



Convention on
Biological Diversity



Vanuatu's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2026 - 2030

*Our biodiversity is our life,
our strength, and our future.*

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Vanuatu's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2026- 2030 (NBSAP)

Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Vanuatu

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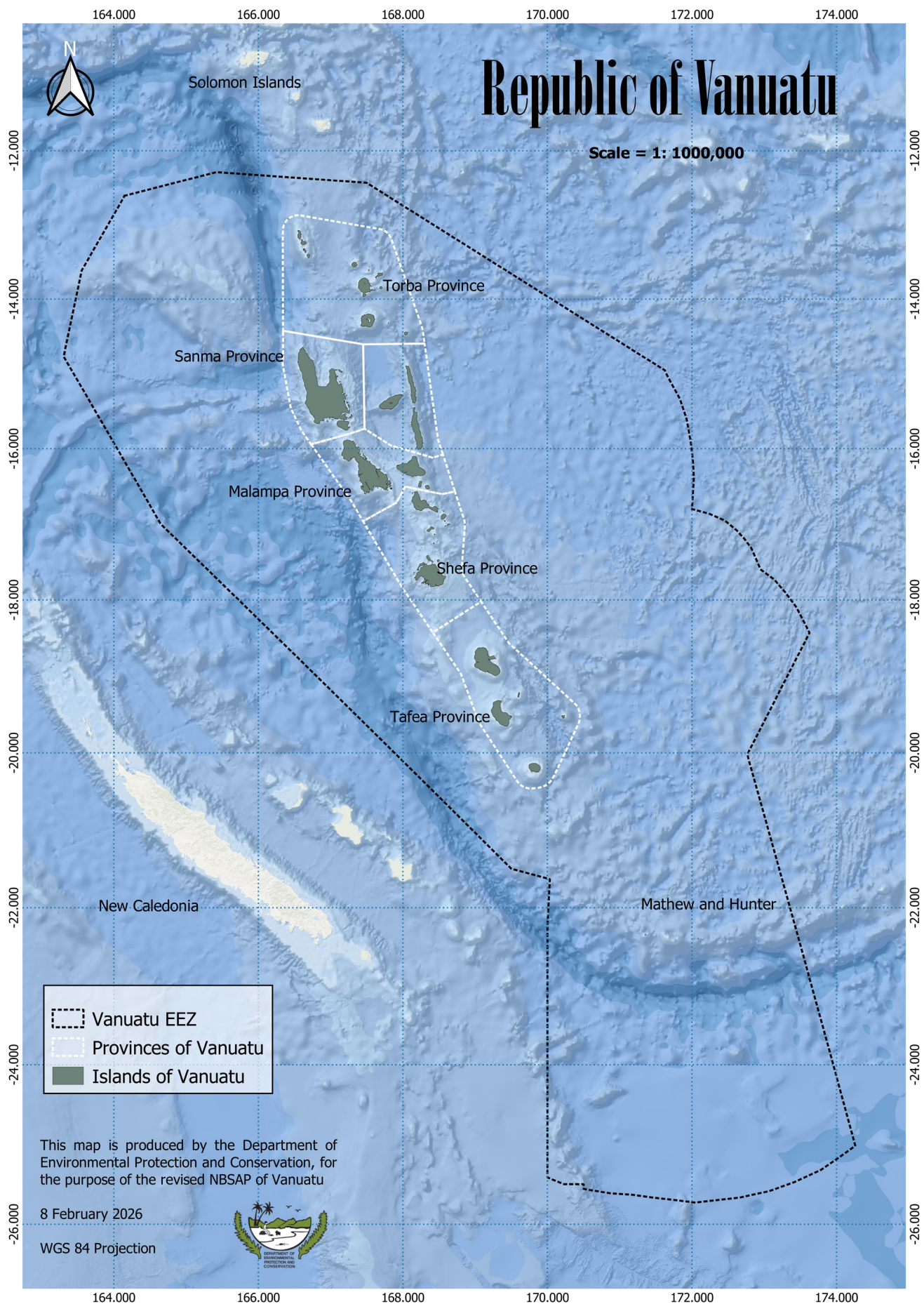
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Forward

In Vanuatu, biodiversity is our food, our culture, our tradition, our money, our medicine, our shelter, our protector, and our pride. Recognizing this connection can foster a shared sense of ownership and cultural pride in conservation efforts.

The revised Vanuatu National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2026–2030 renews our national commitment to conserve, sustainably use, and equitably share the benefits of our unique biodiversity. It builds on the foundation of earlier NBSAPs and aligns with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), guiding us toward the 2050 Vision of “Living in Harmony with Nature.” A bold outcome that exemplifies Vanuatu’s ambition is the commitment to protect 30% of Vanuatu’s land and sea by 2030. The revised NBSAP reflects Vanuatu’s leadership on climate change, ocean, and biodiversity diplomacy, championing action to protect our Blue Continent and the natural systems that sustain life across our islands.

The revision process, led by the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC), has been a truly whole-of-government and whole-of-society effort. The NBSAP Working Group, comprising government representatives from the Ministry of Climate Change, Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Water, Lands, and other sectors, worked closely with provincial governments, NGOs, civil society, private-sector actors, and development partners. Extensive community consultations and validation workshops were conducted across all six provinces, ensuring that the voices, knowledge, and priorities of our people are reflected in every strategic area of this plan.

The updated NBSAP introduces five strategic areas to guide national action:

1. Conservation of Ecosystems, Species, and Genetic Resources (CE)
2. Sustainable Management and Benefit Sharing (SM)
3. Mainstreaming Biodiversity (MB)
4. Resource Mobilisation (RM)
5. Environmental Governance and Knowledge Management (EG)

These strategic areas provide a comprehensive framework that links biodiversity with Vanuatu’s culture, tradition, food security, sustainable livelihoods, gender inclusion, and climate adaptation. levels. Innovative financing mechanisms, like the Green Levy and BFWG, empower stakeholders to mobilize resources and take ownership of biodiversity priorities.

Vanuatu continues to play a leading role in the Pacific and globally in advocating for climate, ocean, and biodiversity action to protect our shared “Blue Continent.” This NBSAP demonstrates how integrated approaches, spanning terrestrial and marine realms, from ridge to reef, and from policy to practice, can deliver multiple benefits for ecosystems, people, and economies alike.

As we look forward, it is clear that achieving our biodiversity vision will require sustained commitment, innovation, and investment. Biodiversity conservation is not only an environmental goal but also an economic and social necessity. Protecting our ecosystems means protecting our people, their livelihoods, health, culture, and resilience. The Government of Vanuatu, through this strategy, calls upon all government agencies, communities, and traditional custodians to work together to ensure that our islands remain rich in life, beauty, and opportunity for present and future generations.

Let this revised NBSAP inspire all stakeholders to protect our living heritage and shared future.



Osborne Melenamu
Director
Department of Environmental
Protection and Conservation



Honourable Ralph Regenvanu (MP)
Minister
Ministry of Climate Change, Meteorology, Geo-Hazards,
Energy, Environment, and Disaster Management

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Government Agencies

Department of Forest; Vanuatu Fisheries Department; Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; Biosecurity Vanuatu; Department of Water Resources; Department of Ocean Affairs; MOCC Corporate Services Unit; Livestock Department; Department of Tourism; Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta; Department of Lands, Survey and Registry; Department of Customs; Department of Local Authorities; Vanuatu Bureau of Standards; VARTC; Department of Local Authorities; Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Biosecurity Cooperate Service Unit; Vanuatu Project Management Unit; Vanuatu Primary Producer Association; Department of Lands and Natural Resources; Ministry of Climate Change Cooperate Services Unit; Department of Ports and Marine; Civil Registry & Identity Management; All 6 Provincial Governments;

Local NGOs, CSOs and Projects

Live and Learn Vanuatu; Eco-Lifelihood Development Vanuatu; Green Environment Network; TasiVanua and Havannah Environmental Network; Vanuatu Climate Action Network (VCAN); Santo Sunset Environmental Network (SSEN); Santo Mamas Association; Learn to Serve Motalava; Roawia Marine Coastal Restoration; Nambawan Family Association; Wan Smol Bag; PECO; Vanuatu Climate Adaptation Project phase 2 (VCAP2); Expanding Conservation Area Reach and Conservation Project (ECARE); Vanuatu Community-based Climate Resilient Project; Integrated Sustainable Land and Coastal Management; Matokoal Marine Conservation

Local Communities

[Vanualava] Lalnetak, Sola [Motalava]; Nerenigman, Rah, Avar, Qeremagde, Totoglak; [Santo] Matantas, Khole, Wusi, Linturi; [Tanna] Naka, Lamasak, Imanaka, Iwariwa, Imapusaine, Ipik, Leulik, I liliuas, Kwamera, Imaki, Laounaula, Quarmanu, Lankai, Fetukai; [Malekula] Potintir Akhamb, Uri, Lingarak, Tautu; [Futuna] Mission Bay, Harold Bay, Ihnuga; [Emao] Marou; [Pele] Piliura; [Pentecost] Melsisi, Anlulu; [Ambae] Saratamata; [Maewo] Lalavaru;

Regional and International Partners

SPREP; IUCN; The Pacific Community; Conservation International; UNEP; UNDP; Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO); Save the Children Australia; Care International; ADRA

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Photo credit: Dean L Wotlolan

Acronyms

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing	DSI	Digital Sequence Information
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency Vanuatu	DoMA	Department of Oceans and Maritime Affairs
BIOFIN	Biodiversity Finance	DoFT	Department of Financial and Treasury
BV	Biosecurity Vanuatu	DOI	Department of Industry
CBRM	Community-based Resource Management	DoLSRSR	Department of Lands, Survey and Registry
CBD	Convention Biological Diversity	DoWA	Department of Women Affairs
CCA	Community Conservation Area	DoWR	Department of Water Resources
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund	DUAP	Department of Urban Affairs and Planning
CHM	Clearing House Mechanism	EAS	Early Action Support Project
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species	ECARE	Expanding Conservation Area Reach and Effectiveness Project
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
COP	Conference of Parties	EPC	Environmental Protection and Conservation
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
CBFM	Community Based Fisheries Management	IPLC	Indigenous People and Lokol Community
CBCRM	Community Based Coastal Resource Management	IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	KM- GBF	Kunming- Montreal Biodiversity Framework
DCDT	Department of Communication and Digital Transformation	LMMA	Locally Manage Marine Areas
DCIR	Department of Customs and Inland Revenue	MSG	Melanesian Spearhead Group
DEPC	Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation	MESCAL	Mangrove Ecosystem Climate Change and Livelihood
DLA	Department of Local Authorities	MACBIO	Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management
DoCC	Department of Climate Change	MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
DoF	Department of Forestry	MEA	Marine Environment Agreement
DoH	Department of Health	MALFB	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Biosecurity
DOMA	Department Oceans and Maritime Affairs	MFAICET	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade

MFOMA	Ministry of Fisheries Oceans and Maritime Affairs	UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
MFEM	Ministry of Finance and Economic Management	UNFCCC	United Nations framework Convention on Climate Change
MOCC	Ministry of Climate Change	UNCLOS	United Nations on the Law of the Sea
MOH	Ministry of Health	VARTC	Vanuatu Agriculture Research and Technical Centre
MOIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs	VANGO	Vanuatu Association of Non Government Organisations
MoJCS	Ministry of Justice and Community Services	VANIPO	Vanuatu Intellectual Property Office
MOLNR	Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources	VESS	Vanuatu Environment Science Society
MPA	Marine Protected Area	VBRC	Vanuatu Business Resilience Committee
NDMO	National Disaster and Management Office	VPF	Vanuatu Police Force
NGOs	Non-Government Organisations	VSP	Vanuatu Skills and Partnership
NISSAP	National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan	VBoS	Vanuatu Bureau of Statistic
NSDP	National Sustainable Development Plan	VBRC	Vanuatu Business Resilience Committee
NAB	National Advisory Board	VBoS	Vanuatu Bureau of Standards
NEPIP	National Environment Policy and Implementation Plan	VIPA	Vanuatu Investment Promotion Authority
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	VMGD	Vanuatu Meteorological and Geohazard Department
OAG	Office of the Attorney General	VMSA	Vanuatu Maritime and Safety Authority
OGCIO	Office of the Government's Chief Information Officer	VKS	Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta
OPP	Office of the Public Prosecutor	VCAP II	Vanuatu Coastal Adaptation II Project
PVMC	Port Vila Municipal Council	VCAN	Vanuatu Climate Adaptation Network
PWD	Public Works Department	VCCI	Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce and Industries
SOE	State of Environment	VCCRP	Vanuatu Community-based and Climate Resilient Project
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Commission	VFD	Vanuatu Fisheries Department
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Region Environment Programme	WHC	World Cultural and National Heritage
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme		



Photo credit: Eco-Livelihood Development Vanuatu (EDV)

01

Introduction

Vanuatu, an archipelagic nation in the South Pacific Ocean comprising over 80 islands with approximately 65 inhabited, is committed to fulfilling its international obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Covering a land area of approximately 12,199 km², with a coastline exceeding 3,100 km and an EEZ of around 680,000 km², Vanuatu recognizes the critical importance of biodiversity conservation in achieving sustainable development goals. The country's unique geographical and climatic conditions—most islands of volcanic origin with mountain peaks such as Mount Tabwemasana at 1,879 meters—highlight its ecological diversity and the vulnerabilities posed by climate change and natural hazards.

With an estimated population of approximately 289,333 (Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics, 2020, 39), predominantly young and with 77% residing in rural areas, Vanuatu's social fabric is characterized by extensive linguistic and cultural diversity, including over 110 indigenous languages and customary governance systems that underpin land and marine resource management.

The economy remains largely subsistence-based, supported by fisheries, tourism, and services, with a significant segment of the population relying directly on natural ecosystems for their livelihoods. Recognizing the increasing pressures from deforestation, invasive species, overexploitation of resources, and climate change impacts—such as coral bleaching and sea-level rise—Vanuatu underscores the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches to resilience building.

Since acceding to the CBD in 1993, Vanuatu has developed and implemented policy frameworks, including its Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan first adopted in 1999 and revised to produce the NBSAP 2018–2030, aligning with international biodiversity targets. In line with recent global commitments, including the Kunming–Montreal Framework of 2022, Vanuatu is undertaking revisions to further align its national biodiversity strategies with international goals, integrate biodiversity considerations into broader development policies, and outline a clear pathway to conserve biodiversity, restore ecosystem resilience, and achieve the vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050.



Photo credit: Dubi Shapiro

02

The CBD and NBSAP Review Process

2.1 Evolution of the CBD Strategic Framework: From Aichi Targets to the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

In 2010, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) held in Nagoya, Japan. The Plan was designed to inspire broad-based action at all levels to safeguard biodiversity and the ecosystem services it supports, emphasizing the urgent need for global cooperation. It included the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, a set of 20 measurable goals intended to guide national and international biodiversity efforts throughout the decade. In parallel, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2011–2020 as the UN Decade on Biodiversity, underscoring the importance of collective global action.

Under this framework, Parties were required to review and update their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to align national priorities with the Aichi Targets and integrate biodiversity considerations across sectors. This process represented a key mechanism for translating global biodiversity objectives into national actions.

Building on this foundation, the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15), held in Montreal, Canada, in December 2022, adopted the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF). The KM-GBF sets a new vision for “living in harmony with nature by 2050” and introduces four long-term goals and 23 global targets for achievement by 2030. These targets place greater emphasis on ecosystem restoration, sustainable use, equitable benefit-sharing, resource mobilization, and mainstreaming biodiversity across all sectors of society.

Accordingly, the Parties are undertaking a new round of NBSAP reviews and updates to ensure alignment with the KM-GBF and to integrate these global targets into their national policies, strategies, and planning processes. For Vanuatu, this review presents an opportunity to strengthen national commitments, align biodiversity actions with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate-resilience priorities, and reinforce the implementation of the CBD at the national level.

2.2 The NBSAP Review Process in Vanuatu

Vanuatu established its first National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in 1999, shortly after ratifying the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This foundational document delineated the country’s primary priorities for biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization, recognizing Vanuatu’s rich natural heritage and the intrinsic linkages between biodiversity, traditional livelihoods, and cultural identity.

In accordance with its constitutional framework, the Government of Vanuatu enacted the Environmental Management and

Conservation Act [CAP 283] in 2002, thereby establishing a legal regime for the governance and management of environmental issues. This legislation was subsequently amended, renamed as the Environmental Protection and Conservation Act [CAP 283], and consolidated in 2006.

In 2014, Vanuatu undertook a comprehensive review and revision of its NBSAP to incorporate advancements made under the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The process involved extensive

consultations with government agencies, provincial authorities, local communities, and development partners, resulting in a refined set of strategic objectives and priority actions that address emerging environmental threats, including climate change, land degradation, invasive species, and unsustainable resource utilization.

Following the adoption of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) at the fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 15) in 2022, Vanuatu has commenced a second iteration of its biodiversity policy review to ensure alignment with the new international standards and commitments.

The NBSAP review process also offers an opportunity to update baseline data, evaluate progress relative to previous strategic initiatives, and identify capacity-building requirements essential for effective implementation. This process builds upon existing initiatives such as the National Environment Policy and Implementation Plan (NEPIP) and the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP), thereby promoting policy coherence and integration.



Photo credit: Eco-Livelihood Development Vanuatu

2.3 Key Principles Guiding the NBSAP Update Process

The update of Vanuatu's NBSAP is guided by a set of principles that reflect both the core values of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Vanuatu's national development vision under Vanuatu 2030 – The People's Plan. These principles ensure that

the NBSAP serves as an inclusive, practical, and forward-looking tool to guide biodiversity conservation and sustainable use across all sectors and levels of society.

2.3.1. National Ownership and Leadership

The NBSAP update process is led by the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) and coordinated by the Ministry of Climate Change (MOCC), ensuring strong national ownership. The process reinforces the government's leadership in defining national biodiversity priorities, mobilizing resources, and coordinating implementation across sectors, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, and infrastructure.

2.3.2. Alignment with Global and Regional Frameworks

The revised NBSAP is fully aligned with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its 2030 targets, while also taking into account linkages with the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs), and regional frameworks such as the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Strategic Plan and the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region (2021–2025). This alignment ensures coherence between global commitments and national actions.

2.3.3. Integration and Mainstreaming

Biodiversity conservation is cross-cutting and interconnected with other national priorities, including food security, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods. The NBSAP update promotes the mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectoral policies, planning instruments, and budgetary processes, ensuring that ecosystem values are recognized and incorporated into decision-making at all levels.

2.3.4. Inclusivity and Stakeholder Participation

The NBSAP process is inclusive, involving stakeholders such as provincial governments, traditional leaders, local

communities, women, youth, civil society, academia, and the private sector in setting priorities and actions. This approach highlights Vanuatu's community-oriented governance and customary land tenure, emphasizing the importance of traditional knowledge as a key element of biodiversity management.

2.3.5. Evidence-Based and Adaptive Planning

The updated NBSAP builds on scientific data, national biodiversity assessments, and local ecological knowledge. The process integrates monitoring, evaluation, and learning mechanisms to support adaptive management, ensuring that strategies remain relevant and responsive to emerging environmental and socio-economic changes.

2.3.6. Equity, Benefit-Sharing, and Traditional Knowledge

In line with the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS), the NBSAP emphasizes equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. It acknowledges the vital role of indigenous knowledge systems and promotes respect for customary practices and community protocols in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

2.3.7. Climate Resilience and Sustainability

The NBSAP aims to strengthen the resilience of ecosystems and communities to the impacts of climate change, disasters, and unsustainable exploitation. Sustainable management of natural resources is central to Vanuatu's development pathway, ensuring biodiversity continues to support livelihoods, cultural values, and national well-being for generations to come.



Photo credit: Dubi Shapiro

03

Overview of the Status of Biodiversity in Vanuatu

3.1 Overview of Vanuatu's Biodiversity

Vanuatu's biodiversity remains poorly known, with detailed studies of only a few genera and few studies of the biota of smaller or less accessible islands. However, a review of studies on Vanuatu's flora and fauna shows that many genera contain endemic, rare, and uncommon species. Much of Vanuatu's diversity at the species level remains unclassified, relying on indigenous knowledge systems that vary across language groups and are not documented.

Vanuatu's biodiversity is relatively young, given the recent formation of many islands through volcanic activity. Species colonisation occurred much later than in neighbouring Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, and Fiji. Islands that are older and bigger in size provide more habitats and better soil conditions than smaller islands. These islands generally support more species and are likely to host some endemic species (Republic of Vanuatu. State of the Environment Report 2022, 2022, 35). Patterns of species diversity reflect classic island biogeography, where island size and distance from the continental source are key determinants of the number of species. The larger and older islands generally support greater diversity of terrestrial ecosystems and plant and animal species (Taiki et al., Unpublished). The sea separates the islands, and mountains separate catchments and lowland habitats – these are barriers to many species, and produce conditions whereby relatively rapid subspeciation and speciation occur. Altitudinal gradients create opportunities for montane endemics, such as the Mountain Starling (*Aplonis santovestris*) on Santo, which add diversity to high-island faunas that is not possible on low islands, regardless of size. Frequent disturbance due to tropical

cyclones, earthquakes, and volcanic activity also affects the distribution and abundance of species, especially on the smaller islands. Lastly, there is significant variation with latitude: species that occur at high altitudes in the tropical north occur at much lower altitudes in the subtropical south. Consequently, there is considerable variation in the distribution of species within and between islands, and Vanuatu's biodiversity is of particular interest for its ongoing processes of immigration, range extension and contraction, and subspeciation (Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation, 2014).

The current situation indicates that some iconic species are declining in numbers, while there remain significant data gaps across much of Vanuatu's biodiversity. Some marine species of giant clams are extinct, while others, such as the Namalau (*Megapode*), are declining and becoming very rare in their natural habitats or sites near urban areas. Overharvesting, habitat degradation, habitat loss, and invasive species are the key drivers of biodiversity loss. The number of significant species found in Vanuatu continues to be assessed under the IUCN Red List process. Those that have been assessed fall into all of the Red List categories, including extinct species, and species that are critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable, or highly threatened. There are also many species for which little is known about their populations and ecology. Some may already be vulnerable or threatened. Research and surveys of many islands and sites reveal new records or new species. Archaeological surveys also found that some species are no longer found. (Republic of Vanuatu. State of the Environment Report 2022, 2022, 123).



Photo Credit: Adrien MOINEAU

3.1.1 Threats to Biodiversity

The greatest threats to biodiversity conservation result from human activities. Human settlements are generally found concentrated in the coastal lowlands. Consequently, biodiversity is most at risk in lowland and coastal areas and small islands, yet remains relatively intact in the high-altitude forests of larger islands.

Land cannot be alienated from the traditional landholders, but can be leased from the landholders for fixed periods and agreed purposes. This system of land and resource management limits the government's capacity to conserve biodiversity without the support, understanding, and commitment of landholders. This therefore creates an imperative for landholders as resource owners and managers to work independently or in cooperation with other landholders, organisations, or governments to conserve biodiversity (VEU MSP, 2003).

The Vanuatu National State of the Environment (SOE) Report indicates that Vanuatu's overall environment is in a fair state. The assessment of the indicators used in the SOE assessments shows that 14% are in a fair-to-poor state, 43% in fair, 29% in good-to-fair, 3% in good, and 11% in poor. The efforts by communities, Government, and non-governmental organisations have improved the state of Biodiversity, Marine and Coastal, and Environmental Governance, which is in better shape than

all other thematic areas assessed. Major areas of concern in the SOE are the Built Environment and Culture and Heritage, highlighting the impact of population growth and urbanisation. Waste and sanitation management, sustainable energy supply, and water and food security are serious challenges to a growing population. Invasive Alien Species (IAS) are a growing concern, threatening Vanuatu's forests and biodiversity. The SOE found that more than 200 introduced animal and plant species are present in Vanuatu. While most have not caused significant environmental or economic harm, a few are highly invasive and cause significant harm. Of the 100 of the World's Worst Invasive Species, 27 are found in Vanuatu (Republic of Vanuatu. State of the Environment Report 2022, 2022, 7).

The environmental trend is stable or improving, with most of the improvement occurring in the Built Environment and Biodiversity. Unfortunately, climate change is contributing to a downward trend in coral reefs, exacerbated by the overexploitation of marine resources. Pressure from unmanaged sanitation and waste in urban areas is contaminating coastal waters (Republic of Vanuatu. State of the Environment Report 2022, 2022, 174). The direct effects of climate change, along with its interactions with current threats, will further exacerbate risks to biodiversity. These pressures operate individually or in combination, often in complex ways.

3.2 Terrestrial Biodiversity

3.2.1 Overview

Seventy-four percent (74%) of the land in Vanuatu is covered with natural vegetation. Forest types include tropical lowland evergreen rain forest, broad-leaved deciduous forest, closed conifer forest, montane rain forest, cloud forest, and coastal forest. Other notable vegetation includes swamp forest on Efate, kauri pine strands on Erromango, and scattered mangrove forests covering around 2000–3,000 ha (most of which occur on Malekula Island).

Lowland forest has largely been cleared and replaced by anthropogenic vegetation, but forested areas remain the dominant landscape element on most islands. High forests are restricted on most of the islands (especially those that are densely populated, such as Pentecost, Ambae, Tanna, and Shepherd; or have active volcanoes, such as Ambrym). However, low montane forests are generally well preserved and occupy large areas. Secondary forests (often consisting of a Hibiscus community) are dense and extensive in Vanuatu.

The Plants and People of Vanuatu project has developed a checklist of 1,652 vascular plant species—of which 1,268 (76.7%) are native, 376 (22.7%) are introduced, and 0.5% are of uncertain status. These efforts provide a foundation for future conservation planning, ensuring that Vanuatu's unique plant biodiversity receives the recognition and protection it deserves. (Vanuatu Department of Forestry).

There are 1,652 vascular plant species in Vanuatu, of which 9.1% (roughly 150 species) are endemic, 70.6% (roughly 1166) are native, and 20.3% (roughly 335) are introduced (Plunkett, 2025). There is high diversity of orchids with 158 species and palms with 21 species, including 14 endemic species (GOV, 2014). There are 121 bird species, 28 species of reptiles, and 12 species of Chiropterae (Flying Foxes and Bats). Invertebrate diversity is not fully described but includes the coconut crab (*Birgus latro*), the largest land crab, which is an important food resource in Vanuatu (GOV, 2014).

Invasive animal species are a threat in Vanuatu and include the Indian Mynah (*Acridotheres tristis*), the Giant African Snail (*Achatina fulica*), and the Rosy Wolf Snail (*Euglandina rosea*). *E. rosea* was introduced as a biological control agent for *Achatina fulica*, but the species has caused the extinction of numerous native snails in other countries. Another species of concern in Vanuatu is the Little Fire Ant

(*Wasmannia auropunctata*), which has reduced arthropod species diversity in other locations and may threaten crab species, including the coconut crab (Bakeo and Qarani 2005). Vanuatu's endemic species are threatened with extinction by invasive species such as the ship rat (*Rattus rattus*), which preys on the eggs and chicks of many birds and lizards. The extinction of the Tanna Ground Dove is attributed to rats. This indicator assesses the status of invasive species management in the country (DEPC, 2022).

Vanuatu has one recorded extinction: the Tanna Ground Dove (*Pampusana ferruginea*). The extinction drivers for this species are believed to have been hunting and predation by domestic and feral mammals.

3.2.2 Threats

The forests of Vanuatu have been impacted by human activities, which have diminished and altered forest cover and biodiversity. There has been immense pressure on some timber species on the larger islands, where harvesting is concentrated. In 1998, for instance, 92% of logs harvested were from just two species: *Endospermum medullosum* (Whitewood or Basswood) and *Antiaris toxicaria* (known in Vanuatu as Milk Tree) (Bakeo and Qarani, 2005).

