



NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD
on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction
GOVERNMENT OF VANUATU

2017

Vanuatu Green Climate Fund Readiness Program Summit



**GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND**



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GIZ

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1. READINESS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In 2015, the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation (MCCA) requested Readiness Support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to support the strengthening of the National Designated Authority (NDA) of the GCF and the development a strategic engagement framework with the fund, called a Country Program (to be guided by both the [Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction policy](#) (CCDRR) and the [National Sustainable Development Plan](#) (NSDP)).

The overall goal of the GCF Readiness Support is to put Vanuatu and its NDA on a path towards enhanced engagement with the GCF and improve its ownership and governance of climate finance. As such, the Readiness Program is an on-going process that aims to strengthen Vanuatu's engagement with the fund. Government has selected GIZ as its delivery partner for this program of support through June 2018.

The support program began implementation in January 2017 and is structured in **2 distinctive work programs**:

1. Strengthening of the NDA

The National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (NAB)'s Secretariat office within MCCA, will play a key role in NDA strengthening activities and requires additional capacity and targeted expertise and capacity development in order to effectively accelerate their engagement with the Fund and grow this relationship over the long term. The program will specifically target:

- a. Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for project appraisal
- b. Development of a Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF)
- c. Inclusion of Climate Finance Information on the NAB portal.

2. Development of a Strategic Engagement Framework with the Fund

Vanuatu has recently completed a National CCDRR policy, with Government playing a lead role in ensuring that all international climate finance is disbursed to support these national priorities without overlap or duplication. This coordination requires that a clear role is assigned to the GCF, which aligns with other resources and complements and catalyzes availability of much needed climate finance. The Country Program (CP) will form the basis for Vanuatu's continuous strategic engagement with the GCF.

2. BACKGROUND TO SUMMIT

The NAB, with technical support from GIZ, hosted a two (2) days summit (on the 11th and 12th September 2017) as part of the current Vanuatu GCF Readiness Program with aim to:

- 1) Creating awareness and increasing understanding of the Vanuatu Readiness Program;
- 2) Continuing stakeholder consultation on three (3) of the (4) main deliverables of the program:
 - Standard Operating Procedure for Project Appraisal,
 - Country Program, and
 - Vulnerability Assessment Framework.



Held at the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards conference room, the event gathered over 43 stakeholders over the two (2) days, including:

- Secretary Generals across the 6 provinces and their respective project officers
- Non-Government-Organizations' representatives
- Government officers
- Private sector
- Development partners

3. SESSIONS OVERVIEW

A. OPENING

The Director General for the MCCA, Mr. Jesse Benjamin (also NDA to the GCF for Vanuatu) opened the summit with his opening remarks stressing:

- his contentment for people's attendance and continued proactive engagement with the Government of Vanuatu through the MCCA;
- All stakeholders, including private sector and NGOs, have a role to play in the implementation of Vanuatu's Climate Finance Roadmap to ensure that Vanuatu's Green Climate Fund aspirations are "balanced"
- recognition of the important contributions that participants, and other partners have provided to date, particularly in terms of enhancing climate finance access for Vanuatu;
- there is a strong need to rapidly scale-up levels of climate finance to meet Vanuatu people's resilience needs, and obtaining direct access through national implementing entities
- the Prime Minister's recent instructions to the MCCA to report on all finance flows and encourage the use of Government systems to support tracking of all climate finance investments and expenditures ;
- that Tracking of climate finance flows has become a Government priority for Vanuatu;
- that all stakeholders are encouraged to engage in climate finance programs and activities through the NAB
- Priority for GCF Readiness funds to assist the NDA such that all programs (government and non-government) receive "national endorsement", are strategic, transparent and accountable
- Looks forward to Vanuatu's future strategic engagement with the GCF

B. GREEN CLIMATE FUND READINESS PROGRAM OVERVIEW (DAY 1)

1) THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND & THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND READINESS PROGRAM

This session focused on providing a broad overview on the GCF and the current GCF Readiness Program.

