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USAID Climate Change Adaptation Project Preparation Facility for Asia and the Pacific (Adapt Asia-Pacific)

# INTEGRATING GENDER EQUALITY & SOCIAL INCLUSION DIMENSIONS

ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE COASTAL ZONE IN VANUATU



MARCH 2014

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VANUATU

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The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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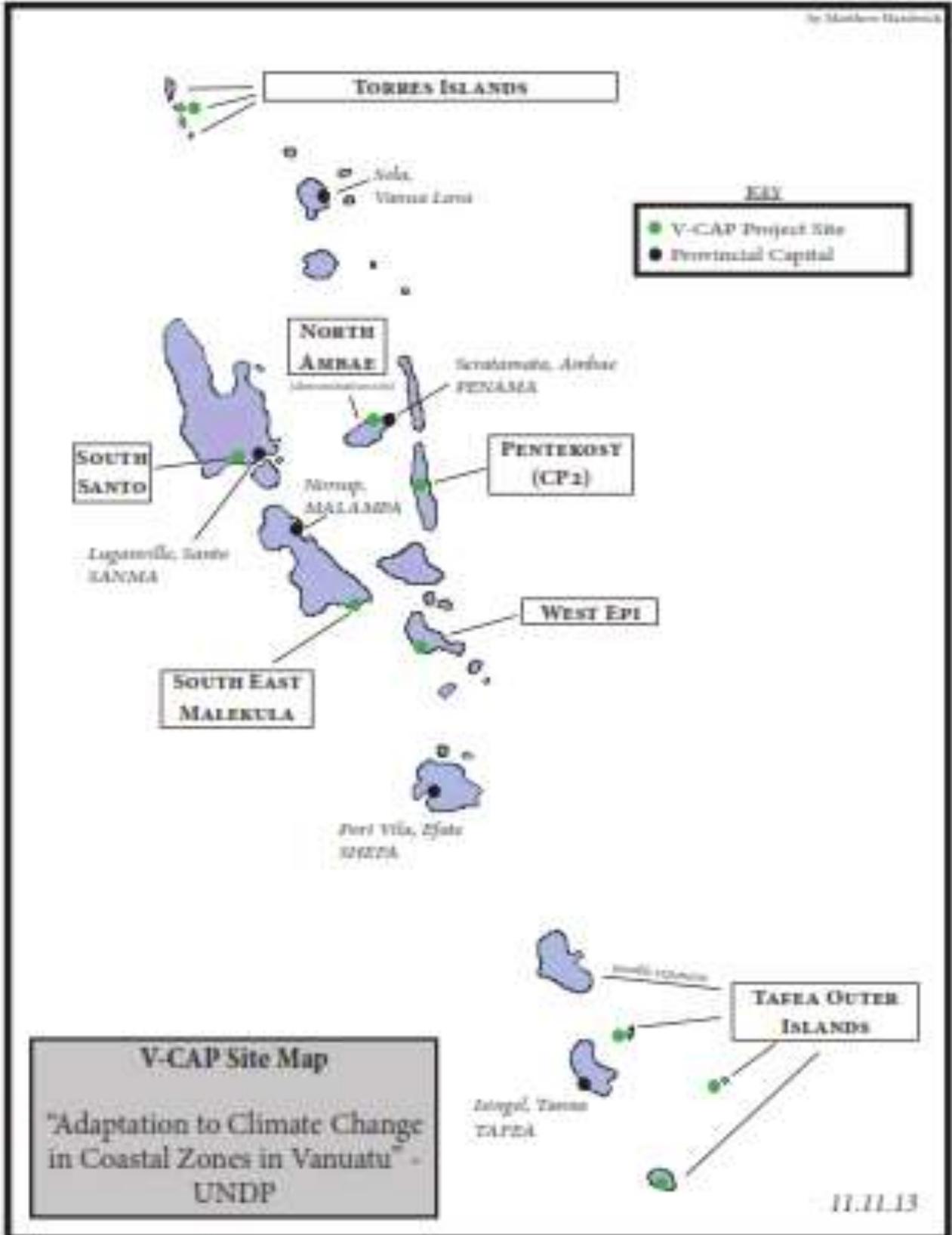
## ACRONYMS

AC	Area Council
ADAPT Asia-Pacific	USAID Climate Change Adaptation Project Preparation Facility for Asia and the Pacific
CC	climate change
CCA	climate change adaptation
CCCA Plans	Community Climate Change Adaptation Plans
CDC	Community Disaster Committee
CDP	Community Disaster Plan
COP	Conference of the Parties
CRDP	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DECP	Department of Environment, Conservation and Protection
DLA	Department of Local Authorities, Ministry of Interior
DMO	Disaster Management Office
DRD	Department of Rural Development
DWA	Department of Women's Affairs (Ministry of Justice and Community Services)
EWS	Early Warning System
FAAT	fisheries and agricultural adaptation training
FSA	Farm Support Organization
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GoV	Government of Vanuatu
HH	household
IA	Implementing Agency
LDCF	Least Developed Country Fund
LMMA	(Locally) Marine Managed Area
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MCCAMGEDM	Ministry for Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology, Geo-hazards, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management.
MMA	Marine Managed Area
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NBSAP	National Report on National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
MWCT	Ministry of Works Communications and Transport
NAPA	National Adaptation Program of Action
NDMP	National Disaster Management Plan
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PMU	Project Management Unit of the MCCAMGEDM
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
PWD	Public Works Department
RTC	Rural Training Centre
SOPAC	Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission
UNDP	United National Development Program
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN Women	United Nations Agency for Women
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VCAN	Vanuatu Climate Adaptation Network
VCAP	Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zone in Vanuatu Project
V&A	Vulnerability and Adaptation
VDC	Village Disaster Committee
VMGD	Vanuatu Meteorological and Geohazards Department
VTSSP	Vanuatu Transportation Sector Support Project
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

## DEFINITIONS

To ensure common understanding of climate change issues and impacts on men, women, children and persons with disabilities, the following definitions are provided as a reference point for this analysis.

<b>Gender</b>	Is the set of culturally specific characteristics that define the social behaviours of women and men (including female and male children) and the relationships between them. Social perceptions of gender vary across cultures, social classes, time and degree of urbanization and serve to include or exclude particular people from particular activities.
<b>Gender Equity</b>	Means that women and men have equal value, equal rights and equal opportunities to participate in programs and services. To ensure equity, specific interventions called affirmative actions are often needed to compensate for historical, social and economic disadvantages that prevent women and men from otherwise operating on an equal footing. Affirmative actions are designed to “level the playing field” and correct existing inequities. An equal number of women and men participants by itself, is not always an accurate measure of gender equity: factors related to power balance also need to be considered.
<b>Gender Balance</b>	Requires that men and women be equally represented - either in equal numbers or in proportion to their presence - in particular settings.
<b>Gender Blind</b>	Are project designs and activities that ignore gender factors including roles and relations and can lead to reinforcement of gender-based discrimination and existing inequities.
<b>Gender Component</b>	Refers to a specified set of actions/activities, with an identified funding commitment are designed to address significant gender differentiated impacts (of climate change on marginalized groups. This could involve a wide range of interventions including those that promote equal participation of women and men (and other vulnerable groups as appropriate) in decision-making processes on climate issues and adaptation options.
<b>Gender Considerations</b>	Refers to the cultural, social, economic and political conditions on which certain norms, values and behavioural patterns related to men and women are based, and how these could be utilized to strengthen the capacity of men and women in the performance of their roles and responsibilities. The “gender differential impact of climate change” refers to the different impact of climate change on men and women because of their socially ascribed roles and responsibilities.
<b>Gender and Social Inclusion and Mainstreaming</b>	Is a strategy for considering and addressing the different needs, perspectives and experiences of women, men, children, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities and other socially excluded people in all aspects of program and policy assessment, design, implementation and evaluation.
<b>Gender &amp; Social Analysis</b>	Is the process of collecting information about gender, age and other social differences and analysing the impacts of changing circumstances (i.e., climate change) on specific groups of people. This type of analysis provides the basis for identifying key gender considerations and designing a “socially inclusive approach” that responds to the unique circumstances and needs of <u>all</u> project beneficiaries.
<b>Social Inclusion</b>	Describes a process whereby certain groups in society are systematically excluded from opportunities that are open to others. Groups can be discriminated against on the basis of their sex, age, clan, ethnic background, disability, health status, religion, sexual orientation, where they live or other social identity. Social inclusion means ensuring that socially excluded people have equal conditions for realising their full human rights and potential to contribute to national, political, economic, social and cultural development, and to benefit from the results.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Background

In 2013, the Government of Vanuatu and UNDP requested technical assistance from the USAID funded Adapt Asia-Pacific Project to support four specialists, including an International Gender Advisor, to prepare the “Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zone in Vanuatu Project” (V-CAP). The USAID Adapt Advisors worked closely with the UNDP funded consultants and staff from all implementing partner (IP) agencies including the Ministry of Climate Change (MCC), the Department of Local Authorities (DLA), the Public Works Department (PWD) and the Vanuatu Meteorological and Geohazards Department (VMGD) in preparing the project. In-country design work, including visits to all proposed V-CAP sites, was carried out in late 2013.

### Objectives

The aim of the project is: *“To improve the resilience of the coastal zone in Vanuatu to the impacts of climate change in order to sustain livelihoods, food production and preserve/improve the quality of life in targeted vulnerable areas”.*

The project has four component areas including:

- i) Targeted community approaches to climate change adaptation (CCA) responsive to stakeholder needs and priorities
- ii) Support for information and early warning systems on coastal hazards to address the current lack of systematic analysis and prediction of climate-related events
- iii) Strengthen climate change governance by building upon the Government’s commitment to mainstreaming climate change into national planning and development plans, and
- iv) Enhance knowledge of environment issues given the population’s generally low levels of understanding of climate change issues and impacts.

V-CAP project sites were identified by the PMU, the DLA and other implementing partner agencies based on an agreed set of criteria including: vulnerability to climate change impacts in coastal areas; accessibility; presence of ongoing base-line activities; and population size. It was agreed that V-CAP would cover at least six sites (one per province), and potentially more depending on the cost of required resilience interventions in these areas.

