



**VANUATU**

**NATIONAL FISHERIES**

**SECTOR POLICY**

**2016–2031**

A policy for the sustainable management, conservation and development of the fisheries sector in the Republic of Vanuatu

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry,  
Fisheries and Biosecurity



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique



FFA





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## APPROVAL OF THE VANUATU NATIONAL FISHERIES SECTOR POLICY

The Vanuatu National Fisheries Sector Policy is made in accordance with Part 3 Section 6(1) (a) of the Fisheries Act No. 10 of 2014.

By virtue of powers conferred upon the Minister Responsible for Fisheries, under Section 6(1) (a) of the Fisheries Act No.10 of 2014, notice is hereby given for the approval of the Vanuatu National Fisheries Sector Policy.

### COMMENCEMENT DATE

This policy commences on the date on which it is approved by the Minister.

Made at Port Vila this 14 day of DECEMBER 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink is written over a horizontal dotted line. To the right of the signature is a blue circular official stamp. The stamp contains the text "REPUBLIC OF VANUATU" at the top and "REPUBLICQUE DE VANUATU" at the bottom, with two stars on either side. In the center of the stamp, it reads "MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FORESTRY, FISHERIES & BIO-SECURITY".

**Honourable Matai Seremaiah NAWALU  
(MP)**

**Minister of Agriculture, Livestock,  
Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity**

## Acknowledgements

This Vanuatu National Fisheries Sector Policy is the result of contributions from many people and stakeholders. Thanks are given to the staff of the Vanuatu Fisheries Department for their initial ideas to this policy; community leaders, fishers, the private sector, provincial leaders, non-governmental partners, line government departments, and the fishing industry for their contributions to the policy through many consultations; the former Director of Environment Department, Mr Jason Raubani, for his initial work on the draft. Special thanks are given to the Pacific Community through the Director of the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division, Mr Moses Amos, the Aquaculture Advisor, Mr Robert Jimmy, and the Coastal Fisheries Science and Management Adviser, Mr Ian Bertram. We thank the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency — through the assistance of its Management Officer, Mr Samasoni Sauni — for improving the structure and visibility of this policy. Importantly, this policy would not have been possible without funding from the Vanuatu Government, the United Nations Development Programme through the Vanuatu Climate Change Adaptation project, and the ACIAR community based-based fisheries project FIS/2012/074.

**Speech by the Minister for Agriculture, Livestock,  
Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity, Hon Matai Seremaiah Nawalu,  
at the official launching of the  
Vanuatu National Fisheries Sector Policy,  
Tagabe Ground, Wednesday 14 December 2016**

Parliament Secretary for Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity (MALFFB)  
First Political Advisor of MALFFB  
Directors of MALFFB and Directors from other government departments  
United Nations Development Programme representative  
Other development partners

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our main task on this occasion this morning is to launch the first ever national policy for the fisheries sector in Vanuatu. May I say that where the fisheries sector is today is the result of past planning, and where we will be in future will be the result of the policy vision we will launch today.

Ladies and gentlemen,

99% of Vanuatu is ocean; this vast ocean is home to one of the region's largest fish stock — albacore tuna for which the annual catch is estimated at 8,000 tonnes per year. With other tuna resources, our production estimate lies in the range of 10,000 to 20,000 tonnes of fish per year. It is even more than this when deep bottom fish, reef fish and other reef and freshwater resources and other resource we have yet to explore are added.

Our people depend on these resources for food and income, and the country depends on revenue from resource rent and from exporting fees. During natural disasters, as we witnessed recently, when other land resources are affected, fish provides healthy food and income for our people and it is important that we continue to enjoy these benefits in the future.

Before I go ahead to launch this policy, may I take this time to reflect on some of the development challenges this sector has faced in the last 35 years.

1. Vanuatu is an important player in the industrial tuna fishery through the Palekula Fishing base on Santo. At that time, Palekula was servicing over 100 industrial fishing boats and processing up to 14,000 tonnes of fish per year. Over a thousand local New Hebrideans and ni-Vanuatu were employed and many more benefit from economic spinoffs of the Palekula base. We lost this economic activity soon after gaining independence, resulting in the loss of jobs and economic opportunity. We still have our fish but we lack the vision to re-develop the industry in the last 30 years.
2. Soon after independence the government received much support from donor partners to develop the local fishing industry and empower our local people to participate in development. Fisheries centres were established on many islands in the country and fish markets established in Vila (Natai Fish Market) and Luganville (Santo Fish Market) to market fish from the island markets. This infrastructure failed not because we ran out of fish, it was because we did not have the vision to better manage these infrastructure developments.

3. The Republic of Vanuatu has many international fishing vessels registered under the shipping registry. For years, the flag fishing fleet was not effectively managed and the fleet was conducting IUU fishing, which led to the yellow card issued to Vanuatu by the EU in 2012. Again, we do not have the vision on how to better manage our flag fishing fleet to prevent IUU fishing; in addition, much needed revenue that would have been collected from this industry was lost.
4. Many ni-Vanuatu nationals continue to risk their lives to work on fishing boats with no proper training and no welfare security. Many of our nationals receive poor treatment at sea and some lost their lives as a result. We do not have roadmap on how to manage and develop the crewing industry.
5. The Sino-Van fish factory has failed to operate in the last 8–12 years, again because of the lack of vision to develop supporting infrastructure to attract landing of fish in our ports. Our fish continue to be landed in other countries, supporting the economies of those countries while our government struggles to generate revenue to support its services.
6. Unemployment continues to grow and there is not enough employment for our people to meet their livelihood needs. The fisheries sector can provide employment opportunities and it needs to be developed. A roadmap that provide for this development is important.
7. An unskilled workforce is a feature of the fisheries sector and we need to equip our people with the required skills so that they benefit from employment opportunities in the fishing industry, locally and abroad.
8. We are currently facing a shortage of fish to feed our growing population and the increasing number of tourists visiting our islands. We must increase production of our own fish so that we eat and we buy our own fish and circulate money within our local economy.
9. Aquaculture is a potential area but infrastructure support was not there and we did not enjoy the economic benefit from this development area, but we are improving now and this new policy will guide the sector to further grow the aquaculture industry.

We have not maximised the potential of the fisheries sector because our planning for this sector in the past has not been adequate.

Ladies and gentlemen, time has come to address these problems to transform the fisheries sector to improve overall performance.

The National Fisheries Sector Policy is our policy roadmap. This policy will guide our operations in this sector for the next 15 years.

The National Fisheries Sector Policy builds on the long-term development strategy of the National Sustainable Development Plan 2016 to 2030, and the overarching productive sector policy and the agritourism policy.

On the regional level, this policy follows on from the regional and international policies and treaties, including the Melanesian Spearhead Group roadmap on coastal fisheries; the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency regional monitoring, control and surveillance strategy; the Noumea strategy on coastal fisheries; the Pacific Regional Roadmap on Fisheries 2010; and the Sustainable Development Goals. This collective policy is the culmination of our national planning in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.



Our vision in the policy is to transform fisheries in Vanuatu. Our goal is to increase production, people's incomes, food security, and nutritional status of all ni-Vanuatu. We will achieve this collective goal in eight priority areas:

1. Institutional setup, good governance and capacity building
2. Fisheries Investment, economic growth and employment opportunities
3. Sustainable food production and nutrition and non-communicable disease alleviation
4. Infrastructure support and product development and distribution
5. Environmental protection, climate change and disaster risk reduction
6. Information and communication technology
7. Strengthening compliance and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing prevention
8. Partnership building and equal opportunities to all citizens.

Within each priority area, strategic actions and specific policy directives indicate what will be done to achieve these goals.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The policy we launch today will revolutionise the fisheries sector. The people of Vanuatu will see changes for the better through this Vanuatu National Fisheries Sector policy. The fisheries sector will grow from strength to strength to develop the sector and increase production of quality, increase fish protein intake, economic activity and raise government revenue through the sustainable development of aquatic resources.

I now declare the Vanuatu National Fisheries Sector Policy officially launched.

Thank you very much and may God bless us all.

# Director of Fisheries remarks by the official launching of the National Fisheries Sector Policy Agriculture Ground, Tagabe, Port Vila, Wednesday, 14 December 2016

Hon Matai Seremaia Nawalu, Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity (MALFFB); Hon Tom Kor, Minister of Parliament for Tafea Islands and Permanent Secretary for MALFFB; Directors of MALFFB and other directors; donor partners; MALFFB department officials;

Ladies and gentlemen,

I take this time to first of all welcome you all to this morning ceremony and thank you for joining us to celebrate the launching of the first ever fisheries sector policy. Past national development plans of the government cover some aspects of the fisheries sector but they are not comprehensive enough to provide a clear roadmap for the development and growth of the sector.

The Vanuatu National Fisheries Sector policy, which we are here to launch, is home grown and developed by the staff of the department with assistance from the Pacific Community and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency. The approach taken is bottom up starting first with development of specific fisheries action plans.

The first is the national tuna management plan developed in the late 1990s, and followed by another nine plans including ones for: aquarium fish; illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; sharks; and sea turtles; sea cucumber fishery management plan; national fishing fleet management plan; snapper fishery plan; fishing boat crew plan; and fishing vessel charter plan.

From these action plans, specific regulations were developed to guide day-to-day operations of the department in managing these fisheries areas. And in the last 15 years, the Fisheries Department has grown.

- in the 1990s, the Compliance and Licensing Section was established
- in 2004, the Management and Policy Section was established
- in 2008, the Seafood Verification Section was established
- in 2008, the National Fisheries Observer Programme was born, now with 30 observers
- in 2010, a freshwater aquaculture station was established at Tagabe
- in 2013, the Vanuatu flag fleet management role was taken over by the department
- in 2014, the International Fisheries Unit was established along with the Data Management Unit and the national VMS system added to the Compliance and Licensing Section
- in 2014, the new Fisheries Act came into force and at the same time Vanuatu became an IUU-free country;
- in 2014, more females were recruited to the Fisheries Department, and I'm proud to say that the Fisheries Department now has 12 females and this year we produce our first qualified ni-Vanuatu female observer who has so far been doing well; so ladies and gentlemen, the department is implementing gender balance not by politics but through merit.
- in 2015, despite the disaster, the new departmental structure was approved with 71 positions and 52 staff. Staff qualification levels include masters, postgraduate diploma, degree, diploma and certificates and we continue to encourage staff to go on training and bringing in qualified new recruits but ensuring that there is a balance in the level of qualifications.

This year, 2016 the disaster recovery programmes are being rolled out including the expansion of the aquaculture hatchery and fish farming facility at Tagabe and Santo and the revival of rural fisheries development across the country in partnership with our partners.

In 2016 we made good progress in the Sino-Van fishery development, which led to the first fish unloading trial last month and additional infrastructure work to commence soon.

Overall, the budget of the department has grown and project funding has also grown. Revenue collection continues to grow since 2008 and I'm happy to announce that so far this year revenue collection has gone over that of last year. And we think that there is more potential for this sector to generate increased direct revenue and make significant contributions to the economy overall.

But it is common knowledge that the fisheries sector is increasingly becoming more dynamic and diverse and fisheries management has become more complex at the community, national, subregional, regional and international level. This complexity requires the careful marriage of scientific advice, good policy direction and legal minds of our lawyers to manoeuvre through the complexities. I trust my staff, who are all hard working local ni-Vanuatu people, that yes we can do it to grow the fisheries sector.

I take this time to thank the former directors and especially my predecessor for their contributions to initiate the evolution of the fisheries sector. I especially thank my managers and all the staff for their continued commitment and hard work, many times during overtime hours, public holidays and weekends which are valuable times for their families. I thank you for being passionate about your work and it is this passion that drives commitment and performance this far and I encourage you to continue to do so.

I thank the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forest, Fisheries and Biosecurity through the leadership of the Minister and Director General, and other government ministers and departments for their support to the Fisheries Department. The Fisheries department cannot work on its own without the support of the whole government system.

Special thank you to SPC and FFA for their continued technical support to the department in the areas of scientific services, development and management support, and operational services. We thank also our donor partners: Australian government through the ACIAR project and the WorldFish project, the Japanese government through JICA and JOCV, the New Zealand government, the French government through the work of IRD, SPREP, UNDP and others for their support.

I thank also our industry players locally, in the region and internationally for working with us over the years and they are the ones giving us the revenue we collect. I especially thank our fishing crew operators for keeping the crewing industry alive despite lack of greater support from the government.

I thank also our non-governmental partners and communities whose support has raised the department to this level.

I thank also our media friends and journalists and especially the participants of the tunanomics workshop this year, the media have become more aware of fisheries and we look forward to continuing work with you.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are now at the cross road, and we have an exciting time ahead of us but how do we maneuver this sector into that future to reach that exiting time?