Agriculture, Fishing, and Forestry have recovered from the 2015 decline, registering positive growth of 5.1%, an increase of 10.7 percentage points. The components of agriculture that contributed to this positive growth were crop production (5.9%), animal production (2.6%), fishing (3.9%), and forestry (0.7%) (Vanuatu National Statistic Office, 2017). In the mid-2000s, natural forest cover in Vanuatu was estimated at 444,000 ha, equivalent to 36% of the total land area (1.22 million ha) (FAO, 2010), and at least 40% of the commercial forest area was regarded as degraded (King, 2007). Most of the high-value forests were over-exploited in the 1980s and 1990s, until the government imposed a ban on the export of round logs in 1998. However, large-scale logging has been banned since the late 1990s. Many landowners have used their logged forest land for alternative uses, such as commercial agriculture.

In addition to traditional forest management concerns, such as declining forest cover and imbalance between utilisation and reforestation, invasive alien species are of significant concern, and several have been identified as priority species for management under Vanuatu's National

Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) 2024-2030. Of all invasive plants in Vanuatu, perhaps the most widely cited pest is Ecuador Laurel or Salmwood (*Cordia alliodora*). Introduced to Vanuatu as a forestry tree in the 1970s, this species has since become dominant and is considered a serious pest in the areas where it was planted. Another invasive plant species common in the drier parts of certain islands is kasis (*Leucaena leucocephala*), which forms dense, monospecific thickets and is difficult to eradicate, rendering extensive areas unusable and inaccessible (Bakeo and Qarani, 2005).

Exploitation is the most significant threat faced by (or potentially faced by) Vanuatu's threatened (Critically Endangered, Rare, Endangered, or Vulnerable) species recorded in the IUCN Red List. Hunting and exploitation affect 66% of Vanuatu's threatened species, while agriculture and invasive alien species affect 20% and

15%, respectively. Some species face multiple threats. For example, the Endangered Santa Cruz Ground Dove (*Gallicolumba sanctaecrucis*) is threatened by hunting and exploitation, the establishment of the invasive vine *Merremia peltata* in the Vatthe Conservation Area, and competition from the common native Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*) in degraded forest.

Agriculture, farming, and forestry affect numerous threatened plant species in Vanuatu, including the endangered Fijian Kauri Pine (*Agathis macrophylla*), which faces ongoing unsustainable logging in natural forests across parts of its range. The Pacific Sheath-tailed Bat (*Emballonura semicaudata*) is also impacted by the loss of native forests to agricultural and grazing land. This bat faces multiple threats, including disturbance of roosting sites, pesticide use, invasive species, and stochastic events.



Photo credit: Dubi Shapiro

3.3 Inland Waters Biodiversity

3.3.1 Overview

Large rivers are present on the larger islands, but the most common freshwater habitats are steep-gradient mountain streams. Unique and rare habitats include freshwater lakes on several islands (including crater lakes on inactive volcanic islands) and subterranean streams in karst areas. Exploration of caves on Santo revealed four invertebrate species new to science and confined exclusively to these caves (Deharveng, 2011). Atolls and coral islets generally have underground freshwater lenses due to the porosity of the rock.

Most islands of Vanuatu contain a dense network of seas, lakes, and rivers. Rapid mountain rivers and creeks well water the larger islands. Other freshwater systems include low gradient lowland streams, deep pits called blue holes, some lakes, and swamps/marshes on plains. Most of the 25–30 lakes are crater lakes, with Lake Letas on the volcanic island of Gaua being the largest freshwater system in the Pacific at 19 km² in area and 350 m deep (Vanuatu National Museum and Vanuatu Environment Unit, 2004). The caldera lakes of Ambae lie at an altitude of over 1,300m and are the highest in the South Pacific (Scott, 1993). Freshwater swamps and swamp forests are generally restricted to fringing areas around lakes (Efate, Thion), in depressions on plateaux (Efate, Epi, Maewo, and Gaua), in extinct volcanoes (Vanua Lava), or on floodplains (East Santo). Dasheen (taro) fields may sometimes host freshwater species.

Streams and rivers in Vanuatu are highly variable in size and length and can be divided into six zones depending on altitude and water velocity: spring zone (over 800 m); higher course (450–800 m; steep); middle course (150–450 m; less than 10% slope), upper lower course (50–150 m) and lower course (less than 50 m; tidal) (Keith, et al, 2010). Understanding this typical zonation clarifies the distribution of freshwater species. While most species are found in low-velocity reaches, high-velocity reaches often contain unique species adapted to this environment (e.g., *Sicyopterus* spp., *Gobiidae*). The estuarine zone is also an important thoroughfare for a freshwater fauna dominated by migratory species.

All freshwater fishes in the identified important biodiversity areas are amphidromous (i.e., with a marine larval stage), providing a clear linkage between freshwater and marine ecosystems. Gobies dominate diversity, and some endemism is known in the subfamily *Sicydiinae*.

However, these are very small fish, which are not currently utilised by local communities or represented in indigenous taxonomies. The larger but non-endemic species like eels (*Anguilla* spp.), Spot-tail Bass (*Lutjanus fuscescens*), Mulletts (*Mugilidae*), and Grunters (*Terapontidae*) are utilised for food, as are neritid snails and prawns, and a reduction in their populations is of direct concern to villagers. Surveys in Vanuatu indicate potential endemism among freshwater crustaceans (Marquet et al., 2002). The intensive utilisation of freshwater species for protein production in some areas is affecting freshwater ecosystems, but there is little to no research on this topic.

Freshwater fish biodiversity can be highly localised, and even small lake or stream systems may harbour unique locally evolved forms of life. The number of different species in any given freshwater habitat can be high even if the population numbers of the individual species are low. Generally speaking, the fauna of riverine systems has been better studied than other systems. The number of endemic species is greater in older islands that have retained a good natural vegetation cover and where flows have not been altered. Of the 96 known crustacean and fish species (29 decapod crustaceans and 67 fish), 5 are endemic to Vanuatu and 7 to both Vanuatu and New Caledonia (Keith et al, 2010).

3.3.2 Threats

The major threats to freshwater ecosystems in Vanuatu are from human activities, including poor land use practices; catchment alteration primarily for irrigation, weirs or hydropower dams; pollution from urban areas; and invasion of exotic species such as water lily (Water Hyacinths (*Eichhornia crassipes*), Guppy (*Poecilia reticulata*), Mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*), and Tilapia (*Sarotherodon occidentalis*).

Poor agricultural practices often result in loss of riparian habitat, soil erosion, and increased turbidity, which may disrupt fish feeding success. Forest clearance and land reclamation may affect river flows and water temperature in some catchments. Higher course species, in particular, require good vegetation cover to survive. Dams or weirs reduce or block flow to the extent that the lower reaches of waterways can no longer support aquatic life, and migratory species such as eels and amphidromous species lose their migratory paths and cannot complete their life cycles.



Photo credit: Blue Prosperity Vanuatu, Department of Oceans and Maritime Affairs

Pollutants from increased agricultural practices may be washed into the water during rainfall events and alter the water's chemical and biophysical characteristics, making the habitat unsuitable for aquatic life. Other threats to freshwaters include overfishing. For example, during the Santo expedition in 2006, it was observed that some villages relied on freshwater fish for food due to the scarcity of marine resources. The aquarium trade is another threat to freshwater fish, especially colourful species (Keith et al., 2010).

Vanuatu is particularly exposed to cyclones, and hydrological changes resulting from climate change could be significant in some catchments.

Conservation initiatives have included freshwater surveys by the Department of Environmental Protection

and Conservation (DEPC) and the requirement for an assessment of impacts on freshwater ecosystems as part of development projects and to implement good practice (Keith et al., 2011). These efforts have also considered options for optimising the conservation of freshwater habitats in Santo.

Vanuatu updated its wetlands inventory (Kalfatak and Jaensch, 2014), and initial work is underway to document GIFT tilapia farms near wetland systems, which may affect them if not well managed by farmers.

The Teouma River is also a critical ecosystem threatened by water hyacinth, which covers a large area of the river. However, the losses caused by water hyacinth are still to be confirmed.

3.4 Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

3.4.1 Overview

Vanuatu's marine and coastal biodiversity generates goods and services that people value. These values total over VT5.8 billion. The values include, not surprisingly, tourism and tuna. The net value of tourism in 2014 was approximately VT1.1 billion. The value of tuna to Vanuatu, mainly from access fees, was about VT208 million in 2014. The benefits of Vanuatu's tuna to the world are billions of Vatu/year. More surprising is how coastal habitats are valued in terms of what they contribute to subsistence fishers (about VT995 million), small-scale inshore commercial fishers (VT635 million), coastal protection (VT2 billion), and carbon sequestration (VT760 million) (MACBIO 2015).

Vanuatu has a range of marine habitats and species, from inshore coral reefs to deepwater seamounts and canyons, which generate these values; some are described in more detail here.

Vanuatu's coral reefs are categorised as either fringing, barrier, or atoll reefs. Within each of these categories, there are patch reefs, where coral reefs form patches within a matrix of sand or seagrass. Coral species generally have wide geographic ranges in the Indo-Pacific region. Still, many are listed as globally threatened due to reef damage and bleaching, and will suffer additional impacts from sea temperature and pH changes associated with climate change. Reefs support a variety of mollusks, crustaceans, and fish, which in turn provide the main source of protein for people living in coastal villages. Coral reefs are also the habitat for most of the threatened coastal fishes of the region, such as Humphead Wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*), Green Bumphead Parrotfish (*Bolbometopon muricatum*), and Hump-backed Rock Cod (*Cromileptes altivelis*). White sand beaches adjacent to coral reefs are important nesting sites for Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*).

Seagrass beds occur in soft-bottom areas and, like coral reefs, require clear water (low turbidity) away from sediment plumes of large rivers. Seagrass beds are the habitat of Dugong (*Dugong dugong*), which reaches the eastern limits of its distribution in Vanuatu.

Results of aerial and postal surveys indicated that dugongs occur in small groups (single or pairs of animals) throughout the sheltered waters of Vanuatu (Chambers et al., 1989). In 2022, Vanuatu Environment Science

Society (VESS) identified 5 Dugong priority hotspots for Vanuatu: Northwest Epi and Lamen Bay Island; South Efate and offshore Islands; North Efate and Offshore Islands, Southeast Malekula, Maskeylene and Avock Islands; and South and southeast Santo, Aore and Malo Island.

Dugongs are protected in Vanuatu under the Fisheries Act 2014 as well as "The Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range (Dugong MoU 2010)", which prohibits the capture of marine mammals in Vanuatu's international waters. Dugongs were formerly hunted, but their numbers are so low now that there are few contemporary records of hunting. A recent initiative by the Vanuatu Environmental Science Society (VESS) involves mapping the distribution of dugongs and their seagrass habitat, which will help identify priority conservation areas and raise awareness to advance dugong conservation.

Mangroves are a marine habitat and widely recognised as an important nursery for juvenile fish. They also provide coastal buffering against tropical cyclones and other extreme weather events. As with terrestrial forests, mangroves and seagrass meadows remove and store carbon from the atmosphere. Other ecosystem services include tourism, wood extraction, bioremediation, and sediment trapping. In 2015, the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management (MACBIO) project conducted an economic valuation of mangroves and seagrasses, estimating a range of 1.8M-760M VT. Site-specific assessments through the MESCAL project in 2009 for Crab Bay, Malekula, and Eratap on Efate Island found that 136.5 ha of mangroves in Crab Bay produced ecosystem services worth VT70M, while in Eratap, 31.2 ha produced ecosystem services worth VT31M (MESCAL project 2009).

Rocky shorelines occur along the coasts of islands of recent volcanic origin or where rapid uplift or steep drop-offs preclude the development of coral reefs. The intertidal zones are frequented by people collecting gastropods for food.

River mouths and sandy beaches often form small lagoons, which are important spawning sites for amphidromous fish. The river mouths themselves are important for larval/juvenile fish exchange between marine and freshwater ecosystems, and thus are favourite sites for fishing during "whitebait" runs, with people targeting both the larval fish themselves and the large predatory fish chasing them, such as trevallies.

Intertidal zones on coral reef flats, mangrove mudflats, rocky shores, and river mouths are important habitats for migratory waders (families Charadriidae and Scolopacidae) that migrate from breeding grounds mostly in Siberia but also in Alaska, including species such as the Bristle-thighed Curlew (*Numenius taitensis*). Most species recorded from the hotspot are passage migrants en route to or from “wintering” (i.e., northern hemisphere winter) grounds in New Zealand. Still, a few are regular winter visitors that remain in the islands through the non-breeding season and, in some cases, the first few years of life. These include Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*), Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*), common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*), and Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*).

3.4.2 Threats

While the oceans offer significant potential for sustainable economic development, they are also under increasing pressure from multiple uses and impacts. Changes in the marine environment resulting from human activities are occurring faster than previously anticipated, affecting, especially, vulnerable marine ecosystems such as coral reefs. Major threats to the marine ecology of Vanuatu include pressure from unmanaged sanitation and waste in urban areas is resulting in contaminated and polluted coastal waters (Republic of Vanuatu. State of the

Environment Report 2022, 2022,6), impacts associated with climate change including rising ocean temperatures, acidity and sea level rise; coastal and offshore developments (e.g. from Deep Sea Mining, shipping) and the destruction of marine ecosystems such as coral reefs and mangroves; unsustainable and destructive fisheries practices; and offshore sources including from ships and damage from shipwrecks; conflicting uses and the increasing intensity of hurricanes and other storm events, as recently experienced.

Many stretches of coastline, particularly in key tourism areas in Vanuatu, have experienced significant coastal erosion, resulting in substantial economic costs for property owners and the nation. Nevertheless, significant areas remain relatively pristine and are targeted for tourism and other development.

The marine environment’s ability to maintain its diversity and productivity and to provide a wide array of valuable services to people is increasingly being compromised. Designing and implementing effective governance and management strategies is critical to address the challenges posed by the increasing impacts of human activities on the marine environment and to ensure the effective management and sustainable use of living and non-living marine resources (Vanuatu’s National Ocean Policy, 2017).



Photo credit: Mimosa Bethel

3.5 Species

Under the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species, 85 species endemics to Vanuatu have been assessed for their conservation status. Of these, 35 were identified as conservation concerns. This includes 11 bird species, one of which, the Tanna Ground Dove (*Pampusana ferruginea*), is considered extinct. 1 is considered 'Endangered': the Santo Mountain Starling (*Aplonis santovestris*), 1 is considered 'Near threatened': Vanuatu Kingfisher (*Todiramphus farquhari*), and 8 is considered 'Least Concern': Vanuatu Streaked Fantail (*Rhipidura spilodera*), Vanuatu Honeyeater (*Gliciphila notabilis*), Buff-bellied Monarch (*Neolalage banksiana*), Vanuatu Imperial-pigeon (*Ducula bakeri*), Vanuatu Scrubfowl (*Megapodius layardi*), Tanna Fruit-dove (*Pampusana tannensis*), Vanuatu White-eye (*Zosterops flavifrons*), and the Santo Thicketbird (*Cincloramphus whitneyi*).

Of the mammals, the Banks Flying Fox (*Pteropus fundatus*) is 'endangered,' and the Vanuatu Flying Fox (*Pteropus anetianus*) is 'vulnerable'.

There are 9 endemic reptiles, of which the Anatom Emo Skink (*Emoia aneityumensis*), found only on Aneityum, is endangered, and the common Emo Skink (*E. erronan*), found only on Futuna and Aniwa, is Vulnerable. The *Laticauda frontalis* is 'Near threatened', 4 is considered 'Least Concern': *Cryptoblepharus novoheridicus*, Vanuatu Silver Vineskink (*Emoia nigromarginata*), Sanford's tree skink (*Emoia sanfordi*), and *Lepidodactylus vanuatuensis*

There are four endemic land snails: Aore Tree Snail (*Partula auraniana*), Small Vanuatu Tree Snail (*Partula pyramis*), and the Enigmatic Vanuatu Tree Snail are 'Endangered'. The large Vanuatu Tree (*Partula pacifica*) is considered 'Vulnerable'.

There are 11 recorded endemic freshwater species, of which *Sicyopterus aiensis* is considered 'Near Threatened', Akihito Vanuatu is 'Least Concern', and *Caridina gueryi*, *Stiphodon astilbos*, *Schismatogobius vanuatuensis*, and *Stiphodon kalfatak* are considered 'Data Deficient' or yet to be researched further.

These endemic species are threatened with extinction by a variety of factors, including unregulated development, climate change impacts, and invasive species, which are likely among the most significant. Rats, particularly the ship or Black Rat (*Rattus rattus*), which is a very good climber, are known to prey on the eggs and chicks of many birds and take lizards. They are implicated in the extinction of the Tanna ground dove. Big leaf rope (*Merremia peltata*) (or locally, Big Lif) and other weeds damage the forest habitats in which most of these species live, and rats and mice (*Mus*

musculus) eat the fruits and seeds of trees and alter the composition of the forest. Native partulid land snails have been wiped out in several countries by the Rosy Wolf-Snail (*Euglandina rosea*). Lizards are a favourite food of feral cats, though this is not an issue for the two threatened skinks, as they live in trees and will be vulnerable to rats. Yellow Crazy Ants (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*) have been recorded, for example, on Australia's Christmas Island, killing crabs, lizards, and nesting birds, and can alter forest structure, leading to declines in other native species.

Invasive species can also threaten important terrestrial ecosystems home to diverse species. For example, the Vathe Conservation Area covers 2,677 ha of Big Bay, on the Island of Espiritu Santo, and is one of Vanuatu's key biodiversity hotspots. It is the most significant area of extensive alluvial and limestone forest left in Vanuatu. It provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife, including six of Vanuatu's endemic bird species, including the globally endangered Santa Cruz Ground Dove (*Gallicolumba santecrusis*), three vulnerable or near threatened endemic bird species (the Vanuatu Megapode, Royal Parrotfinch, and Chestnut-bellied Kingfisher (*Todiramphus farquhari*), three of Vanuatu's six endemic skinks, and three endemic freshwater fish. The conservation area contains many culturally significant tabu sites for nearby communities. People from Matantas and Sara depend on this area for daily activities, including tourism, bean tree seed harvesting, and copra production. However, this massive primary forest is now threatened by the Big Leaf vine, which is smothering and killing the native trees. This vine is considered the number one threat to intact forests in Vanuatu, where it occurs. The Teouma River is also a critical ecosystem threatened by water hyacinth, which covers a large area of the river. The Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) has been removed through biocontrol; however, the losses it may have caused are still to be confirmed.

In Vanuatu, documented reports of the Crown of Thorns Starfish (COTS) observations were as early as 1989-90, with outbreak densities reported in 2004 (Espiritu Santo), 2006-2009 (Efate and surrounding islands of Moso, Emao, Nguna and Pele) with peak densities recorded in 2008 (e.g. 4,000/ha on Emao Island), and in 2012-2014 (Efate and surrounding islands of Moso, Emao, Nguna and Pele). Patterns of coral cover in north Efate indicate previous COTS impacts from the 2006-2009 and 2012-2014 outbreaks, with highly impacted reefs continuing to have low coral cover and slow recovery. Reefs that COTS didn't impact had high coral cover.



Photo Credit: Arthur Hillary

04

Measures in Place to Address Threats to Biodiversity

4.1 Traditional Governance and Management

In Vanuatu, constitutionally vested, inalienable land ownership rights rest with customary tenure, with recognised leasing arrangements with Government consent. All land in Vanuatu belongs to the indigenous 'custom owners,' and almost all land is held under customary tenure, whether leased (9.3%) or unleased (89.7%).

Land law reforms in 2014 instituted mandatory consultative and consent processes within traditional governance systems, from national to local (community/village/land-owning unit) levels, and included a Constitutional change which gave jurisdiction to traditionally established local forums (and less to the Courts) for land dispute determination/settlement.

Under the National Land Use Planning Policy (GOV, 2013), “Kastom” is one of the three pillars informing the way forward for land use planning. Vanuatu’s traditional societies and the interrelationships among family units, clans, and tribes are organised in meaningful patterns of customary resource access rights that are communally shared and, in turn, support a highly resilient traditional economy. Notably, such access rights are inextricably linked to kinship ties that transcend the physical boundaries of defined localities. Although direct and physical access to land and its produce is guaranteed to those who hold active stewardship over customary land/marine areas, participation and access (to land/sea and its produce) are open to kin-folk in urban areas.

4.2 Protected Areas or Conservation Areas

Protected Areas (marine and terrestrial), often referred to as taboo areas in Vanuatu, are increasingly used by villages/communities as unique, time-tested customary tools for resource management, accepted and understood by the indigenous population. However, the Environmental Protection and Conservation Act (EPC Act) [CAP283] has to date only recognised “Community Conservation Areas” registered under the Act as formal conservation areas in Vanuatu, and consequently, a review of the EPC Act is currently underway to also recognise taboo areas or other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) as a recognised form of conservation.

There has generally been little progress in establishing formal protected areas. In part, this reflects the limitations of

conventional protected area approaches in contexts of customary land ownership and resource tenure, and limited government capacity; in part, it reflects conflicting land uses, especially logging in lowlands and mining in highlands. As an alternative to conventional, government-managed protected areas, various approaches to community-managed conservation areas have been piloted in Vanuatu’s Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) for both terrestrial and marine areas. Government and civil society partners and communities have promoted CCAs, LMMAs, CBFM, CBCRM, Tabu areas and Custom Forest Tabus, which are seen as a way to empower local people to manage their marine and coastal resources. Similar approaches have also been promoted for terrestrial forests, inland waters, and marine protected areas.

4.2.1 Community Conservation Areas (CCAs)

The Environmental Protection and Conservation Act, CAP 283, is the most comprehensive national environmental legislation to date, and it specifically enables the declaration and registration of 'Community Conservation Areas'.

There has been significant buy-in from local communities and organisations to the model of community-based protected areas, termed as Community Conservation Areas (CCAs). This model offers an alternative approach to conservation that allows community members to continue using the areas in accordance with their traditions and needs and to receive direct support from the Government when needed.

The Community Conservation Area Registry lists nineteen formally recognised protected areas that have been registered across Vanuatu, covering 51,000ha of land and sea: Malakolop CCA and Lake Letes CCA on Gaua, Dany Island Spectacular Coral Reef, Loru CCA, Vatthe CCA, Wairua Nature Preserve, Penoru CCA, Tasmate CCA, Edenhope Nature Reserve, Pwaturvanua CCA, Tabwemasana CCA, Wusi CCA and Linturi CCA on Santo; Amal Krab Bay Tabu Eria and Akhamb CCA on Malekula; Wawa CCA on Pentecost; Efate CCA and Apuma CCA on Efate; Nimatang Mita Forest Conservation and Nusumetu Tipinime CCA on the island of Tanna. Although established with government support, these areas are typically managed by the respective community conservation area committees, in collaboration with customary land owners and Chiefs.

4.2.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas

Vanuatu has a total land area of 12,199 km². Terrestrial habitat losses from deforestation, urban, agricultural, and industrial expansion, as well as pollution, pose serious risks. The magnitude of these risks is compounded by demographic growth, pressure for economic development, changes in natural resource management models, and climate change. Vanuatu has set ambitious national targets under the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) and the NEPIP to effectively conserve 15% of natural forest and 10% of wetland areas through community and government management measures by 2030. Targets include 90% of community management committees complying with their CCA reporting obligations by 2020 and 10 registered CCAs in Vanuatu by 2020. The Vanuatu Forestry Policy has set a target to actively manage 30% of Vanuatu's forest by 2030, and the Vanuatu Ocean policy has set a goal to establish, by 2020, a national ecologically representative system of marine protected areas (GOV, 2012 and 2016).

The current Protected Area Registry lists 52 terrestrial protected areas, covering about 52,000ha of land and inland

waters. 18 of these protected areas have been declared a nationally recognised Community Conservation Area under the EPC Act. Protected terrestrial and inland waters comprise only 4.2% of the total land area. This largely reflects the limitations of formal approaches to protected areas in Vanuatu's context of customary land ownership and limited government capacity, and a review of the EPC Act to recognise OECMs in addition to the CCA approach, as described above, appears to present a better model.

4.2.3 Marine Protected Areas

Despite 98% of Vanuatu's total area consisting of oceans, there has been very little progress towards the establishment of formal marine protected areas or traditional management areas in the wider EEZ. Near-shore areas remain focused on local interests, but there are significant opportunities to prioritise and plan for the wider EEZ. The Government has outlined a clear way forward under the Vanuatu Ocean Policy, including a comprehensive consultation process to ensure all competing interests are considered. This will require substantial input to make progress, but it has the potential to significantly expand protected area coverage and safeguard Vanuatu's critical marine biodiversity and ecosystem services. Currently, approximately 24,000ha of coastal and marine areas are covered by some form of Protected Area status in Vanuatu. DEPC has, to date, registered one marine protected area as a community conservation area registered under the EPC Act, the Apuma CCA. Initiatives such as the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries project (MACBIO) are assisting the government in conducting assessments to identify important bioregions or areas of high biodiversity, which may help guide priority areas for a network of MPAs. Also included is the GEF 5 National Ridge to Reef project, which aims to expand MPAs and integrated land and coastal management on sites such as Aneityum, Tanna, Efate, and South Pentecost.

The recently developed Marine Spatial Plan for Vanuatu has designated marine conservation areas covering about 28% of Vanuatu's total EEZ, or about 240,000 ha.

4.2.4 Water Protection Zones

The Government of Vanuatu has undertaken targeted measures to safeguard freshwater ecosystems and secure the quality and quantity of water resources, in line with its commitments under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), particularly those relating to the conservation and sustainable use of inland waters and ecosystem services.

Since 2018, the Government has formally declared five Water

Protection Zones through Ministerial Orders pursuant to the Water Resources Management Act [CAP 281]. These include the Matakara and Teoumaville Water Protection Zones on Efate, the Aop Water Protection Zone on Malakula, the Solway Water Protection Zone on Espiritu Santo (Santo), and the Saratamata Water Protection Zone on Ambae.

These legally designated areas contribute to the conservation of freshwater ecosystems, the maintenance of ecosystem integrity, and the sustained provision of essential ecosystem services for communities. In parallel, local communities have developed and implemented customary water management rules to protect catchment areas and water supply sources, reflecting a community-based and rights-based approach consistent with the principles of the Convention

4.2.5 Species Conservation

Vanuatu has established a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) working group, chaired by the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation, to work on assessing Vanuatu's significant species and encourage and promote conservation on these national key biodiversity areas for Vanuatu, as they house all endemics, vulnerable, threatened, and endangered species of Vanuatu.

Currently, Vanuatu has 27 KBAs across the country, covering about 560,000ha of Vanuatu's land and ocean. The National KBA Working Group is currently working with partners to validate these KBAs.



Photo credit: Eco-Livelihood Development Vanuatu

4.3 Vanuatu International Conventions and Commitment to Biodiversity

Vanuatu is a Party to a range of multilateral environmental agreements that contribute to the implementation of national biodiversity targets aligned with the KM-GBF and its 2050 vision.

In this context, Vanuatu has specific obligations and commitments under the following international biodiversity-related conventions and agreements.

Table 1: Environment-related International Agreements to which Vanuatu is a party

Convention/Treaty/MOU	Date Signed	Date Ratified
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)	December 1982	August 1999
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)	July 1989	October 1989
United Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)	June 1992	March 1993
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	June 1992	March 1993
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	September 1995	August 1999
Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WHC)	-	June 2002
The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Island Region	September 2006	-
The Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range (Dugong MoU).	October 2010	-
The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks.	February 2013	-
Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their utilization	November 2014	March 2015
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)	2018	2019
MARPOL Convention	1986	1987
Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement	30 November 2023	June 9 2025
Basel Convention	16 October 2018	-
Rotterdam Convention	16 October 2018	-
Stockholm Convention	16 May 2002	16 September 2005
Vienna Convention	-	July 6 2018

4.4 Vanuatu Legislative and Policy Frameworks

Vanuatu has established a robust community-focused legislative framework that supports the implementation of the KM-GBF through coordinated, cross-sectoral approaches. This framework prioritizes community participation, the recognition and application of traditional knowledge, and the mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations into terrestrial and marine resource management. Collectively, these measures contribute to an

inclusive, integrated national approach that supports achieving national biodiversity targets and aligns with global commitments to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

The table below outlines key legislation and policies that support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Vanuatu and the implementation of national targets aligned with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Table 2: Legislation and policies of relevance to biodiversity protection and management in Vanuatu.

