

Vanuatu Technical Implementation Visit 9th- 13th November 2015

2011 Recommendation	Status	Action	Timescale	Dependencies
(1 a) The Government of Vanuatu should formally designate a National Hydrographic Authority, such as an officer from the Marine Department (in the absence of a Maritime Safety Administration), to be responsible for coordination and ensuring the provision of appropriate nautical charting services for Vanuatu in accordance with the requirements of the International Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), and in accordance with the principles established by the IHO.	<p>No action to date. This used to exist prior to 1994/95.</p> <p>The responsibility for SOLAS currently lies with The Ports and Marine Department (PMD) under the Shipping Act. A bill is to go before the parliament for the establishment of the Office of the Maritime Regulator (OMR) and following endorsement, The shipping act will transfer to this new office. Within the Bill there is specific mention made to Hydrographic responsibilities.</p> <p>See x for the recommended VHA structure, staffing and implementation plan.</p>	<p>(2015 – 1a) In lieu of the OMR, Lands and Surveys should obtain a regulation order to provide Hydrographic Services in fulfilment of SOLAS and PMD to mandate Lands and Surveys to provide these services.</p> <p>(2015 – 1b) Once the OMR Bill is passed, the VHA should be established under the Safety Division.</p>	Fourth Quarter 15 to First Quarter 16	
(1 b) The Government of Vanuatu should allocate regular funding and travel support for the National Hydrographic Authority to fulfil the duties of the Office and to represent Vanuatu in appropriate forums, and in particular, to attend	In lieu of the VHA, the Ministry of Foreign affairs Marine and Ocean Affairs division have been attending the relevant international forums and funding participation at various regional events.	(2015 – 2a) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should continue to fund the participation of Vanuatu in the relevant international fora until such time that the VHA is established and has a budget assigned.	Fourth Quarter 15 onwards	

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<p>relevant meetings of the SWPHC, SPC-SOPAC and IHO; and</p>	<p>The establishment of the OMR is funded through an ADB and NZ Loan worth \$56.1m under the x project. Therefore initial funding is in place for the running of the VHA once the OMR is operational.</p>	<p>(2015 – 2b) Funding should identified for the initial establishment and operation of the VHA whilst it is included as part of Lands and Survey’s remit.</p> <p>(2015 – 2c) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should seek the assistance of the UKHO and SPC in developing a forward looking budgetary plan for the establishment and running of the VHA for the next 5 years.</p>	<p>Fourth Quarter 15</p> <p>First Quarter 16</p>	
<p>(1 c) The Government of Vanuatu should ensure that a Maritime Safety Information (MSI) Coordinator position is established as soon as possible to fulfil Vanuatu’s treaty obligations under SOLAS Chapter5 Reg4 - <i>navigational warnings</i>.</p>	<p>Although not formally designated, the Harbour master works with the Land and Survey department to administer Vanuatu’s MSI collation and dissemination. However there is a lack of consistency, no contact with the NAVAREA coordinator and a lack of awareness of the accepted IHO – WMO – IMO channels or procedures.</p>	<p>(2015 – 3a) The role of National MSI Coordinator will be a key function of the National Hydrographic Structure. The National Maritime Safety Information (NMSI) Sub Committee (or National Hydrographic Coordinating Committee (NHCC) once established) should agree whether a post is created under the VHA, or whether the Harbour Master’s role is expanded to encompass this responsibility.</p> <p>(2015 – 3b) The role of a National Hydrographic Coordinator should be described</p>	<p>Last Quarter 15 to First Quarter 16</p> <p>First Quarter 16</p>	

		under the ToRs for the VHA.		
(1 d) Authorise SPC-SOPAC and any other organisations, such as surveying and scientific organisations in Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States of America holding bathymetric or other relevant hydrographic data covering Vanuatu, including military organisations, to provide that data to the Primary Charting Authority (UKHO) for use in the compilation or revision of the existing charts of Vanuatu.	Partially complete. Letter of Authorisation was signed during the visit empowering SPC to pass any hydrographic data to the UKHO for the purposes of updating navigational products.	(2015 – 4) Vanuatu Ministry of Foreign Affairs should use the draft letter template included at annex x to request that NZ, US, Aus governments (and any others who may have data) release any data holdings in Vanuatu waters to the UKHO.	Last Quarter 15	
(1 e) The Government of Vanuatu should ensure the development and execution of: i. A National Maritime Safety Information Plan – by ensuring that field checks are carried out on the current charts and publications and the results are forwarded promptly to the PCA (UKHO); ii. A National Hydrographic Survey Plan – by seeking resources through foreign funding or assistance to complete the surveys listed and	Some work has been done but in isolation and out of the confines of a formal plan.	(2015 – 5a) A national Maritime Safety Information plan should be developed by the VHA, with support from the UKHO and SPC through the PRNI. (2015 – 5b) The National Maritime Information Safety Plan should be presented to and endorsed by the NHCC. (2015 – 5c) A National Hydrographic Survey plan should be developed by the VHA, with support from the UKHO and SPC through the PRNI.	First and Second Quarters 16 First and Second Quarters 16 First and Second Quarters 16	

