



MINISTRY OF TOURISM,  
TRADE, COMMERCE AND  
NI-VANUATU BUSINESS

# Vanuatu Electronic Single Window Project Monthly newsletter

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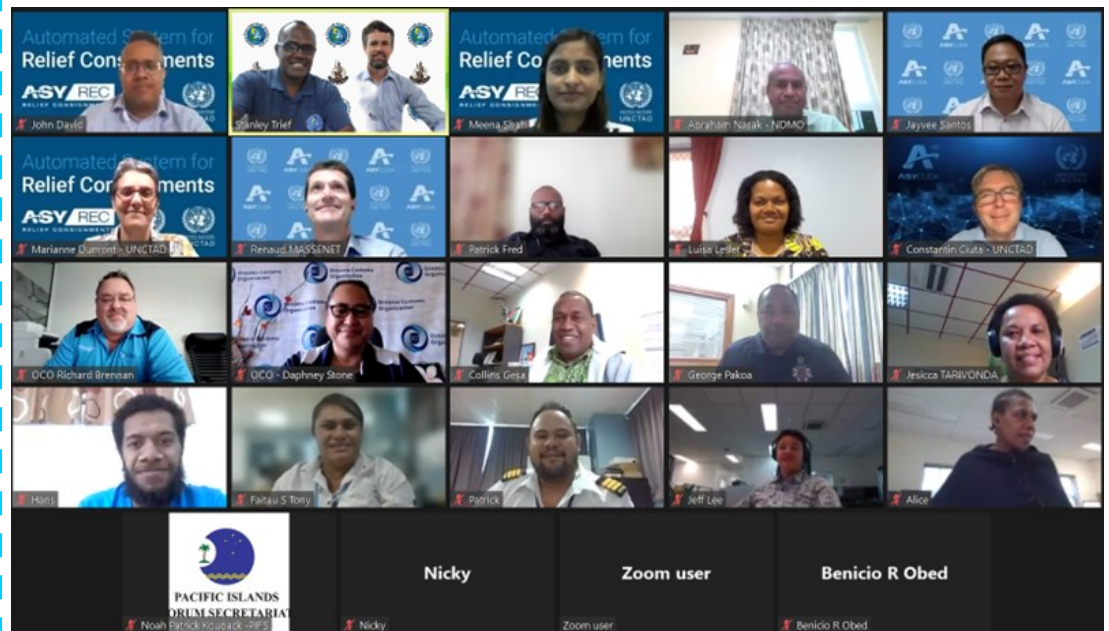
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## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JUNE

1. Deployment of TRBR Type approval module prototype
2. Deployment of ASYCUDA-Post interface prototype

## The Vanuatu ASYREC Project launched!

*The event was witnessed around the region*



*Some of the national and regional participants during the launching*

25th May was another historical day in Vanuatu when the Project to implement the ASYREC system was officially launched.

The online event was attended by national stakeholders, including the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and Customs, the Project Donor Partner, AusAID Governance for Growth Program, other Government Officials, including the Vanuatu Aid for Trade Management Unit, as well as the non-Government Organisations involved with humanitarian relief supplies in Vanuatu.

We were also fortunate to have organisations from around the region attending the live event, such as the Oceania Customs Organisation, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the PACER Plus Implementation Unit as well as other regional Customs administrations.

The keynote addresses of the event was from the Mr. Peter Wilson from the Australian High Commission in Vanuatu, who looks forward to the implementation of the system in Vanuatu and hopefully in other coun-

tries in the region in the near future. The event was further highlighted by the presentation and demonstration of the system by the Project implementing partner, UNCTAD.

