

VANUATU NATIONAL FISHERIES SECTOR POLICY

2016 to 2031

*A policy for the Sustainable Management,
Conservation and Development of Fisheries sector
in the Republic of Vanuatu*



**Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity
MALFFB**

Approval

APPROVAL OF THE VANUATU NATIONAL FISHERIES SECTOR POLICY

The Vanuatu National Fisheries Sector Policy is made in accordance with Part 3 Section 6(1) (a) of the Fisheries Act No. 10 of 2014.

By virtue of powers conferred upon the Minister Responsible for Fisheries, under Section 6(1) (a) of the Fisheries Act No.10 of 20014, notice is hereby given for the approval of the Vanuatu National Fisheries Sector Policy.

COMMENCEMENT DATE

This Policy commences on the date on which it is approved by the Minister.

Made at Port Vila this..... day of 2016.

.....
Honourable Matai Seremaiah NAWALU (MP)
Minister of Agriculture, Livestock,
Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity

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Executive Summary

This fisheries sector policy is the umbrella visionary document of the Republic of Vanuatu, in which the Ministry responsible for Fisheries and partners takes charge delivering over the next 10-years period. The policy highlights priority issues in this sector and sets out a number of key strategic actions addressing these challenges.

At the outset this sector policy is well aligned and consistent with the overarching Vanuatu Government policy documents, namely: the draft National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) or the “Vanuatu 2030”, the Overarching Productive Sector Policy (2012-2017) and various other relevant policies. Therefore, this policy must be read together with all other relevant fisheries policies in the country.

This policy is also cognisance of all the fisheries related subregional, regional and international policies and treaties that Vanuatu is a signatory. Examples of these policies and treaties include the MSG Coastal Fisheries Roadmap (2015-2024), the FFA Regional MCS Strategy (2010- 2015), the Noumea Strategy A new song for coastal fisheries – pathways to change (2015), the Pacific Regional Roadmap on Fisheries (2010), the Samoa Pathway (2014) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) (2014).

This Policy seeks to coordinate current activities, making them clearer by giving a ‘home’ of the high level strategies and monitoring programs in the fisheries sector. Vanuatu continued efforts to remedy the challenges are a demonstration of its commitments. It is not always easy because of capacity gaps and sustained resources; however Vanuatu through its Fisheries Department endeavours to work towards discharging its international, regional and national responsibilities fully into the future.

Nonetheless, the focus is not just on sustainable stock management and biodiversity conservation. Like all SIDS, Vanuatu recognises the priority need for fisheries management and advancing sustainable domestic fisheries and aquaculture developments covering small-scale local operations around the provinces, as well, larger commercial fishing ventures that promotes employment and improved livelihoods, and ensures food and nutrition security.

Accordingly, eighty percent of the population of Vanuatu dwell in the rural areas. These people depend strongly on the coastal fisheries for their livelihood and food security. This Policy will seek to promote community-based and co-management approaches to coastal fisheries. As the Vanuatu population grows and affect population structures, diversification and development of alternative to support production becomes critical. Aquaculture and development of nearshore fisheries are viable options that this Policy will seek to embrace and promote.

On the whole, Vanuatu continues to expend its efforts working closely with private and business sector interests to domesticate as much as possible opportunities in fishing, fisheries and aquaculture. Vanuatu embraces a balanced approach to fisheries and biodiversity through sustainable conservation, management and development. It is the

expectation of this policy that the key actions set out here will be delivered appropriately, and with joint support of the government and partners. The scope of the policy covers all relevant matters pertaining to fishing and fisheries that include inland fisheries, coastal fisheries, oceanic fisheries and aquaculture.

Constraints, Issues and challenges

The key challenges in the fisheries sector are best described as primarily related to governance and administration, implementing commitments and obligations, relatively poor progress and growth in domestic fisheries and aquaculture development, biodiversity research, political will, resources and resourcing. There are also ongoing operational issues common in fisheries that link to the target and non-target species, marine environment or ecosystem, and human wellbeing. Specifically, the current operational challenges relate to resource sustainability, fishing capacity, input and output controls, resource use and ownership, maximising benefits from resource utilization and mitigating impacts on the environment and non-target species.

As party to most of the RFMOs and other international fisheries treaties, conventions and arrangements, Vanuatu is expected to fully comply with its commitments and obligations. This has been a challenge however not impossible as demonstrated in Vanuatu being taken off the EU IUU yellow card in 2014. Vanuatu is committed to work with the provincial governments to improve management and develop their jurisdiction as well as working with communities to improve and expand community-based fisheries. These constraints and challenges are summarized:

1. Absence of a national fisheries sector policy

The lack of a National Fisheries sector Policy is reflected on the lack of strategic direction to foster growth of the sector.

2. Weak institutional setup and regulatory framework

Imbalanced Fisheries Department organisational setup and inadequate human resources and weak linkages to other service providers are the challengers faced in delivering services to the rural people and unfavourable climate for growth.

3. Lack of Infrastructure to support fishing and marketing

Infrastructure support including markets, boat and fishing gears are the hindrances to fisheries development and increase fish production leading to shortfall in fish supply in the urban markets.

4. Inadequately trained workforce

Fisheries sector has the potential to increase employment opportunities locally and offshore but lack of skilled workforce and existing training facilities and services resources to support skill training.

5. Resources and resourcing

Shortage of human and financial resources in the Fisheries Department limiting recruitment of essential positions such as in ICT, communication and fisheries extension officers and in the administration of the Department.

6. Ineffective enforcement of regulations

Enforcement of regulatory measures is lacking because of lack of existing lack of capacity and no collaboration with the prosecution office.

7. Lack of infrastructure for shore based industrial tuna processing development

Shore based Industrial tuna fisheries development is constraint by lack of onshore infrastructure including dedicated industrial areas for wharf, processing facility, slipway services which makes Vanuatu unattractive to investors in the fisheries sector.

8. IUU fishing and implementation of EU IUU yellow card recommendations

Vanuatu has made good progress in controlling its flag vessels against IUU fishing but Inspection of its international fishing fleet is a challenge and certification of catch for access markets in the EU are the challenges than need to be addressed.

9. Meeting RFMO commitments and obligations

Despite improvements in compliance by vessels across the board, attendance to annual RFMO meetings and reporting remain a challenge due to human resource issues.

10. Poor participation of government stakeholders

Working in isolation from relevant line Government Departments has resulted in overburden, duplication and stretching of limited resources of the Fisheries Department and ineffective program implementation.

11. Land disputes affecting rural fish market centres

80% of rural fish preservation and market centres ceased because of land ownership issues and there is lack of cooperation by fishers and resources owners.

12. Limited access to financial resources

It is nearly extremely difficult for fishermen to get a loan from the bank and insurance providers are hesitant to insure fishing boats because of the high risk involved.

13. Lack of aquaculture development

Aquaculture development is faced with lack of fully equipped hatchery facility which prevented production of farming stocks and therefore growth of fish farming and aquaculture extension program is yet to be fully developed.

14. Community based management

Many approaches of community based fisheries have been introduced to local communities but they do not seem to work because there is not policy direction on community based fisheries development and management.

15. High cost of working with rural fishers

It is too expensive for fishers in rural areas to fish and export their fish produce to the urban market because of lack of infrastructure such as fishing boat and gears, preservation and market facility and transporting costs to the urban market.

This policy

What is it about?

The Vanuatu National Fisheries Sector Policy (VNFSP) sets out the vision, high level formal policy directions and implementation strategic framework for the sustainable conservation, management and development of fisheries and aquaculture in the Republic of Vanuatu. It insures integrated approaches across all sectors in Vanuatu. This fisheries sector plan or policy is developed in accordance with Section 6(1) (a) of the Fisheries Act, which provides for general policy guidance on fisheries and aquaculture matters. The term of the fisheries policy is 15 years in consistent with the other sectoral policies of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forest, Fisheries and Biosecurity and the National Sustainable Development Plan 2016 to 2030 or “The People’s Plan”

The policy focuses on improving fisheries governance, sustainable and economically viable fisheries and aquaculture, improved access to finance, improved infrastructure, market access, seafood safety and value adding, sustainable growth, employment, food security and livelihood. The Policy recognizes and promotes gender equality, participation of vulnerable groups in fisheries and strengthens partnership, collaboration and networking.

The policy promotes the evolving information communication technology and the increasing use of ICT in fisheries work and in particular the monitoring, compliances and surveillance of fishing operations inside and outside Vanuatu waters. The need for information access and dissemination is critical for visibility and public education and awareness. The policy further recognises climate change and its adverse impacts on the environment and humanity and the need for the sector to consider adapting and mitigating the impacts to reduce the risk of disasters.

The sector policy is an umbrella policy for the fisheries sector and should be read together with fisheries specific action plans including the ones listed below and others to be developed:

- 1) Revised tuna fishery management plan
- 2) National plan of action on sea turtles

- 3) National plan of action on sharks
- 4) National plan of action on IUU
- 5) National fleet management plan
- 6) Aquarium trade management plan
- 7) Snapper fishery management plan
- 8) Sea cucumber management plan
- 9) National fishing vessel charter policy
- 10) National fishing vessel crewing policy

Process of developing the policy

The development of this Policy is a result of a number of stakeholder consultations and literature reviews of existing fisheries management plans and the Departmental internal consultations. Six consultations were conducted at both national, provincial governments and community level. The consultation started in 2013 but validation consultation workshops started again in March and July in 2016. These series of validation consultation were conducted in all provinces. In November 2016, the final national consultation and open forum in Port Vila was purposely done to consider the final draft.