### Context

Vanuatu experiences frequent severe tropical cyclones, anomalously long dry spells associated with the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), and frequent earthquakes and seismic activity due to its location along the “Pacific Ring of Fire”. Climate change adaptation challenges in Vanuatu are immense considering its ranking as “the most vulnerable country in the world” (Commonwealth Vulnerability Index). This ranking is due to the country’s high exposure to natural disasters, scattered island geography, narrow economic base, inadequate communication and transportation networks, and limited capacity to cope with disasters including those caused or exacerbated by the effects of climate change. It is expected that Vanuatu will continue to be heavily impacted by climate change with future scenarios projecting increased temperatures, sea-level rise, increased frequency and severity of cyclones, increased ocean temperatures and ocean acidification.

### Methods

Through the use of special women and youth focus groups and interviews with key informants, gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) issues were assessed in each project site. In many areas, the team was accompanied and assisted by provincial women’s affairs officers and CSO staff which enabled more thorough investigation of issues. This analysis also involved extensive consultations with national level stakeholders and a comprehensive literature review. In total, consultations were held in 26 communities, involving over 1050 persons, spread across all six provinces. Consultations with 143 external stakeholders including relevant government agencies, civil society organisations, development partners and project staff were also conducted (see Annex 2).

## Alignment

V-CAP aligns with and supports Government's strategic directions and operational priorities for climate change adaptation and good governance including implementation of specific aspects of the National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA), the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Decentralization Act, the upcoming National Gender and Women's Empowerment Policy to 2023 and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRDP). V-CAP GESI strategies also support progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

## Vulnerabilities

Global experience has shown that climate change impacts are *not* gender or generation neutral. Increases in extreme weather conditions (including droughts, cyclones and floods) serve to accentuate and accelerate risks to the most vulnerable and least empowered people in society – which generally includes women, children, older people and those with disabilities. Vulnerable people living in remote and under-serviced areas have additional vulnerabilities especially during weather extremes and emergency situations. Given the magnitude of climate change issues in Vanuatu, the impacts of climate change for the country's most vulnerable people are likely to be extreme - hence the urgent need for safeguarding through proactive resilience investment. The key impacts of climate change on the coastal communities studied include:

**Food insecurity** caused by increased population creating greater demand; depleted fisheries stocks; land management issues; decreased yields of good quality subsistence crops due to diseases, pests and invasive species; and top soil erosion caused by increased precipitation, slash and burn gardening and upland forestry practices like clear cutting. Increased participation will result in more runoff and cause greater problems, especially where there has been deforestation.

**Health problems** caused by poor quality and sometimes limited supply of drinking water; water and mosquito borne diseases which worsen with increased population and precipitation; the rise in communicable diseases made worse by unhealthy diets and restricted access to health care centers during inclement weather. Increased participation has resulted in more flooding causing human and animal waste to be transported into some villages. For children under five years of age and girls at the onset of their reproductive years, adverse health impacts can have life-long repercussions.

**Inadequate public conveyances** including roads, bridges and pedestrian walkways significantly restricts access to health and education services and food markets which are the key source of livelihoods for rural women. During times of heavy rain children in some areas do not attend school regularly due to dangerous river crossings and people are unable to access emergency or preventative health services (i.e., pre and post natal visits, child immunization, family planning). In several sites, multiple children have died while crossing flooded rivers.

**Increased Migration and Relocation** caused by weather events, over population and geological factors (i.e., some islands are sinking). As a result, land disputes related to the movement of people may also increase, especially as food security and water access issues intensify. There are already examples of families fighting over water and villages divided over land use rights. Unless carefully managed, this situation can erode social capital and lead to serious conflict. (*See Activity 6.1.1: Inclusive Planning and Review Processes*).

**Exclusion of vulnerable groups** including women, youth, people with disabilities and older persons in local decision-making processes is common. As vulnerabilities increase, inclusive planning processes at area council and community level are required to ensure that the needs and interests of all community members are understood and addressed. In addition to mainstreaming GESI considerations across all V-CAP activities, numerous targeted interventions are recommended to ensure equity and inclusion for all beneficiaries, particularly in relation to food security, water supply are safe access to essential services during inclement weather.

## Conclusions

A GESI analysis is an important means of critically exploring the social impacts of climate change. Environmental shocks illuminate gender and social exclusion inequalities within households as women, children and people with disabilities are often poorly positioned to adapt to these events and their consequences<sup>1</sup>.

The V-CAP process assessed the differential impacts of climate change on men, women, youth, children, elders and people living with disabilities. Based on this analysis, a range of targeted CCA interventions are recommended in response to identified vulnerabilities at community level. Recommendations are also provided to ensure that all members of society are well served by early warning systems; that knowledge and the ability to apply relevant climate change adaptation strategies is increased; and that the capacity of vulnerable groups to fully engage in and benefit from CC solutions is strengthened. Further, recommendations for national level policy reform work required to ensure compliance with international standards and achieve government goals regarding gender equity have been incorporated.

*“In many ways climate change acts as a magnifying glass which exposes and risks exacerbating pre-existing gender inequalities in women’s access to and control of resources and decision-making power, making poor women in particular more vulnerable to its effects and preventing them from participating equally in its solutions”  
(Skinner, E. 2011, pg 8).*

Notwithstanding the need to address vulnerabilities through the use of mainstreaming and tailored interventions, vulnerable groups of people also need to be seen as having the potential to move beyond passiveness and victimization to become powerful and effective agents of change in leading and managing mitigation and adaptation measures. For example, older people often have extensive knowledge of traditional agricultural and fisheries practises used to ensure species sustainability that can be applied when selecting contemporary adaptation measures; women and youth representatives can play a critical role in mobilizing communities to build resilience and manage risk using their own networks. Children and youth who are provided with information on climate change and adaptation strategies at school or church can assist with household and community initiatives and can also educate and influence their parents on climate change adaptation solutions.

## Recommendations

It is recommended that gender equality and social inclusion be mainstreamed across all V-CAP activities - from planning and implementation through to monitoring and evaluation - using GESI sensitive approaches, indicators and targets. Taken together – mainstreaming plus targeted activities in each component area – provide the basis of the V-CAP GESI Strategy. It is also recommended that mainstreamed activities be included in the overall project budget, along with a specific gender targeted strategy (see Annex 3: Rovo Bay Market Development/Climate Change Training and Resource Centre Project) which has been costed separately in the Activity Sheet for this project. A number of specific GESI strategies and recommendations are provided below for each component area.

**Component 1:** Recommended strategies to achieve gender equality and social inclusion results at area and community level include:

- (i) Providing fisheries and agricultural adaptation training (FAAT) for women and youth to address serious crop quality and quantity issues through improved land and marine management. FATT programs will include construction and use of training gardens and demonstration of sustainable fisheries options
- (ii) Improving water quality and supply for improved health outcomes and to prevent community conflict through upgraded, climate proofed water infrastructure and locally relevant WASH training programs
- (iii) Engaging women and youth in planning and management of marine conservation areas

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<sup>1</sup> Skinner, E. (2011). Gender and Climate Change: Overview Report, BRIDGE: Development – Gender, Institute of Development Studies: 91.

- (iv) Improving market access and profits for women in identified V-CAP sites through development of the Rovo Bay Market on Epi Island (see the Rovo Bay “Market Development and Training Project” Activity Sheet, Annex 3) and through enhanced production of high demand crops and improved access to the Santo Municipal Market for women living in South Santo (in collaboration with the UN Women Markets for Change Project)
- (v) Constructing pedestrian river crossings and footpaths to ensure safe passage and access to essential services during inclement weather, while simultaneously training local youth in construction skills through collaboration with Rural Training Centres
- (vi) Climate proofing of essential public buildings to ensure that health and education achievements (as per the MDGs) are not compromised as a result of climate change impacts, while simultaneously training local youth in construction skills, and
- (vii) Climate proofing of essential secondary roads to reduce exclusion of people without easy access to primary roads or services - as necessary and in conjunction with work undertaken in other areas.

**Component 2:** GESI strategies will be mainstreamed in the development of information and early warning systems to ensure that people - regardless of their age, sex, disability or location – are fully cognizant of preparedness guidelines and emergency procedures. In developing the new EWS, the project will need to take into account people’s access to communications, literacy levels and mobility patterns – some of which are determined by gender roles.

**Component 3:** Recommended GESI strategies to improve knowledge and capacity to deal with CC impacts include:

- (i) Establishing “Climate Change Youth Clubs” to educate young people about the impacts of CC and to encourage their active involvement in coastal zone adaptation measures. Under the direction of a Project Officer, these Youth Clubs will organize various activities such as the removal of invasive species like crown of thorns starfish; planting of protective species like vetiver grass; training programs for young people on sustainable farming and fisheries; youth exchange programs to marine conservation initiatives, species monitoring etc.
- (ii) Sponsoring identified young people from each V-CAP site to participate in the “Young Farmers Development Course” provided by the Vanuatu Farm Support Association (FSA) through the Napil Rural Training Centre. The course teaches planning, production and marketing skills required to start local agri-businesses when youth return to their own communities
- (iii) Developing curriculum materials and supporting dissemination of user-friendly CCA information through schools, churches, women and youth networks so people are better informed of CC issues and adaption measures
- (iv) Ensuring that people with disabilities are involved in the identification of CC issues and in the implementation of community solutions
- (v) Sharing descriptions of successful GESI - CCA initiatives on a routine basis with project partners and beneficiaries, and
- (vi) Develop guidelines for incorporating gender and social inclusion in climate change responses developed and used to support Component 3 work.

**Component 4:** Strategies to strengthen climate change governance systems - from a gender equality and social inclusion perspective - focus on enhancing the involvement of women, youth and persons with disabilities at community and area level and on integrating GESI in national and sector policies and plans.

