

# Communication Strategy for Vanuatu Reducing Emissions from Deforestations and forests Degradation (REDD+) Programme



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## Acronyms

**CBO** – Community Based Organizations

**CSO** – Civil Society Organization

**FCPF** – Forests Carbon Partnership Facility (of the World Bank)

**MALFFB** – Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity

**NAB** – National Advisory Board

**NGO** – Non Government Organization

**PTC** – REDD+ Provincial Technical Committee

**REDD+** - Reducing Emissions from Deforestations and forests Degradation. Plus Forests Conservation, Sustainable forests management and Enhancement of Carbon Stock.

**R-PP** – Readiness Preparation Proposal

**SFM** – Sustainable Forest Management

**TC** – REDD+ Technical Committee

**UNFCCC** – United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change

**VANGO** – Vanuatu Association of Non-Government Organization

**VCC** – Vanuatu Christian Council

**VMGD** – Vanuatu Meteorological and Geo-Hazard Department

## Introduction

The Government of Vanuatu, through the Department of Forestry and under the oversight of the National Advisory Board for Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction (NAB) is now implementing the Readiness phase activities for the Vanuatu REDD+ Programme. The Vanuatu REDD+ Programme is the result of a successful Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) submitted by the Government of Vanuatu in March 2013 to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank. The R-PP provides a framework for taking stock of the country's deforestation and forest degradation and preparation efforts for REDD+, and lays out a roadmap of preparation activities needed to be undertaken to become ready for future REDD+ transactions in Vanuatu. This roadmap involves inter-sectorial strategies on REDD+, capacity-building and analytical work. These activities will be implemented within the Readiness Phase period starting 2015 ending 2018. By then, Vanuatu is projected to be ready for the implementation phase of the REDD+ programme.

Currently, the FCPF is funding the first three of the seven components of the R-PP. These include 1). Institutional Strengthening for REDD+ Management Arrangements at the national and decentralized level, 2). Strengthening of Stakeholder engagement process at the decentralized level and 3). Development of a REDD+ strategy for Vanuatu. Component 4, indicating to design systems for national forests monitoring and information safeguards, which is also very important in the readiness phase was not being covered in the FCPF funding but will potentially be covered by the UNREDD+ funding.

Nevertheless, Component 3 also has three subcomponents which includes the analytical works, SESA Process and ESMF Development and Consultation and Participation activities. The important output of the Consultation and Participation activities is proper dissemination of information through most appropriate means and channels to REDD+ stakeholders. Proper communication of information to the stakeholders and partners is an essential tool in building readiness of the REDD+ programme.

This document addresses the communications and outreach strategy for the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's (FCPF) of the World Bank for Reducing Emissions from Deforestations and forests Degradation's (REDD+) national programme in Vanuatu. The communication strategy outlines how to achieve collaboration, seeking to guide and support the extension and outreach of REDD+ activities.

### Purpose

By recommendation of the FCPF team of the World Bank, the REDD+ Unit and the Department of Forestry had to have a communication strategy in place. The communication strategy aims to meet the following goals:

- ❖ Reach Forest Depended Communities for their involvement in the National REDD+ program
- ❖ Ensure accurate, consistent and timely communication to REDD+ stakeholders (government sectors, NGOs, private sector and media)
- ❖ Engage all REDD+ stakeholders to participate in the project planning and implementation process.
- ❖ Minimise the number of concerns which stakeholders may naturally develop.

The purpose of this document is to contribute to the main objectives of the REDD+ project which are outlined in the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) drafted by the government of Vanuatu.

The communication strategy aims at going beyond information dissemination at passive audience, to facilitate active participation and stakeholder dialogue. Emphasis is given to local content to foster

dialogue and improve the capacity of local institutions and people in planning and implementing the REDD+ activities.