Without a sectoral policy, there is no roadmap to follow, the big road for management, development, and conservation of fisheries resources is unclear, door to investment opportunities is unclear, and road to increase fish production unclear, donor partners do not see where the sector is going, and therefore cannot put their money where they want to assist on, investors do not see where the sector is going and cannot invest their money, line government department and ministries do not see where to align their priorities.

The National Fisheries Sector Policy is key to showing us the road to follow in the next 15 years to further grow the fisheries sector in Vanuatu and to increase production, facilitate industry development support, open employment opportunities, and improve economy of the country and health of our people.

We thank department staff for their contribution to this policy formulation, the Environment Department for its contribution, and SPC and FFA for their valuable input to this policy.

We hope to continue to do our best to implement this policy to bring the fisheries sector to its rightful place.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish you all an enjoyable time with us today to celebrate the launching of the Vanuatu National Fisheries Sector Policy.

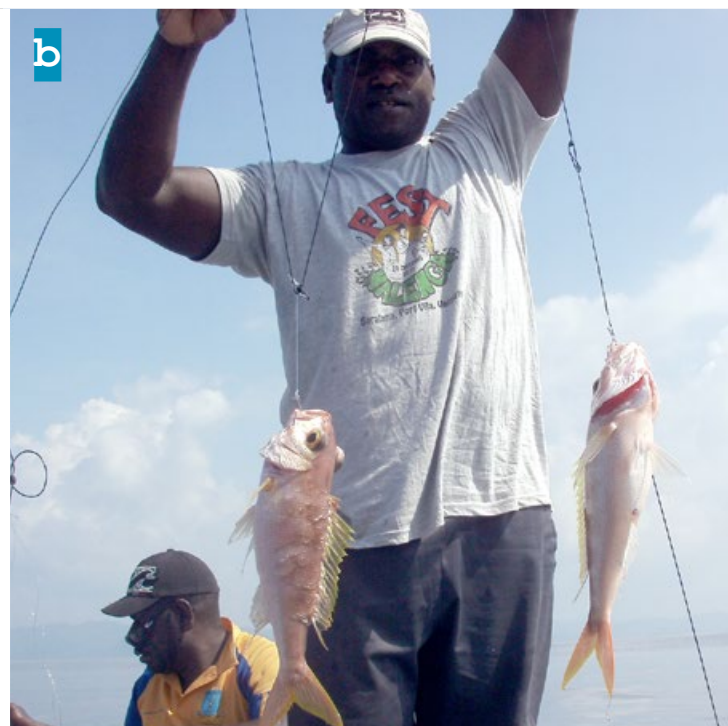
Thank you.

## Abbreviations

ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
CDS	catch documentation scheme
CLS	Collecte Localisation Satellites
COTS	crown-of-thorns starfish
EIA	environmental impact assessment
EM	electronic monitoring
ER	electronic reporting
EU	European Union
FAD	fish aggregating device
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFA	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
FMAC	Fisheries Management Advisory Council
IATF	international authorization to fish
ICCAT	international Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
ICT	information and communication technology
INGO	International non-governmental organisation
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IRD	Institut de recherche pour le développement
IUU	illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MALFFB	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forest, Fisheries and Bio-security
MCS	monitoring, compliance and surveillance
MIPU	Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utility
MOA	memorandum of agreement
MOU	memorandum of understanding
NPOA	National Plan of Action


**a** Frozen albacore ready to be shipped to Fiji for processing. (Photo Sammy James)

**b** Deep bottom snapper caught during a fishing technology training course. (Photo George Amos)



NCD	non-communicable disease
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NPFC	North Pacific Fisheries Commission
OGCIO	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer
PMW	Police Maritime Wing
PSC	Public Service Commission
PWD	Public Works Department
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
SFVA	Seafood Verification Authority
SLO	State Law Office
SPC	Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TAG	Technical Advisory Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USP	University of the South Pacific
VARTC	Vanuatu Agricultural Research and Training Centre
VCF	Vanuatu Cooperative Federation
VDS	vessel day scheme
VFD	Vanuatu Fisheries Department
VIPA	Vanuatu Investment Promotion Authority
VISR	Vanuatu International Shipping Registry
VMS	vessel monitoring system
VMSS	vessel monitoring system services
VPMW	Vanuatu Police Maritime Wing
VUFIMS	Vanuatu Fisheries Information System
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

 Tilapia sampling by fisheries aquaculture assistant officer and some farmers. (Photo Kalna Arthur)

 Fisheries Development Officer, Mr Willie Jimmy, showcasing a newly constructed pond filled with water at a community in Torba Province. (Photo Willie Jimmy)



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## Executive summary

The Vanuatu National Fisheries Sector Policy 2016–2031 is the umbrella visionary document of the Republic of Vanuatu, in which the Ministry responsible for Fisheries and its partners takes charge in delivering assistance to support the fisheries sector to achieve its target activities over the next 15-year period. The policy highlights priority issues in this sector and sets out a number of key strategic actions to address these challenges.

This sector policy is in line and consistent with other policy documents of the Vanuatu government, such as the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) or “Vanuatu 2030, The People’s Plan”, the Overarching Productive Sector Policy (2012–2017), and various other relevant policies, and should be read with all other relevant fisheries policies pertaining to Vanuatu.

The Vanuatu National Fisheries Sector Policy 2016–2031 recognises all other fisheries-related subregional, regional and international policies and treaties that Vanuatu is a signatory to. Examples of these policies and treaties include the Melanesian Spearhead Group Coastal Fisheries Roadmap (2015–2024), the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency Regional Melanesian Spearhead Group Strategy (2010–2015), A new song for coastal fisheries – pathways to change: the Noumea Strategy (2015), the Pacific Regional Roadmap on Fisheries (2010), the Samoa Pathway (2014) and the Sustainable Development Goals (2014).

This policy seeks to coordinate the fisheries management, development and conservation activities of existing fisheries management plans, and the linkages to high-level strategies and monitoring programmes in the fisheries sector. Vanuatu’s continued efforts to remedy the management challenges of its international fishing fleet to prevent illegal, unreported and unrelated fishing are a demonstration of its commitments to responsible fishing in the world’s oceans. It is not an easy task to manage an international fishing fleet that is based offshore because of capacity gaps and sustained resources. Vanuatu — through its Fisheries Department — endeavours to work towards fully discharging its international, regional and national responsibilities with regard to fisheries into the future.

The focus, however, is not just on sustainable stock management and biodiversity conservation. Like other small island developing states, Vanuatu recognises the priority need for fisheries management, and advancing small-scale sustainable domestic fisheries and aquaculture developments using local operations around its provinces. In addition, Vanuatu acknowledges the need for larger commercial fishing ventures that promote employment and improved livelihoods, and ensure food and nutrition security.

About 80% of Vanuatu’s population dwell in rural areas, and these people depend heavily on coastal fisheries for their livelihood and food security. This policy seeks to promote community-based and co-management approaches to coastal fisheries. As Vanuatu’s human population continues to grow, diversification of fishing activities and development of alternative food and livelihood opportunities are critical to support increased production. Aquaculture and development of nearshore fisheries are viable options that this policy seeks to embrace and promote.

On the whole, Vanuatu continues to expend its efforts to work closely with private and business sector interests to increase possible opportunities in fishing, fisheries and aquaculture. Vanuatu embraces a balanced approach to fisheries and biodiversity through sustainable conservation, management and development. It is the expectation of this policy that the key actions set out here will be delivered appropriately, and with the joint support of the government and its partners. The scope of the policy covers all relevant matters pertaining to fishing and fisheries, including inland fisheries, coastal fisheries, oceanic fisheries and aquaculture.

## Constraints, issues and challenges within the fisheries sector

The key challenges in the fisheries sector are best described as primarily related to governance and administration, implementing commitments and obligations, relatively poor progress and growth in domestic fisheries and aquaculture development, biodiversity research, political will, resources and resourcing. There are also ongoing operational issues common in fisheries that relate to target and non-target species, the marine environment and/or ecosystem, and human well-being. Specifically, current operational challenges relate to resource sustainability, fishing capacity, input and output controls, resource use and ownership, maximising benefits from resource utilisation, and mitigating impacts on the environment and non-target species.

As party to most regional fisheries management organisations and international fisheries treaties, conventions and arrangements, Vanuatu is expected to fully comply with its commitments and obligations. This has been a challenge although not impossible as demonstrated by Vanuatu being removed from the European Union illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities yellow card in 2014. Vanuatu is committed to working with its provincial governments to improve management and develop jurisdictions, and to working with communities to improve and expand community-based fisheries. These constraints and challenges are summarised below.

### 1. **Absence of a national fisheries sector policy**

The lack of a national fisheries sector policy is reflected in the lack of strategic direction to foster growth of the fisheries sector.

### 2. **Weak institutional setup and regulatory framework**

Imbalanced Fisheries Department organisational setup and inadequate human resources and weak linkages to other service providers are the challenges faced in delivering services to rural communities, and account for the unfavourable climate for growth.

### 3. **Lack of Infrastructure to support fishing and marketing**

Infrastructure support — including markets, boat and fishing gear — are the main hindrances to fisheries development and increased fish production, resulting in shortfalls in fish supply in urban markets.

### 4. **Inadequately trained workforce**

The fisheries sector has the potential to increase employment opportunities locally and offshore but lack a skilled workforce and training facilities and service resources to support skill training.

### 5. **Resources and resourcing**

A shortage of human and financial resources within the Fisheries Department limits the recruitment of essential positions such as in information and communication technology, and fisheries extension officers, and in the administration of the Fisheries Department.

### 6. **Ineffective enforcement of regulations**

Enforcement of regulatory measures is lacking because of the lack of existing capacity and no collaboration with the prosecution office.

### 7. **Lack of infrastructure for shore-based industrial tuna processing development**

Shore-based Industrial tuna fisheries development is constrained by a lack of onshore infrastructure, including dedicated areas for wharves, a processing facility, and slipway services, all of which makes Vanuatu unattractive to investors in the fisheries sector.

### 8. **Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and implementation of the European Union (EU) IUU yellow card recommendations**

Vanuatu has made good progress in controlling its flag vessels against IUU fishing activities but inspection of its international fishing fleet is a challenge and certification of catch for access markets in the EU are challenges that need to be addressed.



- 9. Meeting regional fisheries management organisation (RFMO) commitments and obligations**  
Despite improvements in compliance by vessels, attendance to annual RFMO meetings and reporting remain a challenge due to human resource issues.
- 10. Poor participation of government stakeholders**  
Working in isolation from relevant line government departments has resulted in the overburden, duplication and stretching of limited resources of Vanuatu's Fisheries Department and ineffective programme implementation.
- 11. Land disputes affecting rural fish market centres**  
80% of rural fish preservation and market centres have ceased because of land ownership issues, and there is lack of cooperation between fishers and resources owners.
- 12. Limited access to financial resources**  
It is extremely difficult for fishermen to get a loan from the bank, and insurance providers are hesitant to ensure fishing boats because of the high risk involved.
- 13. Lack of aquaculture development**  
Aquaculture development is faced with a lack of a fully equipped hatchery facility, which prevents the production of farming stocks and, therefore, the growth of fish farming; additionally, an aquaculture extension programme has yet to be fully developed.
- 14. Community-based management**  
Many approaches of community-based fisheries management have been introduced to local communities but, to date, these approaches have not worked because there is no government policy direction on community-based fisheries development and management.
- 15. High cost of working with rural fishers**  
It is too expensive for fishers in rural areas to export their fish to urban markets because of a lack of infrastructure such as a fishing boat and gear, preservation and market facilities, and transportation costs to urban markets.