At local level, V-CAP will support implementation of the Decentralization Act by:

- (i) Working through Area Councils and CCA Committees - which will have equitable representation from women and youth - to develop Integrated CC-Adaptation Plans based on the needs and priorities of all members of the community, and
- (ii) Providing leadership training for women and youth to increase their ability to effectively engage in local CC planning processes. This training could be provided by the GESI/M&E Officer, other project staff or be outsourced to the Women’s Division and/or suitable NGO.

At national level, the project will provide, as requested, technical assistance to:

- (i) Support the Government's commitment to "push the gender agenda at both national and international levels" (2013 Government of Vanuatu Submission to the UNFCCC) through mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion in relevant sector policies and plans (i.e., fisheries, forestry, agriculture, transportation, tourism)
- (ii) "Gendering" the NAPA (which is currently silent on GESI issues, impacts and strategies) and other relevant sector plans and policies
- (iii) Sharing descriptions of successful GESI - CCA activities with project partners and beneficiaries.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Given the wide range of proposed V-CAP interventions, under four separate project components, spread across all six provinces and including national level work, project M&E is going to be a challenging task. At the same time, ensuring effective GESI mainstreaming across all V-CAP activities alongside the timely implementation of targeted equality and inclusion interventions will also be a complex task. As such, it is recommended that the project:

- (i) Engage a full-time International Gender Equality and Social Inclusion and Monitoring and Evaluation (GESI/M&E) Officer to ensure adequate attention is given to both project M&E and to GESI interventions
- (ii) M&E system includes specific GESI targets and indicators of success for each component area and activity, which are agreed by project staff and beneficiary group representatives during pre-intervention participatory planning processes
- (iii) Models gender equity through the engagement of both female and male staff in leadership positions, and
- (iv) Develops and adopts a Code of Conduct for all project staff which includes a zero tolerance for violence policy and non-discriminatory practise requirements.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

Under a five-year contract with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), AECOM International Development (AECOM) is implementing the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Project to assist eligible Asian and Pacific countries in gaining improved access to finance for climate change adaptation (CCA). For this purpose, the Adapt Asia-Pacific Project established a financing facility to provide a combination of technical assistance (TA) and capacity building support to assist eligible countries access climate adaptation funds.

In 2012, the Government of Vanuatu and UNDP requested TA from the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Project to support four consultants - including an International Gender Advisor - to assist in preparing the "Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zone in Vanuatu Project" (V-CAP). Government implementing agencies (IPs) for V-CAP include: the Project Management Unit (PMU), Ministry of Climate Change (MCC), the Department of Environment, Conservation and Protection (DECP), the Public Works Department (PWD), the Vanuatu Meteorological and Geohazards Department (VMGD) and the Department of Local Authorities (DLA).

V-CAP project sites were identified by the PMU and other IPs based on an agreed set of criteria which included: vulnerability to climate change (CC) impacts in coastal areas; accessibility; presence of ongoing base-line activities; and population size. It was agreed that V-CAP would cover at least six sites (one per province), and potentially more depending on the cost of required resilience interventions in these areas.

## 1.2 Project Objectives and Components

The overall aim of the V-CAP project is to:

*Improve the resilience of the coastal zone in Vanuatu to the impacts of climate change in order to sustain livelihoods, food production and preserve/improve the quality of life in targeted vulnerable areas.*

To achieve this aim, the project will implement a range of CCA interventions designed to:

- a) Improve the adaptive capacity of communities to CC impacts through integrated approaches and community actions in the restoration of productive coastal ecosystems and implementation of applicable concrete adaptation measures;
- b) Reduce exposure of coastal dwellers to climate hazards and risks through the installation and maintenance of an early warning system;
- c) Improve climate-related governance at the national, provincial and village levels to ensure sustainability and replication of successful climate change adaptation measures; and
- d) Increase awareness about CC perils in general and adaptation in the coastal zone in particular, to increase resilience of the general population to climate change impacts.

Project activities, including gender and social inclusion interventions are organized according to four inter-related components, as summarized below:

**Component 1:** Targeted community approaches to CCA responsive to stakeholder needs and priorities. These interventions will address major environmental and associated socio-economic problems facing communities in identified areas such as land degradation, biodiversity loss, and reef destruction which severely undermine prospects for sustainable development, including food security. The project will also build on and enhance CCA initiatives through climate-proofing of infrastructure as needed.

**Component 2:** Support information and early warning systems on coastal hazards to address the current lack of systematic analysis and prediction of climate-related events. The VMGD has experienced problems in terms of processing historical data, maintaining high observation standards and further developing services due to funding, training and staffing constraints. Although, people

living near town sites have access to climate information, people living in remote areas including outer islands seriously affected by lack of weather information.

**Component 3:** Strengthen climate change governance by building upon the Government of Vanuatu's commitment to mainstreaming climate change into national planning and development plans. Climate governance is currently hindered by lack of expertise, competing demands, lack of coordination between different policy sectors as well as between national, provincial and local governments.

**Component 4:** Enhancing knowledge of environment issues is critical given generally low levels of understanding of climate change issues and impacts. Knowledge management activities need to take into account Vanuatu's high literacy rate (94% in 2009) and limited access to the internet (middle to bottom in global rankings). The project will also document lessons learned, especially those that might be useful for replication in other sites.

### 1.3 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

Why does V-CAP focus on gender equality and social inclusion? Because global, regional and national experience has shown that climate change has the most significant impact on the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. This includes women, children, the elderly and those with disabilities - especially when they live in highly under-serviced areas.

Starting from this already exposed position, the impacts of climate change serve to magnify existing inequities and intensify associated risks. Given that vulnerable peoples are affected differently by climate change, it is critical that development projects: (i) understand the impact of these differences, (ii) design strategies to address existing (and anticipated) disadvantages, and (iii) establish monitoring and evaluation systems to safeguard the interests of all beneficiaries. Gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) is mainstreamed across all aspects of the V-CAP design; in addition a number of targeted interventions aimed at addressing specific vulnerabilities are incorporated.

Mainstreaming plus targeted gender GESI activities will ensure that men and women, boys and girls and people living with disabilities will benefit equally from V-CAP interventions.

Women in North Ambae expressed grave concern about dangerous river crossings during heavy rains. Children are often kept home from school and people are cut off from health services when rivers flood. Communities reported that three school aged children had drowned over the last five years - this was confirmed by government officials. Women also described serious water shortage issues during the dry season which they believe is causing children and older people to become sick.

## 2. The Vanuatu Context

### 2.1 Geography and Demography

The Republic of Vanuatu comprises over 80 islands, of which 68 are inhabited, and has a population of around 250,000 people. It has a combined land area of 12,336 km<sup>2</sup> (with about 1,300 kilometres north to south distance between the outermost islands) and a maritime exclusive economic zone of 680,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The country lies between latitudes 13° and 21°S and longitudes 166° and 171°E.

Like all small island nations, the coastal zone is the hub of economic activities in Vanuatu. The vast majority of the population is concentrated in the narrow strip of the coastal zone as most islands are volcanic with a mountainous terrain in the interior of most islands. About 75% of the population live in rural areas and engage in subsistence, rain-fed agriculture on coastal plains; valuable arable land is located within the coastal zone.

Given the geography of Vanuatu, the scattered population, the high growth rate (2.6% per annum) and climatic issues outlined below, the country faces significant challenges in the provision of basic services, including infrastructure development, healthcare, education and early warning systems.

Vanuatu: Background Statistics <sup>2</sup>	
Population (est)	250,000
Population growth per annum	2.6%
Rural/urban population (%)	76/24
GDP growth (2012)	2%
External debt as % of GNI	17.9%
GNI per capita (2011 \$US)	\$2730
Human Development Index (2012)	0.626
Population below poverty line (2011)	12.7%
Secondary enrolment net % of school age female (male) 1999-2011	49 (46)
Total fertility rate per woman (2010-15)	3.7
Women % of waged, non-agricultural employees (2012)	38.9%
EIU Women's Economic Opportunity score of 100 (2012)	39.1

## 2.2 Economy and Livelihoods

Vanuatu is a weak developing economy with a narrow economic base and a small local market. It is classified as a lower-middle income country with a per capita income of US\$2,401 (2007 data). The human development index ranking for Vanuatu is 126th out of 182. While small-scale agriculture provides a living for about 65% of the population, about 62% of GDP is generated by the service sector. Agriculture and a small industry account for about 25% and 10% of GDP, respectively. The growing tourism sector, mainly centered on the capital city of Port Vila is the main foreign exchange earner. The country's narrow economic base makes the cash economy particularly vulnerable to disruption by natural disasters, which are frequent as costly.

Some two-thirds of all jobs in Vanuatu are outside the formal sector, with women comprising half the population and 45% of the formal labour force. About 80% of people live in rural areas and engage in subsistence, rain-fed agriculture on the coastal zone. Ni-Vanuatu women participate in virtually all farming-related activities. Coastal fisheries contribute significantly to household livelihood and food security, with the recent agriculture census indicating increased fishing effort by rural communities. However many life-supporting coastal ecosystems are now under stress from climate change and other human-induced activities including over-fishing and ridge deforestation. Small-scale agriculture provides a living for about 65% of the population. Selling at local and district market places is the main form of economic activity for the majority of rural women in Vanuatu.

## 2.3 Climate and Climate Governance

Vanuatu experiences severe tropical cyclones during the summer months of December to February, anomalously long dry spells associated with the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), and frequent earthquakes and seismic activity due to its location along the "Pacific Ring of Fire". According to the Commonwealth Vulnerability Index, Vanuatu ranks as the world's most vulnerable country due to its high exposure to natural disasters, scattered island geography, narrow economic base, inadequate communication and transportation networks, and limited capacity to cope with disasters including climate change.

The impacts of climate change have serious consequences on the coastal environment in Vanuatu. The bio-geophysical effects include coastal erosion, increased flooding, loss of coastal lowlands and wetlands and salinization of surface and groundwater. The loss and degradation of coastal wetlands impact on the livelihoods and nutrition of coastal dwellers that depend on the ecosystem services from intact and healthy mangroves, coral reefs and other coastal habitats. In addition, the effects of climate change on the socio-economy of the country include the risks to human life and health, loss of property and infrastructure, deterioration of agriculture, tourism and recreation and loss of livelihoods. All these threaten the way of life of coastal communities that have strong affinity to coastal ecosystems for socio-economic purposes.

