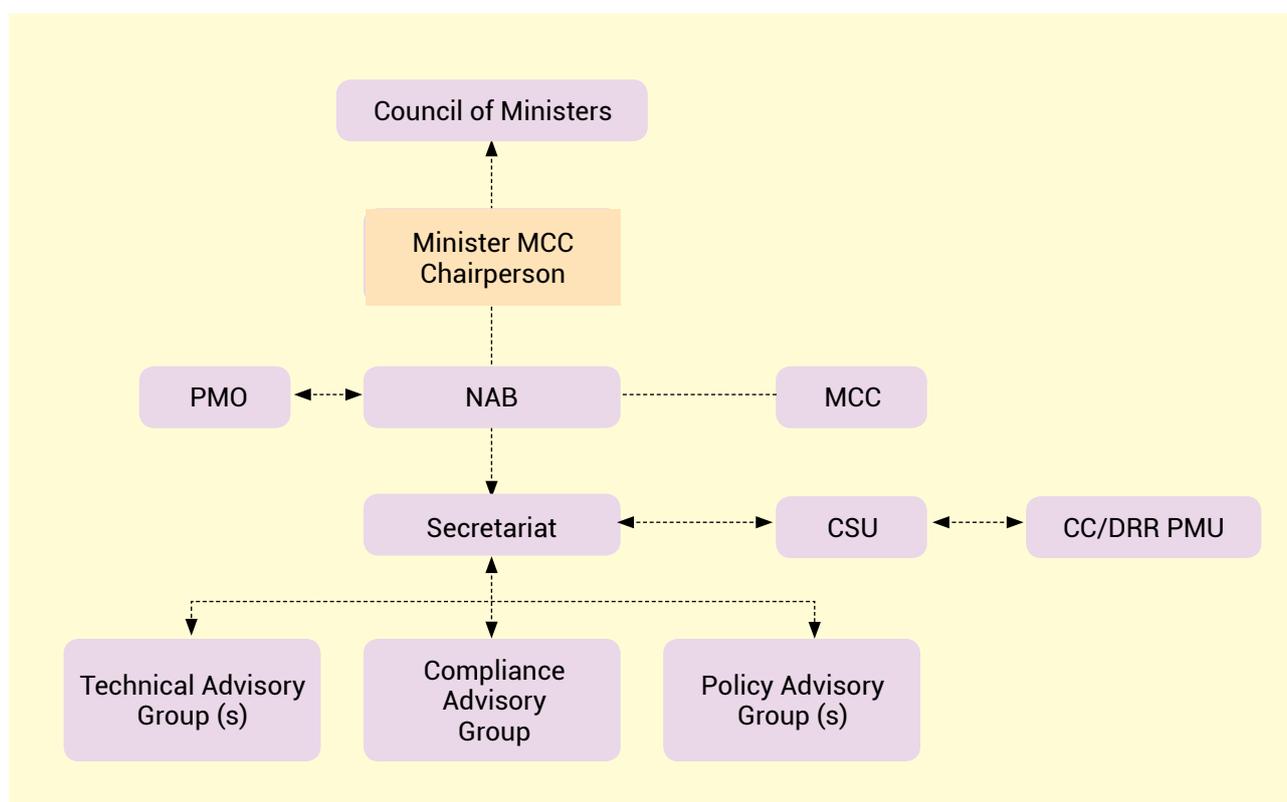
### 5.1.3 NATIONAL

In 2012, the government of Vanuatu established institutional arrangements for joint governance of climate change and disaster risk reduction through the NAB and a Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Project Management Unit within the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department. This represents a proactive approach to integrating key governance structures at the national level.

As a further key step, the NAB commenced a risk governance assessment in 2013 to strengthen systems and provide a way forward in implementing climate change and disaster risk reduction measures. The risk governance assessment report was endorsed in February 2014 and its recommendations are being implemented. Dedicated NAB Secretariat positions are being established under a key recommendation to support NAB oversight of climate change and disaster risk reduction initiatives across Vanuatu. Representation of a broad range of agencies, together with CSOs on the NAB, provides a framework for mainstreaming across sectors and inclusive planning and decision-making.

Functions and membership of the NAB and Secretariat are found in Attachment 2.

#### The proposed governance structure of the National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction.



The government of Vanuatu is currently preparing a 15-year National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) for endorsement. The NSDP is proposed to come into operation in 2016, and will incorporate three pillars: economic, environment and social, underpinned by a focus on culture. Like its predecessor – the Priorities and Action Agenda 2006–2015 and its Plan Long Act Short 2013–2016 document – the new NSDP identifies climate change and disaster risk reduction as key priorities for government. This policy is aligned with the directions of the NSDP.

Climate change and disaster risk reduction interventions are relatively new and rapidly growing areas that require increasing levels of planning and coordination. This is particularly evident given the large number of stakeholders involved in this



work in Vanuatu, including government at all levels, various sectors, donors, regional bodies, academic institutions, CSOs and communities. As a country that is highly vulnerable to climate and disaster risks, and one that has limited resources and competing needs, it is crucial for Vanuatu to use existing and potential resources more strategically and effectively. Agencies commonly have climate and/or disaster human resources now in their structure as well as dedicated sectoral units; for example, the Ministry of Agriculture's newly launched Risk and Resilience Unit<sup>3</sup>.

Vanuatu has had great success with mainstreaming climate change and disaster risk reduction into sector policies,<sup>4</sup> including the Overarching Productive Sector Policy, National Forest Policy, Agriculture Sector Policy, National Curriculum Statement, National Environment Policy, Tourism Strategic Action Plan, National Land Use Planning Policy, and the National Livestock Policy. Vanuatu's Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management National Action Plan 2006–2016 maps out priorities and a pathway for disaster risk reduction and management, although it has not yet been fully revised to address climate change considerations.

Vanuatu's National Adaptation Plan of Action 2006 listed priority adaptation strategies for the country. The plan focused on immediate actions – without taking a strategic approach – by compiling project concepts, many of which have now been implemented, around agriculture and food security, sustainable tourism development, community-based marine resource management, sustainable forestry management and integrated water resource management.

The draft Vanuatu Climate Change Strategy 2007 and draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2011 aimed at providing high-level direction and addressing policy gaps in the climate change adaptation space, but neither strategy was formally endorsed.

This policy incorporates key elements of all pre-existing plans, and builds on progress previously made in these fields. Further work is proposed to develop a new National Adaption Plan to replace the National Adaptation Plan of Action. This policy and its implementation documents will integrate climate change and disaster risk reduction policy under one framework, effectively superseding all previous documents.

<sup>3</sup> Mainstreaming climate change and disaster risk reduction into sector policies, plans and strategies has been supported by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community-German Agency for International Development (GIZ) Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Islands programme.

<sup>4</sup> The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity established the Risk and Resilience Unit under its corporate structure with six full-time officers supported by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community-German Agency for International Development (GIZ) and the United Nations Development Programme. The role of this unit is to liaise with the National Advisory Board and to further strengthen climate change adaptation and risk reduction among its line departments through to the grassroots level, including coordinating the food security cluster's responsibilities in response to disasters.

This policy takes into consideration the perspectives, needs and capacities of diverse groups of people across Vanuatu, including women, youth, the elderly, people with disabilities and remote communities by recognising their importance in acting as agents of change to manage climate and disaster risks. These groups will also be meaningfully involved in planning and implementation.

#### 5.1.4 LOCAL

Vanuatu has a rapidly growing population in both urban and rural areas, and there is a high level of reliance on natural resources for livelihoods and food security. Subsistence farming is a major feature of life in Vanuatu's villages. These factors add to the vulnerability of communities to the impacts of climate change and disaster risks.

The nation's many small islands spread across vast areas of ocean, and diverse cultures and languages and limited infrastructure make their remoteness a challenge.

Traditional knowledge remains highly valued and well used in Vanuatu. Traditional coping and early warning mechanisms contribute to existing community resilience, which must be built on, promoted and empowered through climate change and disaster risk reduction initiatives. Modern technology has been embraced in Vanuatu, with wide uptake of mobile phones and Internet resources assisting in communications and reaching a high proportion of the population. However, some remote areas remain excluded from modern communications coverage.

Vanuatu's diverse local governance systems include traditional chiefs as leaders at the village level, along with village, area and island councils. Each province has a Technical Advisory Commission of provincial and national government representatives established under the Decentralisation Act to coordinate government services at the provincial level.

Many programmes and projects are being undertaken by government and partner agencies to build resilience at the local level. Development frameworks at global, regional and national levels need to build on existing capacities and link with community aspirations and initiatives to achieve the grassroots objectives of sustainable development.

All stakeholders are expected to play a part in the implementation of this policy, and so their indicative roles and responsibilities in Vanuatu are outlined in Attachment 3.

## 5.2 RISK CONTEXT

A 2012 United Nations report assessed Vanuatu as one of the most highly exposed countries in the world to disaster risks<sup>5</sup>. Vanuatu is vulnerable to a range of hazards, including volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, climate variability, storm surge, landslides, droughts and flooding.

A profile of risks due to climate change and geohazards in Vanuatu has been developed and is available to guide planning and decision-making. Some of these climate change-related hazards include the following:

- by 2040, daily temperatures will increase from 1995 levels by 1.2 °C;
- sea level rise will continue and accelerate;
- ocean acidification will degrade 80% of coral reefs within 20 years;
- extreme temperatures will reach higher levels and become more frequent;
- extreme weather events, including cyclones and storms, will increase in intensity but not necessarily in frequency;
- dry periods will last longer; and
- extreme rainfall will be more frequent and intense.

