

# **Stanford Knight & Partners**Your Pathway to Vanuatu Citizenship



# A message from our Principal



Since **2013** 

our team has been the private sector partner of the Vanuatu government

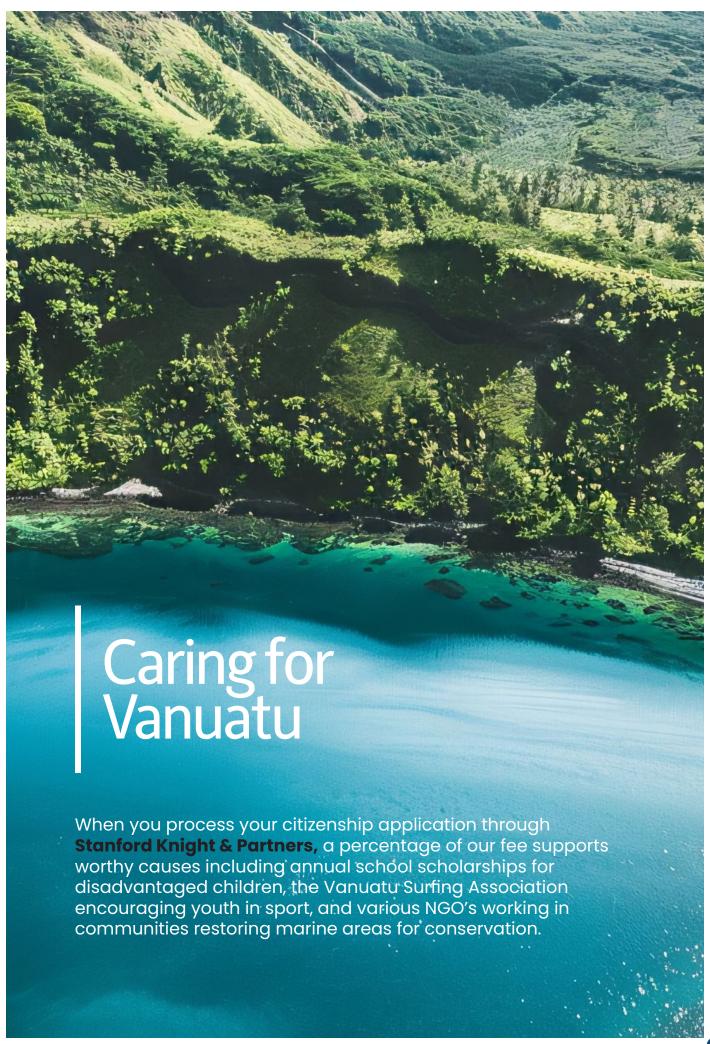


"With increasing travel issues, global taxation overreach, and general instability worldwide, we have seen a dramatic increase in individuals and families exploring alternate citizenship and residency options. This rise in interest has led to a threefold increase in applications for Vanuatu citizenship by investment.

As the government-appointed exclusive master agents for the Capital Investment Immigration Plan (CIIP)- Vanuatu Coffee Impact Fund and the Development Support Program (DSP), we at Stanford Knight & Partners are proud to guide our clients toward a secure and prosperous future in Vanuatu.

Our team has been the private sector partner of the Vanuatu government since 2013, introducing and developing the Citizenship by Investment Program to the country."

- Stephanie S Mahuk (BComm/LLB), Principal



# Why choose

Vanuatu, an island paradise in the South Pacific, offers more than just breathtaking landscapes and a tropical climate. As a member of the Commonwealth, Vanuatu provides its citizens with unparalleled benefits, making it one of the most attractive destinations for second citizenship.



# Benefits of Vanuatu Citizenship

**Fast Processing:** Obtain Vanuatu citizenship in as little as 21-30 days, making it one of the fastest citizenship programs globally.

#### Pre-Approval Before Full Investment:

Applicants receive pre-approval before making the full investment, providing added security and peace of mind.

#### No Residency or Visitation Requirements:

The entire application process can be completed remotely, without the need to visit or reside in Vanuatu.

**Fully Tax-Free Nation:** Vanuatu offers a tax haven with no personal income tax, no corporate tax, no capital gains tax, no estate or inheritance tax, and no withholding taxes.

**Visa-Free Travel:** Enjoy visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to approximately 100 countries, including Singapore, Hong Kong, Russia, and many more.

