

VARs NEWSLETTER

Ministry of Lands & Natural Resources – Vanuatu Affordable and Resilient Settlements Project Weekly Newsletter



THE WORLD BANK



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MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM LEAD:

- VARs PMU

The Ministry of Lands & Natural Resources (MoLNR) is developing a landmark 10-Year Masterplan (2026–2036) to guide the way land and natural resources are managed across Vanuatu. This ambitious blueprint seeks to secure land rights, strengthen kastom values, modernise governance systems, and ensure that communities remain resilient in the face of climate change.

A NATIONAL VISION FOR LAND & RESOURCES

At the heart of the Masterplan lies a vision:

“A stable, sustainable, and prosperous Vanuatu where land and natural resources are managed equitably, efficiently, and transparently — to benefit current and future generations.”

This vision extends beyond a government document. It represents a national commitment to future generations, ensuring that kastom values, investment opportunities, and resilience to climate change are strengthened for all.

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STRATEGIC GOALS AT A GLANCE

The Masterplan is structured around eight strategic goals: Governance & Institutions – legislative reforms, stronger institutions, and dedicated land units.

- **Modernised Land Administration:** a digital land platform and transparent land revenue system.
- **Land Bank Programme:** piloting new models for housing, agriculture, tourism, and renewable energy.
- **Sustainable Land Use Planning:** provincial land-use plans, hazard maps, and protecting customary access.
- **Resource Management:** ensuring sustainable use of minerals, geothermal, and petroleum resources.
- **Climate Resilience:** mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and protecting critical ecosystems.
- **Geospatial Science & Data:** expanding mapping, satellite monitoring, and national geospatial systems.
- **Service Delivery:** one-stop service centres, awareness campaigns, and citizen-friendly services.

WHY THIS MASTERPLAN MATTERS

Vanuatu is facing rapid urbanisation, population growth, and increasing climate risks. Land has become one of the nation's most contested and valuable resources. The Masterplan provides a roadmap to:

- Secure land for future generations.
- Protect kastom and community rights.
- Modernise systems for fairness and efficiency.
- Ensure resilience in the face of natural disasters.

AN INCLUSIVE & PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

MoLNR is committed to developing this plan with input from stakeholders including: chiefs, women's groups, youth, provincial governments, private sector representatives, and NGOs. This ensures that the Masterplan reflects community aspirations and is truly owned by the people.

LOOKING AHEAD: A DECADE OF TRANSFORMATION

By 2036, the Masterplan will have:

- Modernised land systems that are efficient and transparent.
- Strengthened climate resilience across all communities.
- Secured access to land and natural resources for generations to come.
- Aligned Vanuatu's growth with the goals of Vanuatu 2030 – The People's Plan.



GET INVOLVED

The Ministry encourages citizens to stay engaged. Communities, landowners, and partners will have opportunities to provide input, share feedback, and help co-shape the Masterplan.

Together, we can ensure that Vanuatu's land and natural resources drive prosperity, resilience, and equity for all.



MINISTRY OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICIALS

FEEDBACK & CONTRIBUTIONS:

We want your input!

Send your updates, suggestions, or stories to de@vars.vu by Thursday 3 PM for inclusion in next week's issue.