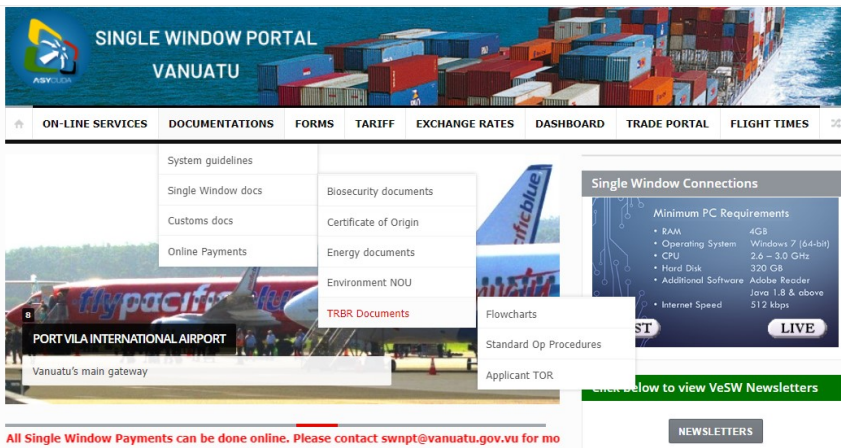
The ASYREC system will assist the Vanuatu NDMO to effectively coordinate, facilitate and monitor the import and distribution of humanitarian supplies in Vanuatu. This was very much welcomed by Director NDMO, Mr. Abraham Nasak, during his closing remarks at the launching.

The system has been successfully implemented in Nepal, Jamaica and Madagascar, while Vanuatu will be the first Pacific island country to pilot the latest version of this solution. Meanwhile there are already talks after the launching to replicate this system to the other countries in the region.

The project has a duration of 12 months and will be hosted under the Vanuatu electronic Single Window (VeSW) Project.

For more information about the ASYREC system, please visit: <https://www.asyrec.asycuda.org>.

# TRBR module documentations finalised



TRBR documentations are now available on the [VeSW Portal](#)

In preparation for the deployment of the TRBR Type Approval module, the VeSW team has been working with the team TRBR to develop the user documents required for the use of the module.

TRBR have reviewed and validated the documentations. The documentations

have therefore been published online the VeSW Portal and will be used during the training and roll-out of the TRBR module.

It is standard practice that the documentations are expected to go under further review prior and after the deployment of the module, especially when feedback is received from other stakeholders.

A strength of successfully deploying VeSW modules is that user-guides are well documented to assist the users, both within the user administrations and the external users, and therefore ensuring a long term sustainability of the module to meet the requirements of the user administrations.

Meanwhile, the VeSW team have been working with the UNCTAD system developer on the module prototype which is now 85% completed and therefore expected now to be deployed in June for testing, training and live implementation.



**Finance and Treasury**  
Government of Vanuatu

## VAMU to seek funding from the Government for Phase III of the VeSW Project

With the current funding for Phase II of the VeSW Project coming to an end on December 2022, the Vanuatu Aid-for-trade Management Unit (VAMU) are now preparing a National Project Proposal (NPP) to be submitted to the Government's Ministerial Budget Committee (MBC) to seek funding for Phase III of the Project.

Phase III of the VeSW Project is currently estimated for a value of over vt204million for a period of 2 years. 77% of the funds would be to cover UNCTAD's support as the Project's Implementing Partner, while 23% of the budget would be to maintain the system and the operations of the National Project team (NPT) in Vanuatu over the 2 years period.

The activities of Phase III of the Project would be to implement the other trade facilitation initiatives which were identified during the inception mission of the VeSW Project in March 2019. This includes, but not limited to, the e-permit and e-certificate modules for the departments of Health, Forestry and

Fisheries. Having a Phase III of the VeSW Project would also provide the environment for UNCTAD and NPT to complete the implementation of the ASYREC 12 months project, as well as the implementation of the e-CITES system that has been recently agreed to by the agencies concerned.

The current Phase II of the VeSW Project is being funded by the [Enhanced Integrated Framework](#) for an amount of USD1.5million, with additional support and assistance from the Australian Governance for Growth (GfG) Program and the Vanuatu Government. This phase was initially scheduled to be completed within 2 years (2019-2020), however due to the pandemic, EIF has kindly approved two No-Cost-Extensions for the Project for 2021 and 2022, to ensure all the planned activities for this phase are completed.

Funding the VeSW Project is not new to the Vanuatu Government who have initially funded Phase I of the Project to implement the

ASYCUDA World system in Vanuatu, for an amount of over vt100million in 2016-2018.

