

Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2016-2030

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS IN THE VANUATU CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION POLICY

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1 GOVERNANCE					
1.1 INS	TITUTIONAL STRUCTURES				
Actions					
Establis	h and strengthen institutional structures to effectively undertake their functions by:				
1.1.1	I.1.1 Strengthening the government and NAB Secretariat's capacity to effectively perform NAB strategic suppor roles, and the Project Management Unit to undertake project management functions				
1.1.2	.2 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				
1.1.3	Strengthening climate change and disaster risk reduction capacity of provincial, municipal and area council personnel				
1.1.4	Facilitating the equal and active participation of vulnerable groups in decision making bodies at all governance levels via all partners and stakeholders				
1.1.5	Building and strengthening capacity of government and partners to actively engage and participate in major international or regional framework processes				
1.1.6	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				
1.1.7	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				
1.1.8	Strengthening traditional governance systems through partnerships among government, civil society, development partners, academia and the private sector.				
1.1.9	Strengthening faith based governance systems to implement climate change and disaster risk reduction activities via multi-stakeholder collaboration.				
1.1.10	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.				
1.2 LEC	SISLATION AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS				
Actions					
Drive st	rategic decision making through contemporary legislation and policy frameworks by:				
1.1.1	Reviewing the Meteorology Act and enacting new meteorology, geo-hazards and climate change legislation, through consultation with stakeholders.				
1.1.2	Legislating for the existence and objectives of the NAB, including inclusive government and non-government membership				
1.1.3	Reviewing the National Disaster Act and enacting new legislation.				
1.1.4	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.				
1.1.5	Implementing existing policies which already integrate climate change and disaster risk reduction directives				
1.1.6	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				
1.1.7	Establishing and strengthening international agreements to ensure support from external sources for climate and disaster preparedness, response and recovery.				

1 3 INI	FERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL OBLIGATIONS				
Actions					
	ternational climate change and disaster risk reduction obligations by:				
1.1.1	Commencing the UNFCCC National Adaptation Plan process building on other UNFCCC work programmes				
	and actions outlined in this policy				
1.1.2	1.1.2 Comprehensively capturing integrated adaptation and risk reduction progress in regular completion al submission of UNFCCC national communications, biennial update reports, national adaptation plans, an intended nationally determined contributions				
1.1.3	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);				
1.1.4	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 Counties Group, and the Melanesian Spearhead Group;				
1.1.5	Engaging with and reporting to regional and sub-regional agencies on adaptation and risk reduction activities				
1.1.6	Continuously building capacity in international and regional adaptation and risk reduction engagement and negotiation				
1.1.7	Government and CSOs allocating human resource positions, officers and budget towards the fulfilment of international obligations and activities, including forming gender balanced delegations.				
1.4 ST	RATEGIC AND BUSINESS PLANS				
Actions	3				
Develo	p and implement strategic and business plans integrating risk by:				
1.1.1	Incorporating climate change and disaster risk reduction considerations into the National Sustainable Development Plan				
1.1.2	Developing and integrating climate change and disaster risk reduction into all local council (province, municipal and area level), public and private sector business plans, ensuring close alignment of budgets with developed plans				
1.1.3	Developing tools for community development planning, which include climate change and disaster reliance considerations.				
1.5 MC	DNITORING AND EVALUATION				
Actions	3				
Integra	te M&E into project and program design across government and stakeholders by:				
1.1.1	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				
1.1.2	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				
1.1.3	Undertaking training on climate and disaster monitoring and evaluation with relevant officers within government and other agencies				
1.1.4	Utilizing the results of M&E activities to improve planning and implementation of further initiatives.				
2 FINANCE					
2.1 FUNDING ALLOCATIONS					
Actions					
Ensure adequate funding is available for climate change and disaster risk reduction by:					
1.1.1	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				