Key message(s):

➤ **Green Climate Fund overview:**

- Supports developing countries in addressing climate change (focusing on both **mitigation** and **adaptation**), with a strong interest in creating a **paradigm shift** and **transformational change**. The fund's interest lies in eight (8) strategic impact areas.
- Considering current influx to NAB of queries on the fund, this introduction also focused on highlighting the fact that **GCF access is not simple** and the fund doesn't operate like a small grants program. **Procedures and processes must be established and followed for an entity to access GCF funds directly** (i.e. NIE accreditation) and there are currently no NIE in Vanuatu. However, Readiness support is provided to countries, through the NDA, to assist them in establishing the required procedures to directly engage with the GCF.

<p>➤ Vanuatu Green Climate Fund Readiness Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developed under the stewardship of former DG Jotham Napat in 2015 and submitted the same year to the GCF Secretariat. The program was approved in 2016 and commenced implementation in January 2017 with GIZ requested to serve as delivery partner for the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation under the guidance of the NDA. ○ Program focuses on four (4) main deliverables: 1) developing a Standard Operating Procedure for Project Appraisal, 2) a Country Program, 3) a Vulnerability Assessment Framework 4) including information on climate finance on the NAB portal (currently being developed).
<p>Questions / Comments raised:</p>
<p>➤ Considering the complexity in drafting GCF proposals, has the NAB taken any initiatives / actions to support capacity building at the provincial level for project development?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Response: Under the Climate Finance Roadmap, it is an activity to be carried out but this is still in the pipeline and may be undertaken by one of the multiple climate finance projects now underway <p>➤ Are there other sources of climate finance that are more appropriate for local stakeholders to access?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Response: Yes, the NAB Secretariat with support of GIZ has compiled this booklet and guidance on access to climate finance for communities and private sector.
<p>For more information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on the Green Climate Fund, please visit the GCF website and the presentation from the Vanuatu GCF Public Forum. • Vanuatu Climate Finance Roadmap • GCF Vanuatu Booklet • NAB Portal • on the Vanuatu GCF Readiness Program, please contact the NAB Secretariat on nab@meteo.gov.vu.

2) NDA ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

This session focused on providing an explanation of the **roles and responsibilities** of the NDA for the GCF (the Director General of the MCCA, Mr. Jesse Benjamin) in accordance with GCF guidelines¹, while explaining the **linkages to the already established National Advisory Board** on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (NAB)².



Key message(s):

3) INTERIM PROJECT SCREENING PROCESS

¹The roles and responsibilities of the National Designated Authority: 1) ensuring alignment to national policies; 2) convene stakeholder consultation; 3) issue nomination letters for direct access; 4) issue no objection letters for projects & programmes; 5) approval of readiness support.

² Legislated to oversee and appraise all climate change and disaster risk reduction activities being or seeking implementation in Vanuatu.

- Although the NDA is represented by a person, he is supported by the NAB and NAB Secretariat that oversees the Vanuatu GCF portfolio, checks for adherence to CCDRR policies and coordinates GCF activities amongst stakeholders in the context of Vanuatu's engagement with the GCF and while noting that the NAB Secretariat's functions are not limited to this.
- Project concepts should NOT be sent directly to the NDA, but rather channeled through the NAB Secretariat
- The NDA will only issue a GCF No Objection Letter (NOL) if the NAB screening and endorsement process has been followed

Questions / Comments raised:

- Clarification on linkages between the NAB & the Department of Strategic Policy Planning and Aid Coordination (DSPPAC).
- Communities' access to the GCF – considering only AEs can get direct access the fund.
 - **Response:**
 - Approach a GCF Accredited Entity AE ([list of AEs relevant to Vanuatu is available on the NAB portal](#)) and work with them on the development of a proposal, if buy-in on idea has been secured.
 - Clarification that the GCF funds projects of substantial value - minimum grants is up to 10 million USD.

For more information

- on the roles of the NDA, please contact the NAB Secretariat on nab@meteo.gov.vu.
- [GCF Vanuatu Booklet](#)
- NAB Portal

This session focused on creating more awareness around the recently developed:

- [NAB GCF Profile Form](#) (to be submitted by GCF Accredited Entities at both the concept and final proposal stages) and
- GCF Interim Project Appraisal Process (what information that the NAB screening will consider for its decision-making).

