

# Pacific Forum Islands Countries at the Intersection of Trade, Climate Change and Sustainability : Case Study of Vanuatu e-Single Window

WTO: TESSD Meeting – Sharing National and Regional Experiences

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# PICs - Trade & Climate Change Context:

- PICs – small open economies highly dependent on trade/imports
- Chronic & escalating merchandise trade deficits – major imports 2021 are fuel, (11-17%) machinery/white goods(11-22%), vehicles (5-8%) and food
- Highly susceptible to external shocks – economic, social (global health pandemic) and environmental (natural disasters)
- Climate Change – recognised as an existential threat both from:
  - Slow onset of CC – sea level rise, acidification, marine biodiversity loss etc
  - Natural disasters – more frequent and more severe, vicious cycle of rebuilding
  - Economic impact huge e.g Cat.5 cyclone Pam Vanuatu lost 65% of GDP in 2015
- World Risk Report 2021
  - 3 PICs top disaster risk countries: Vanuatu, Solomon Is, Tonga; and 5 PICs in top 15
- PICs on frontline of Climate Change but collective GHG emission only 0.03%

# Regional Response to Trade & Climate Change

- 2016: Leaders adopted the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (**FRDP**) **2017-2030** and the (Pacific Resilience Partnership) **PRP**
  - FRDP: An integrated regional approach to address climate change, disaster risk management, low carbon approach and climate financing
  - PRP: building partnership with stakeholders on implementation of FRDP
- 14 July 2022: Pacific Islands Forum Leaders adopted the **2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent**
  - blueprint for sustainable development for PICs
- National Initiatives:
  - Ban on single use plastics, Styrofoam, move to renewable energy sources etc
- But a coherent strategy is needed to link Trade, climate change and sustainability in PICs - 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy a good platform

# PICs and WTO -TESSD

- July 2022: PIF Leaders adopted 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent
  - blueprint for sustainable development for PICs
- WTO and TESSD – important forum to discuss trade, climate change and sustainability e.g subsidies, circular economy, EGS, TRCM etc
- MC12 (2022) decisions important for the PICs:
  - on **Fisheries Subsidies Agreement** – to prohibit two forms of harmful subsidies (IUUF) and Overfished stocks and unregulated high seas
  - **Continue negotiations** to integrate subsidies on **Overcapacity & Overfishing** to make recommendations to MC13 (2023)
  - **Trade and Environment** inclusion in Outcome Document (para 14) to continue discussions on this issue in the multilateral process
- PICs participation: in TESSD (2PICs), IDP (3), FFSR(4)
- Global AfT - Important that global AfT support is used to assist developing countries' transition to sustainable trade policies

# Case Study on Trade and Sustainability: Vanuatu electronic Single Window (VeSW)

- **VeSW** project is making inroad to integrate trade, trade facilitation and sustainability
- Based on UNCTAD's ASYCUDA World system in Vanuatu's Customs Dept
- VeSW: aims to improve efficiency of border clearance process and risk management through:
  - paperless transactions and clearance
  - integrating border clearance systems for biosecurity through e-phyto
  - Integrating environmental sustainability in border process through
    - strengthening post-disaster process, planning and response – eg relief supplies, ASY REC
    - facilitating trade in fuel efficient products
    - facilitating trade under CITES through e-CITES
- Results – reducing time, paper transactions/wastage and carbon footprint

# VeSW Fulfilling Vanuatu's Environmental Policy Objectives

## NSDP Policy Objective 3.3

Strengthen post-disaster systems in planning, preparedness, response & recovery





## NSDP Policy Objective 2.3

Promote renewable source of energy  
and promote efficient energy use



## NSDP Policy Objective 5.1

Protect biodiversity and ecosystems and their  
significant role in our culture, society and environment



## NSDP Policy Objective 2.5

Strengthen environmental institutions  
and governance to meet national and  
international obligations



## NSDP Policy Objective 5.4

Protect our borders and environment through  
effective Customs and Biosecurity services

