



ERROMANGO ISLAND
IN-DEPTH LOOK AT VCAP
SITE IN PORT NARVIN



SITE COORDINATORS
MEET THE SITE BASED
COORDINATORS

Project Board Meeting

**RESULTS FROM FIRST
VCAP PROJECT
BOARD MEETING**



INCEPTION WEEK
VCAP STAKEHOLDERS
MEET TOGETHER

BIMONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

VCAP (VANUATU COASTAL ADAPTATION PROJECT)



(Participants of VCAP Inception week during June 15-18, 2015 in Port Vila)

Introduction



“Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zone in Vanuatu” or the Vanuatu Coastal Adaptation Project (VCAP), has made steady progress lately towards enabling the Vanuatu government to increase the resilience of targeted communities to future risks induced by climate change such as declining coastal and marine resources and intensifying climatic hazards and disasters.



VCAP is implemented by the Vanuatu government in partnership with UNDP with financial support from GEF-LDCF

As VCAP begins to address community level adaptation to climate change, the Vanuatu government has taken its first steps to engage community level representatives. Communities were consulted in the selection process for community based Site Coordinators in Tafea, Shefa and Penama provinces. Hiring processes for the Project Implementation Unit in Port Vila continue to take place as well.

VCAP was able to facilitate several days of consultations and planning activities with community, Area Council, provincial and national level stakeholders during VCAP Inception Week. The final authority for VCAP is the Project Board, which had its first sitting during this reporting period. The results from this Project Board meeting will drive VCAP forward throughout the remainder of 2015.

This bi-monthly progress report details the various activities conducted from May to mid-July of 2015. This is the second of an ongoing series of VCAP bi-monthly reports.

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Listing key activities and developments within VCAP with corresponding dates for this reporting period.

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Description of priority VCAP sites in Tafea, Shefa and Penama provinces

VCAP Inception Week (June 15 - 18, 2015)



Inception Week provided an opportunity for community and provincial stakeholders to meet with officers from the various national government agencies that will be implementing VCAP and supporting community based adaptation to climate change.

Key Dates for VCAP

Dates	Description
May 13	UNDP Regional Director Haoliang Xu & UNDEP Resident Representative Osnat Lubrani visit VCAP PIU in Port Vila, Vanuatu
May 13 - 18	Field visit to recruit Site Coordinator on Pentecost Island in Central Pentecost Area Council 2, Penama Province
May 28 - 31	Field visit to recruit Site Coordinator on Epi Island in Vermali / Vermaul Area Councils, Shefa Province
June 9 - 13	Field visit to recruit Site Coordinator on Erromango Island in North Erromango Area Council, Tafea Province
June 15	VCAP Inception Week, Day 1: Briefing of Site Coordinators, Area Secretaries and Secretary Generals
June 16	VCAP Inception Week, Day 2: Coordination meetings with Department of Local Authorities and stakeholders from Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Forestry & Bio-security
June 17	VCAP Inception Week, Day 3: Coordination meeting with Public Works Department, the Department of Environmental Protection & Conservation & the Department of Water Resources
June 18	First VCAP Project Board Meeting . Social night for VCAP stakeholders held at Vanuatu Cultural Centre
July 14	Coordination meeting held between VCAP PIU, PRRP and the Department of Local Authorities
July 15	Hiring notice advertised by PMU for Project Manager of VCAP



Picture above: VCAP Interim PIU staff and participants from VCAP Inception Week

VCAP Inception Week

VCAP Inception Week allowed for VCAP stakeholders at all levels (community, provincial government, national government and UNDP) to once again scrutinize the project document and validate project outcomes and outputs, gauging their relevance considering the passage of time since the PPG phase and also the occurrence of major events such as TC Pam that may affect implementation. VCAP Inception Week was considered by the VCAP PIU to be a valuable opportunity to incorporate contextual bottom-up along with top-down planning processes into the proposed Annual Work Plan for 2015, which was presented to the Project Board at the conclusion of Inception Week on June 18th.