## Scope

The scope of this communication and outreach plan is to:

- ❖ Define the communication and outreach strategy for REDD+ dissemination of information to national population.
- ❖ Outline the messages to be communicated throughout the Readiness phase of REDD+ programme.
- ❖ Identify effective methods of communicating REDD+ to the Forest depended Communities

## Principles and Objectives

### Principles

The principles of the communication and outreach Strategy is to;

Build trust among stakeholders through open discussions, consultation workshops and media throughout REDD+ readiness process.

- ❖ Provide stakeholder with the relevant information necessary to understand REDD+ objectives and desired outcomes.
- ❖ Report progress or delays in progress so that REDD+ Unit and team can continue to support for REDD+ success.
- ❖ Identify stakeholders and enable them to participate in disseminating REDD+ Information

### Objective of this Strategy

The objectives of the communication and outreach strategy are to:

- ❖ Enhance stakeholder understanding of climate change and REDD+ concepts, Sustainable Forests Management, Forests Conservation and carbon financing related to the Vanuatu REDD+ Scheme
- ❖ Enhance the knowledge and understanding of all REDD+ stakeholders in Vanuatu on technical issues related to REDD+ readiness and implementation.
- ❖ Engage stakeholders to participate in the readiness phase to be prepared for the implementation phase.
- ❖ Ensure that all stakeholders and partners are kept apprised and involved in key project activities and opportunities for engagement.
- ❖ Ensure that all stakeholders and partners are aware of activities or issues that may affect them.
- ❖ Ensure all REDD+ Unit stakeholders and partners are well informed using best approach possible and media avenues considering social hierarchy and level of understanding.
- ❖ Reach Forest depended Communities to better manage and benefit from forest resources

## Time Frame

This document will be used entirely during the Readiness phase of the REDD+ project. The Readiness phase has a duration of 4 years from 2015 to 2018. However, during the mid-term review, some review could be made to accommodate newer activities. Also in the event that the Readiness phase may be prolonged, this document will also be active.

## Project implementation Partners

The Government of Vanuatu through the Department of Forestry of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity (MALFFB), the National Coordinator for the implementation of the project, the REDD+ Team and stakeholders are responsible for the execution of the Communication strategy.

For REDD+ to be successful, the following partners have a very vital role to perform.

<b>REDD+ Technical Committee Representatives and Roles</b>	
<b>Stakeholders</b>	<b>Role</b>
Department of Forestry	REDD+ lead implementation agency
Project Management Unit (VMGD)	Coordination of REDD+ programme with broader climate change mitigation strategies and programmes, NAB liaison, UNFCCC focal point & coordinator of international REDD+ policy with other agencies
Department of Environment	Environmental safeguards and community conservation areas
Department of Agriculture	Addressing drivers of deforestation & strategic relationship between forestry and agricultural lands and land management
Department of Lands	Representing landowner and land issues, databases, mapping
Non-Government Organization (NGOs) LIVE & LEARN, VCC, Transparency Vanuatu, VANGO	Social & environmental safeguards, extension & outreach, on the ground experience, grievance process, independent advice
Department of Trade	Commercial elements of REDD+& carbon trading activities, consistency with trade policy, benefit distribution & marketing
State Law Office	Give legal advice on taxation issues
Chamber of Commerce	Links private sector with government work

Dept. of Agriculture, Dept. of Fisheries, Dept of Livestock	Will provide technicality on strategic options from these sectors
National Tourism Office	Eco-tourism projected also as a strategic options
Forests Timber Industry	One of the main driver of forests deforestations. Making them understand the concept will be very effective in forest management practices
Non-Timber Product Industry	Stressing the significance of timber fruit trees and value added products

## Target Audience, Communication Strategies and Methods to be used

To reach specific interests and aspirations of all stakeholders, target audiences are professionals of governmental, non-governmental organizations, national institutions, forests dependent population and citizens at large of all ages. In order to maximize the impact of this Communication strategy, the following target audiences have been identified along with appropriate strategies and methods that could be more efficient and can reach the audience targeted.