Name of Instrument	Purpose
Environmental Protection and Conservation Act (2002) no. 12. [CAP 283]	Provides for the conservation, sustainable development, and management of Vanuatu's environment, and the regulation of related activities.
EIA Regulation 2019	A regulation under section 45 of the Environmental Protection and Conservation Act concerns (preliminary) environmental impact assessment and environmental audit regarding scheduled projects, proposals, or development activities.
International Trade (Flora and Fauna) Act No. 56 of 1989 [Cap 210].	This Act relates to CITES, an international agreement among governments. It aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.
Forestry Act 2001 [CAP276]	Makes provision for the protection, development, and sustainable management of forests and the regulation of the forestry industry in Vanuatu, and for related purposes.
Fisheries Act 2014 [CAP 315]	Makes provision for management, development, and regulation of fisheries in nearshore, offshore, and aquaculture, and for the control of fishing vessels entitled to fly the flag of Vanuatu outside of Vanuatu waters in a manner consistent with Vanuatu's international obligations, and for related matters.
Water Resources Management Act 2002 [CAP 281]	Provides for management plans, committees, and protection zones for the management of water resources
Oceans Act No.45 of 2025	An Act to provide for the sustainable management of the Oceans Space of Vanuatu through the adoption of a comprehensive Vanuatu Spatial Plan and for related matters
Foreshore Development Act (amended 2013) [CAP 90]	Regulates the carrying out of works on the foreshore.
Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture Act No. 21 (2019)	An Act to provide for the protection, regulation, and management of traditional knowledge and expressions of culture in Vanuatu and for related matters.
Plant Protection Act 2006 (CAP 239)	Regulates the movement of plants into and within the country
Cocoa Act 2006 CAP 139)	Licensing and export of cocoa
Animal Importation and Quarantine Acts 1988 CAP 201)	Regulates the movement of animals into and within the country
Mines and Minerals Act 1986 CAP 190)	Regulates the mining industry
Waste Management Act No.24 of 2014	An Act to provide for the protection of the environment through encouragement of effective waste services and operations
Pollution Control Act NO. 10 of 2013	An Act to control the discharge and emission of pollution in Vanuatu.
Pesticides Control Act [CAP 226]	An Act to make provisions for the regulation and control of the importation, manufacture, sale, distribution, and use of pesticides, and for matters connected therewith.

Name of Instrument	Purpose
Product Stewardship Scheme Act	Establishes a legal framework requiring producers, importers, and retailers to manage the environmental impact of products throughout their life cycle
Ozone Layer Protection Act No. 22 of 2019	An Act to give effect to Vanuatu's obligations under the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol, and for related purposes.
Public Health Act [CAP 234]	Provides the legal framework for the Ministry of Health to regulate sanitation, food safety, and environmental health, including the authority to enforce isolation, medical examinations, and vaccination during outbreaks.
Alienated Land Act 1993 CAP 145 1983	Regulates the alienation of land in certain circumstances and provides for matters connected therewith.
Definition of Land Boundaries Act 1941 [CAP 14]	Allows the Minister to decide that the boundary of land or of any portion thereof should be more clearly defined or ascertained.
Physical Planning Act 1987 [CAP 193]	Planning Act – no environmental references – needs amending
Industrial Development Act No. 19 of 2014	Makes provision for the implementation of the National Industrial Policy to promote, facilitate, and support the growth of sustainable and value-added industry in Vanuatu and to provide for related matters.
2010 Decentralization (Amendment) Act No. 30 of 2025	An Act to amend the Decentralization and Local Government Regions.
Land Reform Amendment Act No.1 of 2017	Sustainable land use based on Kastom
Vanuatu Agricultural Research and Technical Centre Act [Cap. 286]	An Act to establish the Vanuatu Agricultural Research and Technical Centre; to provide for its constitution, functions and powers; and for related purposes.
Custom Land Management Act [CAP 282]	This Act strengthens the legal framework concerning title to custom land and concerns management of custom land by customary institutions.
Customs Act [CAP 257]	An Act to reform and modernise the law relating to Customs control and enforcement, and to provide for revenue administration, border management, trade and travel.
Disaster Risk Management Act No. 23 of 2019	An Act to regulate the management of disasters and for related purposes.
Municipalities Act [CAP 126]	To provide for the establishment of municipalities, elections to municipal councils, the powers of municipalities, and other matters related thereto.
Public Finance and Economic Management Act [CAP 244]	The Act ensures responsible government economic and fiscal management by establishing accountability mechanisms and requiring regular publication of policy statements, confirmations of fiscal discipline, budget statements, forecasts and updates, financial management information, and comprehensive annual reports.
National Green Energy Fund Act No.10 (2018)	An Act to provide for the establishment of the National Green Energy Fund and for its related matters.
Decentralisation and Local Government Regions Act [Cap. 230]	An Act to make provisions for the decentralization and establishment of Local Government Regions and for matters connected therewith
Companies Act No. 25 of 2012	An Act to provide for the formation, registration, and governance of companies in the Republic of Vanuatu
Vanuatu National Cultural Council Act [CAP 186]	An Act to provide for the establishment of the Vanuatu National Cultural Council, for the preservation, protection, and development of various aspects of the rich cultural heritage of Vanuatu, for the provision of public libraries, and for the preservation of public records and archives.
Statistics Act [CAP 83]	To provide for the collection, compilation, and publication of official statistics in Vanuatu.

Name of Instrument	Purpose
Vanuatu National Youth Authority Act No. 6 (2018)	An Act to provide for the establishment of the National Youth Authority, matters relating to national youth management, and other related matters.
Right to Information Act No. 13 (2016)	An Act to provide for the guarantee of the right to information of all persons and to establish practical, effective mechanisms supportive of that right and for related matters.
Education Act [CAP 272]	An Act to make provision for early childhood and care, primary and secondary education in Vanuatu, and for related purposes.
Public Service Act [CAP 246]	An Act to provide for the Public Service
National Environment Policy and Implementation Plan 2016-2030	It is an illustration of the Government's commitment to environmental sustainability. It meets the requirements of a national policy and plan set out in the Environmental Protection and Conservation Act [CAP 283].
Vanuatu National Fisheries Policy 2016-2031)	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.
Vanuatu National Fisheries Sector Policy (2016-2030)	Sets out the vision, high-level policy directions, and implementation strategic framework for the sustainable conservation, management, and development of fisheries and aquaculture to transform the nation's fisheries, aiming to enhance food security, improve nutritional intake, boost economic growth, and increase government revenue through sustainable development of aquatic resources
Vanuatu Forest Sector Policy 2013-2023	Sets clear policy directives for the management of Vanuatu's forests and forest resources for the next 10 years (2013 – 2023).
Vanuatu's National Ocean Policy Version 2 2024-2030	Government's policy for the management of its sovereign water and marine ecosystems through to 2030.
Overarching Productive Sector Policy	Promotes private sector-led agriculture growth, which recognises that the private sector - including farmers and fishers (big and small), traders, food vendors, processors and exporters- is the major sector output generator.
National Biosecurity Policy 2016 to 2030	To protect the nation's agriculture, environment, and economy from invasive pests and diseases while facilitating safe trade
Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy (2016–2030)	Building a resilient nation by integrating climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (DRR) into all sectors.
Deep Sea Mineral Policy 2016	Sets out Vanuatu's vision and strategic goals in relation to its deep-sea minerals and will form the basis for future drafting of laws in line with the policy.
Vanuatu National Roadmap for Coastal Fisheries 2019-2030	This national roadmap was developed to define the department's coastal fisheries management priorities and guide their implementation along desired pathways. It also provides a framework for Vanuatu's implementation of the principles and commitments to community-based fisheries management set out in A new song for coastal fisheries – pathways to change: The Noumea strategy (henceforth "New Song Noumea Strategy").
Vanuatu National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030	Its vision is to build a stable, sustainable, and prosperous nation. It focuses on three main pillars: society, environment, and economy.
Vanuatu Sustainable Tourism Policy (2019-2030)	Acts as the nation's primary framework to protect, conserve, and celebrate its environment, culture, and people. This policy is important because sustainable tourism is not a distinct form of tourism; rather, all forms of tourism should strive to be more responsible and sustainable.
Vanuatu Agriculture Sector Policy	This Policy, underpinned by social, economic, ecological, and cultural principles and the pillars of sustainable development, is organized into 13 thematic areas.
Vanuatu National Livestock Policy 2015-2030	Recognizes the major stakeholders in the livestock sector and defines their respective roles. It also recognizes the impact of livestock activities on the environment and the availability of other natural resources, such as land, water, and wildlife/livestock interaction, on livestock production.

Name of Instrument	Purpose
Vanuatu Loss and Damage Policy 2025 - 2030	The policy also provides a clear theoretical framework for understanding the linkages among climate GHG mitigation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action, and long-term recovery stakeholders and initiatives. It offers a clear definitional framework that improves understanding of a complex, crowded development landscape.
Vanuatu Fuel Standards Policy Guideline	To reduce vehicle emissions, improve air quality, and prevent the country from becoming a dumping ground for inefficient, polluting vehicles.
Vanuatu National Geospatial Data Policy (2020–2030)	The policy addresses fragmented data collection by establishing a coordinated, centralized, and standardized system to manage geospatial data, improving decision-making for sustainable development and disaster resilience.
Vanuatu Cultural Research Policy	Mandates maximum involvement of local communities, ethical treatment of, and tangible benefits for, indigenous stakeholders
National Land Subdivision Policy (2019)	Establishes minimum standards, guidelines, and administrative procedures for new land subdivisions to ensure sustainable development, safety, and proper infrastructure
Vanuatu Cultural Policy (2017)	Mandates the protection, preservation, and controlled documentation of Vanuatu's diverse cultural heritage
Vanuatu Trade Policy Framework Update (2019–2025)	A strategic roadmap for enhancing trade competitiveness, economic diversification, and integration into regional and global markets
National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (2024–2030)	Provides a comprehensive framework to manage the threat of invasive species on biodiversity, economies, and livelihoods
Vanuatu National Plan of Action for Seabirds, Sharks and Marine Turtles (2023–2028)	A framework to protect endangered marine species and their habitats within Vanuatu's EEZ
Forest & Landscape Restoration Strategy (2020–2030)	To restore degraded forests, enhance biodiversity, and improve community livelihoods through sustainable land management
Vanuatu National Energy Road Map (2016 – 2030)	to provide secure, affordable, accessible, and sustainable electricity to all citizens, targeting 100% renewable energy for electricity generation by 2030
Nationally Determined Contribution 3.0 (2025–2035)	to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 68.3% of current levels by 2035 and targets 100% renewable electricity by 2030, requiring \$3 billion in international support.
National Sanitation and Hygiene Policy (2015)	To significantly increase equitable, sustainable access to safe water, sanitation, and improved hygiene practices.
National Food Security and Nutrition Policy (2021–2030)	focuses on creating a sustainable, resilient food system to improve population health and combat malnutrition through multisectoral actions
VARTC Strategic Plan (2023–2027)	aims to build the national institution into the “Centre of tropical agricultural research excellence of Vanuatu
National Biosafety Framework (draft 2020)	to minimize risks from the introduction and spread of organisms that could cause adverse economic or environmental impacts, particularly concerning Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), their derivatives, and processed products
Public Financial Management Roadmap (2022–2026)	a strategic framework designed to enhance fiscal resilience, accountability, and transparency
Vanuatu Education & Training Sector Strategic Plan (2020–2030)	to achieve inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all while promoting lifelong learning, directly supporting the National Sustainable Development Plan 2016–2030
National Human Resource Development Plan (2020–2030)	to guide strategic investment in Post-school Education and Training (PSET) to align skills development with labor market demands
National Gender Equality Policy (2020–2030)	to accelerate the realization of equal rights, opportunities, and resources for women and girls while addressing violence, enhancing economic empowerment, and ensuring gender-responsive climate resilience

Name of Instrument	Purpose
Vanuatu National Disability Inclusive Development Policy (2018-2025)	Provides a strategic framework to ensure people with disabilities in Vanuatu are included in all aspects of society, enforcing rights, and facilitating access to services
National Child Protection Policy (2016 – 2026)	To create an environment where children are safe and protected from all forms of abuse, exploitation, neglect, and violence, and have equitable access to services to support their reintegration and recovery when needed.

About regulating development activities with potential negative environmental impacts, the key pieces of legislation are the Environmental Protection and Conservation (EPC) Act 2002, CAP 283, and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulation of 2019. These specify the requirements for an EIA and outline

the process to be followed when conducting one. The act applies to all development activities that either impact or are likely to impact Vanuatu's environment and that require any license, permit, or approval under any law (Clarke et al., 2008).

4.5 Mitigation of Direct threats

- Invasive Species Control: Eradicating or controlling invasive alien species, particularly in sensitive island or isolated ecosystems.
- Pollution Reduction: Implementing regulations to reduce pollution from agricultural, industrial, and waste sources (e.g., nitrogen runoff, plastics, pesticides). And promote establishment of dumpsites through Vanuatu's area councils.
- Climate Change Adaptation: Using nature-based solutions (e.g., protecting mangroves, planting mangroves, coral and forest) and strengthening ecosystem resilience to climate change.

4.6 Mainstreaming and Socio-Economic Measures

- Integrating Biodiversity: Embedding biodiversity considerations into agricultural, forestry, and fisheries management, such as promoting agroecological approaches.
- Resource Mobilization: Increasing national budget allocations and creating innovative funding mechanisms like payments for ecosystem services or biodiversity offsets.
- Indigenous and Local Community Involvement: Recognizing and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples in biodiversity management, including traditional knowledge in conservation efforts.
- Education and Awareness: Incorporating biodiversity into educational curricula and raising public awareness to promote behavioural changes.

4.7 Scientific Monitoring and Capacity Building

- Monitoring Systems: Developing and upgrading national data systems to track biodiversity trends and the effectiveness of conservation measures.
- Research Investment: Funding research into biotechnology, biosafety, and ecosystem services.
- Capacity Building: Strengthening the technical and organizational skills of institutions responsible for environmental management.



Photo credit: Eco-Livelihood Development Vanuatu

05

Vanuatu National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

5.1 Vision Statement

“Vision: A resilient Vanuatu where people and nature thrive together, and biodiversity is protected, restored, and sustainably used as the foundation of culture, livelihoods, and national development.”

Vanuatu's NBSAP vision statement reflects its deep understanding of the importance of preserving its unique biological and cultural diversity. The country recognizes that maintaining healthy, connected ecosystems—from ridge to reef and across land and sea—is essential for ensuring food and water security, climate resilience, economic opportunities, and the cultural identity of the Ni-Vanuatu people. This vision has been shaped by the nation's commitment to valuing biodiversity at all levels of decision-making,

integrating traditional governance alongside modern institutions, and empowering communities—including women, youth, and vulnerable groups—to safeguard natural heritage for future generations. By embracing innovation, traditional knowledge, and sustainable financing, Vanuatu aims to balance development with conservation, ensuring that no one is left behind and that the benefits of biodiversity are shared equitably across society.

5.2 Mission Statement

“The mission of the NBSAP is to ensure the protection, conservation, sustainable use, and equitable sharing of the benefits of Vanuatu's biological diversity, through government, provincial and local community actions, for the well-being of present and future generations.”

Specifically, the NBSAP seeks to:

1. Protect, manage, and safeguard biological resources through collaborative action among government, provinces, and local communities to maintain the nation's natural and cultural heritage for all Ni-Vanuatu.
2. Guide governments, provincial authorities, communities, landowners, and landholders in the sustainable management and equitable use of Vanuatu's natural resources.
3. Ensure that all Ni-Vanuatu, including future generations,

benefit from biodiversity and its ecosystem services.

4. Protect the customary, intellectual, and legal rights of Ni-Vanuatu as custodians and users of biodiversity and genetic resources.

In achieving these goals, priority is given to actions that are affordable, locally appropriate, and within the capacity of existing institutions while responding to national and community needs. The NBSAP recognizes that biodiversity conservation is an ongoing, adaptive, and evolving process that requires continuous learning and innovation.

5.3 Principles Underpinning the NBSAP

Principle 1: Community Participation and Ownership

Most of Vanuatu's natural resources are under customary ownership. The success of biodiversity conservation, therefore, depends on the choices and practices of landowners, landholders, and user communities, and continued use of time-tested customary management practices. Conservation efforts must respect and promote customary governance systems, and also promote inclusive participation, to ensure that all members of communities, particularly women, youth, and traditional leaders, are active partners in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of biodiversity initiatives.

Principle 2: Biodiversity as the Foundation for Development and Intergenerational Equity

Biodiversity is the foundation of Vanuatu's economy, food security, and cultural identity. All levels of government, private sector actors, and landowners share responsibility for its stewardship. This principle ensures that present and future generations have equal opportunity to use and enjoy Vanuatu's biodiversity, while recognizing the cost of inaction and degradation.

Principle 3: Reducing threats to Biodiversity

Vanuatu's Biodiversity status, as reflected in the last State of the Environment report, has been very poor. Vanuatu, through its revised NBSAP, ensures that conservation efforts are strategic, targeted, and directly aimed at solving the root causes of biodiversity decline by implementing strict biosecurity measures, monitoring, and eradication programs by restoring degraded ecosystems, promoting sustainable practices in fisheries, agriculture, and forestry, and also strengthening environmental legislation to enforce protection and increase penalties for illegal wildlife trade or habitat destruction.

Principle 4: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Across Sectors

Biodiversity must be integrated across all sectors of development, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, infrastructure, and education, as a shared national responsibility. Each sector and development partner should contribute to biodiversity outcomes through planning, implementation, and evaluation of activities in their areas of influence. Cross-sectoral coordination and policy coherence are essential for long-term impact.

Principle 4: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

Biodiversity conservation must uphold the principles of gender equality, equity, and inclusiveness. All NBSAP-related policies and actions should consider gender perspectives at every stage, recognizing the differentiated roles, knowledge, and contributions of women, men, and youth. Promoting equal access to resources, benefits, and decision-making ensures fairness and strengthens community resilience.

Principle 5: Ecosystem-Based and Ridge-to-Reef Approach

Biodiversity management in Vanuatu follows an ecosystem-based approach, integrating terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and marine systems under a ridge-to-reef framework. This holistic approach sustains ecosystem connectivity and productivity while linking ecological, economic, and cultural values. It encourages participatory governance, adaptive management, and integration of scientific, traditional, and local knowledge.

Principle 6: Comprehensive and Representative Protected Areas

Establishing a comprehensive, effectively managed, and ecologically representative system of protected and conserved areas, both marine and terrestrial, is essential to conserving species, habitats, and ecosystems. These areas must reflect the diversity of Vanuatu's environments. Local communities as the principle managers of these areas must be assisted to ensure both conservation and livelihood benefits.

Principle 7: Traditional Knowledge, Capacity, and Intellectual Property

Conservation efforts must be underpinned by robust scientific knowledge, traditional ecological knowledge, and capacity development. Intellectual property rights related to biodiversity and genetic resources should be respected and protected. Mechanisms should ensure that communities and individuals benefit equitably from the use of their knowledge and resources. Continuous learning, education, and public awareness are vital to sustain informed stewardship.

Principle 8: Financial Sustainability and Accountability

Effective biodiversity conservation requires a sustained investment approach, where every unit spent is seen as an investment saving future costs. Strategic resource mobilization, innovative financing mechanisms, and partnerships with the government, private sector, and development partners are key.



Photo credit: Eco-Livelihood Development Vanuatu

For example, every VT 100 invested in mangrove restoration can save VT 600 in disaster relief from cyclone damage. This illustrates the importance of predictable funding to mitigate and prevent costly environmental impacts. All stakeholders must ensure transparency, accountability, and value for money in implementing biodiversity programs.

Principle 9: Partnerships, Cooperation, and Synergies

The NBSAP promotes collaborative partnerships among national agencies, regional organizations, research institutions, NGOs, and international partners. It seeks to strengthen synergies across the

Rio Conventions (CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD) and related national frameworks to maximize co-benefits in biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation, and land restoration.

Principle 10: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adaptive Management

The NBSAP is a living document that evolves through regular monitoring, reporting, and evaluation. Data-driven decision-making, use of indicators aligned with the KM-GBF, and integration of lessons learned will ensure continuous improvement and accountability in implementation.

5.4 NBSAP Link to the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP)

The Vanuatu NBSAP serves as the primary implementation instrument for the Environment Pillar of the National Sustainable Development Plan 2016–2030 (Vanuatu 2030 – The People’s Plan). It directly contributes to achieving the following national goals and policy objectives:

SOCIAL 1: Traditional governance and Traditional Ecological Knowledge shall form the basis for all community-based actions, and to ensure that this knowledge and these practices shall continue to bestow life skills and knowledge to future generations.

SOCIAL 3: Promote healthy lifestyle choices and health-seeking behaviour to improve population health, and reduce food production levels

ENVIRONMENT 1: Ensure food and nutrition security for all people through increased sustainable production and management of natural resources.

ENVIRONMENT 2: Foster sustainable and inclusive economic growth through low-impact industries and environmentally

sound technologies.

ENVIRONMENT 3: Build a strong and resilient nation capable of adapting to climate change and natural hazards.

ENVIRONMENT 4: Ensure sustainable management and equitable use of land, water, and other natural resources.

ENVIRONMENT 5: Conserve and sustainably manage biodiversity and ecosystems for the benefit of present and future generations.

ECONOMY 2: Improve and expand the range of sustainable business products and services throughout Vanuatu and strengthen links to local production

The NBSAP operationalizes the NSDP's environmental, social, and economic goals, serving as a strategic link among biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable development at national and local levels. It reinforces Vanuatu’s 2030 vision of “a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable nation living in harmony with nature.”



VANUATU 2030 THE PEOPLE'S PLAN

Photo credit: PMO

06

National NBSAP Implementation Plan

From 2024 to 2025, Vanuatu reviewed the focal areas of the 2018 NBSAP and identified the following strategic areas aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Through these measures, the NBSAP is responding to the requirements of the CBD

and related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). The Vanuatu NBSAP Implementation Framework is in two parts. The first is the implementation of each strategic area, and the second is the provincial implementation plans.

6.1 Strategic Area 1: Conservation of Ecosystem, Species, and Genetic Resources (CE)

Summary

Vanuatu's rich biodiversity, from its tropical forests and coral reefs to its endemic species and traditional agroecosystems, underpins the nation's environment, culture, and livelihoods. However, increasing pressures from land and marine use, population growth, unsustainable resource exploitation, invasive species, and pollution are jeopardizing these ecosystems, species, and genetic resources.

Strategic Area 1 focuses on protecting, restoring, and sustainably managing Vanuatu's terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and marine ecosystems, while safeguarding threatened and endemic species and the genetic diversity critical for resilient ecosystems and agrifood systems. This strategic area emphasizes the integration of scientific knowledge, spatial planning, community rights, and cultural values, ensuring that conservation efforts support both biodiversity and the sustainable development of local communities. By addressing key threats and strengthening governance, Strategic Area 1 aims to maintain the integrity, connectivity, and resilience of Vanuatu's natural heritage for present and future generations.

Link to KM-GBF Goal

Strategic Area 1 contributes directly to the KM-GBF Goal A - Protect and Restore. The integrity, connectivity, and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050; Human-induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and by 2050, the

extinction rate and risk for all species are reduced by a factor of 10. The abundance of native wild species has increased to healthy, resilient levels. The genetic diversity within populations of wild and domesticated species is maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential.

Target 1: By 2030, Vanuatu will develop and implement national spatial plans for marine, inland water, and terrestrial areas that integrate land use, areas of kastom importance, key biodiversity areas, and freshwater catchments. These plans shall ensure that actions to reduce biodiversity loss are supported by nature- and ecosystem-based solutions, with progress monitored and quantified using geospatial methods.

Target 2: By 2030, all degraded areas are mapped, and at least 5% of degraded terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems and 5% of degraded marine ecosystems are restored through effective participatory measures that fully respect the rights and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Target 3: By 2030, at least 30% of Vanuatu's terrestrial, inland water, coastal, and marine areas, particularly key biodiversity areas, species habitats, areas of kastom importance, and other sites providing critical ecosystem services, are conserved through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. Such conservation shall recognise and respect the rights, knowledge, and needs of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, while enabling sustainable livelihoods in traditional tabus, community

conservation areas, kastom forest conservation areas, marine protected areas, and marine reserves.

Target 4: By 2030, Vanuatu will establish a national quantitative baseline to guide and monitor urgent management actions to halt human-induced extinctions and ensure the recovery of endemic, threatened, and endangered species. These efforts shall involve and expand the actions of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, provincial authorities, and the national government to maintain and restore populations of native, wild, and domesticated species.

Target 5: By 2030, the use, harvesting, and trade of wild species are effectively managed to ensure sustainability, safety, and legality,

preventing overexploitation and minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems. Customary sustainable use by Indigenous Peoples and local communities shall be respected and supported through effective legislation, enforcement, and traditional governance systems.

Target 7: By 2030, national measures are identified, implemented, and monitored across all provinces to reduce pollution from all sources to levels not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions. This includes at least a 50% reduction in local plastic pollution and environmental inputs, as well as the reduction and phase-down of pesticides and other highly hazardous chemicals in the productive and agrifood sectors.



