



Vanuatu

KEY PRIORITIES RELATED TO DRM IN THE COUNTRY

Building resilience to natural hazards and climate change is among Vanuatu's most important development challenges. In view of the country's high risk to natural hazards, the Government has become increasingly proactive. Vanuatu is the first Pacific island country to have adopted both a National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) and National Action Plan

(NAP) for climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR). Despite this strong enabling environment, the country faces a number of challenges. Institutional capacity is weak. Human resources remain limited. There is also a lack of access to risk information. This hinders prioritization and design of risk based investments.

GFDRR ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

To date, GFDRR has provided support to the regional Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI). Under this initiative, a regional open-source database of risk exposure and country-specific models were developed for all

the Pacific island countries. Vanuatu is now taking part in a pilot catastrophe risk insurance program. The program was launched in January 2013 and will test the first risk transfer arrangement in the Pacific.

LOOKING AHEAD

Building on successful pilots already tested by government, GFDRR, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the European Commission (EC) and the Japan Policy and Human Resources Development (PHRD) Fund launched a US\$ 14 million resilience program in January 2013. The focus is on strengthening water and food security in rural communities and promoting risk-sensitive urban planning. Under this pilot, GFDRR will

support institutional strengthening, focusing primarily on the decentralization of the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO). In addition, support will be provided to improve early warnings and increase community resilience. GFDRR will also provide assistance to mainstream risk reduction into public sector investments.

Background

CLIMATE CHANGE & DISASTER RISK PROFILE

Vanuatu comprises about 80 islands located in the earthquake-prone “ring of fire” and at the center of the Pacific cyclone belt. This results in a high frequency of volcanic eruptions, cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis, storm surges, coastal and river flooding and landslides. The Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing initiative estimates average annual losses of US\$48 million. This equals to 6.6% of GDP and therefore is one of the highest impacts globally. According to an assessment of volcanic risk in Asia-Pacific by Geoscience Australia, Vanuatu has the highest percentage of population affected.

Vanuatu is already experiencing the consequences of climate variability and change, including sea level rise, increased intensity of extreme events, and changes to agricultural productivity and water availability.

GFDRR ENGAGEMENT

Source of Funding	ACP-EU
Resources Awarded	US\$3,000,000
Resources Disbursed	US\$660,000
Number of projects	Active: 1; Completed: 0

KEY INDICATORS

DRR Index¹	WDI: 3.8/5 DRI Class: 4/7
Income Group	Upper-Middle
Population	46.9 million
GDP	US\$7,104/capita
Poverty	34% of population
Urban Population	75% of total

DRM/CCA IN POLICY PAPERS

(as assessed by the DRM specialist)

Mainstreaming:	Low	High
Government		
Region		
NAPA		

NATIONAL PLATFORM

A National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (NAB) was established in December 2012 to provide an integrated governance capability. A project management unit was also established to provide secretariat support and to help coordinate all climate change and disaster risk reduction projects.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

National Disaster Management Act (2000). Revised National Disaster Act (draft 2009) yet to be passed.

1. The World Development Indicators (WDI) Disaster Risk Reduction progress score is an average of self-assessment scores, ranging from 1 to 5, submitted by countries under Priority 1 of the Hyogo Framework National Progress Reports (1-5 scale; 5=best). The Disaster Risk Index (DRI) is a mortality-based index developed in order to enable comparisons of countries hit by different hazard types (7 classes; 7=high mortality).

GFDRR KEY PARTNERS

National Services	Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazard Department (VMGD), National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Vanuatu Agriculture and Research Technical Centre (VARTC), Department of Local Authorities (DLA), Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources (DGMWR), Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), Department of Lands (DoL)
International Organizations	World Bank, UNDP, United Nations Agency For Human Settlements (UN-HABITAT)
Regional Organizations	SPC/SOPAC, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
NGOs/CSOs	Vanuatu Humanitarian Team & Climate Change Consortium, Live and Learn
GFDRR Donors	Australia, EU, Germany, Japan

Project

Description

PROJECTS AWARDED BY GFDRR 2007-2014

Increasing Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Hazards in Vanuatu

ACP-EU US\$3,000,000 | Start date: 2013 (Ongoing)



The project supports institutional strengthening and pilot interventions to increase community resilience. Outputs include: (i) volcano contingency plans; (ii) data communication networks linking the existing observation stations with the national data and warning center; (iii) pilot community based activities to enhance disaster and climate resilience in rural communities.

Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI)*

Start date: 2008 (Ongoing)



The project, now in its third phase of implementation, provides 15 Pacific countries with a disaster and climate risk information platform, including comprehensive hazard, exposure, and vulnerability information. This information is being used for a number of risk management applications to inform urban and development planning, building codes, rapid disaster impact estimation, and risk financing decisions. The project is funded by Japan (through PHRD), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Union (through the ACP-EU NDRR Program), and the GFDRR MDTF.

* Multi-country activity is not included as part of GFDRR engagement figures on page 2.

SYNERGIES WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

SPC/SOPAC	The Applied Geoscience and Technology Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC/SOPAC) is implementing the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI).
EU	The European Union (EU) is providing support under the Global Climate Change Alliance to the Government for establishment of the National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction and its Secretariat/ Project Management Unit.
Germany	The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) are using their “Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region” program to strengthen the capacities of Pacific member countries and regional organizations to cope with the impacts of climate change. This includes implementing community-level climate change adaptation measures, such as introducing climate-resistant crops, breeding extreme weather–adapted livestock.
UNDP	The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Australian Government (AusAID), with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as its implementing agency and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) as the implementing partner. The project is enhancing the capacity of participating countries to adapt to climate change and climate variability in key development sectors.
World Bank	<p>Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction:</p> <p>This project contributes US\$2,970,000 to strengthen urban planning and tsunami warning in two urban areas of Vanuatu. Expected outcomes include (i) use of risk information and risk reduction data in urban planning (ii) strengthened tsunami warning services for communities at risk and (iii) establishment of a national platform for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.</p> <p>Increasing Resilience to Climate Change and Natural-hazards (IRCCNH):</p> <p>The objective is to improve the resilience of Vanuatu communities to the impact of climate variability on food and household water security, as well as on livelihoods. Expected outcomes include support for: (i) improved Government capacity to provide effective oversight and implementation guidance; (ii) farmers in areas that have adopted climate resilient food crop production practices; (iii) households in the targeted communities incorporating climate considerations in their decision making; (iv) national and subnational capacity-building institutions; and (v) rural water programs and community implementation efforts.</p>