### National Level:

#### **Key REDD+ Committees includes the National Advisory Board (NAB) on Climate Change and the REDD+ Technical Committee.**

The National Advisory Board is the highest decision making body for REDD+ project in Vanuatu. In order to sensitize and familiarised about the REDD+ program, organizing a study tour to a country well ahead having successful REDD+ stories will be more adequate and attractive for their engagement. This will also include Technical Committee (TC) members and Provincial Technical Committees (PTC) members since majority members are officers of other stakeholders with already commitments at hand.

Meetings will also be adequate for the higher government officials in Vanuatu. This kinds of meeting will mostly be updates on the REDD+ activities and endorsement of official documents or such. High ranking officers of REDD+ sector wise including the TC will also be provided policy brief on REDD+ readiness for what is means for the sectors engaged in land use.

#### **Efficient Communication methods to be used;**

- Conferences/study tours and Seminars
- Meetings – for providing updates and endorsement
- NAB Portal
- REDD+ Website <http://www.reddplus.vu>
- Tree Planting day Event

## **Key government Departments and Officers**

These include Management, Technical, Operational and Instructional personal of Key governmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations working on climate change adaptation and mitigation, sustainable forests and Land Management. These key sectors also include selected media institutions and personals, Departments under ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity, Ministry of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Ministry of Lands, Geology and Mines, Ministry of Education, National Tourism Office and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, External Trades and International Relations. Engaging them will be more sufficient and effective through Conferences, Workshops and Trainings.

These medium will focus mainly on introducing REDD+, overview information about climate change, Consultations on drivers of deforestations and forests degradations and informing on the strategic options for REDD+. These events can also be used to leverage free media coverage, through press releases, opinion pieces and editorials to newspapers and magazines.

Presentation of updates, review of documents must also be in a form of a meeting. Meetings with more formality will be more efficient to which feedback can be obtained.

### **Efficient Communication methods to be used;**

- Conferences/study tours and Seminars
- Workshops and Trainings
- Media (FM/AM Radio, TV, Newspaper)
- Meetings
- National Retreats
- Reports and Evaluations

## **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) – REDD+ CSO Platform, Local and International NGOs.**

Workshops and Trainings would be the best way in involving the REDD+ CSO Platform. Trainings and workshop will be design in a participatory approach enabling the participants to also understand from others point of view.

Awareness campaigns is also a way to reaching the CSOs. The CSOs includes community Associations and groups example Church groups including Forests users and owners. Use of posters and pamphlets, brochures and other sorts of materials including T-Shirts will be used to boost information sink within this category. It will then be supported by the Media like FM radio and TV.

Local area network will also be formed during workshops and trainings and participants will be educated on REDD+ will have support of materials as medium of extension and outreach.

International NGOs will be sure to be targeted in the REDD+ Website <http://www.reddplus.vu> .

### **Efficient Communication methods to be used;**

- Workshops and Trainings
- Media (FM/AM Radio, Television and Newspaper)
- Awareness Campaigns
- Posters and Information materials



- REDD+ Website
- Social Media (Vanuatu National REDD+ Programme Face book account)
- REDD+ Videos and Information materials
- Reports and Evaluations

## **Members of the Media**

Vanuatu REDD+ also considers holding a conference for the members of the media particularly the VBTC, Daily Post Vanuatu and FM 107. The media will be the key information disseminator for REDD+ activities and therefore needs to be actively engaged and having fair understanding about the initiative. A conference would provide clear, but in-depth information to TV, newspaper and radio journalist about why REDD+ is important.

### **Efficient Communication methods to be used;**

- Conference/Seminar
- Posters and information Materials
- REDD+ Videos
- Interviews with REDD stakeholders
- Brochures

## Provincial Level:

### **Provincial REDD+ Technical Committees (PTC)**

Provincial Technical Committee is also a representation of multi-sectoral members. In making them understand REDD+ in an interesting way, study tour to a country with a successful story will be more attractive.

Conference, Seminars and workshops must be organized for update purposes, information sharing and trainings for REDD+ capacity building. Meetings are definite for feedback and also administrative purposes. In addition, telephones or mobile phones are also definite in passing information during administrations.

