



## Completion Report

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Project Number: 47367-001  
Technical Assistance Number: 8724  
February 2018

# Vanuatu: Supporting the Preparation of the National Sustainable Development Plan

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<b>TA Number, Country, and Name:</b> TA 8724-VAN: Supporting the Preparation of the National Sustainable Development Plan			<b>Amount Approved:</b> \$400,000	
			<b>Revised Amount:</b> Not applicable.	
<b>Executing Agency:</b> Asian Development Bank (Pacific Liaison and Coordination Office)		<b>Source of Funding:</b> Asian Development Bank Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-V)	<b>Amount Undisbursed:</b> \$35,211.96	<b>Amount Utilized:</b> \$364,788.04
<b>TA Approval Date:</b> 23 September 2014	<b>TA Signing Date:</b> 26 November 2014	<b>Fielding of First Consultants:</b> 18 May 2015	<b>TA Completion Date</b> <b>Original:</b> 30 June 2016 <b>Actual:</b> 30 June 2017  <b>Account Closing Date</b> <b>Original:</b> 30 June 2016 <b>Actual:</b> 24 August 2017	
<b>Description</b> When the technical assistance (TA) was prepared, the <i>Priorities and Action Agenda</i> was the national development plan of the Government of Vanuatu covering 2006–2015. <sup>1</sup> With the development plan ending in 2015, the government had started preparing a new national sustainable development plan (NSDP), and requested the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to assist with this process. <sup>2</sup>  A core team was established to lead the preparation of the NSDP. It consisted of representatives from the government, civil society, the private sector, academia, and development partners. While the NSDP core team was to lead the process, ADB was to provide technical support to assist the government in preparing the NSDP in accordance with sound development planning principles and processes. The NSDP was to be underpinned by high levels of stakeholder engagement and effective communication strategies.  <b>Expected Impact, Outcome, and Outputs</b> The impact of the TA was that the NSDP guides the implementation and monitoring of Vanuatu's development vision and priorities. The outcome was for stronger government capacity for development planning and managing for development results, which was to be achieved by two outputs. The first output was strengthened development planning processes for preparation of the proposed NSDP by undertaking the following activities (i) organize, plan, facilitate, and provide input for ministerial and sector consultations; (ii) develop and utilize specific tools to extract policy directives from public consultations and feedback sessions; (iii) ensure that special interest groups are fully included and participate in consultations; (iv) ensure that provincial authorities and leaders are given the opportunity to provide feedback on the NSDP; (v) draft a consultation report, including stakeholder feedback and expert recommendations, on the NSDP; and (vi) produce a draft NSDP for consideration by the Council of Ministers and Parliament. The second output was strengthened monitoring and evaluation processes and systems for the proposed NSDP by undertaking the following activities (i) monitoring and evaluation system developed and being utilized; and (ii) government agencies trained in the use of monitoring and evaluation system and in collection, analysis, and use of sex-disaggregated data for evidence-based decision making.  <b>Delivery of Inputs and Conduct of Activities</b> The TA was originally scheduled to be implemented over 21 months, from 1 October 2014 to 30 June 2016. The TA required international consultants (estimated 12 person-months of inputs) and national consultants (estimated 16 person-months of inputs) with skills and expertise in the formulation of national development plans, monitoring and evaluation, and consultation and participation. All consultants were engaged individually.  Four consulting positions were recruited under the TA: (i) national sustainable development plan specialist (international), (ii) planning specialist (national), (iii) monitoring and evaluation specialist (international), and (iv) consultation and participation specialist (national). Actual consultant inputs were 10.0 person-months of international consultant inputs and 17.4 person-months of national consultant inputs.  A minor change in scope and extension to the original TA completion date was approved on 2 March 2016. In March 2015, Cyclone Pam struck Vanuatu causing widespread damage. Accordingly, the minor change in scope included provision for the purchase of equipment for the Department of Strategic Policy Planning and Aid Coordination (DSPPAC) that was damaged because of the cyclone; and (ii) extending the closing date of the TA to 30 June 2017 (from 30 June 2016) due to delays in implementation caused by the cyclone.				