Provincial Area Secretaries and community based Site Coordinators, who live and work within the various VCAP sites, provided updates to baselines on target communities and much valuable context regarding proposed implementation methods during VCAP Inception Week. Pictured above: Elyne Mabon, a provincial Area Secretary, describing impacts of Tropical Cyclone Pam to Central Pentecost and listing priorities to support development within the Area Council where she works.

VCAP Inception Week - Schedule

The schedule below details various workshop sessions held with participants at the Melanesian Hotel's conference room in Port Vila during VCAP Inception Week. These active planning sessions provided much valuable input necessary for establishing an Annual Work Plan and Budget to present to the Project Board on June 18th, 2015 .

VCAP Inception Week - Meeting & Workshop Schedule

	15-Jun	16-Jun	17-Jun	18-Jun
VENUE:	Melanesian	Melanesian	Melanesian	Melanesian
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
7:30 AM				
8:00 AM	Welcome Housekeeping / Introductions	VCAP Community Based Approaches DLA	PWD	
8:30 AM		<i>Component 1 Discussion</i>	Climate Resilient Infrastructure Support	
9:00 AM	VCAP Project Briefing VCAP PIU	VCAP Area Council Strengthening DLA		OPENING - LAUNCH
9:30 AM	<i>Component 1 Discussion</i>			
10:00 AM	<i>coffee break</i>	<i>coffee break</i>	<i>coffee break</i>	<i>coffee break</i>
10:30 AM	VCAP Project Management & Processes - Roles of PIU Staff How Project will be delivered! VCAP PIU	Provincial Level Integration DLA	PWD	Inception - Project Board Review of VCAP Results Framework
11:00 AM		SG's, Area Secretaries & SG's <i>Penama, Tafea & Shefa provinces</i>	Climate Resilient Infrastructure Support	Project Work Plan & Budget
11:30 AM				
12:00 PM				
12:30 PM	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00 PM				
1:30 PM	Updated priorities after TC Pam	<i>Overview of Resource Management</i> Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries (DG of MALFFB invited for this portion, welcome to remain after)	Water Resources	M & E Requirements
2:00 PM	Lessons learned from experience in disaster w Area Secretaries & Site Coordinators	Coastal Management & Fisheries	Site by site discussion of WASH infrastructure & CC resilience in re to water supply	
2:30 PM			DEPC	Other Business
3:00 PM	<i>coffee break</i>	<i>coffee break</i>	<i>coffee break</i>	
3:30 PM	Project Site Definitions w Site Coordinators & SG's & Area Secretaries / DAO	Agriculture	DEPC	Closing Ceremony Preparation
4:00 PM		Forestry	Site Coordinators Roles & Responsibilities M&E Training Sessions	
4:30 PM	Mapping exercise, clarifying boundaries of project sites, target communities Planning - scheduling for target sites	Livestock	Distribution of materials to be circulated	SG's, Area Sec's, Project Board, Participants from govt depts invited to attend closing ceremony in afternoon
5:00 PM				



Pictured above: Left- Planning session with DLA; Right- Participants at "Social Night" Activity



Jotham Napat,
DG of MCC



Cherol Ala,
Director of DLA



Erickson Sammy,
Director of Water



Kalo Pakoa,
Director of Fisheries

VCAP INCEPTION WEEK PARTICIPANTS

- 1.) **MCC**- Jotham Napat, David Gibson, Trinison Tari, Brian Philips, Rebecca Iaken, Florence Iatu, Chris Simelum
 2.) **MoAFFLB**- Timothy Tumukon, Kalo Pakoa, Sompert Gereva, Pascal Dumas, Graham Nimoho, Jayden Ham, James Wasi, Mark Vurobaravu, Hannington Tate, Lonny Bong, Michael Karo 3.) **DLA**- Cherol Ala, Ben Tabi, Michelle Jonas
 4.) **PWD** - Samuel Namuri 5.) **Water**- Erickson Sammy, Obed Tabi, Brecht Mommen 6.) **Provincial Governments**- Michel Kalworai, Reynold Surmat, Louis Korah, Toka Iatipu, Reuben Neriam, Tomasi Sembet, Remi Nembil, Lenon Luka, Graham Abei, Gideon Yonah, Eslyne Mabon 7.) **Site Coordinators**- Jackie Dick, Jimmy Mase, Hamish Ture, Basil Mael, Sergio Tabi 8.) **UNDP**- Winifereti Nainoca, Jose Padilla, Loraini Sivo, Donald Wouloseje, Matthew Hardwick, Corey Huber, Malcolm Dalesa, Janet Jack

Highlights from Inception Week, June 15 - 17, 2015:

*Meeting format inclusive of community, provincial and national government leaders providing for truly integrated planning sessions inclusive of priorities at every level.