### **Efficient Communication methods to be used;**

- Study tour to countries of REDD+ successful stories that Vanuatu can learn from
- Conference and Seminars
- Workshops and Trainings
- Media (FM/AM Radio, TV and Newspaper)
- Meetings
- Telecommunications
- Reports and Evaluation

**Provincial governments (Area Council Members), Provincial administrations, Provincial Forestry Station Officers, Agricultural Extension Officers and key farmers, CSO – Institutions at Provincial Level and Private Sectors**

Best efficient approach to reaching these people would be through Workshops and Trainings. Conferences and seminars will also be conducted with this audience group early on the readiness phase. Sometimes they would be hard to get due to workload at hand therefore brief presentations during for not more than day must be organized to get them acquainted with REDD+.

Media production of course must target this group on people.

**Efficient Communication methods to be used;**

- Workshops and Trainings
- Conference and Seminars
- Brief Presentations on REDD+
- Media (FM/AM Radio, Television and Newspaper)
- Provincial Retreats
- Reports and Evaluations

## Community Level:

**Area Councils Secretaries and community leaders, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Forests Depended population, Farmers Associations and all people in the community and Villages**

The use of information materials will be very useful for dissemination of REDD+ within this target group. Considering social hierarchy and level of understanding, these materials must obtain very layman's language for better understanding. This will make it easy for those getting information either from media, workshop and trainings or from public awareness campaigns or even from community meetings.

**Efficient Communication methods to be used;**

- Media (FM/AM Radio)
- Posters and information materials
- Workshops and Trainings
- Awareness Campaigns
- Field days and visits
- Community Meetings
- Events (Sports, Musical, Cultural gatherings, National/provincial Celebrations)
- REDD+ Videos and information materials
- Short Messaging Services (SMS) Via Telecommunications Providers
- Consultation Meetings
  - Technical Committee Meeting
  - Provincial Technical Meetings
  - CSO Platform Meetings

#### General and Urban Population:

These are the general population of Vanuatu of all ages. Efforts need to be made to raise the profile of REDD+ amongst the public in Vanuatu. This includes the contribution of forests to mitigating climate change to urban areas that may not encounter forest in their day-to-day lives. As it is the media that will convey the messages about REDD+ to the general public, it is very important that strong and lasting contacts are made across TV, Radio and newspapers. Consideration must also include production of Videos and posters or even composing new songs for a REDD+. These will definitely attract the youths around urban areas and in the islands.

#### **Efficient Communication methods to be used;**

1. Media (FM/AM Radio, TV and Newspaper)
2. Events (Sports, Musical, cultural gatherings, national/provincial celebrations)
3. REDD+ Videos and Posters
4. Social Media (Vanuatu National REDD+ Programme Face book account)
5. Competitions (videos, writing, Posters or composing new songs)
6. Short Messaging Services (SMS) Via Telecommunications Providers
7. Consultation Meetings
  - Technical Committee Meeting
  - Provincial Technical Meetings
  - CSO Platform Meetings
8. Vanuatu REDD+ Website <http://www.reddplus.vu>
9. [NAB Portal http://www.nab.vu/](http://www.nab.vu/)
10. **REDD Desk Vanuatu <http://theredddesk.org/countries/vanuatu>**
- 11.

#### Donor and International Community:

The international community, particularly donors of REDD+, must be included as a key audience of this communication strategy. Any progress for Vanuatu national REDD+ Programme or lessons learned needs to be conveyed to the international community. Boosting awareness of REDD+ in Vanuatu, such as through media coverage, documents, brochures and videos will be used to reinforce the lessons learned presented to the international community. All these will be made available in the REDD+ website.