Photo credit: Blue Prosperity Vanuatu, Department of Oceans and Maritime Affairs

Strategic Area 1: Implementation Plan

Target 1

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
CE.01	1.01	Develop a terrestrial spatial plan for Vanuatu.	The national terrestrial spatial planning framework will be completed by 2027.	DEPC, VKS, DoF, DARD, DoLSR, and DoWR.	10,000,000	Different sectors and projects have produced maps to identify zones across the country, including CCA, Water Zones, Forest maps, KBAs, and the Ecosystems map (Mangroves). However, maps for certain ecosystems and protected areas require updating.	Short-Term
CE.02	1.02	Developed a provincial terrestrial spatial plan.	# of provinces with approved terrestrial spatial plans that include biodiversity layers.	DEPC and Provincial Government	5,000,000	Different sectors and projects have produced maps to identify zones across the country, including CCA, Water Zones, Forest maps, KBAs, and the Ecosystems map (Mangroves). However, maps for certain ecosystems and protected areas require updating.	Short-Term
CE.03	1.03	Develop and update the National Wetlands Map.	# Updated Wetlands Maps	DEPC, DoWR	2,500,000	Different sectors and projects have produced maps to identify zones across the country, including CCA, Water Zones, Forest maps, KBAs, and the Ecosystems map (Mangroves). However, maps for certain ecosystems and protected areas require updating.	
CE.04	1.04	Update Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) maps.	# Up-to-date KBA Maps	DEPC	2,500,000	Different sectors and projects have produced maps to identify zones across the country, including CCA, Water Zones, Forest maps, KBAs, and the Ecosystems map (Mangroves). However, maps for certain ecosystems and protected areas require updating.	
CE.05	1.05	Integrate MSP from the National Ocean Policy, coherent and aligned with the NBSAP.	# National Ocean Policy activities integrated and implemented NBSAP.	Department of Oceans and Maritime Affairs (DOMA), DEPC, VFD, VKS, and Provincial Governments.	3,000,000	LLMA and Ocean Policy are under review and are currently being implemented. A few maps need to be reviewed and updated to integrate what exists across key marine sectors.	Short-Term
CE.06	1.06	Build GIS capacity among stakeholders.	# of GIS training carried out by 2028.	DEPC, VKS, Lands survey and registry, DUAP, VFD, and DOMA.	4,000,000	SPREP, IUCN, and SPC have previously received training to build GIS capacity.	Short-Term

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
CE.07	1.07	Develop a key biodiversity hotspot map that identifies social and economic sites (e.g., fisheries, culture and heritage, agriculture, timber resources, watershed protection, sustainable tourism, and other value sites).	# biodiversity hotspot maps with economic value are to be developed and established by 2030.	DoLSR, DoF, DEPC, NGOs, DoWR, DLA, VKS, and Relevant Agencies	5,000,000	Work undertaken on marine ecosystem valuation by MACBIO, valuation in the marine spatial plan by the Oceans Unit at the Ministry of Fisheries, and work on blue carbon ecosystems at DEPC.	Medium-Term
CE.08	1.08	Develop Natural Capital Accounts Maps for Natural and Cultural Resources & Biodiversity.	Natural Capital accounts were developed in 2028. Capital accounts are integrated into NSDP reporting by 2030.	DEPC, MFEM, VBoS and VKS.	5,000,000	VNSO has developed land Accounts. VKS is currently updating the cultural sites map.	Medium-Term
CE.09	1.09	Integrate Ocean Account maps into national planning.	Marine Capital accounts maps were developed in 2028 Oceans accounts are integrated into NSDP reporting by 2029.	DEPC, VFD, MFEM, VKS, and VBoS, DoLSRSR.	5,000,000	DEPC and Ocean Affairs are currently in discussions with Conservation International and Pristine Seas to develop National Ocean accounts.	Medium-Term
CE.10	1.10	Strengthen transboundary cooperation on biodiversity.	# of MoUs, bilateral and multilateral agreements, signed by 2030; # of annual reports produced.	DEPC, MFA, SPC, MSG Secretariat, and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.	3,000,000	There have been discussions among Melanesian countries about a Marine Ocean Reserve since 2024. National implementation plan for the VBNJ towards supporting the VBNJ treaties.	Long-term
CE.11	1.11	Assess, map & monitor natural ecosystems.	Ecosystems' integrity assessed and index updated. Ecosystem integrity reported by 2030.	DEPC, VBoS, DoF, VFD, DOMA, DoLSRSR and DoWR.	3,000,000	Most of Vanuatu's ecosystems are known, but not all have been mapped.	Long-term

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
CE.12	1.12	Apply environmental considerations such as buffer zones and wildlife corridors in major agricultural areas. Practices.	# of buffer zones and wildlife corridors established in Major Agriculture Practices by 2030.	DARD, DEPC, DoLSRSR, Farmers, DoI and Development Partners.	3,000,000	Captured as a policy directive in the Vanuatu Agriculture Sector Policy.	Medium-Term
CE.13	1.13	Map and update Wetlands National Importance.	# of updates done on the Vanuatu Wetlands Directory.	DEPC, DoWR, DLA, and Provincial Governments.	5,000,000	The Current Wetlands Director is over 14 years old and needs to be updated.	Medium-Term
CE.14	1.14	Identify, map, and protect major headwaters.	# of headwaters mapped or protected.	DEPC, DoWR and DLA.	3,000,000	DOWR is currently doing some work on identifying headwaters. But this work needs to be properly mapped out.	Medium-Term
CE.15	1.15	Develop terrestrial protected area typologies.	The terrestrial protected areas typology was developed in 2030.	DEPC, DoF, DoWR and DLA.	3,000,000	There have been discussions on this; some projects have collected data, and the data needs to be collated and presented.	Medium-Term

Target 2

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
CE.16	2.01	Use remote sensing and ground truthing assessments to identify degraded land and freshwater hotspots.	National maps of degraded terrestrial and freshwater by 2027	DEPC, DoLSRSR, DARD, DoWR, Provincial Governments and NGOs	5,000,000	Baseline data exist across key government departments and CSOs. Coordination among all agencies is required to ensure data is collated and used effectively to identify data gaps before ground truthing.	Short-Term
CE.17	2.02	Map out the degraded seascape Hot Spot Areas	National maps of degraded marine areas by 2027	DEPC, VFD, Provincial Governments, and NGOs.	5,000,000	Blue Prosperity has collected data that could be used to map the degraded hotspots.	Short-Term

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
CE.18	2.03	Implement restoration initiatives for marine areas	5% of degraded marine areas restored by 2030 and beyond	DEPC, VFD, Oceans and Maritime Affairs, NGOs, Provincial Governments and Customary Landowners.	20,000,000	Individuals, government departments, and NGOs have undertaken restoration activities throughout the country.	Short-Term
CE.19	2.04	Assess and monitor the Forest, cover	Map of Forest Cover for Vanuatu	DEPC, DoF VKS, VBoS, Provincial Governments, VFD, and DoWR.	10,000,000	Baseline information is currently housed within respective government departments.	Long-Term
CE.20	2.05	Replant the endangered and endemic trees species.	# of endemic trees replanted annually.	DoF, DEPC, and Local Communities.	5,000,000	Priority objectives of the National Forests and Landscape Restoration Strategy	Medium-Term
CE.21	2.06	Replant and restore degraded forest areas.	5% of degraded land is restored by 2030.	DoF, DEPC, Provincial Governments, and Local Communities.	5,000,000	Priority objectives of the National Forests and Landscape Restoration Strategy	Medium-Term
CE.22	2.07	Replant culturally significant tree species in degraded areas.	# of culturally significant species planted annually;	DoF, DEPC, VKS, NGOs, Chiefs, and Malvatumauri.	5,000,000	Malampa and Tafea provinces have undertaken initiatives.	Medium-Term
CE.23	2.08	Conduct restoration activities in mangroves and coastal forests.	# of hectares of mangroves and coastal forest areas restored and protected by 2030	VFD, DEPC, DoF, DoWR, DoCC, and NGOs.	10,000,000	Priority objectives of the National Forests and Landscape Restoration Strategy Ongoing GEF/UNDP coastal ecosystem restoration projects; some community-based funding secured	Medium-Term

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
CE.24	2.09	Establish forestry nurseries in selected Area Councils.	# of forestry nurseries	DoF, DEPC, NGOs, and CSOs.	10,000,000	National Forest Policy MALFB Corporate Plan 2006-2030. A few area councils have already established nurseries through VCAP and VCCR.	Medium-Term
CE.25	2.10	Conduct an inland waters assessment to identify degraded areas for restoration.	Hectares of degraded inland waters.	DEPC and DoWR	6,000,000	Currently, DOWR is conducting a water inventory but is not identifying resources within inland waters.	Short-Term
CE.26	2.11	Procure a mini crusher to crush building minerals for construction, as a substitute for coastal building aggregates.	# of mini crusher procured	DEPC, Geology and Mines, VFD, DOMA, Chiefs, and Private Sectors.	16,000,000	The Chiefs are taking initiatives to ban sand mining in coastal areas to address environmental issues.	Medium-Term

Target 3

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
CE.27	3.01	Revise the CCA Guideline to incorporate Tabus and Customary Management practices better.	# of CCA guideline revised and published by Dec 2026	DEPC and VKS.	2,300,000	Consultations have been conducted by the Department of Environment through the ECARE project and Nia Tero on amendments to the EPC Act to guide the review of the guideline.	Short-Term
CE.28	3.02	Conduct inclusive consultation on Management Rules and By-laws with communities residing within and outside of conservation areas.	# of communities consulted on Management Rules and By-laws by 2028	DEPC, VFD, DoF, DoWR, NGOs, and Chiefs.	12,000,000	All current management plans have gone through this process.	short-Term
CE.29	3.03	Establish new Protected Areas with Management Plans	At least 30% of land, inland waters, and marine areas conserved by 2030	DEPC, VKS, VFD, and DoF, DoWR	11,250,000	Currently, most of the CCAs still do not have management plans, except for those CCAs established with the help of the Government, Government Projects, and NGOs	Short-Term

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
CE.30	3.04	Support tabu areas established by local communities	# of community rules and management plans developed for Tabu Areas	DEPC, VKS, VFD, DoLSR, Local Communities, and Chiefs.	10,000,000	The Vanuatu Cultural Centre and the Department of Environment have, in the past and currently, supported communities in establishing tabu areas.	Short-Term
CE.31	3.05	Conserve key biodiversity hotspot areas (KBAs).	Conserve at least 30% of the overall KBA	DEPC, Provincial Government,	10,000,000	Vanuatu has 27 KBAs, covering 563,047 HAs. So far, 2 KBAs are fully protected as CCAs, and many others are partially protected both formally and through community Taboo Areas.	Long-term
CE.32	3.06	Develop a National Protected Area Roadmap to capture 30% of protected areas by 2026	National 30 by 30 Road Map to be developed by 2026	DEPC, VFD, DoF, DOWR, NGOs, DoCC, CSOs, Provincial Governments, and DOMA.	5,000,000	Information available for collation.	Short-Term
CE.33	3.07	Conduct a nation-wide PA Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) for protected areas across Vanuatu	# of Protected Areas that have gone through a METT assessment by 2030.	DEPC, DoF, VFD, DOWR, NGOs, and donor-funded projects.	6,000,000	METT Training underway to develop the new METT Handbook for Vanuatu.	Medium-Term
CE.34	3.08	Install community conservation area signboards for all registered CCAs and custom conservation areas	# of CCAs signboards developed and installed.	CCA Management Committees and Donors.	2,000,000	Only a few CCAs have signboards	Short-Term
CE.35	3.09	Develop and implement watershed management plans to address threats and, where possible, their root causes.	# of watershed management plans developed by 2030	DoWR, DEPC, DoF, DUAP, DLA, and Chiefs.	3,000,000	5 water protection zones have been declared, so far only one approved watershed management plan for Matnakara. The GEF 7 project is currently addressing the Sarakata watershed management plan. DoWR is currently drafting the Aoap watershed management plan.	Short-Term
CE.36	3.10	Establish community rules to conserve the environment and protect biodiversity.	# of community rules approved and registered by 2030.	Community Conservation Groups, VFD, DEPC, and NGOs.	6,000,000	Rules are continually being established, but are not respected by local communities.	Short-Term
CE.37	3.11	Integrate community environmental rules into provincial and national legislation.	# of community rules endorsed by provinces by 2030	Community Leaders, Provincial Governments, DEPC, and MOCC.	2,000,000	Integration discussions are ongoing between government departments on this subject.	Short-Term

Target 4

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
CE.38	4.01	Develop and update the national Significant species database by 2027	# of databases developed and updated by 2027	DEPC, VKS, VBoS, DoLSRSR, Academic Institutions, and Partners.	5,000,000	Existing database with DEPC	Short-Term
CE.39	4.02	Conduct and validate a nationwide species assessment on key biodiversity areas (KBA)	# of Assessment reports compiled for each KBA	DEPC, DoF, VFD, NGOs, Academic Institutions, CEPF, and Rangers.	5,000,000	A KBA working group exists and has regular meetings.	Medium-Term
CE.40	4.03	Develop a national species recovery plan for endangered species.	# of National species recovery plans developed and endorsed by 2028	DEPC, Provincial Govts, NGOs, Chiefs, and Local Communities.	2,500,000	Some species recovery pilot projects are ongoing.	Long-Term
CE.41	4.04	Assess extinction risk for species in agri-food systems.	# of Extinction risk assessments reports completed for priority crops/livestock by 2027	DARD, VARTC, DEPC, VKS, and MoCC.	8,000,000	None, an area for potential research to be further explored.	Medium-Term
CE.42	4.05	Monitor loss of traditional domesticated varieties & crop displacement	# of inventory and monitoring reports for traditional crop varieties by 2026	DARD, VARTC, Chiefs, and Malvatumauri.	6,000,000	Partial Documentation exists in some provinces.	Medium-Term
CE.43	4.06	Conduct assessments and validate the list of threatened endemic flora & fauna.	# of assessment reports with an updated threatened species list completed and validated by 2027	DEPC, VKS, NGOs, and Academic Institutions.	4,000,000	Partial work under the national Red List.	Short-Term
CE.44	4.07	Develop species-specific distribution maps (distribution ranges, critical habitats).	# of species distribution maps developed by 2028.	DEPC, DoLSR, DoF, VFD, and NGOs.	5,000,000	Some marine mapping is underway.	Long-Term

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
CE.45	4.08	Carry out restocking programs in Marine areas and other relevant areas.	# of restocking programs implemented by 2030	DEPC, DOMA, VFD, Partners, Chiefs, NGOs, Area Councils, and BirdLife International.	6,000,000	No restocking yet, baseline partial.	Medium-Term
CE.46	4.09	Implement the National Plan of Action for Dugongs, Turtles, Seabirds, and Sharks	% of NPOA Management Plan activities implemented.	DEPC, VKS, and VFD.	5,000,000	Several studies have examined the Dugong population. There is a National Plan of Action for Dugongs, but it has not been implemented.	Long-Term
CE.47	4.10	Conduct assessments in Marine Reserve Zones	# of Biodiversity assessments completed for all reserves by 2027.	DEPC, VFD, and Local Communities.	6,000,000	Some marine park monitoring is ongoing.	Short-Term
CE.48	4.11	Conduct a biodiversity and ecological baseline assessment in selected islands/ provinces	# of Biodiversity baseline assessments completed.	DEPC, NGOs, Academic Institutions, and VFD.	6,000,000	Rapid assessments in some islands.	Short-Term
CE.49	4.12	Ongoing Monitoring of target species populations	% Change in populations over time.	DEPC, Chiefs, NGOs, Academic Institutions, and Rangers.	5,000,000	Some community monitoring is ongoing.	Medium-Term
CE.50	4.13	Conduct a biodiversity baseline stocktake in existing CCAs.	# of Stocktake assessments completed and reported by 2026.	DEPC, CCA Management Committees, NGOs, CCA Rangers, and VFD	3,500,000	Started in a few CCAs.	Short-Term
CE.51	4.14	Conduct regular biodiversity monitoring in registered CCAs.	# of CCAs monitoring reports from Rangers.	DEPC, VFD, CCA Management Committees, Rangers, and NGOs.	10,000,000	Ad hoc monitoring and training for CCA rangers are underway through the development of a ranger's monitoring toolkit.	Short-Term

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
CE.52	4.15	Conduct nationwide inland waters assessments to update information on the status of inland waters biodiversity.	# of assessment reports compiled for status on inland biodiversity updates.	DEPC, DoWR, DoF, and DARD.	6,000,000	The recent water resource inventory was completed in 2023. However, no information is collected on its biodiversity.	Short-Term
CE.53	4.16	Development of an "Access Benefit Sharing Regulation" (ABS) for useful wildlife species.	An Access Benefit Sharing (ABS) Regulation has been developed.	DEPC and MoCC.	1,000,000	Drafting of regulations completed. Consultation yet to be conducted.	Short-Term
CE.54	4.17	Protection of endemics and vulnerable flora and fauna, including in agricultural areas.	Wildlife Protection Act Developed, Gazetted, and Enforced.	DEPC, DARD, DoF, VFD, and Local Communities.	3,000,000	Biodiversity data from national KBAs can serve as a baseline for this action. Specified species regulations have been drafted. Yet to be consulted. Wild Birds Protection Act and CITES exist—initial discussion to merge all three legislations. CCAs, MPAs and protected areas, and community by-law and Marine Sanctuary.	Short-Term
CE.55	4.18	Ban the use of slingshots on selected islands to reduce the mortality rate of bird species.	At least 20 local communities have banned slingshots in their community bylaws/management plans by 2026.	Provincial Governments, Chiefs' Councils and Local Communities.	2,000,000	Some islands are already implementing bans, while others are considering doing so.	Short-Term
CE.56	4.19	Develop, strengthen, and harmonize community bylaws and management plans for significant marine and terrestrial species.	At least 50 communities have implemented community bylaws or management plans that incorporate ridge-to-reef principles.	DEPC, DoF, VFD, Provincial Govts, Chiefs, Area Councils, and Local Communities.	6,000,000	Drafts under discussion in some CCAs led by VCAP 2.	Short-Term
CE.57	4.20	Development of a Sustainable Use of Wildlife Regulation.	Sustainable use of wildlife regulation is to be developed by 2030.	DEPC, VFD, DoF, and MoCC.	2,000,000	The Wildlife Species Act should include specific provisions enabling the formulation and implementation of this regulation.	Medium-Term

Target 5

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
CE.58	5.01	Ban the importation of 30mm- 50mm mesh size fishing nets.	Ministerial order signed and gazetted by 2026.	VFD, DCIR, DEPC, DOMA, and MoCC.	6,000,000	Ban on the sale of the 30mm-50mm mesh size net by suppliers in town.	Short-Term
CE.59	5.02	Update CITES listings for species in Vanuatu.	# of updates done on the national CITES list by 2030.	DEPC, DoF, VFD, and MoJCS.	6,000,000	Partial review ongoing by DEPC. Few species assessments have already been conducted.	Short-Term
CE.60	5.03	Conduct Non-Detrimental Findings (NDFs) for CITES-commercial listed species.	# of NDF assessment reports completed and submitted to the CITES secretariat by 2030.	DEPC, DoF, VFD, and VKS.	3,000,000	Initial NDFs for a few timber species, reptiles, sharks, and sea cucumbers were conducted.	Medium-Term
CE.61	5.04	Review and implement the National Plan of Actions for specific migratory species: sharks, turtles, and seabirds.	# of the National Plans of Action reviewed. # of actions in the National Plan of Action for each migratory species: Sharks, Turtles, and Seabirds are implemented.	DEPC, VFD, DOMA, NGOs, and Chiefs.	8,000,000	Existing National Plan of Actions for Sharks, Turtles, and Seabirds.	Medium-Term
CE.62	5.05	Develop national plans of action to protect or manage other migratory species.	# of the National Plans of action developed.	DEPC, VFD, DOMA, NGOs, and Chiefs.	5,000,000	Some awareness campaigns and pilot habitat protection measures are ongoing.	Long-Term
CE.63	5.06	Establish and formalise an Environment Crime Unit to monitor & regulate illegal trading of species.	The Environment Crime Unit is established and formalised with the Vanuatu Police Force by 2030.	DEPC, MoA, VPf, DCIR, DoF, VFD, Biosecurity Vanuatu, and OPP.	10,000,000	Concept proposal drafted. Coordination with the police and customs is underway. Focal point for Environmental Crime established. A Rapid Response Guide was developed for the wildlife trade.	Long-Term

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
CE.64	5.07	Assess stock levels for Parrotfish, Rabbitfish, Surgeonfish, Goatfish, and Emperor fish at selected sites to determine sustainable fish stock levels.	Stock assessment reports on the status of Parrotfish, Rabbitfish, Surgeonfish, and Emperor fish are determined.	VFD, DEPC, CSOs, and Local Communities.	5,000,000	Use the Vanuatu Coral Assessment 2023 report and the TAILS assessment as baseline.	Short-Term
CE.65	5.08	Develop a Species Regulation to regulate the management and use of Endangered species.	Regulation is expected to be developed by 2028.	DEPC, MoCC and VKS	2,300,000	Initial discussions on specified species regulation by DEPC.	Short-Term
CE.66	5.09	Establishment of Fisheries Authorised Officers and DEPC Authorised Officers in all Area Councils.	50% of Area Councils have Fisheries Authorised Officers and DEPC Authorised Officers.	DEPC, VFD, and Provincial Governments.	10,000,000	Derived from Agriculture Policy 8.2.2 – Fisheries governance and sustainable practices.	Short-Term
CE.67	5.10	Support Enforcement of Fishing Gear Regulation.	10 Community awareness on fishing gear regulation.	VFD and Provincial Governments.	2,000,000	Derived from Agriculture Policy 8.2.2 – Fisheries management measures.	Short-Term
CE.68	5.11	Support the establishment of fish storage facilities to ensure fresh fish exports to markets.	At least 50% of Area Councils have at least 1 fish storage facility.	Department of Industry and VFD.	10,000,000	There is a current fish market that needs additional storage on Futuna	Short-Term

Target 7

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
CE.69	7.01	Develop a Chemical Safety Act	The National Chemical Safety Act was developed, passed by parliament, and gazetted by the end of 2026.	DEPC and OAG.	500,000	Consultation on the Chemical Safety Act has been completed, and the Act is being drafted.	Short-Term
CE.70	7.02	Develop integrated, sector-specific chemical regulation.	# of regulations developed (including importation, usage, storage, and disposal)	DEPC, MALFB, and OAG.	5,000,000	A National Chemical Profile has been developed to support this.	Short-Term
CE.71	7.03	Perform cumulative toxicity assessments of all applied pesticides, including insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides, within agricultural areas.	At least 10 pesticide-aggregated total applied toxicity tests for insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides, in identified agricultural areas.	DEPC, DoF, DARD, and VBoS.	10,000,000	No work has been done on this activity yet.	Medium-Term
CE.72	7.04	Develop national wastewater discharge standards.	National wastewater standard to be developed and gazetted by 2026	DEPC, DoWR, VKS, VFD, and National Waste Water Taskforce.	2,000,000	A national wastewater task force has been established to deliberate on the development of national standards.	Short-Term
CE.73	7.05	Review and update the national waste management and pollution control strategy to include plastics.	The national waste management and pollution control strategy will be reviewed and updated by 2028.	DEPC, DoWR, PVMC, Provincial Governments, Private Waste Operators, VFD, and DUAP.	1,500,000	The current National Waste Management and Pollution Control Strategy lapsed in 2024. Needed to be updated	Medium-Term
CE.74	7.06	Amend the Waste Management Act No. 24 of 2014 to include the Polluter Pays Principle, with clearly defined penalties outlined in the law.	Waste Management Act revised and amended by 2027	DEPC, MoCC, DoWR, PVMC, Provincial Governments, Private Waste Operators, VFD, and DUAP.	1,000,000	A container Deposit scheme was passed by parliament in 2025. Similar exercises should be done for other initiatives.	Short-Term
CE.75	7.07	Identify and establish 10 pilot waste disposal sites for the selected Area Council.	# of pilot waste disposal sites established by 2030.	MoCC, MoLNR, MoA, Provincial Governments, and Chiefs.	5,000,000	Consultation in progress.	Short-Term
CE.76	7.08	Develop a national solid waste guideline (for reuse, recycle, reduce, and refuse solid waste)	Solid Waste National guideline developed	DEPC, DoWR, PVMC, Provincial Governments, Private Waste Operators, VFD, and DUAP.	2,000,000	Significant awareness has been raised about the 4 Rs nationwide. Lessons learned from current practices could inform guideline development.	Short-Term

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
CE.77	7.09	Carry out waste Segregation in provinces, selected schools, and Communities	# of provincial governments practicing waste segregation by 2030. # of communities practicing waste segregation by 2030. # of schools practicing waste segregation by 2030.	DEPC, Provincial governments, Selected schools and communities, and CSOs.	8,000,000	Three provincial environment extension officers are already promoting waste segregation campaigns at some schools and communities.	Short-Term
CE.78	7.10	Undertake annual youth-led waste cleanup campaigns in all provinces.	# of waste cleanup campaigns organised annually throughout the 6 provinces by 2030.	DEPC, Provincial Governments, and Community Youth Groups.	5,000,000	Cleanup campaign activities are underway in selected Area councils and urban areas, led by youth groups and churches on an ad hoc basis.	Short-Term
CE.79	7.11	Develop and promote SOP for waste management and disposal for domestic vessels.	Waste management and disposal SOPs for domestic vessels will be developed and enforced by 2027.	DEPC, VMISA, OMAD, VFD and DoWR.	5,000,000	Marine waste matters are a mandate for VMISA. Waste management disposal facilities at wharves have been initially discussed with VMISA.	Short-Term
CE.80	7.12	Conduct eutrophication potential testing in inland and coastal waters for high-risk sites.	# of eutrophication assessments on high-risk sites reported.	DEPC, DoWR, VFD, DARD, and OMAD.	5,000,000	No work has been completed on this activity yet.	Medium-Term
CE.81	7.13	Implement actions to mitigate eutrophication at selected high-risk sites, as outlined in the assessment report.	# of eutrophication assessment mitigation actions executed.	DEPC, DoWR, VFD, DARD, and OMAD.	10,000,000	Mitigation actions to complement the results of the eutrophication assessment report.	Medium-Term
CE.82	7.14	Establish designated dumping sites in all provinces	# of designated dumping sites established by 2030. # of communities implementing sorting and collection systems.	DEPC, Area Councils, Communities, Private Sector (waste operators), and Provincial Governments.	30,000,000	Partially underway (estimated cost per province: VT 5 million across six provinces). Site inspections for potential dump sites were conducted in Torba, Penama, Malampa, and Sanma.	Short-Term
CE.83	7.15	Develop and enforce waste management systems (bylaws, sorting, removal) in all provinces	# of waste management by-laws enforced.	DEPC and Provincial Governments, Municipalities, DLA, DUAP, Private Sectors, and CSOs	6,000,000	Need to amend the act to provide a provision to develop waste management plans for specific dump sites across all provinces.	Medium-Term

6.2 Strategic Area 2: Sustainable Management and Benefit Sharing (SM)

Summary

Strategic Area 2 focuses on ensuring that Vanuatu's biodiversity and natural resources are sustainably managed, utilized, and shared for the benefit of present and future generations. This involves protecting ecosystem functions and services, restoring degraded landscapes, and integrating biodiversity into agricultural, urban, and productive systems. Emphasis is placed on locally-led, ecosystem-based, and nature-based approaches that support climate resilience, food security, sustainable livelihoods, and equitable benefit sharing, particularly for Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

A central component of this strategic area is the transformation of Vanuatu's agri-food systems. These systems are vital for national nutrition, livelihoods, and economic resilience but face mounting pressures from climate change, land degradation, invasive species, and unsustainable practices. By integrating biodiversity-friendly approaches, agroecological practices, and sustainable land management, Vanuatu aims to align agricultural productivity with ecosystem conservation and climate adaptation goals.

Invasive species management, sustainable use of wild species, biodiversity-inclusive urban planning, and restoration of ecosystem services are key cross-cutting priorities that ensure terrestrial and marine biodiversity contribute to human well-being, disaster resilience, and climate mitigation.

Link to KM-GBF Goal

Strategic Area 2 links to the KM BGF Goal B - Prosper with Nature. Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed, and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained, and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored. This supports sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050.

Target 6: By 2030, Vanuatu implements its National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan, achieving at least 60% of its targets through coordinated measures by government and non-government actors to control, eradicate, and prevent the introduction and establishment of invasive alien species. These measures shall minimize impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem

services, and agrifood systems.

Target 8: By 2030, Vanuatu implements at least 80% of the NBs and EBA priorities outlined in the National Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policies and achieves the biodiversity and environment targets set out in its Nationally Determined Contribution and National Adaptation Plan. Implementation shall prioritise averting, minimising, and addressing the cascading and compounding impacts of climate change on biodiversity through traditional knowledge and locally led, nature-based and ecosystem-based approaches.

Target 9: By 2030, wild species are sustainably used and managed to provide social, economic, and environmental benefits for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, through effective measures led by communities and supported by government, ensuring benefits for both present and future generations.

Target 10: By 2030, agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries, aquaculture, and agrifood systems are sustainably managed across all Area Councils, supported by national measures, activities, and practices that integrate biodiversity-friendly approaches. These practices shall conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services while ensuring nutritious food and healthy diets for Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Target 11: By 2030, nature's contributions to people, including pollination, soil fertility, seed dispersal, nutrient cycling, disaster resilience, and the regulation of air, water, climate, and soil health, are restored, maintained, and enhanced. This shall be achieved, in particular, through locally led, ecosystem-based and nature-based solutions that benefit all of Vanuatu's people, especially Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Target 12: By 2030, conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity are fully integrated into urban planning, increasing and enhancing green and blue spaces that improve human health, well-being, and connection to nature.

Target 13: By 2030, Vanuatu adopts, implements, and enforces an effective Access and Benefit-Sharing legislative framework to ensure full compliance with the Nagoya Protocol.