GCF PROJECT PROFILE FORM

Project Title: (Enter Your Project Title)

GCF Funding: Readiness Project Preparatory Facility Pipeline Project

Implementing Organization(s): (Enter your organization name) Project Contact Details: (Enter your project contact details)

Organizational Experience Justification: (What is your organization's experience in relation to this project? Justify your nomination experience)

Duration: (Enter here) Total Funding: (Enter here)

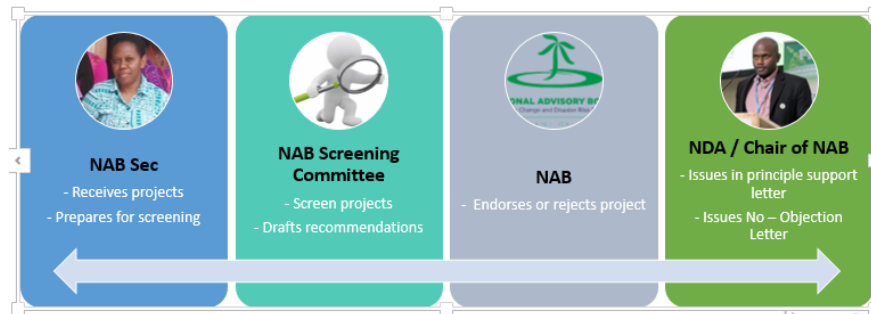
Location and Biotope: (Enter here) Funding Sources: (Enter here)

Local Government Agencies: (Enter here) Scope: Regional National Provincial District

Other Government & Partner Agencies: (Enter here) Project Type: Disaster Relief Disaster Preparedness Disaster Response Field Implementation Formal Education Program Funding - Grant Grants

Sectors: (Enter here)

Thematic: (Enter here)



Key message(s):

- Standard NAB GCF Profile Form must be filled for all GCF projects.
- Current process: NAB Secretariat receives GCF projects and prepares them for screening. Project goes to the NAB Project Screening Committee who reviews and drafts recommendations to be presented and tabled at the NAB. NAB endorses or rejects projects. The NDA issues a No Objection Letter at the final stage.

Questions / Comments raised:

- Lack of clarity on how provincial offices are involved in the screening of projects at the NAB level.
 - **Response** from NAB Secretariat: Department of Local Authorities is a member of the NAB but is also in the NAB Screening Committee. It is the responsibility of the DLA rep to ensure provincial consultation

- Suggestion from DSPPAC that SGs sign off on the NAB project and GCF project appraisal forms (on profile forms)

For more information

- On the Interim Project Screening Process, please contact the NAB Secretariat on nab@meteo.gov.vu.

4) PROJECT PIPELINE

An overview of the projects that are in the pipeline in Vanuatu were presented.

Key message(s):

- 1 full GCF project approved and currently being implemented ([SPREP/VMGD Climate Information Services project](#))
- Several project preparation facility PPF funding proposals submitted or in development.
- 3 Readiness proposals developed, submitted & approved to date
 - [GCF Readiness Program](#);
 - [SPREP / VMGD Climate Information Services Project](#) &
 - Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme for the establishment of the National Green Energy Fund

Questions / Comments raised:

- How can stakeholder obtain access to GCF pipeline information
 - **Response:** by contacting the NAB Secretariat directly however all pipeline information will be available on the NAB Portal soon.

For more information

- on pipeline projects, please contact the NAB Secretariat on nab@meteo.gov.vu.

Please note that information on pipeline projects will be made available on the NAB portal soon [here](#).

Presentation(s) for this session are available here:

- ✚ [GCF, GCF Readiness Program, NDA roles and responsibilities, Interim project appraisal process and Project pipeline](#)

C. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR PROJECT APPRAISAL (DAY 1)

Focusing on an update of the progress made to date on the development of the Standard Operating Procedures SOP (e.g. desktop review of several different agencies in addition to the NAB), the session also served as an initiation to stakeholder consultation on the draft templates already developed.