1.1.2	Advocating for funding to be provided directly to the national government by donor partners and in line with national government policies and plans				
1.1.3	1.1.3 Ensuring external funding is channelled through existing government financial systems				
1.1.4	.4 Progressing the establishment of a national trust fund for climate change and disaster risk reduction				
1.1.5	.1.5 Exploring opportunities for partnering with the private sector for investment in climate change and disaste risk reduction, including in renewable energy and waste management				
1.1.6	Exploring options for a climate change and disaster risk reduction insurance or risk sharing scheme				
1.1.7	Ensuring financial accountability mechanisms are in place and operating effectively, including transparency of decision making in allocation of funding				
1.1.8	Facilitating arrangements within Vanuatu and with the international community to ensure timely access to disaster response and recovery funds as needed.				
2.2 IM	PLEMENTING ENTITY ACCREDITATION				
Actions					
Establis 2017, b	sh and build on robust financial systems including facilitating implementing entity accreditation by December y:_				
1.1.1	Making measurable improvements in climate and disaster budgeting, financial statements, reporting, audit processes, procurement practices, project management, and transparency policies.				
1.1.2	Lobby regional and international partners for support on obtaining NIE status				
2.3 SM	ALL GRANTS SCHEMES				
Actions					
Improv	e small grants schemes for climate change and disaster risk reduction initiatives through:				
1.1.1	Establishing new and refining existing small grants schemes that expand on and align with current arrangements, ensuring coordination and consistency				
1.1.2	Making schemes accessible through development of a simple, easy to use manuals and proposal templates targeted to the local level, and including training for users				
1.1.3	Ensuring existing small grants schemes prioritise climate change and disaster risk reduction and align with national policies				
1.1.4	Basing allocation of small grants on equity, vulnerability and needs-based criteria				
1.1.5	Ensuring rigorous monitoring and evaluation of small grants scheme outcomes for resilience				
3 KNO	WLEDGE AND INFORMATION				
3.1 INF	ORMATION MANAGEMENT				
Actions					
Strengt	hen existing systems to improve information capture, access and application by:				
1.1.1	Ensuring that NAB's information, education and communication endorsement process is used by all climate change and disaster risk reduction material developers				
1.1.2	Monitoring the effectiveness of materials and communication endorsed under the information, education and communication process				
1.1.3	Ensuring participation of all relevant government and stakeholder bodies, including provincial governments and the National Statistics Office in information management processes				
1.1.4	Ensuring up to date project information, resources, reports, events and contacts are accessible on the NAB Portal				
1.1.5	Utilizing technology transfer and methodologies that are adapted for the Vanuatu context				
3.2 TR	ADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE				
Actions					
	n and share existing traditional knowledge and expand its use by:				
1.1.1	Collecting, recording and incorporating traditional knowledge into planning, while ensuring appropriate cultural protocols are respected				

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 1.1.2 Making traditional knowledge accessible to decision-makers, while considering intellectual property rights, through databases and training 1.1.3 Including traditional knowledge informal and informal school curricula 1.1.4 Building on existing traditional knowledge strategies already captured on the NAB Portal and by the Vanuatu Cultural Centre. 2.3.5 KNOWLEDES EVARING Actions Develop and build on knowledge management systems including: 1.1.1 Acknowledging and promoting the valuable knowledge on climate change and disaster risk that already exists in Vanuatu 1.1.2 Developing new materials that are relevant and compatible to local context 1.1.3 Developing and communicating standardized technical messages for enhanced decision making 1.1.4 Ling and strengthening existing networks and knowledge sharing mechanisms 1.1.5 Enkinging new Knowledge management systems that build on increased accessibility of information and communications standardized technical messages for enhanced decision making 3.4 LESSONS LEARNED Actions Enhance lessons learned processes and use of lessons learned in programs and projects including: 1.1.3 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: 1.1.5 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. 1.1.1 Repring that lessons learned indocuts, according to established guidelines, form a part of all climate and disaster projects and program. 1.1.1 Establishing a central database to capture, store and enable access to relevant data, ideally in a publically accessible format on the NAB portal. 1.2 Coordinating government agencies and stakehold						
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approaches and actions		Developing innovative partnerships, including with the private sector, to integrate climate and risk reduction				

13 00	MMUNITY-BASED ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION				
Actions					
1.1.1	otation and risk reduction action in communities addresses real, current and priority vulnerabilities by:				
	Undertaking community vulnerability assessments and comprehensive profiles prior to project implementation				
1.1.2	I.2 Engaging communities to participate in and lead the vulnerability assessment process in an appropriat language				
1.1.3	Ensuring that the results of community assessments are returned to the communities that have participated.				
Adapta	tion and risk reduction is owned and driven by communities through:				
1.1.4	Developing community adaptation and risk reduction plans and actions through a bottom-up planning approach.				
1.1.5	Utilising and strengthening existing community systems for adaptation and risk reduction initiatives				
1.1.6	Identifying adaptation and risk reduction activities that bring additional, no regrets, social, environmental and economic benefits to communities and individuals.				
1.1.7	Including capacity building to ensure continuity and meaningful ownership				
1.1.8	Requiring initiatives at the community level to include strong in-kind community contributions to avoid reliance on external support.				
1.1.9	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:				
1.1.10	Ensuring that adaptation and risk reduction initiatives incorporate the rights, priorities and needs of individuals (particularly vulnerable and marginalised groups including elderly, women, youth, children, disabled people, illiterate, landless, minority and impoverished)				
1.1.11	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				
1.1.12	Acknowledging and empowering the government and non-government organisations that are already engaged in communities to champion climate and disaster risk planning and action at grassroots levels				
1.1.13	Ensuring community resilience and self-reliance are not compromised by development aid programmes.				
4.4 LO	SS AND DAMAGE				
Actions					
Take ac	tion around loss and damage by:				
1.1.1	Strongly advocating internationally and domestically to operationalize and implement action under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage				
1.1.2	Developing a loss and damage implementation framework, including risk sharing, insurance and compensation approaches at replacement value				
1.1.3	Conducting assessments on potential and actual loss and damage across the country linked with ongoing vulnerability assessment processes				
1.1.4	Determining priority Vanuatu sectoral issues and quantifying losses (e.g. food security, culture, ecosystem services and integrity)				
1.1.5	Mainstreaming loss and damage into land and relocation policies and laws				
1.1.6	Providing clarity on enforcement of and the mandate for climate proofing development among government line agencies.				
1.1.7	Ensuring the design and construction of public and other major infrastructure and development projects consider current and projected risks to minimize loss and damage, especially by developing and adhering to climate-proofed building codes, environmental impact assessments, regulations and development guidelines				