**Fully Online Application Process:** The application process is fully online, providing convenience and efficiency.

**Highest Degree of Confidentiality:** The process ensures the utmost confidentiality for all applicants.

**No Language or Culture Tests:** There are no requirements for language or cultural integration tests, making the process straightforward and accessible.

**Citizenship for Future Children:** Citizenship extends to future children, providing long-term security for your family.





# Countries with Visa-Free Travel for Vanuatu Passport Holders

Vanuatu passport
holders enjoy visafree or visa-on-arrival
access to a wide
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and leisure. Opposite
is a selection of key
destinations:

Vanuatu passport holders enjoy visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to a wide range of countries, enhancing global mobility and freedom for both business and leisure. Below is a selection of key destinations:

- **Asia:** Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia, South Korea, Thailand, the Philippines, and more.
- Oceania, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, and more.
- Americas: Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Panama, and many Caribbean countries such as Bahamas, Barbados, and Saint Lucia.
- Africa: South Africa, Botswana, Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles, and more.
- Middle East: Israel, Jordan (Visa on Arrival), United Arab Emirates (e-Visa), and more.

Vanuatu's visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to over 100 countries makes it a highly valuable passport for global citizens.



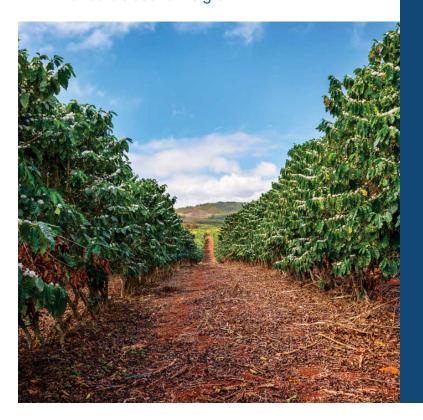
## Two Citizenship Program Options

**Option 1 - Partial Investment** 

# Capital Investment Immigration Plan (CIIP) – Vanuatu Coffee Impact Fund

The Capital Investment Immigration Plan (CIIP), specifically the Vanuatu Coffee Impact Fund, is a unique program designed to attract foreign investors by allowing them to gain citizenship in exchange for investment in the country's flourishing coffee sector.

As the exclusive master agents for the CIIP-Vanuatu Coffee Impact Fund, **Stanford Knight & Partners** provides a seamless pathway to citizenship while supporting Vanuatu's economic growth.



## Why Invest in the Vanuatu Coffee Impact Fund?

- Flourishing Coffee Industry:
  The Coffee Impact Fund directly supports Vanuatu's coffee sector, particularly on Tanna Island, known for its high-quality organic Arabica coffee. This sector provides stable returns and has significant growth potential.
- Economic Development: Your investment drives economic growth, supports local communities, and promotes Vanuatu's agricultural sector.
- Fully Redeemable Investment: The \$50,000 investment in the Coffee Impact Fund is fully redeemable after four years, ensuring both financial security and potential returns.

"Investing through the CIIP in Vanuatu's primary sector, especially the coffee industry, is a visionary step towards our nation's prosperous and sustainable future. The Vanuatu Coffee Impact Fund is a critical part of this vision, and I wholeheartedly support it."

 Robin Kapapa, Chairman of the Citizenship Commission



Investment Commitment	US\$50,000 (Refundable after 4 years)
<b>Government and Citizenship Application Fee</b> Covers up to four family members	US\$110,000
<b>Due Diligence Fee</b> Non-refundable, covers all applicants in one family	US\$5,000
Additional Family Member	US\$25,000 per additional dependent
<b>Total Estimated Cost for a Family of Four</b> Inclusive of all fees, investments, and due diligence	US\$165,000

There are no requirements to register a separate company for the investment and the fund issues CIIP investors preferential shares in the fund holding company.

\*The fund is independently managed by the Green Bean International Trust who make all investments into the coffee sector as mandated by the Vanuatu Government.



# CIIP- Coffee Impact Fund Application Process



1

#### **Due Diligence**

Submission of required documents and processing fee of \$5,000 through the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).

#### **Pre-Approval**

Upon confirmation of no adverse findings, a pre-approval is granted, allowing the full application process to proceed.

2





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#### **Application Submission**

Stanford Knight reviews the documentation and submits the application with 25% of the government fee.