#### **Efficient Communication methods to be used;**

- Vanuatu REDD+ Website <http://www.reddplus.vu>
- [NAB Portal http://www.nab.vu/](http://www.nab.vu/)
- **REDD Desk Vanuatu <http://theredddesk.org/countries/vanuatu>**
- Brief update meetings
- Consultation Meetings
- Brochures/videos

#### Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Institutions:

Information materials in forms of little booklets that may contain interesting stories relating forestry and climate change, sustainable land management or even this topics developed for alphabetical or mathematical learning would suit best the primary school or below age of children. Secondary schools and higher would be best a competition need to be arranged. This could be writing essays, developing best poster for a certain topic or developing awareness campaign videos that winners could win prizes and will have their videos posted on REDD+ Website, REDD+ Face book page or be played on the national television.

**Efficient Communication methods to be used;**

- Information materials (Booklets, Posters, Brochures)
- Children Learning booklets
- Competitions (Videos, Essay writing and poster development)
- Field days and Visits
- Vanuatu REDD+ Website <http://www.reddplus.vu>
- [NAB Portal http://www.nab.vu/](http://www.nab.vu/)
- **REDD Desk Vanuatu** <http://thereddesk.org/countries/vanuatu>
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## Engaging Media – FM/AM Radio, TV and Newspaper

Engagement with media in Vanuatu should focus on newspapers, television, and radio. Although access to the Internet is growing, it is still not as widely available as the more common media platforms. To avoid run-arounds with limited time at hand, REDD+ Unit will need to select the best reliable media firm operating in Vanuatu considering media coverage and quality presentations of REDD+ information content.

### **i. FM/AM Radio**

Radio alone is one medium through which many Ni-Vanuatu get their information. This is particularly true in local communities. Radio stations in local areas need to be identified and contacted with the hope of raising awareness on REDD+. This could be through radio programmes, which discuss and debate the initiative, or through paid spots, announcements, outside broadcast during consultations on other islands, advertisements or through quizzes. Talk Back shows on radio are very popular and is a very effective way to get general feedback from the public or to spread REDD+ information.

### **ii. Newspaper**

While newspapers do not reach as many people as radio in Vanuatu, they still have wide readership, including the educated, influential people, such as Government officials and academics. In particular, the Daily Post is a must read by the country's elite. Therefore, raising the profile of REDD+ in publications such as this is important in the context of promoting the initiative to key stakeholders.

Opinion pieces and editorials (op-eds) should also be written to coincide with important international or national days, conferences, or to highlight findings on REDD+. The aim would be to place these in newspapers or magazines with high readerships.

### **iii. Television**

Television and FM radio reaches between 80 and 90 percent of the urban population and is clearly the most effective for mass communications of REDD+ information in the urban and suburban areas.

Consideration should be given to producing documentaries, short videos and REDD+ clips for REDD+ for broadcast on the television. This is a direct way of raising awareness about REDD+. These videos will be packaged onto DVDs for further distribution at trainings, workshops and local communities. This could also be broadcast on Air Vanuatu flights.

The distribution of DVDs or more targeted REDD+ videos in MP4 compatible to be used in smart phones, should also be considered in selected islands. These could be shown at village meetings or schools, gaining a wider audience. It is likely that most many people had a DVD player, smart phone or laptop computer and there was great interest in having such material distributed.

Development of information should be well planned and send to media to be on air. Also, organization of press trips to local communities should take place, with the expectation that stories about the impact of forest degradation and deforestation on Climate Change, as well as REDD+, will air on the national television or the radio stations.

### **iv. Short Messaging Services (SMS) Via Telecommunications Providers**

Telecommunications Services in Vanuatu penetration in country covers almost 92% of the population of Vanuatu and key message could be distributed through the telecommunication providers to reach over 100,000 subscribers around Vanuatu.

## Informing about SESA, FGRM and Analytical Studies

These are series of studies that target audiences especially from the five selected islands needs to be aware of before the studies begin, during the implementation of these studies and the final outcome and findings from these studies. The method of communications must follow the approaches indicated as per target audiences above.

## Information Feedback

The type of information and through the approach given must also be evaluated. This will assure the information is effectively disseminated and is understood by the audiences. Other than email, phone calls and teleconferencing for the high level officers or audiences with access to these mediums, there are other audiences that may need to be evaluated with various approaches.