*Provided platform to validate and suggest revisions to AWP for 2105 along with budget resulting in reducing the proposed budget for 2015 due to delays caused by Cyclone Pam. Proposal for VCAP to focus on priority sites in Shefa, Tafea and Penama provinces as a result of TC Pam first.

*Strong consensus to support provincial strengthening activities and empowerment of Area Council service delivery. DLA eager to build upon existing initiatives to finalize and improve community and Area Council planning processes.

*Community participants reported high levels of interest in Component 1 activities including making public infrastructure and accessways more climate resilient through the Public Works Department and improving sustainable resource management with support by government agencies responsible for Fisheries, Agriculture, Forestry, Environment, Livestock and Water Resources.

Criteria for Selection of Site Coordinators

*Site coordinators must live within boundaries of VCAP site

*Must have community development experience & record of volunteerism

*Positive endorsement from chiefly council & provincial authorities required

*Relevant education and work experience

*Ability to communicate clearly, written and verbally, moderate understanding of English

*Ability & willingness to travel to remote areas

Women candidates were encouraged to apply!!!



*VCAP site on Epi Island
photo by Matthew Hardwick*

Site Coordinators

Roles & Responsibilities of Site Coordinators

The main role of the community based Site Coordinators is to facilitate the linkage between the VCAP PIU and target communities. Site Coordinators live and work within the project sites, where they will facilitate community based implementation of project components. The permanent presence of the Site Coordinators at the project sites will ensure their participation in all aspects of community engagement and availability to assist as needed by VCAP implementing partners, including participating in planning, awareness, implementation, monitoring and evaluation activities.

Site Coordinators will maintain positive working relationships with community leaders and will contribute to the efficient coordination of various project initiatives to assist government stakeholders and VCAP PIU staff as they visit and work with communities.

Recruitment of Site Coordinators

Recruitment of the community based Site Coordinators by the Interim VCAP PIU took place between March and June of 2015. The recruitment process included meeting with individual communities within VCAP sites, ensuring widespread awareness about the project and the vacant position.

Printed notices were advertised in public places, such as community halls, bulletin boards and churches, where applicants were encouraged to apply regardless of gender, age or ethnicity. Brief awareness sessions were facilitated by the Interim VCAP PIU where a designated interview time was shared with participants, so that interested parties would have sufficient time to prepare.

A standard interview was developed and candidates were graded following a weighted criteria (*see criteria listed in column to left*) developed by VCAP PIU. Finally provincial and chiefly authorities were consulted to select the final candidate. Candidates were identified after a careful examination of their background and qualifications. Five successful Site Coordinators were selected, see map and information on Site Coordinators on following page for more information.

VCAP SITE COORDINATORS

Selected by VCAP Interim PIU to support VCAP implementation for at least 1 year, they participated in VCAP Inception Week activities.



Sergio Tabi
PENTECOST,
Savat Village
Village Youth
Committee
Secretary, Carpenter



Basil Mael
EPI, Masou
Village;
Former School
Council
Chairman,
CDC member



Jacky Dick
ERROMANGO,
Ipota Village;
Health Committee
Chairman, CDC
member, Red
Cross Volunteer

Hamish Ture
ANIWA,
Isavae Village;
former VCR
Project
"Community
Mobilizer"



Jimmy Mase
ERROMANGO,
Happyland Village;
Development
Committee
Chairman, former
FAO Project
Coordinator



Provincial Authorities & VCAP

The empowerment of Vanuatu's 52 Area Councils (while under the supervision of the Provincial Governments and the Department of Local Authorities seated within the Ministry of Internal Affairs) through the recently enacted Amendment to the Decentralization Act in 2013 is very significant for future development projects working in Vanuatu, including VCAP. A majority of VCAP's outputs aim to deliver support to rural communities that are often isolated from service delivery. The effective engagement of community level stakeholders will not be possible without close cooperation in working with provincial authorities and by respecting existing protocols by involving provincial staff when approaching Area Councils and communities members in rural Vanuau.

