

Small Island Developing States National Focal Points Network Meeting

14-16 October 2024, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Meeting Handbook



Image 1 Return from the school, Malekula Island, Vanuatu. Tom Perry / World Bank

“Coherent Implementation of the ABAS – strengthening the role of the SIDS NFP Network”



ABAS



SIDS4

Key Contacts

Host Country Focal Points

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General Information

HOST – VANUATU

Full Name: Republic of Vanuatu

Capital City: Port Vila (on the island of Efate)

Land Area: 12,199 sq km, 4,710 sq miles

EEZ Area: 860,000 sq km, 332,046 sq miles

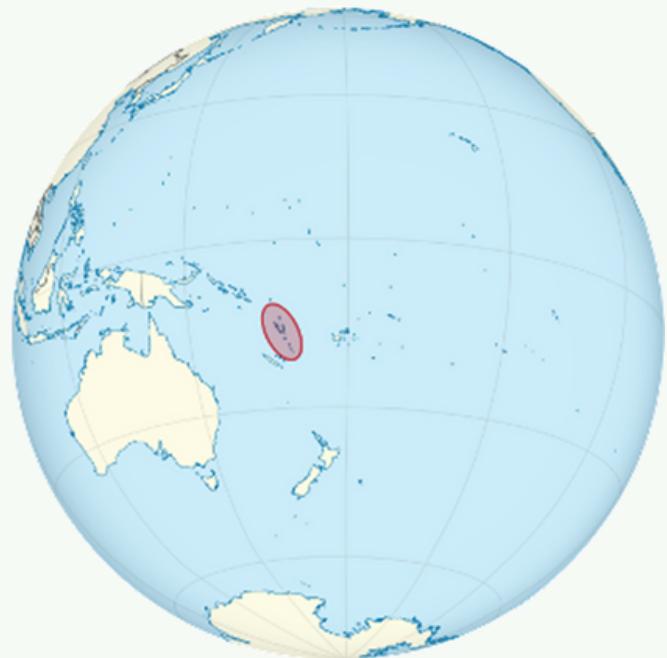
Population: 292,680 (2018 Estimate)

Religion: Christian (84%), animist (16%)

Currency: Vatu (VT)

Time Zone: GMT/UTC +11

Country Dialing Code: +678



ABOUT – (Source – Government of Vanuatu)

The Republic of Vanuatu is an island nation located in the South Pacific Ocean. The archipelago is located some 1,750 km east of Australia, 500 km north-east of New Caledonia, west of Fiji and south of the Solomon Islands. It was named New Hebrides during its colonial period. Vanuatu is only 2.5 hours flying time North East of Brisbane and 3.5 hours from Sydney, Australia. It's a little over 2 hours from Auckland, New Zealand. There are regular flights from New Zealand, Honiara, Australia, Noumea and Fiji.

HISTORY

Many of the islands of Vanuatu have been inhabited for thousands of years, the oldest archaeological evidence found dating to 2000 BC. In 1605, the Portuguese explorer Pedro Fernández de Quirós became the first European to reach the islands, believing it to be part of Terra Australis. Europeans began settling the islands in the late 18th century, after British explorer James Cook visited the islands on his second voyage and gave them the name New Hebrides. In 1887, the islands began to be administered by a French-British naval commission. In 1906, the French and British agreed to an Anglo-French Condominium on the New Hebrides. During World War II, the islands of Efate and Espiritu Santo were used as allied military bases. In the 1960s, the ni-Vanuatu people started to press for self-governance and later independence; full sovereignty was finally granted by both European nations on July 30, 1980. It joined the UN in 1981, and the Non-Aligned Movement in 1983.



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POLITICS

The parliament of Vanuatu is unicameral and has 52 members; these are elected every four years by popular vote. The leader of the main party in the parliament is usually elected Prime Minister and heads the government. The head of state, the President, is chosen every five years by the parliament and the presidents of the six provincial governments.

