



Shelter Cluster Vanuatu

ShelterCluster.org

Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter



Environmental Checklist for Shelter Response

Vanuatu

Draft version - Sept 2019

Background to the profile

The Shelter Cluster Vanuatu has developed the “*Environmental Checklist for Shelter Response*” to fill a gap in the knowledge base of the cluster highlighted during past responses. Linking to the cluster’s *Technical Guidelines for Shelter Preparedness and Response to Natural Hazards*, the profile informs environmentally sustainable shelter programming by making key information about environmental considerations, impacts, concerns and opportunities relevant to shelter and settlements programming available and accessible to Shelter Cluster partners.

Quality programming includes understanding, preventing and mitigating negative environmental impacts. If environmental issues are not taken into account, shelter and settlement programmes may ultimately be inefficient since short-term outcomes can cause new problems, requiring further investment
– Sphere handbook 2018

A technical working group (TWG) was established in May 2019 to ensure that the process of drafting this profile draws on the extensive knowledge of Shelter Cluster partners and Government counterparts working across Vanuatu, to develop relevant and up-to-date country-specific guidance. The TWG continues to provide a common platform for partners to contribute to the content of the profile and pilot in future responses.

Structure of the profile

Building off the 2018 Sphere Standards, the profile contains a **checklist** outlining key actions to be taken by the coordination team, program managers and field staff during each phase of the humanitarian program cycle, and **annexes** (see *List of Annexes*) which provide further guidance on each of the actions. The structure is designed to be as operational as possible and allow users to easily access relevant information without having to read the entire document. The annexes can also be read as one country profile.

Sphere Shelter and Settlement Standard 7: Environmental sustainability
“Shelter and settlement assistance minimises any negative programme impact on the natural environment.”
~ Sphere Handbook 2018

It is recommended that coordinators, program managers and field staff be familiar with the content of the whole profile. Given the role of shelter and settlements in promoting health, supporting family and community life, and providing dignity, security and access to livelihoods, and environment being a cross-cutting issue, this profile is also relevant to other sectors. Issues of livelihoods, WASH, food security and energy are referenced, but not presented in the same level of detail.

List of annexes

00	Checklist
Annex	Title (and links)
01	Vanuatu environment and disaster context
02	Key Actors
03	Regulatory requirements and institutions
04	Ecologically Protected Areas and areas of environmental and cultural sensitivity/importance
05	Vanuatu hazards and maps
06	Environmental Management & Monitoring Plan
07	Project Management Cycle and Sustainable Construction
08	Guidance on rapid environmental impact assessment for shelter and settlements programming
09	Utilising GIS Data for Enhanced Humanitarian Shelter Programming
10	Environment & site selection and planning issues in Vanuatu
11	Security of Tenure and Environment in Vanuatu
12	Site Decommissioning
13	Green building practices and most common building materials
14	Green Logistics & Procurement
15	Greening household items
16	Key considerations for energy and fuel in Vanuatu
17	Debris and waste management, recycling, reuse and repurposing
18	Climate risk management and adaptation & nature-based solutions

The checklist and annexes are living documents that can be revised and added to by the Shelter Cluster over time as new information becomes available. Future revisions will help to ensure that environmental and shelter and settlement related issues and practices which vary greatly over Vanuatu's 6 provinces and 83 islands are captured.

Current members of the TWG include chairs Shelter Cluster Vanuatu Lead Public Works Department (PWD) and co-lead International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Global Shelter Cluster Environment Community of Practice (GSC ECoP), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS), CARE, Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC), and Department of Forests.

For further information, to input to the country profile, or to provide any feedback please contact us at coord1.vanuatu@sheltercluster.org