Stakeholders play a significant role in the development of fisheries and aquaculture sector in Vanuatu. Representatives attending the consultation workshops include government senior officers, provincial government officers, area secretaries, community leaders and private sectors, youths, women groups and church leaders. These stakeholders include Government line agencies, provincial governments, communities / resource owners, youth groups, women groups, private sector businesses, donor partners, NGOs/ INGOs, and regional and international fisheries organizations and institutions.

Vision and guiding principles

Vision

Healthy and sustainable fisheries sector for the long term economic, social and food security for the current and future generations of the Republic of Vanuatu.

Mission

To provide an effective, efficient, transparent and accountable service delivery through participatory approach to ensure long term sustainable fisheries management, conservation and development”

Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles form the basis of the Vanuatu National Fisheries Sector Policy;-

- (i) **Optimum utilization** of fisheries and aquaculture resources to ensure **ecological and socio-economic sustainability** in resource-use and domestic developments, while **protecting cultural and traditional norms** including embracing **customary marine tenure-ship**;
- (ii) **Maximise net economic benefits** from resource use in all fisheries waters and reinvest such benefits in the development of coastal and inland fisheries and aquaculture sector in Vanuatu;
- (iii) Promote the use of **rights-based management** supported by **best science and practices** in all fisheries and aquaculture;
- (iv) **Promote the principles of visibility, transparency, participatory and inclusivity**, which includes relevant stakeholders in decision making processes on fisheries and aquaculture management and development;
- (v) **Safeguard the welfare of the future generations**, recognising **gender equity and vulnerable groups**, and protecting the country's **sovereignty** and jurisdiction;
- (vi) Promote **good governance and strengthen cooperation, partnership and networking** at all levels of government and with those in civil societies, communities including between government and external partners and institutions.

Strategic Policy Objectives

This Sector Policy is structured around eight strategic policy objectives, each of which is underpinned by more specific Strategic Actions and Policy Directives:

1. **Institutional setup and Good Governance:** Sustained resources and resourcing that strengthen the fisheries institution in promoting and ensuring good governance, capacity building, training and technical service delivery;
2. **Fisheries Investment and Increase Economic Growth:** A strong fisheries sector generating maximum economic growth, employment, and at the same time ensuring sustainability of fish stocks, and thereby ensures food security and improves livelihoods of all communities;
3. **Food and nutrition securing and alleviation of NCD risk:** A strong fisheries increasing production of safe and healthy fish to feed the growing population provide balance diet and contribute to alleviating risk of NCD.

4. **Infrastructure support and product development:** Invest in onshore infrastructures that support value-adding and product development in order to advancing exports, consistent with internationally acceptable standards and certifications as required by competent authorities and potential markets;
5. **Environment Protection, Climate Change and Disaster Risk reduction:** Investigate the impacts of environmental and climate change on fisheries resources and habitats, particularly identifying and implementing key priority areas on climate resilience and disaster risk reduction;
6. **Information and Communication Technology:** An improved fisheries and aquaculture sector which is supported by improved and latest development of information technology and information management, including electronic reporting and monitoring, and must be done within the requirements of the national ICT policy;
7. **Fisheries Compliance and IUU Fishing:** Advocate for zero-tolerance in IUU requiring the effective implementation of the national fleet management policy, and ensure all Vanuatu flag and licensed fishing vessels are fully monitored and compliant;
8. **Building Partnership and equal opportunities:** Strengthen current partnership, collaboration and networking between the fisheries department and others, and also encourage establishing new ones that better promote the principles of visibility, transparency, participatory and inclusivity.

Strategic Actions

The following strategic policy actions and the policy directives address the key constraints and challenges faced by the sector as set out in earlier sections of this policy. The strategic actions and policy directives are laid out under the eight Strategic Policy Objectives (SPO).

SPO 1: INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND GOVERNANCE

Sustained resources and resourcing that strengthen the fisheries institution in promoting and ensuring transparency, good governance, capacity building, and training and technical service delivery.

Strategic Action 1: Strengthen institution that administer and enforce the fisheries sector policy and regulations that promote good governance.

Policy directives

1. *Review the organisational structure of the Fisheries Department*
2. *Create field officer positions for rural areas to cover expanding fisheries roles*

3. *Create positions for IT and communications officer*
4. *Increased budgetary support and up-skill staffs for a more complex fisheries management environment*
5. *Encourage access to finance and soft loans to support private sector development*
6. *Develop strategy to improve MCS of tuna and coastal fisheries*
7. *Enact, review and enforce regulatory framework from time to time*
8. *Implement recommendations in the ISP report*

Strategic Action 2: Train all workers in the fisheries sector

Policy directives:

1. *Develop training plan to maintain the required skills for Departmental operation*
2. *Develop training syllabus and modules based on the need of the sector*
3. *Seek capacity building opportunities for fisheries officers*
4. *Develop arrangement for work attachments and exchange programs*
5. *Encourage formal training of officers in all qualifications levels.*
6. *Provide budget for domestic training*
7. *Work with partners, donor and industry s to support training and scholarships*

Strategic Action 3: Inform and educate the public on relevant fisheries developments

Policy directives:

1. *Prepare information security standard and procedures to promote information sharing and exchange*
2. *Promote use of electronic, visual and print media, radio program workshops, seminars and public forums*
3. *Use and dissemination of fisheries data to be guided by binding rules*
4. *Create position and recruit fisheries communications officer*

Strategic Action 4: Maintain good reputation for fishing vessels in the Shipping Registry

Policy directives:

1. *Conduct due diligence on all new vessels entering and exiting the flag vessel registry*
2. *Record of fishing vessels and reporting to shipping registry is up to date.*
3. *Maintain clean record of IUU and related criminal activities by registering, flagging, chartering and licensing fishing vessels*
4. *Maintain good cooperation with RFMO*
5. *Timely payment of annual RFMO dues*

Strategic Action 5: Strengthen Participation of stakeholders

Policy directives:

1. Consult with stakeholders in important fisheries developments
2. Engage with formal and informal resource groups at government and community level
3. Activate the role of the Management Advisory Committee
4. Develop MOUs to govern critical inter-agency relationships

Strategic Action 6: Provide equal opportunity to all sectors of community

Policy directives:

1. Encourage fair participation of women and girls in all positions in the Fisheries Department.
2. Open training opportunities to all groups of community including vulnerable groups
3. Encourage participation of youth in training opportunities in fisheries, aquaculture and value adding processes.

SPO 2: FISHERIES INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

A strong fisheries sector generating maximum economic growth, increase employment creation and livelihood development at the same time ensuring sustainability of fish stocks, healthy ecosystems and environmentally sound practices.

Strategic Action 7: Facilitate investment in the fisheries sector;

Policy directives:

1. Create conducive environment for investment in fishing industry
2. Strengthen role of VIPA to facilitate investments
3. Develop policy to support joint venture
4. Improve trade procedures on fisheries sector
5. Improve institutional support for investment
6. Reduce barrier to investment and cost of doing business

Strategic Action 8: Grow revenue base of fisheries sector

Policy directives:

1. Develop new initiatives to grow revenue base
2. Consult the industry on new revenue initiative
3. Establish mechanism for new revenue initiatives
4. Establish improved revenue collection system
5. Develop policy on revenue growth in the fisheries sector
6. Balance revenue growth, resource management and industry benefits

Strategic Action 9: Undertake research and development in wild fisheries;

Policy directives:

1. Collaborative on capture fisheries research focusing on deep bottom fishery, reef and pelagic fishery and recreational fishing potential and squid
2. Undertake exploratory fishing on small long line fishing
3. Conduct biological research into resources status and invasive species
4. Collect accurate fishery data from subsistence and commercial operators
5. Undertake 100% coverage in port sampling
6. Conduct socioeconomic surveys of impact of fishing activities
7. Establish protocols for research by visiting scientist

Strategic Action 10: Facilitate full establishment and operation of Sino-Van Fisheries Limited

Policy directives:

1. Government approval of the relocation and funding of the new Fisheries Office complex and mariculture station
2. Facilitate establishment of the new temporary fisheries wharf at Paray Bay
3. Facilitate completion of construction of Sino-Van factory support warehouses
4. Work with VIPA to facilitate preferential treatment to Sino-van and other associated fisheries investments

Strategic Action 11: Strengthen coastal and near shore fisheries development;

Policy directives:

1. Undertake deployment of fish aggregating device in all provinces
2. Train all fishers in fishing skills and FAD management
3. Establish fisher associations to manage fishing infrastructure
4. Provide fishing gears and boat support to associations on credit
5. Establish fish preservation support in strategic market locations across country
6. Licensed all fishing boat operators
7. Provide duty concessions to fishing boat operators.
8. Maintain support and engagement with fishers association

Strategic Action 12: Undertake aquaculture research and development

Policy directives:

1. Conduct researches in fresh water hatchery production
2. Develop system of seed supply at cost recovery to farmers
3. Conduct farm production trials from standard farms
4. Undertake researches into development of feed
5. Conduct training and capacity building for officers and farmers
6. Develop aquaculture extension services

Strategic Action 12: Minimise adverse environmental impacts on fisheries

Developments:

Policy directives:

1. Undertake environment impact assessment on major developments
2. Follow Bio-security protocols in aquaculture and importation of new species
3. Monitor and mitigate negative impact of invasive species
4. Develop policy on environmental fee collection from tourism industry
5. EIA activities undertaken by Fisheries Department is cost recovered

Strategic Action 13: Create employment opportunity in fishing industry:

Policy directives:

1. Enact policy and regulation on fishing boat crewing
2. Train existing and new fishermen to take up crew employment opportunity
3. Train fish handlers and processors ready for skilled labour export
4. Implementation of policy and regulation on crewing
5. Assist enactment of maritime legislations to facilitate crewing employment
6. Control operation of crew recruiting agent
7. Collaborate with industry operators on crew training and employment

SPO 3: FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND NCD ALLEVIATION

Strong fisheries sector to increase fish production to ensuring food and nutrition security needs and assist to alleviate the risk of non-communicable diseases.

