Global Climate Change Alliance – Vanuatu Project (GCCA-V)

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| **Funding Administrator:**  European Commission | **Funding source:**  Global Climate Change Alliance |
| **Total funding:**  93.6 million vatu (Component A) | **Duration:**  April 2012 to January 2014 |
| **Status:**  Implementation phase | **Project type:**  Institutional strengthening; Mainstreaming;  Data collection; Policy development |
| **Sectors:**  Climate Change Adaptation; Disaster Risk Reduction; all sectors | **Scope:**  National and provincial |
| **Lead GoV Agency:**  Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department (VMGD) | **Other GoV Agencies:**  Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) |
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**Objective:**

To mainstream climate change adaptation and climate related disaster risk reduction into core aspects of Vanuatu’s governance processes, policy and decision making.

**Description:**

GCCA–Vanuatu consists of two separate components with differing objectives and implementation modes. Component A – the subject of this brief – covers the enhancement of policy development on and institutional strengthening of climate change in Vanuatu. Component B focuses on increasing resilience to climate change and natural hazards and will be implemented by the World Bank through an Administrative Agreement between the European Commission and World Bank (see separate brief on the IRCCNH project).

The activities to be implemented under Component A are:

1. Developing a national climate change and disaster risk reduction policy and action plan
2. Seminars for mainstreaming CC & DRR into sector policies and plans (part of policy implementation in late 2013)
3. Training for the enforcement of environment-related laws and handling of ozone depleting substances
4. NAB meetings and attendance of Vanuatu officials in regional and international CC/DRR fora
5. Stakeholder and climate finance mapping
6. Training the Rainfall Monitoring Network to collect climate change data
7. Developing a national Information, Communication and Engagement Strategy for CC & DRR
8. A national workshop to develop consistent CC & DRR messaging amongst all stakeholders
9. A Climate Change Symposium
10. Collecting and sharing lessons learned and best practice adaptation
11. Establishing a framework on Traditional Knowledge & Indicators on CC & DRR
12. Collecting data on agricultural sector adaptation practices through a second Agro-meteorological Summit
13. Visibility and communications activities

**Progress to date and current activities:**

The first six months of implementation involved the establishment of the new National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction and the Project Management Unit (PMU) as Secretariat to the NAB. Three full time staff are currently funded under the GCCA-V to implement the activities listed above, with three more staff to commence in January. Several mini-NAB meetings were held with key stakeholders throughout 2012, along with two consultation workshops on the development of a national climate change and disaster risk reduction policy and action plan for Vanuatu.

The PMU also developed and sought EU approval for additional GCCA-V activities for 2013, and began its role in the coordination of national CC and DRR activities more broadly through: business plan development; various stakeholder meetings; participation in a range of workshops on CC and DRR related activities; and ensuring NAB oversight of several projects about to commence in Vanuatu – including two large projects administered by the World Bank.

In November, DEPC held training workshops in Port Vila and in several provinces on enforcing environment-related laws. The Department will be holding training workshops on the handing of ozone depleting substances in early 2013.

Most GCCA-V activities will be carried out in 2013.

**Background:**

Vanuatu is exposed to both climatic and geological risks. The country’s vulnerability is further amplified by a narrow economic base and a number of other socio-economic factors such as a predominately rural based population dependant on subsistence agriculture. Accordingly the Supplementary Prioritised Action Agenda (PAA) places emphasis on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

In 1989 the Vanuatu Government formed the National Advisory Committee on Climate Change (NACCC), what is now the National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (NAB) to advise the government on matters relating to climate and coordinate climate change initiatives in the country. The Climate Change Unit of the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department played the significant role of climate change policy coordination as Secretariat to the NACCC. However this Unit had limited human resources and capacities and needed strengthening to undertake its key functions effectively. Therefore this project is primarily focussed on strengthening the capacity of the Climate Change Unit (CCU) to deliver effective Secretariat services to the NAB and technical support for improved climate change policy development, mainstreaming and coordination.

The overarching Financial Agreement between the Vanuatu Government and European Union was signed in late 2009. The first Programme Estimate for implementation of the first tranche of funding was finalised in April 2012. A new Program Estimate for enhanced and additional activities to spend all of the available funding (800,000 Euro) was approved in November 2012.