

International Conventions on Environment

Vanuatu has become party to:

- i) United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) (1993)
- ii) United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (1993)
- iii) Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer (1994)
- iv) Vienna Convention for the protection of the ozone layer (1994)
- v) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora (CITES) (1989)
- vi) Convention on the Prohibition of Fishing with Long Drift Nets (1991)
- vii) United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)(1982)
- viii) Rio Declaration on Environment and development and AGENDA 21 (1992)
- ix) Barbados Plan of Action (1994)
- x) Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Protection of Pollution from ships (1989)
- xi) International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for compensation for Oil Pollution Damage (1989)
- xii) International Convention for the prevention of Pollution of the sea by Oil (1983)
- xiii) International Convention on the Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage

National Environment Policy

Government policy on environment and conservation is to provide an affordable framework of environmental protection and compliance within Vanuatu. This will be achieved by:

1. Environmental Management and Conservation Act (2002);
2. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP - 1999);
3. National Comprehensive Reform Programme (CRP - 1997);
4. Priority Action Agenda (PAA);
5. Millennium Development Goals; and
6. National Sustainable Development Strategy.

Major Environment Policy

Environmental Management and Conservation Act No. 12 of 2002

This Act has three major components:

- Administration
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Biodiversity Management and Protected Areas (including control and management of bio-prospecting)

National Parks Act No. 7 of 1993

An Act to make provision for the declaration of national parks and nature reserve; for the protection and preservation of such areas.

Preservation of Sites and Artifacts Regulation No.11 of 1965

To provide for the preservation of sites and objects of historical, ethnological or artistic interest.

The International Trade (Fauna and Flora) Act No.56 of 1989

An Act to implement the Republic of Vanuatu's obligations as a party to CITES by regulating the exportation and importation of certain species of fauna and flora.

The Forestry Act No.14 of 1982

To provide for the development and control of Forestry operations. There are also the Forestry Policy and Code of Logging Practice.

The physical Planning Act No.22 of 1986

To provide for controlling the development of land.

The Fisheries Act No.37 of 1982

To provide for the control, development and management of fisheries.

The Animal Importation and Quarantine Act No. Of 1988

An Act which make provisions for the regulation and control of the importation of animals, animal products and biological products into Vanuatu.

Sea shell (control) (Amendment) Regulation No. 32 Of 1973

An Act to make provisions for the control of the removal, sale or export of sea shells.

Wild Bird Protection Act No.5 of 1962

An Act to make provisions for the control, killing, wounding capturing and taking eggs of specified bird species.

Joint Regulation No.17 of 1968

To control the catching of crayfish (spiny lobsters)

Joint Regulation No.7 of 1974

To collect the catching and collection of turtle and turtle eggs of the species *Eretmochelys imbricata*, known as hawksbill turtle.

Coconut crabs (Protection) Act No.27 of 1981

An Act to control the removal of any coconut crab, a crustacean of the species *Birgus latro*, carrying eggs or any coconut crab which is less than 9cm in length.

The Maritime Zone Act No.23 of 1981

To make provisions for the control of areas for public access and use.

Key Environment Issues

1. Lack of proper land use planning and zoning
2. Sea-level rise and Climate Change
3. Soil erosion
4. Coastal erosion
5. Loss of forests
6. Loss of biological diversity
7. Water pollution
8. Waste disposal
9. Reef destructions & over exploitation of marine resources
10. Invasive species
11. Population pressure on resources
12. Sustainable development

Root Causes

1. Human induced activities both at the national and international levels
2. Social and economic insecurity
3. Inadequate legal and policy framework
 - Lack of proper planning and zoning policies
 - Lack of human and financial resources
 - Inappropriate enforcement regime
 - Inappropriate education systems
4. Lack of information

Future Opportunities

1. Review and establish appropriate education systems and opportunities for more children to attend schools
2. Provide alternative sustainable economic opportunities
3. Mainstream environmental and resource management principles into the national sectoral plans and policies
4. Provide adequate legal and policy framework that are realistic and cost-effective

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