Area Secretaries

Provincial Area Secretaries are field officers employed by Vanuatu's six provincial government councils and they live and perform provincial services within their respective Area Councils. Their basic duties include the following services: tax collection, voter registration, government awareness duties, Statistics enumeration duties and assisting development projects within their respective Area Councils. Area Secretaries will be invited to play an integral role in facilitating future VCAP implementation.

It is hoped that the Area Secretaries will coordinate closely with the VCAP PIU and Site Coordinators to facilitate community meetings / awareness / development plans, coordinate with any other partners working within VCAP sites and to assist with site level communications and logistics. VCAP in return will offer capacity building opportunities for Area Secretaries and materials and support needed to effectively engage communities & provide services within the various Area Councils.

Secretary Generals

Provincial Secretary Generals (SG's) hold the ultimate responsibility for strategic development, planning and management of the provincial government councils and supervision of all staff appointed by the councils. SG's are appointed by the Public Service Commission (thus they are civil servants and non-political) and they assist the elected representatives of the council and their staff to plan, deliver and report back on provincial services. The SG's will play an important oversight role in VCAP implementation and are non-voting members of the Project Board.

Provincial Authorities Participating in VCAP Inception Week Activities by Province:

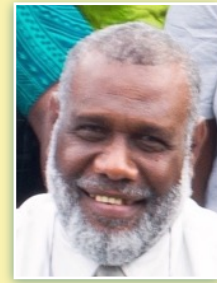
PENAMA PROVINCE

Eslyne Mabon Area Secretary, Central Pentecost Area Council 2 (CP2)
Office based in Melsisi Village, Pentecost. Originally from eastern coast of CP2 in Savat Village. One of the only female Area Secretaries employed by any Provincial Government Council in Vanuatu.



SHEFA PROVINCE

SG, Michel Kalworai Secretary General of Shefa Provincial Government Council. Office based in Port Vila, Efate Island.



DAO, Lois Korah District Administrative Officer for Epi Island Sub-district. Unique position for Shefa Province, responsible for 4 Area Councils and Area Secretaries located on Epi Island.

Gideon Yonah

Area Secretary for Vermaul Area Council. Based in Mavilao Village, Epi Island.



Graham Abei

Area Secretary for Vermali Area Council newly appointed in June of 2015 . Based on Lamén Island (offshore Epi).



TAFEA PROVINCE

SG, Reynold Surmat Secretary General of Tafea Provincial Government Council. Office based in Isingel, Tanna Island.



Tomasi Sembet

Area Secretary for South Erromango Area Council. Based in William's Bay Village, Erromango Island.



Remi Nembil

Area Secretary for North Erromango Area Council. Based in Port Narvin Village, Erromango Island.



Lenon

Luka Area Secretary for Aniwa Area Council. Based on Aniwa Island.



Toka

Iatipu Area Secretary for Futuna Area Council. Based on Futuna Island.



Reuben Neriam

Area Secretary for Aneityum Area Council. Based on Aneityum Island.



PORT NARVIN, ERROMANGO

An inside look at target VCAP community on Erromango Island, Tafea Province



photo by Corey Huber

The community of Port Narvin on the island of Erromango is among the most remote communities within all VCAP sites, given its lack of major public conveyance infrastructure and the considerable distance from its location to the nearest airport. Due to the village being situated directly along the coastline and adjacent to a large river, it is particularly vulnerable to experiencing climatic hazards such as cyclones, tsunamis, landslides, flooding along with coastal erosion. Tropical Cyclone Pam inflicted severe damage to the Port Narvin, in particular to crop yields and drinking water supply systems.