<sup>2</sup> UNFPA (2012). [Population and Development Profiles Pacific Island Countries](http://www.adb.org/publications/key-indicators-asia-and-pacific-2012?ref=publications/series/key-indicators-for-asia-and-the-pacific), United Nations Population Fund, Suva, Fiji; <http://www.adb.org/publications/key-indicators-asia-and-pacific-2012?ref=publications/series/key-indicators-for-asia-and-the-pacific>

The economic costs of climate change impact in Vanuatu are also high. A recent study estimated the average annual loss from tropical cyclones at about US\$37 million in terms of damages to buildings, other infrastructure and agriculture.<sup>3</sup> The majority of these costs occur in the coastal zone where the concentration of infrastructure, farming and related activities is greatest.

With respect to governance, Vanuatu has responded positively to its' climate change challenges and has established a National Advisory Board (NAB) with primary responsibility for coordinating CC policies, programs and projects. The Secretariat of the NAB is the newly established PMU (Project Management Unit) based at the Vanuatu Meteorological and Geohazards Department (VMGD). The PMU will be the primary point of linkage for V-CAP in Vanuatu's government processes; it will also provide administration and finance support and ensure integration with other climate change related projects in Vanuatu.

## 2.4 Women, Governance and Climate Change

While women in Vanuatu play an increasingly significant role in both the civil service and the public sector as a whole, they are still extremely under-represented in terms of political leadership at all levels. Out of a total of 52 members of parliament there have only ever been two female members at any one time. This lack of representation is also apparent at the local level where women have very little representation in provincial and municipal councils. As such, the Council of Ministers has recently endorsed 30% to 34% reserved seats for women at the municipal council level; UN Women are supporting government in implementing this change. In addition, the Decentralisation Act mandates the appointment of women as members of Provincial Councils. While women are represented on Area Councils, the Decentralization Act does not cover these councils; the DLA is currently working on a paper proposing an amendment to the Decentralization Act for the inclusion of Area Councils as part of the provincial organisational structure.

According to the 2013 Submission by the Republic of Vanuatu to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat titled *Promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in UNFCCC Negotiations* (pursuant to the Kyoto Protocol), the Government of Vanuatu "is committed to integrating gender into climate change policies"<sup>4</sup>. Beyond the development of a National Gender Policy, the Government established a numerical target for full gender equality (e.g. 50% women) in the composition of the national delegation to the November 2013 UNFCCC COP meeting in Warsaw, Poland. In spite of these efforts, the Submission stated that "comprehensive support and effective measures will be needed where structural barriers keep challenging the role of women in political life" in Vanuatu. One such "structural barrier" is the issue of violence against women. The Vanuatu Women's Center in partnership with the Vanuatu National Statistics Office recently conducted a study on the prevalence of violence in families which revealed high rates of violence against women in Vanuatu with emotional violence and sexual violence being pervasive<sup>5</sup>.

The Government of Vanuatu has committed to "push the gender agenda at both national and international levels" through mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion in relevant sector policies and plans (2013 Submission to the UNFCCC).

## 2.5 Policy Alignment

### National Adaption Program for Action (NAPA)

To guide the implementation of adaptation efforts, Vanuatu has endorsed the 2012-2022 National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS) and the National Adaption Program of Action (NAPA). These plans provide policy recommendations; sector specific adaptation plans and outlines systematic, long-term approaches to embed CCA into core national and sector level activities. Vanuatu has also developed a National Integrated Coastal Management Framework (NICMF) and Implementation Strategy which outlines the institutional arrangements needed for management of coastal ecosystems.

<sup>3</sup> *Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative, Country Profile for Vanuatu*. SOPAC, June 2013.

<sup>4</sup> *Promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol*, Submission by the Republic of Vanuatu, November 2013.

<sup>5</sup> Republic of Vanuatu, *Elimination and Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls*. Submission to the 57th Commission on the Status of Women. 4-15 March, New York, 2013.

The V-CAP design aligns with and supports implementation of the NAPA and serves as a primary point of reference for the project. As requested by the Government of Vanuatu, V-CAP will focus on supporting implementation of four specific aspects of this plan: (i) community-based marine resource management programs (ii) mainstreaming climate change considerations into infrastructure design and planning, (iii) sustainable livestock farming and management and, (iv) development of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) programs.

From a gender equality and social inclusion perspective, it is of significant concern that the NAPA is silent on issues related to the differential impacts of climate change on vulnerable groups including women, children and people with disabilities. This gender blind will be addressed through V-CAP support in the policy reform domain (Component 3).

### **National Integration Coastal Zone Management Framework (NICZF)**

The NICZF was approved in 2010 to guide management of coastal and marine areas, with a vision of providing a sustainable approach to coastal management through establishing institutional arrangements and involving relevant stakeholders in implementation of management activities. The responsibilities for overseeing the NICZF are shared between the Departments of Environment, Fisheries, Forestry, Agriculture, Lands, Geology, Mines and Rural Water Supply with the Department of the Environment taking the lead role in implementation. The NICZF acknowledges the Decentralisation Act (see below), stating that the Provinces will provide local level government system support and become an integral part of the implementation process. However, at community, area council and provincial levels the PPG team was not made aware that this framework is being used as part of any planning process. Given the limited resources and capacity building needs requirements for effective implementation, it is unlikely that the NICZF will be comprehensively tested or piloted in the near future. Further, there are no references to gender equity or social inclusion issues in the NICZF, which is an area where V-CAP could provide technical assistance if requested.

### **Decentralization Act**

The Vanuatu Decentralisation Act (2006) and the Amendment to this Act (2013) outline the roles and responsibilities of the local administration regarding decentralisation of service delivery across Vanuatu. The Department of Local Authorities (DLA), Ministry of Interior, is responsible for implementing the Act. However, the DLA is currently under resourced and lacks the capacity to drive implementation. As such, V-CAP will seek to work through and support Provincial and Area Councils (ACs) in targeted areas through planning, delivery and monitoring of locally relevant CCA solutions. This strategy is considered critical in developing local capacity and ownership for sustainable climate change adaptation. Of significance, this approach will also enable and encourage women and youth to be actively involved in local planning and decision-making processes about environmental issues given the legal requirement under the Decentralization Act for women and youth representation.

In supporting the Government's plans for decentralization and capacity building of ACs, the V-CAP design team used the newly developed Provincial Community Profiling Survey (Shefa Province), with modifications to capture climate change issues and impacts from a ridge-to-reef perspective. This customized profiling tool, referred to as the Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) Assessment was developed to collect locally specific data from rural villages (in Bislama) and to enable Area Secretaries and Councils to replicate V&A's within their jurisdictions for other purposes.

### **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

The Government of Vanuatu ratified the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 09 March 1993, with Initial National Communication (INC) to the UNFCCC occurring in October 1999. It is of note that Vanuatu's first submission to the UNFCCC (2013) focused on gender balance reflecting "the determination of the country to push the gender agenda at both national and international levels".

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### **Priority Action Agenda 2012-2016**

Gender Equity is featured in the new National Development Plan of the Government of Vanuatu which aims at accelerating development and coordinating efforts in two specific areas: (i) through a quota of 30% women in Parliament, and (ii) by mainstreaming a gender perspective in all Government policy processes.

## National Gender and Women's Empowerment Policy

Vanuatu is currently working on finalizing a new National Gender and Women's Empowerment Policy to 2023. This policy will aim to provide direction and guidance on strategic interventions in addressing gender inequalities and will also serve as a coordinating document for government ministries to integrate and mainstream gender perspectives in all policies and sector plans. As such, it is important that V-CAP facilitate inter-agency work between the Women's Division and project implementing agencies to ensure that gender equality and social inclusion is fully mainstreamed in all climate change adaptation work carried out by the project.

## 6. Methodology

### 3.1 Objectives of Study

In accord with the V-CAP GEF Project Identification Form (PIF), the gender component will:

*Strive to promote gender equality in both planning and execution of the proposed components to ensure that men and women benefit equally from targeted interventions. On-the-ground adaptation activities will actively encourage the participation of women to incorporate into planning their particular situation and role in coastal resource management, and will take into account that access to information and early warning may vary between groups. Policy-oriented activities will account for different vulnerabilities according to gender, culture and other characteristics that influence people's capacity to prepare for and respond to climate-related disasters. Gender will also be incorporated as an explicit variable in project M&E.*

According to the 2013 World Social Science Report on Changing Global Environments, a "rigorous gender analysis can lead to more relevant and effective climate change solutions".

In undertaking this study, it soon became apparent that in addition to women other groups of people were extra vulnerable to the manifestations of climate change for various reasons. During community consultations, women kept talking about the impacts of changing weather patterns on their children, on older people and on those with disabilities in their communities. They also talked about how people were relocating from one area to

another (because of flooding and sea level rise) and how this was affecting access to water, education and health services and how this, in turn, was affecting social relationships. As such, the design team expanded the focus of this study to consider the broader impacts of climate change on vulnerabilities and social inclusion in V-CAP sites.

The primary task of the Gender Advisor during project preparation was to gather and analyse a wide range of qualitative and quantitative information on gender equality and social inclusion issues in identified V-CAP target sites (Component 1) and on equality, empowerment and capacity constraints (Components 2 through 4 work) and to prepare a summary report of findings and recommendations. This report will outline: (i) the differential impacts of climate change on men, women, youth/children, elders and persons with disabilities; (ii) identify strategies to ensure V-CAP activities result in benefits for all members of targeted communities, and (iii) recommend risk mitigation strategies and M&E tools to capture changes in the lives of vulnerable groups resulting from V-CAP interventions.

### 3.2 Methods

In preparing this analysis, the following methodology was used: site inspections, community consultations and rapid vulnerability assessments with key beneficiary group representatives including women, young people, elders and persons with disabilities. In total, consultations were held in 26 communities, involving over 1050 persons, spread across all six provinces. Consultations with more than 140 external stakeholders including relevant government agencies, civil society organisations, development partners and project staff were also conducted (see Annex 2). Further, a literature review of policy and programming documents on gender and climate change in the context of social, economic, historical and cultural factors that determine the status of women and other vulnerable groups in Vanuatu was undertaken. References are included throughout the study as relevant.

