



# Capacity Development for Local Governments through Partnership in Vanuatu



The Republic of Vanuatu

Port Vila

## # KEY WORDS

City–City  
Cooperation/Solid  
Waste Management  
Planning/Solid Waste  
Data  
Management/Informatio  
n Disclosure

## Type of Document

A good practice fact  
sheet

## Target Audience

National and municipal  
officials of Pacific Island  
Countries and Territories  
(PICTs) working in the  
solid waste management  
sector and international  
donors

## Publication Date

January 2022

Mobilization of local resources is the key for sustainable capacity development in Vanuatu

In Vanuatu, the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC), the Ministry of Climate Change, is responsible for the Solid Waste Management (SWM) as a supervisory agency at national level, and local governments (provincial and municipal councils) are responsible for the implementation of SWM services within the jurisdiction area, in line with the Waste Management Act No. 24 of 2014. However, in practice, only local governments deal with daily waste management issues, and SWM was not prioritized in DEPC. At the beginning of J-PRISM II, there was little communication between the national and local governments. Consequently, DEPC had neither accumulated enough knowledge for problem-solving on SWM that local governments had faced nor obtained regulatory capacity to enforce compliance as a regulator. The entire regulatory scheme, including the chain of command between the national and local governments, was required to be established.

## Leading Agencies

DEPC and J-PRISM II

## Location/Geographical Coverage

Port Vila City is the capital city of Vanuatu. There are six (6) provinces and three (3) municipalities in Vanuatu.



## Measures/Approach

### 1. Establishing the cooperative relationship among stakeholders in the SWM sector nationwide

In Vanuatu, J-PRISM II is focusing not only on the capacity development of individuals, but also on ensuring sustainability of public service on SWM by local governments through establishing the cooperative relationship among stakeholders in the SWM sector and utilizing the local resources.

#### (1) Creating a platform to facilitate communication on SWM through the NWMPCS working group

NWMPCS Working Group (WG) was established in 2018, composed of DEPC, Port Vila City Council (PVCC), and Luganville Municipal Council (LMC), which is the



second largest city in Vanuatu, as initial members, and coordination between national and local governments through the NWMPCS WG was enhanced.


The WG monitors the progress of the NWMPCS every year and selects and implements the priority activities based on the monitoring results to establish a Plan-Do-Check-Action (PDCA) cycle. Through these activities, WG makes tangible progress of NWMPCS and also leads the improvement of SWM system in PVCC such as an appointment of the Waste Management Officer (WMO), development of SWM plan, and approval of establishing a new Waste Management Division.

In addition, the impact of WG is widely extended toward the outside of WG and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with PVCC and Shefa province on the development of a waste management plan 2021–2030 was agreed.

#### (2) National Solid Waste Management Planning workshop

The 1st National Solid Waste Management Planning (NSWMP) workshop was held in Port Vila on February 28, 2020, with the aim to build a foundation between the national government and provincial/municipal governments to improve the SWM in each area. The new monitoring format was developed by DEPC. Based on that contents, provincial governments gave a presentation, and the DEPC gave the feedback to provide a guidance to move forward. This workshop was held in cooperation with DLA.

The proceedings of the NSWMP workshop was distributed to all provincial and municipal councils.



**Attended by**

- Port Vila City Council
- Luganville Municipal Council
- Sanma Provincial Council
- Shefa Provincial Council
- Tafea Provincial Council
- Malampa Provincial Council
- Apologies
- Lenakal Municipal Council
- Penama Provincial Council
- Torba Provincial Council

**Organized by**

- Department of Environment, Ministry of Climate Change
- Department of Local Authorities, Ministry of Internal Affairs
- J-PRISM II, JICA

**Main Contents & Discussion Points:**

- ✓ Keynote remarks by Acting Director General of the Ministry of Climate Change.
- ✓ Technical guidance on landfill site was provided by J-PRISM II.
- ✓ DEPC requested that every province would consult to DEPC in constructing a new landfill site.
- ✓ **PVCC offered to provide a technical support to other provinces and municipalities.**
- ✓ DEPC requested that DLA would communicate with the Public Service Commission (PSC) to approach secretary generals to promote SWM in province.