An explanation of the SOP and its importance in the context of the NAB was highlighted (e.g. the increase in the number of CCDRR projects that are being developed and implemented bringing in different partners; CCDRR finance flow tracking; direct access requirements; need for increased coordination).

A workshop report for this particular session is currently being developed and will be available at the following link: <http://www.nab.vu/event/vanuatu-green-climate-fund-readiness-program-summit>

Key message(s):

- SOP are vital to ensuring that stakeholders understand the process for climate change project approval in Vanuatu and so that the NAB/NDA can coordinate these projects in a way that is consistent with other agencies and national policies and priorities for the benefit of Vanuatu.
- SOP are needed to meet the accreditation requirements of global climate funds so that Vanuatu can directly access climate finance.
- The SOP for NAB and GCF will utilize existing templates and formats from the Prime Minister's Office (DSPPAC), the Ministry of Climate Change, Ministry of Finance and others.
- The Vanuatu GCF SOPs will include the following elements:
 - Process to review projects
 - Screening tool for the screening committee
 - Project risk assessment tool
 - Monitoring & evaluation process
 - Whistle-blowing / redress process
 - Conflict of interest management

Questions / Comments raised:

The main comments raised related to:

- Ensuring that NAB processes include and ensure relevance for provinces, civil society and the private sector
- Keeping any forms as simple as possible
- Using checklists to assist applicants with submission of projects, and NAB members with the review of projects
- Put the NAB minutes online after each NAB meeting, recording the project details on the NAB portal, including details of the decision, and the total amount of climate finance so that this can be tracked by MFEM and DSPPAC, and for greater transparency
- Identifying all stakeholders so as to anticipate grievances in developing any feedback and grievance redress mechanism
- Conflicts of interest are likely to occur so members should declare any interest and not be involved in the relevant discussion and decision

Main Next steps

- Workshop report (GCF Readiness Summit, SOP session)
- Final SOP development, based on desktop review, stakeholder consultations, and inception workshop feedback (11.09.17).
- 2 day training on draft SOPs for the NAB

For more information

- on the development of the Standard Operating Procedure, please contact Mr Anthony Polack on apolack@vanuatu.gov.vu, copying the NAB Secretariat on nab@meteo.gov.vu

Presentation(s)

 [Standard Operating Procedure for Project Appraisal](#)

D. COUNTRY PROGRAM (DAY 1)

Initial stakeholder input is critical in the development of the Country Programme, therefore a [survey](#) was launched to collect firsthand priority-related information from participants on their perceived investment priorities for GCF funds.

Participants were also invited to do a scoring activity on the GCF results areas and to brainstorm and provide ideas on transformational activities, fitting under the results areas.

Key message(s):

- Each NDA is encouraged to develop a GCF Country Programme with the Overarching objective to foster country ownership.
- The Vanuatu Country Programme is driven by consultation with all stakeholder types and is intended to
 - Establishes clear and country-owned priorities that GCF can support
 - Includes a pipeline of GCF projects that the country would like to develop
 - Provides guidance for projects and programmes on how to be developed
- CP Survey launched: <http://bit.ly/2eQucPK>
 - Which SECTORS should GCF invest in?
 - What mix of Adaptation versus Mitigation for GCF in Vanuatu?
 - Where should GCF investment in Vanuatu be targeted?
 - Who should receive GCF investment Govt versus Non-Govt?

Questions / Comments raised:

- How are have currently endorsed projects been prioritized for GCF?
 - **Response:** At present, the GCF concepts being endorsed by NAB/NDA are not prioritized, with the most advanced proposals being issued no-objection letters regardless of sector. The Country Programme document will provide a much more balanced and strategic engagement with the GCF and its resources
- Will non-government stakeholders have a say in GCF strategic priorities?
 - **Response:** Yes, the consultation will ensure that all types of stakeholders are able to articulate their GCF aspirations, particularly private sector, civil society, provincial authorities, churches and other groups currently less involved in climate finance decision-making.
- How does the GCF Country Program link with other sources and flows of climate finance?
 - **Response:** The Vanuatu GCF Country Program will explicitly highlight other major climate finance flows to Vanuatu that are current or expected (e.g. Adaptation Fund, Special Climate Change Fund, Least Developed Country Fund, bilateral support etc) and highlight the value-add focus the GCF can bring to fill strategic gaps.