## Community Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) Assessment

The USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific team used a highly participatory bottom-up design approach to ensure that proposed V-CAP activities are not only aligned with the NAPA, but are also highly responsive to the identified needs and priorities of target communities - including women and other vulnerable groups - area councils and provincial authorities. When arranging village consultations, the V-CAP team adhered to the traditional protocol of meeting with provincial, district, and area government officials prior to making direct contact with communities. These officials arranged meetings through the chiefly system and made introductions for the team. In all provinces, the V-CAP design team was accompanied by provincial and area council officials, including women's officers on some site visits, which proved invaluable in gaining a solid understanding of local issues, needs and priorities.

The data gathering process involved development and field testing of a Community Vulnerability and Adaptation Survey covering a wide range of topics including ridge to reef to ridge environmental issues; agriculture and fisheries; water supply; hygiene/sanitation; health and education; public conveyance infrastructure, gender, social inclusion and economic issues in each site.

Community meetings generally involved both large and small group discussions. Large group sessions were used to introduce the team and the project and to further people's awareness of climate change issues nationally and internationally. Follow-on Focus Group Meetings (with community members divided according in their areas of interest) explored specific issues in greater detail including the impacts of CC on: the village economy, community governance/relationships, infrastructure, water catchment/supply, health and hygiene, education, fisheries, agriculture and livestock and any other issues of concern to community members.

Female/elder/youth only focus groups enabled women and others who would not normally speak in public meetings to express their views openly (as this does not generally happen in the presence of men in Vanuatu). In some communities, youth representatives joined women's group while in other communities youth held separate focus groups or joined in other discussion groups of interest to them. Persons with disabilities and children also attended some sessions when available; when persons with disabilities were not present at consultation meetings, information on special needs groups was gathered from key informants including women, health care workers and teachers.



These focus groups were extremely valuable in developing a gendered and socially inclusive assessment of CC facing target communities and also enabled the design team to compare the perspectives of different groups of people in analysing vulnerabilities and identifying priorities for intervention – in some cases women and men's perspectives and priorities varied considerably. For instance, women tended to focus on household issues like food security, water supply and access to markets, health centres and schools, while men tended to focus more on infrastructural and economic issues.

### **National Consultations and Literature Review**

In addition to community consultations, the Gender Advisor also worked closely with Provincial Women's Affairs Officers and female representatives from Local Area Councils to gather baseline data on existing plans and priorities and to gain a better understanding of women's networks and their engagement in decision-making processes at local level. The Advisor also met with national level government departments, UN agencies, other development projects and CSOs to explore potential linkages with ongoing/upcoming work on climate change issues of direct concern to women and other marginalized groups. A list of people consulted in contained in Annex 2.

The Gender Advisor also collected and reviewed a wide range of secondary data pertaining to gender, disabilities, child protection and climate change issues in Vanuatu, regionally and globally. In addition, information was gathered and analysed from women's and children's organizations on current

programs with a view to exploring potential for collaboration and added-value. These partnerships are discussed in the following sections.

## 4. Key Findings by Component

### 4.1 Component 1: Targeted community approaches to CCA

#### 4.1.1 Summary of Climate Change Impacts at Community Level

Detailed information regarding the perspectives of women and other vulnerable groups on the impacts of climate change in their lives and communities, on a site-by-site basis, can be found in Annex 1 of this Report. The following box shows V-CAP sites by province, area council jurisdiction and boundaries.

Province	Shefa	Sanma	Penama	Tafea	Malampa	Torba
<b>Island</b>	Epi	Santo	Pentecost	Tafea – outer islands	Malekula	Torres
<b>Area Councils (AC)</b>	Vermauli and Vermaul AC's	South Santo 2 AC and portion of South Santo 1 AC	Central Pentecost 2 AC	Aniwa, Futuna & Aneityum AC's	South East Malekula AC	Torres AC
<b>Site boundaries</b>	West coast Road from Mafilau to Rovo Bay extending to catchment	Wailapa to Asevaia extending into the upper catchment	East Coast of CP2 AC to ridge & then down to the Kumreut along the West Coast & Bwatnapni, CP1 AC	whole of islands	Akam Island, Farun, Okai to Maskelyne / Vao islands	All islands within the Torres Group

In summary, most communities located within V-CAP sites are dealing with rapid population growth, significant socio-cultural and economic changes - including the transition from subsistence to a more cash focussed economies as well as the wide-ranging impacts of climate change as summarized below.

- **Food insecurity** caused by increased population creating greater demand; depleted fisheries stocks; decreased quality of marine ecosystems; decreased yields of good quality subsistence crops due to disease, pests and invasive species; and top soil erosion caused by increased precipitation, slash and burn gardening and upland forestry practices like clear cutting. Poor land management will also lead to climate change and food insecurity, problems with marine water quality etc. (See Activity 6.1.2: *Fisheries and Agricultural Adaptation Training for Women and Youth.*)
- **Health problems** caused by poor quality and sometimes limited supply of drinking water; water and mosquito borne diseases which worsen with increased population and precipitation; the rise in communicable diseases made worse by unhealthy diets and restricted access to health care centres during inclement weather. (See Activity 6.1.3: *Community-based WASH Programmes.*)
- **Inadequate public conveyances** including roads, bridges and pedestrian walkways significantly restricts access to health and education services and food markets which are the key source of livelihoods for rural women. During times of heavy rain children in some areas do not attend school regularly due to dangerous river crossings and people are unable to access emergency or preventative health services (i.e., pre and post natal visits, child immunization, family planning). In some remote locations (i.e., South Malakula), government workers have refused to travel/work in this area due to water travel safety and isolation factors. (See Activity 6.1.4: *Pedestrian River Crossings and Footpaths.*)
- **Damaged infrastructure** caused from increasingly severe and frequent weather events has resulted in closure or restricted use of some public and community buildings including schools, health care centres, markets and houses. Damage to infrastructure from sea level rise and increased storm damage is likely to worsen over time. (See Activity 6.1.6: *Climate Proof Essential Public Buildings.*)

- **Increased Migration and Relocation** caused by weather events, over population and geological factors (i.e., some islands are sinking). As a result, land disputes related to the movement of people may also increase, especially as food security and water access issues intensify. There are already examples of families fighting over water and villages divided over land use rights. Unless carefully managed, this situation can erode social capital and lead to serious conflict. (See *Activity 6.1.1: Inclusive Planning and Review Processes.*)
- **Exclusion of vulnerable groups** including women, youth, people with disabilities and older persons in local decision-making processes is common. As vulnerabilities increase, inclusive planning processes at area council and community level are required to ensure that the needs and interests of all community members are understood and addressed. (See *Activity 6.1.1: Inclusive Planning and Review Processes.*) In addition to mainstreaming GESI considerations across all V-CAP activities, numerous targeted interventions are recommended to ensure equity and inclusion for all beneficiaries, particularly in relation to food security, water supply and safe access to essential services during inclement weather.

#### 4.1.2 Summary of Climate Change Impacts on Vulnerable Groups

The specific climate related issues of most relevance and concern to women, youth, children and people living with disabilities resident in identified V-CAP areas are outlined below. Older community members - especially those with weak health and/or restricted mobility - are also at increased risk from the impacts of climate change.

##### ➤ **Women**

Because of their responsibility to secure food and water, gather firewood for cooking and generate income from market sales, women in rural areas in Vanuatu are highly dependent on local natural resources for their family's health and livelihood. Combined with the rapidly increasing population in most V-CAP sites, the effects of climate change are making it harder to secure these resources, resulting in longer work days for women, less financial resources and negative repercussions on family health and well-being due to food and water security issues and restricted access to basic services and markets.

Women in South Santo say many families no longer eat the fish they catch, choosing rather to sell their catch to other families for needed income. In the words of one woman "men only fish now for money, not food, and then they sell the fish to buy kava and the family has nothing".

The primary concerns expressed by women in V-CAP target areas included:

- Food insecurity due to increasing population, invasive species, poor crop quality, increased spoilage, reduced fisheries
- Clean, accessible water supply
- Flooding in villages leading to human and animal waste being transported into the village
- Lack of access to health and education services during the wet season
- Dangerous and impassable river crossings which have caused injury and death of children and blocked access to essential services during heavy rains and flooding in some targeted sites
- Access to markets and the economic non-viability of producing/transporting food crops and livestock to market for sale
- Health issues including diarrhoea, respiratory disorders, eye infection/sight problems, influenza
- Teenage pregnancy/family planning
- Marginalization of youth, and
- Lack of voice in local level decision-making processes.

##### ➤ **Children**

Research and experience have shown that children are also being significantly impacted by climate change. A landmark 2008 global study by UNICEF states that "many of the main killers of children (malaria, diarrhoea and under nutrition) are highly sensitive to climate conditions"<sup>6</sup>. A subsequent

<sup>6</sup> *Climate Change and Children: A Human Security Challenge*. Innocenti Research Centre: UNICEF, New York, 2008.

regional report titled *Climate Change and Children in the Pacific Islands (2010)*<sup>7</sup> assessed the various ways in which climate change is delaying the attainment of development objectives for children in the Pacific with reference to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). For children under five years of age and girls at the onset of their reproductive years, adverse health and cognitive impacts can have life-long repercussions.

According to the four primary sets of children's rights as set forth in the CRC the following climate change impacts were highlighted for Vanuatu, many of which were also reported by stakeholders during V-CAP consultations.

**Survival:** Health issues caused by vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue fever; heat stress; acute respiratory infections; water and sanitation concerns caused by unsafe drinking water and water borne diseases; water storage, security and sanitation; nutrition issues stemming from insufficient or poor quality food.

**Development:** Decreases in school attendance and educational attainment due to weather induced access issues; school closure due to infrastructure not being climate-proofed; lack of water; natural disasters, displacement and labour mobility.

