

DRAFT VANUATU NATIONAL PLASTICS STRATEGY (2020-2030) – AT A GLANCE

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

This document provides a top-level overview of the proposed Draft Vanuatu National Plastics Strategy (2020-2030). It has been prepared by the 'Review of plastic usage and pilot options for the reduction of plastics in Vanuatu' Technical Assistance (TA) project commissioned by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and overseen by DFID and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). This document is for consultation purposes only.

VISION AND MISSION

VISION	For the lands, waters and oceans of Vanuatu to be free from plastic pollution.
MISSION	To become the first nation in the world to eliminate avoidable single-use plastics.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Circularity

Actions will support the development of circular economy and socio-circular thinking and practice.

Sound and socially conscious decision-making

Decisions will be based on the best available traditional and scientific information and will consider the potential impact of actions on all communities of Vanuatu.

Public consultation and participation

Public consultation and participation – enabling informed input – will be integrated into planning and decision-making.

Product stewardship

Those involved in producing, importing, selling, using and disposing of products should ensure that such products are managed throughout their lifecycle in a way that minimises impact on human and environmental health.

Polluter-pays

The costs of pollution or damage to the environment should be paid by the responsible party.

Transparency and accountability

Processes used to make decisions will be easily understood by the public and will allow communities to see how decisions are made and how resources have been allocated.

Precautionary approach

If an activity could potentially cause severe or irreversible harm to human health or the environment, action will be taken to avoid or diminish that harm, even in the absence of scientific consensus.

Sustainability






Interventions will consciously target long-term sustainability in terms of community engagement, value obtained as well as in terms of the environmental and health benefits gained.

Affordability

Actions outlined in the strategy must be able to be implemented with the resources available, or supported by funding where necessary.

TACTICS

The draft strategy articulates five key tactics for closing the loop on plastics in Vanuatu: legal instruments; economic instruments; waste management system improvements, voluntary actions and agreements; and education and awareness. Each of these tactics is outlined in more detail below.