Strategic Action 14: Increase production of seafood at the national level

Policy directives:

1. Increase availability of fish for domestic consumption
2. Establish marketing system to rural areas to support fish production
3. Establish fish markets in towns, provinces and villages.
4. Encourage landing of fish by industrial fishing fleet in domestic ports
5. Channel tuna and by-catch fish to the local market
6. Provide funding support to fishermen to increase fish production

Strategic Action 15: Improve access to sufficient and adequately safe seafood

Policy directives:

1. Eat more seafood and reduce non-communicable diseases
2. Establish domestic seafood quality standards
3. Apply standards to seafood markets

4. *Train fishers and fish receivers on proper handling and processing methods*
5. *Inform consumers of risk of eating certain reef fish species*
6. *Demonstrate safe handling and preparation of seafood*
7. *Improve value adding of fish*
8. *Enhance sustainability of seafood supply at national level*
9. *Develop value adding of fish products*
10. *Maintain standards for exports and imports of seafood*

Strategic Action 16: Sustain production of fish at national level

Policy directives:

1. *Production of fish is sustainable to meet growing demand*
2. *Sustain fishing activities at all levels*
3. *Sustain production of farmed fish*
4. *Promote good aquaculture practices*
5. *Minimise wastage of resources*
6. *Improve value adding of fish*

SPO 4: FISHERIES INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT

Invest in infrastructures that support fisheries development including industrial zone, wharfs, processing facilities, aquaculture facilities and Fisheries Department offices and moveable assets

Strategic Action 17: Establish international fisheries port:

Policy directives:

1. *Establish temporary fisheries wharf to support landing and processing of fish for export.*
2. *Assist to establish an international Fisheries Port to service fishing industry*
3. *Encourage investment in large scale onshore tuna processing factory.*
4. *Assist creation of special industrial zones to accommodate fish processing industry*

Strategic Action 18: Establish centralized fish markets in urban and provincial Centres;

Policy directives:

1. *Establish central fish markets in urban areas*
2. *Repair fish market facility in provincial centres*
3. *Set up fish market outlets in the rural areas*
4. *Encourage markets to link directly to markets in urban areas*
5. *Licensing of all markets and or fish receivers*
6. *Marketing of fish by-catch from industrial fishing fleet.*
7. *Protect interest of small scale fishermen.*
8. *Quality and price of fish is fair to consumers*

Strategic Action 19: Establish aquaculture hatchery and farm construction support;

Policy directives:

- 1. Establish freshwater hatcheries in the south and north to service farmers*
- 2. Construct demo farms based on developed standards*
- 3. Secure funding to Build a new mariculture station in Vila and a new freshwater aquaculture station in Santo*
- 4. Target farming of high priority species for demo farms.*
- 5. Identify suitable aquaculture land available by islands*
- 6. Trial cyclone proof design for floating farms.*
- 7. Seek funding support for earth moving equipments*

Strategic Action 20: Support design and building of fishing boats;

Policy directives:

- 1. Install new machines and equipment at Fisheries Dept boat yard*
- 2. Increase production of locally design fishing boats*
- 3. Invest in building of medium size fishing vessels*
- 4. Training of boat builders via boatyard attachment trainings.*
- 5. Increase production of fishing gears and other marine items*
- 6. Conduct training in boat maintenance for rural fishers*
- 7. Amalgamate workshop and boat yard*
- 8. Create mechanic position and recruit*

Strategic Action 21: Improve Fisheries Departmental office infrastructure;

Policy directives:

- 1. Improve and build new office buildings and staff houses in all provinces*
- 2. Secure funding to build a new Fisheries Office building in Vila*
- 3. Develop existing waterfront land in Vila into domestic Fisheries wharf*
- 4. Keep accurate inventory of building assets of the Fisheries Department*

Strategic Action 22: Secure budget for new vehicles, motorbikes, fishing boats and a multipurpose vessel to support rural fisheries work;

Policy directives:

- 1. Seek budget support for new department vehicles to support fisheries work;*
- 2. Establish strict vehicle management in-line with PSC procedures*
- 3. Secure funding to purchase motor bikes for rural areas*
- 4. Vehicle maintenance to be serviced by workshop mechanic*
- 5. Secure funding to purchase Fisheries Department multi-purpose vessel*
- 6. Create position of a captain to manage the vessel operation*
- 7. Small fishing support boats are to be made available in all fisheries centres.*
- 8. Encourage project to provide budgetary support*

SPO 5: CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Investigate the impacts of adverse environmental impact caused by climate change and natural disasters on fisheries resources and habitats – focus on climate resilience and disaster risk reduction.

Strategic Action 23: Undertake baseline assessments marine environmental;

Policy directives:

1. *Implement research studies on the monitoring of the impact of climate change on coral reef health*
2. *Set up long term monitoring of sea surface temperature in locations along Vanuatu chain*
3. *Assess impact of coral reef habitat as a result of coastal uplift caused by earthquake, sea surface temperature rise, tropical cyclone*
4. *Assess and document scale of damage of reef by crown of thorn outbreak*
5. *Assess changes in status of fish stocks a result of environmental changes brought about by climate change*
6. *Develop policy on long term marine monitoring of coral reef health, sea water temperature and resource status.*
7. *Established data management and reporting procedures for climate change monitoring results*
8. *Collaborate with other partners in addressing marine environmental monitoring*

Strategic Action 24: Implement mitigation and adaptation activities in readiness for disasters;

Policy directives:

1. *Preserve certain reef resources for use during natural disasters*
2. *Set aside marine protected areas as food reserve during natural disasters*
3. *Establish facility to store and preserve fish during disasters*
4. *Implement and enforce fisheries regulations at community level*
5. *Trains fishers to preserve fish for use during disaster*
6. *Wastage of fish is not encouraged*
7. *Develop alternative livelihood activities for communities including eco-tourism, handicraft and aquaculture*
8. *Adapt economic development to the impact weather pattern on tuna stocks*
9. *Develop mapping system to assess scale of impacts on marine environment*

Strategic Action 25: Promote community based management;

Policy directives:

1. *Strengthen community based management and adaptation*
2. *Preserve traditional resource management and fishing practices*
3. *Adapt co-management practices at community level*

4. *Develop and implement community plans*
5. *Adopt ecosystem approach in community based management*
6. *Develop other livelihood opportunities*

SPO 6: INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

An improved fisheries sector supported by improved information and communication technology and information management, including electronic reporting and monitoring, which are implemented within the requirements of the national ICT policy

Strategic Action 26: Develop standard procedures for information security;

Policy directives:

1. *Prepare an information security guidelines and procedures to guide the collection, processing and dissemination of information.*
2. *Protect fishery sensitive information leaking out to the public.*
3. *Create positions for ICT officer in the Department of Fisheries to manage information.*
4. *Disseminate information in all forms of media to improve visibility, education and awareness and for other development use.*

Strategic Action 27: Centralized Fisheries Department data management system;

Policy directives:

1. *Progress the centralized management of fisheries data.*
2. *Linked database to the fisheries information management system*
3. *Integrate with regional systems of SPC, FFA, and other RFMO's to in a 'one stop shop' manner for ease of access.*
4. *Use standardize data collection and recording format*
5. *Promote use of both paper and electronic data recording logs.*

Strategic Action 28: Undertaken electronic reporting and electronic monitoring;

Policy directives:

1. *Undertake trial of electronic reporting and electronic monitoring (ER/EM),*
2. *Develop national ER/EM strategy,*
3. *Expand Fisheries Information system to include all fisheries to inform decisions*
4. *Replicate electronic reporting to coastal fisheries such as by licensed fishing vessels.*
5. *Adopt same reporting in aquaculture production farms*

Strategic Action 29: Enhance vessel monitoring system operation:

Policy directives:

1. *Maintain use of "state of the art" information technology in monitoring fishing vessels operating inside Vanuatu waters*

2. Continue to work with CLS to monitor flag vessels operating internationally
3. Seek CLS sport to improve VMS system
4. Assess options to enhance and integrate the two systems to improve effectiveness and efficiency at less cost to the country.
5. Assess options to localise management of the national vessel monitoring system;
6. Continue to engage with Police Maritime Wing and FFA in surveillance operations
7. Formalise memorandum of understanding with VPMW.