#### **Citizenship Commission Approval**

Approval in Principle Letter issued upon application approval by the Citizenship Commission.

4





5



#### **Final Payment**

Full payment of government citizenship fee and investment in the Vanuatu Coffee Impact Fund is required before issuing citizenship certificates.

#### Oath of Allegiance & Passport Issuance

Conducted via video conference, followed by the issuance of citizenship certificates and passports.

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#### **Investment Fund Shares Issued**

Vanuatu Coffee Impact Fund manager issues share certificate.

#### **Option 2 - Donation**

# **Development Support** Program (DSP) Donation **Based Citizenship**

The **Development Support Program (DSP)** is another popular pathway to Vanuatu citizenship.

Launched by the Government of Vanuatu in 2017, the DSP is a donation-based program designed to raise funds for infrastructure development and other government initiatives.

#### **Key Features of the DSP Program**

#### **Direct Contribution:**

Make a non-refundable donation to the Vanuatu Government, supporting its development goals and public welfare programs.

#### No Investment Risk:

Unlike investment-linked programs, there is no financial risk as there is no redeemable investment



# Fee Structure for Development Support Program (DSP)

Single Applicant	US\$135,250
Married or De Facto Couple	US\$155,500
Family + 1 Child (Under 18 years of age)	US\$170,750
Family + 2 Children (Under 18 years of age)	US\$186,000
Additional Dependent Children	US\$10,000 per child
Resident Dependent Children (18-25 years) or Dependent Parents (50+ years)	US\$10,000 per dependent

#### All fees include:

- Due diligence processing via the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)
- Government legislated citizenship application fees
- Citizenship certificates
- Passports and urgent courier delivery
- Oath of Allegiance



# DSP Application Process

## **NO** Hidden Fees

Stanford Knight & Partners guarantees a transparent process with all-inclusive costs. Be aware of non-accredited agents offering lower rates than mandated by law in Vanuatu; this could lead to revocation of citizenship.



1 >

#### **Due Diligence**

Completion of due diligence processing via the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) with required documentation.

#### **Pre-Approval**

Pre-approval is granted based on the due diligence findings, allowing for the continuation of the application process. 2





3



#### **Application Submission**

Submission of the full application and initial fee payment to the Citizenship Commission.

#### **Approval in Principle**

Receipt of an Approval in Principle Letter from the Citizenship Commission. 4





5

#### **Final Payment**

Submission of the balance of fees prior to the issuance of citizenship certificates.

## Oath of Allegiance & Passport Issuance

Oath of Allegiance conducted remotely, followed by delivery of citizenship certificates and passports.







# Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the difference between the CIIP and DSP programs?

The CIIP involves a refundable investment in Vanuatu's primary sectors, such as the Coffee Impact Fund, offering return on investment after four years. The DSP is a donation-based program where the contribution is non-refundable.

### What are the tax benefits of obtaining Vanuatu citizenship?

Vanuatu offers a tax-free environment, with no personal income tax, no capital gains tax, no inheritance tax, and no wealth tax. This makes it an attractive destination for investors looking to protect and grow their wealth.

### How do I get started with the application process?

To begin your application, contact Stanford Knight & Partners, Our team will guide you through every step of the process, ensuring a smooth and successful pathway to Vanuatu citizenship.

## Under what circumstances could my application be rejected?

Applications can be rejected for providing false information, failure to disclose a criminal conviction, or failing the due diligence process. It is crucial to provide accurate and complete documentation.

### Will my Vanuatu citizenship be recognized internationally?

Yes, Vanuatu's citizenship is fully recognized globally. Vanuatu is a member of the Commonwealth, and its citizens enjoy visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to over 100 countries, making it a highly valuable passport.

## Do I need to visit or reside in Vanuatu to apply for citizenship?

No, there are no residency or visitation requirements for the Vanuatu CIIP program. The entire process can be completed remotely, providing convenience and flexibility to investors.

## Are there any hidden fees or additional costs?

All fees are outlined transparently, including the investment, due diligence fees, and any additional costs for dependents or optional services such as expedited processing. There are no hidden fees.

## Can I lose my Vanuatu citizenship after obtaining it?

Citizenship obtained through the Vanuatu Government is fully recognized and secure. However, failure to comply with the terms of the investment or providing false information during the application process may result in citizenship being revoked.