Potential impacts of climate change on Vanuatu's agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, health, transport and infrastructure sectors were considered. Projected consequences of climate change include:

- reduced availability of fresh water;

<sup>5</sup> The World Risk Report 2012 was published by Alliance Development Works (Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft) in collaboration with the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security and The Nature Conservancy.

- shifts in crop seasonality of harvest, planting and fruiting;
- more pests and diseases of animals, crops and trees;
- saltwater inundation and intrusion of coastal land and groundwater;
- compromised food security;
- coral reef deterioration;
- reduced fisheries productivity;
- increased risk of human disease and health problems, including vector-borne disease transmission and heat-related illness;
- damage to infrastructure;
- loss of coastal land; and
- reduced economic growth and revenue generation.

The risk profile also found that risks from geo-hazards in Vanuatu are well understood, but major challenges exist due to uncertainty of frequency and intensity.

### 5.3 FINANCIAL CONTEXT

Although Vanuatu is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change and disasters risks, it receives little funding for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction actions.

Over the next decade, industrialised countries are expected to provide increasing amounts of funding for adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction actions in developing nations. To obtain its share of this funding, it is important that Vanuatu demonstrates effective systems of governance and financial management. In the past, many donors have bypassed government systems and set up stand-alone units to manage projects. This practice does little to develop and strengthen systems of national governance and is wasteful in duplicating efforts.

A priority of this policy is to strengthen the current system of governance and financial management so that development partners and Vanuatu communities have confidence that available funding is used cost-effectively. In line with this objective, this policy sets the specific target of achieving implementing entity accreditation under the Adaptation Fund and Green Climate Fund.

This accreditation will help maximise the resources available to adapt to climate change and reduce disaster risks, and deliver a significant upgrade to Vanuatu's systems of governance and financial management. This will enable the country's development and resilience building needs to be met more effectively.





## 6 STRATEGIC GOAL

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Vanuatu's strategic goal for climate change and disaster risk reduction is resilient development.

Resilient development includes activities that enable and strengthen capacities to absorb and quickly bounce back from climate and/or disaster shocks and stresses. This goal will drive planning, decision-making, programming and project delivery across government and its partners, and is aligned with the Vanuatu government's National Sustainable Development Plan 2016–2030.

## 7 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

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Six strategic priorities for this policy that will contribute to achieving the strategic goal are grouped under two categories: systems and themes.

Strategic priorities that are categorised as systems include governance, finance, and knowledge and information. The strategic priorities that are categorised as themes include climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, low carbon development, and response and recovery.

Subsequent strategies are intended to deliver on each strategic priority. In implementing the strategies, key actions are identified and supported by lead and support agencies, resources and timelines. A summary table of all actions in this policy is found in Attachment 4.

An overview diagram of the policy structure is in Attachment 5.

## 7.1 GOVERNANCE

This policy's objective with regard to governance is to enhance strategic frameworks and institutional structures to deliver effective climate change and disaster risk reduction initiatives in a coordinated, integrated and complementary manner.

The vulnerability of ni-Vanuatu (i.e. indigenous Vanuatu people) communities to disaster and climate change impacts draws attention to the human dimensions of risk management. Vulnerability levels are influenced by: 1) the consideration of risk and resilience as part of policy and planning processes; 2) consistency in approaches; 3) compliance with or enforcement of policy and standards; 4) inclusion of vulnerable groups; and 5) unified pilot or sector entry point approaches to building whole-of-government capacities and resilience. Effective governance is vital to ensure accountable decision-making and responsible use of resources. Elements of good governance include strong institutions, transparent processes, robust financial management, and participation from various societal groups.

### 7.1.1 INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES

Issues of leadership, sectoral buy-in, clarity of roles and flexibility to stakeholder demands present governance challenges in Vanuatu. Many stakeholder agencies are not fully engaged with the NAB due to limited resources at the sector level, unregulated participation in the fields of climate change and disaster risk reduction, and a limited sense of ownership in the NAB process.

#### Actions

Establish and strengthen institutional structures to effectively undertake their functions through:

- strengthening the government and NAB Secretariat's capacity to effectively perform NAB strategic support roles, and the Project Management Unit to undertake project management functions;
- establishing and strengthening coordination mechanisms for climate change and disaster risk reduction initiatives at the provincial level via the NAB, particularly through the Department of Local Authorities, to guide community-based activities;
- strengthening climate change and disaster risk reduction capacity of provincial, municipal and area council personnel;
- facilitating the equal and active participation of vulnerable groups in decision-making bodies at all governance levels via all partners and stakeholders;
- building and strengthening the capacity of government and partners to actively engage and participate in major international or regional framework processes;
- strengthening the capacity of local groups such as the Vanuatu Association of Non-Government Organisations, Vanuatu Climate Action Network, and the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team through government assistance, in recognition of their key role in representing local CSOs in the climate and disaster space;
- strengthening provincial disaster and climate change committees and community disaster and climate change committees and municipal committees, such that bottom-up planning is acknowledged and considered in national decision-making;
- strengthening traditional governance systems through partnerships among government, civil society, development partners, academia and the private sector;
- strengthening faith-based governance systems to implement climate change and disaster risk reduction activities via multi-stakeholder collaboration; and
- acknowledging and encouraging CSOs, the private sector and networks (including Vanuatu Climate Action Network and the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team) in contributing to climate change and disaster risk reduction decision-making and implementation.



### 7.1.2 LEGISLATION AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

Given developments internationally, regionally and locally in the governance and disaster risk contexts, and the emergence of global warming and climate change as key policy challenges, it is crucial that Vanuatu's legislation is reviewed and updated with contemporary practices.

In reviewing and developing new legislation, consistency with Vanuatu's Constitution and existing legislation must be considered. Arrangements between the government of Vanuatu and the international community must be made to ensure timely and appropriate provision of support for disaster response and recovery efforts. Approaches must be developed to facilitate effective international disaster response assistance.<sup>6</sup>

#### Actions

Drive strategic decision-making through contemporary legislation and policy frameworks by:

- reviewing the Meteorology Act and enacting new meteorology, geo-hazards and climate change legislation, through consultation with stakeholders;
- legislating for the existence and objectives of the NAB, including inclusive government and non-government membership;
- reviewing the National Disaster Act and enacting new legislation;
- integrating and harmonising climate change and disaster risk reduction requirements into other legislation and policies, including the Decentralisation Act and the National Sustainable Development Plan;
- implementing existing policies that already integrate climate change and disaster risk reduction directives;
- developing practical strategies to address gender and social inclusion issues within the climate change and disaster risk reduction context at all levels via government and stakeholder collaboration; and
- establishing and strengthening international agreements to ensure support from external sources for climate and disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

<sup>6</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2012) International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles in Vanuatu: A study on Vanuatu's Legal and Policy Framework for Managing Foreign Disaster Response. Through the lens of the Cyclone Pam response, several locally based non-governmental organisations produced a report entitled 'One Size Doesn't Fit All: Tailoring the International Response to the National Need Following Vanuatu's Cyclone Pam with a view to informing the Pacific Regional Consultation for the World Humanitarian Summit'. The paper suggests four key areas for action to reduce vulnerability, how to manage risk, and how to more effectively respond to disasters throughout the Pacific.

### 7.1.3 INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL OBLIGATIONS

The government of Vanuatu, as a member of the global and regional community, must take a proactive role in climate change and disaster risk reduction negotiations as well as fulfil its obligations under the related climate change and disaster international agreements.

#### Actions

Meet international climate change and disaster risk reduction obligations by:

- commencing the UNFCCC National Adaptation Plan process, building on other UNFCCC work programmes and actions outlined in this policy;
- comprehensively capturing integrated adaptation and risk reduction progress in regular completion and submission of UNFCCC national communications, biennial update reports, national adaptation plans, and intended nationally determined contributions;
- advocating and lobbying for increased international support and action at major international and regional meetings (e.g. UNFCCC Conference of the Parties, intersessional meetings and agencies associated with the UNFCCC, World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Regional Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Platforms);
- continuously engaging with and strengthening participation in negotiation blocs or mechanisms such as but not limited to the Alliance of Small Island States, G77 and China, Least Developed Countries Group, and the Melanesian Spearhead Group;
- engaging with and reporting to regional and subregional agencies on adaptation and risk reduction activities;
- continuously building capacity in international and regional adaptation and risk reduction engagement and negotiation; and
- government and CSOs allocating human resource positions, officers and budget towards the fulfilment of international obligations and activities, including forming gender balanced delegations.

### 7.1.4 STRATEGIC AND BUSINESS PLANS

The preparation of Vanuatu's NSDP has provided an opportunity to integrate climate change and disaster risk reduction activities into the country's highest development planning framework. Ministries and line agencies will similarly integrate implementation activities under their corporate and business plans. Provincial and area councils, guided by the Department of Local Authorities, will ensure that climate change and disaster risk considerations are incorporated into local development planning and budgeting processes.