AIDE MEMOIRE

MEETING VENUE

The Meeting will be held at the Torba Conference Room at the Ramada Resort by Wyndham from 14-16 October 2024

Address:

Ramada Resort by Wyndham
Erakor Lagoon Paray, Port Vila

Tel: +678 28000

Email: events@ramadaresort.com.vu
[Http://www.ramadaresort.com.vu](http://www.ramadaresort.com.vu)



Image 2 View of the Ramada Resort by Wyndham



Image 3 Torba conference Room, Ramada Resort

VISA Requirements

All participants, including speakers, are responsible for obtaining their entry visas for Vanuatu (if required). Participants are advised to apply for visas as early as possible as the processing time could take up to two weeks. Beginning 1 August 2024, all visa applications are done online. The website for visa applications is <https://evisa.gov.vu/visas>

Participants from exempted countries will be granted a visitor's visa upon arrival and participants from non-exempted countries are required to apply for a visitor's visa via the website.

The list of exempted/non-exempted countries is available on the Vanuatu Department of Immigration and Passport Services' website via the link <https://immigration.gov.vu/visa-exempted-countries/>.

Please direct your visa issues/queries to host country focal points.

Transportation

The Vanuatu Government will provide courtesy transportation for all traveling participants from Bauerfield International Airport to hotels and from hotels to the airport at the end of the meeting for those who have made requests.

Please share your itineraries to the host country focal points for transportation arrangements.

Transportation around Port Vila

Port Vila is well connected by public transportation. Public buses can drop you off at the doorstep of your destination. Transportation anywhere in Port Vila costs 150VT (around USD1.20). Taxis are costlier, depending on distance travelled. Best you negotiate the taxi fare before you step into the taxi. It is also advised for the participants to enquire at their hotel's reception as they have reliable taxi drivers' and bus drivers' contacts.

Accommodation

All participants are kindly requested to make their own bookings for accommodations. The Hotel of choice for participants will be Ramada Resort by Wyndham. However, participants are free to choose their own accommodation via <https://www.booking.com/>. Any participants staying in other hotels will be responsible for their own transportation to the meeting venue.

Participants are expected to settle incurred costs directly with the hotel before departure as well as any additional charges that are not covered by the organizers (e.g. local and long-distance telephone calls, internet use, business center use, laundry, room and hotel transportation services)

Kindly see below, other hotel options to choose from:



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1. Ramada Resort by Wyndham

- Distance: Meeting venue
- Price: Studio from 17,000vt / \$142 – includes breakfast (1 king/twin bed, sleeps 2)
- Email: events@ramadaresort.com.vu Tel: +678 28000
- Website: [\[ramadaresort.com.vu\]\(https://ramadaresort.com.vu/\)](https://ramadaresort.com.vu)

2. The Melanesian Hotel

- Distance: 1.5 km
- Price: Standard rooms from 22,000vt / \$185 – includes breakfast (1 queen bed/2 single beds/1 rollaway bed)
- Tel: +678 22150
- Website: [\[melanesianportvila.com\]\(http://www.melanesianportvila.com\)](http://www.melanesianportvila.com)

3. Kaiviti Motel

- Distance: 1.5 km
- Price:
Basic studio from 10,650vt / \$90 – no breakfast (1 queen size bed)
Standard studio from 14,500vt / \$122 – no breakfast (1 queen bed, 1 single bed)
- Email: reception@kaivitimotel.com - Tel: +678 24684
- Website: [\[kaivitimotel.com\]\(https://www.kaivitimotel.com/\)](https://www.kaivitimotel.com/)

4. Nasama Resort

- Distance: 4 km
- Price: Standard studios from 22,000vt / \$185.32
- Email: info@nasamaresort.com - Tel: +678 28010 / +678 28009
- Website: [\[nasamaresort.com\]\(https://www.nasamaresort.com/\)](https://www.nasamaresort.com/)