**Protection:** Drop in birth registration due to access issues; child protection consequences related to overcrowded housing and high mobility resulting from flooding and natural disasters; injury/death due to unsafe river/ocean crossings.

**Participation:** Children becoming more aware of potential impacts of climate change on their lives and futures but limited opportunities for involvement in decision-making or participation in adaptation initiatives.

The primary climate change issues reported as impacting children in V-CAP sites included:

- Increase in water borne illnesses such as diarrhoea
- Water shortages leading to dehydration and skin disorders
- Re-emerging increase in malaria, induced by increased precipitation and population
- Decreasing supply of high quality local foods, due to soil erosion, crop spoilage, over-fishing and increased population, being replaced by less nutritious western goods like white rice and bread
- Restricted access to schools due to dangerous river crossings during rainy season resulting in increased absenteeism, and
- Restricted access to health care centres resulting in children not being regularly immunized or treated for illnesses in a timely manner.

### ➤ Youth

In general, the young people consulted reported a high degree of concern about current and future impacts of climate change. They are well aware of declining food supplies, water quality issues, invasive maritime and terrestrial species and the non-economic value of traditional income earning crops such as copra. Most expressed a high degree of frustration regarding their inability to make money and/or be meaningfully involved in community activities due to socio-cultural and economic factors. The youth consulted frequently indicated that marginalization and boredom was the reason why so many young women became pregnant and young men abused substances and got into fights.

In almost all V-CAP sites, youth requested opportunities for training and income generation. The challenge for implementation will be to find ways to capitalize on youth interest in climate change adaptation while also providing young people with opportunities to learn new skills, be meaningfully engaged in local decision-making and planning processes and contribute to the development of their communities. Given that income generation will be a significant motivating factor for many young people, the project will need to find creative ways to provide incentives such as employing youth to remove crown of thorns starfish and other destructive marine and terrestrial invasive species.

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<sup>7</sup> *Climate Change and Children in the Pacific Islands*, Report submitted to UNICEF Pacific from the Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne. University of Melbourne, April 2010.

➤ **People Living with Disabilities**

Worldwide, approximately 20% of people are living with disabilities. The 2009 Vanuatu National Census indicates the number of people with disabilities in Vanuatu at 2,721 (or 13%) but the Vanuatu Society of Disabled People (VSDP) estimates there are actually well over 4,000 people with disabilities<sup>8</sup>. According to the VSDP (who currently has about 1,500 registered clients), the most common types of disabilities are hearing and visual impairment, physical and intellectual impediments.

Around 13% of the total population reported a disability, with the prevalence being slightly higher amongst women (13%) than men (12%).

	Total population - prevalence of disability (%)		% that have never been to school (aged 6+)		% that do not work (aged 15-64)	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
<b>No disability</b> <i>No difficulties in all four domains</i>	88.2	87.2	9	10	27	45
<b>Some disability</b> <i>Some difficulties in any one or more of the domains</i>	11.0	12.0	16	22	18	38
<b>Severe disability</b> <i>cannot do at all in any one or more of the domains</i>	0.8	0.8	38	49	46	55
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0				

Gender Monograph, "Women and Men in Vanuatu", 2009 National Population and Housing Census

Vanuatu ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and its Optional Protocol Signed Convention on 23 October 2008 and has accepted the universal definition of disability with the proviso that persons with disability include both people who were born with a disability as well as those who become disabled due to an accident or illness resulting in impacts for the rest of their life.

Meeting the needs of people living with disabilities in Vanuatu is made difficult by the significant lack of information on the number and kind of disabilities present in particular communities. Families tend not to provide full information due to social stigma; the absence of available support services also provides little motivation for people to report. The cost of service provision is especially high given the widely dispersed population and until recent years there was a lack of political focus on disability issues, which meant little government expenditure.

The impacts of climate change compound the issues facing people with disabilities, especially in remote and under-served areas. Global experience has shown that climate change analyses and disaster planning often ignore people living with disabilities with one regional report noting: "these processes are blind to the existence and needs of the disabled community"<sup>9</sup>. In the Pacific, early warning systems and communications regarding hazards tend to use a generalist, one-size fits all approach that does not cater for the specific needs of vulnerable people.

**4.2 Component 2: Information and early warning systems**

Recent weather events like the rapid flooding in Panama Province (October 2013) and cyclone Vania that struck Tanna in 2011 have shown the importance of improving advisory/information/warning information dissemination throughout the country. While remote communities are fairly self-sufficient in getting basic information as needed, this is not the case in emergency situations. In order to reduce community vulnerability to climate-related hazards, government needs to implement a consistent and reliable real-time warning dissemination program. The NDMO's National Emergency Operation Centre and the Vanuatu Meteorological and Geohazards Department (VMGD) are responsible for public

<sup>8</sup> *Disabilities in Community Activities, Country Report Vanuatu*. Vanuatu Society for Disabled People. June 2013

<sup>9</sup> *Pacific Children with Disabilities*. UNICEF Pacific, 2011.

safety during natural disasters, including assessing the threat to local populations and disseminating safety information and instructions as required.

It will be important for V-CAP to work closely with the DMO to ensure that the new EWS takes into account the specific circumstances and needs of vulnerable people including those who are less ambient. In this regard, V-CAP can play an important role in facilitating dialogue between government agencies responsible for the development of the EWS with both state and non-state agencies working with women, children and people with disabilities to ensure their needs are addressed.

#### **4.3 Component 3: Climate change governance**

In Vanuatu, women face socio-cultural and political disadvantage arising from their limited access to economic assets and decision-making processes which serve to compound development and climate change challenges. Traditional leadership structures generally do not involve women and they are also highly unrepresented at all levels of government.

A significant constraint to women's political and economic empowerment in Vanuatu is the issue of violence against women, which is now considered a major social and economic issue. The 2010 National Prevalence Study concluded that at least 60% of the women interviewed had experienced physical or sexual violence from their partners and 30 percent had experienced childhood sexual abuse<sup>10</sup>. This problem is often attributed to changing aspects of "*kastom*" and religious beliefs that influence gender relations, including the payment of bride price and the man being considered the "head of the house" - which can lead men to believe that "they own and can control and discipline their wife with impunity"<sup>11</sup>. The elimination of gender-based violence (GBV) is a main pillar and mandate of the national women's machinery in Vanuatu. In planning and implementing community-based activities, V-CAP staff will need to be highly sensitive to GBV issues in order to ensure that this does not become an exclusionary factor in women's full participation.

The majority of area councils and communities consulted have no formalized planning processes to deal with overall community development issues and plans. While there are often numerous local level committees (some operational and some not) they tend to focus on particular themes such as community disaster planning, water management, health, education, women and church focused activities. In some sites, especially those where International NGO's were present performing DRR activities, there are village level planning initiatives. However, these are not integrated or mainstreamed into overall planning processes. Without additional resources focused on building community and Area Council capacity, the lack of integrated planning is likely to continue.

Given the priority accorded to the inclusion of women in governance processes (i.e., new reserved seats for women at Municipal Council level; the mandate of the Decentralisation Act to appoint women as members of Provincial Councils; the 2013 Submission to the UNFCCC indicating the Government of Vanuatu's commitment to gender equity on national delegations and integrating gender into climate change policies) it is imperative that the project ensure that women and other vulnerable groups are actively involved in all aspects of project planning, implementation and review. This will be assured through rigorous application of M&E tools, including the development, analysis and integration of lessons learned when gender equality and social inclusion targets and results are not being achieved.

In implementing Component 3 strategies, it will be important that V-CAP collaborate with the Pacific Risk Resilience (PRR) Program 2013-2017, and any other initiatives aimed at supporting Government develop climate change governance adaptation mechanisms in order to ensure consistency and efficiency. It is also critical that the Women's Division be actively involved in setting directions for improved gender equality in climate change adaption work and that this is reflected in the upcoming National Gender and Women's Empowerment Policy 2014-2023.

#### **4.4 Component 4: Enhance Knowledge and Capacity for CCA**

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<sup>10</sup> Republic of Vanuatu, *Elimination and Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls*. Submission to the 57th Commission on the Status of Women. 4-15 March, New York, 2013.

<sup>11</sup> Vanuatu Markets for Change, Proposed Project Document, UN Women, 2013.

Increasing knowledge of environment issues is extremely important given the generally low level of understanding of most of the population about climate change. As such, the NAPA emphasizes that awareness raising and education are core issues that must form an integral part of any proposed CC adaptation project. In recognizing that women are key agents in adaption to climate change and are in need to timely climate information, it is essential that V-CAP explore and understand the most effective ways of reaching women with appropriate information.

Project preparation work found that the lack of human, financial, and technical resources at the local level seriously constrains information sharing and knowledge of CC issues and impacts. In most V-CAP sites people have very limited access to outside information (newspapers, radio and internet) and are dependent on government field officers and NGO workers for new information. The only communities that seemed to have a reasonable understanding of climate change were those in which other projects had been engaged – for instance the UNDP CC Project on Epi Island; Red Cross initiatives in the Torres Islands, World Vision in South Santo and the Won Smal Bag<sup>12</sup> Turtle Monitor Program in Malekula and other locations. However, many of these initiatives focused on emergency and disaster planning and did not address broader CC issues or impacts. With respect to the Turtle Monitor Program, very few women are involved with this long-standing and important initiative due to a range of socio-cultural factors. Won Smal Bag recognizes the need to increase the number of women and youth involved in this initiative and has suggested that V-CAP could assist by funding specialized training for women and in addressing constraints to participation.

In some areas, projects provided water tanks and refurbished public buildings to better withstand climate changes, but these tended to be stand-alone activities and not integrated into broader community or area council development plans. There was also little evidence that the differential needs of men, women, children and people with disabilities had been fully assessed or addressed through these activities. However, in Shefa Province the Government of Vanuatu/UNDP Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) Project had worked closely with teachers and students at the Epi High School to map geographic changes of climate variations and assess the impacts on people living in the area. This approach was said to have generated a high degree of interest by teachers, students and parents and could be easily replicated in other areas.