**e** Using a sail on a canoe (a traditional fishing effort system rarely used nowadays in Vanuatu) to go out fishing for coastal pelagic fishes. (Photo Kalna Arthur)



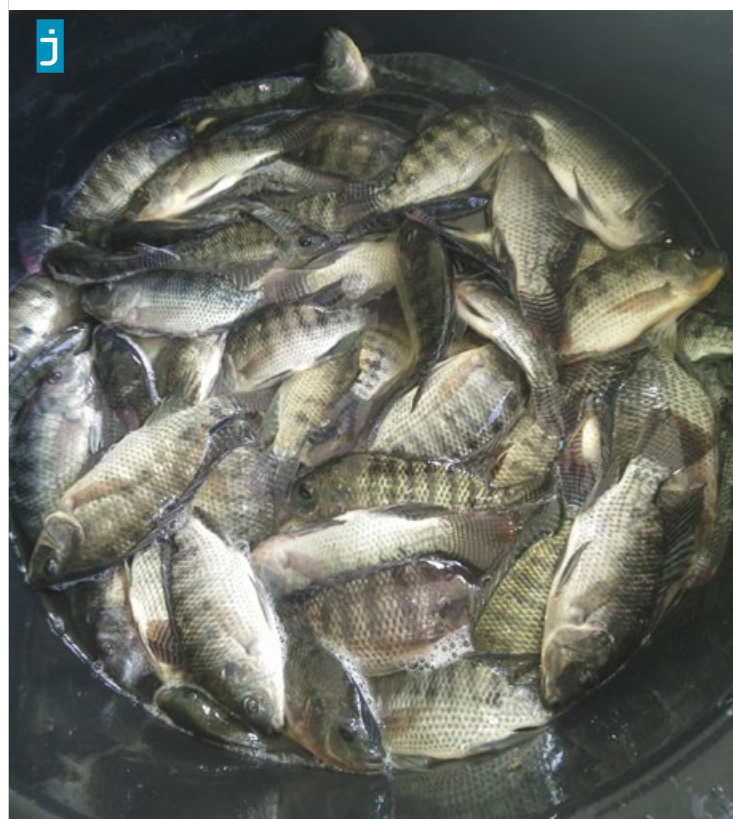
**f** VFD Officers inspecting a sea cucumber processing facility during the sea cucumber harvest season in 2015. (Photo Sammy James)

**g** Mr Sammy James of the Compete and Authority Division of VFD undertaking quality test on fish at a vendor market in Port Vila. (Photo Betsy Charley)

**h** A display of fresh catch from a typical deep bottom fishing trip in a canoe. (Photo Pita Neihapi)

**i** Fresh cultured marine shrimp harvested by Vate Prawns. (Photo Lency Dick)

**j** Tilapia fish harvested from a small backyard pond. (Photo Kalna Arthur)



# The Vanuatu National Fisheries Sector Policy

## Overview

The Vanuatu National Fisheries Sector Policy sets out the vision, high-level policy directions, and strategic implementation framework for the sustainable conservation, management and development of fisheries and aquaculture in the Republic of Vanuatu, and ensures integrated approaches across all sectors. This fisheries sector policy is developed in accordance with Section 6(1) (a) of the Fisheries Act, which provides for general policy guidance on fisheries and aquaculture matters. The term of this fisheries policy is 15 years, consistent with other sectoral policies of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forest, Fisheries and Biosecurity, and the National Sustainable Development Plan 2016–2030, also referred to as ‘The People’s Plan’.

This policy focuses on improving: 1) fisheries governance, and sustainable and economically viable fisheries and aquaculture; 2) access to finance, improved infrastructures, market access, seafood safety and value-adding; and 3) sustainable growth, employment, food security and livelihood. The policy recognises and promotes gender equality, the participation of vulnerable groups in fisheries, and strengthens partnerships, collaboration and networking.

The use of information communication technology (ICT) and the increasing use of ICT in fisheries work, particularly in monitoring, compliance and surveillance of fishing operations inside and outside of Vanuatu waters is promoted. The need for information access and dissemination is critical for decision-making and visibility of the fisheries sector’s role in the economic development of the country and public education and awareness of the responsibility of the people of Vanuatu in managing their resources. The policy further recognises climate change and its adverse impacts on the environment and humanity, and the need for the fisheries sector to consider adapting and mitigating the impacts to reduce the risk of disasters.

The sector policy is an umbrella policy for the fisheries sector and should be read together with other fisheries-specific action plans, such as the:

- Revised Tuna Fishery Management Plan
- National Plan of Action on Sea Turtles
- National Plan of Action on Sharks
- National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing
- National Fleet Management Policy
- Aquarium Trade Management Plan
- Snapper Fishery Management Plan
- Sea Cucumber Management Plan
- National Fishing Vessel Charter Policy
- National Fishing Vessel Crewing Policy

## Policy development process

The development of this policy is a result of a number of stakeholder consultations and a literature review of existing fisheries management plans and departmental internal consultations. Six consultations were conducted at the national, provincial government and community levels.

Consultations began in 2013 but validation consultation workshops occurred in March and July 2016. These series of validation consultations were conducted in all provinces. In November 2016, the final national consultation and open forum in Port Vila was held to consider the final draft policy.

Stakeholders play a significant role in the development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Vanuatu. Representatives attending the consultation workshops included government senior officers, provincial government officers, area secretaries, community leaders, representatives from the private sector, youth and women’s groups, church leaders, resource owners, donor partners, non-governmental organisations, and regional and international fisheries organisations and institutions.

- k** Mr Clay Sara, Sanma Province Fisheries Development Officer with a good catch from a FAD test fishing trip in Santo. (Photo Clay Sara)
- l** Successful construction of a bamboo FAD at south Santo by fishermen and Sanma Province Fisheries Development Officer. (Photo Clay Sara)
- m** Two fishermen return from a fishing trip at Maskelynes Islands, south Malekula. (Photo Pita Neihapi)



# Policy vision, mission and guiding principles

## Vision

Healthy and sustainable fisheries sector for the long-term economic, social and food security for current and future generations of the Republic of Vanuatu.

## Mission

To provide an effective, efficient, transparent and accountable service delivery through a participatory approach to ensure long-term sustainable fisheries management, conservation and development.

## Guiding principles

The following guiding principles form the basis of the Vanuatu National Fisheries Sector Policy:

- i) Optimum utilisation of fisheries and aquaculture resources to ensure ecological and socioeconomic sustainability in resource-use and domestic developments, while protecting cultural and traditional norms, including embracing customary marine tenure;
- ii) Maximise net economic benefits from resource use in all fisheries waters and reinvest such benefits in the development of coastal and inland fisheries and the aquaculture sector in Vanuatu;
- iii) Promote the use of rights-based management supported by best science and practices in all fisheries and aquaculture;
- iv) Promote the principles of visibility, transparency, participatory and inclusivity, which includes relevant stakeholders in decision-making processes on fisheries and aquaculture management and development;
- v) Safeguard the welfare of future generations, recognising gender equity and vulnerable groups, and protecting the country's sovereignty and jurisdiction; and
- iv) Promote good governance and strengthen cooperation, partnerships and networking at all levels of the government and with civil societies and communities, including between government and external partners and institutions.

## Strategic policy objectives

This sector policy is structured around eight strategic policy objectives (SPO), each of which is underpinned by more specific strategic actions and policy directives.

1. **Institutional setup and good governance:** Sustained resources and resourcing that strengthen the fisheries institution in promoting and ensuring good governance, capacity building, training and technical service delivery;
2. **Fisheries investment and increase economic growth:** A strong fisheries sector generating maximum economic growth, employment, and at the same time ensuring the sustainability of fish stocks, thereby securing food security and improving livelihoods of all communities;
3. **Food and nutrition security and the alleviation of non-communicable diseases:** A strong fisheries sector that increases the production of safe and healthy fish to feed the growing population, and thus providing a balanced diet and contributing to the alleviation of non-communicable diseases.
4. **Infrastructure support and product development:** Investment in onshore infrastructures that support value-adding and product development in order to increase exports, consistent with internationally acceptable standards and certifications as required by competent authorities and potential markets;
5. **Environment management, climate change and disaster risk reduction:** Investigate the impacts of development on the environment, and the impacts of climate change and disaster on fisheries resources and habitats, particularly identifying and implementing key priority areas on climate resilience and disaster risk reduction;
6. **Information and communication technology improvement:** An improved fisheries and aquaculture sector that is supported by the improved development of information technology and management, including electronic reporting and monitoring, done within the requirements of the national ICT policy;
7. **Fisheries compliance and IUU fishing prevention:** Zero-tolerance of IUU activities, which requires the effective implementation of the National Fleet Management Policy, and ensures all Vanuatu flag and licensed fishing vessels are fully monitored and compliant;
8. **Building partnerships and networking:** Strengthen current partnerships, collaboration and networking between the Fisheries Department and other government agencies, and encourage the establishment of new partnerships that better promote the principles of visibility, transparency, participatory and inclusivity.

## Strategic actions

The following strategic policy actions and directives address the key constraints and challenges faced by the fisheries sector as set out in earlier sections of this policy. The strategic actions and policy directives are laid out under the eight strategic policy objectives (SPOs).

### SPO 1: Institutional strengthening and good governance

**Sustained resources and resourcing that strengthen the fisheries institution in promoting and ensuring transparency, good governance, capacity building, training and technical service delivery.**

#### Strategic action 1: Strengthen institutions that administer and enforce fisheries sector policies and regulations that promote good governance

Policy directives

1. Review the organisational structure of the Fisheries Department
2. Assess and implement the separation of the Fisheries Department into a separate ministry or entity
3. Create field officer positions for rural areas to cover expanding fisheries roles
4. Create positions for ICT and communications officers
5. Increase budgetary support and increase the skills of staff for a more complex fisheries management environment
6. Encourage access to finance and soft loans to support private sector development
7. Develop a strategy to improve monitoring, control and surveillance of tunas and coastal fisheries
8. Enact, review and enforce the regulatory framework from time to time
9. Implement recommendations in the Institution Strengthening Project report by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA).

#### Strategic action 2: Train all workers in the fisheries sector

Policy directives

1. Develop a training plan to maintain the required skills for departmental operation
2. Develop a training syllabus and modules based on the needs of the fisheries sector
3. Seek capacity building opportunities for fisheries officers
4. Develop arrangements for work attachments and exchange programmes
5. Encourage formal training of officers at all qualifications and levels
6. Provide a budget for domestic training
7. Work with partners, donors and the fishing industry to support training and scholarships.

### **Strategic action 3: Inform and educate the public on relevant fisheries developments**

Policy directives

1. Prepare information security standards and procedures to promote information sharing and exchange
2. Promote use of electronic, visual and print media, radio programme workshops, seminars and public forums
3. Use and disseminate fisheries data (to be guided by binding rules)
4. Create position and recruit fisheries communications officer.

### **Strategic action 4: Maintain good fishing vessel reputation in the shipping registry**

Policy directives

1. Conduct due diligence on all new vessels entering and exiting the flag vessel registry
2. Ensure record of fishing vessels and reporting to shipping registry is up to date
3. Maintain clean record of IUU and related illegal and criminal activities during registering, flagging, chartering and licensing of fishing vessels
4. Maintain good cooperation with RFMOs
5. Ensure timely payment of annual RFMO dues and avoid accumulation of outstanding fees
6. Ensure that RFMO fee is cost recovered from fishing industry operators
7. Actively participate in annual RFMO meetings
8. Review appointments of Vanuatu's RFMO representations.

### **Strategic action 5: Strengthen participation of stakeholders**

Policy directives

1. Consult with stakeholders in important fisheries developments
2. Engage with formal and informal resource groups at the government and community level
3. Activate the role of the Fisheries Management Advisory Committee
4. Develop memoranda of understanding to govern critical interagency relationships
5. Consult with non-governmental organisations and the fishing industry on new management measures and developments.

### **Strategic action 6: Provide equal opportunity to all sectors of community**

Policy directives

1. Encourage fair participation of women in all positions in the Fisheries Department
2. Open training opportunities to all community groups, including vulnerable groups
3. Encourage participation of youth in training opportunities in fisheries, aquaculture and value-adding processes.



## **SPO 2: Fisheries investment and economic growth**

**A strong fisheries sector generating maximum economic growth, increase employment creation and livelihood development at the same time ensuring sustainability of fish stocks, healthy ecosystems and environmentally sound practices.**

### **Strategic action 7: Facilitate investment in the fisheries sector**

Policy directives

1. Create a conducive environment for investment in the fishing industry
2. Strengthen the role of the Vanuatu Investment Promotion Authority to facilitate investments
3. Develop a policy to support joint venture
4. Improve trade procedures for the fisheries sector
5. Improve institutional support for investment
6. Reduce barriers to investment and costs of doing business
7. Assist with the collaboration of all investment sectors
8. Continue to maintain the national stand to discourage harmful subsidies in the industrial fisheries sector.

### **Strategic action 8: Grow revenue base of fisheries sector through quota management or vessel day scheme**

Policy directives

1. Assess opportunities for implementing a vessel day scheme (VDS) or quota management system to add value to Vanuatu fish stock
2. Review licensing system to balance investment and revenue increase
3. Develop and implement new fee initiatives, including export taxes, environmental fees, product sales and service costs
4. Consult the industry on these new revenue initiatives
5. Establish regulations and mechanisms to implement new revenue initiatives
6. Improve fee payment system from international clients
7. Develop policy on revenue growth in the fisheries sector
8. Balance revenue growth, resource management and industry benefits.

### **Strategic action 9: Undertake research and development in wild fisheries**

Policy directives

1. Encourage exploratory fishing for tuna and squid in Vanuatu's exclusive economic zone
2. Encourage support for small-scale longline fisheries development (through the Sino-Van Fisheries Ltd) joint venture arrangement
3. Collaborate research on the potential for a deep-bottomfish fishery, reef and pelagic fishery and recreational fishing

4. Upgrading to medium-size fishing vessels that are suitable for ni-Vanuatu fishers.
5. Conduct biological research on the status of resources and invasive species
6. Collect accurate fishery data from subsistence and commercial fishing operators
7. Undertake 100% coverage in port sampling
8. Conduct socioeconomic surveys of the impact of coastal and industrial fishing activities
9. Establish research protocols for visiting scientists and institutions.

