

Pacific Agriculture Policy Program (PAPP)

Inventory of national Agriculture/Forestry Policies: National Questionnaire

This form can be filled out either in electronic or paper copy; please feel free to expand the text boxes or use additional pages if you wish.

Country / contact information

Country:	Vanuatu
Contact Person:	Hanington Tate
Job Title:	Director
Agency:	Department of Forests, Ministry of Agriculture
Email address:	htate@vanuatu.gov.vu
Telephone:	(+678) 33570

National policy/strategy/agenda

Please identify the most important national level policy/strategy that applies for agriculture/forestry (if there is more than one, e.g. one for agriculture, one for forestry, then one please use a separate sheet for each)

Full Title of policy/strategy	Vanuatu Forest Policy
What are the key issues identified? (please list)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land disputes. Although land-tribunals have been established, land disputes in forest areas or areas with potential for development continue to hamper forest development. Disputes about ownership of land and forest resources disrupt forestry operations, cause financial losses for forestry investors and limit the establishment of development projects. These disputes might even increase with the development of forest carbon projects. • Resource and land allocation. In the absence of comprehensive and updated national and regional land use plans, there is no clear process for identifying conservation and timber production areas or for enforcing any form of land use planning. • Resource security. If landowners do not protect the forest values for themselves and their descendants, the existing system of customary land ownership may well form a constraint to sustainable forest management. • Population growth. The high population growth will increase the pressure on Vanuatu's forest resources. • Forest management plans. Due to the lack of land use plans and subsequent forest zoning, comprehensive forest management plans are not implemented. However, operational plans are available for some areas. • Reforestation/afforestation. There is a gross imbalance between forest utilization and reforestation/afforestation. A reforestation program has been initiated, however it requires further work and subsequent implementation. • Business knowledge. Knowledge of farmers, landowner, and communities regarding economic and financial opportunities and business management is limited and requires attention and training. • Technical knowledge. Knowledge on the survival and growth of natural

	<p>regeneration following logging is still limited and requires further research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource knowledge. The National Forest Resource Inventory from 1993 is outdated and urgently needs reassessment. This is of particular importance as Vanuatu begins to participate in any REDD+ initiatives. • Institutional weaknesses. Shortage of funds still hampers the availability and attraction of adequate and qualified staff, the further development of skills and the implementation of forest activities. • Industry weakness. There is an urgent need for comprehensive skills training for the forest industry to improve knowledge of forest utilization, downstream processing, and marketing. • Infrastructure. Infrastructure limitations and high utility and transport costs hamper the domestic and international marketing of Vanuatu's forest products at competitive prices. • Coordination. Coordination between public institutions and with private sector is weak, but indispensable to induce sustainable development. • Bureaucratic procedures. Although progress has been made, policies, guidelines and procedures for forest businesses still require further refinement to attract and secure local and international investors to the sector. • Legislative framework. The Forestry Act of 2001 was a major step forward for Vanuatu's forestry sector. Nevertheless, linkages with legislations of other sectors, and with other forestry-related acts and orders still require to be addressed, e.g. through amendments. • Funding and management of protected areas. The provision of long term funding for the management and leasing of protected areas is still uncertain. • Climate change impacts. Climate change will affect Vanuatu through temperature rise, changes in precipitation patterns, increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, and rising sea level. Forest planning for the management of natural and planted forest may be confronted with changing site and growth conditions, and a possible increase of pests and diseases. On the other hand, Vanuatu's forestry offers opportunities for climate change mitigation through carbon conservation (SFM, protected areas, reducing of deforestation and forest degradation), carbon sequestration (afforestation and reforestation), and carbon substitution (replacement of carbon intensive products and fuels through wood production).
<p>What are the key commodities identified? (please list)</p>	<p>The key products identified or dealt with by the policy are; Timber products, wood products such as sandalwood and fuel wood, and non-wood forest products such as fruits and nuts.</p>
<p>Are there any specific directions in the current policy that link farmer's to markets? (please list)</p>	<p>The policy focused mainly on sustainable forest management (SFM) and directives on how each stakeholder group (including farmers) should conduct themselves to achieve SFM. The following section concerns market and forest product trading in general;</p> <p>Marketing and Trade</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek new markets for products of priority species, particularly value-added products; - Position forest products and services to be competitive in national and international markets and trades; - Regulate the import and export of timber, logs and flitches; - Expand the utilization of local timber as an economically valuable, durable and renewable commodity for housing and construction purposes.
How is <u>evidence or data</u> used to support directions set out in the strategy? (if possible please give 2 examples)	The strategies in the policy provide a broad guidance on the implementation of the policy objectives but did not specifically refer to data.
What agency is responsible for implementing the policy/strategy?	The Department of Forests is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the policy. Being a National Policy, the policy is to be implemented by a whole range of stake holders (consult the policy for the list of stakeholders).
Does the strategy have a fixed term? (e.g. 2012-17; or ongoing)	The life of the National Forest Policy is from 2013 to 2023.
When is it scheduled for review?	The process of reviewing the policy is intended to start in November 2020, but the actual review of the policy will be undertaken by the end of 2023.
Any other comments	<p>Vanuatu Forest Policy is specific to the sustainable management of Vanuatu's forests. The policy addresses eight broad areas policy directives and objectives as follows;</p> <p>POLICY DIRECTIVES AND OBJECTIVES</p> <p><i>A. Sustainable Forest Management</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vanuatu's forests are sustainably developed and managed. • Deforested areas are rehabilitated and reforested <p><i>B. Small- Holder Farmer and Community Based Forestry</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders and communities actively participate in sustainable forest management and utilization. • The forestry sector contributes increasingly and equitably to the welfare and livelihoods of landowners, farmers, industry and communities. <p><i>C. Forest Conservation and Environment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forests with high biological, cultural, spiritual, and historical values are conserved and protected. <p><i>D. Climate Change</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The forestry sector proactively incorporates climate change adaptation and mitigation challenges and opportunities. • The forestry sector embraces climate change mitigation and GHG emission reduction through reducing deforestation and degradation, and increasing afforestation and reforestation. <p><i>E. Forest Industries</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest industries are modernized and utilize appropriate technologies.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forests are managed in an integrated manner to provide economic, social and environmental services. • Forest products and services are marketable and tradable. • Prices for forest products and services are nationally and internationally competitive. • Forest production is sufficient for local consumption and export of surplus. • Forest industries are increasingly Ni – Vanuatu owned and operated <p><i>F. Finance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The forestry sector is efficient, well organized and resourced (both financial and human). • The forestry sector is a primary source of income generation. <p><i>G. Institutional Setup</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The forestry sector is well governed and guided by effective legislation and strong compliance. • The forestry sector is well coordinated and collaborates with other sectors <p><i>H. Awareness, Training, Capacity Development, and Research</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry stakeholders are competent and qualified. • The public is well-informed and educated on all forestry issues. • The forestry sector is well guided by collaborative research and abides by internationally recognized standards. |
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