

Vanuatu National Environment Policy and Implementation Plan 2016 2030 SUMMARY



Acknowledgement

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Foreword

The environment is an essential pillar of economic and social development. Consequently, environmental sustainability is a key part of economic development and planning and is important for improving human health and the quality of life.

The Government of the Republic of Vanuatu (the Government) envisions a country in which all persons are committed to ensuring the conservation and sustainable management of our biodiversity and ecosystems and to utilising and sustainably managing our land, water and natural resources.

The Vanuatu National Environment Policy and Implementation Plan 2016 – 2030 (NEPIP) is an illustration of the Government's commitment to environmental sustainability and fulfils the requirements of a national policy and plan set out in the *Environmental Protection and Conservation Act* [CAP 283]. Importantly, the NEPIP sets a solid policy platform for long term planning and action to respond to priority environmental issues currently addressed by the Government and its partners. In formulating this policy, the Government focused on the sustainable management of its environmental assets and the protection of its people.

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Minister for Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology & Geo-Hazards, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management





Introduction

The Vanuatu National Environment Policy and Implementation Plan 2016 - 2030 (NEPIP) is part of a wider policy framework and addresses the goals and objectives of the National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030.

The NEPIP intends to:

- Provide for the co-ordination of related activities;
- Promote the environmentally sound and safe management and conservation of the natural resources and environment of Vanuatu; and
- Outline the operational matters necessary to implement the above.

In fulfilling this purpose, the NEPIP forms the framework that both links existing environment-related policies and provides a strategic roadmap for Vanuatu's long-term environmental actions. The NEPIP will guide the

improvement of existing governance, coordination and service delivery mechanisms by defining the national focus and priorities for Vanuatu's future environmental actions.

The NEPIP underpins the core businesses of the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), legislation, corporate planning instruments and existing policies and programs such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2020 and the National Waste Management and Pollution Control Strategy and Implementation Plan 2016-2020.

The NEPIP focuses on these works and its linkages with international and regional strategies, and the policies and work of other sectors and government agencies such as climate change, energy, forestry, fisheries, geology and mines, tourism and education.



Guiding Principles

- ▶ **Leadership and Good Governance**

The Government will lead efforts to protect, manage and promote the sustainable use of Vanuatu's environment and natural resources

- ▶ **Collective Responsibility for the Environment**

Protecting, managing and sustainably using the environment and its goods and services are everyone's responsibility. This responsibility is carried out both at the individual and collective levels.

- ▶ **Indigenous Knowledge and Practices**

Ni-Vanuatu have developed valuable indigenous knowledge and practices that can contribute positively to the sustainable use and effective management of Vanuatu's natural resources and environment. These traditions and practices are important elements of Vanuatu's culture and heritage, form part of the national identity and should be safeguarded and protected.

- ▶ **Integration of the Environment and Development: Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Development**

Environment underpins development. We must recognise the challenge in reconciling and balancing emerging environmental issues and the development needs of the population in an equitable, inclusive and sustainable manner. We must acknowledge the integrity of the environment as a system and for its goods and services.



Policy Objective 1: Conservation of Biological, Ecosystem, Genetic, Human and Cultural Diversity

PO 1.1

PO 1.2

PO 1.3

PO 1.4

PO 1.5

PO 1.6



Policy Objective 2: Sustainable Resource Management

PO 2.1

Promote sustainable resource management and ensure compliance with and implementation of national policies and laws.

PO 2.2

Strengthen local authorities and municipal planning authorities to enact and enforce land use planning laws and regulations.

PO 2.3

Protect vulnerable forests, watersheds, catchments and freshwater resources, including community water sources.

PO 2.4

Prevent land degradation and downstream environmental damage from mineral resource extraction.

PO 2.5

Increase agricultural and fisheries food production using sustainable practices.

PO 2.6

Reduce and prevent the degradation and erosion of foreshore and coastal areas.



Policy Objective 3: Waste Management and Pollution Control

PO 3.1

Reduce waste and pollution through effective waste management and pollution control.

PO 3.2

Review and implement the National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan.

PO 3.3

Establish incentive schemes that implement the polluter pays principle by encouraging cleaner production and waste recovery.

Policy Objective 4: Climate Change

PO 4.1

Support the implementation of the Climate Change Disaster Risk Reduction Policy.

Policy Objective 5: Environmental Governance and Capacity Development

PO 5.1

Increase awareness on biodiversity conservation and environmental protection issues across government and publicly.

PO 5.2

Build capacity and support local communities to manage natural resources.

PO 5.3

Enhance environmental monitoring, evaluation and research with relevant, open and transparent data sharing among relevant agencies.

PO 5.4

Strengthen environmental institutions and governance to meet national and international obligations.

PO 5.5

Develop State of the Environment Report.

PO 5.6

Ensure that national environmental laws are robust, comprehensive and updated to effectively cater for sustainable development.



Policy Objective 6 Sustainable Growth and Development

PO 6.1

Promote renewable sources of energy and promote efficient energy use.

PO 6.2

Ensure new infrastructure and development activities cause minimal disturbance to the natural land and marine environment.

PO 6.3

Increase access to knowledge, expertise and technology to enact our blue-green growth strategies.

Policy Objective 7 Financing and Economic Instruments

PO 7 1

Ensure adequate financial resources to support our sustainable development aspirations.

PO 7 2

Promote participation of individuals, Civil Society Organisations, and the private sector in environmental protection through fiscal incentives and voluntary agreements.





For the complete copy of this policy, please contact the
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