Main Next Steps

- Next Steps
 - Collect widespread responses to survey (September-November)
 - Validation/consideration responses (November 2017)
 - Draft GCF Country Programme (December 2017)
 - Validation of Vanuatu CP (May 2018)

For more information

on the development of the Country Programme, please contact the NAB Secretariat on nab@meteo.gov.vu

Presentation(s)

 [Country Program](#)



Picture 1 - Participants listening to the rules of the scoring activity



Picture 2 - Participants listening to scoring results

E. VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK (DAY 2)

The Vulnerability Assessment Framework consultation was held on the second day of the Summit (12th of September 2017) and focused on:

- inform stakeholders on the conceptual foundations of the Vulnerability Assessment Framework for the NAB;
- Inform stakeholders of the importance of a VAF for decision-making, and prioritization for the NAB in the context of the Green Climate Fund;

- Gathering feedback on the relevance of the VAF for informing decision making, prioritization and monitoring and evaluation across sectors and level of governance.

Theoretical introductions were supported by hands-on exercise to support participants' understanding of the process involved in identifying priority areas through the use of the framework.



Picture 3 - Mrs Patrina Dumaru presents on the National Climate Resilience Sustainable Development Objectives for VAF



Picture 4 - Ms Georgina Faerua, Provincial Planner for PENAMA, presenting group work results on Livelihood Assets



Picture 5 – Group reporting back on Livelihood Assets

Key message(s):

- The VAF is designed to USE existing climate vulnerability data to more efficiently and effectively inform climate change adaptation decision-making and prioritization across sectors and multiple governance levels.
- The national VAF is important for developing baselines that can be used to: identify vulnerable groups to particular climate risks; support monitoring and evaluation of adaptation interventions; and support the assessment of climate and disaster impacts.
- The framework is designed to utilize vulnerability assessments and related data from the various VA reports currently being generated across Vanuatu by multiple stakeholders (technical government agencies, NGOs, regional partners, academics etc.) and other data gathered via various methodologies (both qualitative and quantitative).

- The VAF frames the categorization of vulnerability related data into intersecting livelihood asset (LA) and climate resilient sustainable objectives (SDOs) components in a way that facilitates comparative analysis across geographical scales and sectors and across multiple methodological vulnerability assessment approaches.

Questions / Comments raised:

- No centralized database for vulnerability related data currently exists. The VAF would improve coordination of assessments, avoid duplication of work and support vulnerability profiling building on existing resources.
- There is a need to identify HOW the VAF related data will be used to inform adaptation decision-making and WHO will be responsible for conducting assessments at various levels of decision-making, including community, local area, provincial and national levels
- There is a need to align the VAF with the National Sustainable Development Plan 2030 and its M&E Framework

Main Next Steps

- Workshop report (GCF Readiness Summit, VAF session)
- Draft VAF developed and circulated for feedback (to workshop participants & NAB)
- NAB training on use of VAF

For more information

on the development of the Vulnerability Assessment Framework, please contact the NAB Secretariat on nab@meteo.gov.vu

Presentation(s)

- ✦ [Integrated Vulnerability Assessment Framework & Vanuatu's Engagement with the GCF](#)
- ✦ [Defining Climate Resilient Sustainable Development Objectives](#)
- ✦ [Defining Vulnerabilities & Livelihood Assets](#)
- ✦ [Climate Projections](#)
- ✦ [National Sustainable Development Plan](#)
- ✦ [Resilience Framework](#)
- ✦ [Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction priorities](#)

