



INTEGRATED OCEAN MANAGEMENT IN VANUATU

In 2015, the National Committee on Maritime Boundary Delimitation, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade, established the Ocean Policy Sub-Committee. This Sub-Committee should continue its work as the Ocean Policy Implementation Sub-Committee and should comprise six Ministries (and the Prime Minister's Office) who have a vested interest in the ocean.

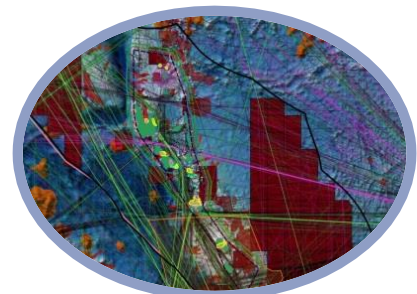
The Ministries are:

- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade (Department of Foreign Affairs, Maritime Division)(Co-Chair of the Ocean Policy Implementation Sub-Committee)**
- **Ministry of Climate Change, Meteorology, Environment, Geohazards, Energy, Environment and Disaster Risk Management (Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation, National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction)(Co-Chair of the Ocean Policy Implementation Sub-Committee)**
- **Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity (Department of Fisheries)**
- **Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (Department of Geology and Mines)**
- **Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities (Department of Ports and Harbour)**
- **Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (Department of Finance and Treasury)**
- **Prime Minister's Office**

The Ocean Policy Implementation Sub-Committee will work closely with other Ministries such as the as Ministry of Trade, Commerce, Tourism and Industry (Department of Tourism), Ministry of Internal Affairs and Community Services (Department of Provincial Affairs) and the Malvatumauri Council of Chiefs, well as other stakeholders and experts outside of government.

The outcome of the work of these committees is both the Pacific's first National Ocean Policy and will be the implementation of the Ocean Policy.

The vision of the Ocean Policy is to conserve and sustain a healthy and wealthy ocean for the people and culture of Vanuatu, today and tomorrow.





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2012: The Government of Vanuatu, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade, hosted an intra-governmental, cross-Ministerial national workshop on Ocean Governance.

November 2014: The Council of Ministers (Decision No. 172/2014) approved the report arising from the 2012 national workshop on Ocean Governance as a framework to guide integrated ocean management in Vanuatu. They also decided to ask MACBIO to support key areas of ocean management (recommendations 2, 3,4, 5, 7 and 8 from the report) including marine ecosystem service valuation, legal analysis, development of an Ocean Policy, capacity building and marine spatial planning.

February 2015: The National Committee on Maritime Boundary Delimitation, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade, established a cross-Ministerial Ocean Policy Sub-Committee.

April 2015: The Ocean Policy Sub-Committee prepared a first draft of a National Ocean Policy for Vanuatu.

April 2015: An analysis of the legislative basis for an Ocean Policy and Marine Spatial Plan was conducted (contributes to COM Decision 172/2014, Item 3).

May 2015 – March 2016: National consultations on the draft Ocean Policy were held in 32 locations across the country and involved over 1000 people. A Consultation Report was prepared.

May 2016: A national marine ecosystem service valuation was presented to the National Committee (COM Decision 172/2014, Item b).

June 2016: The draft Ocean Policy was substantially revised based upon input from the national consultations.

September 2016: The Council of Ministers approved the revised Ocean Policy (see COM Decision 172/2014, Item 2).

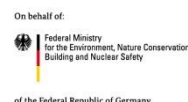
April 2017: The Acting Prime Minister launched the Ocean Policy at Vanuatu's inaugural national Ocean Summit.

June 2017: At the United Nations Ocean Conference, Vanuatu shared its intentions with the global community to have in place, by 2020, a national Marine Spatial Plan including a national ecologically-representative network of Marine Protected Areas and a National Oceans Office.

July 2017: First steps have been taken to implement the most novel part of the Ocean Policy – the national Marine Spatial Plan. A workshop was held to describe the range of Ocean Zones to use in the Marine Spatial Plan.

October 2017: 109 draft biophysically special, unique areas were described for Vanuatu by national experts for use in marine spatial planning. A report is being prepared.

March 2018: Marine bioregions that describe the entire marine environment of Vanuatu were defined by Vanuatu's marine experts for use in designing an ecologically-representative network of marine protected areas. A report is being prepared.



Further reading: www.macbio-pacific.info/vanuatu