

VARs NEWSLETTER

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



THE WORLD BANK



MOLNR 10-YEAR MASTERPLAN (2026–2036): BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR VANUATU'S FUTURE

WHY IT MATTERS

Vanuatu's land and natural resources are its greatest assets — shaping livelihoods, resilience, and investment opportunities. Yet, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MOLNR) continues to face critical institutional weaknesses:

- Fragmented policies & outdated systems that delay development approvals.
- Weak revenue collection undermining financial sustainability.
- Limited staffing & capacity reducing service delivery.
- Vulnerable infrastructure exposing operations to climate and disaster risks.

If left unaddressed, these challenges risk eroding public trust, slowing investment, and weakening resilience in the face of climate change.

IN THIS ISSUE

WHY IT MATTERS

OUR VISION

PROPOSED TRANSFORMATION PATHWAY

POSSIBLE IMPACT BY 2036

CALL FOR FEEDBACK

OUR VISION

“Sustainable and fair use of land and natural resources, empowering communities and protecting Vanuatu’s future.”

The 10-Year Masterplan (2026–2036) provides a transformative roadmap to modernize MOLNR, aligned with the Vanuatu 2030 People’s Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

PROPOSED TRANSFORMATION PATHWAY

1. **Strengthen Governance** – Realign MOLNR structure (land, water, minerals, housing, customary systems). Create a permanent Land & Resources Council for inter-ministerial coordination.
2. **Modernize Policy & Law** – Enforce zoning, operationalize the Land Leases (Amendment) Act 2024, and introduce a Public Open Space Law.
3. **Enhance Revenue & Financing** – Modernize valuation and rental systems, digitize invoicing, and broaden revenue streams (outer islands, quarry/mining, digital services).
4. **Digitize Land & Resource Management** – Achieve 100% digitized land records (LMIS) by 2028 and establish a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).
5. **Invest in People & Infrastructure** – Build disaster-resilient HQ and provincial offices, strengthen staff training, and foster partnerships with USP and SPC.
6. **Integrate Resource & Climate Resilience** – Extend the Water Strategy 2030–2036, improve governance of quarry/mining, and embed disaster risk and geotechnical assessments.

POSSIBLE IMPACT BY 2036

- 100% digitized land, survey, and valuation records
- 25-fold increase in land revenue collection
- 90% of households with secure land tenure and water access
- All government institutions secured on leased land
- Fully decentralized MOLNR with provincial offices nationwide
- Robust SDG-driven monitoring and evaluation system

CALL FOR FEEDBACK

This Masterplan is more than a policy document — it is a national commitment to resilience, inclusivity, and sustainability.

- How should MOLNR balance modernization with customary land systems?
- What role can communities play in ensuring fair and transparent land use?
- How can digital systems best support both urban and rural needs?

Your reflections will shape how this plan moves from paper to practice — ensuring that land and natural resources truly empower Ni-Vanuatu for generations to come



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.