As with other outer islands of Tafea Province, there is a demonstrated need to address a range of climate-induced challenges on Erromango. Priority concerns involve water security, upland resource management of forest resources, food security along with sustainable coastal resource management, and climate proofing of footpaths to ensure access to vital services such as schools and health centers. Livelihoods in Port Narvin are derived primarily through the sale of sandalwood and marines resources.

VCAP Project Board

June 18th, 2015 at Melanesian Hotel
Conference Room, Port Vila

Project Board Composition (and non-board members present):

- 1.) **Executive** - National Project Director: DG of MCC - Jotham Napat
- 2.) **Senior Beneficiaries** - Director of DLA - Cherol Ala; Acting Director of VMGD- David Gibson; Acting DG of MoAFFLB - Timothy Tumukon; Director of PWD - Samuel Namuri; Acting Director of DEPC - Trinison Tari; SG of Shefa Province- Michel Kalworai, SG of Tafea Province- Reynold Surmat
- 3.) **Senior Supplier** - Attending for UNDP- Winifereti Nainoca

(Non-board members present at meeting)- Manager of PMU- Brian Philips; PMU- Rebecca Iaken; & Florence Iatu; Acting Director of Energy- Chris Simelum; Water Resources- Obed Tabi; UNDP- Jose Padilla, Loraini Sivo, Donald Wouloseje, Bernard O'Callaghan, Matthew Hardwick, Corey Huber, David Malikay, Leah Nimoho

Brief Summary of Board Meeting

This was the first Project Board sitting for VCAP and it took place from 10 AM - 3 PM on Thursday, June 18th, 2015. The VCAP National Project Director, DG Jotham Napat, gave the official opening welcome speech. The Senior Beneficiaries (Directors from implementing agencies) and the Senior Supplier (representative from UNDP Fiji MCO) also spoke briefly during the opening.

After the opening, a review of the Strategic Results Framework was conducted, led by Bernard O'Callaghan and assisted by Matthew Hardwick. VCAP components, outcomes, outputs and the indicators that will be used to verify actions results obtained during and after delivery were discussed with the Project Board in detail.

Next, the Project Board considered the Annual Work Plan and Budget for 2015 along with a summary of the 5 year work plan for VCAP. The suggestions incorporated within the Annual Work Plan and Budget for 2015 by the VCAP Interim PIU took into consideration the consultations and planning that had occurred the prior 3 days (June 15 - 17) with senior representatives from VCAP implementing partners from the national government, provincial government and community representatives during Inception Week.

Finally, there was a brief presentation by the Senior Supplier, Winifereti Nainoca, about the requirements for VCAP in regards to Monitoring and Evaluation, followed briefly by "Other Business" when plans for the next Project Board Meeting were discussed.

Important outcomes from the Project Board Meeting are listed on the following page.

VCAP Project Board

June 18th, 2015 at Melanesian Hotel
Conference Room, Port Vila

Bullet points covering important outcomes from first-ever VCAP Project Board meeting from June 18, 2015:

*Site locations for VCAP remain the same as those identified and approved in Project Document. Project Board endorses plan to begin work in 3 priority sites most affected by TC Pam: Tafea Outer Islands, Epi Island and Pentecost Island. Work in Malampa, Sanma and Torba provinces to be initiated afterwards.

*Agreement that sector specific VCAP implementing staff to be housed by implementing partners (PWD, DLA, Fisheries, Agriculture, VMGD, PMU).

*Concerns raised over the need to hire staff for VCAP (Project Manager & Sector Based Coordinators). Project Board agrees that this should be completed as soon as possible by responsible government agencies.

*Agreement that Matthew Hardwick will play the role of Interim Project Manager until a Project Manager is successfully hired.

*Project Board agree that existing government systems to be used as VCAP is a Nationally Implemented Modality type of project.