5. Hotel Olympic

- Distance: 3 km
- Price: Rooms from 8,000vt / \$68 (single) and 9,000vt / \$75 (double)
- Tel: +678 22466
- Website: [\[booking.com\]\(https://www.booking.com/\)](https://www.booking.com)

6. Grand Hotel

- Distance: 1.7 km
- Price: Harbour View room from 19,954vt / \$167.97 – includes breakfast (sleeps 2)
- Email: reservations@grandvanuatu.com Tel: +678 28882

7. Mangoes Resort

- Distance: 2.3 km
- Price: Rooms from 22,295vt / \$192.05 – 32,020vt / \$269.83
- Email: mangoes@vanuatu.com.vu - Tel: +678 24913
- Website: [\[mangoesresort.com\]\(https://www.mangoesresort.com/\)](https://www.mangoesresort.com)

8. Moorings Hotel

- Distance: 3.6 km
- Price: Standard room from 11,529vt / \$97 – breakfast not included
- Tel: +678 26800
- Website: [\[mooringsvanuatu.com\]\(https://www.mooringsvanuatu.com/en/\)](https://www.mooringsvanuatu.com/en/)

9. Central Bay Motel

- Distance: 3 km
- Price: Standard rooms from 5,000vt / \$42 – no breakfast
- Website: [\[booking.com\]\(https://www.booking.com/\)](https://www.booking.com)

10. Tropicana Lagoon Apartments Resort and Restaurant

- Distance: 5 km
- Price: Standard studio from 10,620vt / \$89.48
- Website: [\[tropicanalagoon.com\]\(https://www.tropicanalagoon.com/en/reservation\)](https://www.tropicanalagoon.com/en/reservation)

11. MG Cocomo Resort

- Distance: 9 km
- Price: Rooms from 2,817vt / \$192.30
- Email: booking@mgcocomo.com - Tel: +678 25505
- Website: [\[mhcocomo.com\]\(https://mhcocomo.com/stay/\)](https://mhcocomo.com/stay/)



Daily Subsistence Allowance

The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLS) will provide a daily subsistence allowance (DSA) to eligible participants of USD\$326 per night and a terminal allowance for their stay in Vanuatu.

To guarantee full payment of the DSA, sponsored participants are reminded that they **MUST** submit the following documents to the OHRLS representative: Boarding passes – Please ensure that you retain your boarding pass stub for each sector flown. Your return boarding pass stub(s) should be emailed to the OHRLS representative immediately upon your return to your country.

Provisional Agenda

The provisional agenda is available online via the QR Code below:



Participant Registration

Badges will be available at the entrance of the meeting room for collection prior to the opening of the meeting. They can be picked up after signing up for the meeting on 14 October 2024.

Language

The working language of the Meeting will be English.

Lunch and Coffee/Tea Break

Participants will be provided with a morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea throughout the course of the meeting. A welcome reception will be hosted by the Vanuatu Government in the evening of 14 October 2024.



