



# MAKING VANUATU HEARD: STRENGTHENING VCAN



PACIFIC ISLANDS  
FORUM SECRETARIAT

**VCAN**  
VANUATU CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK



The Vanuatu Climate Action Network (VCAN) brings together local, national and international civil society organisations that work to increase community resilience to climate variability and change in Vanuatu. This project aims to strengthen VCAN members' capacity to engage in regional policy dialogue on climate change. This includes strengthening VCAN's consultation process with communities, negotiating shared policy positions representing all VCAN members, and promoting these position in regional forums.

## Timeframe

July 2017—June 2018.

## Reach

Vanuatu—the national level.

## Funded by

The "Strengthening Non-State Actors Engagement in Regional Policy Development and Implementation Programme", funded through the European Union's 10th European Development Fund (EDF 10) and implemented by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

## Key partners

The Pacific Islands Climate Network (PICAN), VCAN members

## Key programming approaches

- Training on negotiating shared policy positions and processes for representing those positions by PICAN
- Community engagement through VCAN members' existing programming to inform policy positions
- Prioritising inclusion of the views of vulnerable groups, particularly women and people living with disabilities in informing policy positions
- Advocacy action to represent VCAN's policy position regionally

## PROJECT OUTCOMES

### STRONGER PROCESSES TO DEVELOP JOINT POLICY POSITIONS



Technical support will strengthen VCAN's processes to enable members to negotiate collective policy and advocacy positions.

### GREATER CAPACITY TO REPRESENT VCAN NATIONALLY AND REGIONALLY



Building VCAN members' policy development skills will amplify VCAN's voice in advocating on climate change issues for Vanuatu.

### DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS AND POLICY AND ADVOCACY MATERIALS



Recording and sharing communities' experiences of climate change will make their stories heard in national and regional forums.

## VANUATU CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK (VCAN) MISSION:

Increased collaboration and information sharing amongst civil society and with the government and development partners leads to more effective and efficient climate change adaptation projects, approaches and events in Vanuatu.

## Vanuatu Climate Action Network (VCAN)

The network was established in 2012, and is open to all civil society organizations working on or interested in climate change adaptation in Vanuatu. Currently, network members include Farm Support Association, Save the Children, Wan Smolbag, GIZ, VANGO, ADRA, Live & Learn, Oxfam, and CARE. Oxfam provides secretarial support through the VCAN Coordinator who provides support to the network and facilitates network activities through a consultative process with network members.

The network works at the national level to increase civil society coordination around climate change adaptation policy and practice. It provides a forum for civil society to share knowledge about adaptation projects, approaches and events in Vanuatu and aims to encourage communication with the Government of Vanuatu's National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (NAB), its Climate Change Program Management Unit (PMU) and with development partners. The network aims to encourage an increased sharing of best practice, collaboration and coordination. Through the network, civil society plays an active role in providing inputs and views to the climate change policy, legislation and governance arrangements of the Vanuatu government.

## Strengthening VCAN

### Technical support to develop joint positions

VCAN will conduct workshops for VCAN members on how to organise network members to advocate on climate change, how to develop processes to build agreement among network members on policy and advocacy positions, and how to represent on behalf of VCAN members at national and regional decision making forums. The workshop will also include identifying key regional policy issues and opportunities for engagement.

### Capacity building on community evidence documenting

VCAN members will receive training on how to utilise community level information to write stories, case studies, and advocacy materials. The training will also build capacity in how to use these stories to build evidence for developing policy positions, linking evidence of impacts at the community level to feed into the development of national and regional policies.

### Policy and advocacy focal point to maintain momentum

A national policy and advocacy focal point will be recruited to join the VCAN Secretariat, hosted by CARE and working alongside the VCAN Coordinator, to support VCAN members with collection of evidence, development of policy positions and engagement in regional policy dialogue. The role will maintain momentum within VCAN for policy development and advocacy through ongoing capacity building of members to coordinate policy positions of VCAN.

### Promoting VCAN positions in regional forums

VCAN will promote its policy and advocacy positions through opportunities including National Advisory Board (NAB) on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction discussions, UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) Taskforce consultations to develop national positions papers, National Sustainable Development Plan consultations, COP23 Delegates training, and COP23 Side Event.



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