As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Vanuatu is among the most vulnerable and poorest countries on earth. Vanuatu’s high vulnerability to climate change is due to a combination of factors such as high exposure to natural disasters, dispersed island geography, narrow economic base, inadequate communication and transportation networks, and limited capacity to cope with disasters, including those caused or exacerbated by the effects of climate change.

Similar to other Pacific island countries, Vanuatu’s primary energy needs are mainly met by imported petroleum fuel. Most electricity is produced from diesel (71%) and renewable energy (29%), which includes hydro, solar, wind, and biofuel. The main constraints to electricity access in rural areas are technical, logistical, and financial in nature. Vanuatu is exploring opportunities to expand usage of renewable energy from hydro, solar, biomass, wind, coconut bio-fuel, and geothermal sources.

The National Energy Roadmap (2016-2030), which was recently updated, identifies access to electricity as one of the country’s five development priorities, with the goal to accelerate electricity access for the rural population while extending existing grids in underserviced areas. Building on this vision, Vanuatu’s NDC aims for a 100% renewable energy target in the electricity subsector. With support from the UNDP NDC Support Programme, Vanuatu is now looking to develop an implementation plan to realize its mitigation contributions, mobilize finance and technology, and enhance capacity development.
FOCUS AREAS

NDC Roadmap and Financing Strategy
- Undertake comprehensive stocktaking exercise to identify gaps and opportunities in the energy sector;
- Formulate a roadmap and financing strategy for country-wide NDC implementation.

Transparency Systems
- Establish and operationalize a Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) coordination mechanism;
- Develop a national MRV database;
- Create technical training for representatives from the Ministry of Climate Change and other key stakeholders.

Rural Electrification Project
- Support the coordination of the implementation and further promote the expansion of NDC actions under the rural electrification framework of the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA).

BUILDING BLOCKS

With support from UNDP's Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) Programme, Vanuatu developed important foundations including:

- Formulation of the country's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), with access to energy at its core;
- Development of a Rural Electrification NAMA which will advance electrification in rural communities with renewable energies, while also addressing local financing and economic empowerment needs;
- The NAMA, core to Vanuatu's NDC, helps the country create a basic framework for a transition towards a low-carbon pathway in the context of its long-term sustainable development objectives.

In addition, Vanuatu has strengthened its policy and legislative frameworks. These include:

- An updated National Energy Roadmap 2016-2030;
- A Rural Electrification Master Plan;
- The National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA);
- The National Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy;
- The National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030, which has been aligned with the NDC.

The strategies and plans recognize the importance of proper policies, legislations, and regulations to attract renewable energy investments.

PARTNER INITIATIVES

The Programme links closely with NDC Partnership for the efficient coordination on financial and technical assistance and with the Pacific Risk Resilience Programme (PRRP) on governance to strengthen local risk, governance, and resilience measures. The regional programme is implemented by UNDP and the NGO Live and Learn Environmental Education (LLEE).

At the global level, the Programme is engaged in a range of strategic partnerships including the International Climate Initiative (IKI) and NDC Support Cluster.

UNDP NDC SUPPORT PROGRAMME | TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH CLIMATE ACTION

With the goal to foster ambitious progress towards resilient, zero carbon development, the NDC Support programme works with countries to put their climate commitments under the Paris Agreement into action. We thereby help countries pursue a “whole-of-society”, integrated approach that is embedded within national systems to drive transformative sustainable development results. The programme is funded by the European Union and the Governments of Germany and Spain as a contribution to the NDC Partnership.