During meetings and consultations, evaluation forms will be distributed prior and after consultations for participants to indicate their level of understanding.

Within Media, giving out quizzes and prizes is very effective in getting feedback from the audiences. Short and simple REDD+ questions will be developed along with prizes will be provided.

Within the REDD+ islands, the established institutions and committees will play a vital role as the ears and mouth piece for the national REDD+ Unit. Having the institutional structure in place, it will also be the route for information to flow through and getting feedback from the audiences especially the REDD+ stakeholders and partners.

## Language

English language will be used as the main language for the Communication Strategy. Yet for efficient dissemination of the information within the beneficiary country, Bislama and French language will also be used. This should bring an additional impact for the audience and the community outreach. For example at the national to provincial level, English and French will be the main medium of exchange used in the information materials and by media with inclusion that Bislama will always be used orally.

For community levels and local levels CSOs brochures/videos/posters, for example, would also be produced in local language Bislama. For international communities like World Bank and other potential donors, English language will be the only means of communication exchange. General public of Vanuatu including all communities around the islands will understand Bislama much better therefore communication to them must be in Bislama.

## REDD+ Key Messages

The messages for communicating about REDD+ need to be as basic and simple as possible. Since REDD+ is a new international concept, its practices in Vanuatu seems to be the normal activities practiced by the rural population in Vanuatu.

Therefore in understanding REDD+ in Vanuatu, communicating REDD+ focuses within the easy-to-understand responses as being developed for guidance on understanding the concept of REDD+ and significance of its potential on development aspects as well as its contribution to mitigating impact of climate change. Find attached on annex the REDD+ Key Messages document.

## Resources

### **Human Resource**

The national REDD+ Unit under the Department of Forests with support from the Project Management Unit at the Vanuatu Meteorological and Geo-Hazard Department and the national CSO REDD+ Platform will be implementing this communication strategy through its Extension and Outreach Officer.

This Officer is the current community outreach support and Communications Officer under the REDD+ Unit financed by the FCPF.

The Communication strategy will be supported by the department of forestry staff and the CSO platform and VANGO based at the department of Forestry.

## Financial Resource

The activities identified under this Communication Strategy has been catered for and included in the R-PP which is being outlined as Communication and Participation in subcomponent 3.3. This component is fully financed by the FCPF.

The Communication Strategy will be reviewed during the mid-term review of REDD+ project planned for June 2017 when staff, funding and work plan for 2017 and beyond will be developed.

## Implementation of FCPF REDD+ Communication Strategy

This strategy is for implementation over the remaining years of the Readiness Phase of national REDD+ Programme. However, wherever possible, its activities should also be integrated into the work being done by the Government of Vanuatu in the area of climate change. Although the FCPF support will finish at the end of 2018, REDD+ will continue. Therefore, integration of activities is essential for ensuring that awareness raising about the importance of REDD+ in Vanuatu and its role in combating climate change.

There are a number of activities that should be pursued in this regard as REDD+ is rolled out nationally, including: the training of local REDD+ facilitators; the set-up of a local REDD+ network; and REDD+ training for Government officials at national, provincial and district level.

Every effort should be made to ensure that communicating about REDD+ and what is learnt from REDD+ is integrated into Government communication on climate change. This linkage of REDD+ activities with

Government action should be a priority of the national REDD+ Unit. The strategy should be implemented by the extension and outreach Officer.

To help ensure the success of the strategy's implementation, linkages should also be sought with a number of other initiatives taking place in Vanuatu regarding climate change and Environmental sustainability.

## Conclusion

This strategy is designed so that it can be implemented until the end of the Readiness phase of the REDD+ Programme in Vanuatu in 2018. It provides a framework for action, while also setting out measurable targets for performance.

While there is overlap in how the key audiences will be targeted, there are also specific mediums that will work best for certain groups. For example, most Government officials (national, provincial, district) will receive their knowledge through conferences, training and workshops and study tour to other REDD+ countries in the region or other parts of the world. For local pilot communities, direct messaging through village meetings, DVDs, and posters would be preferred. The mass media will be the best way to inform the general public about REDD+. While for the international community, a suite of lessons learned materials will be developed for dissemination at international conferences and forums.