### (3) Utilizing the local resources

It is effective to approach decision-makers of relevant ministries and agencies, such as the Director General of the Ministry of Climate Change, the Secretary-General of provincial governments, and the Director of the Local Authorities, etc. On-site support using local NGOs and local consultants is also effective for technical transfer.

## 2. Institutionalization of SWM planning procedure

### (1) Development of a new annual waste management planning form

The Waste Management Act stipulates that each Municipal Council or a Provincial Government Council must formulate, adopt, and implement an annual Waste Management Plan and must consult with the Director of DEPC during the formulation of the Waste Management Plan. However, most of local governments don't comply with the Act. J-PRISM II reviews the existing SWM plans and forms and decides to simplify the form in consideration of the planning capacity of provincial councils. J-PRISM II also recommended to compile the relevant information for SWM planning and disseminate through DEPC to encourage SWM nationwide.

As a result, a new annual waste management planning form was developed and disseminated to the provincial and municipal governments through the DLA.

APPLICATION FORM: CONSULTATION FOR AN ANNUAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN IN PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALS

Version 2019\_01  
Approved 12 November 2018

Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation

Private Mail Bag 6063  
Port Vila, Vanuatu  
Phone: (678) 2502 / 35430  
Email: [depc@vanuatu.gov.vu](mailto:depc@vanuatu.gov.vu)

**How to complete this application form**

This application form and any supporting information provided with it are for a consultation of an annual Waste Management Plan in each province and municipality under the Waste Management Act No. 24 of 2014.

The Waste Management Act stipulates that each Municipal Council or a Provincial Government Council must formulate, adopt and implement an annual Waste Management Plan, and must consult with the Director of DEPC during the formulation of the Waste Management Plan. The Waste Management Plan has to comply with the policy, legislations, rules and orders below.

**I. Policies**

- National Sustainable Development Plan 2030 (NSDP)
- National Environment Policy and Action Plan 2030 (NEPAP)
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)
- Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy (2016-2030)
- National Waste Management and Pollution Control Strategy (NWMPCS) (2016-2030)
- Vanuatu National Ocean Policy

**II. Legislations**

- Waste Management Act, No. 24 of 2014
- Pollution Control Act, No. 12 of 2013
- Environmental Protection and Conservation Act (Cap 283)

**III. Rules & Orders** (signed on 1 February 2018, amended on October 2019)

- The control of single use plastic bags, plastic straws and polystyrene takeaway boxes
- Littering
- The licensing of private waste operators

For your reference to complete this form, please read [Detailed Guide To Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries And Territories, 2013](#) (<https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/detailed-guide-solid-waste-management-pacific-island-countries-and-territories>)

**1** Waste generation amount is estimated by multiplying the unit generation amount by population or number of business by type. Unit generation amount (per person or per business) is provided by the Waste Amount and Composition Survey (WRACS) (<https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/waste-amount-and-composition-survey>)

**2** Waste collection rate and disposal rate are measured by dividing records and incoming vehicle records at dumping sites.

Please note that your application will not be considered unless you return to the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) the form, completed and signed, at least 45 days before the submission and required information.

**IMPORTANT: THIS APPLICATION FORM HAS TO BE SUBMITTED EVERY SEPTEMBER AND CONSULTATION PROCESS HAS TO BE DONE BEFORE THE FINALIZATION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

Page 1 of 4

New Format of Annual SWM Plan

APPLICATION FORM: CONSULTATION FOR AN ANNUAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN IN PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALS

Version 2019\_01  
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**1. APPLICANT DETAILS**

Province or Municipal Council  
Luganville Municipal Council

Contact details  
Full name of contact person and higher position: Leonard Ito - LMC solid waste manager

Physical address: Luganville Municipal Council

PO Box: 232

Tel: 078 250622

Email: [leopardito@luganville.gov.vu](mailto:leopardito@luganville.gov.vu)

**2. BACKGROUND**

Please describe an outline of waste management in your province or municipality:  
Luganville like other Port Vila was II township lacks proper civil arrangements which makes waste management difficult and costly to manage. Waste appears mostly in both town and village in a poor state. Waste collection is the core activity but lack of facilities, awareness and resources is mentioned.