#### **Strategic action 10: Facilitate full establishment and operation of Sino-Van Fisheries Limited**

##### Policy directives

1. Gain government approval for the relocation and funding of the new Fisheries Department Office complex and mariculture station
2. Facilitate establishment of the new temporary fisheries wharf at Paray Bay
3. Facilitate completion of Sino-Van Fisheries Ltd<sup>1</sup> factory support warehouses
4. Work with the Vanuatu Investment Promotion Authority to facilitate preferential treatment to Sino-Van Fisheries Ltd and other fisheries investors
5. Establish full operation of the Sino-Van Fisheries Ltd.

#### **Strategic action 11: Strengthen coastal and nearshore fisheries development**

##### Policy directives

1. Deploy fish aggregating devices (FADs) in all provinces
2. Train all fishers in fishing skills and FAD management
3. Establish fishers associations to manage fishing infrastructure
4. Provide fishing gear and boat support to fishers associations on credit
5. Establish fish preservation facilities in strategic market locations across country
6. License all small fishing boat operators
7. Provide duty concessions to fishing boat operators
8. Maintain support and engagement with fishers associations
9. Cooperate with other line government departments to support coastal fisheries development.

#### **Strategic action 12: Undertake aquaculture research and development**

##### Policy directives

1. Conduct research in freshwater hatchery production
2. Develop system of seed supply at cost recovery to farmers
3. Conduct farm production trials from standard farms
4. Undertake research in feed development

<sup>1</sup> Sino-Van Fisheries Ltd is a joint venture company between the Vanuatu government and the China National Fisheries Corporation. The purpose of the joint venture company is for both parties to cooperate in the development of an onshore fishing industry and the processing of fish to support local economic development.

5. Conduct training and capacity building for fisheries officers and farmers
6. Develop aquaculture extension services
7. Improve breeding quality of aquaculture species
8. Introduce new aquaculture species.

### **Strategic action 13: Minimise adverse environmental impacts on fisheries development**

Policy directives

1. Undertake an environmental impact assessment (EIA) of major developments
2. Follow biosecurity protocols in aquaculture and the importation of new species
3. Monitor and mitigate negative impact of invasive species
4. Develop a policy on environmental fee collection from the tourism industry
5. Ensure that EIA activities undertaken by the Fisheries Department are cost recovered
6. Develop a guideline or standard practice for EIA work.

### **Strategic action 14: Create employment opportunities in the fishing industry**

Policy directives

1. Enact and implement the fishing boat crewing policy and regulations
2. Train existing and new fishermen to take up crew employment opportunities
3. Train fish handlers and processors to be ready for skilled labour export
4. Assist enactment of maritime legislation to facilitate crewing employment
5. Control operation of crew recruiting agent
6. Collaborate with industry operators on crew training and employment
7. Collaborate with the Department of Labour on employment matters.

## **SPO 3: Food and nutrition security and alleviation of non-communicable disease risk**

**Strong fisheries sector to increase fish production to ensure food and nutrition security needs and assist with the alleviation of non-communicable diseases.**

### **Strategic action 15: Increase production of seafood at the national level**

Policy directives

1. Increase availability of fish for domestic consumption
2. Establish marketing system in rural areas to support fish production
3. Establish fish markets in towns, provinces and villages
4. Encourage the landing of fish by industrial fishing fleets in domestic ports
5. Channel tunas and bycatch fish to the local market
6. Provide funding support to fishermen to increase fish production.

### Strategic action 16: Improve access to sufficient and safe seafood

Policy directives

1. Increase consumption of seafood and help reduce the risk of non-communicable diseases
2. Establish domestic seafood quality standards
3. Apply standards to all seafood markets
4. Train fishers and fish receivers on proper handling and processing methods
5. Inform consumers of the risk of eating certain reef fish species
6. Develop education and awareness materials on seafood poisoning
7. Improve value-adding of fish products
8. Encourage production of healthy and environmentally sound fish farming
9. Maintain standards for exports and imports of seafood
10. Collaborate with the Department of Industry on food safety standards.

### Strategic action 17: Sustain production of fish at the national level

Policy directives

1. Strengthen fishermen's association networking in the islands, provinces and at the national level
2. Provide supporting infrastructure, training and mentoring to fishers associations and fishermen's cooperative societies
3. Sustain fishing activities at all levels of operation from small-, medium- and large-scale fishing activities
4. Increase production of fish to meet the growing demand of Vanuatu's population
5. Sustain production of fish from capture and aquaculture
6. Minimise wastage of resources
7. Provide subsidy to licensed fishing boats.

## SPO 4: Infrastructure support and product development

**Invest in infrastructures that support fisheries development, including, wharves and port facilities, processing facilities, aquaculture facilities, Fisheries Department offices.**

### Strategic action 18: Establish centralised international fisheries port at Palekula

Policy directives

1. Conduct feasibility study for re-development of the former Palekula fishing base on Santo, involving an anchorage, slipway services and fish processing centre
2. Work with FFA to complete feasibility study of the Palekula site
3. Declare the area a special industrial zone to support fish processing industry
4. Establish and operate an international fisheries port under the framework of the Vanuatu Cooperative Federation

5. Establish temporary fisheries wharf in Port Vila to support the landing and processing of fish by Sino-Van Fisheries Ltd in the short term
6. Encourage partnerships with donor governments and investors for the establishment of an international fisheries port
7. Encourage foreign investment in a large-scale, onshore tuna processing factory
8. The Vanuatu Cooperative Federation will provide business management services to the international fisheries port investment
9. Work with the Vanuatu Investment Promotion Authority to attract foreign investors to invest in the international fisheries port.

### **Strategic action 19: Establish centralised fish markets in urban and provincial centres**

#### Policy directives

1. Establish centralised fish markets in urban areas and province centres
2. Repair and maintain existing fish market facilities in provincial centres
3. Set up fish market outlets in rural areas
4. Rural fish markets to aggregate produce for shipment to urban markets
5. License all markets and/or receivers of fish
6. Fish bycatch from the industrial fishing fleet will be marketed by the Port Vila fish market and the Luganville fish market.
7. Protect the interests of small-scale fishermen by controlling fish supply and prices
8. Ensure that the quality and price of fish is fair to consumers.

### **Strategic action 20: Establish central aquaculture hatchery facilities and provide standard farm construction support**

#### Policy directives

1. Establish freshwater hatcheries and holding facilities in the northern and southern regions to service fish farmers
2. Promote farming of tilapia and tiger prawn in demonstration farms to promote local ni-Vanuatu farmers
3. Secure funding to build a new mariculture station in Port Vila and a new freshwater aquaculture station on Santo
4. Facilitate construction of demonstration farms in provinces, based on new standards of small-, medium- and large-scale aquaculture farming
5. Identify suitable aquaculture lands
6. Trial a cyclone-proof design for floating farms
7. Seek funding for earth moving equipment
8. Assist farmers with construction, farming and marketing of produce.

### **Strategic action 21: Support the design and building of fishing boats**

#### Policy directives

1. Install new boat building machinery and equipment at the Fisheries Department boatyard

2. Increase production of locally designed fishing boats
3. Invest in building of medium size fishing vessels
4. Train boat builders via boatyard attachment trainings
5. Increase production of newly designed fishing gear and other marine items
6. Conduct training in boat maintenance for rural fishers
7. Amalgamate workshop and boatyard
8. Create engineering position and recruit
9. Collaborate with partners and investors on the improved design of small-scale fishing boats.

### **Strategic action 22: Improve Fisheries Department office infrastructure**

Policy directives

1. Seek government approval for the relocation of the Fisheries Department office and mariculture hatchery in Port Vila
2. Secure funding for new Fisheries Office building or rent office space in Port Vila
3. Relocate the main Vanuatu Fisheries Department Office in Port Vila to the new office
4. Maintain and build new provincial office buildings and staff houses in all provinces
5. Rent existing waterfront land in Port Vila to Sino-Van Fisheries Ltd for temporary fisheries wharf development
6. Existing wharf facility to become the domestic fisheries wharf in Port Vila
7. Keep accurate inventory of building assets of the Fisheries Department.

### **Strategic action 23: Secure budget for new vehicles, motorbikes, fishing boats and a multipurpose vessel to support rural fisheries work**

Policy directives

1. Seek budget support for new department vehicles to support fisheries work
2. Establish strict vehicle management measures, in line with Public Service Commission procedures
3. Secure funding to purchase motor bikes for rural areas to support fisheries work
4. Maintain Fisheries Department vehicles Vehicle maintenance to be serviced by workshop mechanic
5. Secure funding to purchase a Fisheries Department vessel to be used for conducting fisheries activities and to service fisheries centres in rural areas (e.g. for FAD deployment, surveys, and visits)
6. Create position of captain to manage vessel operation
7. Ensure that all fisheries centres have a small fishing boat to carry out fisheries work
8. Encourage new projects to provide budgetary support for the recruitment of project officers.

## **SPO 5: Environmental management, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction**

**Investigate the impacts of adverse environmental impacts caused by climate change and natural disasters on fisheries resources and habitats, focusing on climate resilience and disaster risk reduction.**

### **Strategic action 24: Undertake an environmental impact assessment and baseline study to assess climate change impacts**

Policy directives

1. Develop a policy on long-term monitoring of coral reef health, sea water temperature and resource status
2. Implement research studies to monitor coral bleaching, crown-of-thorns outbreak;
3. Develop standard operating procedure for responding to a climate change disaster such as fish kill, crown-of-thorns starfish outbreak
4. Work with research institutions to establish a long-term climate change monitoring programme
5. Assess the following: impact of coastal uplift caused by earthquakes, fish kill from increased sea surface temperatures, and tropical cyclone damage
6. Coordinate stakeholders to assess crown-of-thorn outbreak and damage
7. Conduct stock assessment to monitor fish stock behaviour, fishing patterns and catch composition as a measure of climate change
8. Establish data management and reporting procedures for climate change monitoring results
9. Collaborate with other partners in addressing marine environmental monitoring.

### **Strategic action 25: Implement mitigation and adaptation activities in readiness for disasters**

Policy directives

1. Establish marine protected areas as food reserves for use during natural disasters
2. Restrict and ban commercialisation of endangered reef resources
3. Minimise wastage of resources by establishing preservation facilities to store and preserve fish for use during disasters
4. Implement and enforce fisheries regulations at the community level
5. Train fishers on fish value-adding for use during disasters
6. Develop alternative livelihood activities for communities, including ecotourism, handcraft production and aquaculture
7. Establish an available stock of fishing gear and FAD materials for use during natural disasters
8. Take into account the expected impact of climate change on tuna stocks when estimating future national fisheries sector revenue
9. Develop mapping system to assess scale of climate change impacts on marine environment
10. Provide adequate training to fishers, and strengthen fishers associations and encourage the cooperation of all fishers.

### **Strategic action 26: Promote community-based management and climate change adaptation**

Policy directives

1. Develop guidelines and procedures for community-based fisheries management
2. Strengthen community-based management and climate change adaptation through community-based ecosystem plans
3. Preserve traditional resource management and fishing practices
4. Adapt co-management practices at the community level
5. Develop other livelihood opportunities
6. Work with provincial governments and communities to set aside marine areas for conservation and ecotourism development.

### **Strategic action 27: Work with communities to Identify and establish marine conservation areas and develop ecotourism ventures**

Policy directives

1. Identify suitable biologically significant marine ecosystems across Vanuatu
2. Conduct surveys to verify the status of various resources
3. Work with communities to set up ecotourism development activities
4. Map marine protected areas in the country
5. Work with the tourism office to promote marine areas as tourist attractions
6. Promote community, provincial and national government cooperation in managing conservation areas
7. Encourage provincial governments to participate in marine policing.

## **SPO 6: Information and communication technology improvement**

**An improved fisheries sector supported by improved information and communication technology and information management, including electronic reporting and electronic monitoring, which are implemented within the framework of the national ICT policy.**

### **Strategic action 28: Develop standard procedure for information security**

Policy directives

1. Prepare information security guidelines and procedures to guide the collection, production and dissemination of information
2. Protect fishery-sensitive information from leaking out to the public
3. Create positions for ICT officers in the Fisheries Department to manage information
4. Disseminate information through all forms of media to improve visibility, education and awareness and for other development uses.



### **Strategic action 29: Centralise Fisheries Department data management system**

Policy directives

1. Progress the centralised management of fisheries data
2. Link database to the fisheries information management system
3. Encourage the Pacific Community to standardise the Fisheries department databases (such as TUFMAN, TUF-ART and TAILS) to accommodate coastal fisheries data
4. Use a standardised data collection system and recording format
5. Promote the use of both paper and electronic data recording logs.

### **Strategic action 30: Improve website, electronic reporting and electronic monitoring**

Policy directives

1. Revamp the Fisheries Department website
2. Develop a website license application and issuance system
3. Implement electronic reporting and electronic monitoring and develop a national strategy for electronic reporting and electronic monitoring
4. Expand fisheries information management system to include all other fisheries and aquaculture areas
5. Replicate electronic reporting of coastal fisheries through registered fishing vessels
6. Adopt same reporting in aquaculture production farms.