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<p>prioritised in the National Hydrographic Survey Plan in support of the National Charting Plan; and</p> <p>iii. A National Charting Plan – by endorsing and proposing the chart improvement plan detailed in this report to the PCA (UKHO);</p>		<p>(2015 – 5d) The National Hydrographic Survey Plan should be presented to and endorsed by the NHCC.</p> <p>(2015 – 5e) A National Charting plan should be developed by the VHA, with support from the UKHO.</p> <p>(2015 – 5f) The National Charting Plan should be presented to and endorsed by the NHCC.</p>	<p>First and Second Quarters 16</p> <p>First and Second Quarters 16</p> <p>First and Second Quarters 16</p>	
<p>(1 f) The Government of Vanuatu should seek assistance from regional neighbours such as Australia and New Zealand and from relevant international agencies, including SPC-SOPAC and international funding and aid agencies, to carry out chart improvement surveys in accordance with the National Hydrographic Survey Plan.</p>	<p>In 2014, NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade funded four surveys in key areas around Vanuatu. The survey work was conducted by SPC and supervised by the UKHO.</p> <p>Following this the government of Vanuatu funded an additional three surveys, all of which were conducted by SPC.</p> <p>The only short coming of this work is that it was not conducted as part of a longer term national plan or strategy.</p> <p>Vanuatu is within scope of the PRNI and will therefore benefit</p>	<p>(2015 – 6a) The VHA, through the NHCC (or NMSI Sub Committee) should look to fund National Survey Plan through partnering with donor funders, central government funding and regional organisations.</p> <p>(2015 – 6b) The VHA should seek the assistance of the UKHO and SPC to develop a project proposal that includes the procurement of basic survey equipment. This proposal can then be taken to various donor agencies in the region for funding.</p>	<p>Third Quarter 16</p> <p>Third Quarter 16</p>	

	from capacity building and inclusion in the Pacific wide legacy data audit.			
(2 a) The National Hydrographic Authority should liaise with the Regional Team 5B at the UKHO	Not achieved. In lieu of the establishment of the VHA, the sub-committee on hydrography has maintained contact with SPC, but very little direct liaison has been achieved with the UKHO.	(2015 – 7) Once established, the VHA should maintain regular contact with Regional Team 5 South at the UKHO to ensure that new navigationally significant information is forwarded and included in existing charts of Vanuatu.	First Quarter 16	
(2 b) The National Hydrographic Authority should apply, through the SWPHC, for training for the MSI Coordinator under the IHO Capacity Building Programme	Not achieved as VHA not yet established.	(2015 – 8a) Until the VHA is established, the NHCC (or NMSI Sub Committee) should request assistance of SPC (through the PRNI) and the NAVAREA Coordinator, in mentoring the de facto National MSI Coordinator (the Harbour master) or equivalent. (2015 – 8b) Once established the VHA should apply through the SWPHC for training for the MSI Coordinator under the IHO Capacity Building Programme.	Fourth Quarter 15 Second Quarter 16	
(2 c) Organise an urgent national programme of review of all the published charts of	Not achieved. SPC with support from the UKHO ran a 1 day workshop on MSI and reporting	(2015 – 9) Once established, the VHA Should organise an urgent national programme of review of	Second Quarter 16	