Strategic Action 30: Progress Fisheries observer and port sampling to full cost recovery:

Policy directives:

1. Develop national Fisheries Observer and port sampling
 - i. to become a full cost recovery program;
2. Equip. all observers with safety gears including uniform and protective gears
3. Fully insure observers while at sea.
4. Support two de-briefers to complete their training to assist quality control of national observers
5. Progress into electronic monitoring system.
6. Extend role of observers to cover coastal fisheries and aquaculture

SPO 7: MONITORING, COMPLIANCE, SURVEILLANCE & IUU PREVENTION

Advocate for zero-tolerance in IUU fishing requiring the effective implementation of the national fleet management policy, and ensure all Vanuatu flag and licensed fishing vessels are fully monitored and compliant.

Strategic Action 31: Reduce and eliminate IUU fishing in the offshore fishery;

Policy directives:

1. Prevent entry of fishing vessels with historical record of IUU into the Vanuatu International Shipping Registry,
2. Enforce strict control on flag fishing vessels through compliance checks
3. Ensuring that vessels leave the VISR with clean record;
4. Fully implement the recommendations of the NPOA IUU and the National Fleet Management Policy.
5. Resolve any infringement by Vanuatu flag vessels swiftly before the WCPFC Commission meets.
6. Fully enforce penalty notice on vessel operators/owners for breaches.

Strategic Action 32: Limit RFMO membership by the Republic of Vanuatu to within the greater Pacific Ocean region;

Policy directives:

- 1. Withdraw membership to ICCAT and IOTC*
- 2. Enact policy and regulation on chartering of flag vessels*
- 3. Prevent chartering of vessels by RFMO members for which Vanuatu is a non-member*
- 4. Membership contribution is cost recovered from the fishing industry.*
- 5. Ensuring industry operators comply to pay their RFMO fees.*
- 6. Maintain management of trust accounts for ease of payment of RFMO fees.*

Strategic Action 33: Reduce and eliminate IUU fishing in coastal fisheries

Policy directives:

- 1. Licensing of all domestic fishing vessels*
- 2. Enforce license condition to ensure compliance*
- 3. Establish applicable catch data recording system on iphone*
- 4. Enforce license condition on processing license holders*
- 5. Strengthen compliance at ports and airport check points*
- 6. Work with partners to improve community compliance*
- 7. Assist fisheries authorized officers to collect accurate information*
- 8. Ban import and sale of destructive fishing gears*
- 9. Confiscate illegal fishing gears*

Strategic Action 34: Strengthen management of Vanuatu flag fishing fleet;

Policy Directive:

- 1. Remove fleet management contract with the private entity and discourage such contracts in future*
- 2. Fully assume role of fleet management*
- 3. Strengthen fleet management duty of the Fisheries Department*
- 4. Build closure cooperation with the fishing industry operators*
- 5. Provide efficient and reliable service to vessel operators*

Strategic Action 35: Implement Catch Documentation Scheme in all flag vessels;

Policy directives:

- 1. Finalize national control plan with FFA*
- 2. Implementation of national control plan*
- 3. Conduct food safety and CDS inspection on vessels*
- 4. Independent monitoring and approval by FFA*
- 5. Complete EU certification of the Seafood Verification Authority;*
- 6. Issue catch certification to flag vessel to access EU and other markets.*
- 7. Participate in trade negotiations on fisheries trade.*

Strategic Action 36: Strengthen fisheries law enforcement and prosecution

Policy directives:

1. *Strengthen enforcement of fisheries regulations*
2. *Cooperate with Public Prosecution office on capacity building*
3. *Improve administrative penalty regulations and enforcement,*
4. *Strengthen inspection at market outlets, restaurants and shops.*
5. *Undertake investigation and prosecution training of fisheries authorized officers.*
6. *Strengthen enforcement on importation, sale and use of destructive fishing gears*

SPO 8: COOPERATION, PARTNERSHIP AND NETWORKING

Strengthen current partnership, collaboration and networking between the fisheries department and other line agencies, industry, and also encourage establishing new ones that better promote the principles of visibility, transparency, participatory and inclusivity.

Strategic Action 37: Formalise collaboration with line Departments and stakeholders through MOUs and MOAs

Policy directives:

1. *Formalise collaborations with stakeholders through an MOU and or MOAs*
2. *Formalise MOUs with line-Government Departments and government entities, communities and civil society groups.*
3. *These arrangements would form the basis for collaboration.*
4. *Encourage joint implementation under MOU*
5. *MOUs and MOAs are to be assessed by State Law Office where necessary for consistency and legality issues.*

Strategic Action 38: Formalise collaboration with regional inter-governmental partners through MOUs and MOAs and SLAs

Policy directives:

1. *Establish formal arrangements through an MOU, MOA or SLA with regional inter-governmental organisations*
2. *Technical assistance target activities identified in the MOAs or SLA.*
3. *Fisheries Department is responsible in the implementation of MOAs*
4. *Priority activities in these agreements reflect national priorities.*
5. *Request for technical assistance to be channelled through the official protocol*

Strategic Action 39: Partnership with other external partners

Policy directives:

1. *Encourage other external partners to enter into MOA for the services they intend to provide*
2. *Engagement with external partners on priority areas of national interest*
3. *Encourage partnership and cooperation that enhance and advancing priority works on fisheries.*
4. *Include in the agreement delivery of research information on completion of project.*
5. *Projects to fund new positions to the existing structure*

Policy implementation process

Steps in the process

For the Policy to achieve its objectives other factors will need to be addressed as outline in the following steps:

Step 1: An implementation strategy of this sector policy (Annex 1) outlines the broad policy objectives, strategic actions and specific directive that relate directly to each priority action areas, the target, indicators and implementing partners.

Step 2: Relocation of the Fisheries Department Office in Vila and the mariculture hatchery and investment on a new office and mariculture buildings will support the effective implementation of this policy.

Step 3: Restructuring of the Fisheries Department is necessary to well align programs, strengthen corporate services, and create vital new position to ensure efficient administration and function of the organisation and associated budgetary support to allow this policy to be fully and effectively implemented.

Step 4: The policy implementation process will be regularly monitored by forums such as the NDTC and revision of the policy is needed to make the policy relevant and effective.

Step 5: Fishermen associations in all provinces must be established and strengthen under the National Fishermen Association and regular trainings and consultations is critical to support implementation of this policy.

Step 6: Collaboration with fishing industry is maintained and consultation with stakeholders is undertaken during the course of implementing the policy.

Step 7: A midterm review of the policy should be completed by 2023 to track progress of implementation, identify gaps and challenges and provide recommendations. A report

produced can be use to advice on new development areas of interest to development partners.

Step 8: Final evaluation will be commissioned at the end of the policy period in 2031.

Monitoring & evaluation

Effective implementation of the policy hinges on an effective MEL strategy with appropriate performance indicators and efficient feedback mechanism. This entails carrying out information gathering at national, sub-national, community, and sectoral levels.

The M&E Framework will focus on measuring the outputs of each strategic action and will provide the information needed to continually determine, assess and recommend the way forward toward the successful implementation of this policy in achieving its long-term vision

Acknowledgement

This sector policy is the result of the contributions of many people and stakeholders. The staff of the Vanuatu Fisheries Department for their initial ideas to this policy. But it was the community leaders, fishers, private sectors, provincial leaders, non-governmental partners, line government Departments and the fishing industry for their contribution in the policy through the many consultations. We thank the former Director of Environment Department – Mar Jason Raubani for his initial work on the draft. The input of SPC in the content of the policy is acknowledged especially though contribution of Director of Fame Division Mr Moses Amos and Aquaculture Advisor Mr Robert Jimmy. We thank FFA through the assistance of Management Officer Mr Samasoni Sauni for improving the structure and visibility of the policy. Importantly the policy would not have been possible without funding support, we than UNDP through the Vanuatu Climate Change Adaptation project (VCAP) for the funding support of this policy.

Annex 1: IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE NATIONAL FISHERIES SECTOR POLICY

Strategic Objective 1: INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND GOVERNANCE

Sustained resources and resourcing that strengthen the fisheries institution in promoting and ensuring good governance, capacity building, training and technical service delivery

Strategic Policy Action	Target	Propose activities/Directives	Indicators	Partners
1. Strengthen institutional and administer and enforce the fisheries sector policy and regulations that promote good governance.	Review the organisational structure by 2017 and implementation by 2018, MCS Strategy for Coastal Fisheries by 2017; Crewing policy and regulations completed by 2017; Guidelines on Access to finance and soft loans by 2018;	<i>Review the organisational structure , create new positions, Increased budgetary support , up-skill staffs, Access to finance and soft loans , improve MCS, Enact, review and enforce regulatory framework Implement recommendations in the ISP report</i>	New VFD organizational structure completed and implemented MCS Strategy on Coastal Fisheries approved for implementation; Crewing policy and legislations approved for implementation;	VFD, other Government line Ministries and Departments, t-RFMOs, SPC, FFA, donor agencies, and NGOs
2: Train all workers in the fisheries sector	By 2018, VFD HR plan is development and approved; At least 1-2 national trainings completed every year, 2017-2026; At least 1 national training for fishermen & rural communities completed every year; At least 2-3 scholarships for undergraduate and post-graduate studies in fisheries and aquaculture as of 2018; Crew training commence by 2017 School curriculum development completed by 2017	<i>Develop training plan, training syllabus and modules, capacity building opportunities work attachments and exchange programs formal training of officers allocate budget for training Work with partners and donor to support training Consultation on school curriculum and finalization</i>	Human resource development and training policy is in place and implemented; National trainings for observers, Vanuatu have debriefers, training budget allocation fishermen trainings conducted annually 1-2 scholarships each year on fisheries and aquaculture (masters and PhDs on stock assessment, modelling) School curriculum completed and used in syllabus by 2018	VFD, VMC, Government line Ministries and Departments, Industry, Fishermen Association, donor partners, SPC, FFA, training institutions
3: Inform and educate the public on relevant fisheries developments	Complete the information dissemination procedure by 2018 Information officer recruited Effective medial communications for news articles for radio, TV and	<i>Information security standard approved and implemented; Communication officer recruited News articles for radio, TV, schools and newspapers continuously disseminated;</i>	Procedure on information security in place 50% of all forums and schools covered in the first 5-years of the policy	VFD, SLO, FFA, SPC, Law Commission, NGOs,