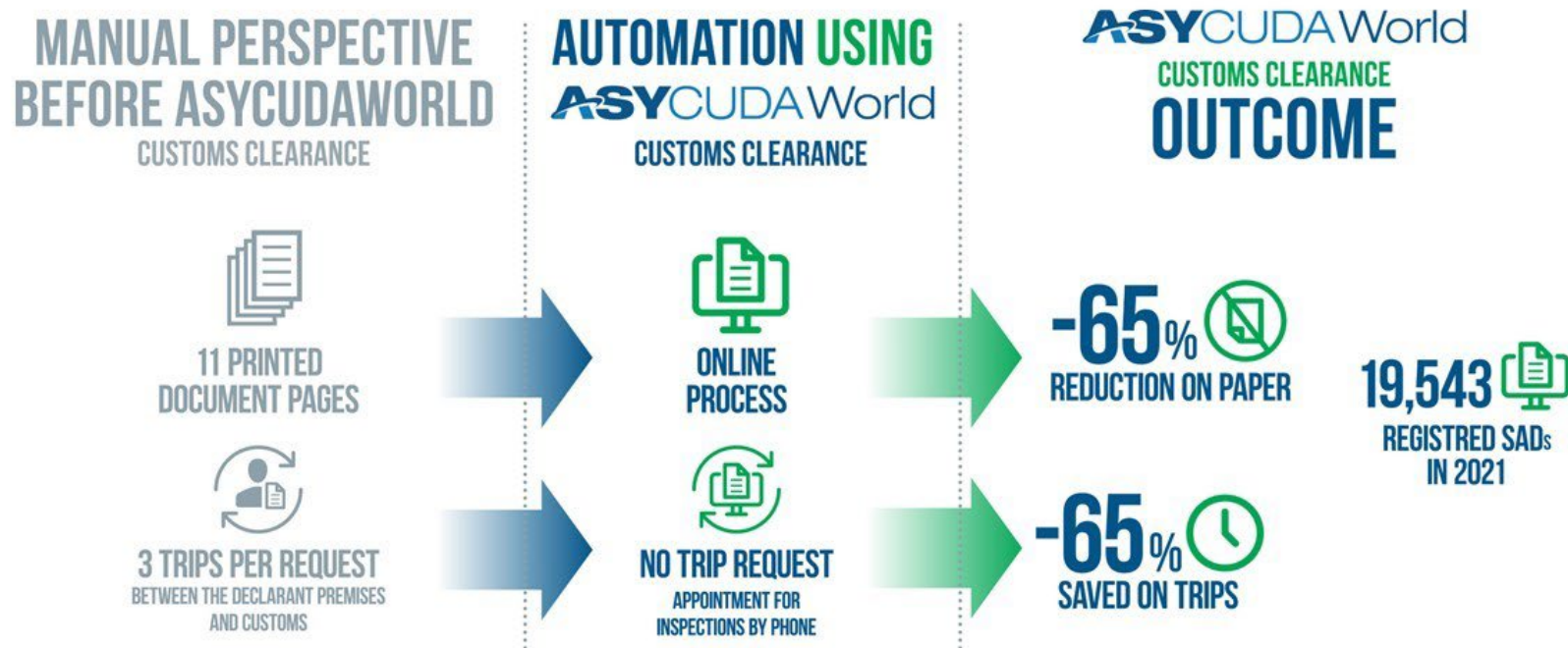


SPS MODULE



# Impact of VeSW to Customs and Biosecurity