### **Strategic action 31: Enhance vessel monitoring system operation**

Policy directives

1. Maintain use of state-of-the-art information technology to monitor fishing vessels operating inside Vanuatu waters
2. Maintain cooperation with Police Maritime Wing of the Police Force and FFA on surveillance and VMS operation
3. Continue to work with Collecte Localisation Satellites (CLS) to monitor flag vessels operating internationally
4. Request training support from CLS to improve national VMS operation
5. Assess options to enhance and integrate the two systems to improve effectiveness and cut costs to the government
6. Assess options to localise management of the national VMS operation
7. Strengthen engagement with Police Maritime Wing and FFA in surveillance operations
8. Formalise memorandum of understanding with the Police Maritime Wing.

### **Strategic action 32: Progress fisheries observer and port sampling to full cost recovery**

Policy directives

1. National fisheries observer and port sampling programme to become fully cost recovered
2. Equip all observers with safety gear and a uniform
3. Fully insure observers while they are at sea

4. Develop fully qualified debriefers to maintain quality control of observers
5. Transition into an electronic monitoring system
6. Extend the role of observers to cover coastal fisheries and aquaculture.

## **SPO 7: Fisheries compliance and IUU prevention**

**Advocate for zero-tolerance of IUU fishing activities, which requires the effective implementation of the national fleet management policy, and ensures all Vanuatu flag and licensed fishing vessels are fully monitored and compliant.**

### **Strategic action 33: Reduce and eliminate IUU fishing in the offshore fishery**

Policy directives

1. Prevent the entry of fishing vessels with a historical record of IUU into the Vanuatu International Shipping Registry
2. Enforce strict control of flag fishing vessels through compliance checks
3. Ensure that vessels leave the Vanuatu International Shipping Registry with a 'clean record'
4. Fully implement the National Plan of Action on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and the National Fleet Management Policy
5. Swiftly resolve any infringement by Vanuatu flag vessels
6. Fully enforce penalty notices on vessel operators and/or owners for breaches
7. Improve the condition of international authorization to fish licenses to require information on fishing licenses
8. Implement 24-hour monitoring of the VMS.

### **Strategic action 34: Limit RFMO membership to within the greater Pacific Ocean region**

Policy directives

1. Withdraw Vanuatu's membership to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, and encourage membership within the greater Pacific Ocean region
2. Enact policy and regulations on the chartering of Vanuatu flag vessels (chartering of Vanuatu flag fishing vessels is authorised for RFMO members for which Vanuatu is a party to)
3. RFMO annual membership contribution should be cost recovered from fishing industry operators
4. Industry operators must comply and pay their RFMO fees in a timely manner
5. Create trust account to manage RFMO fees.

### **Strategic action 35: Reduce and eliminate IUU fishing in coastal fisheries**

Policy directives

1. Register and license all small domestic fishing vessels
2. Enforce license conditions on all vessels to ensure compliance
3. Establish an applicable catch data recording system

4. Enforce license conditions on processing license holders
5. Strengthen compliance at ports and airport check points
6. Work with partners to improve community fisheries compliance
7. Assist fisheries authorised officers to collect accurate information
8. Ban the import and sale of destructive fishing gear
9. Confiscate illegal fishing gear.

### **Strategic action 36: Strengthen the management of the Vanuatu flag fishing fleet**

Policy directives

1. Discontinue the current Vanuatu flag fleet management contract with the private entity and do not allow any such contracts in the future
2. Fisheries Department to fully assume the role of managing the flag fishing fleet
3. Fisheries Department to maintain close cooperation with fishing industry operators
4. Provide efficient and reliable service to vessel operators.

### **Strategic action 37: Implement catch documentation scheme in all flag vessels**

Policy directives

1. Finalise and implement a national control plan with FFA
2. Conduct food safety and catch documentation scheme inspections on vessels
3. FFA to conduct independent monitoring and approval
4. Complete EU certification of the Seafood Verification Authority
5. Issue catch certificates to flag vessels to enable access to the EU and other markets
6. Participate in trade negotiations.

### **Strategic action 38: Strengthen fisheries law enforcement and prosecution**

Policy directives

1. Establish cooperation with the Public Prosecution Office through a memorandum of understanding
2. Encourage attachment training of Fisheries Compliance Officer in the prosecution of fisheries cases
3. Increase the number of community fisheries authorised officers
4. Collaborate with the Police Force to train community fisheries authorised officers
5. Improve administrative penalty regulations and enforcement
6. Strengthen inspection procedures at market outlets, restaurants and shops
7. Undertake investigation and prosecution training of fisheries authorised officers
8. Strengthen enforcement on the importation, sale and use of destructive fishing gear.

## SPO 8: Building partnerships and networking

**Strengthen current partnership, collaboration and networking between the Fisheries Department and other line agencies and industry, and encourage the establishment of new ones that better promote the principles of visibility, transparency, participatory and inclusivity.**

### **Strategic action 39: Formalise collaboration with line government departments and stakeholders through MOUs and MOAs**

Policy directives

1. Formalise collaborations through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Police Maritime Wing, Air Vanuatu, Public Prosecutions Office, Cooperative Department, Industry Department, Environment Department, Vanuatu Agricultural Research and Training Centre, Vanuatu Maritime College
2. Formalise MOUs with other line-government departments and entities, communities and civil society groups where necessary
3. Assess, through the State Law Office, MOUs and memoranda of agreement (MOA) where necessary for consistency and legal issues
4. Encourage joint implementation and cost sharing opportunities where necessary.

### **Strategic action 40: Formalise collaboration with intergovernmental partners and governments through agreements and MOUs**

Policy directives

1. Review and approve Joint Country Strategy and Service Level Agreement with SPC and FFA and other regional intergovernmental organisations
2. Ensure these agreements are in line with this national fisheries sector policy
3. Focus technical assistance on priorities identified in the agreements
4. Request technical assistance to be channelled through the official protocol
5. Finalise transboundary cooperation with Fiji and Solomon Islands.

### **Strategic action 41: Partnership with other external partners**

Policy directives

1. Encourage other external partners to enter into an MOA for the services they intend to provide
2. Focus of new projects to be on responding to national priorities identified in this sectoral policy
3. Encourage partnerships and cooperation that enhance and advance priority works on fisheries
4. Include in the agreement delivery of research information to the Fisheries Department on completion of projects
5. Encourage new projects to support the funding of new positions within the existing structure.

# Policy implementation process

## Steps in the process

In order for this policy to achieve its objectives, other factors will need to be addressed as outlined in the following steps.

**Step 1:** The implementation strategy of this sector policy (see Annex 1) outlines the policy's broad objectives, strategic actions and specific directives that relate directly to each priority action area, main aims, indicators and implementing partners.

**Step 2:** Relocation of the Fisheries Department Office and mariculture hatchery in Port Vila, and investment in a new office and mariculture buildings will support the effective implementation of this policy.

**Step 3:** Restructuring the Fisheries Department is necessary to better align with programmes, strengthen corporate services, and create vital new positions to ensure efficient administration and function of the organisation and associated budgetary support to allow this policy to be fully and effectively implemented.

**Step 4:** The policy implementation process will be regularly monitored by forums such as the National Development Technical Committee, and revision of the policy will be done as needed to make the policy relevant and effective.

**Step 5:** Fishers associations in all provinces must be established and strengthened under the National Fishermen's Association, and regular trainings and consultations are critical to support implementation of this policy.

**Step 6:** Collaboration with the fishing industry will be maintained, and consultations with stakeholders will be undertaken during the course of implementing this policy.

**Step 7:** A midterm review of this policy should be completed by 2023 to track progress of implementation, identify gaps and challenges, and provide recommendations. The results of the review can be used to advise on new development areas of interest to development partners.

**Step 8:** Final evaluation will be commissioned at the end of the policy period in 2031.

## Monitoring and evaluation

Effective implementation of this policy hinges on an effective monitoring and evaluation strategy with appropriate performance indicators and an efficient feedback mechanism. This entails carrying out information gathering at national, subnational, community, and sectoral levels.

The monitoring and evaluation framework will focus on measuring the outputs of each strategic action and will provide the information needed to continually determine, assess and recommend the way forward toward the successful implementation of this policy in achieving its long-term vision.

## Annex 1: Implementation framework for the National Fisheries Sector Policy

### Strategic objective 1: Institutional strengthening and good governance

Sustained resources and resourcing that strengthen the fisheries institution in promoting and ensuring good governance, capacity building, training and technical service delivery

Strategic policy actions	Target	Propose activities/directives	Indicators	Partners
<b>1: Strengthen institutional and administer and enforce the fisheries sector policy and regulations that promote good governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the organisational structure by 2017 and implementation by 2018;</li> <li>MCS Strategy for Coastal Fisheries by 2017;</li> <li>Crewing policy and regulations completed by 2017;</li> <li>Guidelines on access to finance and soft loans by 2018.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the organisational structure, create new positions;</li> <li>Increase budgetary support, up-skill staff;</li> <li>Facilitate access to finance and soft loans;</li> <li>Improve MCS;</li> <li>Enact, review and enforce regulatory framework;</li> <li>Implement recommendations of the ISP report.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New VFD organisational structure completed and implemented;</li> <li>MCS Strategy on Coastal Fisheries approved for implementation;</li> <li>Crewing policy and legislation approved for implementation.</li> </ul>	VFD, other government line ministries and departments, RFMOs, SPC, FFA, donor agencies, and NGOs
<b>2: Train all workers in the fisheries sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2018, VFD human resource plan is developed and approved;</li> <li>At least 1-2 national trainings completed every year, 2017-2026;</li> <li>At least 1 national training for fishermen and rural communities completed every year;</li> <li>At least 2-3 scholarships for undergraduate and post-graduate studies in fisheries and aquaculture as of 2018;</li> <li>Crew training commence by 2017;</li> <li>School curriculum development completed by 2017.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop training plan, training syllabus and modules, capacity building opportunities, work attachments and exchange programmes, and formal training of officers;</li> <li>Allocate budget for training;</li> <li>Work with partners and donor to support training;</li> <li>Consultation on school curriculum and finalisation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human resource development and training policy is in place and implemented;</li> <li>National trainings for observers, Vanuatu have debriefers, training budget allocation fishermen trainings conducted annually;</li> <li>1-2 scholarships each year on fisheries and aquaculture (masters and PhDs on stock assessment, modelling);</li> <li>School curriculum completed and used in syllabus by 2018.</li> </ul>	VFD, VMC, government line ministries and departments, fishing industry, fishers associations, donor partners, SPC, FFA, training institutions

<p><b>3: Inform and educate the public on relevant fisheries developments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the information dissemination procedure by 2018;</li> <li>• Information officer recruited;</li> <li>• Effective medial communications for news articles for radio, TV and newspapers at least 4–6 times a year;</li> <li>• Promote fisheries information and dissemination during public forums, seminars and workshops – annual activity;</li> <li>• Organise documentary films;</li> <li>• Develop school curriculum materials.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information security standard approved and implemented;</li> <li>• Communications officer recruited;</li> <li>• News articles for radio, TV, schools and newspapers continuously disseminated;</li> <li>• School curriculum material completed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procedure on information security in place;</li> <li>• 50% of all forums and schools covered in the first 5 years of the policy;</li> <li>• 90–100% completed with fisheries information public domain only well disseminated in the country;</li> <li>• School curriculum used to develop syllabus.</li> </ul>	<p>VFD, SLO,FFA, SPC, Law Commission, NGOs</p>
<p><b>4: Maintain good reputation for fishing vessels in the Shipping Registry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare for the review, completed by late 2017;</li> <li>• Consultancy is targeted to be completed in 2018;</li> <li>• Reform of Vanuatu open flag registry expected to be completed by 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct due diligence on all vessels entering and exiting VISR;</li> <li>• Update record of fishing vessels;</li> <li>• Vessels assessed before;</li> <li>• Maintain clean record of IUU and related criminal activities by registering, flagging, chartering and licensing fishing vessels;</li> <li>• Maintain good cooperation with RFMO;</li> <li>• Timely payment of annual RFMO dues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultancy report approved and recommendations implemented appropriately;</li> <li>• IUU records by flag vessels reduced by 60–80% in the first 5 years, and 100% by 2026;</li> <li>• Vessel registry reformed with functions consistent with best practice.</li> </ul>	<p>VFD,RFMO, VISR, fishing industry, government line ministries and departments, other stakeholders</p>
<p><b>5: Strengthen participation of stakeholders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 2020 relevant memoranda of understanding signed between the VFD and relevant agencies and communities in support of resource management;</li> <li>• By 2026 at least each province has a working TAG for fisheries in place, with improved visibility and fair participation in resource management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult with stakeholders in important fisheries developments;</li> <li>• Engage with formal and informal resource groups at government and community level;</li> <li>• Activate the role of the Management Advisory Committee;</li> <li>• Develop MOUs to govern critical inter-agency relationships.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active FMAC, provinces will have an active TAG for effective management of fisheries;</li> <li>• Composition of FMACs will at least have a female and other non-fisheries stakeholder.</li> </ul>	<p>VFD, line government ministries and departments, provincial government, NGOs, fishers associations fishing industry</p>
<p><b>6: Provide equal opportunity to all sectors of community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 2020, gender equity and fair representation of stakeholders in VFD;</li> <li>• By 2020, small-scale fisheries operations involving women and youth participation are supported (e.g. coastal invertebrate fisheries);</li> <li>• Use fishers associations and include female members.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase female staff in VFD;</li> <li>• Encourage all groups of community to participate in training;</li> <li>• Encourage participation of youth in all training.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 1–2 women in all provinces fishers associations;</li> <li>• At least 20–30% of women and youth participating in training;</li> <li>• At least 10 or more MOUs established between VFD and communities on small-scale fisheries operations.</li> </ul>	<p>VFD, government line ministries and departments, provincial governments, NGOs, fishers associations, civil society</p>

\* The definitions of all abbreviations used in Annex 1 are found in the list of abbreviations at the beginning of this policy.

