Non-Economic Loss & Damage to Vanuatu's Coastal Ecosystems and Community Livelihoods from Slow Onset Events to support the design and operationalization of the L&D Fund





TROPICAL CYCLONE 17P(PAN VALID TIME: 12/2332Z (PRODUCT OF JTWC/SATOPS)

125

185

Front Line of Climate Change



Focus: Social Protection

Rank	Country	Risk
1.	Vanuatu	47.73
2.	Solomon Islands	31.16
3.	Tonga	30.51
4.	Dominica	27.42
5.	Antigua and Barbuda	27.28
6.	Brunei Darussalam	22.77
7.	Guyana	21.83
8.	Philippines	21.39
9.	Papua New Guinea	20.90
10.	Guatemala	20.23
11.	Cape Verde	17.72
12.	Costa Rica	17.06
13.	Bangladesh	16.23
14.	Fiji	16.06

"Climate Change is the single greatest threat to Vanuatu's development"



FOR Climate Change is NOT degrees Celsius or Gigatons of Carbon...



INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CIIMO

Climate Change 2021 The Physical Science Basis Summary for Policymakers



Climate Change IS Loss & Damage to Human Rights and Community Wellbeing

Vanuatu's Coral Reefs and Coastal Ecosystems

are a source of life, economy, wellbeing & indigenous identity

But they are dying

Slow Onset Impacts on Vanuatu Coastal Fisheries

- RCP 8.5 scenario for tropical Pacific
 Temperature will rise by ≥ 3 °C by
 2100
 - Increasing frequency of bleaching events (annual)
 - + or Recruitment
 - Increase stratification preventing
 nutrients upwelling
 - Declines in net primary production
 - Declines in dissolved oxygen
- Ocean Acidification pH
 - Coral / Shell calcification
 - Fish sensory perception and behavior change
- Sea Level Rise





Wanita Kalpoi age: 40 Pango Village Efate Island

fisherwomen shell artisan mother





"Sea level rise is degrading the reef flats where I collect shells. Its harder to get to the shells. Mud from the land is completely killing some species. I have to spend many extra hours fishing and collecting shells."

Transitional Committee: "I would like to see funding for rehabilitating reefs that have been damaged, and for documenting and our traditional knowledge about the ocean that has been lost."

"Now I am telling stories to my children and grandchildren about the reef with this traditional knowledge, but this isn't enough."



Example of SoE NELD: Loss of Indigenous Language







Message 1: Vanuatu is already facing existential threats from climate change and urgently requires new financing to address loss and damage, including non-economic loss and damage in coastal ecosystems and to the indigenous communities that depend on them.

Failure of Humanitarian Systems to Address LnD from extreme events, none for SOE LnD



Economic LnD
Humanitarian Relief

Insurance Payments for Slow Onset LnD?

- SOEs typically have no trigger for payouts
- Premiums are beyond Vanuatu's per capita GNI of \$3,240 USD.
- Widespread distrust of the insurance industry
- In Vanuatu < 5% of people with any kind of coverage
- The UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) launched in 2022 a micro-insurance product for a quick injection of relief funds within 10-14 days following a natural disaster, aimed at Vanuatu's smallholder farmers, fishers, MSMEs, womenheaded households, and people with disabilities.
- Nothing for thousands of families losing their coral reef livlihoods from SoEs

Message 2: The current funding gaps for addressing loss and damage are massive and inadequately reported. Neither humanitarian nor insurance mechanisms are able or suited to meet the needs of Vanuatu's most vulnerable.

Vanuatu Government Budget Policy Statement 2023

Core Policy Priorities Analysis and Justification for support in 2023

The current Government remains committed to public sector reforms to deliver the People's Plan 2030 while promoting capabilities for resilience and prosperity taking into considerations the Covid-19 transmissions, through the following priority outcomes:



20 Resilient Infrastructure

> **15 Resilience to** CC and DR

ALLOCATION OF FISCAL SPACE 10 Justice 10 Business 10 Rual Service Delivery **15 Education 15 Health**

Utilize <u>existing government financial systems</u> for dispursement and delivery of funds to address LnD



Vanuatu's Blockchain-powered Cash Transfer Programme

- Puts cash and decision-making for addressing loss and damage in the hands of those who need it
- Transparency through blockchain
- Implemented by trusted local private sector stakeholders
- Enabled by trusted local NGOs
- Successfully rolled out in the most remote island communities in Vanuatu
- Can work for Rapid and Slow Onset LnD



Message 4: Systems of financing response to climate loss and damage already exist at subnational and national levels. The Loss & Damage Fund should consider operational modalities that make use of and enhance these existing structures, and targeted financing mechanisms to address the disproportionate climate burdens on women and girls.



Susan Balmet age: 33 Molpoi Village Santo Island

fisherwomen women's leader mother





"After a season of prolonged rainfall, a landslide buried our village.

Today my reef is dead. It has been wiped out because of climate change. It is lost, along with our identity.

There is no money available to help us remember, document, write the stories of the marine totems.

We now have to leave. Who will pay for this loss and damage to my villages lives and livelihoods?"

Molpoi Village, Santo Island Vanuatu



Message 3: The injustice of climate loss and damage must be addressed by the Loss & Damage Fund as it plays a global catalytic and coordinating role for new, additional, adequate, predictable, precautionary, and accessible finance to address loss and damage.

Message 5: Vanuatu finds itself in a seemingly inescapable cycle of increasing climate loss and damage, exacerbated by compounding, cascading and intensifying climate and non-climate events, requiring urgent and tailored loss and damage funding

Transitional Committee:

"Had I known in advance, we would have spent time taking pictures of the reef, moving some of the huge giant clams to other, safer areas, and telling our kids the stories of each stone and coral patch before it was taken from us.

There are things that can help us grieve, if they are done before it is too late.

To our government, please give us better advice about what is coming for us.

For those who are responsible, you must pay for the harm you have caused to my home, my family, to our reef, and to my soul as an indigenous Molpoi woman."





Vanuatu Loss & Damage Contact Points

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