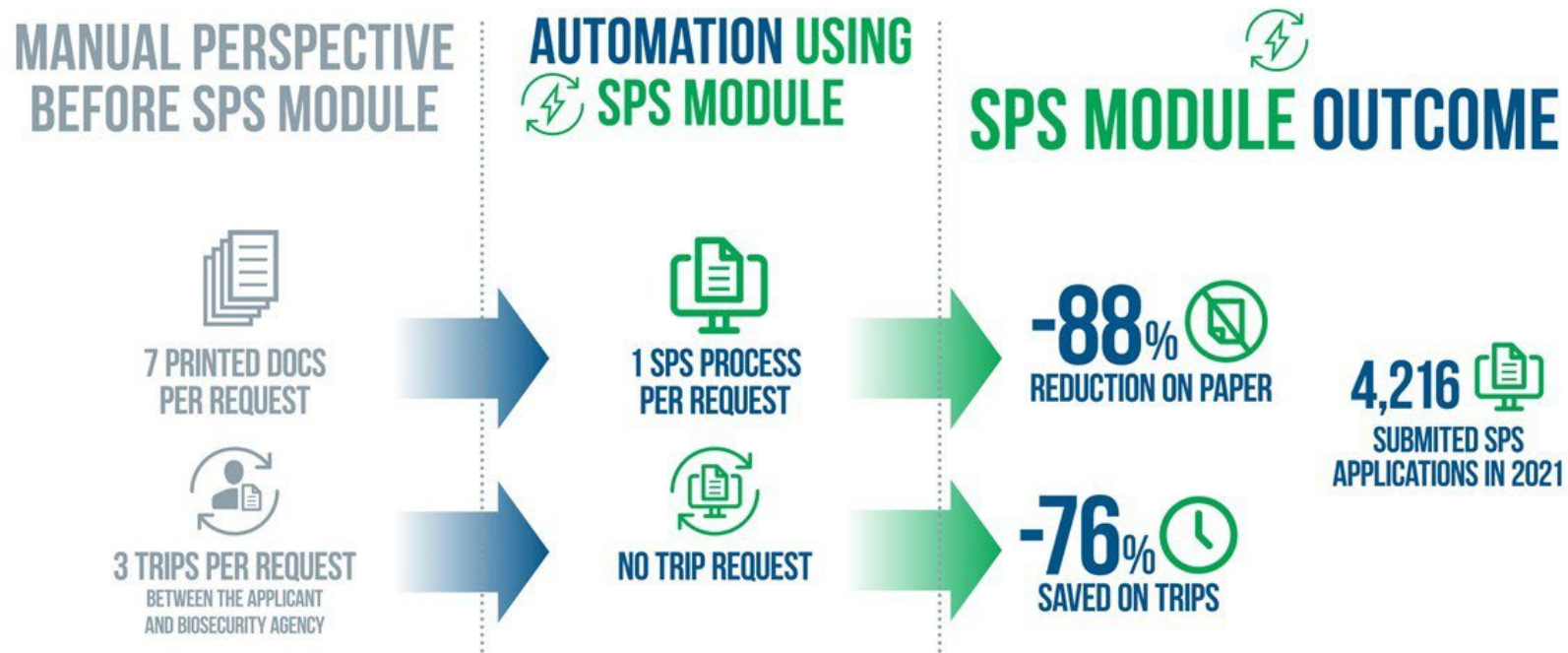
## Customs clearance with ASYCUDA World 2017