<sup>1</sup> Government of Vanuatu. 2006. *Priorities and Action Agenda 2006–2015*. Port Vila.

<sup>2</sup> Council of Ministers Decision 60/2014 and letter to ADB from the Office of the Prime Minister dated 20 December 2013.

Overall the performance of DSPPAC as the implementing agency was considered satisfactory. While staffing changes in DSPPAC, political changes in Vanuatu, and the impacts of Cyclone Pam caused delays to TA implementation, substantial progress was made following the appointment of a new Director to DSPPAC. The performance of ADB as the executing agency was considered satisfactory. The consultants engaged under the TA were rated satisfactory.

#### **Evaluation of Outputs and Achievement of Outcome**

The achievement of the TA against the outputs is as follows:<sup>3</sup>

- (i) Strengthened development planning processes for preparation of the proposed NSDP: The TA supported (i) structuring and facilitating the drafting of the NSDP; (ii) conducting training workshops; and (iii) facilitating all NSDP planning meetings, NSDP consultations, and raising awareness of the NSDP. Although delayed by a year, the final draft of the 2016–2030 NSDP (*Vanuatu 2030: The People's Plan*) was successfully circulated in November 2016 and launched on 18 January 2017 after extensive consultations with government staff, and non-government organization and development partner representatives.
- (ii) Strengthened monitoring and evaluation processes and systems for the proposed NSDP: The TA supported (i) assisting DSPPAC and Vanuatu National Statistics Office staff to prepare the monitoring and evaluation framework; (ii) assisting DSPPAC with the government-wide review and selection of monitoring and evaluation goals, targets, and indicators for each of the NSDP pillars and sub-pillars; (iii) working with the DSPPAC monitoring and evaluation staff, Vanuatu National Statistics Office, and a United Nations Development Program consultant to align the NSDP monitoring and evaluation framework with the ongoing development of the National Policy for Monitoring and Evaluation Design; and (iv) assisting with the alignment of the NSDP pillars and sub-pillars with the Sustainable Development Goals. However, this output was not completed within the TA timeline and further support was given to the government by the United Nations Development Programme.

#### **Overall Assessment and Rating**

The TA is rated as 'successful'. The TA was considered (i) 'relevant', due to strong alignment with the needs of the government to support development planning; (ii) 'effective', due to the progress against the outputs (described above); (iii) 'less than efficient', due to the implementation delays caused by staffing changes in DSPPAC, political changes in Vanuatu, and the impacts of Cyclone Pam, although these were outside of the control of the implementing agency; and (iv) 'likely sustainable,' given the strong political and government agency support for the NSDP that was developed during the preparation and consultation process.

#### **Major Lessons**

The extensive consultation process throughout Vanuatu that was undertaken in the preparation of the NSDP ensured wide acceptance of the result. The TA facilitated meetings, workshops, and consultations with government staff, nongovernment representatives, and provincial representatives throughout the period of the TA to further the formulation of the NSDP.

#### **Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions**

DSPPAC will now focus on the implementation of the NSDP. This includes using the NSDP as a basis for updating and expanding all sector plans, and formulating new ministerial, departmental, and provincial corporate plans. The government intends to further develop the links between the NSDP monitoring and evaluation framework and these other plans, which supports the sustainability of the work done under this TA.

Following the completion of the TA, the monitoring and evaluation specialist engaged under the TA was able to continue to provide support to DSPPAC with funding from the United Nations Development Programme. This work will measure the progress of the NSDP, the Sustainable Development Goals, and ministry work plans.

DSPPAC has requested ongoing supported from ADB in several areas which could be supported through further technical assistance to support the proposed policy-based loan and grant to Vanuatu.

ADB = Asian Development Bank, DSPPAC = Department of Strategic Policy Planning and Aid Coordination, NSDP = national sustainable development plan, TA = technical assistance.

**Prepared by:** Matthew Hodge

**Designation and Division:**

Senior Country Specialist, PLCO

<sup>3</sup> Refer ADB. 2016. *Government of Vanuatu: Supporting the Preparation of the National Sustainable Development Plan. Final Report.* Consultant's Report. Manila.