#### Actions

Develop and implement strategic and business plans, integrating risk by:

- incorporating climate change and disaster risk reduction considerations into the National Sustainable Development Plan
- developing and integrating climate change and disaster risk reduction into all local councils (provincial, municipal and area level), public and private sector business plans, thereby ensuring close alignment of budgets with developed plans; and
- developing tools for community development planning, which includes climate change and disaster reliance considerations.

### 7.1.5 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems are crucial to good governance. Vanuatu must progress effective, nationally aligned and relevant monitoring, evaluation and learning processes for the wide range of climate change and disaster risk reduction projects and initiatives currently being implemented through various government agencies, development partners and CSOs.

## Actions

Integrate M&E into project and programme design across government agencies and stakeholder groups by:

- Government, CSOs, development partners and the private sector strengthening and enhancing M&E of climate change and disaster risk reduction activities at national, provincial and area council levels
- collaboratively (via the government, led by the Department of Strategic Policy Planning and Aid Coordination) developing an M&E framework to ensure accountability and provide guidance and consistency around climate change and disaster resilience;
- undertaking training on climate change and disaster monitoring and evaluation with relevant officers within the government and other agencies; and
- utilising the results of M&E activities to improve planning and implementation of further initiatives.

## 7.2 FINANCE

This policy's objective with regard to finance is to ensure that adequate resourcing is available for climate change and disaster risk reduction activities, build financial capacity to manage resources, and enable access to increased international funding. Robust financial systems must be in place and operating effectively for Vanuatu to gain access to and ensure accountable management of substantial climate change and disaster risk reduction funding.

### 7.2.1 FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

For Vanuatu to achieve progress on the full range of priorities identified in this policy, it will need the support of development partners and donors, and commitment from all levels of government and stakeholders. Given the cross-cutting nature of climate change and disaster risk reduction, funding from the budgets of ministries, departments, provincial governments, area councils, CSOs and industry sectors will be required to enable and implement climate change and disaster risk reduction measures.

## Actions

Ensure that adequate funding is available for climate change and disaster risk reduction by:

- allocating funding in budgets for climate change and disaster risk reduction by development partners, donors, national and provincial governments, area councils, CSOs, and industry sectors;
- advocating for funding to be provided directly to the national government by donor partners and in line with national government policies and plans;
- ensuring that external funding is channelled through existing government financial systems;
- progressing the establishment of a national trust fund for climate change and disaster risk reduction;
- exploring opportunities for partnering with the private sector for investment in climate change and disaster risk reduction, including in renewable energy and waste management;
- exploring options for a climate change and disaster risk reduction insurance or risk sharing scheme;
- ensuring that financial accountability mechanisms are in place and operating effectively, including transparency of decision-making in allocation of funding; and
- facilitating arrangements within Vanuatu and with the international community to ensure timely access to disaster response and recovery funds as needed.

### 7.2.2 IMPLEMENTING ENTITY ACCREDITATION

Implementing entity accreditation provides direct access to finance, enhances harmonisation with national plans, builds capacity, improves ownership and accountability, and avoids duplication with national systems, plans and priorities. It would also better target national priorities and reduce transaction costs under other financing modalities.

It is difficult for smaller countries to gain implementing entity accreditation given their capacity constraints; therefore, substantial work is needed across a range of areas to meet the requirements. In implementing Vanuatu's National Implementing Entities Accreditation Roadmap, provincial, municipal and area councils must be engaged with the support of development partners.

### Actions

Establish and build on robust financial systems, including facilitating implementing entity accreditation by December 2017 by:

- making measurable improvements in climate change and disaster risk reduction budgeting, financial statements, reporting, audit processes, procurement practices, project management, and transparency policies; and
- lobbying regional and international partners for support on obtaining NIE status.

### 7.2.3 SMALL GRANTS SCHEMES

A goal of this policy is to establish small grants schemes that channel funding to approved community-based organisations and individuals for adaptation and disaster risk reduction projects.

Small grants schemes can provide incentives for communities to develop and implement climate change and disaster risk reduction plans, and allow communities to direct funds to local priorities, thereby improving awareness and ownership. This approach is aligned with the government's policy on decentralisation, and builds capacity at the provincial and area council level.

### Actions

Improve small grants schemes for climate change and disaster risk reduction initiatives by:

- establishing new and refining existing small grants schemes that expand on and align with current arrangements, ensuring coordination and consistency;
- making schemes accessible through the development of simple, easy-to-use manuals and proposal templates targeted to the local level, and including training for users;
- ensuring that existing small grants schemes prioritise climate change and disaster risk reduction and align with national policies;
- basing allocation of small grants on equity, vulnerability and needs-based criteria; and
- ensuring rigorous monitoring and evaluation of small grants scheme outcomes for resilience.



## 7.3 KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION

This policy's seeks to meet stakeholders' needs for climate change and disaster risk knowledge and information, and improve communication-related interventions that empower appropriate climate and disaster risk management actions.

Vanuatu's information management for climate change and disaster risk management will be improved to enable informed decision-making for planning, development and disaster operations and development of accurate community awareness tools.

### 7.3.1 INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

#### Actions

Strengthen existing systems to improve information capture, access and application by:

- ensuring that NAB's information, education and communication endorsement process is used by all climate change and disaster risk reduction material developers;
- monitoring the effectiveness of materials and communication endorsed under the information, education and communication process;
- ensuring participation of all relevant government and stakeholder bodies, including provincial governments and the National Statistics Office in information management processes;
- ensuring that up-to-date project information, resources, reports, events and contacts are accessible on the NAB portal; and
- utilizing technology transfer and methodologies that are adapted for the Vanuatu context.

### 7.3.2 TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

People in Vanuatu have long-held traditional practices to deal with temperature and rainfall variability, cyclones and geological hazards. These have started to be systematically documented and incorporated into planning processes, and further work is urgently required. Stakeholders at provincial and community levels place high importance on respecting, recording and sharing traditional knowledge, including traditional early warning and coping mechanisms.

#### Actions

Build on and share existing traditional knowledge and expand its use by:

- collecting, recording and incorporating traditional knowledge into planning, while ensuring appropriate cultural protocols are respected;
- making traditional knowledge accessible to decision-makers, while considering intellectual property rights, through databases and training;
- including traditional knowledge in formal and informal school curricula; and
- building on existing traditional knowledge strategies already captured on the NAB portal and by the Vanuatu Cultural Centre.

### 7.3.3 KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Much progress has been made in collaboration among agencies and the use of networks to collect and disseminate information, and further work is required, particularly in building linkages with regional educational and learning networks. Awareness sessions provide useful information to small audiences at the provincial and community levels, and this approach can be strengthened with the use of new information and communications technology tools, more effective resource use and collaboration across organisations.

## Actions

Develop and build on knowledge management systems, including:

- acknowledging and promoting the valuable knowledge on climate change and disaster risk reduction that already exists in Vanuatu;
- developing new materials that are relevant and compatible to the local context;
- developing and communicating standardised technical messages for enhanced decision- making;
- utilizing and strengthening existing networks and knowledge sharing mechanisms;
- exploring options for national-scale climate change and disaster risk reduction summit meetings and events; and
- initiating new knowledge management systems that build on increased accessibility of information and communications technology tools

### 7.3.4 LESSONS LEARNED

Learning from experience is an essential element of continuous improvement for organisations, and this is particularly important in the context of disaster risk reduction. Systems must be developed to document experiences and lessons learned during and after a climate or disaster related impact.

## Actions

Enhance lessons learned processes and use of lessons learned in programmes and projects by:

- gathering and recording lessons learned from activities, events and exercises from across levels of government and from stakeholders to inform planning, policy and practice;
- ensuring participation in lessons learned information gathering of all stakeholders and partners from national, provincial and community levels and that outcomes are shared with communities;
- ensuring the inclusion of women and all vulnerable groups in lessons learned processes;
- incorporating lessons learned into school curricula and informal education programmes; and
- requiring that lessons learned products, according to established guidelines, form a part of all climate change and disaster risk reduction projects and programmes.





### 7.3.5 DATA ANALYSIS

Up-to-date, accurate climate change and disaster risk reduction data and technical analysis of that data are essential for the government of Vanuatu and relevant parties to make informed decisions for development planning, targeted community awareness, preparedness and response.

#### Actions

Enhance data analysis by:

- establishing a central database to collect, store and enable access to relevant data, ideally in a publically accessible format on the NAB portal;
- coordinating government agencies and stakeholders, including academic institutions, in data collection and analysis;
- facilitating partnerships, though memoranda of understanding, with national, regional and international agencies to enhance data collection, sharing and analysis;
- incorporating data analysis into planning and decision-making processes, and prioritising highly vulnerable communities and individuals with special needs; and
- collecting and analysing sex and age disaggregated data.

### 7.3.6 RESEARCH

In addition to furthering climatological research, efforts also need to be made in researching social and economic elements of climate and disaster resilience, including community vulnerability and capacity, and adoption of appropriate adaptation approaches.

#### Actions

Strengthen research activity and capacity by:

- identifying and progressing priority climate science, socioeconomic and disaster risk research projects;
- partnering with academic and international institutions and relevant agencies;
- seeking resourcing for priority research projects;
- coordinating research across agencies and institutions through robust research governance arrangements; and
- sharing and applying research project outcomes.

### 7.3.7 RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk assessment is essential to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation processes, and involves a process of establishing hazard exposure, sensitivity, consequences, vulnerable elements, scale and adaptive capacities. Risk assessment enables informed decision-making and communication to stakeholders, and should be the basis of all climate change and disaster risk reduction activities. Technical assistance may be required to augment the risk assessment expertise available within Vanuatu.

