

Workshop on National Sustainable Development Strategies in Small Island Developing States

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Vanuatu Focal Point Presentation
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National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS)

- Vanuatu had identified a national consultant but he is yet to be contracted
- Vanuatu does not have specific NSDS document, however, we do incorporate the issue of sustainable development in all levels of development strategies
- Our recent National Development Strategy, known as “Priorities and Action Agenda (PAA) 2006-2015 - An educated, healthy and wealthy Vanuatu”, incorporate most of MDG key development indicators

Priorities and Action Agenda (PAA) 2006-2015

- The elements of PAA:
 - Development Overview
 - Development Constraints/needs and challenges
 - Strategic Priorities
 - Sector Strategies
 - Policy Development and Implementation

Development Constraints/needs and challenges

- Widely scattered island
- Vulnerability to natural disasters
- Small domestic market with little potential for economies of scale
- Increasingly competitive international markets for tourism and investment
- High cost domestic business environment
- Public sector characterized by low productivity and lack of customer service focus

Development Constraints/needs and challenges (cont.)

- Underdeveloped financial system especially in the rural areas
- Labour force lacking technical and managerial education and job skills needed to support economic development
- Land and capital market development constrained by social values and traditions

Strategic Priorities

1. Private Sector Development and Employment Creation
2. Macroeconomic Stability and Equitable Growth
3. Good Governance and Public Sector Reform
4. Primary Sector Development (natural resources and the environment)
5. Provision of Better Basic Services; especially in rural areas

Strategic Priorities (cont.)

6. Education and Human Resource Development
7. Economic Infrastructure and Support Services

Sector Strategies (Primary Sector Development – natural resources and environment, an eg.)

- *Primary Production:*
 - Sustainably raise incomes from agriculture, fishing and forestry resources for domestic and export markets
 - Improve and strengthen regulatory and sustainable management arrangements for the sector
 - Involve all stakeholders in the development of sector strategies and their implementation

Sector Strategies (Primary Sector Development – natural resources and environment, an eg. Cont.)

- *Environmental and Disaster Management:*
 - Promote sound and sustainable environmental management practices
 - Ensure sustainable management and conservation of Vanuatu's biodiversity
 - Integrate Hazard and Risk Management concerns into policies in order to reduce environmental risk
 - Promote traditional and cultural disaster management know-how and self-help within the community

Vanuatu's Achievements

- *Legal framework – treaties that have been ratified to combat the issues of sustainable development:*
 - United Nations Convention on Biodiversity
 - United Nations on climate change
 - Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone layer
 - Vienna Convention for protecting of the Ozone Layer
 - Convention on the Prohibition of fishing with Long Drift Nets in the South Pacific
 - United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea
 - Treaty on the non-proliferation on Nuclear Weapons
 - Niue Treaty on Cooperation in Fishing Surveillance & Law Enforcement in the SP Region

Vanuatu's Achievements (cont.)

- *Legal framework – treaties that have been ratified to combat the issues of sustainable development:*
 - Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of pollution from ships
 - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild Fauna and Flora
 - International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage
 - International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage
 - International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil
 - Plant Protection Agreement for the South East Asia and the Pacific
 - South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty

Vanuatu's Achievements

- *Regional Programs – Environment (Natural Resources):*
 - The “state of the environment project” which gathered information about a range of natural and social indicators including water quality, climate, soils and air quality
 - Environment and Education Awareness Project that tried to improve the understanding of key environmental issues among teachers, church leaders, NGOs and the media
 - Environment Bibliography Program which has established links on environmental libraries in SPREP member countries
 - SPBCP worked with the people of Matantas and Sara on Santo to demonstrate sustainable forest conservation alternatives
 - VSFUP Project prepared the Code of Logging Practice and strengthened the capacity of the Forestry Department to ensure logging activities are sustainable
 - SPRIG Project, which documented variations within selected tree species, identified seed sources for different varieties and developed conservation plans for trees species of priority to the Forestry Department

Vanuatu's Achievements (cont.)

- *Regional Programs – Environment (Natural Resources):*
 - SPC/GRF Project that demonstrated sustainable agro-forestry in association with local management of forest resources
 - PRAP which trailed sustainable gardening systems
 - ACIAR Trochus Project, which replenishes stocks through captive rearing and realise in association with local management measures
 - National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) raised knowledge of Vanuatu's biodiversity so that right approaches could be found to manage the country's biological resources
- *Private Sector and NGOs (UNELCO, Kava Store, FSP-Vanuatu, Vanuatu Rural Training Centre Association, and etc.) programs that addressing natural resource management:*
 - Wild Yam Project is an on going program aimed at the cultivation and retention of all productive Dioscorea numularia for forest conservation and food security
 - Urban Waste Management Project, which raised awareness to manage waste in urban areas

Vanuatu's Achievements (cont.)

- *Private Sector and NGOs (UNELCO, Kava Store, FSP-Vanuatu, Vanuatu Rural Training Centre Association, and etc.) programs that addressing natural resource management:*
 - Some initiatives have been tried very successfully to conserve the environment through the identification of potential income generating sources of non-timber products, processing and marketing. Areas covered include fruits, nuts, weaving of mats and baskets, and jewellery
 - Through established environment curricula in teaching environment in vocation rural training centres that is an important medium for the younger generation to be aware of environmental issues and attaining life skills
 - Non-bio gradable plastic bags are being banned from being used in Port Vila and bio gradable plastics capable of breaking down within 100 days were introduced

Vanuatu's Achievements (cont.)

- *Private Sector and NGOs (UNELCO, Kava Store, FSP-Vanuatu, Vanuatu Rural Training Centre Association, and etc.) programs that addressing natural resource management:*
 - As an alternative sources of fuel, coconut oil is currently used on a small scale
 - Annual Clean up Campaigns in Port Vila encourages residents to be conscious of their environment
 - Researching into alternative renewable energy sources has been done with wind, geothermal, water, solar and vegetable oils. The following conclusions were made:
 - Wind has potential and could provide 20% energy in Port Vila
 - Water has potential but is very limited to only one or two islands for large energy sources (Santo & Malekula). Potential is there for small villages with small energy requirement. It still needs to be promoted
 - Solar is not reliable for large energy requirements, but is suitable for individual home needs

Vanuatu's Achievements (cont.)

- *Private Sector and NGOs (UNELCO, Kava Store, FSP-Vanuatu, Vanuatu Rural Training Centre Association, and etc.) programs that addressing natural resource management:*
 - Researching into alternative renewable energy sources has been done with wind, geothermal, water, solar and vegetable oils. The following conclusions were made:
 - Coconut oil is very promising for vehicle fuel requirements, about 30% transport vehicles in Port Vila are already using diesel/coconut oil blend
 - Geothermal is being developed on Efate and could take up to twenty years before benefits could be realized
 - Mobilizing communities through PRA/PLA activities to identify their needs, establish objectives and action plans to address their identified needs
 - A credit scheme had been established in urban areas to assist women to generate and bank their income to ensure financial security

Summary

- With all those broad sector strategies, and in particular, those related to natural resources and environment, Our PAA could be adapted to meet the criteria of an NSDS.
- PAA incorporate all other planning strategies like CRP, Business Forum and REDI. Likewise, PAA should also be seen to incorporate MDG, LDC and NSDS Programme of Actions
- Government, Donors, Regional Agencies and NGOs should speak the same language, that's why we promote only one National Development Strategies
- The Revised PAA will be finalised later this month, copies of PAA will be sent to all our good partners, that would want to joint in our Sustainable Development endeavours