



## Climate Resilience, Disasters and Sustainable Recovery - Vanuatu Case Study



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**Vanuatu has  
suffered from a  
range of disasters,  
both natural and  
self-inflicted!  
Resilience is  
innate. Recovery  
and Adaption are  
routine!**

Cat 5 Cyclone Pam - March 2015

Main International Airport Runway Damaged -  
Feb 2017

Covid Pandemic (closed borders) - March 2020  
to July 2022

Cat 5 Cyclone Harold - April 2020

Political Instability (5 Gov'ts) - 2022 to 2025

Cat 4 Cyclones Judy and Kevin (consecutive  
days) - March 2023

Cat 5 Cyclone Lola - Oct 2023

Air Vanuatu Liquidation - May 2024

Port Vila Earthquake - Dec 2024

**2016 to 2019:**  
***Vanuatu***  
***Strategic Tourism***  
***Action Plan***  
***(VSTAP) –***  
***Implementing***  
***Sustainable***  
***Tourism***

Funded by MFAT, a JV between DoT/VTO and 6 Provinces

Project Leader (ITA) with 6 Local staff and a range of international and local TA's

30 projects and programs implemented.

**sustainable tourism policy** development;

institutional strengthening;

capacity development;

accreditation program (**GSTC Guidelines**);

provincial tourism planning;

**niche product** development (eco-adventure, community based, handicrafts);

tourism investment (infrastructure, demand/supply, **ST and CC criteria**);

destination marketing (website, strategy, **ST messaging**, branding).

# Sustainable Tourism Approach

## Vanuatu Sustainable Tourism Policy 2019-2030,

Vision: “To protect and celebrate Vanuatu’s unique **natural environment**, ***kastom*** (traditional, **authentic culture**), and people through sustainable and responsible tourism”.

## Vanuatu Sustainable Tourism Strategy 2021 to 2025.

Following four themes, more aligned to the ***GSTC Guidelines***, the *Vanuatu National Sustainable Development Plan*, and the *UN Sustainable Development Goals*:

- o Wellbeing: through High Value, Low Impact Tourism
- o Resilience: through Niche Tourism Product Development
- o Diversification: through Agritourism
- o Sustainability: through Certification, Investment and Ni-Vanuatu Entrepreneurship

# 2020 to 2022: Covid Pandemic Recovery

- ▶ *Tourism Crisis Response and Recovery Advisory Committee* comprising government representatives, including the Director of Public Health, and private sector stakeholders. Tourism sector policy advice and information was then fed into the **National Disaster Management Committee**.
- ▶ *Tourism Crises Response and Recovery Plan, 2020 to 2023*
  - ▶ Safeguarding Health for Citizens and Visitors
  - ▶ Re-establish International Transport Access
  - ▶ Local Business Stimulus Packages and Product Readiness
  - ▶ Branding and Messaging to Rebuild International Demand
  - ▶ Local Community Communications

# Tourism Recovery Programs

## ► **Safe Business Operations (SBO) Training Program**

- ✓ mandatory industry training across all sectors to ensure workplace compliance with the health and safety protocols for Covid-19.
- ✓ Training workshops and awareness sessions were delivered across all 6 provinces

## ► **Tourism Business Support Program (TBSP)**

- ✓ based on a comprehensive tourism business survey and analysis.
- ✓ Provided financial support and technical assistance for eligible tourism businesses (license, permit, ST Code) to survive the pandemic's impacts.

## ► **Agritourism Support Program**

- ✓ encourages diversification and resilience by integrating agriculture and tourism products.
- ✓ To create a point of difference with Vanuatu's local cuisine and increase the use of local, sustainable, and organic produce within the tourism industry

# Tourism Support for Ministry of Climate Change Policy

- Tourism Association Reps provide input into **Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA)** and the development of a **National Adaptation Plan (NAP)** in partnership with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and other partners, funded through the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
- ***Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2016–2030*** The objective to build a sustainable and climate-resilient Vanuatu. Infrastructure projects that protect against climate impacts are also being prioritized to safeguard the nation's development goals.

# Tourism Related Issues

**Disaster Management Plans and tourist safety**

**Loss and Damage compensation**

**Insurance costs reduction scheme**

**Reducing pollution and waste management**

**Energy and Water conservation**

**Infrastructure damage and access problems**

**Coastal erosion and tourism assets**

**Marine Protected Areas**

**More evidence-based information about sea level rise**

**Food security and local supplies**

**Transport related fuel emissions**



# Tourism Needs GFC Funded Climate Change Programs

**Van-KIRAP (Vanuatu Klaemet  
Infomesen blong Redi, Adapt mo  
Protekt). Climate Information  
Systems**

**The Renewable Energy Solar  
and Battery Storage on Efate  
and Tanna (RESSET)**

**Vanuatu Community- based  
Climate Resilience Project  
(VCCRP)**

# 4 Critical Tourism Recovery Actions

1. Disaster Management and Recovery Support Informed by Effective Co-ordination, Communication and Co-operation between all sectors – public, private and community.
2. Gov't sponsored Business Support Funding Program
3. Aid sponsored Infrastructure Support Funding Program
4. Link Tourism Sector to Climate Change Programs with On-going, accurate Information

## **Tourism Owners Association of Vanuatu (TOAV)**

Advocacy for SME Tourism Businesses and Lobbying to GOV

**TOAV Newsletter** (every two months)– highlights Future of Tourism Climate Change Action Plan, the Glasgow Declaration and the GSTC Guidelines