All VeSW Project funds are being administered by VAMU, who are the Government agency responsible for administering aid for trade funds in Vanuatu. This arrangement has been working well and therefore, it is anticipated that VAMU's role to support the VeSW Project continues into the future, should there be a Phase III of the Project, especially given the Project's contribution to facilitating trade in Vanuatu.

Last but not least, it is worth mentioning that not only has the VeSW system been assisting trade facilitation in Vanuatu, as well as protecting its borders, the system has significantly enhanced the collection of Government revenue with over vt12.5billion received in 2021 by the departments who are currently using the VeSW system.

# ANZ eGate Payment Solution integration progressing well

## Secure Payments through ANZ eGate



“... we are now in the stage of beginning tests between the two systems”

Following the initial discussions back in March 2022, the Department of Finance have completed the administrative requirements to initiate this development. Work has therefore progressed immediately by team ANZ to prepare the eGate platform to integrate with the VeSW system.

This work was successfully completed by ANZ and access has

been granted to the UNCTAD experts to prepare the integration with the ANZ system, with support from the ANZ team base in Fiji.

The UNCTAD experts have since successfully connected to the eGate platform and we are now in the stage of beginning tests between the two systems once we get the clear from ANZ.

This facility would allow clients to make payments in real-time, directly to Customs and other VeSW agencies, using Visa or Mastercards.

Having alternative payment solution in the VeSW system would not only facilitate trade but enhance Government revenue collections as well.

## Vanuatu Shows How to Reduce Emissions Through Trade Facilitation

**“Vanuatu is one of only seven ASYCUDA countries worldwide, and the only one in the Pacific region, running a single-window system using ASYCUDA”**

“Vanuatu has emerged as a trailblazer in the Asia-Pacific region in leveraging the benefits of trade facilitation through the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)’s Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) program. For over 40 years, ASYCUDA, which is UNCTAD’s largest technical assistance program, has helped customs offices around the world clear goods faster and increase the pace of trade. Vanuatu is one of only seven ASYCUDA countries worldwide, and the only one in the Pacific region, running a single-window system using ASYCUDA. Support from the Enhanced Integrated Frame-

work has been instrumental in installing the Electronic Single Window, which is co-funded by the Governments of Vanuatu and Australia. It has reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 5,827 kg by eliminating or reducing paperwork in the sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) certificate application and cargo clearance processes. Trade information portals have also been found to be a tool for reducing energy consumption while increasing transparency and easing access to key information for traders. Paperwork in the SPS certification application process is down by 95 percent and has been eliminated in cargo clearing. The physical trips required to comply with these two pro-

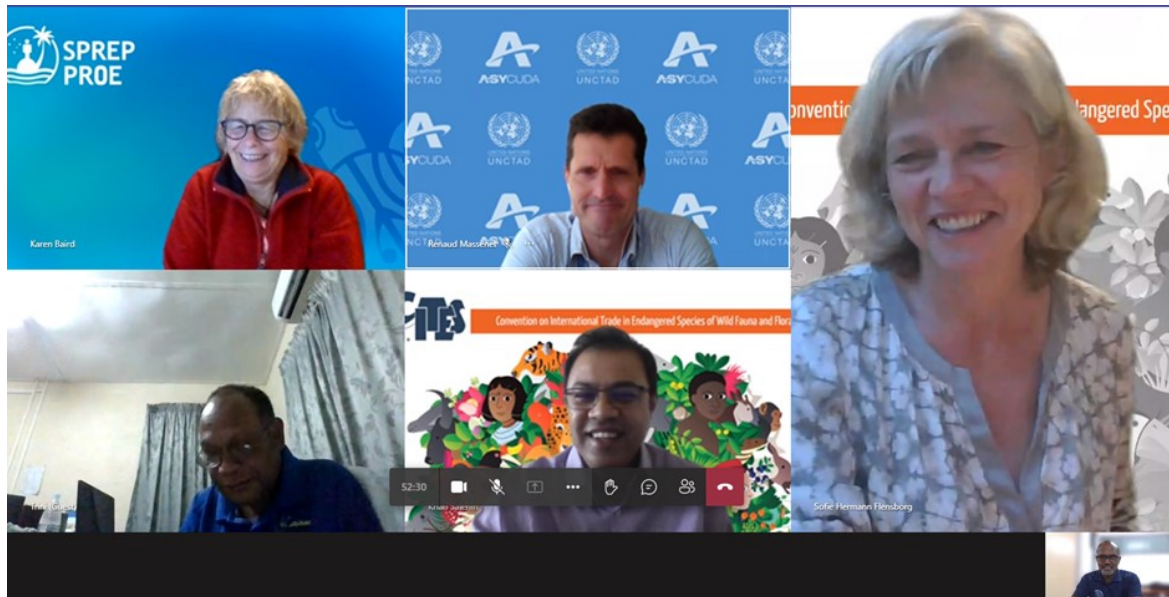
cesses are down by 86 percent and 100 percent, respectively, resulting in Vanuatu becoming the number one Asia-Pacific Small Island Developing State in digital and sustainable trade in 2021, based on a UNESCAP survey. The country’s approach aligns sustainable economic growth and development through low-impact industries and modern technologies with a long-term vision, as outlined in the environmental pillar of Vanuatu’s National Sustainable Development Plan.”