#### Actions

Strengthen risk assessment processes by:

- undertaking multi-hazard risk and social risk mapping exercises to inform planning at local, provincial and national levels and involving relevant stakeholders;
- utilising the results of risk assessments in designing programmes and projects;
- developing and building capacity in the use of risk assessment tools, such as geographic information systems and mobile phone and/or tablet platforms, to ensure consistency and effectiveness;
- increasing rainfall collectors and installing telemetered automated weather stations across Vanuatu;
- ensuring that all active volcanoes have monitoring facilities that meet minimum data standards, and increasing the number of volcano monitoring stations on active volcanoes nearby to high population centers;
- upgrading the seismic network for earthquake location in Vanuatu; and
- increasing the number of earthquake monitoring stations to cover the entire nation.

## 7.4 CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The objective here is to integrate and strengthen climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction initiatives across national, provincial and local levels, and across all sectors.

Successful climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction actions in Vanuatu require co-implementation that is inclusive and builds on both indigenous and externally derived knowledge. It is essential that activities are coordinated among multiple partners. Priority climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction policy directives can be found at the sector level in a range of sector policies, plans and strategies.

### 7.4.1 CLIMATE AND DISASTER VULNERABILITY AND MULTI-SECTOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Vanuatu's urban and rural communities are diverse requiring that climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction action be tailored to the unique characteristics of each individual community. Climate and disaster risk vulnerability assessments shall be undertaken within communities to inform the design of effective projects and programmes, considering all sectors relevant to the local context, and inclusive of all stakeholders.

#### Actions

Address site-specific climate and disaster vulnerabilities by:

- utilising vulnerability assessments, multi-hazard and social risk mapping and approaches as the basis of all adaptation and risk reduction actions;
- conducting participatory vulnerability assessments prior to implementation;
- utilising nationally available expertise for vulnerability assessments, incorporating scientific and socioeconomic research, farmer-based trials, traditional indicators and observation systems and demonstration sites;
- selecting and prioritising actions based on transparent vulnerability criteria and using internationally recognised tools (e.g. environmental impact assessment, gender analysis, cost-benefit analysis);
- using available data, statistics and assessment protocols wherever possible;
- publically sharing assessment data, information and results on the NAB portal; and

- developing climate and disaster risk focused early-warning systems and climate service products (e.g. seasonal outlooks) that are tailored to specific users' needs.

Adopt multi-sectoral approaches and address complex impacts by:

- considering adaptation and risk reduction information from multiple sectors and knowledge systems;
- avoiding mal-adaptation measures that could result from a narrow, single-sector focus; and
- considering both urban and rural adaptation and risk reduction issues equitably.

#### 7.4.2 INTEGRATED CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Vanuatu is leading a regional shift in the way it integrates climate change and disaster risk reduction governance and implementation, which in turn leads to more efficient service delivery and streamlined approaches.

##### Actions

Relevant initiatives and programmes must include an integrated climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction approach by:

- developing strategic documents at all levels, including both climate change and disaster risk elements in an integrated and compatible way (e.g. government policies, provincial plans, community strategies, municipal plans, donor project designs, budget frameworks);
- government agencies, CSOs, private sector, academia, communities and individuals taking responsibility for identifying integrated adaptation and risk reduction priorities;
- adhering to integrated and standardised approaches once initiatives have been endorsed by the NAB;
- incorporating an integrated curriculum approach to formal and non-formal education programmes; and
- developing innovative partnerships, including with the private sector, to integrate climate and risk reduction approaches and actions.

#### 7.4.3 COMMUNITY-BASED ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Enabling communities to increase their capacity to adapt to ongoing and uncertain changes requires active collaboration among government, partner agencies, CSOs, and particularly vulnerable and marginalised groups, in developing and delivering community-based adaptation and risk reduction programmes.

##### Actions

Adaptation and risk reduction action in communities addresses real, current and priority vulnerabilities by:

- undertaking community vulnerability assessments and comprehensive profiles prior to project implementation;
- engaging communities to participate in and lead the vulnerability assessment process in an appropriate language; and
- ensuring that the results of community assessments are returned to the communities that have participated.

Adaptation and risk reduction is owned and driven by communities by:

- developing community adaptation and risk reduction plans and actions through a bottom-up planning approach;
- utilising and strengthening existing community systems for adaptation and risk reduction initiatives;
- identifying adaptation and risk reduction activities that bring additional, no regrets, social, environmental and economic benefits to communities and individuals;
- including capacity building to ensure continuity and meaningful ownership;
- requiring initiatives at the community level to include strong in-kind community contributions to avoid reliance on external support; and
- working within traditional and local knowledge and values so that these systems become more resilient.

Rights and needs of individuals are respected and recognised by:

- ensuring that adaptation and risk reduction initiatives incorporate the rights, priorities and needs of individuals (particularly vulnerable and marginalised groups, including the elderly, women, youth, children, disabled, illiterate, landless, minority and impoverished);
- ensuring that community stakeholders and vulnerable groups are included in climate change adaptation and risk reduction initiatives and have an institutionalized role and voice in island, municipal, provincial and national climate and disaster decision-making;
- acknowledging and empowering the government and non-governmental organisations that are already engaged in communities to champion climate and disaster risk planning and action at the grassroots level; and
- ensuring that community resilience and self-reliance are not compromised by development aid programmes.

#### 7.4.4 LOSS AND DAMAGE

Vanuatu will establish mechanisms to assess and redress loss and damage incurred as a result of climate change. Dialogue has been undertaken on a broader concept of risk reduction, sharing and transfer, insurance and rehabilitation, through international platforms such as the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage.

#### Actions

Take action around loss and damage by:

- strongly advocating internationally and domestically to operationalise and implement action under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage;
- developing a loss and damage implementation framework, including risk sharing, insurance and compensation approaches at replacement value;
- conducting assessments on potential and actual loss and damage across the country linked with ongoing vulnerability assessment processes;
- determining priority Vanuatu sectoral issues and quantifying losses (e.g. food security, culture, ecosystem services and integrity);
- mainstreaming loss and damage into land and relocation policies and laws;
- providing clarity on enforcement of and the mandate for climate proofing development among government line agencies; and
- ensuring that the design and construction of public and other major infrastructure and development projects consider current and projected risks in order to minimise loss and damage, especially by developing and adhering to climate-proofed building codes, environmental impact assessments, regulations and development guidelines.



#### 7.4.5 ECOSYSTEM-BASED APPROACHES

Vanuatu's diverse ecosystems are being threatened by climate change as are the livelihoods and wellbeing of the ni-Vanuatu people who rely on them for income and food. Ecosystems provide cost-effective adaptation services, and effective natural resource management can minimise the risks of climate change and disasters while enhancing livelihoods resilience. This policy is aligned with the National Environment Policy that prioritises climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures.

##### Actions

Support ecosystem adaptation and risk reduction services by:

- prioritising actions that incorporate threats and solutions from the 'ridge to the reef' of island communities;
- identifying and minimising negative impacts on the environment from proposed adaptation and risk reduction activities;
- prioritising adaptation and risk reduction actions that build on, incorporate and protect taboos, conservation areas, heritage sites, locally managed areas and vulnerable habitats and ecosystems and carbon sinks;
- quantifying the value and benefit of ecosystem services and building this into adaptation and risk reduction planning and budgeting;
- prioritising "soft" ecosystem based adaptation over "hard" engineered infrastructure for ecosystem function maintenance (e.g. coastal revegetation versus sea walls);
- developing advocacy and educational programmes around the value of ecosystem-based adaptation; and
- utilising sound land-use planning approaches, and implementing and enforcing ecosystem-related development policy documents (e.g. Land Use Planning Policy, Foreshore Development Act, Physical Planning Act).

### 7.5 LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT

The objective of low carbon development is to expand sustainable development opportunities that reduce carbon emissions and simultaneously contribute to resilient livelihoods and wellbeing. In the global context, Vanuatu's actions have a minimal impact on climate change. However, renewable energy and energy efficiency investments have significant benefits in terms of minimising negative impacts on the environment, and mitigating climate change. Conservation of the natural environment is vital to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Sustainable tourism and other green development activities can bring substantially higher social, economic and environmental benefit and resilience than high carbon developments.

#### 7.5.1 ENERGY ROAD MAP, RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The government of Vanuatu endorsed the Vanuatu National Energy Road Map 2013–2020, implemented by the Department of Energy, which commenced in March 2013. This document provides for Vanuatu's future strategic direction on energy, including climate change mitigation, through increased use of renewable and geothermal energy. The road map will play a vital role in shaping renewable energy demand, energy efficiency and carbon dioxide emissions, and meeting proposed carbon intensity targets and climate commitments in the NSDP. A mid-term review of the road map will outline the energy sector's implementation plans to achieve the climate change and disaster risk-reduction commitments.