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	<p>newspapers at least 4-6 times a year; Promote fisheries information and dissemination during public forums, seminars and workshops – annual activity; Organise documentary films School curriculum materials development</p>	<p><i>School curriculum material completed</i></p>	<p>90-100% completed with fisheries information public domain only well disseminated in the country School curriculum use to develop syllabus</p>	
<p>4: Maintain good reputation for fishing vessels in the Shipping Registry</p>	<p>Prepare for the review, completed by late 2017 Consultancy is targeted to be completed in 2018 Reform of Vanuatu open flag registry expected to complete by 2020</p>	<p><i>Conduct due diligence on all vessels entering and exiting VISR Update record of fishing vessels Vessels assessed before Maintain clean record of IUU and related criminal activities by registering, flagging, chartering and licensing fishing vessels Maintain good cooperation with RFMO Timely payment of annual RFMO dues</i></p>	<p>Consultancy report approved and recommendations implemented appropriately; IUU records by flag vessels reduced by 60-80% first 5-years, and 100% by 2026; Vessel registry reformed with functions consistent with best practice</p>	<p>VFD, RFMO, VISR, Fishing industry, Government line Ministries, Departments, other stakeholders</p>
<p>5: Strengthen participation of stakeholders</p>	<p>By 2020 relevant MOCs signed between the VFD and relevant agencies and communities in support of resource management By 2026 at least each province has a working TAG for fisheries in place, with improved visibility and fair participation in resource management</p>	<p><i>Consult with stakeholders in important fisheries developments Engage with formal and informal resource groups at government and community level Activate the role of the Management Advisory Committee Develop MOUs to govern critical inter-agency relationships</i></p>	<p>Active FMAC, provinces will have an active TAG for effective management of fisheries Composition of FMACs will at least have a female and other non fisheries stakeholder</p>	<p>VFD, line Government Ministries and Departments, Provincial Government, NGOs, fishermen associations, fishing industry</p>
<p>6: Provide equal opportunity to all sectors of community</p>	<p>By 2020, Gender equity and fair representation of stakeholders in VFD By 2020, small scale fisheries operations involving women and youths participation are supported – e.g. coastal invertebrate fisheries Use fishers association and include female members</p>	<p><i>Increase female staff in VFD encourage all groups of community to trainings Encourage participation of youth in all trainings</i></p>	<p>At least 1-2 women in all provinces fisheries Associations; At least 20-30% women and youths participating in training; At least 10 or more MOUs established between the VFD and communities on small scale fisheries operations</p>	<p>VFD, Government line Ministries and Departments, Provincial Governments, NGOs, fishers association, civil society</p>

Strategic Objective 2: FISHERIES INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

A strong fisheries sector generating maximum economic growth, increase employment, food security and livelihood development at the same time ensuring sustainability of fish stocks, healthy ecosystem and environmentally sound practices

Strategic Actions	Outcome	Specific actions/activities	Indicators	Partners
7. Facilitate investment in the Fisheries sector;	Special Industrial zone development process completed by 2020; Investment process simplified VIPA active to work closure with government departments Adjust license fees for foreign fishing vessels;	<i>Create conducive environment for investment</i> <i>Strengthen role of VIPA</i> <i>Develop policy on joint venture</i> <i>Improve trade procedures on fisheries</i> <i>Improve institutional support for investment</i> <i>Reduce barrier to investment and cost of doing business</i>	Sino-Van Fisheries investment fully established and operational Special industrial zone identified and legislation completed Processing industry established	VFD, MALFFB, VIPA, Other Gov Departments and Ministries, Fishing Industry Operators
8. Grow revenue base of fisheries sector	Develop revenue policy of fisheries Department by 2017 New initiatives identified regulatory measures established by 2017 payment system improved for domestic and foreign transaction by 2017 Commence development CMS and or VDS for long line fishery by 2017 Improve invoicing system by 2017 Strengthen product development and sale as of 2016	<i>Develop new revenue initiatives</i> <i>Consult the industry</i> <i>Establish regulatory measures</i> <i>Improved payment system</i> <i>Develop policy on revenue options</i> <i>Balance revenue growth, resource management and industry benefits</i>	Revenue policy of VFD completed Increase revenue to 500 million by 2019 Payment system improved No revenue outstanding Implement improved invoices	VFD, MALFFB, Finance Dept, Other Gov Departments and Ministries, Fishing Industry Operators

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<p>9: Undertake research and development in wild fisheries;</p>	<p>By 2020, over 60% of the relevant biological and socio-economic research and fishing trials completed and reports also completed. Results will be use for formulating or revising resource plans at least by 2026. Exploratory fishing to determine full potential of new fisheries completed by 2020 Research into development of recreational fishing in the provinces</p>	<p><i>Trials on capture fisheries and recreational fishing, Explore fishing on small long line fishing boat Conduct biological research on reef resources and invasive species Collect accurate fishery data 100% coverage in port sampling Conduct socioeconomic surveys Establish research protocols for y visiting scientist</i></p>	<p>Number of research, surveys and fishing trials completed over time; Reports and publications from results of surveys and trials; An increasing number of standard farms established in the provinces; Reseeding of degraded ecosystems such coral reefs, nursery areas incl. Mangroves and other wetlands</p>	<p>VFD, Fishing Industry Donor Partners, FFA, SPC</p>
<p>10: Facilitate full establishment and operation of Sino-Van Fisheries limited</p>	<p>Sino-van company fully operational by 2017 By 2018, two onshore processing facilities in full operation and production; and 70- fishing vessels based locally By catch landed from fishing boat that are fit for human consumption distributed to urban and rural areas By 2026 food security and improved livelihoods ensured</p>	<p><i>VFD office and hatchery relocation and funding approval process; Construction of temporary wharf at VFD location; Construction of factory support warehouses at Sino-Van factory Awareness on fishing industry</i></p>	<p>New fisheries wharf completed; Two onshore processing facilities operating to full production; 70-cap licenses that maximise economic benefits; Increasing exports of frozen and fresh fish directly from onshore facilities</p>	<p>VFD, Sino-Van Ltd Other line Government Ministries and Departments</p>
<p>11: Strengthen coastal and near shore fisheries development;</p>	<p>FAD development and management plan developed by 2017 Fishers Association established in all provinces by 2018 Graduation of associations to cooperatives by 2018 All coastal communities have access to fishing options by 2020 expanded to all islands by 2020 All associations' members trained by 2020. VFD to acquire multi-purpose vessel to support fisheries associations</p>	<p><i>Install FADs in all provinces Train all fishers in fishing skills Establish fishers associations Provide fishing gears and boat support to associations on credit Establish fish preservation support in strategic market locations across country Licensed all fishing boat operators Provide duty concessions to license operators. Maintain engagement with fishers association</i></p>	<p>FAD deployed in all islands Fishers Association established in all provinces and islands Management plans completed for all associations Increasing quality and quantity of fish production</p>	<p>VFD, Fisheries Associations, Provincial Government Cooperatives Dept, Industry Dept, Community, Donors, NGOs SPC</p>

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12. Undertake aquaculture research and development	<p>Aquaculture research and trials completed and applied by 2020; Finalise aquaculture plan; Adopted and implemented by 2018; Achieve 200 small aquaculture farms full operational by 2020; By 2026, aquaculture produce fully satisfying local food security requirements and modest exports, Secure funding to develop new mariculture station by 2020</p>	<p><i>Develop new aquaculture and mariculture station</i> <i>Fresh water hatchery production trials</i> <i>Seed supply cost recovery</i> <i>Conduct farm production trials and test standard farms</i> <i>Feed researches</i> <i>Training and capacity building of officers and farmers</i> <i>Develop aquaculture extension services</i></p>	<p>Aquacultures fish and prawn readily available at Vila and Santo markets Demonstration farms in all potential islands Fish quality production achieved</p>	<p>VFD, Fisheries Associations, Provincial Government Cooperatives Dept, Industry Dept, Community, Donors, NGOs SPC</p>
13 Minimise adverse environmental impact from developments:	<p>EIA completed on all major developments Enforce seafood regulations on all export facilities by 2017 Charge vessels discharging polluted waste to sea Increase awareness on fish processing factories</p>	<p><i>Undertake environment impact assessment on major developments</i> <i>Follow Bio-security protocols in aquaculture and importation of new species</i> <i>Monitor and mitigate negative impact of invasive species</i> <i>Develop policy on environmental fee collection from tourism industry</i> <i>EIA activities undertaken by Fisheries Department is cost recovered</i></p>	<p>Compliant on waste management controlled No incidence of uncontrolled water production Public concern adequately dealt</p>	<p>VFD, Environment Dept, Fisheries Associations, Provincial Government Industry Operators, Community,</p>
14 Create employment opportunity in fishing industry:	<p>Crew policy and regulation approved by implemented 2017 Recruitment of qualified crews by 2017 Develop training syllabus by 2017 Licensing of crew agents by 2017 Certified fish handlers as of 2018 and exporting of fishing industry workers by 2020 Raise crew employment above 300 by 2018 Employment opportunities increased by over 50% in 2020</p>	<p><i>Enact policy and regulation on fishing boat crewing</i> <i>Train existing and new fishermen to take up crew employment opportunity</i> <i>Train fish handlers and processors ready for skilled labour export</i> <i>Implementation of policy and regulation on crewing</i> <i>Assist enactment of maritime legislations to facilitate crewing employment</i> <i>Control operation of crew recruiting agent</i> <i>Collaborate with industry operators on crew training and employment</i></p>	<p>Exporting of qualified fishing boat crew Exporting of qualified fish handlers Increase number of crew employment in domestic and international fishing industry</p>	<p>VFD, MALFFB, VMC, Ports and Harbour, Labour Dept, MIPU, RFMOs and Fishing Industry Operators, Fishing and Crewing Agent, FFA and SPC, donors</p>