A wide range of posters, pamphlets and other CC education and awareness materials have been developed by the PMU and civil society organizations and could be used in V-CAP implementation, as appropriate, to promote cost effectiveness and message consistency. Efforts will need to be made, however, to ensure that climate change IEC materials are in local vernacular and suitable for people with a low level of literacy.

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<sup>12</sup> Wan Smal Bag, a local CSO operating in Vanuatu for over 20 years, has established a community process for creating marine conservation areas; they also operate a network of marine species monitors in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Fisheries.

## 5. Recommendations for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Results

The project design process assessed the differential impacts of climate change on men, women, youth, children, elders and people living with disabilities. Based on this analysis, a range of CCA interventions are recommended, as outlined below, in response to identified vulnerabilities at community level. This includes a combination of mainstreaming and targeted GESI activities, as needed, to ensure positive and equitable outcomes for all community members.

In addition to community-based approaches, specific strategies are also recommended to make certain gender equality and social inclusion issues are addressed across all four component areas. This includes recommendations to ensure all members of society are well served by early warning systems; that knowledge of relevant climate change adaptation strategies is enhanced, and that the capacity of vulnerable groups to fully engage in and benefit from CC solutions is strengthened. Further, recommendations for good governance and policy reform work required to ensure compliance with international standards and Government policy directions regarding gender equality and social inclusion are also incorporated. Taken together, mainstreaming plus targeted activities in component areas form the basis of the V-CAP GESI Strategy.

### 5.1 Component 1: Targeted community approaches to CCA

#### 5.1.1 Inclusive Planning and Review Processes

##### ➤ Women and Youth

As outlined in Section 5.3.1 on working through area councils and community CCA committees, V-CAP will support village-based adaptation planning through the development, implementation and ongoing review of Community Climate Change Adaptation (CCCA) Plans. These plans will be based on comprehensive community vulnerability assessments that build on the work carried out during project design and will focus on identifying the key risks and vulnerabilities facing each target community, and each group of people within these communities with respect to climate change.

**GESI R1:** *It is recommended that women and youth be actively engaged in the entire CCCA planning process: just “having a couple of female and youth representatives” on CCA committees will not necessarily ensure that the perspectives and priorities of women and young people are actually incorporated and implemented.*

It will be the responsibility of field-based Project Officers, working in close collaboration with AC Secretaries, traditional leaders, church leaders and youth and women’s networks to find effective strategies to engage and empower the full participation of women and youth in CCCA planning and implementation. This will require educating both men and women about the importance of collective planning and decision-making given that climate change impacts different people differently.

Given deeply entrenched cultural beliefs and practises, even having an equitable number of women and youth represented on CCA communities does not mean they will feel comfortable in expressing their views. As such, it is recommended that Project Officers receive training in a wide range of GESI strategies that can be used to support women and youth in taking up new positions in their communities (see GESI Recommendation #24). However, if Project Officers find that women and/or youth are still reluctant to participate, the project could provide “climate change leadership development training” in collaboration with the Division of Women or a local NGO.

##### ➤ People Living with Disabilities

When planning and implementing CCA activities at area and community level, project staff also need to be cognizant of the presence of persons with disabilities and ensure that they are not excluded from participation, to their fullest capacity. It will be important to ensure that expected benefits from any intervention will also benefit people who have physical or cognitive challenges. By using inclusive processes, the project will ensure that the special needs of people living with disabilities are catered for. In so doing, V-CAP activities will promote greater awareness of disability issues in Vanuatu and assist in implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**GESI R2:** It is recommended that wherever possible V-CAP initiatives involve people with disabilities (and/or their advocates) in area and community level planning processes to ensure that their specific needs are differentiated and addressed in targeted community interventions. To ensure people with disabilities are not overlooked, disability issues should be included in activity preparation check-lists and embedded in the project M&E system. It is also recommended that the project consult with the Vanuatu Society of Disabled People and/or Vanuatu Disability Promotion and Advocacy (DPA) regarding appropriate inclusion strategies.

### 5.1.2 Fisheries and Agricultural Adaptation Training (FATT)

In most V-CAP sites, women and girls generally have primary responsibility for food production and marketing. Women also gather marine and forest products, do inshore fishing and/or reef gleaning, feed and care for pigs and poultry and do most forms of cooking. Men are generally responsible for hunting, lagoon and deep-water fishing, clearing land and building houses and fences. Men also prepare or help to prepare land for planting, but in most V-CAP sites women do the majority of planting, weeding, harvesting and carrying.

In many V-CAP communities, shifting agricultural practices such as accelerated crop rotation and “slash and burn” techniques are resulting in high levels of sediment runoff. While there are many ways of reducing sediment load (i.e., farming on land with low gradient, planting erosion reduction species like vetiver grasses and leaving a buffer between water courses and agricultural lands) these are currently not being implemented by communities or promoted by agricultural officials. In fact, most V-CAP communities have not received any extension services from the Department of Agriculture or related agencies for many years. The women consulted in all target sites identified a number of serious concerns related to the production of crops required for household consumption and for market purposes. The need to improve crop yield and quality was their number one priority.

*In South Santo, women expressed major concerns related to food security. In all villages visited, the women talked about recent changes to subsistence crops, both in terms of quality and quantity issues. For instance, island cabbage no longer grows well and dries out quickly; leaf laplap is also dry and can no longer be used for in-ground cooking; taro plants have become much smaller, taste different and are covered in a white powder. A black beetle is invading taro plants as well as hard and soft yams causing an increased proportion of these crops to be inedible. In some cases, women talked about food shortages, especially given the increasing population in the area. They also said that there are more cases of reef fish food poisoning, and that fish stocks are dwindling, especially inshore.*

One of their major concerns is the growing prevalence of pests (i.e., black betel) and diseases (i.e., white fungus) on root crops (especially taro and yam) and citrus fruits (especially oranges). In extreme situations, the women reported a spoilage factor of up to 70% of roots crops, while most communities estimated that between 20% and 40% of the yield was significantly affected. As a result of the growing population, loss of agriculture produce and depleted fisheries, women in some areas said “my family is hungry now”. Further, women in all target areas reported that “lap-lap leaf disease” has all but destroyed this plant which played an important role in traditional cooking and construction of bush material houses.

There are many reasons for this extensive damage to food crops, some of which are directly related to climate variability (i.e., beginning and end of the wet and dry seasons, droughts and flooding) while others are human-induced like non-sustainable agricultural practices, population-driven (i.e., cutting forests to plant larger gardens to meet increased household consumption needs) and/or for economic purposes (need to produce additional cash crops to meet financial requirement of larger families). Although not all of these reasons are directly related to climate, they will be enhanced by climate change. All of this has significant implications for sustainable coastal zone planning and management.



Most communities consulted identified “tabu” areas (traditional fisheries management areas which are opened and closed at various times) that encompass coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass bed and open water. The management regimes of these areas varied from location to location based

on the views and directives of the local chief, and it appears that women are generally not involved in tabu area decision-making.

All communities consulted during PPG site visits reported a reduction in coastal and marine fish catch and fish size due to overfishing. According to the Department of Fisheries, approximately 75% of Vanuatu's coastal population is engaged in fishing, so given the increasing population more people are fishing the coastal waters than ever before. In addition, fish stocks are being significantly affected by growth of the sediment load which is creating deposits on coral reef, seagrass and mangroves and as well as increasing the turbidity of coastal waters. Increased sediment is largely due to unsustainable land management practises such as grazing livestock on steep slopes, slash and burn farming and logging.

Sediment load is likely to be made worse by the growing intensity of rainy seasons. As such, the current depletion of the fisheries stock is particularly threatening given the potential impacts of climate change.

The significant lack of government fisheries extension officers (only a few of the provinces visited had fisheries officers, and very few of the area councils) and other extension workers engaged at community level is impeding the potential for more forward-looking and comprehensive coastal fisheries management. Research has shown that women's access to training and extension services in agriculture, forestry and fisheries has historically been constrained by the assumption that farmers are (or should be) male. Further, even when extension services exist, agricultural and fisheries officers tend to spend more time visiting male than female farmers and fishers.<sup>13</sup> A significant gender constraint is the research finding that when women did complete training programs, they were unable to introduce changes in livelihood activities given their limited authority.

In order to successfully adopt new agricultural practices successfully, farmers require different types of information during each stage of the agricultural production process. CC information needs will include access to weather forecasts, resilient species, input management, cultivation practices, pest and disease management, market prices etc. While extension services can help to bridge knowledge gaps, the way new information is conveyed, and to whom, will either lead to the marginalization or empowerment of female farmers and other vulnerable groups.

Prior to embarking on FAAT community and area based training, it will be important to engage with local men so that they understand the purpose of the program and have input into the content, timing etc. If men are consulted and understand the importance of FAAT for their families they are more likely to support their wives in crop modifications and sustainable fisheries ventures and in taking time away from other household responsibilities.

#### ➤ **Fisheries and Agriculture Adaptation Training for Women**

**GESI R3:** *It is recommended that all interested women from V-CAP sites have the opportunity to attend short-term, customized adaptive farmers training offered through specialized Project Officers, Agricultural Extension Officers (additional positions funded to by the project) and/or by NGOs with proven expertise in this area. It will be important to work through Area Councils and Provincial Agricultural Officers to organize the training content based on specific agricultural and climate change issues facing local communities. It will also be important to ensure that training programs are conducted at times suitable to women (given their child-care and home-making responsibilities) and in accessible locations. Training programs should also be supported by the development of training gardens and the distribution of climate-friendly plant seedlings.*

**GESI R4:** *It is recommended that the project work closely with local communities, (including women) and Areas Councils to develop and implement Coastal CC Management Plans (CCCMP) aimed at enhancing resilience of coastal eco-systems to climate change. These plans will focus on eco-system based management of fisheries resources through enhancement management of sacred sites and traditional tabu areas, establishment of additional tabu areas, CCAs and conservation networks and*

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<sup>13</sup> *Gender and Food and Agricultural Projection in the Pacific islands, A Concept Note.* Schoeffel, P. Feb 2012.

fisheries management tools. It is essential that V-CAP Marine Climate Change Field Officers ensure women are actively involved in CCCMP training provided to communities. It is also recommended that the project ensure that women are actively involved in the “Locally Managed Marine Area Network” which was designed to share lessons learned in traditional marine “tabu” area management throughout the country and the region.