An energy sector priority identified in the road map is mitigating climate change through renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation. A further objective is to reduce reliance on imported diesel and petroleum products through efficiency improvements in the transport sector and investment in renewable energy in the power generation sector. Many of Vanuatu's specific priorities are also outlined in the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution document submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

## Actions

Support implementation of the Vanuatu National Energy Road Map and energy considerations for climate change adaptation and risk reduction by:

- encouraging the increased use of renewable energy sources in power generation and lighting activities with the participation of all energy service providers;
- ensuring the reduction in fossil fuel burning for engines by replacing heavy diesel fuel combustion engines with alternative technologies that use cleaner, lighter fuels;
- exploring the possibility of powering sea-going vessels and land-based vehicles with renewable energy;
- ensuring improvements in the fuel efficiency for the transport sector (land, sea and air) by standardising engine fuel efficiency;
- ensuring that national fuel quality standards are enacted; and
- implementing activities for measuring effluent at potential pollution sites such as diesel power generation plants and at traffic ways.

### 7.5.2 MITIGATION AND REDD+

The government of Vanuatu is undertaking REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) Readiness to enhance mitigation efforts in forest management. Its objective is to strengthen Vanuatu's capacity to design a socially and environmentally inclusive national strategy for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. It will also provide for conservation, sustainable forest management, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. National mitigation considerations should equally consider forest and terrestrial (green) carbon sinks, as well as oceanic, coral reef, and seagrass (blue) sinks.

## Actions

Enhance Vanuatu's natural resource status through carbon mitigation opportunities by:

- efficiently inventorying, quantifying, mapping and sorting data on carbon stocks in critical ecosystems to ensure accessibility;
- developing and strengthening planning and legal frameworks to avoid damage to high carbon natural resources and ecosystems (e.g. mangroves, coral reefs and sea grasses); and
- developing partnerships on blue and green carbon sinks with other countries in the region to accelerate progress and build capacity and expertise.

Engage with and expand Vanuatu's REDD+ and green carbon<sup>7</sup> activities by:

- supporting and engaging in the international REDD+ Readiness process, through the National REDD+ Technical Committee;
- engaging civil society and the private sector to support national REDD+ strategies and REDD+ projects;
- developing government arrangements that oversee and ensure adherence of carbon financing ventures;
- ensuring that REDD+ initiatives have core components that create equitable benefits and avoid activities that could have negative impacts on communities;
- ensuring that REDD+ in Vanuatu operates under a jurisdictional approach, in which sustainable land use activities are planned and implemented at the provincial or island level;
- operationalising and expanding voluntary markets for payment for ecosystem services; and
- ensuring that the National REDD+ Technical Committee meets regularly and steers the REDD+ engagement process under the UNFCCC and in voluntary markets.

<sup>7</sup> "Green Carbon" refers to Carbon which is incorporated into plant biomass and the soils below, while "Blue Carbon" refers to Carbon which is captured by oceanic and marine organisms including by coastal habitats such as coral reefs, sea grasses and marine sediments

Prioritise green growth and low carbon development by:

- utilising international climate financing sector opportunities to enhance and protect Vanuatu's rich natural resources, through carbon sequestration and emissions reductions in the land use sector;
- emphasising and expanding synergies among low carbon development, mitigation and adaptation;
- implementing a green growth framework under the Melanesian Spearhead Group to minimise carbon emissions;
- screening development approvals and permits according to their carbon footprint and efforts to prioritise green development alternatives;
- striving to follow sustainable consumption and production patterns; and
- supporting the implementation of green growth policy statements in the National Environment Policy.

## 7.6 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

The objective here is to strengthen and build capacity in the areas of disaster preparedness, planning, response and recovery.

The broad range of disaster risks facing Vanuatu creates many challenges. This is heightened by the isolation of many islands, diverse languages, low education levels and lack of infrastructure. There is an urgent need to build the resources and capacity of the disaster management system in Vanuatu to avoid gaps in planning, coordination, community awareness and engagement with other government agencies and stakeholders. Mainstreaming disaster response and recovery requires a holistic approach at the international, national, provincial and community levels.

### 7.6.1 PLANNING

Planning is a key tool to articulate direction and guide future activities within government and with stakeholders. Strong networks across sectors are vital to ensure inclusive participation in planning processes and effective implementation. Plans should be regularly reviewed and updated to align with emerging trends and changing circumstances in local, national, regional and global environments.

#### Actions

Enhance response and recovery planning by:

- integrating disaster response and recovery into national, sectoral, provincial, municipal and community level plans;
- developing guidelines and trainings to ensure appropriate standards and consistency when integrating climate change and disaster risk reduction into subnational planning and budgeting processes;
- strengthening the cluster system<sup>8</sup>, including national and provincial clusters;
- providing accessible user-friendly tools and support for use at the provincial, municipal and local level (e.g. clear relief distribution guidelines);
- providing special support for internally displaced populations;
- carefully regulating the activities of response stakeholders, including international relief agencies;
- allocating geographical and thematic support to specific agencies to avoid duplication; and
- expanding the collection and dissemination of information in disaster response situations, including the '3Ws' (who, what where) methodologies.

<sup>8</sup> "Cluster" refers to the humanitarian coordination system used by the United Nations and includes groups of humanitarian organizations (UN and non-UN) working in the main sectors of humanitarian action, e.g. shelter and health. They are created when clear humanitarian needs exist within a sector, when there are numerous actors within sectors and when national authorities need coordination support. Vanuatu Clusters include gender/protection, logistics, food security, education, health, shelter, water, sanitation hygiene.

## 7.6.2 PREPAREDNESS

Disaster preparedness is the business of a broad range of agencies and across all levels of government to the provincial and area council levels, depending on the nature of the event. Non-governmental organisations, international agencies and the private sector play key roles.

The remoteness of many of Vanuatu's islands and communities presents challenges in preparedness and response coordination. Training is an important element of disaster risk management to ensure that agencies and stakeholders have the necessary skills and systems to support them. Training needs to be regularly reinforced, and collaboration should be promoted across partner organisations as part of comprehensive training programmes.

### Actions

Strengthen preparedness activities by:

- utilizing local networks to build collaboration and knowledge sharing;
- clarifying and documenting the roles and responsibilities of all relevant agencies;
- conducting regular exercises across all levels and sectors and capturing lessons learned;
- conducting targeted training with government agencies, provincial and area council officers, CSOs and stakeholders;
- ensuring equipment is provided and users are trained for emergency operation centres and communications;
- developing and disseminating standard operating procedures at the national, provincial and community level, and across agencies;
- pre-positioning essential supplies in provincial centres;
- pre-position disaster relief supplies and emergency finances at the national and provincial level;
- maintain stock inventories at a centralised location;
- establish standard relief packages (e.g. food, shelter, health, education, water) in advance so that they can be quickly assembled when needed;
- pre-arranging logistical options and suppliers for relief item procurement and distribution;
- providing evacuation centres in all vulnerable areas, which are designed and constructed in a climate-proofed manner; and
- maintaining fully up-to-date population statistics in all communities, islands and provinces.



### 7.6.3 COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Accurate, timely and relevant information must be available and accessible to a broad range of stakeholders and at agency and/or organisational levels for effective disaster risk management. Given the remoteness of many of Vanuatu's islands and the diversity of languages across the country, it is essential that communication reaches the entire population. Women, youth and people who are elderly or have disabilities must be considered and engaged in targeting messages to these vulnerable groups within the community. Awareness and education needs to be carried out at all levels of society with appropriate contextual adjustments in content, to meet the specific requirements of target groups. This should include the use of multiple modes of communication including FM/HF radio, mobile phones, the Internet and social media.

#### Actions

Improve community awareness by:

- standardising technical information for use by all stakeholders;
- assessing target communities prior to introduction of awareness activities to ensure that projects are tailored to community needs;
- engaging all relevant stakeholders, including vulnerable groups, in planning awareness activities and ensuring access by remote communities;
- expanding guides and tools for community awareness activities that are focused on the local level; and
- using diverse mechanisms, including mobile phones and social media, to reach communities with disaster risk and climate change information.

### 7.6.4 EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

Early warning systems must enable actions to be taken ahead of disaster impacts to reduce deaths, serious injuries and property damage. These systems should include sirens, public address messages, signage on shorelines and evacuation routes, and mobile phone, radio, television and Internet broadcasts. Traditional mechanisms must be incorporated in novel systems. The Vanuatu government has recently established an early warning system within the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department, using state-of-the-art technology and alongside the National Disaster Management Office) is mapping tsunami risks in urban areas.

#### Actions

Strengthen early warning systems by:

- building on all hazard warning services to improve community access to timely and accurate warnings;
- incorporating both modern technology and traditional methods into early warning systems;
- collaborating across all levels of government and with existing networks;
- incorporating lessons learned into early warning processes; and
- developing strict protocols on the timing, use and content of early warnings and advisories.

### 7.6.5 POST-DISASTER ASSESSMENT

It is essential to make rapid assessments of impacts on communities following disaster impacts. This enables adequate resources to be applied to those most in need as soon as practicable through response and early recovery efforts.

The remoteness and diversity of many of Vanuatu's islands and communities makes this particularly challenging. Post-disaster assessment teams must be well trained and equipped to undertake this task. Multiple partner agencies should work collaboratively in these roles in Vanuatu as part of the Vanuatu humanitarian team, including the NDMO, and other sector (cluster) agencies.

#### Actions

Enhance post-disaster assessment capacity by:

- standardising and integrating methodologies for post-disaster assessment across all sectors and clusters;
- training and equipping post-disaster assessment teams;
- coordinating efforts across partner agencies, including at the provincial, area council and village level;
- ensuring that post-disaster assessment directly links to and informs decision-making in response and recovery; and
- managing the information gathered by post-disaster assessment teams with data collection and storage systems to guide future planning.