**3. CURRENT SITUATION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Please describe a current situation of waste management by category in your province or municipality. You can attach relevant documents to avoid the short explanation in this form.

By law: Please describe its contents and status if any.  
Solid waste management office at LMC has a gazetted by-law No. 12/2012.

Waste Management Plan (Master Plan): Please attach the latest plan if any.  
- SWM is drafted.

Waste Generation Amount: Please refer to the table in pg 1.  
Household, market, business etc.  
- we did not do any.

Waste Collection and Transportation: Please describe number and type of waste collection vehicles, waste collection method etc.  
- we have 2 waste collection vehicles. One by LMC, one by private collection. We must pay a gate fee for private collection.

Dumping site/Landfill site: Please attach map showing location of dumping site etc.  
We have a compost bin at market that collect the organic waste. (attached document)

Composting: Market compost, home compost etc.  
- we have a compost bin at market that collect the organic waste. (attached document)

Page 2 of 4

Example of Submission of the Form

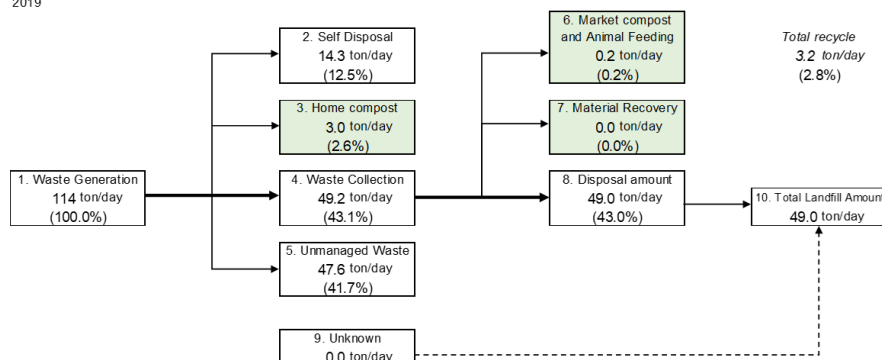
## (2) Disclosure of waste-related data on the DEPC website

To ensure the accessibility of SWM information, relevant data are compiled and made open through the DEPC website such as:

- SWM plans of each provincial and municipal governments
- Proceedings of the NSWMP workshop (February 2019)
- Waste management flow in Vanuatu at national level
- Application form for consultation of an annual waste management plan in provincial and municipal councils.

## National Waste Management Flow in Vanuatu (2019)

Vanuatu  
2019



Waste Flow (Actual)	2019	(ton/day)									
	Vanuatu	Port Vila	Luganville	Lenakel	Torba	Sanma	Penama	Malampa	Shefa	Tafea	
Population* (person)	287,102	53,682	17,189	6,438	10,707	39,907	34,283	43,128	49,166	32,603	
Unit generation** (kg/capita)	-	0.654	0.7	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	
Business&Market Waste	-	22.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1. Waste Generation	114	58	12	1.3	2	8	7	9	10	7	
2. Self Disposal***	14.3	10.5	1.0	0.0	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.2	
3. Home compost***	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	2.1	0.4	0.0	0.2	
4. Waste Collection	49.2	41.5	6.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.0	
5. Unmanaged waste	47.6	5.7	4.6	0.6	1.6	7.4	4.6	7.7	9.0	6.3	
6. Market compost & Animal feed	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
7. Material recovery	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Recycle	3.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	2.1	0.4	0.0	0.2	
8. Disposal amount	49.0	41.4	6.3	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.0	
9. Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10. Total Landfilled waste	49.0	41.4	6.3	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.0	

\*Source: VNSO 2016 Post Pam Mini Census Report, Vol 1\*, population of Shefa province excludes Port Vila and population of Sanma province excludes Luganville.