Vanuatu and inform the PCA (UKHO) of all detail that is incorrectly shown on these charts. Such a national programme should encourage all mariners and other interested parties to report discrepancies on existing charts together with as much information as possible on what should actually appear in the charts;	information back to the PCA during the Visit.	all the published charts of Vanuatu and inform the PCA (UKHO) of all detail that is incorrectly shown on these charts. Such a national programme should encourage all mariners and other interested parties to report discrepancies on existing charts together with as much information as possible on what should actually appear in the charts.		
(2 d) National hydrographic Authority should conclude an MoU or a Cooperative Arrangement with UKHO formalising the role of the National Hydrographic Authority and the UKHO as Primary Charting Authority for Vanuatu;				
(2 e) The National hydrographic Authority should establish relations with the IHO, the UKHO and SPC-SOPAC and represent Vanuatu in all relevant hydrographic activities and discussions;	Not yet achieved as the VHA is not yet established. However, in lieu of the VHA the Ministry of Foreign affairs has maintained good contact with the International hydrographic Community.	(2015 – 10) Once formed the VHA should establish relations with the IHO, the UKHO and SPC-SOPAC and represent Vanuatu in all relevant hydrographic activities and discussions.	Second Quarter 16	
(2 f) The National hydrographic Authority should enrol Vanuatu as an Associate Member of the South West Pacific Hydrographic	Achieved	N/A		

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<p>Commission (SWPHC) by signing the Statutes of that Commission on behalf of Vanuatu.</p>				
<p>(2 g) The National Hydrographic Authority should establish and chair a National Hydrographic Consultative Committee or forum that coordinates national hydrographic requirements including input to a National Charting Plan, a National Hydrographic Survey Plan and a National Maritime Safety Information Plan. This group should include representatives from all stakeholder sectors, including but not be limited to: shipping, environmental protection, survey and mapping, national infrastructure development, coastal zone management, marine exploration, resource exploitation – minerals, fishing, maritime boundary delimitation, maritime transport, maritime defence and security, disaster management, tourism, and SPC-SOPAC.</p>	<p>Whilst the VHA has not yet been established, the National Committee, chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has created a National Maritime Safety Information (NMSI) Sub Committee. To all intents and purposes this group acts as a NHCC.</p>	<p>(2015 – 11a) The scope of the NMSI Sub Committee should be broadened to involve the wider stakeholder community and be re branded as the NHCC.</p> <p>(2015 – 11b) Once the VHA is established, the head of the Authority should take on responsibility for chairing the NMSI Sub Committee, and the name should be changed to the NHCC.</p>	<p>Fourth Quarter 15</p> <p>First Quarter 16</p>	

<p>(3 a) The Government of Vanuatu should establish a basic level capability for hydrographic surveying by training existing government land surveyors in hydrographic surveying and providing at least one outfit of portable hydrographic surveying equipment. On-going funding will be required for the regular maintenance of the equipment and for the training and requalification of operators.</p>	<p>Surveyor General already has a Cat B qualification and a further land surveyor has recently completed a Cat B course in 2014.</p> <p>No survey equipment has been procured.</p>	<p>(2015 – 12a) The NHCC or NMSI Sub Committee should discuss and agree how the two CAT B Surveyors from Lands and Surveys should be attached to the VHA. The suggested mechanism is included at x.</p>	<p>Fourth Quarter 15 to first Quarter 16</p>	
		<p>(2015 – 12b) Until such time that Vanuatu has an active survey programme, opportunities should be sought to involve Cat B surveyors in fieldwork conducted by other regional partners such as SPC. This will be essential to ensure that skills and currency are not lost.</p>	<p>First Quarter 16</p>	
		<p>(2015 – 12c) Once established the VHA should seek the assistance of the UKHO and SPC in developing a project proposal that involves the procurement of basic survey equipment. This project could then be taken to donor funders for support.</p>	<p>Third Quarter 16</p>	
<p>(3 b) The Government of Vanuatu should engage an overseas hydrographic adviser to guide and assist the National Hydrographic Authority and the Vanuatu Department of Lands</p>	<p>Not achieved</p>	<p>(2015 – 14) Vanuatu to seek assistance from the UKHO and the SPC through the NHCC once national hydrographic structure has been endorsed.</p>	<p>Second Quarter 16</p>	

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and survey during the establishment of an in-country hydrographic data gathering capability and to foster close liaison and possible support from recognized national hydrographic authorities in other countries.				
(4) The Government of Vanuatu should apply for membership of the IHO (application details are available in IHO publication M-2 – The Need for National Hydrographic Services), including allocating on-going funding for the annual subscription (about €35,000 per annum (this is based on a VU registered flag tonnage of approximately 2.4M tonnes)) and travel support for Vanuatu delegates to attend relevant meetings.	Application in progress due to be signed in 2017.	N/A		
(5) The SWPHC and the IHO should monitor the further development of satellite bathymetry as a possible emerging technology that could help address the type of chart improvement issues being faced by Vanuatu.	On going	N/A		