If properly implemented, it should raise awareness about REDD+ programme in Vanuatu - across the Government, within local pilot provinces at provincial, district and community level, in the media, within the forestry sector, the general public, and the international community.

## Annex 1: REDD+ Key Messages

### 1. What is REDD+?

REDD+ is acronym for;

- Reducing
- Emissions from
- Deforestations and
- Forest Degradation
- + (Plus) incorporates
- Sustainable Forest Management/Reforestation & assisted Reforestation or Sustainable Land Management (SLM)
- Forest Protection and Conservation and
- Enhancement of Carbon Stock

REDD+ is a way to assists countries to reduce levels of deforestation and forest degradation. It is being developed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that seeks to reduce emissions from deforestations and forest degradation by incentivising land use change while protecting and replanting the forests.

### 2. Why is REDD+ important for Vanuatu?

REDD+ helps farmers and resources users, agriculture and forest dependant people to have better planning and better utilization of their land by having in place best strategic options to sustain livelihood while conserving their forests.

### 3. What are the Benefits of REDD+?

REDD+ will support key primary sectors such as livestock, agriculture, tourism, fisheries and forestry to achieve their priorities for green development while fighting Climate Change to mitigate its impact on people. The Government of Vanuatu through the Department of Forests is now supporting Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) as a stakeholder engagement activity approach at the Readiness Phase to be ready for REDD+ transaction in Vanuatu.



#### **4. How will REDD+ work?**

- REDD+ supports capacity building for stakeholders
- Development of National REDD+ strategy
- Establishment of Forest Monitoring and Reporting system
- Investment incentives based on demonstration

#### **5. What are the phases of REDD+?**

REDD+ programme has three main phases such as the Preparation phase, Demonstration phase and the Implementation phase. Vanuatu REDD+ programme started from 2015 to 2018.

#### **6. What tree species are promoted through REDD+?**

All trees are capable of carbon sequestration. The Department of Forests is practicing Sustainable Forests Management (SFM). The *priority species* recommended for reforestation are *Canarium indicum* (Nangai), *Terminalia catappa* (Natapoa), *Santalum austro-caledonicum* (Sandalwood), *Endospermum medullosum* (Whitewood) and *Switenia macrophylla* (Mahogany) including non-timber forest products.

#### **7. Who is involved in REDD+ implementation?**

The Department of Forests is the National Government implementing agency and also focal point responsible in designing the program.

Provincial Government in participating provinces, CSOs and communities are involve in implementing the program in their provinces.

#### **8. Selected areas for REDD+ in Vanuatu**

There are 5 main islands that have been selected to participate in REDD+ activities. The islands are Santo, Malekula, Efate, Tanna and Erromango. These islands were selected based on past studies and observation which has high rate of deforestation and forest degradation.

#### **9. How can I participate in REDD+?**

Every individual residing in the selected sites has the right to participate in REDD+ activities. Any individual and communities who are interested to participate in REDD+ activities should registered through local CSOs.

All Communities and individuals outside the REDD+ selected Islands should registered through the CSO Platform.

#### **10. What assistance can I get if I participate in REDD+ Programme?**

REDD+ unit and through the Department of Forests and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity shall support and provide all information and technical assistance within respective sectors.

In the implementation phase, the support will be aid in kind or subsidies or both.

**11. Where can I get more information and support for REDD+ activities?**

(i) Department of Forests (REDD+ Unit), Port Vila

Telephone: 23171 / 7742680 / 7742681 / 7742682

(ii) Provincial Forestry Offices;

Santo – 36519

Malekula – 7751685

Tanna – 7334937

Erromango – 7103032

(iii) VANGO Office, Port Vila

Mobile: 77 77228/ 5958237/ 5490141

(iv) Radio and TV Awareness

(v) REDD+ Website: <http://www.reddplus.vu>