## Strategic objective 2: Fisheries investment and economic growth

A strong fisheries sector generating maximum economic growth, increase employment, food security and livelihood development at the same time ensuring sustainability of fish stocks, healthy ecosystem and environmentally sound practices

Strategic actions	Outcome	Specific actions/activities	Indicators	Partners
<b>7. Facilitate investment in the fisheries sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special industrial zone development process completed by 2020;</li> <li>• Investment process simplified;</li> <li>• VIPA active to work closure with government departments;</li> <li>• Adjust license fees for foreign fishing vessels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create conducive environment for investment;</li> <li>• Strengthen role of VIPA;</li> <li>• Develop policy on joint ventures;</li> <li>• Improve trade procedures on fisheries;</li> <li>• Improve institutional support for investment;</li> <li>• Reduce barrier to investment and cost of doing business.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sino-Van Fisheries investment fully established and operational;</li> <li>• Special industrial zone identified and legislation completed;</li> <li>• Processing industry established.</li> </ul>	VFD, MALFFB, VIPA, other government departments and ministries, fishing industry operators
<b>8. Grow revenue base of fisheries sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop revenue policy of Fisheries Department by 2017;</li> <li>• New initiatives identified and regulatory measures established by 2017;</li> <li>• Payment system improved for domestic and foreign transaction by 2017;</li> <li>• Commence development compliance monitoring scheme and or VDS for longline fishery by 2017;</li> <li>• Improve invoicing system by 2017;</li> <li>• Strengthen product development and sale as of 2016.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop new revenue initiatives;</li> <li>• Consult the industry;</li> <li>• Establish regulatory measures</li> <li>• Improve payment system;</li> <li>• Develop policy on revenue options;</li> <li>• Balance revenue growth, resource management and industry benefits.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenue policy of VFD completed;</li> <li>• Increase revenue to 500 million vatu target by 2019;</li> <li>• Payment system improved;</li> <li>• No revenue outstanding;</li> <li>• Implement improved invoices.</li> </ul>	VFD, MALFFB, Finance Dept, other government departments and ministries, fishing industry operators
<b>9. Undertake research and development in wild fisheries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 2020, over 60% of the relevant biological and socioeconomic research and fishing trials completed and reports also completed;</li> <li>• Results will be used for formulating or revising resource plans at least by 2026;</li> <li>• Exploratory fishing to determine full potential of new fisheries completed by 2020;</li> <li>• Research into development of recreational fishing in the provinces.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trials on capture fisheries and recreational fishing;</li> <li>• Explore fishing on small long line fishing boat;</li> <li>• Conduct biological research on reef resources and invasive species;</li> <li>• Collect accurate fishery data;</li> <li>• 100% coverage in port sampling;</li> <li>• Conduct socioeconomic surveys;</li> <li>• Establish research protocols for visiting scientists.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of research, surveys and fishing trials completed over time;</li> <li>• Reports and publications from results of surveys and trials;</li> <li>• An increasing number of standard farms established in the provinces;</li> <li>• Reseeding of degraded ecosystems such coral reefs, nursery areas including mangroves and other wetlands.</li> </ul>	VFD, fishing industry donor partners, FFA, SPC



<p><b>10: Facilitate full establishment and operation of Sino-Van Fisheries Limited</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sino-Van company fully operational by 2017;</li> <li>• By 2018, two onshore processing facilities in full operation and production, and 70 fishing vessels based locally;</li> <li>• Bycatch landed from fishing boat that are fit for human consumption distributed to urban and rural areas;</li> <li>• By 2026 food security and improved livelihoods ensured.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VFD office and hatchery relocation and funding approval process;</li> <li>• Construction of temporary wharf at VFD location;</li> <li>• Construction of factory support warehouses at Sino-Van factory;</li> <li>• Awareness on fishing industry.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New fisheries wharf completed;</li> <li>• Two onshore processing facilities operating to full production;</li> <li>• 70-cap licenses that maximise economic benefits;</li> <li>• Increase exports of frozen and fresh fish directly from onshore facilities.</li> </ul> <p>VFD, Sino-Van Ltd, government line ministries and departments</p>
<p><b>11: Strengthen coastal and nearshore fisheries development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAD development and management plan developed by 2017;</li> <li>• Fishers associations established in all provinces by 2018;</li> <li>• Graduation of associations to cooperatives by 2018;</li> <li>• All coastal communities have access to fishing options by 2020;</li> <li>• expanded to all islands by 2020;</li> <li>• All associations' members trained by 2020;</li> <li>• VFD to acquire multi-purpose vessel to support fishers associations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install FADs in all provinces;</li> <li>• Train all fishers in fishing skills;</li> <li>• Establish fishers associations;</li> <li>• Provide fishing gear and boat support to associations on credit;</li> <li>• Establish fish preservation support in strategic market locations across country;</li> <li>• License all fishing boat operators;</li> <li>• Provide duty concessions to license operators;</li> <li>• Maintain engagement with fishers associations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAD deployed in all islands;</li> <li>• Fishers Association established in all provinces and islands;</li> <li>• Management plans completed for all associations;</li> <li>• Quality and quantity of fish production increased.</li> </ul> <p>VFD, fishers associations, Provincial Government, Cooperatives Dept, Industry Dept, communities, donors, NGOs, SPC</p>
<p><b>12: Undertake aquaculture research and development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aquaculture research and trials completed and applied by 2020; Finalise aquaculture plan, which should be adopted and implemented by 2018;</li> <li>• Achieve 200 small aquaculture farms full operational by 2020;</li> <li>• By 2026, aquaculture produce fully satisfying local food security requirements and modest exports;</li> <li>• Secure funding to develop new mariculture station by 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop new aquaculture and mariculture station;</li> <li>• Try freshwater hatchery production;</li> <li>• Seed supply cost recovered;</li> <li>• Conduct farm production trials and test standard farms;</li> <li>• Feed research;</li> <li>• Train and build capacity of officers and farmers;</li> <li>• Develop aquaculture extension services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aquacultures fish and prawn readily available at Port Vila and Santo markets;</li> <li>• Demonstration farms in all potential islands;</li> <li>• Quality fish production achieved.</li> </ul> <p>VFD, fishers associations, Provincial Government Cooperatives Dept, Industry Dept, community, donors, NGOs, SPC</p>

## Strategic objective 2: Fisheries investment and economic growth (cont'd)

Strategic actions	Outcome	Specific actions/activities	Indicators	Partners
<b>13: Minimise adverse environmental impacts from development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EIA completed on all major developments;</li> <li>Enforce seafood regulations on all export facilities by 2017;</li> <li>Charge vessels discharging polluted waste to sea;</li> <li>Increase awareness on fish processing factories.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake environment impact assessment on major developments;</li> <li>Follow biosecurity protocols in aquaculture and importation of new species;</li> <li>Monitor and mitigate negative impact of invasive species;</li> <li>Develop policy on environmental fee collection from tourism industry;</li> <li>EIA activities undertaken by Fisheries Department are cost recovered.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compliance with waste management controlled;</li> <li>No incidence of uncontrolled water production;</li> <li>Public concern adequately dealt with.</li> </ul>	VFD, Environment Dept, fishers associations, provincial government industry operators, communities
<b>14: Create employment opportunity in fishing industry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crew policy and regulation approved and implemented by 2017;</li> <li>Recruitment of qualified crews by 2017;</li> <li>Develop training syllabus by 2017;</li> <li>Licensing of crew agents by 2017;</li> <li>Certified fish handlers as of 2018 and exporting of fishing industry workers by 2020;</li> <li>Raise crew employment above 300 by 2018;</li> <li>Employment opportunities increased by over 50% in 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enact policy and regulation on fishing boat crewing;</li> <li>Train existing and new fishermen to take up crew employment opportunity;</li> <li>Train fish handlers and processors in skilled labour requirements for exports;</li> <li>Implement policy and regulation on crewing;</li> <li>Assist enactment of maritime legislations to facilitate crewing employment;</li> <li>Control operation of crew recruiting agent;</li> <li>Collaborate with industry operators on crew training and employment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exporting of qualified fishing boat crew;</li> <li>Exporting of qualified fish handlers;</li> <li>Increase number of crew in domestic and international fishing industry.</li> </ul>	VFD, MALFFB, VMC, Ports and Harbour, Labour Dept, MIPU, RFMOs and fishing industry operators, Fishing and Crewing Agent, FFA and SPC, donors

## Strategic objective 3: Increase food and nutrition security and alleviation of NCD risk

A strong fisheries sector to increase fish production to ensuring food and nutrition security needs and assist to alleviate the risk of non-communicable diseases

Priority actions	Target	Propose activities	Indicators	Partners
<b>15: Increase production of seafood at the national level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2020, all islands have 3–5 anchored FADS deployed;</li> <li>Fishers supported with fishing gear; Fish preservation system operating and fishing operations;</li> <li>By 2020, all provinces will have rural fisheries markets and rural fishing gear shops established;</li> <li>Central fish market completed in 2017 in Port Vila, 2018 in Santo;</li> <li>By 2026, alternative duty exemptions or subsidy by VFD completely supporting local fisherman;</li> <li>By 2020, fishers and fishers associations are operating commercially as fisheries cooperatives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase availability of fish for domestic consumption;</li> <li>Establish marketing system to rural areas to support fish production;</li> <li>Establish fish markets in towns, provinces and villages;</li> <li>Encourage landing of fish by industrial fishing fleet in domestic ports;</li> <li>Channel tuna and bycatch fish to the local market;</li> <li>Provide funding support to fishermen to increase fish production.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress reports on livelihood programmes;</li> <li>Assessment and technical reports;</li> <li>Price of fish affordable in Port Vila and Santo markets;</li> <li>Central fish markets in Port Vila and Santo established;</li> <li>Rural fisheries markets and rural fishing gear shops established in all provinces;</li> <li>Local fish availability is increased in Port Vila and Santo markets;</li> <li>Importation of fish is reduced.</li> </ul>	VFD, Provincial governments, fishers associations, Industry Dept, Cooperative Dept, Fishing Industries, SPC, FFA, UNDP, JICA, ACIAR, NGOs, communities and civil societies
<b>16: Improve access to sufficient and adequately safe seafood</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standards for seafood for local markets established and enforced by 2017;</li> <li>New markets in 2016 are built based on standards;</li> <li>Training on seafood standards development;</li> <li>Seafood preparation and safety awareness conducted;</li> <li>Implement seafood regulations by 2017.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish domestic seafood quality standards;</li> <li>Apply standards to seafood markets;</li> <li>Train fishers and fish receivers on proper handling and processing methods;</li> <li>Inform consumers of risk of eating certain reef fish species;</li> <li>Demonstrate safe handling and preparation of seafood;</li> <li>Improve value-adding of fish;</li> <li>Enhance sustainability of seafood supply at national level;</li> <li>Develop value-adding of fish products.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fish markets in Port Vila opened, and development of fish market in Santo commenced;</li> <li>More seafood available at markets;</li> <li>Transport of seafood to urban market improved by 2017;</li> <li>Affordable price of fish in Port Vila and Santo markets;</li> <li>Local fish available in hotels and restaurants.</li> </ul>	VFD, provincial governments fishers associations, Industry Dept, Cooperative Dept, fishing industries, SPC, FFA, UNDP, JICA, ACIAR other donor partners, and civil society
<b>17: Sustain production of fish at national level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable FAD program established;</li> <li>Associations strengthened;</li> <li>Association activities are cost recovery;</li> <li>Support provided to industrial fishing industry to increase landing of fish to domestic market.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Production of fish is sustainable to meet growing demand;</li> <li>Sustain fishing activities at all levels;</li> <li>Sustain production of farmed fish;</li> <li>Promote good aquaculture practices;</li> <li>Minimise wastage of resources;</li> <li>Practice value-adding of fish to improve value.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue fishing activities;</li> <li>Move to larger fishing vessels;</li> <li>Fish quality and value-adding improved;</li> <li>Fishers' activities profitable.</li> </ul>	VFD, provincial governments, fishers associations, Industry Dept, Cooperative Dept, fishing industries, SPC, FFA, UNDP, JICA, ACIAR, other donor partners, NGOs, communities and civil society