By Shamika Srimanne and Ratnakar Adhikari

<https://thediplomat.com>  
24th May 2022

# Discussions for e-CITES underway

An AYCUDA based solution to control the legal trade of CITES listed species



Series of online meetings between DEPC, UNCTAD, SPREP, CITES Secretariat and the VeSW team during the months of April and May 2022

The Department of Environment Protection and Conservation (DEPC) has been stepping up its role to control the legal trade of CITES listed species in Vanuatu. Part of this effort is to review the Vanuatu CITES Act and regulations. This work is currently underway and the changes are expected to be tabled in the Vanuatu Parliament later in 2022.

Further to the legal process, the department has been in consultation with the VeSW team to adopt the AYCUDA based e-CITES solution to assist with this important work.

A series of online meetings has therefore been conducted between DEPC, UNCTAD, SPREP, the CITES secretariat and the VeSW team in April and May 2022, to consider options to making the implementation of this system in Vanuatu a reality.

Following the consultations, Director DEPC, Ms. Donna Kalfatak, wrote to the CITES Secretariat in Geneva on 28th April, to officially state Vanuatu’s interest to adopt the e-CITES system. In response,

the CITES Secretariat Secretary General, Ms. Ivonne Higuero, responded on 20th May, to officially pledged the Secretariate’s support to Vanuatu in this endeavor.

The Secretary General has also announced in her letter that this initiative will be supported with resources from the [United States Fish and Wildlife Service](#) (USFWS), and with technical support from UNCTAD and SPREP. Nationally, the implementation of the system will be supported by the VeSW team and DEPC Officials.

Once implemented, the system would be the 2nd AYCUDA solution to be used by DEPC and the 4th within the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC), besides the Department of Energy and National Disaster Management Office (NDMO). The MoCC will therefore be the only Government Ministry, besides Customs, to use multiple modules and solutions of the AYCUDA system to assist with its operations. This is a clear illustration of Vanuatu’s commitment to actually applying practical solutions at the border to protect its environment, the climate and its people.

**Vanuatu Electronic Single Window Project**  
**Ministry of Tourism, Trade, Commerce and Ni-Vanuatu Business**

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For past editions of this Newsletter, please click on the [Newsletter link](#) on the [Single Window website](#).



The overall objective of the Vanuatu Electronic Single Window project is to expand Vanuatu’s GDP through increased exports. The project outcome is to increase Vanuatu’s competitiveness through the reduction of cost and time of trading across its borders. The Project is kindly funded by the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) and the Australian Government. The Vanuatu Government is also providing in-kind contribution towards the project, in terms of personnel and ICT support.

The main implementing partner in the Project is United Nations for Trade and Development, UNCTAD.