### How do I know if I qualify for Vanuatu citizenship?

Stanford Knight & Partners provides a complimentary pre-screening service to assess eligibility and guide you through the process to ensure a successful application.

### How long does the application process take?

The process typically takes between 21 to 30 days from the completion of due diligence and submission of all necessary documents, making it one of the fastest citizenship-by-investment programs in the world.

#### Can I pay with cryptocurrency?

Yes, Stanford Knight & Partners accept payments in various forms, including USD, EUR, AUD, YEN, and cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, for flexibility and convenience.

## What documentation is required for the application?

Required documents include valid passports, identity cards, police clearances, medical certificates, proof of residence, and financial statements, among others. Stanford Knight & Partners provide full guidance on document preparation and submission.

# Meet our Team

At Stanford Knight & Partners, our dedicated team provides expert guidance and personalized support to clients worldwide:

### Stephanie S Mahuk (BComm/LLB), Principal

I am the principal of Stanford Knight and a Partner of Vanuatu's largest law firm and hold a Bachelor of Commerce (Economics) and a Bachelor of Law from the University of the South Pacific, practicing since 2012. I have extensive experience in a wide range of practice areas, including multi-jurisdictional transactions, telecommunications, banking and finance, companies, labour, employment, intellectual property, conveyancing, land leases, and commercial and criminal litigation. I have represented and advised clients from various sectors, including government, telco, regulatory bodies, financial services, education, real estate, retail, hospitality, professional services, and manufacturing. I have served as Secretary of Transparency International Vanuatu and am the current President of the Vanuatu Surf Association, being an avid surfer myself.



A dual citizen of New Zealand and Vanuatu, I resided for 13 years in Vanuatu and am honoured to represent Vanuatu as Trade Commissioner of the Republic of Vanuatu to New Zealand. Across both countries, I have extensive private sector experience in human resource management, international tourism and hospitality, operations management, project management, and property development. I possess broad knowledge and practical experience in the intricacies of investing, developing, and operating businesses within the Vanuatu commercial sector. My key focus within Stanford Knight is to guide our clients through the process of attaining Vanuatu citizenship and enabling them to take full advantage of all the benefits this offers.



As the lead advisor on the Vanuatu Citizenship by Investment program in 2012, I led the advisory team that crafted the necessary legislation alongside the Vanuatu Government and introduced dual citizenship. With 22 years of residency in Vanuatu, I am widely recognized as the leading global expert on the Vanuatu citizenship program. I serve as a licensed director of the Vanuatu Financial Services Commission and hold a CSP license from the same institution. Additionally, I am the Vanuatu Government's Special Envoy for International Business. My extensive private sector experience spans climate finance, digital transformation, policy development, tourism, and agriculture.







# About Vanuatu



Vanuatu, officially the Republic of Vanuatu, is a South Pacific island nation made from an archipelago of 83 islands with a rich history and culture. Vanuatu is located in the South Pacific Ocean east of Australia, north-east of New Caledonia, and west of Fiji.

**History:** Formerly the jointly administered Anglo-French condominium of the New Hebrides, Vanuatu achieved independence in 1980. The name Vanuatu means "Our Land Forever". The capital, largest city, and commercial centre is Port-Vila, on Éfaté.

**Population:** 335,000 (2023 est). Language: Official languages include English, French, and Bislama.

**Travel:** There are regular flights to Vanuatu with travellers arriving via Bauerfield International Airport in Port Vila from Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands and Fiji. New direct flights from China are coming soon.

**Economy:** Kava, beef, copra, timber, and cocoa are the most important exports; Australia, New Caledonia, Japan, and New Zealand are the main export destinations. Imports – mainly of machinery and transport equipment, food and live animals, and mineral fuels — come principally from Australia, Singapore, New Zealand, and Fiji. Since Independence, Vanuatu's tourism and offshore financial services have emerged as important earners of foreign income.

**Currency:** Vanuatu currency is the vatu (VUV) which is pegged to the USD and provides stability. USD and AUD are commonly used throughout Vanuatu.

**Banking:** The major banks of Australia, New Zealand, and France, such as Bank South Pacific (Vanuatu) Limited, ANZ Bank (Vanuatu) Ltd., and BRED (Vanuatu) Limited, have branches in Vanuatu. Online banking is available.







#### **Contact Us Today**

For more information, visit our website or contact one of our global offices today.

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