

PRESS RELEASE

Laying The Groundwork For A New Era In Development

The Council of Ministers have decided in favor of a new National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) for 2016-2025 in their eighth ordinary meeting on 24 April, 2014. The NSDP is a timely item in the 100 day Policy Priorities of the Government and will be led by the Office of the Prime Minister via the Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination (DSPPAC) with assistance from a Core Group of public servants and development partners appointed by the Prime Minister. The NSDP will take the place of the current Priorities and Action Agenda (PAA) set to expire in 2015.

Reviews of the current development framework have found that it addresses standard economic and social priorities relatively well but that environmental priorities in Vanuatu have the most potential to sustain growth. The NSDP will apply 'Green Growth' principles to the development framework in order to ensure that economic growth is achieved for the benefit of people with highest consideration for natural resources. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature Oceania Regional Office (IUCN ORO) will provide technical input to the sustainable development plan with financial assistance from SPC-GIZ.

The NSDP 2016 – 2025 will seek to incorporate the Alternative Indicators of Well-being into the current system for monitoring national progress towards the country's sustainable development goals identified by the government. The NSDP will be tapping on the societal elements of sustainability which makes the cultural dimension of value. The inclusion of culture will make it easy to measure the true impacts of development or, for that matter, support the systems that provide for the majority of the society. Other dimensions that will come into the spotlight include Security and Governance.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will commit resources for a full time Project Coordinator to assist the Government with the process of consultations and drafting of the NSDP. Resources will also be mobilized by SPC-GIZ/IUCN ORO and the Melanesian Spearhead Group Secretariat. A National Development Symposium in October 2013 and Provincial Consultations in November 2013 were successfully conducted. Feedback collected in these forums have been used to craft the vision thus far as it continues to take form. The next major activity to be undertaken is a strategic analysis of current national policies and planning of a National Public Forum on Sustainable Development that will seek broad public feedback and endorsement on a development vision to be taken forward in Ministerial consultations.

Source: The Department of Strategic Policy, Planning & Aid Coordination
PMO,
Government of Vanuatu