### 7.6.6 RECOVERY

Well-coordinated and resourced recovery efforts are needed to ensure the return of affected individuals, communities, government and other organisations to normal functioning as soon as possible following the initial response phase. The cluster system should play a key role in recovery activities in Vanuatu.

#### Actions

Improve disaster recovery arrangements and capacity by:

- reviewing and strengthening the cluster network through the development of tools and trainings to ensure that roles and responsibilities are clear and effectively operationalised;
- ensuring that recovery measures are undertaken in consultation with impacted communities, provinces, area councils and municipalities, and are inclusive of women and vulnerable groups;
- ensuring that design and construction, as part of the recovery phase, is undertaken in coordination with relevant climate change and disaster risk reduction requirements and the development goals of sectoral ministries;
- ensuring that recovery aims to 'build back better' than pre-disaster baselines;
- avoiding food and non-food relief items that undermine natural recovery processes, particularly the unnecessary provision of rice;
- developing a national policy on resettlement and internal displacement; and
- developing a national standard camp management policy that incorporates the design of shelters and other basic services.

## 8 CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

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Cross cutting issues are those that by their nature are relevant to and impact all aspects of climate and disaster policy. They therefore need to be integrated into all programmes and activities undertaken in relation to those fields. The cross-cutting issues for this policy are to be considered and applied in planning, designing and implementing climate change and disaster risk reduction initiatives.

### 8.1 CAPACITY BUILDING

Vanuatu currently has very high technical climate change and disaster risk expertise, both within government and among its partners. A needs and gap analysis is needed to assess current capacities and highlight areas where work is required from the national to provincial government and area council levels. Based on that analysis, a comprehensive national capacity development plan should be developed, setting out skill sets, technology and functional competencies required for the efficient implementation of this climate change and disaster risk reduction policy.

There is a strong desire on the part of many Vanuatu-based CSOs and other players involved in environmental, social and economic development initiatives to engage with and operate within government systems and frameworks. Government seeks strongly coordinated efforts and alignment with government priorities. CSOs and other players should be engaged and up skilled to enable them to comply with these government policy and processes.

### 8.2 GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The Revised Pacific Platform for Action on Advancement of Women and Gender Equality 2005–2015, and a Regional Charter sets the direction for the Pacific Islands region in improving outcomes for women. A new regional policy document is expected to be developed during 2015. Vanuatu's Department of Women's Affairs is preparing a gender policy.

Climate change and disaster risks impact greatly on the lives of women and their social and economic wellbeing. In disaster preparedness, as well as response and recovery, women make enormous contributions to the welfare of their communities. It is vital that women have full opportunities to participate in policy development, decision-making and implementation at all levels. Initiatives are under way to ensure that gender considerations are mainstreamed into all climate change and disaster risk reduction efforts, and efforts should be increased.

Women have historically been excluded from participating on committees and other decision-making forums, and their full representation needs to be assured. The interests of other social groups, particularly vulnerable community members, also need to be represented in climate change and disaster risk reduction policy implementation. People with disabilities, the elderly, youth, those in remote locations and from diverse cultural groups need to be able to participate and receive the unique services being provided to meet their needs.



### 8.3 MULTI-HAZARD APPROACH

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction at the global level states that an integrated, multi-hazard approach to disaster risk reduction should be factored into policies, planning and programming related to sustainable development, relief, rehabilitation, and recovery activities in post-disaster and post-conflict situations in disaster-prone countries.

Where resources are limited, a multi-hazard approach ensures that all available personnel, equipment and expertise can be utilised to address the full range of disaster risks: economic, environmental and social. This is the case whether these risks are weather or climate related, arise from geo-hazards, biosecurity based, or are human made. When used effectively in planning and preparedness activities, this approach leads to: 1) better coordination across agencies, 2) increased ability to draw on a broad and diverse range of resources, and 3) information sharing among stakeholders, which can improve response and recovery efforts to the benefit of the community.

A multi-hazard approach has been adopted by NDMO in its planning, preparedness, response and recovery activities. This approach will continue to be used in further initiatives to strengthen Vanuatu's disaster risk management capacity. The past and current use of a cluster system across government agencies and CSOs for disaster management demonstrates that Vanuatu's stakeholders are committed to multi-stakeholder and multi-hazard approaches.

### 8.4 PARTNERSHIPS

A vast array of stakeholders are involved in climate change and disaster risk reduction activities in Vanuatu. Government at the national, provincial, municipal and area council level must work together, alongside CSOs and industry sectors, to address these challenges. CSOs currently complement government initiatives by implementing and contributing to various sectoral policy directions. This effort needs to be strengthened. Development partners, regional organisations and academic institutions also have key parts to play in planning, research, outreach and project delivery. Collaborative mechanisms need to work effectively to ensure the alignment of goals, reduced duplication of effort, and efficient use of resources.

### 8.5 MAINSTREAMING

Mainstreaming can be an effective means of integrating cross-cutting issues into policy, plans and processes across levels of government and broad ranging sectors. It is widely used in the climate change and disaster risk reduction fields. Global and regional policy instruments adopt key concepts to describe how mainstreaming is achieved, including creating and operationalising a culture of risk management, resilience and safety; comprehensive analysis of risk; and access to information for the design of evidence-based solutions to reducing underlying risks and managing residual risk through people-centred preparedness.

The means by which climate change and disaster risk reduction considerations are integrated across other fields include cross sector dialogue, leadership, policy guidance, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation, advocacy and education. Planning, budgeting and practice are also mechanisms to deliver mainstreaming objectives. In the climate change and disaster risk reduction contexts, national, sector and community risk and vulnerability assessments, as well as standard operating procedures, are vehicles for mainstreaming.

Planning is a key tool for mainstreaming climate change and disaster risk reduction across the government and its partners. Considerable progress has been made in integrating these considerations into the planning of other ministries and departments, including in forestry and tourism. Notably, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities Corporate Plan 2015–2017 identifies climate change and disaster risk management as one of five objectives driving planning and operations. As new corporate and business plans are developed, climate change and disaster risk reduction needs to be incorporated to ensure that activities are aligned with risk reduction and sustainable development policy, and that roles and responsibilities are clear.

## 9 IMPLEMENTATION

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All stakeholders in the climate change and disaster risk reduction field in Vanuatu have responsibility for implementing this policy. The strategies under the policy should be integrated into the planning, budgeting and business operations of all levels of government, CSOs, industry sectors and stakeholders. Related policies and plans within the responsibilities of a range of agencies across government provide their own governance mechanisms, which are not replaced by NAB, but are complementary.

NAB will coordinate and oversee implementation of the policy. NAB will meet regularly in accordance with its terms of reference to fulfil its roles and responsibilities, including providing leadership and oversight of the policy's implementation. The NAB Secretariat will develop tools, including a decision making framework, to assist in managing NAB's business. Support from government and development partners would be needed to assist in these activities.

Under the strategies in this policy, actions, lead agencies, support agencies, resources, timelines, and monitoring and evaluation measures will be developed.

### 9.1 INTEGRATION INTO CORPORATE AND BUSINESS PLANS

The directives of this policy should be mainstreamed into the business and corporate plans of all ministries and line agencies within the government. In addition, policy directives should be integrated into the planning documents of all non-government partner organisations.

### 9.2 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

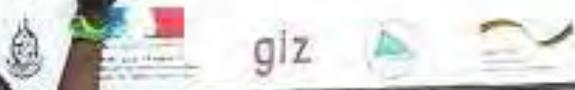
NAB will develop an M&E framework for this policy, aligning with the requirements of the Prime Minister's Office and the proposed NSDP. The M&E system for the policy will measure and monitor changes over time, track the effectiveness of climate change and disaster risk reduction efforts, and guide future planning efforts. The intention of this policy is to move away from stand-alone, project-based M&E systems and move towards a single, integrated national climate change and disaster risk and resilience M&E framework.

### 9.3 REPORTING

The NAB will oversee reporting on the policy at its regular meetings, supported by the NAB Secretariat. NAB will determine the frequency, form and level of detail of reporting it requires on activities under the strategies in this policy. An annual report on the implementation of the policy will be prepared by NAB and made available to the public.

### 9.4 POLICY REVIEW

The time period of this policy is 2016-2030, which is aligned with Vanuatu's National Sustainable Development Plan. A review of the policy will be undertaken every three to five years to assess whether it continues to be relevant to contemporary contexts and other developments in Vanuatu, the region and globally. NAB will oversee and consider the outcomes of the review of the policy and determine if and when it is to be amended or replaced.

  
"Protektem Sanbis blong yumi  
blong klaemet jenis Projet"  
Franis Embasi i fandem  
SPC-GIZ Climate Change i Sapotem  
Malapoa College i Wokem  
Yumi evriwan i benefit  
PLIS YUSUM PABLIK ERIA WETEM RISPEK  
BLONG EVRIWAN I SAVE ENJOYEM  
SANTAJ LONG TAEM BLONG FIUJA  




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# ATTACHMENT 1 - GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN THIS VANUATU CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION POLICY

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## CLIMATE CHANGE

Any change in climate that can be attributed directly or indirectly to human activity, and which alters the composition of the global atmosphere. Climate change also affects the hydrosphere, biosphere, cryosphere and lithosphere, and in addition to natural climate variability, can be observed over comparable time periods. Climate change leads to a number of effects, including but not limited to:

- temperature variation;
- rainfall variation;
- sea level rise;
- extreme weather events (e.g. cyclones and storms) increasing in intensity, but not necessarily in frequency;
- ocean acidification; and
- an increase in sea surface temperature.

## CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

In human systems, the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate change and its effects, in order to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In natural systems, the process of adjustment to actual climate and its effects; human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate. It is a response to the impacts of climate change, including addressing adverse effects arising from climate change or the possibility of change on any part of the environment (e.g. water resources and rainfall, coastal and foreshore areas, reefs and marine habitats), or from harmful weather events and any other event or impact on the environment or human health.

## DISASTER

A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources.

## DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyse and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events. It is a risk management philosophy that enables governments and communities to build sustainability through the identification of evidence-based resilience and adaptation solutions. It is underpinned by rigorous risk and vulnerability analysis and the use of traditional coping capabilities.

## PREPAREDNESS

The knowledge and capacities developed by governments, professional response and recovery organisations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to, and recover from, the impacts of likely, imminent or current hazard events or conditions.

## RECOVERY

The immediate and long-term restoration of physical, social and psychological damage.

## RESILIENCE

The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards and/or climate change to resist, absorb, accommodate, and recover from the consequences of a hazard event or from climate change in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions.

## RESPONSE

The provision of emergency services and public assistance during or immediately after a disaster in order to save lives, reduce health impacts, ensure public safety and meet the basic subsistence needs of the people affected.

## VULNERABILITY

The characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a hazard.

## ATTACHMENT 2 - FUNCTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD ON CLIMATE CHANGE & DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND THE NAB SECRETARIAT

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### NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD CORE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS

The National Advisory Board (NAB) membership should consist of a small core group with agencies or organizations seconded as need be. Meetings should be held quarterly or more frequently as specified by the Chairperson(s). Ownership and engagement with ministries, departments and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) should be driven from the Secretariat level given that the NAB does not meet regularly. This overcomes the challenges of down-sizing the NAB.

As an advisory board, NAB's primary role is to oversee the development of a detailed risk-based plan of action for climate change and disaster risk reduction, to inform the government's annual budget. The priorities for 2015 are to:

- enhance protection of natural resources and biodiversity, taking climate change into account;
- provide sustainable, resilient, and appropriate infrastructure and services;
- enable continuous political reform, decentralisation and human and institutional strengthening; and
- broaden economic capacity.

In regard to this, the NAB should:

- advise government agencies and donors on the priority actions;
- coordinate climate change and disaster risk reduction activities across the country (through the NAB Secretariat);
- coordinate delivery of multi-agency and/or sector projects in cooperation with line ministries and departments, local government, non-governmental organisations, private sector and communities (through the Project Management Unit, PMU); and
- facilitate implementation of projects at the provincial, area and village level, including through a programme of small grants.

While the NAB Secretariat is attached to the Ministry of Climate Change for administrative purposes, its whole-of-government role means that it will operate at the strategic level, with operational activities being carried out by departments and other implementing agencies, including where appropriate, the PMU.



## Proposed NAB membership

NAB	Member
Co-Chairpersons	Directors General: Ministry of Climate Change & Prime Minister's Office
Core members	Director, Vanuatu Meteorological and Geo-hazards Department
	Director Finance
	Director Department of Local Authorities
	Director Vanuatu Project Management Unit
	Chamber of Commerce
	Representative of non-governmental organisations
	Manager NAB Secretariat

## SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat takes on a very strategic whole-of-government leadership, coordination, stakeholder relationship and information management role and, therefore, should comprise a core staff that can be supported either by short-term secondments, technical assistance and/or advisory groups. The Secretariat should be positioned within the Ministry of Climate Change structure under the office of the Director General and be seen as a separate and clearly identifiable entity to other departments including the Corporate Services Unit and PMU.

The Secretariat Manager should be a dynamic and inspirational leader who would report directly to the Director General of the Ministry of Climate Change. The Secretariat's business plan should reflect NABs priorities and be approved by NAB. Staffing of the Secretariat as a separate entity will be critical during the transition period. For sustainability, the skills and competencies of staff must be very high and it is important that there is both continuity and a career progression strategy. A sustainability options paper is urgently required to detail long-term funding for the NAB Secretariat.

There are important roles for advisors and volunteers to play in supporting the Secretariat; however, the scope of their engagement should be clearly defined so that fast-tracking of initiatives and guidelines and capacity building remain their primary objective.



## **ATTACHMENT 3 - STAKEHOLDER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

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The roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in climate change and disaster risk reduction in Vanuatu for the purposes of this policy are set out below.

### **VANUATU NATIONAL GOVERNMENT**

Vanuatu's national government is responsible for the administration of climate change and disaster risk reduction activities throughout the country, and it has established the National Advisory Board (NAB) as its key decision-making and advisory body. The national government through the Parliament enacts legislation, including the Meteorology Act 1989 and National Disaster Act 2000 and many other acts that impact on the areas of climate change and disaster risk reduction. Through the Council of Ministers, the national government endorses policies and plans that implement national priorities. The national government also engages at the global and regional level on negotiation and implementation of multi-lateral agreements, and enters into agreements with international governments and donor partners on the provision of assistance to Vanuatu's climate change and disaster risk reduction efforts.

### **MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Ministry of Climate Change (MCC) will lead the implementation of this policy. It currently hosts the NAB Secretariat and the Project Management Unit under the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD). MCC will develop a five-year strategy to drive the implementation of the policy within the ministry. VMGS departments and agencies, Department of Energy, Department of Environment and the National Disaster Management Office undertake business planning that is aligned with the policy and MCC strategy. MCC administers the Meteorology Act 1989 and National Disaster Act 2000, which will be reviewed as set out under actions within this policy. MCC engages with other government agencies, provincial governments, local stakeholders, civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector in undertaking climate change and disaster risk reduction activities.

### **OTHER NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

A broad range of national government agencies are represented on the NAB and play key roles in developing and implementing climate change and disaster risk reduction policies, plans and initiatives. In view of the cross-cutting nature of climate change and disaster risk reduction, other government agencies lead relevant activities within their own portfolios, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries, infrastructure, tourism, health, education, information technology and others.

### **PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS AND MUNICIPAL AND AREA COUNCILS**

Provincial governments, municipal councils and area councils play key roles in implementing and engaging with other players on climate change and disaster risk reduction activities. Provincial plans are increasingly integrating climate change and disaster risk reduction into the business of provinces. Actions need to be implemented with provincial and area councils as major players, in line with the Decentralization Act.

### **TRADITIONAL CHIEFS**

The governance role of customary chiefs is recognised under the Vanuatu constitution and by the National Advisory Board on Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction. Chiefs play leadership roles within their communities in engaging with and informing their people on key issues impacting on their wellbeing, including climate change and disaster risk reduction. Chiefs also act as spokespersons for their villages in forums, representing the perspectives and interests of their people.

### **COMMUNITIES**

Vanuatu's diverse communities are important stakeholders in climate change and disaster risk reduction efforts. They have much to contribute with their existing capacities, governance systems, knowledge of their own contexts, traditional knowledge and coping mechanisms. Communities need to play key roles in drawing on and strengthening their resilience, enabling inclusive participation in decision-making and activities, and engaging with other stakeholders on their needs and aspirations.

## **CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS**

CSOs play key roles in climate change and disaster risk reduction efforts in Vanuatu. International CSOs have developed networks such as the Vanuatu Climate Action Network and Vanuatu Humanitarian Team networks, while local CSOs join in the Vanuatu Association of Non-governmental Organisations network, incorporating councils of churches, chiefs, women and youth. CSOs partner with government and other players to develop and implement climate change and disaster risk reduction programmes and activities. The Vanuatu Climate Action Network and Vanuatu Association of Non-governmental Organisations are members of the NAB, and recognise their roles in advocating and influencing decision-making. They also take roles in other networks such as the cluster system for disaster response and recovery. CSOs need to align their activities with government policies and plans, and ensure that information is shared and endorsements are obtained from appropriate government agencies and levels on initiatives undertaken. Vanuatu Red Cross plays a unique role in partnering with government on humanitarian efforts in disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