Strategic Objective 3: FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND NCD ALEVIATION

A strong fisheries sector to increase fish production to ensuring food and nutrition security needs and assist to alleviate the risk of non-communicable diseases

Priority Action	Target	Propose activities	Indicators	Partners
15: Increase production of seafood at the national level.	<p>By 2020, all islands have 3-5 anchored FADS deployed</p> <p>Fishers supported with fishing gears; preservation system operating and fishing operations;</p> <p>By 2020, all provinces will have rural fisheries markets and rural fishing gear shops established</p> <p>Central fish market in Vila completed in 2017, Santo 2018</p> <p>By 2026, alternative duty exemptions or subsidy by the VFD completely supporting local fishermen</p> <p>By 2020, fishers and fishers association are operating commercially as fisheries cooperatives</p>	<p><i>Increase availability of fish for domestic consumption</i></p> <p><i>Establish marketing system to rural areas to support fish production</i></p> <p><i>Establish fish markets in towns, provinces and villages.</i></p> <p><i>Encourage landing of fish by industrial fishing fleet in domestic ports</i></p> <p><i>Channel tuna and by-catch fish to the local market</i></p> <p><i>Provide funding support to fishermen to increase fish production</i></p>	<p>Progress reports on livelihood programs;</p> <p>Assessment and technical reports;</p> <p>Price of fish affordable in Vila and Santo markets</p> <p>Central fish markets in Vila and Santo established</p> <p>Rural fisheries markets and rural fishing gear shops established in all the provinces</p> <p>Fish availability in Vila and Santo Markets and importation of fish reduced</p>	<p>VFD, Provincial Governments, Fishermen Associations, Industry Dept, Cooperative Dept, Fishing Industries, SPC, FFA, UNDP, JICA, ACIAR, other donor partners, NGOs, communities and civil societies.</p>
16 Improve access to sufficient and adequately safe seafood	<p>Established standards for seafood for local markets and enforced by 2017</p> <p>New markets in 2016 are build based on standard</p> <p>Training on seafood standard development</p> <p>Seafood preparation and safety awareness conducted</p> <p>Implement seafood regulations by 2017</p>	<p><i>Establish domestic seafood quality standards</i></p> <p><i>Apply standards to seafood markets</i></p> <p><i>Train fishers and fish receivers on proper handling and processing methods</i></p> <p><i>Inform consumers of risk of eating certain reef fish species</i></p> <p><i>Demonstrate safe handling and preparation of seafood</i></p> <p><i>Improve value adding of fish</i></p> <p><i>Enhance sustainability of seafood supply at national level</i></p> <p><i>Develop value adding of fish products</i></p>	<p><i>Fish markets in Vila opened, Santo one commence development;</i></p> <p><i>More seafood available at markets</i></p> <p><i>Transport of seafood to urban market improved by 2017</i></p> <p><i>Affordable price of fish in Vila and Santo markets</i></p> <p><i>Local fish available in hotels and restaurants</i></p>	<p>VFD, Provincial Governments, Fishermen Associations, Industry Dept, Cooperative Dept, Fishing Industries, SPC, FFA, UNDP, JICA, ACIAR, other donor partners, NGOs, communities and civil societies.</p>

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17: Sustain production of fish at national level	Sustainable FAD program established Associations Strengthen Association activities are cost recovery Support provided to industrial fishing industry to increase landing of fish to domestic market	<i>Production of fish is sustainable to meet growing demand</i> <i>Sustain fishing activities at all levels</i> <i>Sustain production of farmed fish</i> <i>Promote good aquaculture practices</i> <i>Minimise wastage of resources</i> <i>Practice value adding of fish to improve value</i>	Continue fishing activities Moving to larger fishing vessels Fish quality and value adding improved Fishers profitable	VFD, Provincial Governments, Fishermen Associations, Industry Dept, Cooperative Dept, Fishing Industries, SPC, FFA, UNDP, JICA, ACIAR, other donor partners, NGOs, communities and civil societies.
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Strategic Objective 4 : FISHERIES INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT

Invest in infrastructures that support onshore development of the fishing industry including special industrial zones, wharfs, factories, slipways, boats and markets

Priority Action	Target	Propose activities	Indicators	Partners
18. Establish International Fisheries Port:	Major investment in the International Fisheries Port approved by Government by 2017 Negotiate with investors for this long term development For short term temporary Fisheries wharf completed by 2017 Onshore processing facilities full operational by 2028 Value adding and product development completed by 2026	<i>Establish temporary fisheries wharf to support landing and processing of fish for export.</i> <i>Assist to establish an international Fisheries Port to service fishing industry</i> <i>Encourage investment in large scale onshore tuna processing factory.</i> <i>Assist creation of special industrial zones to accommodate fish processing industry</i> Identify site and enact special industrial zone	Fisheries wharf completed and in operation; CNFC onshore processing facilities completed and full operation; Small scale fisheries operations in provinces; Value-adding and product development tested and commercially used, and with products exported by air and sea	VFD, Provincial Governments, Fishermen Associations, Industry Dept, Cooperative Dept, VIPA, VCF, Fishing Industries, FFA, other donor partners
19: Establish centralized fish markets in urban and province Centres;	Competent Authority fully established well-resourced and supported; Port Vila market established in 2017; Potential markets secured by 2017; Enforce standard on construction and operation Develop and each standard procedures for these markets	<i>Establish central fish markets in urban areas</i> <i>Repair fish market facility in provincial centres</i> <i>Set up fish market outlets in the rural areas</i> <i>Encourage markets to link directly to markets in urban areas</i> <i>Licensing of all markets and or fish receivers</i> <i>Marketing of fish by-catch from industrial fishing fleet.</i> <i>Protect interest of small scale fishermen.</i> <i>Quality and price of fish is fair to consumers</i>	Number of routine inspections with successful income increasing; Number of export consignments increasing every year; Revenues and volume of Vanuatu fish exports increasing every year; Employment improved by over 50% in the processing and fishing subsectors; GDP fisheries contributions increased	VFD, Municipal and VCF, Cooperative Dept, Industry Dept. Fishing Industry, Fishermen Associations, Provincial Government Councils, NGOs, FFA, SPC, JICA and other partners

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<p>20: Establish aquaculture Hatchery and farm construction support;</p>	<p>Demonstration of standard farms and ponds constructed for all provinces and in operation by 2020 Regular training on construction of standard farms and ponds, at least 2-4 sessions a year Encourage investments in these initiatives with a target of using climate change funds to support these activities for purposes of food security and impact of climate change on reef systems New breeding stock secured and finalised collaboration agreements with partners Environment and bio-security requirements fully operational in 2020</p>	<p><i>Establish freshwater hatcheries in the south and north to service farmers</i> <i>Construct demo farms based on developed standards</i> <i>Secure funding</i> <i>Build mariculture stations in Vila Santo</i> <i>Target farming of high priority species for demo farms.</i> <i>Identify suitable aquaculture land available by islands</i> <i>Trial cyclone proof design for floating farms.</i> <i>Seek funding support for earth moving equipments</i></p>	<p>At least over 10 standard and commercial farms and ponds constructed in each provinces; Increasing number of households or local communities engaged in this initiative; Increasing collaboration with VFD to support in the construction and operation of standard farms or ponds</p>	<p>VFD, MALFFB, Province, Biosecurity Vanuatu, Aquaculture Farmers, and civil society, FFA, SPC and donor partners,</p>
<p>21: Strengthen Fisheries Boat Yard and Production of small and medium size fishing boat</p>	<p>Install new boat building machineries by 2017 Mass production of plywood Hartley fishing boats by 2017 onwards Mass production of associated fishing gears Adopt new promotion system including pricing system Open gear shop in Vila Production of first medium scale fishing boat by 2020 Repair and sell out existing boats Amalgamation of Boat yard and workshop and recruitment of mechanic in 2017 Introduce new fishermen credit system</p>	<p><i>Install new machines and equipment at Fisheries Dept boat yard</i> <i>Increase production of locally design fishing boats</i> <i>Invest in building of medium size fishing vessels</i> <i>Training of boat builders via boatyard attachment trainings.</i> <i>Increase production of fishing gears and other marine items</i> <i>Conduct training in boat maintenance for rural fishers</i> <i>Amalgamate workshop and boat yard</i> <i>Create mechanic position and recruit</i></p>	<p>Locally build boat spread to the provinces region Price of locally build boat lower than imported boats Fishing gears readily available and at affordable price Fisheries Sale Shop open in Vila by 2020</p>	<p>VFD, MALFFB, Provincial Councils, Forestry Dept, Industry Dept, Fishers Associations, FFA, SPC and donor partners</p>