Strategic Area 2: Implementation Plan

Target 6

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
SM.01	6.01	Review the National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) for priority IAS.	Updated National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP). 5 Priority selected Invasive Alien Species Action Plans in NISSAP implemented.	DEPC, BV Vanuatu, DARD, VFD, DoF, CSOs, DLA, and Local communities.	5,000,000	The existing National Invasive Species Action Plan is outdated. It has been reviewed, but the review assignment has not yet been completed.	Short-Term
SM.02	6.02	Implement the National Invasive Species Strategies Action Plan (NISSAP).	60% actions in the National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) implemented.	DEPC, BV DARD, VFD, DoF, DLA, and Local communities.	10,000,000	Some activities to address and manage Meria Mia Beltata, Fire Ants, Rats, and Myna Bird	Medium-Term
SM.03	6.03	Develop an IAS hotspot Map for priority IAS across Vanuatu.	The IAS map produced for the 5 Priority Invasive Alien Species Hotspot Maps will be developed by 2030.	DEPC, BV , DARD, VFD, DoF, DLA, and Local Communities.	5,000,000	Initial GPS coordinates collected for some species. Funding is needed to develop the distribution, range, and area coverage of the priority species.	Short-Term
SM.04	6.04	Develop a monitoring mechanism for IAS management approaches.	At least 5 priority IAS species have been monitored.	DEPC, BV, DARD, VFD, DoF, DLA, and Local communities.	1,000,000	DEPC has conducted monitoring of IAS	Short-Term
SM.05	6.05	Establish Biosecurity Inspection checkpoints at Domestic Ports.	At least 5 Domestic Ports of Entry and Departure have in-place Biosecurity Inspection checks and control for plants and animals.	DEPC, BV, Airports Vanuatu, Department of Ports and Harbour, and DCIR.	10,000,000	The biosecurity bill covers the interisland movement of species through domestic ports.	Short-Term
SM.06	6.06	Support Review of Vanuatu Biosecurity Policy.	Vanuatu Biosecurity Policy is Reviewed and Endorsed.	BV and DEPC.	2,000,000	Vanuatu Biosecurity Policy.	Short-Term
SM.07	6.07	Develop an IAS (Invasive Alien Species) Alert System for selected species.	The IAS alert system will be developed by 2030.	DEPC, BV, and DoF.	2,000,000	Procedure in place for the proposed introduction of foreign Organisms. An alert system is needed.	Short-Term

Target 8

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
SM.08	8.01	Implementation of NBS and EBA programs and activities in the CCDRR policies.	80% of NBS and EBA activities are implemented in the CCDRR Policies.	NAB, NDMO, DoCC and DEPC.	50,000,000	Climate finance country program under review with potential NBS and EBA projects. The National Adaptation Plan is also being developed to integrate adaptation measures that protect and sustain biodiversity resources from climate impacts.	Short-Term
SM.09	8.02	Facilitate all incoming nature-based solutions (Nbs) and ecosystem-based adaptation (Eba) projects in compliance with the NAB Endorsement Process, addressing climate change adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage.	10 nature-based solutions (NBS) and ecosystem-based adaptation (Eba) projects screened and endorsed by NAB towards meeting CCDRR priorities in adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage.	DEPC, DoCC, NDMO, NAB, CSOs, and Local communities.	0	GCF projects (e.g., EbA for Resilient Communities) and NGO-led NBS pilots.	Medium-Term
SM.10	8.03	Relocate communities' coastal areas affected by Sea-Level Rise.	At least 5 local communities have been relocated due to climate change.	NDMO, DEPC, and DoCC.	1,200,000	Some relocation feasibility studies completed; partial funding from national and GCF adaptation funds	Long-Term
SM.11	8.04	Research identifying more climate-resilient crops and forestry.	National inventory of climate resilient crops and forestry by 2030.	DARD, VARTC, DEPC, DoCC, VMGD, and DoF.	5,000,000	VARTC has researched a few climate resilience crops	Long-Term
SM.12	8.05	Research climate impacts within selected CCAs and MPAs.	CCA and MPAs climate vulnerability reports by 2030.	DoCC, DEPC, VFD, NDMO, NAB, and VMGD, and Academic Institutions.	5,000,000	DEPC has conducted a biodiversity rapid assessment (Biorap) across CCAs. However, not identify the vulnerability of biodiversity resources to climate impacts to the extent that it does.	Medium-Term

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
SM.13	8.06	Integration of climate and disaster risk information into the DEPC Database.	Climate and Disaster risk data are integrated into the DEPC Centralized Database.	DoCC, DEPC, VFD, NDMO, NAB, and VMGD, and Academic Institutions.	5,000,000	Existing climate science information systems are in place. 1. National Vulnerability Assessment 2. Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment Framework. 3. Climate Portal with VMGD. The integration process should be direct.	
SM.14	8.07	Support to promote the use of water filters in community households to improve the safe and quality supply of drinking water.	At least 25% (or 15,000) of local households use water filters to improve the safety of drinking water.	DoWR, NGOs, and Local Communities.	75,000,000	DOWR already started the distribution of water filters to disaster-stricken local communities	Medium-Term
SM.15	8.08	Construct climate-resilient infrastructure to reduce the impacts of sea-level rise, including nature-based solutions.	At least 10 climate-resilient infrastructure and nature-based solutions are being constructed to minimise the impacts of sea-level rise on local communities.	PWD, DoCC, DEPC, and VFD.	10,000,000	Some climate-resilient bridges have been constructed on Efate, Santo, and Pentecost Islands, but none have been built in coastal areas to mitigate SLR.	Long-Term
SM.16	8.09	Promote the use of Green Energy to reduce air pollution.	At least 10 electric vehicles are registered under the Vanuatu Government Fleet to promote low-emission vehicles.	DEPC, Electric Vehicle Car Dealers, and Fleet Management Unit.	50,000,000	3 EVs are already used at the Ministry of Climate Change	Medium-Term

Target 9

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
SM.17	9.01	Identify value-addition potential for wildlife species and their benefits.	# of community-led initiatives for Value addition of wild species.	DEPC, DoF, VFD, CSOs, Academic Institutions, and Local communities.	10,000,000	Value addition for some shell species has been implemented through VFD, and for some agrobiodiversity species through the Ministry of Trade and Live and Learn Vanuatu.	Medium-Term
SM.18	9.02	Provide technical and financial support to Handicraft Enterprises	# of technical and financial support provided to handicraft enterprises	Tourism, Industries, VBoS, Women groups, NGOs, TVET, VCCI	10,000,000	Sustainable handicrafts & artisan products	Medium-Term
SM.19	9.03	Deliver training on basic processing and value adding.	At least 6 training sessions are provided annually to communities on the value-added benefits of products.	DoT, DoI, DEPC, VBoS, TVET	12,000,000	This should be deemed as an ongoing initiative. Currently, TVET is undertaking such programs.	Short-Term
SM.20	9.04	Identify the proportion of the population living in traditional or rural occupations.	Number of people using wild resources for energy, food, or culture (including firewood collection, hunting and fishing, gathering, medical use, craft making, etc.)	DEPC and VBoS	500,000	The Vanuatu Bureau of Standards is already collecting data on populations residing in rural settings. This data from VBOS will be used to track this action.	Short-Term
SM.21	9.05	Provide technical and financial support to the Eco-Entrepreneur	# of Tourism/fisheries eco-enterprises supported. Annual revenue generated by supported SMEs (target VT 5M/ year by 2030).	NGOs, Youth, Women, Environment Committees, Tourism, Fisheries Dept of industries and DLA	10,000,000	Some underway Waste, recycling, green SMEs	Short-Term
SM.22	9.06	Provide training to government and provincial officers on ecosystem valuation and value-based decision-making.	Number of officers trained and local communities trained.	DEPC	10,000,000	None	Short-Term
SM.23	9.07	Provide technical and financial support to Turtle-Tagging & Conservation Tourism.	# of technical and financial support to Turtle-tagging and conservation tourism provided	VFD, DEPC, DoT, and CCA Management Committees.	10,000,000	Wildlife tourism enterprises.	Short-Term

Target 10

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
SM.24	10.01	Identify, evaluate, and map areas where Area Councils practice sustainable agriculture.	Sustainable Agricultural Mapped. Sustainable agricultural evaluation report compiled.	DARD, DEPC and VBoS.	5,000,000	An organic farming permitting system established by DARD, and therefore, a registry of farmers practicing organic farming	Medium-Term
SM.25	10.02	Support the Review of Agriculture Sector Policy	Agriculture sector policy is reviewed and launched with improved biodiversity considerations.	DARD, DEPC, NAB and MoCC.	2,000,000	Agriculture policy exists, but needs to be reviewed to incorporate biodiversity considerations.	Short-Term
SM.26	10.03	Support the review of the Forestry Sector Policy	Forestry sector policy is reviewed and launched with improved biodiversity considerations.	DOF, DEPC, NAB and MoCC.	3,000,000	The Forest Sector policy lapsed in 2023; only the National Forest Restoration Strategy remains in effect.	Short-Term
SM.27	10.04	Identify, evaluate, and map areas practicing sustainable forest management by Area Councils.	Sustainable Forest Managed Area Mapped. Sustainable forest management evaluation report compiled.	DoF and DEPC.	5,000,000	None	Short-Term
SM.28	10.05	Promote small livestock & alternative protein by Area Councils.	30% increased households with livestock by 2025–2030.	Livestock Department and DARD Provincial Offices.	2,000,000	Linked to Agriculture Policy 8.3.2 – Promote small livestock, poultry, and aquaculture to ensure food security & reduce bushmeat pressure.	Short-Term
SM.29	10.06	Develop and promote ecotourism and agrotourism activities in communities.	At least 10 new ecotourism activities have been established in conservation areas. At least 5 new agrotourism activities have been established in communities.	DoT, NGOs, Local Communities, DEPC and DLA.	20,000,000	Linked to Agriculture Policy 8.1.1 – Promote eco-tourism & certification of biodiversity-positive products.	Medium-Term
SM.30	10.07	Strengthen and expand Environment Extension services at the provincial and Area council levels, including capacity building for extension officers.	3 DEPC extension staff recruited for Torba, Penema, and Shefa Province. At least 1 provincial staff training per year.	DEPC, MoCC and Provincial Governments.	25,000,000	Linked to Agriculture Policy 8.1.3 – Strengthen extension services & decentralised support-Linked to DEPC restructure	Short-Term

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
SM.31	10.08	Promote Agroforestry practice in Area Councils.	50 community-based Agroforestry sites established.	Chiefs, DEPC and DoF.	10,000,000	Derived from Agriculture Policy 8.2.3 – Promote agroforestry, watershed protection, climate-resilient species.	Short-Term
SM.32	10.09	Enforce environmental approvals for livestock and agricultural developments/ activities that cause or are likely to cause a significant impact on the Environment.	10 permits issued for Livestock and agricultural developments that will cause or are likely to cause a significant impact on the Environment.	DEPC, Provincial Governments, DARD and the Livestock Department.	5,000,000	EIA to consider such activities as part of its environmental permitting procedures.	Short-Term
SM.33	10.10	Promote organic farming practices through awareness, training, and certification across all Area Councils.	Number of Organic Farmers, awareness, and training The number of farmers who received certificates from the training.	DARD, DEPC and Farmers.	5,000,000	TBC by DARD	Short-Term
SM.34	10.11	Awareness for Agri-food systems in schools & events.	# of communities, schools that receive agri-food systems awareness.	DARD, Teachers, Schools, Area Councils and Provincial Governments.	5,000,000	DARD has already convened a program across each province	Medium-Term
SM.35	10.12	Promote organic fertilisers and biopesticides for productive sectors.	At least 200 farmers with an Agriculture permit will adopt organic fertilizers and biopesticides by 2030.	DARD and BV.	1,000,000	Development of Organic Policy underway, by DARD and BV	Short-Term
SM.36	10.13	Promote alternative livelihood activities such as poultry and aquaculture production.	At least 6 communities are receiving support for alternative livelihood support projects.	DEPC, DARD, DoLSRS, DLA and VFD.	6,000,000	Build on best practices for alternative community-based livelihood activities in livestock, agriculture, aquaculture, and related sectors.	Short Term

Target 11

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
SM.37	11.01	Reforest degraded lands with native species to provide food, fibre, biomass, traditional use, and natural medicine.	At least 500 significant native flora species are replanted to improve livelihood.	DEPC, DoCC, DoF and CSOs	5,000,000	Some reforestation projects are currently underway.	Short-Term
SM.38	11.02	Incorporate EPS (Ecological Purification Systems) in water supply systems design.	# of EPS installed for communities to access clean and safe drinking water.	DoWR, DEPC, CSOs, Provincial Governments and WASH Partners.	12,000,000	DoWR has this in plan; however, it needs financial support to make it happen. DoWR has installed 1 EPS on Vatrata Village, Vanua Lava	Long-term
SM.39	11.03	Develop a pollution emission monitoring framework for Industrial for developments.	1 pollution emission regulation developed.	DEPC, DoE, MoCC and PWD.	2,000,000	Initial discussion underway by DEPC and relevant stakeholders.	Short-term
SM.40	11.04	Manage and protect major headland waters using nature-based solutions to ensure safe and secure water resources.	6 major headland waters are protected.	DoWR, DEPC, DoF, NGOs, Private Sectors, Provincial Governments and Local Communities.	12,000,000	Conservation initiatives in place cover watershed areas, and there is a need to standardize area-based conservation to the headland waters where applicable.	Medium-term
SM.41	11.05	Establish and protect the Community Water Protection Zone	- Number of Water Protection Zones established - Decrease in records of waterborne disease in local health centres and clinics	DEPC, DoWR, DLA, Department of Public Health, Provincial government, Area Council, Chiefs and Local Communities.	10,000,000	The DoWR has established 5 water protection zones across the country in provincial headquarters. A lot of the Community water source are not protected or fenced off from feral animals	short

Target 12

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
SM.46	13.01	Develop an ABS ("National Access to Benefit Sharing") Regulation.	ABS Regulation has been developed.	DEPC	2,000,000	The review of the EPC Act on bioprospecting has recommended developing an ABS regulation.	Short-Term
SM.47	13.02	Develop a national database for genetic resource research	# of permits given for genetic resources annually.	DEPC, VKS and VFD	500,000	DEPC currently issues Research Permits, but there is no database to store data. Data is still in Excel spreadsheets.	Short-Term
SM.48	13.03	Establish a National Trust Fund for ABS	An ABS trust fund is established.	DEPC	1,500,000	The National Environmental Trust Fund has been in discussions with relevant stakeholders, but has not yet been established. ABS should be considered as an important strand.	Long-term
SM.49	13.04	Develop and implement a Community Protocol as a formal guideline for researchers, ensuring that all research activities are conducted ethically, respectfully, and in accordance with local customs and laws.	National ABS Protocol guideline Mutually Agree Term (MAT) is incorporated into the National ABS Protocol Guideline. At least 12 communities have developed and implemented their Community Protocol for all biodiversity research.	DEPC, DoF, VFD and Local Communities.	5,000,000	A legal volunteer has developed the draft MAT; however, it requires review and consultation with BAC, followed by finalisation. Community protocols were initially drafted for the Aneityum, Tanna, and Malekula villages involved in bio-trade and research before COVID-19. This is through the UNSW Asia-Pacific ABS initiatives project.	Short-Term
SM.50	13.05	Develop a National Pharmaceutical Policy to strengthen the protection of genetic resources and promote their health benefits for pharmaceutical research in Vanuatu. Companies interested in conducting research and supporting the implementation of ABS in Vanuatu.	The National Pharmaceutical Policy has been developed and endorsed	DEPC and Department of Health.	10,000,000	The policy should establish guidelines and procedures for pharmaceutical	Short-Term

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
SM.51	13.06	Work with MALFB and other sectors to identify Digitized genetic data derived from Vanuatu, if any	# of Digitized genetic data derived from Vanuatu	DEPC, VANIPO, VARTC, DoF and VKS.	1,000,000	The policy should establish guidelines and procedures for pharmaceutical BAC only assesses research on wild species, not on domesticated species.	Long-term
SM.52	13.07	Ensure that IPLCs and/or resource rights holders receive benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.	At least 5 IPLCs and/or Resource right holders are receiving monetary benefits. At least 5 IPLC and/or Resource right holders receiving non-monetary benefits.	IPLCs, DEPC, VKS and Malvatumauri Council of Chiefs.	1,000,000	None	Medium-Term
SM.53	13.08	Conduct DSI research on Vanuatu's Valuable and Engaged Species.	# of Research on Vanuatu's Valuable and Endemic species that include Digital Sequenced Information (DSI).	DEPC, Malvatumauri Council of Chiefs, Local communities, NGOs and Researchers.	5,000,000	VARTC is currently conducting DSI research on some valued agricultural and forestry species	Medium-Term

6.3 Strategic Area 3: Mainstreaming Biodiversity (MB)

Summary

Strategic Area 3 focuses on systematically integrating biodiversity considerations into national policies, sectoral planning, business operations, and social systems. It ensures that biodiversity values, ecological, cultural, economic, and spiritual, are embedded across governance frameworks and development processes. This area strengthens sustainable consumption patterns, promotes biodiversity-inclusive business practices, and safeguards genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. It also elevates ecosystem connectivity and resilience through the ridge-to-reef (R2R) approach, ensuring that terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and marine systems are managed holistically.

Link to KM-GBF Goal

Strategic area 3 links to the KM GBF GOAL C – Share Benefits Fairly. This goal emphasizes that monetary and non-monetary benefits from the use of genetic resources, digital sequence information, and associated traditional knowledge are shared fairly with Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Strategic Area 3 contributes by promoting equitable access, responsible utilization, and benefit-sharing, while embedding biodiversity values into governance and development processes.

Target 14: By 2030, biodiversity and its multiple values are fully integrated into Vanuatu's policies, regulations, planning, and development processes across all levels and sectors.

Target 15: By 2030, businesses, financial institutions, NGOs, CSOs, community-based groups, and other private sector stakeholders adopt and apply tools and methodologies that: (a) monitor, assess, and transparently disclose biodiversity-related impacts and risks; (b) provide credible green credentials to consumers to encourage sustainable consumption; and (c) progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity while ensuring sustainable production and service delivery.

Target 16: By 2030, sustainable consumption is promoted and integrated into governance frameworks, education, and national healthy food standards. These standards shall support eco-friendly agricultural practices, minimize reliance on processed foods, and reduce excessive packaging to improve food quality and health outcomes.

Target 17: By 2030, Vanuatu establishes, strengthens, and implements national biosafety legal frameworks in compliance with the Cartagena Protocol, with enforcement supported by government institutions, private-sector actors, and other relevant stakeholders.



Photo credit: MESCAL Vanuatu

Strategic Area 3: Implementation Plan

Target 14

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
MB.01	14.01	Conduct a stakeholder-led review of the legal framework and incorporate biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, and planning.	10 sector policies that incorporate and integrate biodiversity considerations and their multiple values.	DEPC and relevant Government Sectors.	5,000,000	Productive sector policies have incorporated environmental considerations; however, the challenge remains to align with NBSAP priorities to ensure sustainable productive sector development.	Medium-Term
MB.02	14.02	DEPC to develop a biodiversity mainstreaming guideline to mainstream biodiversity consideration across government sectors, provincial governments, the private sector, and CSOs at all levels.	Biodiversity mainstreaming guideline developed and implemented.	DEPC and Partners.	3,000,000	Productive sector policies have incorporated environmental consideration; the challenge is to align with the NBSAP priorities to ensure sustainable productive sector development.	Medium-Term
MB.03	14.03	Support provincial and municipal biodiversity planning.	% of biodiversity policy priorities reflected in the 6 provincial development plans.	Provincial Governments, Municipal Councils and DEPC.	30,000,000	Provincial consultations held in 2024; guidance being developed under NBSAP update	Medium-Term
MB.04	14.04	Monitor progress on biodiversity policies, priorities, and programmes.	Biodiversity monitoring templates for Sectors and CSOs developed	DEPC, VBoS and DESSPAC	25,000,000	Monitoring indicators drafted in the NBSAP review process; initial consultations completed.	Long-Term
MB.05	14.05	Develop a System of Environmental-Economics accounts.	A system of Environmental Economics accounts has been developed to capture Land, Inland Waters, and Oceans.	VBoS, DEPC, Oceans & Maritime Affairs, Lands, DUAP, VFD, DoWR and NGOs	10,000,000	The MACBIO project already has some baseline information. Vanuatu has started this process by developing Land Accounts. Oceans and Maritime Affairs is also in communication with its partners on the development of Ocean accounts.	Long-Term

Target 15

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
MB.06	15.01	Develop an Environmental, Social, and Cultural Safeguard.	Endorsed National Environmental, Social, and Cultural Safeguards.	DEPC, VKS, MoICS, Malvatumauri Council of Chiefs and Provincial Governments.	2,000,000	DEPC and ADB initially engaged in consultancy work for a national ESMS.	Short-Term
MB.07	15.02	Review the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulation to ensure companies disclose their biodiversity-related risk dependencies and impacts.	EIA regulation is gazetted.	DEPC, DLA, Area Councils, DoWR, DUAP and OAG.	5,000,000	Existing EIA Process in Place. Implemented by DEPC and complied with by project developers.	Short-Term
MB.08	15.03	Develop regulations that allow private companies, CSOs, and NGOs to disclose the impact of biodiversity assessments and associated information.	Regulation developed and gazetted under the EPC. Number of companies, CSOs, NGOs disclosing their biodiversity-related risks, dependencies, and impact.	DEPC, DLA, DUAP, DoWR, Geology & Mines, Provincial Governments, Area Council of Chiefs and VIPA.	6,000,000	Existing EIA Process in Place. Implemented by DEPC and complied with by project developers.	Short-Term
MB.09	15.04	Develop appropriate methoDoLSRogies and tools for project developers and operators to monitor and assess biodiversity-related risk.	# of consultations held with key EIA government stakeholders conducted on the of such tools and methoDoLSRogies. - Tools and methoDoLSRogies developed. # of awareness and training convened with business houses.	DEPC	1,000,000	Existing EIA Process in Place. Implemented by DEPC and complied with by project developers.	Medium-Term
MB.10	15.05	Encourage the establishment of a partnership with VBRC to promote and incorporate biodiversity considerations across private businesses.	1 Partnership/agreement established between DEPC and VBRC. # of best-practice business models developed, encouraging the incorporation of biodiversity risks.	DEPC and VBRC	1,000,000	There has never been any formal agreement; by practice, most business houses comply with EIA regulations.	Short-Term
MB.11	15.06	Maintenance of handicraft market facilities to promote sustainable utilization of natural resources for women's groups.	6 local produce and handicraft market facilities were maintained and upgraded.	DoLSR, DEPC, Local Businesses, Provincial Governments, DoWA, Action Aid, and Vanuatu Skills and Partnership.	10,000,000	Handicraft centres have been established in all provinces. Therefore, the facilities can be upgraded.	Medium-Term

Target 16

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
MB.12	16.01	Review and incorporate sustainable consumption choices into relevant governance frameworks.	Existing relevant governance frameworks were reviewed to incorporate sustainable consumption choices.	DARD, DEPC, DoLSR, Landowners, Development Partners and NGOs.	6,000,000	No baseline exists for this activity, though there are existing policies across productive and trade sectors on sustainable consumption choices.	Short-Term
MB.13	16.02	Develop a National Healthy Food Standard.	National Healthy Food Standards Developed.	DARD, VBoS, MoH and DEPC.	3,000,000	Vanuatu has a national policy	Short-Term
MB.14	16.03	Conduct awareness and training on food safety, security, and health food standards.	6 Provincial Awareness campaigns conducted on food safety, security practices, and health food standards in communities. Number of community members and tourism operators trained in food safety and security practices and healthy food standards annually.	Tourism, Women's groups in communities, DEPC, DARD, Department of Public Health and Provincial Governments.	6,000,000	This has been an ongoing program of training by TVET	Short-Term
MB.15	16.04	Encourage Recycling programs in Schools and communities.	# of schools and communities participating in waste recycling programs.	DEPC, NGOs and the private sector	5,000,000	Vanuatu has recently enacted the product stewardship scheme to establish a self-sustaining long-term system for collecting, recycling, and exporting waste.	Short-Term

Target 17

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
MB.16	17.01	Accede to Cartagena protocol	Ratification of the Cartagena Protocol in Parliament.	DEPC and MoCC	2,000,000	Progress is underway in Parliament to ratify the Cartagena Protocol. Vanuatu to have its Accession instrument signed by June 2026.	Short-Term

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
MB.17	17.02	Review and update the Biosafety Legal Framework in compliance with the Cartagena Protocol.	Biosafety framework updated and launched.	DEPC, DFAET, BV, OAG, and MoCC.	2,000,000	The Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation has initiated the preparation of an accession instrument with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade.	Short-Term
MB.18	17.03	Develop legislative frameworks to support the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, with administration delegated to key implementing partners.	# of legislation and regulations developed and or amended. December 2027.	DEPC, MFAICET, BV and DARD.	5,000,000	There is a national biosafety framework developed by the then Vanuatu Quarantine and Inspection Services (VQIS), now known as Biosecurity Vanuatu. DEPC, as the lead agency, will work with relevant stakeholders to domesticate the Cartagena Protocol's international legislation.	Medium-Term
MB.19	17.04	Undertake a nationwide awareness campaign on the Cartagena Protocol.	# of awareness carried out. June 2027.	DEPC, MFAICET, BV and DARD.	3,000,000	Some awareness-raising has been conducted, mainly at the national level, on Biosafety. DEPC and relevant stakeholders will raise awareness over 1 year through community workshops, environment-related international days, other important national days, and social media.	
MB.20	17.05	Establish and strengthen capacity for, and implement biosafety measures in line with international agreements.	500 key stakeholders received capacity training.	DEPC, MFAICET, BV and DARD.	4,500,000	DEPC and relevant stakeholders to deliver the capacity building training with the relevant implementing agencies for the UNCBD secretariat.	Long-Term
MB.21	17.06	Build capacity and capabilities through biotechnology (Gene banking, genetic resource conservation)	Gene bank established by 2028. # of traditional crops with genetic samples preserved.	DARD, VARTC, DEPC and Regional Universities.	15,000,000	No current initiatives	Long-Term
MB.22	17.07	Assess risks and benefits associated with modern biotechnology, including synthetic biology.	The number of synthetic biology applications is being assessed for risks and benefits before being introduced to Vanuatu.	DARD, VARTC, DEPC and BV.	3,000,000	Built on the implementation of the national biosafety framework	Short-Term
MB.23	17.08	Operationalize the national biosafety framework. establishing a national biosafety committee	The national Biosafety Committee was established.	DARD, DEPC, BV and Relevant Stakeholders.	1,000,000		Short-Term

6.4 Strategic Area 4: Resource Mobilization (RM)

Summary

Strategic Area 4 focuses on securing sustainable, predictable, and diversified financing for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in Vanuatu. It strengthens national systems for planning, mobilizing, coordinating, and monitoring biodiversity finance. Led by DEPC, the Biodiversity Finance Working Group (BFWG) serves as a multi-sector platform to guide investments, align policies, and optimize resources from governments, the private sector, communities, and development partners.

Key mechanisms include the Green Levy, designed to channel domestic revenue into conservation and restoration efforts, and the Biodiversity Finance Plan (BFP), which will map existing and new funding sources, including climate finance, private-sector contributions, ecosystem service payments, and trust funds. Through these efforts, Strategic Area 4 enhances fiscal sustainability, reduces dependency on external grants, and embeds biodiversity finance within national economic planning.

Link to KM-GBF Goals

Strategic Area 4 links to KM GBF GOAL D - Invest and Collaborate.

This goal emphasizes strengthening financial resources, capacity, technology, and collaboration to implement KM-GBF fully. Strategic Area 4 directly supports this goal by mobilizing and coordinating the financial resources needed to implement national biodiversity initiatives—particularly critical in small-island contexts such as Vanuatu.

Target 18: By 2030, harmful subsidies that contribute to biodiversity loss are identified, controlled, and phased out, while positive incentives for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use are promoted. Additional resources shall be allocated to strengthen local research capacity and ensure accessible, affordable, and locally-led research to guide policy reform.

Target 19: By 2030, Vanuatu mobilizes and secures 2.4 billion vatu financial resources from domestic, international, and private sources to support the implementation of the NBSAP for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. This includes establishing environmental trust funds; innovative financing schemes such as payments for ecosystem services and biodiversity offsets; and increased government support at the community, provincial, and national levels, aligned with decentralization principles.