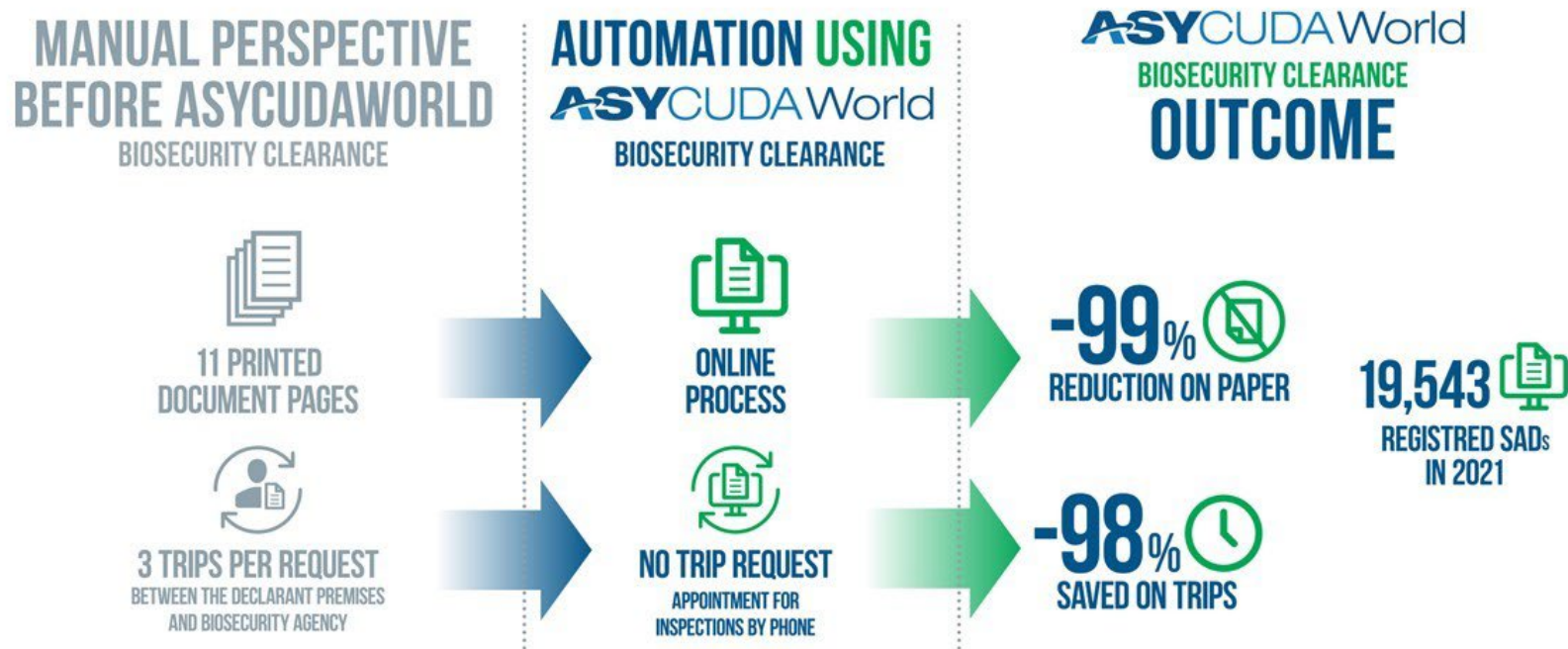
# Impact of VeSW to Customs and Biosecurity

## Biosecurity SPS Module 2020



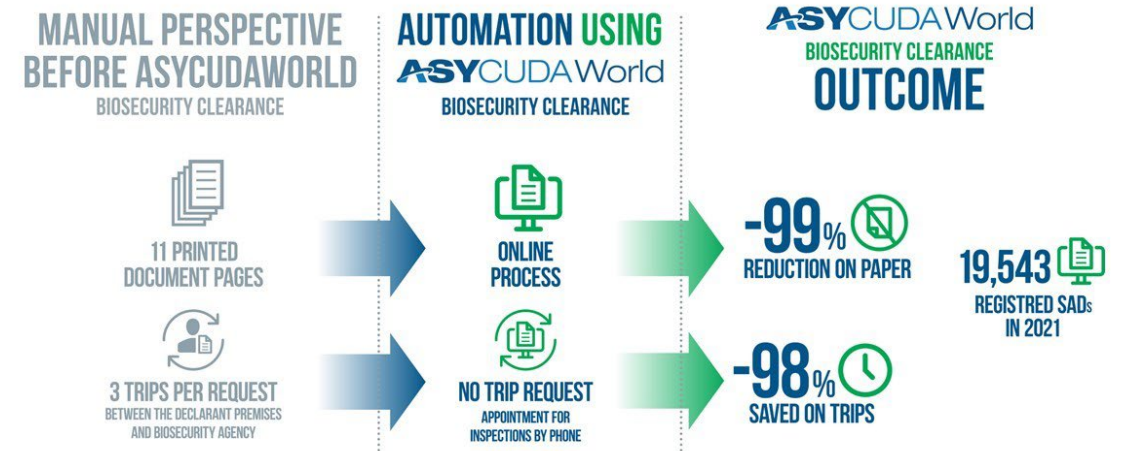
# Impact of VeSW to Customs and Biosecurity