Lenakel: SWM plan of Tafea province and Lenakel municipal council (2017-2020), Population of Tafea province excludes Lenakel

\*\*Source: Port Vila: PVMC "Annual Solid Waste Management Plan (ASWMP) 2019"

Luganville: LMC, Sanma Province, Red Cross and World Vision "Luganville Waste Characterization Report 2018"

Lenakel and Provinces: Commonwealth Litter Programme (CLIP) "Waste data from Vanuatu" 2018

\*\*\*Source: VNSO 2009 census report volume 2"

## Stakeholders/Actors

- **DEPC** is the overall lead agency responsible for waste management as a regulator stipulated in the Waste Management Act No. 24 of 2014. DEPC is expected to create a platform for capacity development of SWM nation-wide and enforce compliance with the act.
- **Department of Local Authorities (DLA)**, Ministry of Internal Affairs, is the supervisory agency responsible for local governments (provincial and municipal councils). DLA is expected to encourage SWM implementation by local government and support compliance activities with DEPC.
- **Port Vila City Council (PVCC)** is playing a role to provide and transfer their capacities on waste management to officers in local governments.
- **Local governments** (provincial and municipal councils) are the main target of technical transfer.
- **Working Group (WG) for NWMPCS** is the platform for SWM between the national governments and local governments initiated by DEPC.

## Results/Outputs

NWMPCS was started in 2016 and monitored by DEPC regularly in November 2017, October 2018, and September 2019. The significant progress of 2019 was that the Council of Ministers' (COM) decision for introducing Container Deposit Scheme (CDS), in principle, was made that was promoted through the priority activity-2 in 2019. On a projection basis, expected achievement in 2020 would be 58%.

Summary of monitoring results of the NWMPCS and WG priority activities in 2020 are shown in the table below.

Summary of monitoring results of NWMPCS (as of September 2019)

Thematic Area	NWMPCS			Progress			Plan	Contribution of WG
	General		SWM	SWM			SWM	
	Targets	Activities	Targets	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020
Thematic 1 Policy, Legislation and Enforcement	13	20	6	25 %	67 %	68 %	92 %	Priority Activity 1 - Dissemination of annual SWM planning and monitoring system in provincial and municipal government councils
Thematic 2 Sustainable Financing	2	5	2	0 %	0 %	25 %	50 %	Priority Activity 2 – Detailed design of a Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) for its initial setup
Thematic 3 Capacity Development	7	10	3	17 %	50 %	50 %	50 %	
Thematic 4 Waste Minimization	1	1	1	0 %	0 %	50 %	90 %	Priority Activity 3 – Development and endorsement of a waste minimization plan
Thematic 5 Integrated Waste Management	5	5	5	20 %	20 %	20 %	20 %	
Thematic 6 National Coordination	3	3	3	0 %	17 %	0 %	33 %	
Thematic 7 Public Awareness	4	4	4	25 %	50 %	38 %	75 %	Priority Activity 4 – Promotion of Clean School Programme by identifying one school in each province as an environment model school and environment ambassador
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12 %</b>	<b>29 %</b>	<b>38 %</b>	<b>58 %</b>	

Source: DEPC (2020) The Detailed Action Plan of Priority Activities of WG in 2020



## Impact

Active mutual discussions, communications, and learning with the common local language among locals sometimes seem to be more effective and impacted rather than the ones done by foreign experts and consultants from donor and international agencies. This initiative will contribute to establish self-reliant improvement of waste management in Vanuatu.

## Innovation

Condition 1: Building a strong solid waste data management system

Condition 2: Realization of information disclosure

Condition 3: Building monitoring system

## Success Factors

The essential factor is to bring up core local institutional and human resources who will be an influencer to spread their capacities through their local network and cooperative system within a country.

In the case of Vanuatu, J-PRISM I has mobilized project resources intensively into PVCC staffs to develop their capacities associated with waste management. However, in 2015, there was a reorganization of City Council, and the departure of key waste management personnel quickly made the situation of waste management in the city worse. Therefore, J-PRISM II focused on not only a technical transfer to individuals but also developing structure for inheritance of knowledge and experience through organization. Especially, the NWMPCS WG was designed to be a platform to facilitate communication on SWM nationwide. WG also works to take over the knowledge from local resources trained in J-PRISM I and they are gradually becoming core human resources. They can play a role as a trainee in the region as well. This case is the first step to develop this kind of positive spiral of the local capacity development chain in Vanuatu.