Photo credit: Blue Prosperity Vanuatu, Department of Oceans and Maritime Affairs

Strategic Area 4: Implementation Plan

Target 18

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
RM.01	18.01	Conduct a national assessment to identify and map out harmful subsidies across productive sectors.	Assessment report on harmful subsidies across productive sectors.	DEPC, DARD, DoF, and Livestock Department.	5,000,000	Harmful subsidies are being implemented across the productive sectors.	Short-Term
RM.02	18.02	Develop and operationalise the national Harmful Subsidies Reform Policy.	Harmful Subsidies Reform Policy approved by the appropriate national authority (BAC/COM) by 2027.	DEPC and MoCC	2,000,000	Advocate for policy amendment Consultant to the desktop study and ensure the process is captured in policy. Compliance and monitoring framework (indicators, reporting templates, roles) developed and endorsed by MFEM and MoCC by 2028. Number of harmful subsidy schemes with reform measures initiated (target: at least 3 key schemes by 2030). Annual harmful subsidies compliance and implementation report produced and submitted to BAC/COM starting in 2028.	Short-Term
RM.03	18.03	Control and phase-out of identified harmful subsidies across sectors.	Control and phase-out of identified harmful subsidies across sectors.	Productive Sectors, DEPC, MoCC and Private Sectors.	20,000,000	Some harmful subsidies have been implemented in the productive sectors.	Long-Term
RM.04	18.04	Review, design, and implement biodiversity-positive financial incentives.	Review, design, and implement biodiversity-positive financial incentives.	MoCC and PMO	15,800,000	The Brenwe Hydroelectric project in Malekula includes a PES component funded by ADB, the Strategic Climate Fund, and the Vanuatu Government. Loru CCA has an ongoing ecosystem services payment that supports the community.	Short-Term

Target 19

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
RM.05	19.01	Set up the Environmental Trust Fund.	Environmental Trust Fund Established.	DEPC and MoCC	2,000,000	The provision for establishing a national environmental trust fund is clearly defined under the EPC Act. Revenue mechanism guideline developed. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) developed for the Trust Fund.	Short-Term
RM.06	19.02	Operationalise national and provincial Biodiversity & Conservation Trust Funds, including monitoring/tracking systems, community conservation funds, and protected area financing modalities.	# of Trust Fund operational guidelines approved and implemented (Target: by 2027).	DEPC, MFEM, Provincial Governments, and Community Conservation Area Management Committees.	40,000,000	The EPC Act already provides for the establishment of a Trust Fund; the DEPC Act also mandates a Biodiversity Trust Fund. Draft TORs for the Biodiversity Finance Working Group have been prepared, and initial discussions on community funds in Torba are underway. National tracking and reporting system operational by 2027. 5 provincial/community conservation funds established by 2030. Percentage of biodiversity financing inflows tracked and reported annually (Target: 100% by 2030).	Short-Term
RM.07	19.03	Mobilize Private Sector Engagement through CSR, Blended Finance & PPP, and other innovative financing.	% of total biodiversity financing from the private sector (baseline + target).	MFEM, VCCI, Vanuatu Hotels and Resort Association, and DEPC.	20,000,000	The PPP Act, enacted in 2024, provides an enabling legal framework. Initial engagement with VCCI underway. Private-sector dialogue was initiated in 2024 through the PPP consultation. Need to develop Private sector financing guidelines by 2026	Short-Term

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
RM.08	19.04	Build the capacity of CSOs, communities, and provincial actors in financial management, proposal writing, and access to biodiversity funds.	50 CSOs/communities trained by 2030.	VANGO, DEPC, MFEM, Provincial Governments, CCA Rangers, and Project Partners.	40,000,000	The NBSAP stocktake identified capacity gaps; training needs were highlighted in the West Tanna consultation; and some initial workshops on proposal writing were conducted under partner-funded projects.	Short-Term
RM.09	19.05	Equip CSOs and communities with tools and training to produce financial reports for donor-funded or government-funded biodiversity activities.	Number of CSOs trained in bookkeeping	DEPC, DoFT, MoCC, DIA, CSOs and Local Communities.	60,000,000	Identify and train officers for basic bookkeeping and usage of software for keeping expenses and producing financial reporting for donors (small grants),	Short-Term
RM.10	19.06	Establishment of a proper coordination of GEF, KBF, GBFF, CEPF, and other Biodiversity-related funds at the national level.	Proper mechanisms are established to coordinate biodiversity funding by 2030.	MoCC and DEPC	5,000,000	Identify and train officers for basic bookkeeping and usage of software for keeping expenses and producing financial reporting for donors (small grants),	Short-Term
RM.11	19.07	Conduct a study on financial costs for management of conservation areas (CA) network representatives.	A study was undertaken on the CA Network management costs in Vanuatu.	DEPC	6,500,000	The Current EPC ACT mandates the BAC (Biodiversity Advisory Committee) for the implementation of the UNCBD. A further study is planned to expand the BAC's functionality.	Medium-Term
RM.12	19.08	Establish national Protected Area financing mechanisms, based on a review of working documents/papers and existing PA financing initiatives.	Operationalised modality approved for the Environment Trust Fund that allows for Protected Area financing.	DEPC, DoFT, and MFEM	5,700,000	ECARE and Regenerative Vanua are conducting similar studies, but not at all sites.	Medium-Term

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
RM.13	19.09	Develop incentives to manage resource owners in established Community Conservation Areas.	Financial incentives and remuneration are provided to resource owners.	DEPC, DoFT, and MFEM.	25,000,000	The DEPC, through its Biodiversity and Conservation NPP, has supported Vathe CCA in Santo, Nimatang Mita in Tanna, and Nusumetu CCA in Tanna with financial support for some management actions. Also supported the participation of Lake Letes members in international meetings for Ramsar.	Long-Term
RM.14	19.10	Develop the Biodiversity Finance Plan (BFP), which should encourage 1) Sustainable Financing, 2) Resource Mobilisation strategies.	Biodiversity Finance Plan (BFP) approved by DEPC and COM by 2026 and under implementation by 2030.	DEPC and MFEM.	40,000,000	The BioFin project will enable this strategies.	Medium-Term
RM.15	19.11	Engage funders and key sectors that benefit from biodiversity and ecosystem services in ongoing biodiversity finance mechanisms.	Number of funders engaged annually.	DEPC	2,200,000	The BioFin project's biofinance plan should achieve this	Short-Term
RM.16	19.12	Encourage the use of environmental levies through business activities within registered CCAs to support the implementation of their management plans.	The number of Registered CCAs that have established Environmental Levies.	DEPC, DOF, and Chiefs, external parties	1,000,000	Currently, only the Vathe CCA requires business owners to pay an Environmental Levy in their management plan.	Short-Term
RM.17	19.13	Explore REDD+ and carbon market opportunities.	# of REDD+ agreements signed by Vanuatu and other parties.	DEPC, CCA Management Committees, and Local communities.	20,000,000	Initial discussions were held during the Futuna consultation. Communities expressed willingness to designate the mountain forest for conservation. DEPC to seek partnerships with regional REDD+ initiatives and donors.	Short-Term

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
RM.18	19.14	Establishment of a Community-based environmental trust fund.	Five community trust funds will be established by 2030.	DEPC, CCA Management Committees, and Local communities.	10,000,000	Currently working with the Department of Energy to develop a trust fund for the conservation of the Sarakata upper catchment area.	Medium-Term
RM.19	19.15	Strengthened CCA local Management Communities' capacity to develop funding proposals and mobilize resources for the implementation of management plan activities.	Total number of grants and projects secured to support communities, CSOs, and the private sector.	Conservation area management committees, local authorities, CSOs, DEPC, and VFD.	4,000,000	Initial funding identified; revenue-generation mechanisms are being explored.	Medium-Term
RM.20	19.16	Facilitate payments for ecosystem services, alternative income-generating practices, and national financing mechanisms.	PES are operational in 2 conservation areas.	DEPC, MFEM	25,000,000		Medium-Term
RM.21	19.17	Develop and implement national biodiversity budgeting guidelines for use by all Government Ministries.	# of Ministries applying biodiversity budgeting.	MFEM, DEPC, Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries, and MALFB.	20,000,000	The budget tagging pilot began in 2026 with MFEM support.	Short-Term
RM.22	19.18	Assess the percentage of revenue re-invested in conservation efforts from the tourism industry.	Total tourism revenue generated for conservation is calculated to identify. Percentage of revenue re-invested into conservation.	DoT	1,000,000	A new area to invest in and generate self-sustaining revenue for communities.	Short-Term

6.5 Strategic Area 5: Environmental Governance & Knowledge Management (EG)

Summary

Strategic Area 5 focuses on strengthening Vanuatu's environmental governance, decision-making, and knowledge management capacities to ensure inclusive, evidence-based, and culturally supportive and appropriate biodiversity conservation. The approach combines scientific research, traditional knowledge protection, community awareness, and policy integration to enhance local and national capacities. Initiatives under this strategic area support improved governance structures, institutional coordination, education, and gender-responsive participation across all levels.

Key mechanisms include supporting customary environmental governance, integrating traditional knowledge and scientific data into planning; developing national biodiversity databases; community-based monitoring programs such as the Vanua-Tai Resource Monitor Network; and inclusive governance platforms that ensure representation of women, youth, and vulnerable groups.

This integrated framework advances the implementation of the NBSAP. It supports Vanuatu's commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by improving the capacity, equity, and effectiveness of environmental governance and knowledge management systems.

Link to KM-GBF Goals

Strategic Area 5 links to GOAL D - Invest and Collaborate. This goal underscores the need to strengthen capacity building, knowledge generation, access to technology, and institutional cooperation to enable full implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Strategic Area 5 directly contributes to this

goal by enhancing Vanuatu's environmental governance systems, improving knowledge management and data accessibility, and ensuring that decision-making processes are informed, inclusive, and supported by both scientific and traditional knowledge. These enabling conditions reinforce national implementation across all sectors and levels, particularly given Vanuatu's small-island, capacity-constrained realities.

Target 20: By 2030, Vanuatu recognises, acknowledges, protects, and strengthens national and local capacities for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use through expanded environmental education, protection of traditional knowledge, widespread community awareness, and the development of national scientific capabilities. This shall include the locally appropriate transfer of technology and the integration of both scientific and traditional knowledge into capacity development initiatives.

Target 21: By 2030, biodiversity education, innovation, technical cooperation, exchange programmes, and joint scientific research are enhanced and promoted to strengthen monitoring and implementation capacities, consistent with the ambition of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Target 22: By 2030, biodiversity decision-making and governance structures ensure inclusive and balanced participation of chiefs, women, youth, people with disabilities, private sector, faith-based institutions, and government.

Target 23: By 2030, gender equality is ensured in all biodiversity conservation and sustainable use policies, planning, decision-making, engagement, and implementation, with the full and balanced representation and active participation of women and vulnerable groups.

Strategic Area 5: Implementation Plan

Target 20

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
EG.01	20.01	Integrate Biodiversity Conservation and its Sustainable use into Schools Curricula and Vanuatu Skills Partnership Programs Curricula.	School Curricula updated to integrate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.	DEPC, MOET, VKS and Vanuatu Skills Partnership.	8,000,000	Existing curricula focus on Environmental Education but do not specifically address biodiversity conservation and its uses.	Medium-Term
EG.02	20.02	Safeguard, promote, and maintain Traditional Knowledge (TK) on biodiversity conservation and values incorporated into formal primary education curricula.	# of awareness and workshops conducted for school curriculum advisors. Proportion of schools using teaching materials about traditional knowledge and biodiversity. (For example, Teaching Indigenous Knowledge and Resource Management in the Primary School Resource Pack).	Malvatumauri' Council of Chiefs, DEPC, VKS and Law Firms.	4,000,000	Draft TK protection bill under review; consultations ongoing	Long-Term
EG.03	20.03	Conduct a National Awareness Campaign on Biodiversity Conservation and its sustainable use.	# of Biodiversity and Conservation Awareness to Communities and Schools.	Provincial Governments, MoCC, CSOs, Malvatumauri, MALFB.	3,000,000	Ongoing programs in other CCDRR program areas.	Medium-Term
EG.04	20.04	Establish a Research Authority under the Ministry of Climate Change.	Research Authority under the Ministry of Climate Change.	MoCC, DEPC, NDMO, DoE, DoCC, VMGD	1,000,000	The ministry, through the DG's office, has initiated governance and institutional processes to establish a combined research authority under MOCC.	Medium-Term
EG.05	20.05	Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the MOCC Research Authority.	Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the Research Authority Developed.	MoCC, DEPC, NDMO, DoE, DoCC, VMGD	1,00,000	Partnerships with regional universities; biodiversity database initiated	Medium-Term
EG.06	20.06	Conduct a research capacity needs assessment to identify biodiversity research gaps.	Biodiversity research gap assessment report.	DEPC, VFD, DOF, BV	1,000,000	There has been biodiversity research in the past, and it is currently underway—there are clear national biodiversity research priorities.	Medium-Term

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
EG.07	20.07	Establish a biodiversity laboratory and related technological infrastructure.	Biodiversity laboratory established under DEPC.	DEPC, MoCC	10,000,000	Currently, the construction of the DEPC building supports the biodiversity laboratory.	Short-Term
EG.08	20.08	Integrate scientific and traditional knowledge into capacity development.	Percentage of biodiversity research/documents referencing both knowledge systems.	MoCC, Malvatumaui, CSO, VKS, MoET, DEPC,	5,000,000	Draft guidelines for research	Long-Term
EG.09	20.09	Preserve and strengthen traditional knowledge on the use and management of biodiversity resources.	TK on biodiversity use protected incorporated in biodiversity plans/PAs management plans.	DEPC, VKS, DoF, VF and Malvatumaui	4,000,000	Chiefs' councils documenting TK	Medium-Term
EG.10	20.10	Formalize the establishment of the CCA Rangers Program.	# of CCA rangers registered in the CCA Rangers Program.	DEPC, DoF, VFD, CSOs, Chiefs, Rangers and Area Councils.	15,000,000	Community forest and reef monitoring programs initiated in Tafea & Malampa.	Medium-Term
EG.11	20.11	Conduct CCA Rangers training on Biodiversity Rapid Assessment methoDoLSRogies	# of training provided to CCA Rangers.	NGOs, DEPC, Schools, Chiefs, Youths, women and Researchers.	5,000,000	School outreach is ongoing.	Medium-Term
EG.12	20.12	The Community Conservation Area Management Committee acquired formal registration with VFSC.	# of the CCA Management Committee registered with VFCS.	DEPC and CCA management committees.	500,000	To receive funding, the CCA Management Committee must be formally registered with the VFSC as a component of donor requirements.	Short-Term
EG.13	20.13	Research the best methoDoLSRogies to address and control IAS through South-South cooperation.	# of research conducted for the selected IAS.	DEPC, BV, and Academic Institutions.	5,000,000	Such research will support informed decision-making and approaches to control and eradicate IAS.	Medium-Term

Target 21

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
EG.14	21.01	Develop partnerships with the National University of Vanuatu, USP, and other research institutions to support biodiversity research.	# MoU signed for biodiversity research either led or supported by the universities. Ongoing 2026-2030.	USP, VNU, DPEC, MoET and other Institutions.	6,000,000	Existing joint researchers are currently being implemented	Short-Term
EG.15	21.02	Upgrade and update national biodiversity databases to incorporate traditional knowledge and scientific data across sectors.	A functional national biodiversity database is established and actively populated by sectors and researchers.	VBoS, All sectors and DEPC	10,000,000	Existing relevant database under development with other sectors.	Medium-Term
EG.16	21.03	Facilitate technical cooperation programs to elevate national staff knowledge/understanding of international biodiversity policies and related conventions.	# of government officials engaged in technical cooperation programs.	DEPC, all relevant sectors, SPREP, Department of Climate Change	10,000,000	Currently, Biodiversity MEAS training and meetings are slowly being shared with other sectors.	Short-Term
EG.17	21.04	Establish leadership programs that support women and youth in leading biodiversity conservation efforts in their communities.	# of women and youth completing leadership programs.	DEPC, CSOs, Provincial government, Area Councils, and Local Communities.	7,000,000	This activity is also referenced within the national GEDSI Policies.	Medium-Term
EG.18	21.05	Establish and implement exchange programs with national, regional, and international institutions to strengthen biodiversity research, conservation, knowledge sharing (including traditional knowledge), and NBSAP implementation.	# of exchange programs established and operational by 2030.	DEPC and Stakeholders	10,000,000	A new area to investigate and venture into as an essential priority in strategic cooperation.	Medium-Term
EG.19	21.06	Develop standardized monitoring and reporting templates for all biodiversity-related actions.	A standard monitoring and reporting template will be developed by 2028	DEPC	2,000,000	CSOs through the VANGO have developed monitoring and reporting templates for NSDP. Can build on this to develop monitoring and reporting templates for NBSAP as well	Short-Term

Target 22

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
EG.20	22.01	Expand Biodiversity Advisory Committee (BAC) memberships to ensure inclusive participation in decision-making.	Appointment of the following institutions as observers; • Youth Councils • VANGO • VCC • VSDP • VBRC	DEPC		BAC is established under the EPC Act and has convened meetings to discuss biodiversity-related matters to date.	Short-Term
EG.22	22.02	Promote inclusive community governance for biodiversity management.	# of Conservation Committees established with a representative from women, disability, chief, youth, and faith-based organisations.	Local Communities, DEPC, NGOs, and Area Council	4,000,000	Existing CCA committees, the chief's council	Medium-Term

Target 23

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Est 2030 Costs VUV	Work Underway/ Funding Secured, etc	Priority
EG.23	23.01	Strengthen meaningful participation of youth, women, girls, and vulnerable groups in biodiversity governance structures and conservation actions (BAC, NAB, Ocean, provincial councils).	% of women, girls, youths, and vulnerable groups participating in biodiversity policy, planning workshops, training, and project governance structures. Timeline: Ongoing to 2026-2030.	DEPC, NAB, DWA, Provincial Councils, VANGO, Women's Groups, Youth Councils and Area Councils.	8,000,000	Linked to Gender Equality Policy (2020–2030); supported by UNDP SGP & NAB processes. Small grants under VBRC, GEF SGP; needs scale-up through GBF/EAS.	Long-Term
EG.24	23.02	Integrate gender sensitive traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) into biodiversity planning, NBSAP implementation, and ABS agreements.	# of biodiversity planning documents or benefit-sharing agreements have gender sensitive TEK.	DEPC, Cultural Centre, Customary Land Tribunals, DOWA Area Council.	2,000,000	Early documentation in community-based projects could be scaled via GEF/GBFF.	Medium-Term
EG.25	23.03	Develop a Gender Action Plan for NBSAP	NBSAP Gender Action Plan Developed and Implemented.	DEPC, DoF, VFD, DWA, CSOs and Private Sectors.	2,000,000	A component of NBSAP development is the development of a gender action plan.	Long-Term
EG.26	23.04	Establish a Gender and Biodiversity Monitoring Framework to track progress against GBF Target 23.	Develop a composite indicator (representation, engagement, implementation, knowledge integration, capacity) tracked annually. Timeline: Framework by 2026; Annual reporting to 2030	DEPC, NSDP M&E Unit and VBoS.	5,000,000	No framework yet; can align with NSDP monitoring reforms	Long-Term
EG.27	23.05	Mainstream gender in biodiversity projects through gender action plans, parity targets, and participation tracking.	# of biodiversity projects that have gender action plans or track women/vulnerable group participation.	DEPC, NGOs, Project Steering Committees and Area Councils.	4,000,000	Potential GBF Fund (EAS Phase 2); some pilot mainstreaming under GEF 6 & 7 projects.	Medium-Term

07

Provincial NBSAP Implementation Plan

Most of the NBSAP activities will be implemented in partnership with communities, through provincial governments and administrations, in close collaboration with DEPC and relevant national-level stakeholders. This collaborative approach reflects the whole-of-government and whole-of-society principles under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD).

The provincial plans are fully aligned with the 23 national targets and the five thematic areas of the NBSAP, ensuring coherence with national biodiversity priorities and commitments under the Convention. The following provincial NBSAP implementation plans

were developed through an inclusive and participatory consultation process, grounded in the current NBSAP framework and informed by relevant stakeholders at provincial and national levels.

- 8.1 Torba Province– NBSAP Implementation Plan
- 8.2 Sanma Province- NBSAP Implementation Plan
- 8.3 Penama Province- NBSAP Implementation Plan
- 8.4 Malampa Province- NBSAP Implementation Plan
- 8.5 Shefa Province- NBSAP Implementation Plan
- 8.6 Tafea Province- NBSAP Implementation Plan



Photo credit: Dubi Shapiro

7.1 Torba NBSAP Provincial Plan

Thematic Area 1: Conservation of Ecosystem, Species, and Genetic Resources (CE)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
CE.01	TOP 1.01	Map out community protection zones on Lalngetak (Vanua Lava) and Mota Lava.	Number of hectares mapped out and protected for water protection zones/ 2030	Water Committee Area Council, Provincial government, DEPC and DoWR	- Vanualava/ Lalngetak - Motalava	2,000,000	Short
CE.02	TOP 1.02	Identify and formally register the conservation boundary for Vanuatu Petrel.	Vanuatu Petrel conservation boundary officially registered	DEPC, Department of Tourism, DLA, Torba Provincial government, East Vanualava area council, Related NGO's/ Projects, Local Community and Chiefs	East Vanualava/ Lalngetak community	2,000,000	Short
CE.03	TOP 2.01	Conduct reforestation of coastal and inland areas.	Total hectares reforested	DEPC, DoF, VFD, DoCC, VCAP II, VCCRP, Area Council, Community groups and Relevant NGOs/ Projects.	- Torres - West Vanualava - East Vanualava - Ureparapara - Motalava - Merelava/ Merig - West Gaua - East Gaua - Mota	10,000,000	Short
CE.04	TOP 2.02	Conduct coral restoration in damaged reefs to enhance marine biodiversity and support climate resilience in coastal ecosystems.	Total hectares restored	DEPC, VFD, DoF, Area Council, MPAs Management Committee, Community and Chiefs.	- Motalava - Vanualava - Other Islands	2,000,000	Short

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
CE.05	TOP 3.01	Protect and manage key Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) through formal Management and/or under traditional governance.	Number of MPAs formally registered or managed under traditional governance	DEPC, VFD, Provincial government, Police force, Area councils, Conservation committee, Community and Chiefs	- Motalava (x4 MPAs) - East Vanualava (x5 MPAs) - Mota (x2 MPAs) - Ureparapara (x2 MPAs) - Torres (x2 MPAs) - Gaua (x4 MPAs)	10,000,000	Medium
CE.06	TOR 3.02	Incorporate the Ridge-to-Reef approach into the conservation management of conservation areas.	A Ridge-to-Reef approach is integrated in conservation areas.	DEPC, DoF, VFD, VKS, Provincial government, Area Council, Chief, Community, and Relevant NGOs.	- Torres - West Vanualava - East Vanualava - Ureparapara - Motalava - Merelava/ Merig - West Gaua - East Gaua - Mota	500,000	Short
CE.07	TOR 3.03	Strengthen the enforcement of the CCA/MPA Management Plan	Number of penalties issued	CCAs/MPAs Management Committee.	All area councils	1,000,000	Short
CE.08	TOP 3.04	Protect breeding ground for aquatic and marine life	Area (hectares) of breeding site protected	VFD, DEPC, Torba Provincial government, Area Council, Relevant NGOs/ Projects, Community	- Vanua Lava/ Tingsion, Twin waterfall, Blue Lake, Port Nawono - Mota Lava/ Melebay, Metvai Conservation - Ureparapara/ Moi	6,000,000	Short
CE.09	TOP 4.01	Develop Management Plans for the Banks Flying Fox	At least 2 management plans for Banks' flying fox are developed.	DEPC, VCAP II, All, Provincial government/ Area Councils, Banks, flying fox committee, and Chiefs.	Mota, Motalava, Gaua	1,000,000	Short

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
CE.10	TOP 4.02	Develop adaptive and culturally respectful strategies to maintain the coconut crab reserve for ecological, economic, and social sustainability.	Number of community adaptive and culturally respectful strategies developed	VFD, DEPC, Area Council, Local and Community Chief.	- Motalava - Metoma - Toga/ Black Rock - Loh/ Linua, Ulepe conservation area	500,000	Short
CE.11	TOP 4.03	Incorporates the ban of the Trochus, green snail, giant clam, and sea cucumber into the community bylaws	Number of community bylaws developed	VFD, DEPC, Area Council, Provincial government, Local community and Chiefs.	Reef Island	500,000	Short
CE.12	TOP 5.01	Ban the harvesting of turtles in the turtle sanctuary	Turtle harvesting is banned in the turtle sanctuary	DEPC, VFD, Provincial government, Area Council, Chiefs, Community	East Vanua Lava/ Qanglap and Ravenga	1,000,000	Short
CE.13	TOP 5.02	Ban the harvesting of Parrot fish	Harvesting of Parrot fish is banned in at least two (2) communities in each Area Council.	DEPC, VFD, Provincial government, Area council, Chiefs and Community.	Torba	1,000,000	Short
CE.14	TOP 5.03	Promote community-based resource management tools during the harvesting season.	Number of communities adopting community-based resource management tools	Community CCA Management Committee, VFD, DEPC, Chiefs and Local Community,	All Area Council	1,000,000	Short
CE.15	TOP 7.01	Establish the Torba provincial dumpsite	The Torba Provincial dumpsite is established	DEPC, PWD, DoWR, DoLSR, Provincial government, Area Council and Chiefs	East vanualava/ Sola	25,000,000	Short
CE.16	TOP 7.02	Establish a dumpsite in each area council	Number of Area council dumpsites established	DEPC, PWD, DoWR, DoLSR, Provincial government, Area Council and Chiefs	- Torres - West Vanulava - Ureparapara - Motalava - Merelava/ Merig - West Gaua - East Gaua - Mota	4,500,000	Short

Thematic Area 2: Sustainable Management and Benefit Sharing (SM)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
SM. 01	TOR 6.01	Establish and implement control measures to manage Big Leaf (Meremia), Fire Ants, and crown-of-thorns in the Community Conservation Area and Marine Protected Area.	- Area of land (hectares) clear from Big leaf in CCAs - Reduction in the population density of crown-of-thorns and Fire Ants in the target area - Number of treatments conducted for Fire Ants	DEPC, VFD, BV, DARD, Provincial government, CCA/ MPA Management Committee, Area Council, Community and Chiefs.	- Torres area councils - Banks area councils	3,000,000	Medium
SM. 02	TOP 8.01	Construct seawalls to safeguard coastal communities from erosion, flooding, and storm surge impacts.	Seawalls are constructed to protect coastal communities from erosion, flooding, and storm surge impacts.	DEPC, DoCC, DUAP, VFD, DIA, Provincial government, Area Council	East Vanualava/ Sola	30,000,000	Long
SM. 03	TOP 9.01	Ban on harvesting undersized fish and regulated species	At least all (9) Area council by-laws have incorporated a ban on undersized fish and shell	DEPC, VFD, Provincial government, Area Council, Local community and Chief.	- Motalava (Nerenigman) - Vanua Lava (Lahgetak) - and other area councils	2,000,000	Short
SM. 04	TOP 9.02	Ban the use of 1-inch and 2-inch fishing nets	Number of community by-laws that incorporated a ban on the use of 1- and 2-inch size fishing nets	DEPC, VFD, Provincial government, Area Council, Marine Protected Area Committee, Community and Chiefs	- Motalava (Nerenigman) - Vanua Lava (Lahgetak)	400,000	Short
SM. 05	TOP 9.03	Strengthen regulations enforcement governing harvest activities within designated conservation zones in both marine and inland waters.	Number of community by-laws that ban harvesting activities in conservation areas	DEPC, VFD, CCA/ MPA Management committee, Area Council, Provincial government, Community and Chiefs.	- Torres - West Vanualava - East Vanualava - Ureparapara - Motalava - Merelava/ Merig - West Gaua - East Gaua - Mota	1,000,000	Short