## Biosecurity clearance with Risk Management

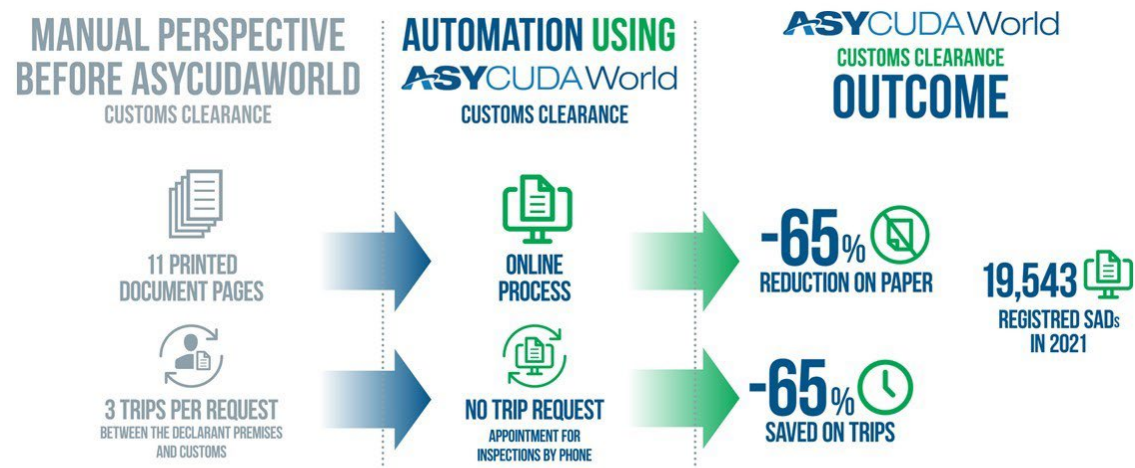


# Impact of VeSW to Customs and Biosecurity

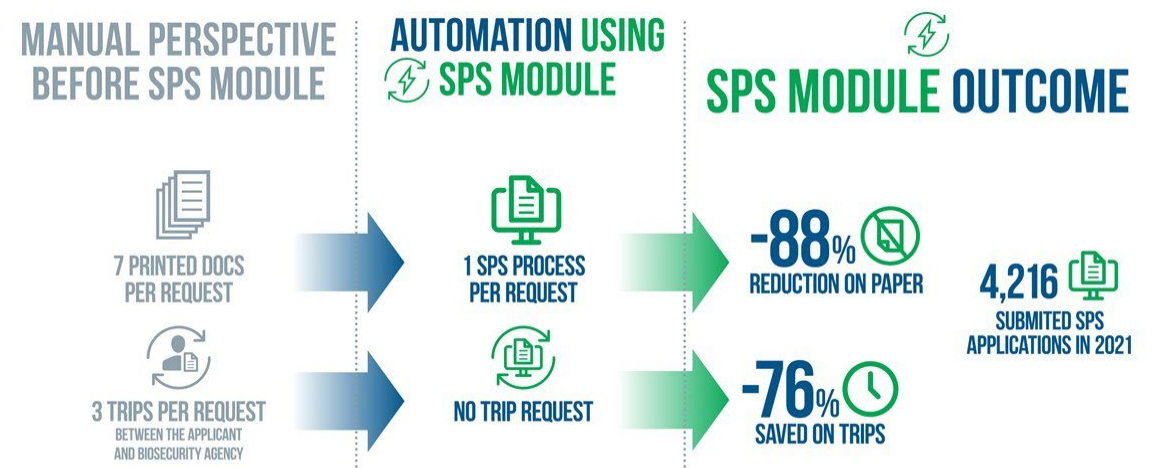
## Biosecurity clearance with Risk Management



## Customs clearance with ASYCUDA World 2017



## Biosecurity SPS Module 2020



# Case Study on Trade and Sustainability: Vanuatu electronic Single Window (VeSW)

- **VeSW** – an innovative project on trade, trade facilitation and sustainability
- Potential multiplier effect of the Vanuatu project in the region:
  - ASYCUDA now used in **8 PICs** (Vanuatu, Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, PNG, Kiribati, Tuvalu, New Caledonia) - funded by Australia & New Zealand
  - ASYCUDA will be rolled out in other **7 PICs** (Tonga, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Cook Is) - funded by European Union
- Vanuatu experience – good lesson for other PICs