4.5 EC	DSYSTEM-BASED APPROACHES			
Actions				
Suppor	t ecosystem adaptation and risk reduction services by:			
1.1.1				
1.1.2	Identifying and minimising negative impacts on the environment from proposed adaptation and risk reduction activities			
1.1.3	.1.3 Prioritising adaptation and risk reduction actions that build on, incorporate and protect taboos, conservati areas, heritage sites, locally managed areas and vulnerable habitats and ecosystems and carbon sinks.			
1.1.4	1.4 Quantifying the value and benefit of ecosystem services and building this into adaptation and risk reduction planning and budgeting			
1.1.5	Prioritising "soft" ecosystem based adaptation over "hard" engineered infrastructure for ecosystem function maintenance (e.g. coastal revegetation versus sea walls)			
1.1.6	Developing advocacy and educational programmes around the value of ecosystem-based adaptation			
1.1.7	Utilising sound land use planning approaches, implementing and enforcing ecosystem related development policy documents (e.g. Land Use Planning Policy, Foreshore Development Act, Physical Planning Act)			
5 LOW	CARBON DEVELOPMENT			
5.1 eni	ERGY ROAD MAP, RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY			
Actions				
	t implementation of the Vanuatu National Energy Road Map and energy considerations for climate change tion and risk reduction by:			
1.1.1	Encouraging the increase in the usage of renewable energy sources in power generation and lighting activities with the participation of all energy service providers			
1.1.2	Ensuring the reduction in fossil fuel burning for engines by replacing heavy diesel fuel combustion engines with alternative technologies that use cleaner, lighter fuels			
1.1.3	Exploring possibilities of powering sea-going vessels and land-based vehicles with renewable energy			
1.1.4	Ensuring improvements in the fuel efficiency for the transport sector (land, sea and air) by standardising engine fuel efficiency			
1.1.5	Ensuring that national fuel quality standards are enacted			
1.1.6	Implementing activities for measuring effluent at potential pollution sites such as diesel power generation plants and at traffic ways			
5.2 MI	FIGATION AND REDD+			
Actions	5			
Enhanc	e Vanuatu's natural resource status through carbon mitigation opportunities by:			
1.1.1	Efficiently inventorying, quantifying, mapping and sorting data on carbon stocks in critical ecosystems to ensure accessibility			
1.1.2	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)			
1.1.3	Developing partnerships on blue and green carbon with other countries in the region to accelerate progress and build capacity and expertise.			
Engage with and expand Vanuatu's REDD+ and green carbon activities by:				
1.1.4				
1.1.5	1.5 Engaging civil society and the private sector to support national REDD+ strategies and REDD+ projects.			
1.1.6				
1.1.7				
1.1.8	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			