## Strategic objective 4: Infrastructure support and product development

Invest in infrastructures that support onshore development of the fishing industry including special industrial zones, wharfs, factories, slipways, boats and markets

Priority actions	Target	Propose activities	Indicators	Partners
<b>18: Establish International Fisheries Port</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major investment in the International Fisheries Port approved by government by 2017;</li> <li>Negotiate with investors for this long-term development;</li> <li>For short-term temporary fisheries wharf completed by 2017;</li> <li>Onshore processing facilities fully operational by 2028;</li> <li>Value-adding and product development completed by 2026.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish temporary fisheries wharf to support landing and processing of fish for export;</li> <li>Assist to establish an international Fisheries Port to service fishing industry;</li> <li>Encourage investment in large scale onshore tuna processing factory;</li> <li>Assist creation of special industrial zones to accommodate fish processing industry;</li> <li>Identify site and enact special industrial zone.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fisheries wharf completed and in operation;</li> <li>China National Fisheries Corporation onshore processing facilities completed and full operation;</li> <li>Small-scale fisheries operations in provinces;</li> <li>Value-adding and product development tested and commercially used;</li> <li>Fish products exported by air and sea.</li> </ul>	<p>VFD, provincial governments, fishers associations, Industry Dept, Cooperative Dept, VIPA, VCF, fishing industries, FFA, other donor partners</p>
<b>19: Establish centralised fish markets in urban and province centres</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competent Authority fully established, well-resourced and supported;</li> <li>Port Vila market established in 2017; potential markets secured by 2017;</li> <li>Enforce standard on construction and operation;</li> <li>Develop and each standard procedures for these markets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish central fish markets in urban areas;</li> <li>Repair fish market facility in provincial centres;</li> <li>Set up fish market outlets in rural areas;</li> <li>Encourage markets to link directly to markets in urban areas;</li> <li>Licensing of all markets and or fish receivers;</li> <li>Marketing of fish bycatch from industrial fishing fleet;</li> <li>Protect interest of small-scale fishermen;</li> <li>Quality and price of fish is fair to consumers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of routine inspections with successful income increasing;</li> <li>Number of export consignments increasing every year;</li> <li>Revenues and volume of Vanuatu fish exports increasing every year;</li> <li>Employment improved by over 50% in the processing and fishing subsectors;</li> <li>GDP fisheries contributions increased.</li> </ul>	<p>VFD, municipal and VCF, Cooperative Dept, Industry Dept, fishing industry, fishers associations, provincial government councils, NGOs, FFA, SPC, JICA and other partners</p>
<b>20: Establish aquaculture hatchery and farm construction support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstration of standard farms and ponds constructed for all provinces and in operation by 2020;</li> <li>Regular training on construction of standard farms and ponds, at least 2-4 sessions a year;</li> <li>Encourage investments in these initiatives with a target of using climate change funds to support these activities for purposes of food security and impact of climate change on reef systems;</li> <li>New breeding stock secured and collaboration agreements with partners finalised;</li> <li>Environment and biosecurity requirements fully operational in 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish freshwater hatcheries in the south and north to service farmers;</li> <li>Construct demo farms based on developed standards;</li> <li>Secure funding;</li> <li>Build mariculture stations in Port Vila and Santo;</li> <li>Target farming of high priority species for demo farms;</li> <li>Identify suitable aquaculture land available by islands;</li> <li>Trial cyclone proof design for floating farms;</li> <li>Seek funding support for earth moving equipment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least over 10 standard and commercial farms and ponds constructed in each province;</li> <li>Increasing number of households or local communities engaged in this initiative;</li> <li>Increasing collaboration with VFD to support the construction and operation of standard farms or ponds.</li> </ul>	<p>VFD, MALFFB, provinces, Biosecurity Vanuatu (formerly Quarantine Department), aquaculture farmers, civil society, FFA, SPC and donor partners</p>

<p><b>21: Strengthen Fisheries Department boatyard and production of small and medium size fishing boat</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install new boat building machineries by 2017;</li> <li>• Mass production of plywood Hartley fishing boats by 2017 and onwards;</li> <li>• Mass production of associated fishing gear;</li> <li>• Adopt new promotion system, including pricing system;</li> <li>• Open gear shop in Port Vila;</li> <li>• Production of first medium-scale fishing boat by 2020;</li> <li>• Repair and sell existing boats;</li> <li>• Amalgamation of boatyard and workshop and recruitment of mechanic in 2017;</li> <li>• Introduce new fishermen credit system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install new machines and equipment at Fisheries Dept boatyard;</li> <li>• Increase production of locally designed fishing boats;</li> <li>• Invest in building of medium-size fishing vessels;</li> <li>• Training of boat builders via boatyard attachment trainings;</li> <li>• Increase production of fishing gear and other marine items;</li> <li>• Conduct training in boat maintenance for rural fishers;</li> <li>• Amalgamate workshop and boatyard;</li> <li>• Create mechanic position and recruit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locally build boat spread to the provinces region;</li> <li>• Price of locally build boat lower than imported boats;</li> <li>• Fishing gear readily available and at affordable price;</li> <li>• Fisheries sale shop open in Port Vila by 2020.</li> </ul> <p>VFD, MALFFB, provincial councils, Forestry Dept, Industry Dept, fishers associations, FFA, SPC and donor partners</p>
<p><b>22: Relocate Fisheries Department office infrastructure and movable asset support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of new Fisheries Office complex completed by 2018;</li> <li>• Construction of new mariculture hatchery relocated and completed by 2018;</li> <li>• Renovation and building of new offices in all provinces completed by 2020;</li> <li>• Secure VFD vehicles support for Luganville, Port Vila, Tanna, and motorbikes for other islands.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve and build new office buildings and staff houses in all provinces;</li> <li>• Secure funding to build a new Fisheries Office building in Port Vila;</li> <li>• Develop existing waterfront land in Port Vila into domestic fisheries wharf;</li> <li>• Seek budget support for new department vehicles to support fisheries work;</li> <li>• Fisheries Department multi-purpose vessel is built;</li> <li>• Small fishing support boats are made available in all fisheries centres;</li> <li>• Encourage project to provide budgetary support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VFD office and mariculture station relocated;</li> <li>• New office and staff houses completed and renovated in all provinces.</li> </ul> <p>VFD, MALFFB, MIPLU, PSC, PWD, Internal Affairs, provincial councils, communities</p>

## Priority objective 5: Environmental management, climate change and disaster risk reduction

Investigate the impacts of environmental and climate change on fisheries resources and habitats – focus on climate resilience and disaster risk reduction

Strategic actions	Target outcome	Propose activities	Indicators	Partners
<p><b>23: Undertake baseline assessments marine environment for long term climate change monitoring</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement all the relevant studies on the impact of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture and completed by 2020;</li> <li>Develop and endorse coral reef monitoring plan by 2018;</li> <li>Implement plan by 2020 and in 2026;</li> <li>Implement specific fishery plans;</li> <li>Use results of research to identify and address climate change impacts and disaster risk reduction in fisheries and aquaculture resource plans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop policy on coral reef monitoring and climate change;</li> <li>Implement research studies on the monitoring of the impact of climate change on coral reef health;</li> <li>Set up long-term monitoring of sea surface temperature in locations along Vanuatu island chain;</li> <li>Assess impact of earthquakes, cyclone, elevated temperatures on coral reef habitat and resources and fishing behaviour;</li> <li>Assess and document scale of damage of reef by crown-of-thorns (COTS) outbreaks;</li> <li>Establish data management and database support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coral reef monitoring plan completed;</li> <li>Permanent loggers installed and monitored;</li> <li>Bleaching monitoring done when occurred and reported;</li> <li>COTS clean-up campaign established;</li> <li>Number of reports and publications produced each year.</li> </ul>	<p>VFD, SPC, SPREP, Climate Change Office, tour operators, Environment Dept, NGOs, donor partners, communities and other partners</p>
<p><b>24: Implementation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction activities in readiness for natural disasters</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural fisheries development oriented to disaster preparedness.</li> <li>Expand aquaculture farming as a source of fish during disasters by 2020;</li> <li>Divert effort to outer reef fishing to preserve reef resources;</li> <li>Food preservation and value-adding as adaptation activity;</li> <li>Strengthen marine protected area;</li> <li>Fisheries management and conservation work supported by all communities;</li> <li>Fisheries revenue forecasted to adapt to changing weather patterns and movement of fish stock.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preserve certain reef resources for use during natural disasters.</li> <li>Set aside marine protected areas as food reserve during natural disasters;</li> <li>Establish facility to store and preserve fish during disasters;</li> <li>Implement and enforce fisheries regulations at community level;</li> <li>Train fishers to preserve fish for use during disaster;</li> <li>Discourage wastage of fish;</li> <li>Develop alternative livelihood activities for communities including eco-tourism, handicraft and aquaculture;</li> <li>Adapt economic development to the impact of weather pattern on tuna stocks;</li> <li>Develop mapping system to assess scale of impacts on marine environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full implementation of national fisheries management plans. Enforcement of fisheries regulations in all communities;</li> <li>Active community alert on COTS outbreaks;</li> <li>Network on COTS outbreaks active;</li> <li>Percentage of coral bleaching in Vanuatu is assessed;</li> <li>Progress of recovery is assessed;</li> <li>Indicators of climate change in fisheries and aquaculture identified and used.</li> </ul>	<p>VFD, SPC, SPREP, Climate Change Office, tourism operators, Environment Dept, NGOs, donor partners, communities and other partners</p>
<p><b>25: Strengthen community-based management through cooperative approach</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and finalise policy on community-based management to standardise format and unit of community-based management;</li> <li>Incorporate traditional and cultural values in community fisheries plans;</li> <li>Encourage voluntary compliance of fisheries regulation by communities;</li> <li>Encourage cooperative management of fisheries in community own areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen community based-management and climate change adaptation;</li> <li>Preserve traditional resource management and fishing practices;</li> <li>Adapt co-management practices at community level;</li> <li>Develop and implement community plans;</li> <li>Adopt ecosystem approach in community based management;</li> <li>Develop other livelihood opportunities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of community fisheries plans completed and implemented;</li> <li>Training of community workers;</li> <li>Appointment of community fisheries authorised officers.</li> </ul>	<p>VFD, SPC, SPREP, Climate Change Office, tourism operators, Environment Dept, NGOs, donor partners, communities and other partners</p>

## Priority objective 6: Information and communication technology (ICT) improvement

An improved fisheries sector supported by improved information and communication technology and information management

Strategic actions	Target	Propose activities	Indicators	Partners
<b>26: Develop standards for information security and website</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security procedures for information collection, processing and dissemination adopted by 2017;</li> <li>• Databases completed by 2028;</li> <li>• Information Officer position established at VFD by 2017;</li> <li>• VFD website improved and all components linked by 2017.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare information security guidelines and procedures to guide the collection, processing and dissemination of information;</li> <li>• Prevent fishery sensitive information leaking out to the public;</li> <li>• Create positions for ICT officer in the Department of Fisheries.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information security procedures completed;</li> <li>• Information dissemination follow established standards process;</li> <li>• Centralised database system completed.</li> </ul>	VFD, MALFFB, SPC, OGCIO, donor partners, other partners
<b>27: Centralised VFD data management and link to fisheries information management system;</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete development of a centralised database systems that link to other data;</li> <li>• Management Unit enhanced;</li> <li>• Digital recording system fully functional;</li> <li>• Other fisheries data linked to VUFIMS;</li> <li>• SPC and FFA database services serve the need of VFD;</li> <li>• Fisheries data are visible in national statistic reports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress the centralised management of fisheries data;</li> <li>• Link database to the fisheries information management system;</li> <li>• Integrate with regional systems of SPC, FFA, and other RFMOs to in a 'one stop shop' manner for ease of access;</li> <li>• Use standardised data collection and recording format;</li> <li>• Promote use of both paper and electronic data recording logs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fisheries Department Data Management Unit is in full control of all database matters and fisheries data is updated on the system;</li> <li>• Timely delivery of correctly formatted information.</li> </ul>	VFD, SPC, FFA, OGCIO
<b>28: Implement electronic reporting and electronic monitoring (ER/EM)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop EM/ER strategy;</li> <li>• Completed trialling the units on Vanuatu flag fishing vessels;</li> <li>• Mandatory use of EM/ER on all flag vessels by 2020;</li> <li>• Mandatory use of EM/ER on all foreign fishing vessels by 2020;</li> <li>• Develop observer operation base.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake trial of ER/EM;</li> <li>• Develop national ER/EM strategy;</li> <li>• Expand fisheries information system to include all fisheries to inform decisions; Expand electronic reporting to coastal fisheries such as by licensed fishing vessels;</li> <li>• Adopt same reporting in aquaculture production farms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ER/EM strategy completed and implemented;</li> <li>• Improved reporting on licensed fishing vessels;</li> <li>• Improved compliance index.</li> </ul>	VFD, MALFFB, Police Maritime Wing, fishing industry, FFA, SPC, tuna-RFMOs
<b>29: Enhance vessel monitoring system offshore and coastal fishing activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Vessel Monitoring System Programme functioning effectively;</li> <li>• 24/7 manning continue;</li> <li>• Flag vessel monitoring improvement;</li> <li>• MOU signed with PMW implementation;</li> <li>• Training of officers;</li> <li>• Review of VMS systems;</li> <li>• Amalgamate the two VMS systems by 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain use of state-of-the-art VMS to monitor fishing vessels operating inside Vanuatu waters;</li> <li>• Continue to work with CLS to monitor flag vessels operating internationally;</li> <li>• Seek CLS support to improve VMS system;</li> <li>• Assess options to enhance and integrate the two systems to improve effectiveness and efficiency at less cost to the country;</li> <li>• Assess options to localise management of the national vessel monitoring system;</li> <li>• Continue to engage with Police Maritime Wing and FFA in surveillance operations;</li> <li>• Formalise memorandum of understanding with YPMW.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All vessels licensed and flag to Vanuatu in full compliance with VMS requirements;</li> <li>• Amalgamation of the two VMS systems completed.</li> </ul>	VFD, MALFFB, FFA, SPC, fishing industry, tuna-RFMOs

