

MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION



NEWSLETTER

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Revised and Enhanced NDC Launched



(L-R) Director General, Elsie Garaebiti, Hon. Minister Silas Bule Melve and SPREP's Jope Davetanivalu with the launched document

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Welcome!



DG Esline Garaebiti Bule

Welcome to Issue No. 5 of the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology and Geo-Hazards, Energy, Environment and National Disaster Management's e-newsletter.

After the lockdown we have achieved so much in a short period of time.

One of these huge achievements is the launch of Vanuatu's Revised and Enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution.

Vanuatu is among 13 countries around the world so far to have produced and formalised such document in time before the COP27 in Egypt in November,

Another achievement is the launch of the second edition of the Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Implementation Plan.

The Ministry also reached a milestone this year during the Public Service Commission (PSC) Day in

Port Vila.

I take this opportunity to thank all staff of this Ministry, which includes the five departments, for a job well done during the PSC Day.

With such achievements, we are on the right track with our mission is to develop sound policies and legislative frameworks and provide timely, reliable scientific information service delivery to enable resilient communities, a sustainable environment and economic development.

I acknowledge our international, regional and national partners that work with our five departments along with Corporate Services Unit through bilateral and multilateral support, to ensure targets are met and projects are developed, planned, implemented and completed within their timeframes.

Director General
Esline Garaebiti Bule

Micro Weather Station Installed at Port Vila Airport

The Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD) was privileged to host a team of experts in the areas of Weather Radar, Weather support system and Volcanology.

The team came from the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), Australia.

The purpose of their visit is to provide weather infrastructure support and assistance.

VMGD has been working with the Bureau of Meteorology in Australia and has been receiving some support over the years.

This visit further strengthens weather and climate technical capability of Vanuatu in providing early warning information to the general public.

The visit includes provision of both training and infrastructure.

The visit enhances closer engagement between Australia and the Ministry of Climate Change, through VMGD, to discuss the department's needs and provide some direction and guidance on maintenance of the Automatic Weather Stations (AWS).

The team installed a Micro Weather Station (MWS) in front of the Meteorology station at the Port Vila International (Bauerfield) Airport. The MWS is the most up-to-date facility and can generate METAR/SPECI formatted aviation weather reports.

This system measures parameters such as; barometric pressure and altimeter, wind speed, wind gusts, wind direction, temperature, dew point, altimeter setting and density altitude, visibility, sky condition, cloud ceiling, liquid precipitation, thunderstorm, lighting and rain. These parameters can now be accessed at both VMGD Weather Forecast and Weather Observation data base. This system will collect weather data over a 6-month timeframe, after which a permanent one will be installed in the longer term in the three international airports in Vanuatu (Pekoa, Bauerfield and Whitegrass).



(above) VMGD team with Australia Bureau of Meteorology's team at the Airport in Port Vila..

(below) The Micro Weather Station at the Airport in Port Vila.



Vanuatu's Revised and Enhanced NDC Includes Loss & Damage Commitments



(L-R) DG Esline Garaebiti Bule, Hon. Minister Silas Bule Melve and SPREP's Director of Environmental Monitoring and Governance, Jope Davetanivalu

The Government of Vanuatu, through the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, launched its Revised and Enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) on August 12.

In his address during the launching event, the Honourable Minister of Climate Change Adaptation, Silas Bule Melve, reminded that the NDC is the tool that parties to the Paris Agreement devised together in Paris to ensure that each country makes continuously more and more ambitious commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate change and meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The Hon. Minister said that Vanuatu made its Intended NDC commitments in 2016, and revised and improved them in 2020.

At COP26 in Glasgow last year, a high-level agreement was reached to "revisit and strengthen" each countries' NDCs by the end of 2022.

"Today, Vanuatu is the 13th country to heed this obligation, and we are honoured to submit one of the most

ambitious NDC in the world which includes 144 commitments on lowering emissions, expanding adaptation and addressing loss & damage.

"What is so special about this NDC is not just its highest-ambition 20 commitments on reducing emissions, like 100% renewable in the energy generation sector by 2030, or our commitment to land and maritime transport efficiency, including the introduction of electric vehicles.

"What is so special about this NDC is the holistic and comprehensive coverage of adaptation and loss and damage commitments.

"Our sectors are already implementing adaptation action on all islands. They have mainstreamed climate change into nearly all sector policies, and are working every day to achieve the targets.

"This NDC maps and promotes our sector leadership. In total, there are 112 adaptation targets in this document spanning more than 24 policy areas.