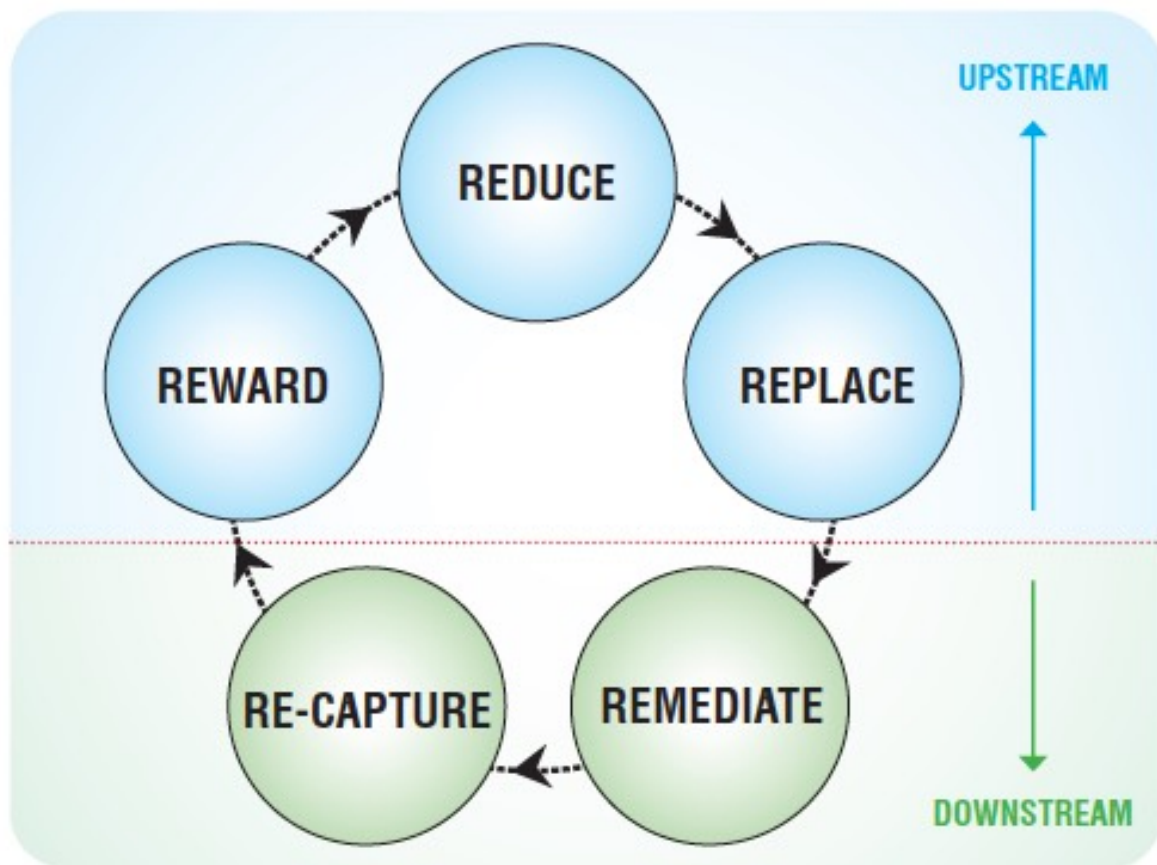
TACTIC	DESCRIPTION	IMPACT	TARGET WASTE TYPES
 <p>LEGAL INSTRUMENTS</p>	Direct regulation of certain plastic products (bans).	Prevents problem plastic items from entering the waste stream.	Non-essential plastic items that have affordable and readily available alternatives.
 <p>ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS</p>	Financial disincentives (such as taxes or levies on plastic products) and incentives (such as container deposit legislation).	Rewards or penalises individuals and businesses.	Commonly used plastic items without affordable and/or readily available alternatives, or those for which a ban would have significant socio-cultural impact.
 <p>WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS</p>	Improvements to waste containment, collection, transport, treatment and disposal.	Prevents plastic leakage into the marine and terrestrial environments.	All plastic waste types, especially tragic plastic and plastic waste that is related to mobility.
 <p>VOLUNTARY ACTIONS AND AGREEMENTS</p>	Voluntary pledges made by consumers, suppliers, retailers and/or industry.	Encourages public and private sector participation in tackling plastic waste. Helps to drive a market for locally-produced bio-benign alternatives to plastic products.	All plastic waste types, particularly single-use plastics.
 <p>EDUCATION AND AWARENESS</p>	Public information, education, promotional and advocacy activities.	Amplifies impact of all other levers and helps to modify waste-related norms and behaviours.	All plastic waste types.

STRATEGIC GOALS

The Draft Vanuatu National Plastic Strategy (2020-2030) centres around five key strategic goals which can be summarised as the Five Rs: Reduce; Replace; Remediate; Re-capture and Reward.



These goals have been designed to address both the upstream and downstream factors that impact on plastic pollution. Upstream-oriented goals (Reduce, Replace and Reward) address factors which are either independent of waste generation or target activities prior to the point of importation. Downstream-oriented goals (Remediate and Re-capture) address factors that take place post-consumption and waste generation.



STRATEGIC ACTIONS

The following tables outline the high-level strategic actions under each of the strategic goals. In the final implementation plan, each strategic action will have activities detailed with indicative timings and costings.

1.	REDUCE THE VOLUME OF PLASTIC ENTERING THE WASTE STREAM
1.1	Prevent single-use plastic consumer products from entering Vanuatu through the continued introduction of bans on the importation, sale and manufacture of avoidable plastic products.
1.2	Discourage the importation of plastic films ('tragic plastic') by imposing a customs levy on plastic packaged junk food.
1.3	Incentivise the collection of waste plastics through expanding the remit of container deposit legislation to include targeted plastics such as PET and HDPE.
1.4	Prevent the leakage of microplastics to the marine environment through the introduction of bans on consumer products containing primary microplastics and oxo-degradable plastics.
1.5	Reduce the use of single-use plastics by cruise liners and fishing vessels in Vanuatu waters through agreements for plastic free tourism and enhanced fisheries observer programs.
2.	REPLACE PLASTIC WITH NON-PLASTIC ALTERNATIVES PREFERABLY LOCALLY PRODUCED
2.1	Stimulate the local economy through the active promotion of locally-produced sustainable alternatives to plastic products, as an alternative to imports.
3.	REMEDiate THE LEAKAGE OF PLASTIC WASTE INTO THE ENVIRONMENT
3.1	Reduce the prevalence of dumping and burning through expanding national waste collection coverage and controlled disposal sites that includes domestic ports, wharves and shipping.
3.2	Make it easier not to litter, and prevent the dispersal of windblown plastic litter, through the installation of covered waste receptacles at identified hotspots.
3.3	Deter littering and dumping behaviours through the ongoing enforcement of fines and penalties.
3.4	Shift normative waste and consumption behaviours by increasing public awareness on the environmental and health impacts of improperly managed plastic waste.
4.	RE-CAPTURE EXISTING PLASTIC WASTE IN THE ENVIRONMENT
4.1	Prevent ocean bound plastic waste in waterways from entering the marine environment through the catchment management of plastics including installation of trash traps and booms at key ocean entry points.
4.2	Recover ocean plastics through implementing an Extended Producer Responsibility scheme focused on the retrieval of ocean plastics, with a focus on plastic film ('tragic plastics').
4.3	Implement best-practice solutions for the management of collected or recovered plastics including controlled disposal, reuse and recycling (including export).
4.4	Conduct regular clean-up activities.