4. APPENDICES

A. PROGRAM

Green Climate Fund Readiness Program Summit

AGENDA

11 & 12 September 2017 @VMGD Conference Room

	MONDAY, 11 th		TUESDAY, 12 th
TIME	Session 1: General Introduction	TIME	Session 4: Vulnerability Assessment Framework
8:30	Welcome & opening prayer	8:30	Welcome & recap day 1
9:00	General Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Climate Fund Readiness Program overview (4 deliverables) 	9:00	Overview of key GCF documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results & Investment Framework & GCF Funding Proposal Template form
	NDA Roles & Responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NDA roles & Responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process Interim project appraisal process Snapshot pipeline of projects & AEs 	9:50	Overview of the Draft Vanuatu National Vulnerability Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation on vulnerability/resilience approach in Vanuatu The purpose of draft national vulnerability framework & conceptual foundations Q&As
10:15	MORNING TEA	10:15	MORNING TEA
10:45	Session 2: Standard Operating Procedure for project appraisal	10:45	Functions of the VAF in supporting DM & resource allocation
10:45	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background / purpose (need) Progress to date <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process development 	11:10	Focus Group discussion 1: Relevance of draft national VAF as a tool for enabling transparent and justifiable adaptation decision-making, prioritization and M&E



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project review process ▪ Screening tool ▪ Risk assessment tool ▪ M&E process ▪ Grievance – whistle-blowing & Conflict of interest management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Templates</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fields for project proposal form ▪ Project budgeting template ▪ Project reporting template 		
12:30	LUNCH	12:30	LUNCH
13:30	SOP consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skeleton & focus group cnt'd • Consultation plan 	13:30	Focus Group Discussion 2: Building on past and current VAs and CCDRR projects in terms of strengths and gaps in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing current vulnerability • Assessing future vulnerability • Methods and tools, and use of information for decision-making • Roles and interests of stakeholder/sector groupings
		14:10	Group session 2 – reporting back
		14:40	Overview of consolidated summary of feedback and proposed changes to draft vulnerability framework for participants' endorsement.
15:00	Afternoon Tea	15:00	Afternoon Tea
15:30	Session 3: Country Program	15:30	Closing Remarks
15:30	Introduction to development & plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary GCF pipeline • Country program purpose • Options to be considered for Vanuatu • Launching of tool to collect stakeholder feedback (stakeholder priorities) 		
16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing remarks 		

B. PARTICIPANTS LIST

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C. PRESS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

9 September 2017

Today over 35 delegates from Government, civil society, the private sector and development partners commenced a two-day summit regarding Vanuatu's engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The Green Climate Fund is a new global fund created to support the efforts of developing countries to respond to the challenge of climate change. GCF helps developing countries limit or reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to climate change. It seeks to promote a paradigm shift to low-emission and climate-resilient development, taking into account the needs of nations that are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts.

It was set up by the 194 countries who are parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2010, as part of the Convention's financial mechanism. It aims to deliver equal amounts of funding to mitigation and adaptation, while being guided by the Convention's principles and provisions.

When the Paris Agreement was reached in 2015, the Green Climate Fund was given an important role in serving the agreement and supporting the goal of keeping climate change well below 2 degrees Celsius.

Director General of the Ministry of Climate Change reminded participants that Vanuatu, like most Small Island Developing States (SIDS), bears little responsibility for causing climate change but our geographical, socio-economic and climate position makes our nation particularly vulnerable to the potentially negative impact. Despite this, Vanuatu remains poorly funded and approved Climate Change finance to date fulfils only a small part of the nation's actual needs.

So far, one major project has been approved for Vanuatu by the Green Climate Fund, worth over 22 million USD (2.3 billion VATU) focused on climate information for vulnerable people. But Vanuatu would like to see over 500 million USD invested in climate change projects for private sector, NGOs and government over the coming years.

At this summit, and with the technical support of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), participants are developing new priorities for future investment into Vanuatu by the GCF, as well as providing feedback into the application processes and investment criteria for consideration by the National Advisory Board on Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Summit is being held at the Ministry of Climate Change, is free/open and interested parties may contact the Secretariat of the National Advisory Board on Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction on +678 24686 or visit www.nab.vu for more information.



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