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
SM. 06	TOP 9.04	Establish eco-tourism activities, such as botanical gardens and crocodile tours, to generate sustainable income for communities while promoting environmental conservation and cultural heritage.	Number of eco-tourism activities developed.	DoT, DEPC, DoF, Relevant NGOs/ Projects, CCAs/MPAs Management Committee and local Community.	- East Vanualava - Mota Lava - Other Island	1,000,000	Medium
SM. 07	TOP 10.01	Promote access to and production of small livestock to improve household nutrition and enhance livelihoods.	Number of farmers receiving training on Livestock management, disease control, and best practices.	Department of Livestock, DARD, PG, AC, Community, Relevant NGOs and Projects.	- East Vanualava - Mota Lava - Other Island	1,000,000	Short
SM. 08	TOP 10.02	Promote integration of improved agriculture systems with the traditional farming system	Improved and integrated farming systems	DARD, DoF, DEPC, Troba PG and AC	All area councils	4,000,000	Medium
SM. 09	TOP 11.01	Establish and protect the Community Water Protection Zone	- Number of Water Protection Zones established - Decrease in records of waterborne disease in local health centres and clinics	DEPC, DoWR, DLA, DoH, PG, AC, Chiefs and Local Community.	- Torres - West Vanualava - East Vanualava - Ureparapara - Motalava - Merelava/ Merig - West Gaua - East Gaua - Mota - Torba - Headquarters (Sola)	10,000,000	short

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
SM. 10	TOP 11.02	Protect and secure the community water spring box by installing appropriate fencing.	Number of community water sources protected and fenced/ 2030	Water Committee AC, PG, DEPC, DoWR, World Vision, Red Cross, ADRA, other Relevant NGOs and Projects.	- East Vanua Lava/ Lalingetak - Mota Lava/ Valua Telvet - Ureparapara/ Abit River, Moi River - Motalava - Merelava/ Merig - West Gaua - East Gaua - Mota - Torres - West Vanua Lava	9,000,000	short
SM. 11	TOP 11.03	Expand seagrass habitats to preserve turtles in local waters	Area (hectares) of sea grass expanded	Community Conservation Group, VFD, DEPC and NGOs.	Vanualava	1,000,000	Short
SM. 12	TOP 12.01	Identify suitable land and establish a Provincial park at the provincial headquarters	Torba Provincial Park was established	DEPC, PG, DoLSR and DUAP	East Vanualava/ Sola	3,000,000	Short

Thematic Area 4: Resource Mobilization (RM)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
RM. 01	TOP 18.01	Regulate the use of chainsaws and prevent deforestation	Number of incident reports on the use of chainsaws in relation to deforestation	DEPC, DoF, PG Area Council, Chief and Local Community.	All Area councils	1,000,000	Short
RM. 02	TOP 18.02	Promote and establish a new Botanical Garden	Number of Botanical Gardens established	DoF, DEPC, PG, ACL and Relevant NGOs/ Projects.	- East Vanualava - Mota Lava - Other Island	2,000,000	Short

Thematic Area 5: Environmental Governance and Knowledge Management (EG)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
EG. 01	TOP 20.01	Recruitment of Torba Environmental Extension Officer	The Torba Environmental Extension officer is recruited	DEPC, PSC and PG.	East Vanualava/ Sola	5,000,000	short
EG.02	TOP 20.02	Conduct community awareness on food preparation to manage food consumption with tourism operators	Number of community awareness campaigns conducted with tourism operators	DoT, DEPC, DOI, DoH and DARD.	- East Vanualava/ Sola - Mota Lava - Other Island	1,000,000	Short
EG.03	TOP 20.03	Conduct community awareness on Biodiversity, Conservation, and the EPC Act.	Number of community awareness events conducted	DEPC, VFD, DoF, PG, Relevant NGOs and Projects.	All Area council	1,000,000	Short
EG. 04	TOP 20.04	Conduct community awareness on the importance of protecting Black Crab, emphasizing its role in the traditional knowledge system and its ecological connection to the conservation of Vanuatu Petrel.	Number of Community awareness conducted	VFD, DEPC, CCA Management Committee, and PG.	All Area Council	1,000,000	Short
EG. 05	TOP 20.05	Ensure that all research activities conducted within the conservation area are carried out in consultation with the Area Council, the Provincial Government, and the conservation committee to promote transparency, respect traditional governance, and uphold conservation protocols.	Number of official consultation records: documentation of meetings, letters, or agreements showing consultation efforts with Area Council, Provincial Council, and local communities before research activities.	DEPC, DoF, VFD, DARD, CCA/ MPA Management Committee, AC, PG, Local Community and Chiefs.	All Area Council	0	short

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
EG. 06	TOP20.6	Provide eco-tourism and tour guide training to communities	Number of eco-tourism and tour-guide training sessions provided. / 2030	DoT and relevant NGOs.	All Area Council	1,000,000	short
EG. 07	TOP 21.01	Provide training on water supply and management planning	At least 2 trainings on water supply management have completed	Water Committees, AC, DEPC, VFD, World Vision, Red Cross, DoWR and ADRA	- Motalava (Nerenigman) - Vanua Lava (Lalngetak)	4,000,000	Medium
EG. 08	TOP 21.02	Provide training (data collection and reporting) to the fisheries authorised officer and the Community Conservation Area rangers	Number of training sessions conducted for fisheries authorised officers and CCA rangers	DEPC, VFD, PG, AC, and CCA/MPA Management Committee.	All area councils	4,000,000	Short

7.2 Sanma NBSAP Provincial Plan

Thematic Area 1: Conservation of Ecosystem, Species, and Genetic Resources (CE)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
CE. 01	SAP1.01	Develop spatial planning for all Community Conservation Areas (CCA)	All Community Conservation Area (CCA) spatial plans are developed	CCA Management Committee, DEPC, DLA, PG, AC, DoCC, Local Community and Chiefs.	- CCA registered # Of CCA registered (Loru, Vathe, Waurua, Kerepua (Tabuemasana), Penoru, Hiden Hope, Tasmata CCA, Elia # of CCA that will launch in 2026 (Vasale, Linduri, Wusi, Vunausi, . Tangis) # of CCA that are assessed to be conserved. (East of Eden, Toitol CCA, Tanavusvus, Buelmalaru, Peavot), Kerevenop - TOTAL UP TO 19 CCA	19,000,000	Finalizing Loru CCA zoning map
CE. 02	SAP2.01	Conduct reforestation in degraded land	Hectares of land restored	DEPC, DoF, VFD, Relevant NGOs, PG, ACI, Local Community and Chiefs.	Sanma	3,000,000	Short
CE. 03	SAP2.02	Conduct coastal rehabilitation in the Community Conservation Area (CCA) that has fresh water, and the Marine Protected Area (MPA)	Hectares of CCA/ MPA rehabilitated.	DEPC, DoF, VFD, Relevant NGOs, PG, AC, Local Community and Chiefs.	All Area councils that have CCA and MPA	3,000,000	Short
CE. 04	SAP2.03	Conduct Coral replanting in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)	Number of MPAs with coral replanting activities	DEPC, VFD, Relevant NGOs, PG, AC, Local Community and Chiefs.	Sanma	3,000,000	Short

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
CE. 05	SAP2.04	Establish nursery hubs	Number of nursery hubs established	DEPC, DoF, VFD, VARTC, DARD, Relevant NGOs, Sanma PG, AC, Local Community and Chiefs.	- East Santo/Loru - West coast santo/Kerepua	2,000,000	Short
CE. 06	SAP2.05	Establish and prompt agro-forestry activity	Hectares of land where agro-forestry is established	DoF, DEPC, DARD and CCA Management Committee.	All Area Council	6,000,000	Short
CE. 07	SAP3.01	Formally registered Community Conservation Area in Wusi and Linduri	Wusi and Linduri Community Conservation areas are formally registered	DEPC, VCAP2 Project, VFD, DoF, PG, AC, Local Community and Chiefs.	West Coast Area Council	2,000,000	Short
CE. 08	SAP3.02	Develop and/or review the Management Plan for the Community Conservation Area (CCA.)	Number of CCA Management plans developed/ reviewed.	DEPC, DoF, DARD, VKS, DoLSR, DUAP, PG, AC, Relevant NGOs, Loru CCA Management Committee, DEPC Compliance Unit, VPF, Local Community and Chiefs.	- East Santo/Loru - CCAs in all 13 area councils	40,000,000	Short
CE. 09	SAP4.01	Identify and document native species in Sanma Province	All natives' species of Vanuatu are identified and documented	DEPC, DoF, DARD, VARTC, VKS, Sanma Provincial Government, AC and Local Community.	Sanma	5,000,000	Short
CE. 10	SAP7.01	Establish Area Council dumpsites	Number of Area Council dumpsites established	DEPC, PWD, DoWR, PG and AC.	All 11 Area councils	5,000,000	Short

Thematic Area 2: Sustainable Management and Benefit Sharing (SM)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
SM. 01	SAP 6.01	Strengthen management and control of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Community Conservation Area (CCA) and Marine Protected Area (MPA)	Total ha of IAS successfully eradicated in CCAs and MPAs	DEPC, BV, PG, AC, CCA/ MPA Management Committee, Schools, Local Community and Chiefs.	All 11-area council	8,000,000	Short
SM. 02	SAP 6.02	Map out the spread of IAS across Sanma Province	Map produced to monitor changes in IAS coverage	DEPC, BV, VFD, PG, AC, CCA/ MPA Committee and Local Community.	All 11 Area Councils	3,000,000	Short
SM. 03	SAP 10.01	Promote sustainable agriculture practices	The number of farmers using sustainable agriculture practices is promoted	DEPC, MALED, VFD, PG and AC.	Sanma	2,000,000	Short
SM. 04	SAP12.01	Identify space for/and establish a Provincial Park in the Sanma headquarters	Sanma Provincial Park was established	DEPC, PG, DoLSR, DUAP, and VPF.	Sanma	3,000,000	Short

Thematic Area 5: Environmental Governance and Knowledge Management (EG)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
EG. 01	SAP 20.01	Conduct Community Conservation Area (CCA) ranger training	Number of CCA ranger training sessions conducted	DEPC, VFD, DoF, Relent NGOs/ Projects	11 area councils	3,000,000	Long
EG. 02	SAP 20.02	Provide training on Alien Invasive Species management/ Control in Community Conservation Areas/ Marine Protected Areas.	Number of management trainings conducted	DEPC, BV, VFD, PG, Area Council, Local Community and Chiefs.	- East Area Council (Loru Community) - North East Area Council (Vatthe CCA) - South Santo (Wairua) - Eas Malo (Malobas)	2,000,000	Short
EG. 03	SAP 20.03	Conduct community awareness on Biodiversity and Conservation	Number of community awareness events conducted	DEPC, DoF, VFD, PG, AC, Relevant NGOs and Projects.	- East Santo/ kole - West Coast Santo/ Wusi, Linduri, Kerepua	5,000,000	Short

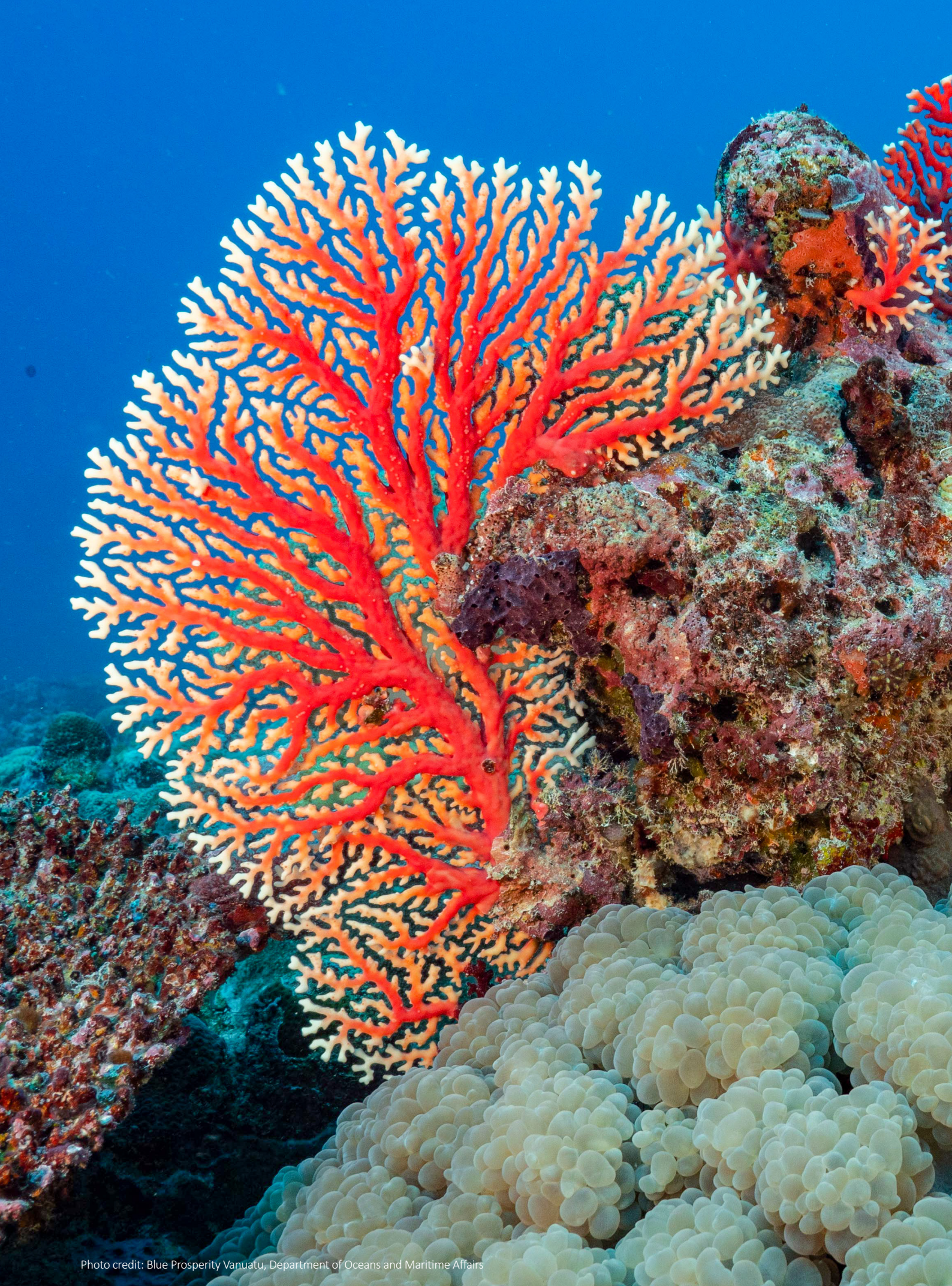


Photo credit: Blue Prosperity Vanuatu, Department of Oceans and Maritime Affairs

7.3 Penama NBSAP Provincial Plan

Thematic Area 1: Conservation of Ecosystem, Species, and Genetic Resources (CE)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
CE. 01	PEP 1.01	Develop an updated land cover and land use plan map for Ambae, Pentecost, and Maewo	Number of land cover and land use plan maps developed	DEPC, DLA, Provincial government	- Ambae - Pentecost - Maewo	2,000,000	Short
CE. 02	PEP 1.02	Establish 300 m protection buffers on MPAs	Number of MPAs with a 300m buffer protected	VFD, DEPC and AC	- Ambae - Pentecost - Maewo	0	short
CE. 03	PEP 2.01	Establish mechanisms for reforestation and sustainable forest management	Mechanism established for sustainable forest management (restoration plan)	DEPC, DoF, DARD, DoCC, PG, AC, local Community and Chiefs.	- Ambae - Pentecost - Maewo	6,000,000	Medium
CE. 04	PEP 2.02	Establish a quarry mini crusher to supplement sand mining activities	Number of quarry mini-crushers procured and operational	DEPC, VFD, PWD, DUAP, PG, AC, Chiefs and Landowners.	- Ambae - Pentecost - Maewo	30,000,000	Medium
CE. 05	PEP 2.03	Establish forestry nurseries in all Area Councils	Number of tree nurseries established	DEPC, DoF, PG and AC.I	- Ambae - Pentecost - Maewo	3,000,000	Short
CE. 06	PEP 3.01	Establish protection and management of water sources and the water catchment area	Number of water sources and water catchment areas managed and protected.	DEPC, DoWR, PG, AC, Local Community, Chiefs and Relevant NGOs.	- Ambae - Pentecost - Maewo	6,000,000	Medium
CE. 07	PEP 3.02	Improve Management of Existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)	Number management trainings provided/ 2030	DEPC, DoF, VFD, AC and PG.	- North Pentecost/ Laone - North Maewo/ Naone	4,000,000	short

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
CE. 08	PEP 3.03	Improve Management of Forest Conservation and Botanical Gardens	Number of Forest management trainings delivered by 2030	DEPC, DoF, VKS, PG, AC, Local Community and Chiefs.	- North Pentecost/ Anserebhuwe Forest Conservation, and Lini Memorial Botanical Garden -South Pentecost: FPAM - East Ambae: Wai Memea Lake, Tumsisiro Communion Forests, and Wailubutaga Lake	5,000,000	short
CE. 09	PEP3.04	Improve the management of the Sacred and Tabu Area that is naturally protected.	Number of sacred and Tabu areas recognised and promoted	DEPC, VKS, DoF, VFD, PG, AC, Custom Chiefs and Local Community.	- North Maewo - North Pentecost - (Lol Ure Forest Conservation Devils Palm, Arevo - Abungarigi - Vatmangemu (North East Pentecost) - Forest Area) - North Ambae / Vuinago - West Ambae/ Wala (Devils Rock)	4,000,000	Medium
CE. 10	PEP3.05	Protect and manage the Lolong mangrove	Lolong mangrove is formally registered	DEPC, VFD, PG, Area council, Chiefs and Local Community.	North Pentecost / Laone	5,000,000	Long term
CE.11	PEP3.06	Protect and manage existing Community Conservation Areas (CCA) and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)	Number of CCAs and MPAs formally registered	DEPC, VFD, DOF, PG, Chiefs and Local Community.	- Pentecost - Ambae - Maewo	6,000,000	Long term

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
CE. 12	PEP4.01	Conduct Biodiversity Baseline Assessment and Stocktake of existing Conservation Areas in the PENAMA Province	Number of assessments completed and reported	DEPC, DoF, VFD, PG, AC, Local Community and Chiefs.	Penama	6,000,000	medium
CE. 13	PEP4.02	Conduct species-specific assessment of endemic species for protection and management (Devil's palm, Neoveitichia brunnea)	Number of species-specific assessments completed and reported/ 2030	DEPC, DoF, AC, Relevant NGOs and Projects.	North Pentecost	1,000,000	short
CE. 14	PEP 4.03	Implement size restrictions for prawn harvesting at Naone to maintain a sustainable fish population.	Changes in prawn size and population abundance over time	VFD, DEPC, AC and Chiefs.	Bangan Vanua Area Council/ Naone	2,000,000	Short
CE. 15	PEP 4.04	Develop a community by-law for a temporary ban on crab harvesting in priority crab habitats.	- Management mechanism established - Number of marine zones restricted to over 300 meters	VFD, DEPC, AC, Local Community and Chiefs.	- Ambae - Pentecost - Maewo	3,000,000	Short
CE. 16	PEP 4.05	Establish a seasonal Ban on marine species in specific areas for community access.	Number of communities practicing a seasonal ban on marine species	DEPC, VFD, AA, Chief	- Ambae - Pentecost - Maewo	3,000,000	Medium
CE. 17	PEP 4.06	Promote management measures and monitoring mechanisms for resource management in the PENAMA Province.	Number of provincial workshops and awareness activities conducted	DEPC, VFD, DoF, PG, AC, Local Community and Chiefs.	- Ambae - Pentecost - Maewo	3,000,000	Short
CE. 18	PEP 5.01	Develop community bylaws for Blue Fish management	Number of community by-laws developed	DEPC, VFD and PG.	- Ambae - Pentecost - Maewo	3,000,000	Short
CE. 19	PEP 7.01	Establish the Penama provincial dumpsite	Penama provincial dumpsite established	DEPC, PWD, PG, AC, Chiefs, Local Community and Landdowners.	Ambae/ East Ambae	15,000,000	Short
CE. 20	PEP 7.02	Ensure non-operational and abundant machinery is removed and shipped back to Port Vila or Santo.	Number of non-operational machineries cleared	DEPC, PWD, PG, AC and Chiefs.	Penama	6,000,000	Long

Thematic Area 2: Sustainable Management and Benefit Sharing (SM)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
SM. 01	PEP 6.01	Protect native ecosystems by controlling Big Leaf and Giant African Snail in Penama.	The total area (hectare) where Merremia was removed showed noticeable improvements in forest condition and species diversity.	DEPC, BV, DoF, PG and AC.	- Ambae - Maewo - Pentecost	3,000,000	Short
SM. 02	PEP 6.02	Protect native ecosystems by controlling the Giant African Snail in Penama	The total area (hectare) where Merremia was removed showed noticeable improvements in forest condition and species diversity.	DEPC, DoF, DARD and Local Community.	Penama Province	10,000,000	Medium
SM. 03	PEP 10.01	Establish forestry nurseries	Number of forestry nurseries established	DEPC, DoF, DARD, NGOs, AC, and Local Community.	- Ambae - Pentecost - Maewo	9,000,000	Medium
SM. 04	PEP 10.02	Distribute forestry seedlings	Number of forestry seedlings distributed	DEPC, DoF, DARD, NGOs, AC and Local Community.	- Ambae - Pentecost - Maewo	9,000,000	Medium
SM. 05	PEP 10.03	Improve the irrigation system for the forestry nurseries production	The number of irrigation systems improved	DEPC, DoWR, DoF, PG, AC and Local Community.	- Ambae - Pentecost - Maewo	6,000,000	Medium
SM. 06	PEP 10.04	Promote integration of improved agriculture systems with the traditional farming system (slash & Burn)	Improved and integrated farming systems	DARD, DoF, DEPC, PG and AC.	North Pentecost	12,000,000	Medium
SM. 07	PEP 11.01	Support improvements to the water supply system from the source to the community.	The number of water supply systems has improved.	DEPC, DoWR, DoF, DLA, PG, AC, Local Community, and Chiefs.	North Pentecost	10,000,000	Medium

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
SM. 08	PEP 11.02	Construct new water supply systems to meet the needs of the community (fishponds, farming, and other livelihood activities)	Number of new water supply system build and / 2030	DoWR, DEPC, DLA, PG, Local Community and Chiefs.	Maewo	16,000,000	Long
SM. 09	PEP12.01	Identify suitable land and establish a provincial park or botanical garden at the provincial headquarters	Penama Provincial Park/Botanical Garden was established	DEPC, PG, DoLSR and DUAP	Penama/East Ambae Area Council	3,000,000	Short

Thematic Area 3: Mainstreaming Biodiversity (BM)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
MB. 01	PEP 14.01	Designate and develop an economic development zone	Zone designated and developed	DLA and PG	Maewo/ Roronda Area council	2,000,000	Medium
MB. 02	PEP 14.02	Establish a Biodiversity Conservation Network or Association in relation to different conservation activities and important species	Biodiversity Conservation Network or Association established	DEPC, PG and AC.	- Ambae - Pentecost - Maewo	6,000,000	Medium
MB. 03	PEP 14.03	Develop a screening Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on proposed developments and approve only those that align with the Island's environmental and cultural context	Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) developed and approved	DEPC, VKS, DoF, VFD, Provincial government, and other relevant government agencies	- Ambae - Pentecost - Maewo	2,000,000	Medium
MB. 04	PEP 14.04	Develop a relocation Plan for coastal communities to move further inland to reduce environmental pressure on coastal areas	Number of Relocation plans developed	DEPC, DLA, Provincial government, Area Council, Community, Chiefs	Maewo	2,000,000	Medium

Thematic Area 5: Environmental Governance and Knowledge Management (EG)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
EG. 01	PEP20.01	Promote and strengthen water protection advocacy while building community capacity to manage and safeguard local water catchment areas.	Number of watershed management trainings delivered to the water committee	DoWR, DEPC, Provincial government, Area Council, Chiefs	- Ambae - Pentecost - Maewo	6,500,000	Long
EG. 02	PEP 20.02	Promote Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Practices in PENAMA Province	Number of trainings/workshops conducted	DEPC, VFD, DoF, Livestock, DARD, DOWR	Penama	5,000,000	short
EG. 03	PEP 20.03	Assist Chiefs/ward council chairpersons in drafting communal by-laws to manage the natural environment.	Number of by-laws developed and training/awareness conducted.	DEPC, VKS, DoF, DARD, VFD, Provincial government, Area Council, Ward Council Chairman, Chiefs	- North Pentecost - North Maewo - Ambae	1,000,000	short
EG. 04	PEP 20.04	Strengthen Existing Marine and Terrestrial Protected Area (Temporary Ban)	Number of follow-up trainings conducted/2030	DEPC, DoF, VFD, NGOs, Provincial government, Climate change department, Area Council, Community, Chiefs	- East Ambae/Saratamata beach park - Pentecost - Maewo	3,000,000	Short
EG. 05	PEP 20.05	Provide capacity building of the Area Council Conservation Association across Penama on Project proposal writing, Project accounting, and project management.	Number of training sessions conducted	DEPC, Provincial government, Area Council	- Ambae - Pentecost - Maewo	6,000,000	Long
EG. 06	PEP 20.06	Conduct community and school biodiversity awareness programs	Number of training/awareness sessions conducted	DEPC, DoF, Area Council, Provincial government	- Ambae - Pentecost - Maewo	9,000,000	Long
EG. 07	PEP 20.07	Recruit an Environment Extension Officer in Penama	Environment Extension officer recruited	DEPC, and Public Service Commission	Penama Headquarter	3,000,000	short
EG. 08	PEP 20.08	Conduct capacity building workshops on Invasive Alien Species within the Community Conservation Area/ Marine Protected Area	Number of IAS management training/workshops conducted	DEPC, VFD, Biosecurity Vanuatu, Area Council, Community, Chiefs	- Ambae - Pentecost - Maewo	3,000,000	Short
EG. 09	PEP 21.01	Conduct community awareness on coastal sand mining impacts	Number of community awareness campaigns conducted	DEPC, Geology and Mines, Area Council, Relevant NGOs	- Ambae - Pentecost - Maewo	6,000,000	Medium

7.4 Malampa NBSAP Provincial Plan

Thematic Area 1: Conservation of Ecosystem, Species, and Genetic Resources (CE)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
CE. 01	MAP1.01	Develop a terrestrial and marine spatial plan for Malampa	Number of terrestrial and marine spatial plans developed	DEPC, Ahkamb CCA Lokol Management Komiti; LLV; South Malekula AA, Central Malekula AA, Chiefs and Land owners	- South Malekula/ Akamb - Central Malekula/ Rory and Mahe - Other Area council	2,000,000	Short
CE. 02	MAP1.02	- Proper mapping of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): - Propose 3 zones (Marine Park, Reserve Area, Harvest Area) on Linkarak, Uri, Tautu, and Litzlitz	Zonation maps developed for Linkarak, Uri, Tautu, and Litzlitz MPAs	Chiefs, Uri MPA management committee, Uri community leaders, DEPC, Fisheries department, and the land owner	Central Malekula/ Linkarak, Uri, Tautu, & Litzlitz	1,000,000	Short
CE. 03	MAP 2.01	Replanting of commercial tree species through Agroforestry	Area (hectare) of agroforestry	DEPC, DoF, Relevant NGOs/ Project, Area Council	Farun community	500,000	Short
CE. 04	MAP 2.03	Replanting of mangrove along coastal area to prevent coastal erosion	Area (hectare) of mangrove replanted	DEPC, DoF, Area Council, Community	Central Malekula/ Uri Island	1,000,000	Short