This NDC is also unique in the world in that it directly includes commitments to

address Loss & Damage.

"Our NDC contains 12 Loss & Damage commitments.

"When we call at COP27 for a Loss & Damage Finance Facility, we make it clear how these much needed funds will be spent, on long-term Loss & Damage Assessments, on climate displacement responses, and on livelihood transformation when extreme and slow onset events take us beyond the possibility for adaptation.

"While this is only a paper document, it contains the real climate leadership and action of our sectors.

"I am very proud that each Ministry and more than 40 departments are doing all they can to address the Climate Emergency at the grassroots level.

"Every day families experience the anxiety of not knowing whether their crops will fail, or whether the rain water tank will dry out.

"Our island communities wonder when the next category 5 cyclone will destroy their homes or when the waves will wash away the foundations of their schools.

"As I deliver this address, Vanuatu's people continue to face the unfolding crisis posed by climate change.

"Our best efforts still fall short, because what we do at the national,

sub-national and community levels will not be enough to solve the global crisis. All States must follow Vanuatu's lead and get very serious about averting this Climate Emergency.

"Let this NDC motivate the world, and let us make sure we hand a planet to our grandchildren that demonstrates our climate ambition and commitment in this critical decade," the Hon. Minister of Climate Change Adaptation, Silas Bule said.

The Revised and Enhanced NDC launching took place on the side of the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting that took place in Port Vila.

NGEF Launches Approved Solar Home Systems and Microgrids Catalogue

The National Green Energy Fund (NGEF) has launched its first-ever product catalogue that has in it a list of approved solar home systems and microgrids eligible for funding by NGEF.

In the catalogue are different approved products that beneficiaries such as Households, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises as well as Public Institutions can purchase with the funding assistance from NGEF.

The NGEF financing products include Loans, Risk Facilities, Grants and a mixture of the three products with lending being the priority being implemented.

The costs included in the NGEF Product Catalogue cover the cost of a solar PV system, freight to islands and installation. NGEF has a Mission of being a financing vehicle for the Vanuatu Government for achieving 100% electricity access and 100% renewable energy by 2030 as outlined in Vanuatu's National Energy Road Map (NERM 2016 – 2030).

The benefits of NGEF products are that the approval of products is based on a quality and design guideline for products which provide quality power and suitable for Vanuatu's climate.

The approved NGEF solar vendors are Energy4All, eTech Vanuatu Limited, and Power and Communications Solutions (PCS). The newly launched catalogue is an improvement from the previous catalogue used by the Vanuatu Rural Electrification Project (VREP II Project).

The Director General in her address during the launching said the since its first solar PV projects that were implemented in December 2019, NGEF has attracted a total of 337 million Vatu worth of funding from the Vanuatu Government and the Vanuatu Utilities



(top) NGEF team handing over the catalogue to DG Esline Garaebiti Bule. (above) NGEF Board with solar vendors cutting cake to celebrate launching

Infrastructure Limited (VUI) to support with its investments and operations.

She continued that 87% of the funds received is contributing towards the establishment of the Fund's revolving fund while the balance has supported the establishment of the office and its operations. The NGEF Board expressed its gratitude to the People of South Korea, through Korean International Corporation Agency (KOICA), for the first external funding of VT43.7 million Vatu that was provided to NGEF through a Grant Arrangement in September 2021. "This fund is contributing towards subsidizing the cost of solar PV systems by 27% during the pandemic period and is ending in November this year.

"The Board has successfully funded a total 73 project sites under its lending product, by the end of 2021, and the

projects include primary and secondary schools, cooperative societies, area council and provincial councils and tourism operators in the off-grid areas. "The total investment cost stands at 87.5 Million Vatu by the end of last year.

"The total electricity generated from all the sites is 329 Kilo Watt Hours per day.

"Of the total loan disbursed, 34% has been repaid contributing to the revolving fund," DG Esline Garaebiti Bule said as she acknowledged solar vendors and other stakeholders involved. In 2022, the NGEF Board successfully endorsed the NGEF Solar PV Manual to guide energy vendors and product registration and establish an operating procedure. This document will eventually be incorporated into the Operations Manual to guide the Board and Management of the Fund.

National CCDRR Policy and Implementation Plan Launched

The Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation (MoCCA) has launched the National Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR) Policy (Second Edition) and Implementation Plan on August 31.

This policy promotes good governance and provides a framework through which risks can be identified, assessed, reduced and managed.