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22: Relocate Fisheries Departmental office infrastructure and movable asset support;	Construction of New Fisheries Office Complex completed by 2018 Construction of new Mariculture hatchery completed and relocation by 2018 Renovation and building of new offices in all provinces completed by 2020 Secure VFD vehicles support for Luganville, Vila, Tanna and Motorbikes of other islands	<i>Improve and build new office buildings and staff houses in all provinces</i> <i>Secure funding to build a new Fisheries Office building in Vila</i> <i>Develop existing waterfront land in Vila into domestic Fisheries wharf</i> <i>Seek budget support for new department vehicles to support fisheries work;</i> <i>Fisheries Department multi-purpose vessel</i> <i>Small fishing support boats are to be made available in all fisheries centres.</i> <i>Encourage project to provide budgetary support</i>	VFD office and mariculture station relocated; New office and staff houses completed and renovated in all provinces	VFD, MALFFB, MIPU, PSC, PWD, Internal Affairs, Provincial Councils, Community
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Priority Objective 5: CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Investigate the impacts of environmental and climate change on fisheries resources and habitats – focus on climate resilience and disaster risk reduction

Strategic Actions	Target outcome	Propose activities	Indicators	Partners
23: Undertake baseline assessments marine environment for long term climate change monitoring;	Implement all the relevant studies on the impact of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture and completed by 2020 Develop and endorse coral reef monitoring plan by 2018 Implement plan by 2020 and in 2026 Implement specific fishery plans Use results of research to identify and address climate change impacts and disaster risk reduction in fisheries and aquaculture resource plans	<i>Develop policy on coral reef monitoring and CC</i> <i>Implement research studies on the monitoring of the impact of climate change on coral reef health</i> <i>Set up long term monitoring of sea surface temperature in locations along Vanuatu chain</i> <i>Assess impact of earthquakes, cyclone, elevated temperatures on coral reef habitat and resources and fishing behaviour</i> <i>Assess and document scale of damage of reef by crown of thorn outbreak</i> <i>Established data management and database support</i>	Coral reef monitoring plan completed Permanent loggers installed and monitored Bleaching monitoring done when occurred and reported, COTS cleanup campaign established; Number of reports and publications each year;	VFD, SPC, SPREP, Climate Change Office, Tour Operators, Environment Dept, NGOs, Donor Partners, communities and other partners
24: Implement mitigation and adaptation and disaster	Rural fisheries development oriented to disaster preparedness Expand aquaculture farming as a source of fish during disasters by	<i>Preserve certain reef resources for use during natural disasters</i> <i>Set aside marine protected areas as food reserve during natural disasters</i>	Full implementation of national fisheries management plans; Enforcement of fisheries regulations in all communities;	VFD, SPC, SPREP, Climate Change Office, Tourism Operators, Environment Dept, NGOs, Donor Partners,

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<p>risk reduction activities in readiness for natural disasters;</p>	<p>2020; Divert effort to outer reef fishing to preserve reef resources Food preservation and value adding as adaptation activity Strengthen marine protected area Fisheries management and conservation work supported by all communities Fisheries revenue forecast to adapt to Changing weather patterns and movement of fish stock</p>	<p><i>Establish facility to store and preserve fish during disasters</i> <i>Implement and enforce fisheries regulations at community level</i> <i>Trains fishers to preserve fish for use during disaster</i> <i>Wastage of fish is not encouraged</i> <i>Develop alternative livelihood activities for communities including eco-tourism, handicraft and aquaculture</i> <i>Adapt economic development to the impact weather pattern on tuna stocks</i> <i>Develop mapping system to assess scale of impacts on marine environment</i></p>	<p>Active community alert on COT outbreak; Network on COTS outbreak active Percentage of coral bleaching in Vanuatu; Progress of recovery Indicators of climate change in fisheries and aquaculture identified and supported.</p>	<p>communities and other partners</p>
<p>25: Strengthen community based management through co-operative approach;</p>	<p>Develop and finalise policy on community based management to standardise format and unit of community based management; Incorporate traditional and cultural values in community fisheries plans; Encourage voluntary compliance of fisheries regulation by communities; Encourage cooperate management of fisheries in community own areas</p>	<p><i>Strengthen community based management and adaptation</i> <i>Preserve traditional resource management and fishing practices</i> <i>Adapt co-management practices at community level</i> <i>Develop and implement community plans</i> <i>Adopt ecosystem approach in community based management</i> <i>Develop other livelihood opportunities</i></p>	<p>Number of community fisheries plans completed and implemented; Training of community workers; Appoint community fisheries authorized officers</p>	<p>VFD, SPC, SPREP, Climate Change Office, Tourism operators, Environment Dept, NGOs, Donor Partners, communities and other partners</p>

Priority Objective 6: INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

An improved fisheries sector supported by improved information and communication technology and information management

Strategic Actions	Target	Propose activities	Indicators	Partners
<p>26: Develop standards for information security and website Development</p>	<p>Complete the information and dissemination security procedures and adopted by 2017 databases, and completed by 2028; Establish IT and information officer position in the VFD by 2017 Improved VFD website and link all components by 2017</p>	<p><i>Prepare an information security guidelines and procedures to guide the collection, processing and dissemination of information.</i> <i>Protect fishery sensitive information leaking out to the public.</i> <i>Create positions for ICT officer in the Department of Fisheries</i></p>	<p>Information security procedure completed; Information dissemination follow established standards process; Centralised database system completed;</p>	<p>VFD, MALFFB, SPC, OGCIO, Donor Partners, other partners</p>

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<p>27: Centralized VFD data management and databases and link to Fisheries information management system;</p>	<p>Complete development of a centralised database systems that link to other Data management Unit enhanced; Digital recording system fully functional; Other fisheries data linked to VUFIMS SPC and FFA database services serve the need of VFD; Fisheries data is visible in National Statistic reports</p>	<p><i>Progress the centralized management of fisheries data. Linked database to the fisheries information management system Integrate with regional systems of SPC, FFA, and other RFMO's to in a 'one stop shop' manner for ease of access. Use standardize data collection and recording format Promote use of both paper and electronic data recording logs.</i></p>	<p>DMU in full control of all database matters and Fisheries data is updated on the system Timely delivery of information and at format</p>	<p>VFD, SPC, FFA, OGCIO,</p>
<p>28: Implement electronic reporting and electronic monitoring (ER/EM)</p>	<p>Develop EM and ER strategy Completed trialling the units on Vanuatu flag fishing vessels; Mandatory use of EM and ER on all flag vessels by 2020 Mandatory use of EM and ER on all foreign fishing vessels by 2020 Develop observer operation base</p>	<p><i>Undertake trial of electronic reporting and electronic monitoring (ER/EM), Develop national ER/EM strategy, Expand Fisheries Information system to include all fisheries to inform decisions Replicate electronic reporting to coastal fisheries such as by licensed fishing vessels. Adopt same reporting in aquaculture production farms</i></p>	<p>ER/EM strategy completed and implemented; Improved reporting on licensed fishing vessels; Improve compliance index</p>	<p>VFD, MALFFB, Police maritime Wing, Fishing Industries, FFA, SPC, t-RFMOs</p>
<p>29: Enhance vessel monitoring system operation to monitor offshore and coastal fishing activities</p>	<p>National Vessel Monitoring System Program functioning effectively; 24/7 manning continue; Flag vessel monitoring improvement; MOU signed with PMW implementation; Training of officers; Review of VMS systems Amalgamate the two VMS systems by 2020</p>	<p><i>Maintain use of "state of the art" VMS to monitor fishing vessels operating inside Vanuatu waters; Continue to work with CLS to monitor flag vessels operating internationally ; Seek CLS support to improve VMS system; Assess options to enhance and integrate the two systems to improve effectiveness and efficiency at less cost to the country; Assess options to localise management of the national vessel monitoring system; Continue to engage with Police Maritime Wing and FFA in surveillance operations; Formalise memorandum of understanding with VPMW.</i></p>	<p>All vessels licensed and flag to Vanuatu in full compliant with VMS requirements; Amalgamation of the two VMS systems completed</p>	<p>VFD, MALFFB, FFA, SPC, Fishing Industries, t-RFMOs</p>

Strategic Objective 7: MONITORING, COMPLIANCE, SURVEILLANCE AND IUU FISHING PREVENTION

Advocate for zero-tolerance in IUU and ensure all Vanuatu flag and licensed fishing vessels are fully monitored and compliant

