



Green Climate Fund Readiness Program Summit

Information Note

1. Climate Finance Background

Vanuatu is an archipelago of over 80 islands in the South Pacific, with an estimated population in 2016 of 270,402. As emphasized in [Vanuatu's National Adaptation Programme of Action \(NAPA\)](#), **Vanuatu is extremely vulnerable to climate change**. It was one of the first countries to sign and ratify the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1993 and, with international support, has recently completed the development of a robust [Vanuatu National Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction \(CCDRR\) policy](#). Given the country's high susceptibility to the impacts of climate change, **particular attention is paid to climate change adaptation**.

In 2012, a **National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (NAB)**¹ was established to act as the supreme authority on Vanuatu's climate change programmes; the official advisory board for all climate change matters and mitigating the risks to natural disasters. It is **responsible for the overall management and coordination of climate finance**, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The newly developed **CCDRR Policy** sets the policy framework for the implementation of the *GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Program*, and outlines Vanuatu's climate finance priorities including **Implementing Entity accreditation** with the Green Climate Fund.

The Republic of Vanuatu has prioritized sustainable and climate resilient development in its [National Sustainable Development Plan](#) and in several sector policies. While vision and aspirations are high, much depends on Vanuatu's ability to strengthen the institutional structures of the Nationally Designated Authority (NDA) of Vanuatu and its National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction and to effectively fulfill the roles and responsibilities related to international climate finance.

Recently, the NAB has also developed a **Climate Finance Roadmap** focusing on enhancing access to climate finance to support the government in addressing needs and vulnerabilities of the country. According to a study conducted by the Stockholm Environment Institute, Vanuatu received a total of USD 49.4 million in climate finance from 2010-2014.

¹ Comprised of high-level government representatives and is co-chaired by the Director General of the Vanuatu Ministry of Climate Change (NDA) and the Director of the National Disaster Management Office.



2. Green Climate Fund Readiness Program (2017-2018)

In 2016, the Ministry of Climate Change requested Readiness Support from the Green Climate Fund to support the strengthening of the National Designated Authority of the GCF and the development a strategic engagement framework with the fund, called a Country Program (to be guided by both the CCDRR policy the government's policy framework).

The overall goal of the GCF Readiness Support is to put Vanuatu and its NDA on a path towards enhanced engagement with the Green Climate fund and improve its ownership and governance of climate finance in order to better address the real climate impacts of the most climate vulnerable. As such, the Readiness Program is an on-going process that aims to strengthen Vanuatu's engagement with the fund.

The support program has begun implementation in 2017 and is structured in 2 distinctive work programs:

1. **Strengthening of the NDA** – The NAB's Secretariat office within MoCC, 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 a Standard Operating Procedure for project appraisal**
 - b. **Development of a Vulnerability Assessment Framework**
 - 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 Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction 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 Fund that aligns with other resources and complements and catalyses availability of much needed climate finance. **The country program will form the basis for Vanuatu's continuous strategic engagement with the GCF.**