5.	REWARD VOLUNTARY ACTION AND INNOVATION
5.1	Develop and implement incentives to encourage public and private sector participation in tackling plastic pollution.
5.2	Ensure ongoing leadership and awareness on the management of plastic waste by continued engagement through global platforms and with international organisations, the business sector (including the cruise liner and tourism sector), NGOs and community.
5.3	Inspire and encourage national action by launching and maintaining a voluntary pledging campaign.
5.4	Reward voluntary action through establishing national awards for social circular principles/innovation.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

The proposed strategy also incorporates actions that will be required to support monitoring, evaluation and implementation of the strategic goals.

MEI1	Establish appropriate implementation mechanisms at the national, provincial and community level.
MEI2	Establish a baseline volume of plastic products imported to Vanuatu through the creation of a plastics inventory / adoption of World Customs Organisation Harmonised System (HS) codes and improved descriptions for plastic imports.
MEI3	Identify current and emerging problem plastic items and monitor the progress of actions on plastic by conducting regular beach litter and other audits using a harmonised method (OSPAR) at representative locations across all provinces.
MEI4	Ensure that actions on plastic are incorporated into and aligned with national and provincial waste management plans.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND TARGETS

The table below summarises suggested high-level performance indicators and targets (for 2030) for each of the five key strategic areas.

STRATEGIC AREA	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	TARGETS
REDUCE	Volume of imported plastic products.	By 2030, the total volume of imported plastic products is reduced by 50%.
	Volume of imported, <i>avoidable</i> single-use plastic products.	By 2030, single-use plastic products that are designated as being <i>avoidable</i> are no longer imported to Vanuatu.
	Count/Percentage of banned plastics in household waste and marine litter.	The count/percentage of banned single use plastic products in household waste and beach litter reduces annually.

	Count/Percentage of total plastics in household waste and marine litter.	The count/percentage of total plastics in household waste and marine litter reduces annually.
REPLACE	Number of locally produced sustainable alternatives to plastic products on the market.	The total number of local alternatives to plastic products increases or is sustained annually.
	Number of industries/activities supported for transition from single use plastic to plastic free alternatives.	Two industries/activities are supported annually.
	Number of pilot projects on high risk single use plastics implemented.	By 2025, three pilot projects have been implemented.
REMEDiate	Waste collection coverage (% of population)	By 2030, waste collection coverage is increased to 100% (urban areas) and 70% nationally.
	Number of controlled waste disposal facilities	By 2025, every province has a controlled waste disposal facility and major centres on every island have a central disposal point.
	Number of appropriately serviced and covered public litter bins.	By 2025, 90% of public spaces and meeting locations have appropriately serviced public litter bins.
	Awareness rates of the environmental and human health impacts of plastics and plastic waste.	Rates of awareness increase annually.
RE-CAPTURE	Number of re-capture/clean-up activities implemented.	Annual increases in the total number of activities implemented.
	Number of ocean-bound plastic waste retrieval activities.	By 2030, at least one ocean-bound plastic waste retrieval activity has been implemented in every province.
REWARD	Number of activities implemented to encourage public and private sector participation in tackling plastic pollution.	Annual increases in the total number of activities implemented.
	Number of voluntary pledges.	Annual increases in the total number of voluntary pledges.

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