Strategic Actions	Target	Propose activities	Indicators	Partners
30. Reduce and eliminate IUU fishing in the offshore fishery through improve compliance;	Implement NPOA IUU, National Fleet Management Policy, National Control Plan, NPOA on sharks and Port State Control plan; IUU-free country by 2020; Penalize infringements on time; Maintain good reputation in the Registry; Flag fishing vessels earn good reputation	<i>Prevent entry of fishing vessels with historical record of IUU into the Vanuatu International Shipping Registry, Enforce strict control on flag fishing vessels through compliance checks Ensuring that vessels leave the VISR with clean record; Fully implement the recommendations of the NPOA IUU and the National Fleet Management Policy. Resolve any infringement by Vanuatu flag vessels swiftly before the WCPFC Commission meets. Fully enforce penalty notice on vessel operators/owners for breaches.</i>	Increasing number of successful investigations on IUU cases; Awards on fight against IUU IUU reports; Successfully withdraw from ICCAT; All infringements addressed	VFD, MALFFB, Foreign Affairs, other Government line Ministries and Departments, SPC, FFA, t-RFMOs, , Fishing Industries
31: Limit RFMO membership by the Republic of Vanuatu to within the greater Pacific Ocean region;	Withdrawal from ICCAT by end of 2016; Charter policy and regulation enacted; Restrict chartering of flag vessels to RFMO members for which Vanuatu is a member; Attend 50% of RFMO meetings by 2018 and further improves thereafter	<i>Withdraw membership to ICCAT and IOTC Enact policy and regulation on chartering of flag vessels Prevent chartering of vessels by RFMO members for which Vanuatu is a non-member Membership contribution is cost recovered from the fishing industry. Ensuring industry operators comply to pay their RFMO fees. Maintain management of trust accounts for ease of payment of RFMO fees.</i>	Total withdrawal from ICCAT; Becoming full member of NPFC by 2017; Maintain good service to RFMOs	VFD, MALFFB, Foreign Affairs, other Government line Ministries and Departments, SPC, FFA, t-RFMOs, , Fishing Industries
32: Reduce and eliminate IUU fishing in coastal	All registered licensed by 2018; Compliance of small fishing boats improved 50% by 2018; Revised regulation implemented;	<i>Licensing of all domestic fishing vessels Enforce license condition to ensure compliance Establish applicable catch data recording</i>	Local vessels operating viably; No more importation and illegal sale of destructive fishing gears; No more destructive fishing gears	VFD, Province, Fisheries Associations, community, Police

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<p>fisheries</p>	<p>Coastal compliance officers trained; Importation and sale of destructive gears ceased Destructive gears confiscated</p>	<p><i>system on tablet</i> <i>Enforce license condition on processing license holders</i> <i>Strengthen compliance at ports and airport check points</i> <i>Work with partners to improve community compliance</i> <i>Assist fisheries authorized officers to collect accurate information</i> <i>Ban import and sale of destructive fishing gears</i> <i>Confiscate illegal fishing gears</i></p>	<p>in the country</p>	
<p>33: Strengthen management of Vanuatu flag fishing fleet;</p>	<p>Cessation of the vessel monitoring system services contract by 2018; Fisheries Department assume full responsibility of fleet manager by 2018; Good relation is maintained with industry operators;</p>	<p><i>Remove fleet management contract with the private entity and discourage such contracts in future</i> <i>Fully assume role of fleet management</i> <i>Strengthen fleet management duty o the Fisheries Department</i> <i>Build closure cooperation with the fishing industry operators</i> <i>Provide efficient and reliable service to vessel operators</i></p>	<p>VMSS contract ceased; VFD assume full responsibility;</p>	<p>VFD; MALFFB, SLO, Tuna Fishing Vanuatu Ltd, t-RFMOs</p>
<p>34: Implement Catch Documentation Scheme in all flag vessels;</p>	<p>Certification standards instituted; Seafood Verification Agency certification process completed by FFA; EU Certification completed; Catch certification applied to all Vanuatu flag vessels for fish exports annually;</p>	<p><i>Finalize national control plan with FFA</i> <i>Implementation of national control plan</i> <i>Conduct food safety and CDS inspection on vessels</i> <i>Independent monitoring and approval by FFA</i> <i>Complete EU certification of the Seafood Verification Authority;</i> <i>Issue catch certification to flag vessel to access EU and other markets.</i> <i>Participate in trade negotiations on fisheries trade</i></p>	<p>Seafood standards gazetted Seafood regulation gazetted FFA training process completed SFVA certified by EU Vanuatu authorize fish entry to EU</p>	<p>VFD; MALFFB, SLO, t-RFMOs</p>

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35: Strengthen fisheries law enforcement and prosecution	Complete attachment with Prosecution Office Develop and sign MOU with Prosecutions Office Commence prosecution of fisheries cases; Recruit more community fisheries authorized officers;	<i>Strengthen enforcement of fisheries regulations</i> <i>Cooperate with Public Prosecution office on capacity building</i> <i>Improve administrative penalty regulations and enforcement,</i> <i>Strengthen inspection at market outlets, restaurants and shops.</i> <i>Undertake investigation and prosecution training of fisheries authorized officers.</i> <i>Strengthen enforcement on importation, sale and use of destructive fishing gears</i>	Fisheries Prosecutor admitted; MOU signed; 5 cases successfully prosecuted;	VFD; MALFFB, SLO, Justice Ministry, Public Prosecutions Office, t-RFMOs
36: Progress Fisheries observer and port sampling to full cost recovery:	Observer Programme achieve half cost recovered by 2023; Port Sampling to be fully cost recovered by 2023; Observers fully covered on trips; Complete training of more observers	<i>Develop national Fisheries Observer and port sampling</i> <i>to become a full cost recovery program;</i> <i>Equip. all observers with safety gears including uniform and protective gears</i> <i>Fully insure observers while at sea.</i> <i>Support two de-briefers to complete their training to assist quality control of national observers</i> <i>Progress into electronic monitoring system.</i> <i>Extend role of observers to cover coastal fisheries and aquaculture</i>	Observer program full cost recovered by 2031; Port Sampling achieve full cost recovered by 2031; Observer number reach 50 by 2031;	VFD; MALFFB, FFA, SLO, Justice Ministry, Public Prosecutions Office, t-RFMOs
37: Review Vessel licensing process and recording system	Efficient licensing system for foreign vessels and IATF; Maintain up to date record of Licenses and IATF; Provide regular update of licenses and fee collection;	<i>Maintain efficient processing of licenses;</i> <i>Liaise with operators when processing licenses;</i> <i>Introduce online application and processing of licenses;</i> <i>Work with</i>	Efficient issuance process; Good appreciation by clients; Completed online license application process;	VFD; MALFFB, FFA, SLO, t-RFMOs
38; Introduce long line Vessel day scheme (VDS) or Quota management system (QMS)	Review legislation to accommodate VDS or QMS for implementation by 2019; Seek assistance from FFA;	<i>Work with FFA to design VMS implementation policy;</i> <i>Work with NZ MPI on advice on QMS system for decision making;</i> <i>Adopt either of the two</i>	VDS or QMS adopted	VFD; MALFFB, FFA, SPC, SLO, t-RFMOs

Strategy Objective 8: COOPERATION, PARTNERSHIP AND NETWORKING

Strengthen partnership, collaboration and networking with line Departments, industry, and also encourage establishing new ones for visibility, transparency, participatory and inclusivity

Strategic Actions	Target	Propose activities	Indicators	Partners
39: Formalise collaboration with line Departments and stakeholders through MOUs and MOAs	Fisheries Department to strengthen networking and partnership with relevant stakeholders such as line/relevant Government departments, the province, communities and public in urban/rural communities, FFA, SPC, t-RFMOs, Donor Partners, NGO's and others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Formalise collaborations with stakeholders through an MOU and or MOAs</i> ▪ <i>Formalise MOUs with line-Government Departments and government entities, communities and civil society groups.</i> ▪ <i>These arrangements would form the basis for collaboration.</i> ▪ <i>Encourage joint implementation under MOU</i> ▪ <i>MOUs and MOAs are to be assessed by State Law Office where necessary for consistency and legality issues.</i> 	Coordination and well-resourced works on fisheries and aquaculture; MOU with Police Maritime Wing Completed; MOU with Air Vanuatu completed; MOU with Churches completed:	VFD, Cooperative and Industry Dept, Province Government Councils, NGOs, Communities and Civil Society
40: Formalise collaboration with regional inter-governmental partners through MOUs and MOAs and SLAs	Review FFA SLA for 2019 onwards Review SPC JCS and ensure is similar with FFA; Develop SLA type arrangement with SPREP and other regional partners;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Establish formal arrangements through an MOU, MOA of SLA with regional inter-governmental organisations</i> ▪ <i>Technical assistance target activities identified in the MOAs or SLA.</i> ▪ <i>Fisheries Department is responsible in the implementation of MOAs</i> ▪ <i>Priority activities in these agreements reflect national priorities.</i> ▪ <i>Request for technical assistance to be channelled through the official protocol</i> 	FFA SLA successfully implemented; SPC JCS successfully implemented: Implement at least another 1 SLA with another inter-governmental partner by 2023;	FFA, SPC , USP, SPREP, IRD, others
41: Partnership with other external partners	By 2020 VFD will have MOU's with all relevant stakeholders and line Ministries as well as INGO's, NGO's and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Encourage other external partners to enter into MOA for the services they intend to provide</i> ▪ <i>Engagement with external partners on priority areas of national interest</i> ▪ <i>Encourage partnership and cooperation that enhance and advancing priority</i> 	More partners secured and actively served purposes of advancing domestic fisheries and aquaculture sustainable management and development	VFD, other line Government Ministries and Departments, SPC, FFA, FAO, SPREP, other Partners

works on fisheries.

- *Include in the agreement delivery of research information on completion of project.*
- *Projects to fund new positions to the existing structure*