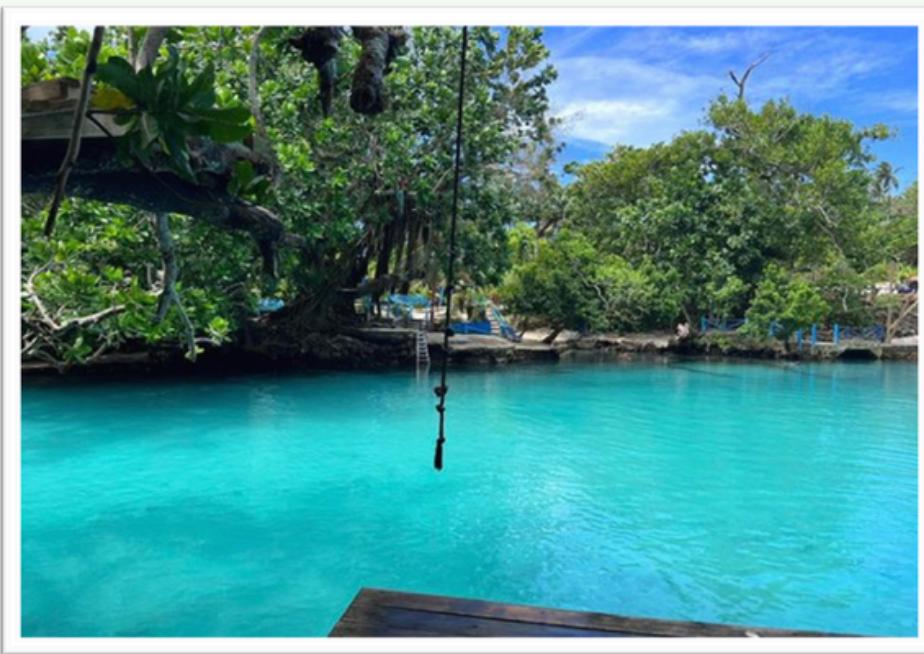
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Site Visit

For the last day there will be a site visit [TBC] to observe how their projects and work align with the implementation of ABAS on the ground. This visit will provide a tangible connection to the discussions held throughout the sessions, offering a real-world perspective on the challenges and opportunities of implementing ABAS initiatives.

Afterwards, participants are afforded the opportunity to enjoy Vanuatu's tourist site – Blue Lagoon, located at the eastern side of Efate Island. Participants are encouraged to bring swimming suits to enjoy the afternoon at one of the main touristic spots of the island



Useful information

- Local Language

The Official languages of Vanuatu are English, French and Bislama.

- Energy Source

Vanuatu uses Type I socket mainly used in Australia and New Zealand. Participants are advised to bring their own adaptors. Electricity: 230V 50HzHz Below are pictures of the type I plugs.



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- **Weather and Clothing:**

Vanuatu is a tropical country and average temperatures vary between 20 degrees Celsius and 27 degrees Celsius. The rainy season occurs between January to March however it rains a little all throughout the year.

It is recommended to wear light fabrics, and to bring comfortable shoes and casual clothes. Participants are advised to bring their swimming gears on the last day.

- **Currency and Exchange rate**

The currency unit is the Vanuatu Vatu (VUV)

The USD exchange rate is 1 USD = 120 VUV and the Euro exchange rate is 1 Euro = 132 VUV

Participants can exchange major currencies into the Vanuatu Vatu (VUV) either in the five commercial banks in Port Vila or in a number of foreign exchange outlets around town.

- **Communications**

Port Vila has strong internet connection. It has two main telecommunication companies; Vodaphone Vanuatu and Digicel. All participants are encouraged to purchase SIM Cards and mobile data at the airport. Both Vodaphone and Digicel have sales booth at the airport located on the left side as you exit.

The code for making international calls out of Vanuatu is 00, while for calls to Vanuatu is +678.

- **Traffic:**

Traffic in the city of Port-Vila is always a problem in the morning between 7:30 am and 9:00 am and in the afternoon during the mad rush home as of 5:00 pm. For participants who choose not to stay at Ramada, this information may be useful, especially in the mornings.

- **Emergency First Responders Contacts**

Police – 1111

Fire – 113

Maritime – 114

Promedical Ambulance Services – 115



- Supermarket:

The well-known supermarket in Port-Vila town is Au Bon Marche (ABM). It has several outlets around town and they open at 6:00am and close between 7:30 pm. Convenient shops are also everywhere in town and some stay open until 11:00pm.

- Duty - Free shopping:

Vanuatu is well known for its genuine Duty-Free shopping. Participants might want to visit the following shops:

- Paris shopping
- Fung Kwei
- Prouds Vanuatu

- Restaurants:

Vanuatu is well known for its organic beef and seafood. Participants may want to visit well known restaurants such as Au fare, Stone Grill, L'Houstalet or the Rosi.



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