

NEWS RELEASE



Reforestation Stamp Issue



Vanuatu's fragile environment is highlighted this year with the Government dedicating 2002, the Year of Reforestation. Prime Minister Edward Nipake Natapei launched the project on April 12, which is aimed at a fair balance between the people of Vanuatu and those who invest in forestry and agriculture. The objective of the project is to encourage small holder afforestation and to plant at least 2 million trees this year. The aim would be extended over the next 25 years and farmers would be encouraged to plant both local and commercial species.

Vanuatu Post supports this initiative and community-based projects such as those carried out by the Loru Environment Centre on Santo. Supported by the Vanuatu Protected Areas Initiative, the Centre holds workshops on environmental topics; focuses on the importance of tree planting to counter problems caused by commercial logging and protects declining habitats and species. Such workshops are attended by Chiefs, local landowners, college students, youth groups, women's organisations and tourists.

For more information please contact: <http://www.positiveearth.org/vpai>



The stamp issue carries a special logo designed by Vanuatu Post, which highlights the importance of all Ni Vanuatu taking ownership for the future of Vanuatu's forest environment.

The stamps are available as sets and full sheets plus sets on First Day Cover from the Philatelic Bureau or its worldwide agents.

Designer:	Collectors Notes: Karen Odiam, Wellington, New Zealand	For further information please contact: The Manager, Philatelic Bureau, Vanuatu Post, Port Vila, Vanuatu. Tel. + 678 22000, Fax + 678 23900 E mail vanuatupost@vanuatu.com.vu
Printer:	Cartor Security Printers, La Loupe, France	
Process:	Offset Litho	
Perforation Gauge:	Simulated perforations	
Stamp Size:	53mm x 46.7mm outer border.	
Denominations:	35,60,90, and 110 vatu.	
Paper:	203 gsm, self-adhesive paper.	
Period of Sale:	31 July, 2002 for a period of 2 years.	