1.1.9	Operationalizing and expanding voluntary markets for payment for ecosystem services.			
1.1.10	Ensuring that the National REDD+ Technical Committee meets regularly and steers the REDD+ engagement			
	process under the UNFCCC and in voluntary markets.			
Prioritis	tise green growth and low carbon development by:			
1.1.11	Utilising international climate financing sector opportunities to enhance and protect Vanuatu's rich natur			
	resources, through carbon sequestration and emissions reductions in the land use sector			
1.1.12	Emphasising and expanding synergies among low carbon development, mitigation and adaptation.			
1.1.13	Implementing a green growth framework under the Melanesian Spearhead Group to minimise carbon			
	emissions			
1.1.14	Screening development approvals and permits according to their carbon footprint and efforts to prioritise			
	green development alternatives			
1.1.15	Striving to follow sustainable consumption and production patterns			
1.1.16	Supporting implementation of green growth policy statements in the National Environment Policy			
6 RESP	PONSE AND RECOVERY			
6.1 PLA	ANNING			
Actions				
Enhanc	e response and recovery planning by:			
1.1.1	Integrating disaster response and recovery into national, sector, provincial, municipal and community level			
	plans			
1.1.2	Developing guidelines and training to ensure appropriate standards and consistency when integrating climate			
	change and disaster risk reduction into subnational planning and budgeting processes			
1.1.3	Strengthening the cluster system, including national and provincial clusters			
1.1.4	Providing accessible user friendly tools and support for use at the provincial, municipal and local level (e.g.			
	clear relief distribution guidelines)			
1.1.5	Providing special support for internally displaced populations.			
1.1.6	Carefully regulating the activities of response stakeholders including international relief agencies			
1.1.7	Allocating geographical and thematic support to specific agencies to avoid duplications			
1.1.8	Expanding the collection and dissemination of information in disaster response situations, including the '3Ws'			
	(who, what where) methodologies			
6.2 PRI	EPAREDNESS			
Actions				
Strengt	hen preparedness activities including:			
1.1.1	Utilizing local networks to build collaboration and knowledge sharing			
1.1.2	Clarifying and documenting the roles and responsibilities of all relevant agencies			
1.1.3	Conducting regular exercises across all levels and sectors and capturing lessons learned			
1.1.4	Conducting targeted training with government agencies, provincial and area council officers, CSOs and			
	stakeholders			
1.1.5	Ensuring equipment is provided and users are trained for emergency operations centres and communications			
1.1.6	Developing and disseminating standard operating procedures at national, provincial and community level, an			
	across agencies			
1.1.7	Pre-positioning essential supplies in provincial centres			
1.1.8	Preposition disaster relief supplies and emergency finance at the national and provincial level			
1.1.9	Maintain stock inventories at a centralized location			
1.1.10	Establish standard relief packages (food, shelter, health, education, water) in advance so that they can be			
	quickly assembled when needed			
1.1.11	Pre-arranging logistical options and suppliers for relief item procurement and distribution			
1.1.12	Providing evacuation centres in all vulnerable areas designed and constructed in a climate-proofed manner.			
1.1.13	Maintaining fully up-to-date population statistics in all communities, islands and provinces			

risk and climate change information 6.4 EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS Actions Strengthen early warning systems by: 1.1.1 Building on all hazard warning services to improve community access to timely and accurate warning 1.1.2 Incorporating both modern technology and traditional methods into early warning systems 1.1.3 Collaborating across all levels of government and with existing networks 1.1.4 Incorporating lessons learned into early warning processes 1.1.5 Developing strict protocols on the timing, use and content of early warnings and advisories 6.5 POST-DISASTER ASSESSMENT Actions					
Improve community awareness by: 1.1.1 Standardising technical information for use by all stakeholders. 1.1.2 Assessing target communities prior to introduction of awareness activities to ensure projects are ta community needs 1.1.3 Engaging all relevant stakeholders including vulnerable groups in planning awareness activities and e access by remote communities 1.1.4 Expanding guides and tools for community awareness activities that are focused on the local level 1.1.5 Using diverse mechanisms, including mobile phones and social media, to reach communities with risk and climate change information 6.4 EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS Actions Strengthen early warning systems by: 1.1.1 Building on all hazard warning services to improve community access to timely and accurate warning 1.1.2 Incorporating both modern technology and traditional methods into early warning systems 1.1.4 Incorporating lessons learned into early warning processes 1.1.5 Developing strict protocols on the timing, use and content of early warnings and advisories 6.5 POST-DISASTER ASSESSMENT Actions Strengthen Assessment					
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Actions					
Enhance post-disaster assessment capacity by:					
1.1.1 Standardising and integrating methodologies for post disaster assessment across all sectors and clu	sters.				
1.1.2 Training and equipping post-disaster assessment teams					
1.1.3 Coordinating efforts across partner agencies, including provincial, area council and village levels					
1.1.4 Ensuring that post-disaster assessment directly links to and informs decision-making in responses recovery	se and				
1.1.5 Managing information gathered by post-disaster assessment teams with data collection and storage s to guide future planning	ystems				
6.6 RECOVERY					
Actions					
Improve disaster recovery arrangements and capacity by:					
1.1.1 Reviewing and strengthening the cluster network through development of tools and trainings to ens roles and responsibilities are clear and effectively operationalised	ure that				
1.1.2 Ensuring that recovery measures are undertaken in consultation with impacted communities, provinc councils and municipalities, and are inclusive of women and vulnerable groups	es, area				
1.1.3 Ensuring that design and construction, as part of the recovery phase, is undertaken in coordinate relevant climate change and disaster risk reduction requirements and the development goals of ministries					
1.1.4 Ensuring that recovery aims to 'build back better' than pre-disaster baselines					
1.1.5 Avoiding food and non-food relief items that undermine natural recovery processes, particul unnecessary provision of rice					
1.1.6 Developing a national policy on resettlement and internal displacement	rly the				
1.1.7 Developing a national standard camp management policy incorporating design of shelters and oth	arly the				
services.					

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Government of the Republic of Vanuatu