## Constraints

Capital City and two Municipal Councils are capable to implement SWM to some extent. However, most of the provincial councils haven't have an experience to implement SWM services. Collaboration with DLA and PSC is essential to raise priority of SWM activities for Secretary Generals in their mandates and daily duties.

## Sustainability

Capacity development of DEPC as a regulator and coordinator of local resources to promote the NWMPCS is the key for the continuity and sustainability. It is essential to encourage PVCC to share their experience to other cities and motivate provincial governments to take SWM into their

own hands. Institutionalization and habituation of PDCA cycle on the monitoring and evaluation process of the NWMPCS are also the important factors to establish self-sustained system in Vanuatu.

## Replicability and/or Up-scaling

At a national level, NWMPCS coordinating committee should be held for final evaluation of the achievement of the strategy. Since the target year of the NWMPCS is 2020, it needs to be renewed based on the recommendation of the final evaluation.

At a local government level, collaboration with DLA and PSC is essential to raise priority of SWM activities for Secretary Generals in their mandates and daily duties, which is mentioned in Constraints.

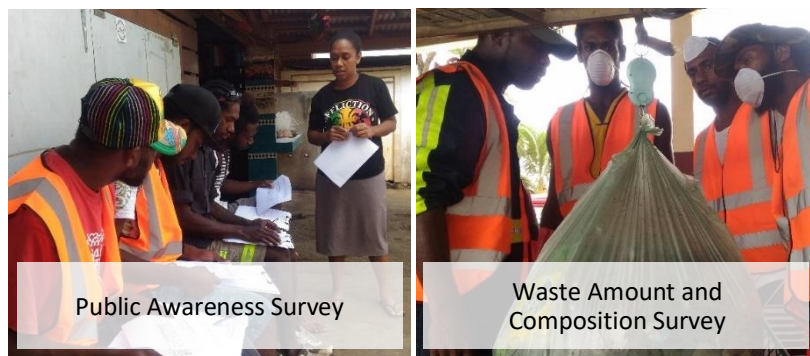
PVCC is planning to extend their SWM service with Shefa province based on the SWM plan 2021–2030 to be approved.

## Lessons Learned

### Essence of Japanese Technical Cooperation known as “GENBA”

Almost all WG members had no experience in waste management at first. WG members then gradually understood the importance of waste management through conducting a series of surveys at site, known as “GENBA” in Japanese, which foster the ownership mindset for the WG members as a public servant in charge of SWM.

Baseline surveys were conducted by PVCC staffs to comprehend the current status of waste management (photos were taken in 2017)



Public Awareness Survey

Waste Amount and Composition Survey

## Conclusion

### National platform and on-the-job training foster ownership on SWM service

The interactive consultations among national and local levels are activated in a voluntary basis through the WG activities. It seems effective approach in PICTs to create a platform initiated by DEPC to share knowledge and experience of SWM among local resources. On-the-job training is also effective to accelerate to build a concrete network through the platform and foster ownership on SWM service in their areas.

### Contributions to SDGs

This good practice highly contributes to the achievement of **Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production**. Especially, it can be reached to **Target 12.5, Target 12.8, and Target 12.a**.



### Author(s)/Contact Details

J-PRISM II: Mr. Junji ANAI (anai.junji@gmail.com),  
Ms. Rikae KODANI (rk-kodani@yachiyo-eng.co.jp)

Department of Environmental Protection and  
Conservation, the Ministry of Climate Change: Ms.  
Ionie Bolenga (Principal Waste Management and  
Pollution Control Officer)

Port Vila City Council: Mr. Mwetu Serge Sandy  
(Acting Waste Management Supervisor)

### Relevant Websites/Resources

Waste-related data (National Waste  
Management Flow) in Vanuatu:  
<https://depc.gov.vu/index.php/environmental-protection/waste-management/national-waste-management-flow-in-vanuatu>

Solid Waste Management Plan of Provinces and  
Municipalities:

<https://depc.gov.vu/index.php/environmental-protection/waste-management/waste-management-planning>

An annual waste management planning form of  
Provinces and Municipalities:

<https://depc.gov.vu/index.php/forms-and-fees/waste-and-pollution>

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