

Community Notice

March 2025

Vanuatu Green Transformation Project



Vanuatu
GREEN TRANSFORMATION
PROJECT

Capacity Development

Capacity development initiatives have been identified, including technical skills trainings and trainings for Green Jobs targeting women and youth in Pentecost communities, and leadership trainings to support women and youth becoming good leaders and green entrepreneurs.

Grievance Redress Mechanism

A Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) for the project has been developed and will be implemented in the project areas. Documentation for orientation of the GRM at the project locations have been finalized.

Dear VGET Community Members...

We are pleased to provide you with the latest update on the Vanuatu Green Transformation (VGET) project, specifically focusing on the construction of Pico hydro power stations at Waterfall, Melsisi and Larimaat sites in Pentecost Island. This initiative is a crucial part of our commitment to contribute to achieving 100 percent electrification with renewable energy by 2030.

As of February 2025, significant progress has been made in the construction of the pico hydro power stations.

Construction: Waterfall & Melsis Project Site



The contractor established their main site office and storage facility in Waterfall site and secured accommodation with storage space in the Melsisi site for construction.

The contractor completed topological survey and submitted the pre-construction designs for approval.



DoE & VGET completed the review of the preliminary topological survey results, and the project team verified the field data and findings at the sites in January 2025. The site verifications were conducted on major pico hydro system components such as water intake area, penstock routes, powerhouse locations and the electrical distribution layout of both Waterfall and Melsisi project sites.



Due to time gap between the detailed design and the construction phase, there have been some significant changes to site parameters including changes in beneficiary household numbers, construction of the tar seal road, along with some inaccuracies in measurements in the design phase. This has impacted on variations to the project and primarily on the bills of quantities. The final changes to the project parameters will be ascertained after approval of the pre-construction design of the pico hydro projects.



DoE & VGET are reviewing the submitted designs in close collaboration with the Public Works Department (PWD) for clearances on the structural designs of civil structures (weir and powerhouse). VGET received the PWD approval for powerhouse and weir design and drawings on 27 February 2025.

Ongoing Activities

VGET, working very closely with DoE, is reviewing the submitted construction designs and drawings of the major system components such as the water way, power generation unit and the electrical distribution network layout. The project aims to complete the review and provide clearances to all the designs by 7 March 2025.

All construction materials and equipment for the construction works in the 2 sites are planned to be transported to the project sites by April 2025.

Construction of the Contractor Office Space & Storage facility for Waterfall & Melsisi Project site is 95% completed and final finishing is expected to be completed by 15 March 2025.

The construction team of the contractor is being mobilized at the project sites by 8 March 2025.



Preparatory works on the Waterfall & Melsisi powerhouse and weir location is on-going with site clearing works and collecting and transporting of the local materials like sand and coral to the respective locations.

Waterfall Powerhouse excavation works has started on the Month of February, the building expected completion date is May 2025.

Construction: Laringmaat Project Site



The contractor completed the topological survey in January 2025 in presence of the project team and submitted the pre-construction designs for approval.

From the survey results, the contractor is now finalizing all the designs for all the major components of the Pico Hydro System for review and clearance.

Procurement update

The contractor shipped two trenching machines from China which arrived in Port Vila on 16 January 2025 and reached the site on 25 February 2025. Similarly, another consignment including one excavator, one four-wheel tractor, two generators, essential power and hand tools, and other necessary equipment and accessories has been dispatched from Sri Lanka on 23 February 2025 and is estimated to arrive at Port Vila on 23 April 2025. The consignment will be shipped to Pentecost from Port Vila.

Ongoing Activities

The contract preliminaries including obtaining construction insurance coverage and preparing contractor's management plans is currently underway and is expected to be in place by 20 March 2025.

VGET and DoE are reviewing the designs and drawings submitted by the contractor for clearances. The project is also working closely with PWD for approval of structural components (powerhouse and weir) of the hydro project.

The contractor team to commence construction at the site is being mobilized at the site by 20 March 2025.

As per the site work planned, the ordering of materials will commence in March 2025. The international shipping of the hydro components is planned to arrive on Port Vila in May 2025 to commence the installation works.

Gender Study and Activities:

A Gender Study for the project was conducted to provide a comprehensive understanding of the intersection between gender equality, energy development, and climate resilience in Vanuatu.

The drafted Gender Study is undergoing review by UNDP, VGET, Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC)/DoE, DoWA. The report once finalized, will be shared to stakeholders by end-March 2025. The project team is also conducting preparatory works to undertake gender mainstreaming activities on all the 3 project sites in the first quarter of 2025.

The project activities will focus on highlighting the important role of women in the green energy sector and the key activities include understanding gendered energy needs, supporting youth and women's leadership, advocacy and awareness raising and green jobs training and capacity building.

Local Electrical Technician Training:

Under the capacity development component, the project is currently working to initiate the first electrical technician training in April 2025. Detailed bilateral discussion on logistical arrangements for conducting the certified training on electro-technology for around 20 participants from Pentecost Island is on-going with Vanuatu Institute of Technology (VIT). Similarly, preparatory works on identification and selection of participants for the training are on-going in close collaboration with DoE.

Groundbreaking Ceremony on the Waterfall & Melsisi Project sites:

The Project team is preparing for the groundbreaking ceremony to commence works on Waterfall & Melsisi in April 2025. The activity was postponed last year due to the dissolution of the Government.

Challenges encountered:

The review and approval process took a bit longer than anticipated, given the importance of close coordination with government agencies, particularly during the holiday season and in light of natural hazards.

Massive uncertainties in personnel travel from Port Vila to Pentecost due to operational issues within Air Vanuatu.

Few isolated delays in work programs due to bad weather and fears arising from the current cyclone season.

The impacts of the 7.3 magnitude earthquake delayed basic services from Port Vila hampering the planned project schedule.

The dissolution of Government in late 2024 hampered few scheduled project activities.

The domestic logistics from Port Vila to Pentecost Island is also a challenge to the project activities. There are not many vessels that do the shipping route therefore shipment delays are expected.

Timeline and Planned Activities

January 2025 to June 2025



ABOUT THE PROJECT

The VGET project, a 2.5-year initiative funded by Japan and implemented by the United Nations Development Program in Partnership with Department of Energy, aimed to support Vanuatu achieve 100% renewable energy by 2030. It focuses on installing pico-hydropower plants in remote areas to increase clean energy access and build resilience in rural communities, while also ensuring the long-term sustainability of these systems through capacity building for operation and maintenance.

PROJECT SITES

Waterfall, Melsisi and Larimaat sites on Pentecost Island.

www.undp.org/pacific/projects/green-transformation-project

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