

Climate Injustice

In 1991 Vanuatu made a proposal to the negotiating committee of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to establish an International Climate Fund “to finance measures to counter the adverse consequences of climate change” and for an Insurance pool to “compensate the most vulnerable small island and low-lying coastal developing countries for loss and damage resulting from sea level rise”

Vanuatu has continued to lead the fight for climate justice and seek redress the loss and damage harm caused to our people by countries unwilling to halt the production and subsidy of climate-causing fossil fuels.

Led by the Ministry of Climate Change, Vanuatu has taken a climate obligations and human rights case to the International Court of Justice and the argument for criminalizing Ecocide to the International Criminal Court.



Vanuatu L&D Solutions

Vanuatu is actively working to address climate loss and damage by:

Ensuring loss and damage is a priority policy directive of the government of Vanuatu, including in the National Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and a range of sector plans and strategies.

Coordinating with sectors, civil society, the private sector, academic organizations and development partners through the Informal Working Group on Loss & Damage of the National Advisory Board on Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction.

Leading negotiations at the UN Climate Treaty for more finance and technical support for Vanuatu.



Vanuatu

Climate Loss & Damage

Challenges and Solutions In the Republic of Vanuatu



Department of Climate Change
Government of Vanuatu

Vanuatu is now addressing Loss & Damage by:

- Undertaking **Cash Transfer** to vulnerable individuals and households to cope with climate disasters
- Planning for **relocation with dignity** for sea level affected villages
- Rolling out **micro insurance products** for farmers and fishers
- **Quantifying Non-economic L&D** in Post disaster needs assessments
- Setting up and capitalizing a new **National Loss & Damage Fund**

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What is Loss & Damage?

The terms “[loss and damage](#)” or “losses and damages” are used to describe the manifestation of the impacts and risks of the climate crisis which have not been avoided through **failure to mitigate** global heating by not reducing greenhouse gas emissions and/or **cannot be minimised by adaptation**.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) uses the term ‘losses and damages’ to refer to adverse observed impacts and/or projected risks of climate change, which can be economic and/or non-economic.

Loss and Damage is an area of international negotiation, on how particularly vulnerable developing countries like Vanuatu can obtain the finance, capacity, technology and other support (from developed countries) that is required to address the climate suffering and harm that we are not responsible for causing.

Limits to Adaptation

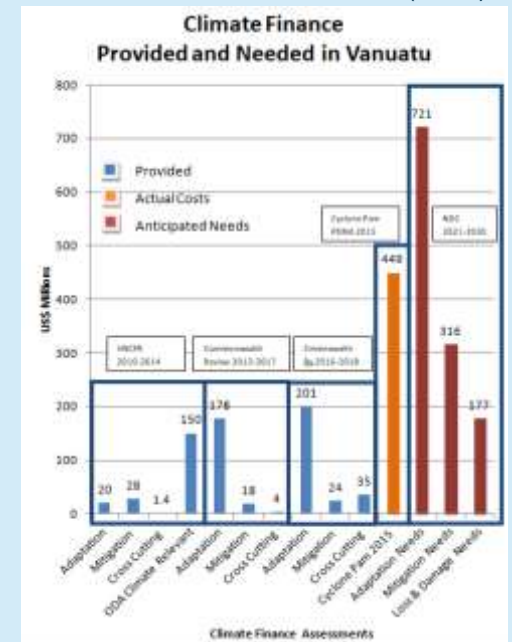
There is only so much the people of Vanuatu can do in the face of worsening climate risks like sea level rise, extreme tropical cyclones, prolonged drought, intense rainfall events, ocean acidification and increasing temperature.

Sooner or later, our best adaptation efforts will fail from soft or hard limits. As these limits are now being met on a daily basis in Vanuatu, communities will experience worsening loss and damage.



Economic Loss & Damage

The financial loss and damage from climate impacts is devastating Vanuatu’s national economy and individual households’ development aspirations. Climate costs are now well above US\$ 500 million annually. Vanuatu faces a 56.8% likelihood of a disaster occurring every year, costing at least 42.8% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).



Non Economic Loss & Damage

Intangible impacts of climate change on Vanuatu’s people and ecosystems are debilitating and often irreversible, including loss of land, cultural sites, burial grounds, traditional knowledge, village displacement, psychological trauma from recurrent disasters, human health, coral reef degradation and more. These losses and damages continue to undermine cultural, linguistic and spiritual practices of the Ni-Vanuatu people, and violate fundamental human rights.