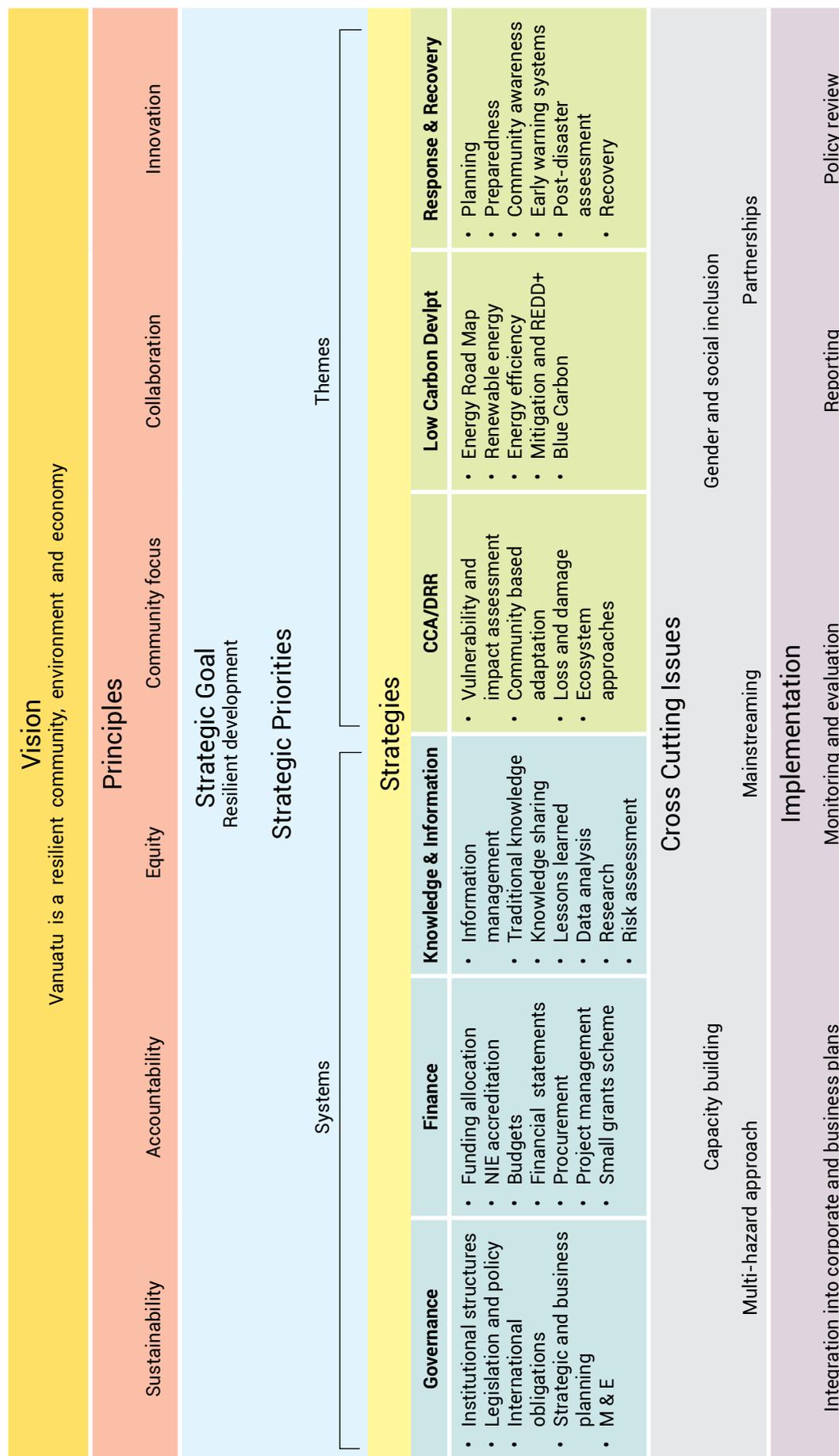
## **DONORS AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

Donors and development partners are essential partners with government and other stakeholders in climate change and disaster risk reduction in Vanuatu, and include international governments (that donate funds), and global and regional organisations (including various agencies of the United Nations). They provide substantial resources to supplement Vanuatu's own resources. This funding should be aligned with Vanuatu's priorities and policy direction, and be appropriate to Vanuatu's context. Programmes and activities should be endorsed through Vanuatu's national government processes. International governments provide assistance to the Vanuatu government for proactive climate change and disaster risk reduction initiatives, as well as for urgent response and recovery efforts when needed.

## **PRIVATE SECTOR**

The private sector plays a vital role in the development of Vanuatu. Public–private partnerships have been entered into and implemented across a range of sectors. Many more opportunities exist for the private sector to partner with the Vanuatu government, donors and international development bodies to invest in projects that address climate change and disaster risks. These opportunities include investment in renewable energy, energy efficiency, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, infrastructure, health, education and tourism. The private sector should ensure its development applications and practice are in line with environmental standards, climate-proofing principles, building codes and other government regulation for sustainability. Products and services supplied by the private sector can assist the government in addressing challenges in communications with communities and individuals across the country, including remote areas, and in disaster preparedness, response and recovery efforts.

## ATTACHMENT 4 - DIAGRAM OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE VANUATU CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION POLICY



## ATTACHMENT 5- CONSULTATION SCHEDULE

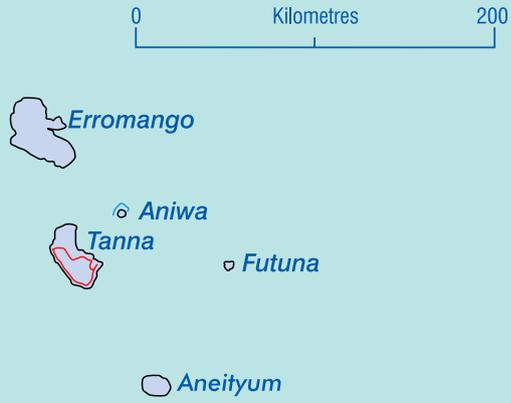
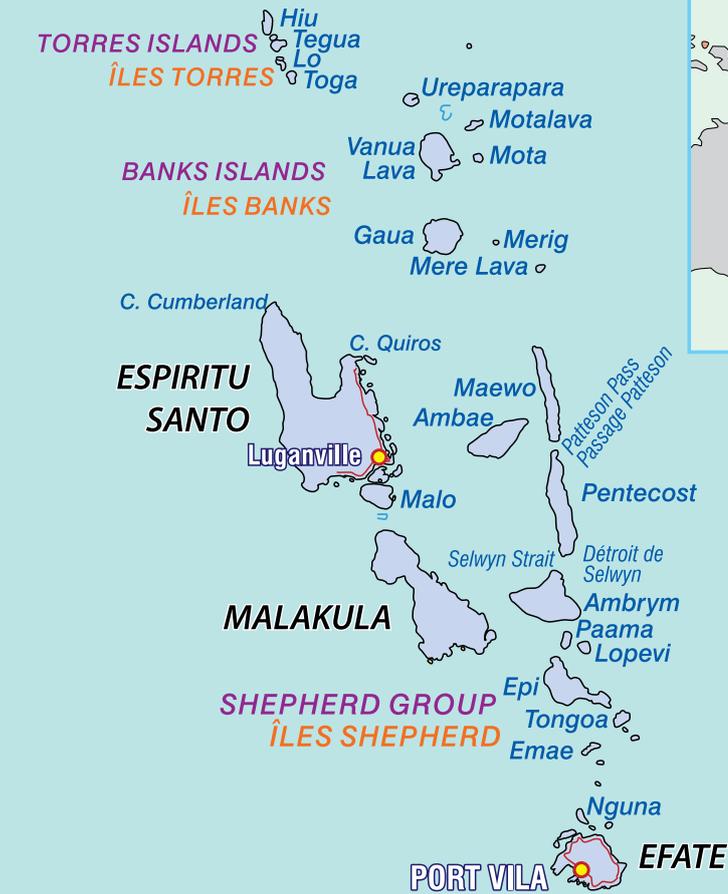
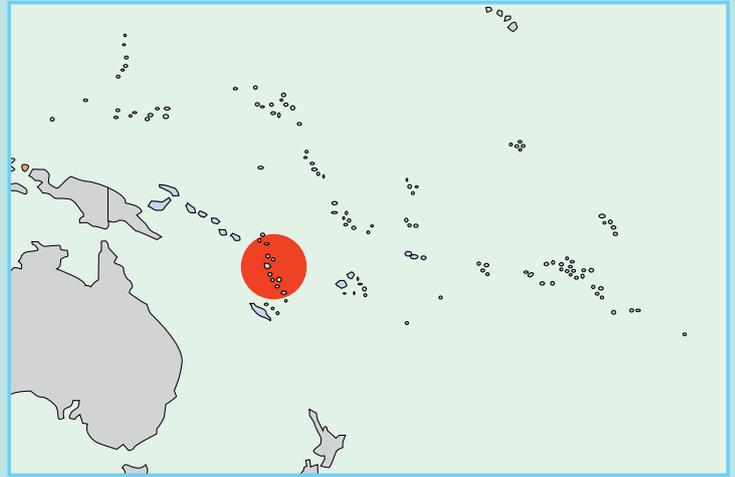
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Consultation meetings, workshops and processes conducted in developing the policy included the following:

- Consultation workshops in all six provinces in 2011 to formulate the draft National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
- Inception workshop held in Port Vila on 13 November 2014
- Provincial consultation workshops held in:
  - Tafea Province on 18 November 2014
  - Sanma Province on 21 November 2014
  - Malampa Province on 24 November 2014
  - Penama Province on 27 November 2014
  - Torba Province on 4 December 2014
- Shefa Province participated in the inception workshop in Port Vila
- Policy working group meetings held on 30 November, 11 and 18 December 2014, and 12 and 19 February 2015
- Civil society consultation workshop held on 9 December 2014
- National Advisory Board briefing and circulation of the draft policy on 19 December 2014
- Public consultation process circulating the draft policy from 30 January to 13 February 2015
- National validation workshop held in Port Vila on 17 February 2015
- Meetings with government ministries and departments, including the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, Department of Local Authorities, Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Department of Women's Affairs and agencies within the Ministry of Climate Change and Natural Disasters during October through to December 2014
- Meetings with the Council of Churches and the Chamber of Commerce in October 2014



# Vanuatu



0 Kilometres 200

0 Kilometres 20



# Government of the Republic of Vanuatu