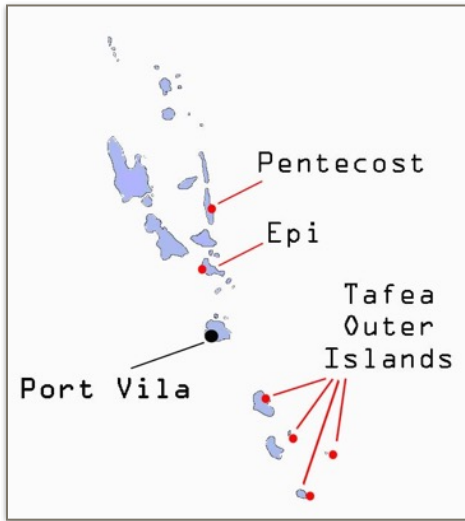
*Project Board agrees to lower the budget for 2015 AWP to \$500,000 USD only instead of the original \$ 2.8 million. If additional funding is needed it can be requested through UNDP

*Project Board agrees that next meeting will take place in November of 2015 in Rovo Bay, on Epi Island.



Pictured to left: participants from the Project Board Meeting for VCAP on June 18, 2015 in Port Vila

VCAP Priority Sites for 2015



As a result of the VCAP Project Board Meeting on June 18th and meetings facilitated during Inception Week, June 15th - 17th, it was decided that VCAP would focus on three priority sites for the remainder of 2015. These priority sites are Tafea Outer Islands, Epi and Pentecost.

Tafea Outer Islands: Tafea is the most southerly province in Vanuatu, consisting of five islands. Tanna Island is the most populated and is centrally located while the four Tafea Outer Islands (Erromango, Aniwa, Futuna & Aneityum islands) contain some of the most isolated communities in Vanuatu. Erromango Island is renowned for its forest resources and an abundance of wild game and coastal resources. It is the largest island in the province by far but it is

sparingly populated considering its size. Erromango Island is in need of support after suffering a direct hit from Severe Tropical Cyclone Pam in March of 2015 in regards to improving food & water security in communities and strengthening vital infrastructure such as footpaths and disaster shelters. Aniwa Island is the only coral atoll in Tafea Province and it has dire water security needs. Aniwa’s main sources of income generation are derived from fishing and orange production and livelihoods were severely impacted by Cyclone Pam. Aneityum and Futuna Islands are both well-known for having rich marine eco-systems and will



Photo above: Aneityum Island is a priority VCAP site as it is part of the Tafea Outer Islands, photo by Matthew Hardwick

likely both require assistance in strengthening the climate resilience of local footpaths. Footpaths are the primary accessways used to travel on the islands and they are challenged by severe erosion and numerous river crossings that are impassable after heavy rains.

Epi Island: Epi Island is located in the northeast corner of Shefa Province. Villages and roads in Epi are located along the coastline, while the interior of the island is densely populated with native forest. There is limited conveyance infrastructure throughout Epi, with the longest road becoming increasingly inaccessible due to the impact of inclement weather resulting erosion of roadways, flooded creek beds and decaying infrastructure including collapsed bridges. This primary road is located through the entire VCAP site on Epi Island and improving its resilience to the increasingly frequent rains was indicated as a priority by communities during consultations. Epi’s fertile soil had led intensive agricultural development, which in turn as resulted in the substantial erosion of topsoil. This erosion has adversely affected marine-ecosystems causing harm to coral reefs and local fisheries due to sedimentation. Water security concerns are prevalent throughout the Epi site.



Photo above: Engineer from Public Works Department inspects road on Epi Island with VCAP design team, photo by Matthew Hardwick



Photo above: Lalwok Village along eastern coast of Pentecost, photo by Matthew Hardwick

Pentecost Island is the largest and most populated island in Penama Province. The VCAP site, located in the central portion of the island, has nearly 4,000 inhabitants with a quarter of the population living along the remote and inaccessible eastern coast. A mountain range spans the length of the island, of which the highest is Mount Vulmat (947 m) and divides the generally humid and rainy eastern coast and the more temperate western coast. The coastal plains are lined with many creeks and rivers and are generally contain very fertile soil. Access to services is extremely limited during heavy rains with a majority of footpaths becoming impassable. Erosion control and diversification of agricultural production has been indicated as needed by target communities for food security purposes.

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