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
CE. 05	MAP 3.01	Establish a new Community Conservation Area	Number of new CCAs established	DEPC, VFD, DoF, VKS, Malampa Provincial government, Area Council, Community, Chief, Relevant NGOs	- South East Malekula/ Ahkamb (Forest), Lamap point (Forest/ Marine), Benaghai (Forest/Marine) - North West Malekula/ Wiawi (Forest/Marine), Lausinwei (Forest/ Marine) - Central Malekula/ Litzlitz - West Ambrym/ Deep point lake lowalwal - SW Bay/ Bamboo Bay (Marine) - NW/ Leviamp (Marine)	6,000,000	short
CE. 06	MAP 3.02	Establish Community-based marine protected areas: (Farun Marine Tabu Eria)	Farun Marine Tabu Eria established	Farun Chief; Farun Community; South Malekula AA, Land owner	South Malekula/ Farun Marine Tabu Eria	1,000,000	short
CE. 07	MAP 3.03	Establish Maskyeylene Marine Protected Areas (MPA)	At least 3 Maskeylene MPAs established/ 2030	Maskeylene Islands; VFD; South Malekula AA, chief and land owner	SE/ Maskeylene Marine Protected Area	1,000,000	short
CE. 08	MAP 3.04	Expand the Marine Protected Area of Uri Island	Uri Island MPA expanded	DEPC, VFD, Central Malekula Community, Area Council, Chiefs, Related Projects/ NGOs	Uri Island	500,000	Short
CE. 09	PEP 3.05	Establish protection and management of water sources and the water catchment area	Number of water sources and water catchment areas managed and protected.	DEPC, DoWR, Provincial government, Area Council, Community, Chiefs, and Relevant NGOs.	- NW Bay/ Brenwei - Central AC/ Lakatoro	6,000,000	Medium
CE. 10	MAP 4.01	Introduce seasonal harvesting of marine resources within the Farun Marine Protected Area.	Seasonal harvest implemented	Farun Community and Chiefs	- South Malekula/ Farun - Other Area Council	0	Short

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
CE. 11	MAP 4.02	Protect the Brown land crab (<i>Cardisoma carnifex</i>) and establish harvesting control measures for commercial use.	Harvesting control measures established	Chiefs, Uri MPA management committee, Uri community leaders, DEPC, Fisheries department.	Uri Island	300,000	Medium
CE. 12	MAP 4.03	Conduct biodiversity rapid assessment and ecological assessment in Conservation areas	Number of biodiversity rapid assessment reports	DEPC, VFD, DoF, Relevant NGOs/ Projects	All area council	10,000,000	Medium
CE.13	MAP 5.01	Establish and promote sustainable harvesting methods	Sustainable harvesting methods is established and promoted	DEPC, VFD, Area Council, Community, Chief	Central Malekula/ Uri Island	500,000	Short

Thematic Area 2: Sustainable Management and Benefit Sharing (SM)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
SM. 01	MAP 6.01	Strengthen management and control of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Community Conservation Area (CCA) and Marine Protected Area (MPA)	Total ha of IAS successfully eradicated in CCAs and MPAs	DEPC, Biosecurity Vanuatu, Malampa Provincial Council, Area council, CCA/ MPA Committee, Community, Schools, Chiefs	All Area Council	8,000,000	Short
SM.02	MAP 8.01	Replanting of pandanus tree along sea coast as part of Nature-base Solutions	Area (hectare) of pandanus replanted	DEPC, DoF, Area Council, Community	South Malekula/ Ahkamb	200,000	Short
SM. 03	MAP9.01	Incorporate a ban on specific net sizes (1-inch and 2-inch) into the community bylaws in Uri Island and Litzlitz.	Community bylaws banning 1-inch and 2-inch nets were adopted	Chiefs / MPA Committee / AC / DEPC / VFD	Uri Island/ Litzlitz	200,000	Short
SM.04	MAP 9.02	Develop eco-tourism activity in Maine Park Zone	Number of eco-tourism activity developed	DoT, DEPC, DoF, Relevant NGO/ Project, Area council	Central Malekula/ Other area council	1,000,000	short
SM. 05	MAP12.01	Identify suitable land and establish a Provincial Park at the Malampa Provincial Headquarters.	Malampa Provincial Park was established.	DEPC, Provincial government, Land Department, DUAP, Area Council, Chiefs	North East Area Council/ Lakatoro	3,000,000	Short
SM. 06	MAP 12.02	Establish a botanical garden	Botanical garden established	DEPC, DoF, Area Council, Provincial government	- West Ambrym/ Sesivi - Other area Councils	5,000,000	short

Thematic Area 4: Resource Mobilization (RM)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
RM. 01	MAP 19.01	Resource extracted from marine for the purpose of economic income has to put 10% portion of the sale is put back into the community basket for the management of the MPAs: 1. Cutting and sale of Mangrove – Return from is put into community fund that will meet the mangrove tree planting programs 2. Sales of fish, crab, sea shells, copra when sold at least a portion of the sale, approved by the conservation committee/communities and chief be offered to communities' fund for such purposes.	10% portion sale of marine resources is incorporated into the Uri MPA Management Plan	DEPC, Uri MPA Management Committee	Central Malekula/Uri Island	500,000	Short

Thematic Area 5: Environmental Governance and Knowledge Management (EG)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
EG. 01	MAP 20.01	Conduct capacity-building workshops on Alien Invasive Species (AIS) within the Community Conservation Area/ Marine Protected Area	Number of AIS management training/workshops conducted	DEPC, VFD, Biosecurity Vanuatu, Area Council, Community, Chiefs	- South East Malekula/Akahn - North WestMalekula/Wiawi - Central Malekula/Uri Island - South Malekula/Farun	4,000,000	Short
EG. 02	MAP 20.02	Conduct refresher training to Community conservation committees and CCA rangers	Number of training conducted	DEPC, CCA rangers, CCA management committee	All area council	4,000,000	Short

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
EG. 03	MAP 21.01	Raise community awareness on the protection of Black Crab on Akhamb Malembur CCA.	At least 3 communities informed about black crab protection	DEPC, Akhamb Malembur CCA Committee, VFD, South Malekula AA	Akhamb Malembur CCA	500,000	Medium
EG.04	MAP 21.02	Conduct awareness and promotion of waste segregation in schools	Number of awareness conducted	DEPC, Area Council	- South Malekula - Other Area council	2,000,000	Short
EG.05	MAP 22.01	Formally establish an environment/ conservation committee, and ensure that it is formalised to be able to apply for small community grants that will enable and contribute financially in the management of marine conservation but also fund eco-tourism activities.	Environment/ Conservation committee is formally established	DEPC, Provincial government, Area Council, community	Central Malekula/ Uri Island	5000,000	Short
EG. 06	MAP 22.02	Strengthen and promote custom governance in CCA and MPA	Custom governance if strengthened in all CCA/ MPA	DEPC, CCA/MPA management committee	All area Council	500,000	Short

7.5 Shefa NBSAP Provincial Plan

Thematic Area 1: Conservation of Ecosystem, Species, and Genetic Resources (CE)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
CE. 01	SHP 2.01	Replanting of Mangroves	Area (hectares) of mangrove replanted	DEPC, VFD, Area Council, Provincial government, Relevant NGOs/ Projects, Community, Chiefs	- Emau Area Council - Erakor Area Council - Tanvasoko Area Council - Eratap Area Council - West Efate Area Council - North Efate Area Council	500,000	Medium
CE. 02	SHP 2.02	Replanting of Vetiver Grass	Number of Hectares replanted	DEPC, VFD, Area Council, Provincial government, Relevant NGOs/ Projects, Community, Chiefs	- Emau Area Council - Pele Area Council - Tongariki/ Buninga Area Council	500,000	Medium
CE. 03	SHP 2.03	Replanting of Pandanus	Number of hectares replanted	DEPC, VFD, Area Council, Provincial government, Relevant NGOs/ Projects, Community, Chiefs, Women's Groups	- Emau Area Council - Pele/ Nguna Area Council - Emae Area Council	500,000	Medium
CE. 04	SHP 2.04	Develop management strategies for coastal mining	Number of coastal areas with a management plan developed	DEPC, Geology and Mines, Provincial government, Area Council, Chief	All area Council	2,000,000	short
CE. 05	SHP 3.01	Install signboards in conservation and tabu areas	Number of signboards installed in at least 4 conservation/tabu areas	DEPC, VFD, DoF, Provincial government, Area Council	All area Council	1,000,000	Long
CE. 06	SHP 3.02	Review CCA and MPA Management plans	Number of CCAs and MPAs Management Plans reviewed	DEPC, VFD, DoF, Shefa Provincial government, Area Council, Community, Chiefs	All area Council	3,000,000	Long

Thematic Area 2: Sustainable Management and Benefit Sharing (SM)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
SM. 01	SHP 6.01	Strengthen management and control of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Community Conservation Area (CCA) and Marine Protected Area (MPA)	Total ha of IAS successfully eradicated in CCAs and MPAs	DEPC, Biosecurity Vanuatu, Provincial government, Area Council, CCA/ MPA Committee, Community, Schools, Chiefs	All Area Council	8,000,000	Short
SM. 02	SHP 9.1	Incorporate bans on harvesting undersized fish and shells into community bylaws.	At least 3 communities per area council incorporate such a ban into their bylaws.	VFD, DEPC, Provincial government, Area Council, Community, Chiefs	19 Area Council	2,000,000	Short
SM. 03	SHP 9.02	Incorporate bans on specific net sizes (1-inch and 2-inch mesh) into community bylaws.	At least 3 communities per area council adopt bans on 1-inch and 2-inch mesh nets.	VFD, DEPC, Provincial government, Area Councils, Communities, Chiefs	19 Area Councils	3,600,000	Short
SM. 04	SHP 12.01	Identify and establish community green spaces/ parks in each area council	Communities' green spaces are identified, and parks are established.	DEPC, VFD, DoF, Provincial government, Area Council, Relevant NGOs/ Projects, Community, Chiefs	19 Area Councils	2,000,000	Short
SM. 05	SHP12.02	Identify space and establish the Provincial Park at the Shefa Provincial Headquarters.	Space identified and Shefa Park established	DEPC, Provincial Government, DoLSR, VFD, DUAP, DLA, Area Council	DUAP	3,000,000	Short

Thematic Area 4: Resource Mobilization (RM)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
RM. 01	SHP 19.01	Secure project funding for coastal protection for the Morou Community (Disaster Plan).	Allocate a disaster fund to support the Recovery Plan for ongoing activities.	DEPC, Provincial government, Area Council, Chiefs	Emau	10,000,000	Long

Thematic Area 5: Environmental Governance and Knowledge Management (EG)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
EG. 01	SHP 20.01	Conduct community capacity-building on mangrove replanting	Number of community training sessions conducted	DEPC, Provincial government, Area Council, Chiefs	- Emau Area Council - Erakor Area Council - Tarvasoko Area Council - Eratap Area Council	500,000	Medium
EG. 02	SHP 20.02	Conduct community awareness on Biodiversity and Conservation	Number of community awareness events conducted	DEPC, Provincial government, Area Council, Chiefs	All area councils	5,000,000	Short
EG. 03	SHP 20.02	Provide training on Alien Invasive Species management/ Control in Community Conservation Areas/ Marine Protected Areas.	Number of management trainings conducted	DEPC, Provincial government, Area Council, Chiefs	All area councils	2,000,000	Short
EG. 04	SHP 21.01	Conduct annual reef monitoring and planning	Number of monitoring and planning reports produced annually	DEPC, Provincial government, Area Council, Chiefs	- North Efate Area Council - Nguna/ Pele Area Council	500,000	Short
EG. 05	SHP22.01	Enact and enforce village environmental by-laws in all Shefa Area Councils.	Number of Environmental by-laws enacted by 2028	DEPC, Provincial government, Area Council, Chiefs	Area Councils	2,000,000	Medium

7.6 Tafea NBSAP Provincial Plan

Thematic Area 1: Conservation of Ecosystem, Species, and Genetic Resources (CE)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
CE. 01	TAP 1.01	Conduct mapping of proposed and registered Community Conservation Areas	Number of proposed and registered Conservation Areas mapped	DEPC, DoLSR, DLA, Provincial government, Area Council, Chiefs, Community, Police	- North Tanna - South Tanna - Central Tanna - West Tanna - Aneityum - Futuna - Erromango - Aniwa	10,000,000	Medium
CE. 02	TAP1.02	Develop terrestrial and marine spatial planning for Futuna Island	Spatial planning will be developed by 2028	DEPC, DoF, DoWR, VFD, Oceans, DoLSR, Provincial government, VKS, Area Council, Community, Chief	Futuna Area Council	4,000,000	Long
CE. 03	TAP1.03	Identify and assess prioritized water catchments and watersheds in SE Tanna.	Prioritised water-catchments identified; assessment report compiled / 2027	DEPC, DoF, VFD, DOWR, other relevant agencies, and NGOs	South East Tanna, including other area councils	2,000,000	short
CE. 04	TAP1.04	Map and protect major watersheds and water catchment areas	3 watersheds and water catchment areas are mapped & protected by 2027	DEPC, Forestry, DoWR, Rural Water Committees, Provincial government, Community, Chiefs	- South East Tanna, including other area councils - And other Islands	2,000,000	Medium
CE. 05	TAP1.05	Develop significant species-distribution maps for TAFEA Province.	Tafea Significant species-distribution maps are developed / 2027	DEPC, DoLSR, VFD, DoF, NGOs	- South East Tanna, including other area councils - And other Islands	9,000,000	Medium
CE. 06	TAP1.06	Develop a terrestrial spatial plan	Number of Terrestrial Spatial Planning developed	DEPC, DoF, DARD, DoLSR, Provincial government, Area Council, Chiefs, Landowners	- South East Tanna - Central Tanna - West Tanna	4,500,000	Long
CE. 07	TAP 1.07	Establish a botanical garden in Tafea Provincial Park	The botanical garden was established in Tafea Provincial Park	DEPC, DoF, Provincial government, NGOs, Area Council, Chiefs	West Tanna/ Lenakel	1,000,000	Long

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
CE. 08	TAP 2.01	Establish a quarry mini crusher to supplement sand mining	Number of quarry mini-crushers procured and operational	DEPC, PWD, Geology and Mines, Provincial government, Area council	- West Tanna/ Lenakel - Futuna	30,000,000	Medium
CE. 09	TAP 2.02	Conduct reforestation in degraded land	Hectares of land restored	DEPC, DoF, VFD, Relevant NGOs, Provincial Government, Area council, Community, Chiefs	All area council	5,000,000	Short
CE. 10	TAP 2.03	Establish and promote agro-forestry farming	Area (hectares) of agro-forestry farming established and promoted	DEPC, DoF, DARD, Provincial government, Area Council, CCA Management Committee	All area councils	3,000,000	short
CE. 11	TAP 3.01	Formally register the Keasi traditional conservation Area	Keasi traditional conservation area formally registered/ 2026	DEPC, VFD, DoF, Provincial government, Area Council, Community, Chief	South East Tanna	1,000,000	short
CE. 12	TAP3.02	Developed community bylaws for natural environment management.	Number of community by-laws developed /2028	DEPC, Area Council, Chiefs	- South East Tanna - North Tanna	500,000	short
CE. 13	TAP3.03	Establish the Lamasak community conservation area on North Tanna	The Lamanak Community Conservation Area was established	DEPC, DoF, Provincial government, Area Council, Community, Chiefs	Central Tanna/ Lamanak community	500,000	Medium
CE. 14	TAP3.04	Establish a Marine Protected Area (MPA) in West Tanna	West Tanna MPA established	DEPC, VFD, Provincial government, Area Council, AA, Chiefs, Communities	West Tanna/ Lenakel	1,000,000	short
CE. 15	TAP3.05	Protect Tatafu (Futuna Mountain Forest) to conserve biodiversity and the watershed.	Number of hectares protected	DEPC, DoWR, DoF, Provincial government, Futuna Area Council, Community, Chief	Futuna	2,000,000	short

Thematic Area 2: Sustainable Management and Benefit Sharing (SM)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	)Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
SM. 01	TAP 6.01	Strengthen management and control of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Community Conservation Area (CCA) and Marine Protected Area (MPA)	Total ha of IAS successfully eradicated in CCAs and MPAs	DEPC, Biosecurity Vanuatu, Provincial government, Area council, CCA/ MPA Committee, Community, Schools, Chiefs	All Area Council	8,000,000	Short
SM. 02	TAP 9.01	Incorporate bans on Troca, Sea cucumber, and parrotfish into the community by-law in West Tanna	At least 3 communities have incorporated a ban on Troca, sea cucumber, and parrotfish into their bylaws	DEPC, VFD, West Tanna Area Council, Community, Chiefs	West Tanna	500,000	Short
SM. 03	TAP 10.01	Established micro- community projects for fishponds, farming, and other livelihood activities	Number of community projects established	DEPC, DARD, VFD, Livestock department, Area Council, NGOs, Chiefs, and Communities	Central Tanna	3,000,000	short
SM.04	TAP 11.01	Construct new water supply systems in Central Tanna	Water supply system built and handed over to the water committee / 2030	DoWR, DEPC, Provincial government, DLA, Central Tanna Area Council, Chiefs, Community	Central Tanna	16,000,000	short
SM. 05	TAP12.01	Identify space and establish Tafea Provincial Park in the provincial headquarters.	Space identified and Provincial Park established	DEPC, DoLSR, Provincial government, DUAP, West Tanna Area Council, Chiefs	West Tanna/ Lenakel	2,000,000	Short
SM. 06	TAP13.01	Register all patents of the unique culture and custom identity (artifacts) for Futuna	At least 2 communities or cultural groups are actively engaged in registering their cultural assets	VANIPO, Department of Industry, Department of Tourism, DEPC, VKS, Community	Futuna Island (Ipao Village, lasoa Village)	1,000,000	Short

Thematic Area 3: Mainstreaming Biodiversity (MB)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	)Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
MB. 01	TAP14.01	Strengthen community capacity through value-added initiatives	Number of value-added training conducted/ 2030	Department of Industry, Department of Cooperative and Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, Chamber of Commerce, NGOs	South East Tanna	500,000	Short

Thematic Area 4: Resource Mobilization (RM)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	)Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
RM. 01	TAP19.01	Develop Water Bottling to fund biodiversity Conservation through Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES).	At least one (1) mini water bottling factory is established, meeting all environmental, social, and cultural safeguards	DEPC, DoWR, Local Business, Provincial government	Futuna	5,000,000	Medium

Thematic Area 5: Environmental Governance and Knowledge Management (EG)

ID	National Target	Activity	M&E Indicators / Timeline	Responsibility	)Province/Area Council/Community	Budget (VUV)	Priority
EG. 01	TAP20.01	Enforce robust protection measures and community-led surveillance	Number of Community police/rangers trained to monitor conservation areas/ 2027	DEPC, DoF, VFD, Police, South Tanna Area Council, Community, Chief	South East Tanna	1,000,000	short
EG. 02	TAP20.02	Provide eco-tourism and tour guide training to communities	Number of eco-tourism and tour guide training sessions provided. / 2030	Tourism office, NGO's,	South East Tanna (Volcano Area)	500,000	short
EG. 03	TAP20.03	Promote and strengthen water protection advocacy while building community capacity to manage and safeguard local water catchment areas.	Number of water shed management training delivered to the water committee	DoWR, Relevant NGOs/Projects	- Central Tanna - South Tanna - Erromango Reserve - Aneityum	6,500,000	Short



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08

NBSAP Means of Implementation

Full implementation of Vanuatu’s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) through 2030 will require total finance of **VUV 2,846,950,000**. This funding envelope has been costed across all 23 targets and aligned with the five strategic areas of the Plan, including

- Strategic Area 1** Conservation of Ecosystem, Species, and Genetic Resources (CE)
- Strategic Area 2** Sustainable Management and Benefit Sharing (SM)
- Strategic Area 3** Mainstreaming Biodiversity (MB)
- Strategic Area 4** Resource Mobilization (RM)
- Strategic Area 5** Environmental Governance and Knowledge Management (EG)

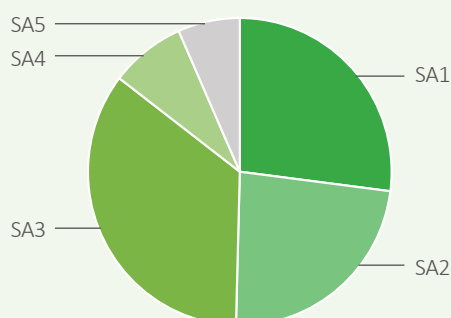
Each strategic area includes recurrent and capital expenditures—such as ecosystem restoration, protected area management, policy reforms, community-based implementation, capacity building, data systems, and enforcement support—to ensure comprehensive delivery of outcomes by 2030.

When put in context of Vanuatu’s national economy, the total finance required represents a significant investment. Vanuatu’s gross domestic product is around US \$1.03 billion ($\approx$ VUV 117 billion), equivalent to roughly VUV 120–130 billion per year,

meaning the NBSAP financing represents several percent of annual GDP when spread over the 2025–2030 period. At the same time, Vanuatu is among the most aid-dependent countries in the Pacific, with official development assistance flows averaging around US \$150 million per year ($\approx$ VUV 17 billion). Even when multiple partners are included, total annual external finance rarely exceeds a fraction of what is needed for comprehensive biodiversity implementation. This underscores the scale of investment required compared to current fiscal and external resource envelopes.

To mobilise the full VUV 2,846,950,000 required by 2030, Vanuatu will pursue a diversified finance strategy that blends domestic resources, bilateral and multilateral support, private sector engagement, and innovative mechanisms such as climate and biodiversity finance instruments. Domestic public expenditure should be strengthened through budget mainstreaming, fiscal incentives, and alignment with national planning frameworks. Development partners and international climate and biodiversity funds will be engaged to bridge gaps, particularly for capital-intensive and long-term programmes. Strategic partnerships with civil society, communities, and the private sector will be essential to leverage complementary resources and ensure sustainable financing for biodiversity outcomes in the decade ahead.

Costs of NBSAP Implementation VUV



Strategic Area	Description	Amount
SA1	Conservation of Ecosystem, Species, and Genetic Resources (CE)	563,850,000
SA2	Sustainable Management and Benefit Sharing (SM)	487,700,000
SA3	Mainstreaming Biodiversity (MB)	730,200,000
SA4	Resource Mobilization (RM)	167,004,500
SA5	Environmental Governance and Knowledge Management (EG)	131,500,000

Strategic Area 1: Conservation of Ecosystem, Species, and Genetic Resources (CE)

Target #	# of Actions	Cost of Actions VUV
Target 1	15	62,000,000
Target 2	11	187,000,000
Target 3	11	64,550,000
Target 4	20	97,000,000
Target 5	11	67,300,000
Target 7	15	96,000,000
	82	573,850,000

Strategic Area 2: Sustainable Management and Benefit Sharing (SM)

Target #	# of Actions	Cost of Actions VUV
Target 6	7	35,000,000
Target 8	9	201,200,000
Target 9	7	62,500,000
Target 10	13	94,000,000
Target 11	5	41,000,000
Target 12	4	38,000,000
Target 13	8	26,000,000
	54	497,700,000

Strategic Area 3: Mainstreaming Biodiversity (MB)

Target #	# of Actions	Cost of Actions VUV
Target 14	15	62,000,000
Target 15	11	187,000,000
Target 16	11	64,550,000
Target 17	20	97,000,000
	23	171,500,000

Strategic Area 4: Resource Mobilization (RM)

Target #	# of Actions	Cost of Actions VUV
Target 18	7	35,000,000
Target 19	9	201,200,000
	22	730,200,000

Strategic Area 5: Environmental Governance and Knowledge Management (EG)

Target #	# of Actions	Cost of Actions VUV
Target 20	13	61,500,000
Target 21	6	45,000,000
Target 22	2	4,000,000
Target 23	5	21,000,000
	26	131,500,000

Provincial NBSAP Implementation Plans

Provincial Implementation Plans	Cost of Actions VUV
Torba Provincial NBSAP Implementation Plan	153,400,000
Sanma Provincial NBSAP Implementation Plan	114,000,000
Penama Provincial NBSAP Implementation Plan	245,500,000
Malampa Provincial NBSAP Implementation Plan	63,700,000
Shefa Provincial NBSAP Implementation Plan	46,100,000
Tafea Provincial NBSAP Implementation Plan	119,500,000
	742,200,000

Totals by Strategic Areas and Provincial Implementation Plans

Description	Total Cost
Strategic Area 1- 5	2,104,750,000
Provincial NBSAP Implementation Plans	742,200,000
Grand Total	2,846,950,000



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09

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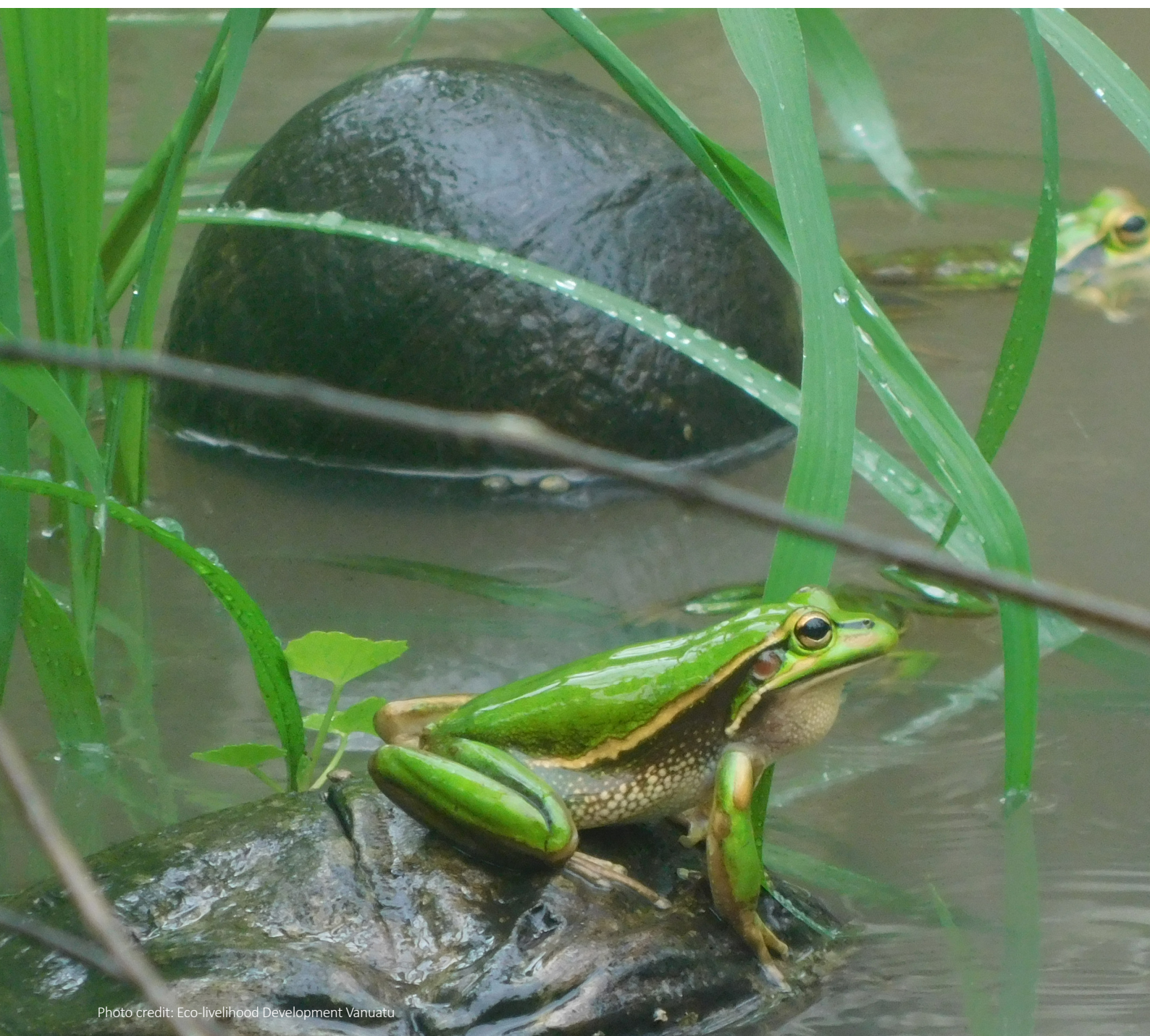


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