

Vanuatu Situation (Civil Society collaboration with Government on DSM)

The public awareness consultation will start early next year, around February.

Funding:

Funding is being sourced from SPC/SOPAC and other development partners, as well as Government.

The process will draw on the principles and approaches embedded in Free Prior and Informed Consent and the Precautionary Principle. It will be open and transparent and will ensure that if any licenses are awarded it is with the consent of Vanuatu's civil society and on the basis of independently verified science-based risk assessments.

The national government has adapted the concepts of FPIC to include all of civil society and to honor the power of civil society to also veto DSM as a development path for Vanuatu.

The consultation process for Vanuatu is a collaborative effort between our national government (Ministry of Natural Resources, Lands, and Geology & Mines) and the civil society. In fact Vanuatu has a national DSM Committee in place which reps from civil society and coordinated within a Secretariat that sits within our Department of Geology & Mines.

The consultation will cover the archipelago consisting of our 6 provinces.

The consultation will focus on:

- informing people about the prospecting licenses already issued (99% have no idea they exist)
- awareness on what the prospecting process actually involves
- getting our people views on DSM
- getting their views on ownership of minerals and benefit sharing
- Consultation will inform the development of our DSM national policy and the amendment of our mining laws.

Vanuatu national consultations aim to model best practice Public Participation in Deep Sea Mining Decision-Making.

Vanuatu would appreciate any inputs, advice, and assistance in doing this consultation.