## Strategic objective 7: Fisheries compliance and IUU fishing prevention

Advocate for zero-tolerance in IUU and ensure all Vanuatu flag and licensed fishing vessels are fully monitored and compliant

Strategic actions	Target	Propose activities	Indicators	Partners
<p><b>30: Reduce and eliminate IUU fishing in the offshore fishery through improved compliance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement NPOA IUU, National Fleet Management Policy, National Control Plan, NPOA on sharks and Port State Control plan;</li> <li>• IUU-free country by 2020;</li> <li>• Penalise infringements on time;</li> <li>• Maintain good reputation in the Registry;</li> <li>• Flag fishing vessels earn good reputation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent entry of fishing vessels with historical record of IUU into the Vanuatu International Shipping Registry;</li> <li>• Enforce strict control on flag fishing vessels through compliance checks;</li> <li>• Ensure that vessels leave the VSR with clean record;</li> <li>• Fully implement the recommendations of the NPOA IUU and the National Fleet Management Policy;</li> <li>• Resolve any infringement by Vanuatu flag vessels swiftly before WCPFC meets;</li> <li>• Fully enforce penalty notice on vessel operators/owners for breaches.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing number of successful investigations on IUU cases;</li> <li>• Awards on fight against IUU;</li> <li>• IUU reports;</li> <li>• Successfully withdrawn from ICCAT;</li> <li>• All infringements addressed.</li> </ul>	<p>VFD, MALFFB, Foreign Affairs, other government line ministries and departments; SPC, FFA, tuna-RFMOs, fishing industry</p>
<p><b>31: Limit RFMO membership by the Republic of Vanuatu to within the greater Pacific Ocean region</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Withdrawal from ICCAT by end of 2016;</li> <li>• Charter policy and regulation enacted;</li> <li>• Restrict chartering of flag vessels to RFMO members for which Vanuatu is a member;</li> <li>• Attend 50% of RFMO meetings by 2018 and further improves thereafter.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Withdraw membership to ICCAT and IOTC;</li> <li>• Enact policy and regulation on chartering of flag vessels;</li> <li>• Prevent chartering of vessels by RFMO members for which Vanuatu is a non-member;</li> <li>• Membership contribution is cost recovered from the fishing industry;</li> <li>• Ensuring industry operators comply to pay their RFMO fees;</li> <li>• Maintain management of trust accounts for ease of payment of RFMO fees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total withdrawal from ICCAT;</li> <li>• Becoming full member of NPFC by 2017;</li> <li>• Maintain good service to RFMOs.</li> </ul>	<p>VFD, MALFFB, Foreign Affairs, other government line ministries and departments, SPC, FFA, tuna-RFMOs, fishing industry</p>
<p><b>32: Reduce and eliminate IUU fishing in coastal fisheries</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All registered licensed by 2018;</li> <li>• Compliance of small fishing boats improved 50% by 2018;</li> <li>• Revised regulation implemented;</li> <li>• Coastal compliance officers trained;</li> <li>• Importation and sale of destructive gear ceased;</li> <li>• Destructive gear confiscated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licensing of all domestic fishing vessels;</li> <li>• Enforce license condition to ensure compliance;</li> <li>• Establish applicable catch data recording system on tablet;</li> <li>• Enforce license condition on processing license holders;</li> <li>• Strengthen compliance at ports and airport check points;</li> <li>• Work with partners to improve community compliance;</li> <li>• Assist fisheries authorised officers to collect accurate information;</li> <li>• Ban import and sale of destructive fishing gear;</li> <li>• Confiscate illegal fishing gear.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local vessels operating viably;</li> <li>• No more importation and illegal sale of destructive fishing gear;</li> <li>• No more destructive fishing gear in the country.</li> </ul>	<p>VFD, provinces, fishers associations, communities, Police</p>
<p><b>33: Strengthen management of Vanuatu flag fishing fleet</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cessation of the vessel monitoring system services contract by 2018;</li> <li>• Fisheries Department assumes full responsibility of fleet manager by 2018;</li> <li>• Good relationship is maintained with industry operators.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove fleet management contract with the private entity and discourage such contracts in future;</li> <li>• Fully assume role of fleet management;</li> <li>• Strengthen fleet management duty of the Fisheries Department;</li> <li>• Build close cooperation with the fishing industry operators;</li> <li>• Provide efficient and reliable service to vessel operators.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vessel Monitoring System Services contract ceased;</li> <li>• VFD assume full responsibility for fleet management.</li> </ul>	<p>VFD, MALFFB, SLO, Tuna Fishing Vanuatu Ltd, tuna-RFMOs</p>



<p><b>34: Implement catch documentation scheme in all flag vessels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certification standards instituted;</li> <li>• Seafood Verification Agency certification process completed by FFA;</li> <li>• EU certification completed;</li> <li>• Catch certification applied to all Vanuatu flag vessels for fish exports annually.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalise national control plan with FFA;</li> <li>• Implement national control plan;</li> <li>• Conduct food safety and CDS inspection on vessels;</li> <li>• Independent monitoring and approval by FFA;</li> <li>• Complete EU certification of the Seafood Verification Authority;</li> <li>• Issue catch certification to flag vessel to access EU and other markets;</li> <li>• Participate in negotiations on fisheries trade.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seafood standards gazetted;</li> <li>• Seafood regulation gazetted;</li> <li>• FFA training process completed;</li> <li>• SFVA certified by EU;</li> <li>• Fish entry to EU authorised by Vanuatu.</li> </ul> <p>VFD, MALFFB, SLO, tuna-RFMOs</p>
<p><b>35: Strengthen fisheries law enforcement and prosecution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete attachment with Prosecution Office;</li> <li>• Develop and sign MOU with Prosecution Office;</li> <li>• Commence prosecution of fisheries cases;</li> <li>• Recruit more community fisheries authorised officers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen enforcement of fisheries regulations;</li> <li>• Cooperate with Public Prosecution Office on capacity building;</li> <li>• Improve administrative penalty regulations and enforcement;</li> <li>• Strengthen inspection at market outlets, restaurants and shops;</li> <li>• Undertake investigation and prosecution training of fisheries authorised officers;</li> <li>• Strengthen enforcement on importation, sale and use of destructive fishing gear.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fisheries prosecutor admitted;</li> <li>• MOU signed;</li> <li>• 5 cases successfully prosecuted.</li> </ul> <p>VFD, MALFFB, SLO, Justice Ministry, Public Prosecutions Office, tuna-RFMOs</p>
<p><b>36: Progress fisheries observer and port sampling to full cost recovery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observer Programme achieves half cost recovery by 2023;</li> <li>• Port sampling to be fully cost recovered by 2023;</li> <li>• Observers fully covered on trips;</li> <li>• Complete training of more observers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop national fisheries observer and port sampling to become a full cost recovery programme;</li> <li>• Equip all observers with safety gear, including uniform and protective gear;</li> <li>• Fully insure observers while at sea;</li> <li>• Support two de-briefers to complete their training to assist quality control of national observers;</li> <li>• Progress into electronic monitoring system;</li> <li>• Extend role of observers to cover coastal fisheries and aquaculture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observer programme full cost recovered by 2031;</li> <li>• Port Sampling achieves full cost recovered by 2031;</li> <li>• Observer numbers reach 50 by 2031.</li> </ul> <p>VFD, MALFFB, FFA, SLO, Justice Ministry, Public Prosecutions Office, tuna-RFMOs</p>
<p><b>37: Review vessel licensing process and recording system</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efficient licensing system for foreign vessels and IATF;</li> <li>• Maintain up to date record of licenses and IATF;</li> <li>• Provide regular update of licenses and fee collection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain efficient processing of licenses;</li> <li>• Liaise with operators when processing licenses;</li> <li>• Introduce online application and processing of licenses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efficient issuance process;</li> <li>• Good appreciation by clients;</li> <li>• Completed online license</li> <li>• Application process;</li> </ul> <p>VFD, MALFFB, FFA, SLO, tuna-RFMOs</p>
<p><b>38: Introduce longline vessel day scheme (VDS) or quota management system (QMS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review legislation to accommodate VDS or QMS for implementation by 2019;</li> <li>• Seek assistance from FFA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with FFA to design VMS implementation policy;</li> <li>• Work with New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries on advice on QMS system for decision making;</li> <li>• Adopt either of the two.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VDS or QMS adopted.</li> </ul> <p>VFD, MALFFB, FFA, SPC, SLO, tuna-RFMOs</p>

## Strategy objective 8: Building partnership and networking

Strengthen partnership, collaboration and networking with line Departments, industry, and also encourage establishing new ones for visibility, transparency, participatory and inclusivity

Strategic actions	Target	Propose activities	Indicators	Partners
<p><b>39: Formalise collaboration with line departments and stakeholders through MOUs and MOAs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fisheries Department to strengthen networking and partnership with relevant stakeholders such as line or relevant government departments, the province, communities and public in urban/rural communities, FFA, SPC, tuna-RFMOs, donor partners, NGOs and others.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formalise collaborations with stakeholders through an MOU and/or MOAs;</li> <li>Formalise MOUs with line and government Departments and government entities, communities and civil society groups;</li> <li>These arrangements would form the basis for collaboration;</li> <li>Encourage joint implementation under MOU;</li> <li>MOUs and MOAs are to be assessed by State Law Office where necessary for consistency and legality issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordination and well-resourced works on fisheries and aquaculture;</li> <li>MOU with Police Maritime Wing Completed;</li> <li>MOU with Air Vanuatu completed;</li> <li>MOU with Churches completed;</li> </ul>	<p>VFD, Cooperative and Industry Dept, provincial government councils, NGOs, communities and civil society</p>
<p><b>40: Formalise collaboration with regional inter-governmental partners through MOUs and MOAs and SLAs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review FFA Service Level Agreement (SLA) for 2019 onwards;</li> <li>Review SPC JCS and ensure is similar with FFA;</li> <li>Develop SLA type arrangement with SPREP and other regional partners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish formal arrangements through an MOU, MOA of SLA with regional intergovernmental organisations;</li> <li>Technical assistance target activities identified in the MOAs or SLAs;</li> <li>Fisheries Department is responsible in the implementation of MOAs;</li> <li>Priority activities in these agreements reflect national priorities;</li> <li>Request for technical assistance to be channelled through the official protocol.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FFA SLA successfully implemented;</li> <li>SPC Joint Country Strategy successfully implemented;</li> <li>Implement at least another 1 SLA with another intergovernmental partner by 2023.</li> </ul>	<p>FFA, SPC, USP, SPREP, IRD, others</p>
<p><b>41: Partnership with other external partners</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2020 VFD will have MOUs with all relevant stakeholders and line Ministries as well as international NGOs, domestic NGOs and communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage other external partners to enter into MOA for the services they intend to provide;</li> <li>Engagement with external partners on priority areas of national interest;</li> <li>Encourage partnership and cooperation that enhance and advancing priority works on fisheries;</li> <li>Include in the agreement delivery of research information on completion of project;</li> <li>Projects to fund new positions to the existing structure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More partners secured and actively served purposes of advancing domestic fisheries and aquaculture sustainable management and development.</li> </ul>	<p>VFD, other government line ministries and departments, SPC, FFA, FAO, SPREP, other partners</p>