The CCDRR Policy has a vision for Vanuatu to be a nation whose communities, environment and economy are resilient to the impacts of climate change and disaster risks.

The Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy is an important advance in integrating work in overlapping fields, placing Vanuatu at the forefront of innovative approaches in the Pacific and Internationally.

Developed and launched in 2016 the national policy has set the principal directives for CCDRR in Vanuatu and has been implemented without a strategic implementation plan until today.

The Strategic Implementation Plan will enable better

coordination and monitoring of climate change and disaster risk reduction programs, projects and initiative across sectors in order to fast-track progress and contributions towards the implementation of this overarching policy. It is the first five-year Implementation Plan for the Policy, covering the period from 2021 to 2025. Awareness workshop on these very importance documents for stakeholders in government and private sectors were also held the same week in Port Vila and the following two weeks on Tanna and Santo.



(above) The two documents launched.

(below) Minister of Climate Change, the DG and stakeholders officially launching the documents.



Montreal Protocol Implementation



Vanuatu has ratified the Kigali amendment under the Montreal Protocol on phasing down the use and production of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) refrigerants (gases) used in cooling equipment such as air-conditioners and refrigerators in 2018.

The Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) conducted a large number of trainings to Refrigeration and Air-conditioning (RAC) technicians to handle RAC equipment to minimize release of refrigerants that destroy the Ozone Layer in the past to now.

However, a large number of HFC refrigerants have high Global Warming Potentials (GWP), which means they have great ability to warm the planet by absorbing heat when they are released into the atmosphere. As a result of the Kigali amendment, manufacturers are manufacturing cooling equipment which contain low GWP refrigerants. These low GWP refrigerants however are flammable and therefore countries are encouraged to train the RAC technicians to gain skills that will enable them to work safely with

such equipment so that the risk of fire is minimized.

Vanuatu is already importing equipment such as refrigerators and air-conditioners containing the flammable refrigerants therefore the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) has started conducting trainings on the handling of such equipment as of 2019.

This year 2022, the DEPC continues the training, this time at the Port Vila Training College (PVTC).

The training was conducted with Mr Michael Moller, an experienced RAC trainer for 2 days from the July 27 to 28 at the PVTC. Ten Refrigeration and Air-conditioning (RAC) technicians from a few businesses in Port Vila attended the training. Vanuatu has about ten females already qualified as RAC technicians and is one of the only small Pacific Island countries to have female RAC technicians.

The DEPC would like to encourage more females to pursue this trade, there is a high demand for this trade in Vanuatu due to Vanuatu being a tourist destination and has a lot of accommodations.



NAB Portal Awareness

A training and awareness workshop on the National Advisory Board (NAB) on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Secretariat's Portal took place in late July with users and stakeholders.

The NAB Portal is a website that provides access to a wealth of almost all of Vanuatu's Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR) information. It can be accessed at www.nab.vu.

These include policies, events, current news, documents, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) engagements, job opportunities, directory of useful contacts, project profiles of each project endorsed by NAB and insights into the developments and priorities of the CCDRR sector on a national scale.

The NAB Portal was established as the primary information management tool

for CCDRR information in Vanuatu.

It was launched in 2012, which makes this year 10 years for the NAB Portal.

The unique feature of the NAB Portal is that although it is managed at the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, it is a tool that is decentralised to ensure that CCDRR sectors and agency focal points are able to access and update their own information in the portal.

MoCCA Awarded 1st Place in Booth Display at PSC Day

The Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation's (MoCCA) Department of Climate Change, Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department, National Disaster Management Office, Department of Energy and Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation and the Corporate Services Unit put on an outstanding exhibition during the Public Service Commission Day from August 24 to 26.

The three days of booth display and careers awareness on the activities of the MoCCA impressed judges of booth displays, which resulted in the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation getting the First Place in Booth Display.

This award was presented to the Director General of MoCCA, Esline Garaebiti, on August 26 by the Public Service Commission (PSC). The Director General expressed gratitude to PSC for

the recognition and praised staff for a job well done. The Public Service Day took place at the Convention Centre with a theme of promoting positive work ethics in the Public Service in Vanuatu. The MoCCA team had booths in all three villages set up by the PSC and all departments under the Ministry worked together to carry out awareness over the three days and point students in the right direction in their career paths.



The First Place Award received by the Director General, Esline Garaebiti Bule (c), with two staff of the MoCCA recognised for their outstanding performances, NAB Strategic Manager, Florence Iautu and DoCC Senior M&E Officer, Johnny Tari Nimau.

Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation at the 2022 PSC Day