➤ **Fisheries and Agriculture Adaptation Training for Youth**

**GESI R5:** It is recommended that interested youth in V-CAP target sites have the opportunity to participate in FATT and CCCMP initiatives. Given local circumstances, youth could either participate in women’s FATT programs (if all parties agree this is the best strategy) or in programs specifically designed for young people. There may be advantages of having a separate training garden for youth, especially if one of the objectives of the training is to develop family/group or village specialization for cash crops. Opportunities to collaborate with high schools and church youth networks in providing agricultural training should also be explored. In organizing these trainings it is important that young women and young men participate in equal numbers if at all possible. It will also be important that parents understand the purpose of youth participation in FATT and CCCMP activities so as to support their involvement. To effectively engage youth people, it will be important that activities are timed to ensure their availability given schooling and other responsibilities.

**5.1.3 Improved Market Access, Conditions and Profits**

Selling at local market places is the main form of economic activity for the majority of rural people in Vanuatu and the primary entry point for rural women into the cash economy. As indicated, women consulted in some remote V-CAP sites raised serious concerns about their inability to sell crops at central marketplaces for profit. A number of reasons were cited for this including:

- Shortages of crops to sell given high spoilage rates and increasing household consumption needs due to the rapidly growing population
- Increasingly high cost of transport from village to market due to high fuel prices and poor road conditions
- Lack of regular transport from village to market due to decreased demand (people unable to pay fuel cost hikes) and unwillingness of transport providers to operate on poor quality roads
- Over-supply of the same crops (yam, taro) and under-supply of high demand produce (which varies by area)
- High market fees and table hire costs
- Lack of cooking facilities at market places (prepared foods were said to be in high demand in government station markets and generate greater profit)
- Lack of space at some market places which serves to restrict the number of vendors, and
- Poor conditions of some market places due to storm damage and lack of climate proofing serves to further restrict available space, especially in inclement weather.

In addition to these economic factors, security issues at marketplaces and the lack of water and toilet facilities also served as significant constraints for female vendors who are often accompanied by young children. This is particularly a problem for women from South Santo who are required to stay in Luganville until they sell all their produce, which can take several days. They reported numerous incidents of verbal and sexual harassment and inability to sleep in the marketplace at night for fear of being robbed or raped.

In some V-CAP areas, these issues are long-standing and are primarily due to distance from village to central

Rank	Occupation	Number of women
1	Subsistence crop farmers	7,852
2	Field crop and vegetable growers	7,520
3	Subsistence mixed crop and livestock farmer	5,202
4	Cleaner	3,236
5	Crop farm labourers	3,197
6	Early childhood educators and teachers	1,250
7	Copra cutter	1,009
8	Handicrafts	800
9	Sales person	750
10	Market seller	688

Gender Monograph, “Women and Men in Vanuatu”, 2009  
National Population and Housing Census

markets, and the low demand in localized markets because users are generally local people who all grow the same crops. However, in areas with reasonable access to central or district markets that are used by district government workers (i.e., Rovo Bay Market), town-people and tourists (i.e., the Luganville Municipal Market), the deteriorating state of local road infrastructure caused by increased storm activity is one of the primary reasons for the high cost of transport and/or the lack of transport services. Combined with the other factors noted above, market sales have become unprofitable for rural women in some areas (i.e., South Santo) and have constrained profitability in other areas (i.e. Epi Island). This situation is serving to drive women out of the cash economy and eliminate their opportunity to earn income.

A further complication in promoting income opportunities for women in rural areas is that while about 75% of all economically active women in Vanuatu engage in subsistence agriculture and production of cash crops, this does not necessarily result in their access to financial resources as these are generally under men's control<sup>14</sup>. During numerous community consultations, women expressed their concern and frustration that funds raised through the sale of local produce are used by their husbands to purchase items they do not consider a high household priority (i.e., kava) when women believe that these funds should be used to pay school fees and supplies, purchase medicines and imported food.

In addition to the primary role that markets play in the sale of food crops and local handicrafts (in tourist markets such as Luganville) markets also play an important social function as this is often the only opportunity for women from different villages to come together other than for traditional or church events, where participation is determined by clan relationships and religious denomination. As such, markets play an essential role in building social capital, networking and sharing of important information, including high potential for CCA material distribution and instruction.

Climate change is expected to have transformative impacts on agricultural societies and especially for isolated rural communities that are largely dependent on successful crop yields for household consumption and livelihoods. Given the important role that markets play in the lives of rural women and families in Vanuatu, there is an urgent need to improve market access, facilities and conditions, and increase sales by improving the quality of produce for sale, increasing quantity, and enhancing crop diversification. As such, it is recommended that V-CAP initially focus on achieving these objectives in two sites, as follows, which will allow lessons learned to be applied in other sites in future.

*“Policymakers should ensure that job creation targets both men and women and provides security for those in informal employment. It may be necessary to develop adult education and employment policies aimed at single women and lone women with children to address gender imbalance”.*

Gender Monograph, “Women and Men in Vanuatu”,  
2009 National Population and Housing Census

It is important to note that recommended market improvement initiatives should be linked with V-CAP strategies that have been designed to foster partnerships with the private sector. For example, private sector engagement in sourcing climate resilient species that are also optimal for erosion control and provide economic benefits such as tamanu trees (which produce tamanu oil) and other species that produce essential oil are suggested. Private sector engagement in the promotion and provision of seeds and propagates is also encouraged and would provide important cost efficiencies, ecological benefits and income generation opportunities.

#### ➤ **Rovo Bay Market, Epi Island**

UN Women is currently working with the Shefa Provincial Government Council under a Memorandum of Understanding to provide organisational development and capacity building services to the Port Vila Municipality and Rovo Bay District Administration, local area councils and Market Committees in Port Vila and Rovo Bay. This support is aimed at:

- Equipping market vendors to effectively participate in society and the economy
- Empowering vendors to be active in market management and governance
- Assisting market authorities to be gender sensitive and responsive
- Building gender responsive market spaces, services and facilities

<sup>14</sup> *Gender and Food and Agricultural Projection in the Pacific islands, A Concept Note.* Schoeffel, P. Feb 2012.

- Building gender responsiveness into national, provincial and local market strategies, policies and programmes, and
- Supporting work on markets by-law reform and the informal sector policies.

This project also works with the Ministry of Ni Vanuatu Business on the establishment of a National Markets Steering Group, which will work towards gender responsive market places across these outcome areas.

When V-CAP project design visits to Epi Island were carried out, this initiative was still in the formative stages and on-the-ground work had not yet commenced. However, a meeting was held with the Rovo Bay Market Committee (including the Chair and 7 members, 3 female and 4 male) who identified a number of climate change related issues that need to be addressed, some of which are in the UN Women Project design while others are not. For instance, the Committee identified the need to climate proof the existing structure by adding roof guttering to stop erosion around the building and storm blinds so that market space is not reduced during inclement weather. The Market Committee also identified that the existing floor space is insufficient to meet consumer demand and precludes additional vendors. They also indicated that the lack of cooking facilities means that only those women who live close to the market are able to sell prepared food (which is highly sought after) as it is difficult to transport over long distances by foot.

Further, in meeting with the Market Committee and Area Administrator the idea of using the Rovo Bay market place and district centre as a training venue for women and youth was raised given its central location and the number of people who regularly visit the area for sports, banking and access to government services. In addition to the market building, the Rovo Bay Administrative Centre has a number of other buildings suitable for training and adequate area for development of training gardens. As such, the District Administrator and Rovo Bay Market Committee expressed a strong desire to work with V-CAP in undertaking relevant climate change adaptation programs such as: FAAT training for women, establishment of CC Youth Clubs, demonstration gardens for climate resistant crops, provision of WASH programs; climate proofing of the market place etc. The local bank is already providing a program on financial literacy and assisting people establish micro-enterprises which would compliment work done to increase market profits.

In follow-up meetings with UN Women staff from Fiji (this is a regional project administered from the Suva Office), the Project Officer based at the Shefa Province Administration Office in Port Vila and the Shefa Province Women's Officer expressed a high degree of interest in collaborating with V-CAP in supporting and expanding the project objectives.

**GESI R6:** *It is recommended that V-CAP collaborate with UN Women and the Shefa Provincial Government to support and expand the work currently underway at the Rovo Bay Market for adding value for women and youth through: climate proofing of the market infrastructure; installation of smokeless ovens and demonstration cooking area; provision of training programs for women on a wide range of climate change adaptation issues; establishment of the CC Youth Club and development of a training garden and nursery. Further details on this initiative are contained in Annex 3: The Rovo Bay Market Development/Climate Change Training and Resource Centre Project Activity Sheet. This activity is considered a targeted gender equity and social inclusion initiative and as such as been costed separately for inclusion in the Project Document.*

➤ **Luganville Municipal Market, Santo**

Given the number of inter-related social, economic and environmental issues facing women in South Santo as they try to meet both food security and income generation needs through the sale of cash crops, a multi-faceted approach will be required. While the provision of affordable, regular and reliable transport from communities in South Santo to the Luganville Market is a key issue, there are numerous other problems that will need to be addressed including:

- Increasing the quantity of crops available for sale given increased HH consumption needs due to the high population growth rate and migration patterns,

- Improving the quality of crops for sale given damage caused by pests, poor soil conditions due to over-cultivation and deforestation, and periods of prolonged draught followed by heavy rains,
- Improving crop diversity so vendors from different market feeder communities are not all growing the same produce,
- Providing seeds and propagates,
- Increasing women's knowledge of agricultural CCA techniques,
- Increasing women's knowledge of small business practices and improving financial literacy,
- Enhancing women's leadership and management abilities through training and experience on market committees,
- Improving market facilities so that women are protected from weather conditions, and
- Improving market security so that women and children are safe and free of harassment.

**GESI R7:** *Given that UN Women is currently implementing the “Markets for Change Project” in Luganville which addresses most of these issues, it is highly recommended that the project collaborate with UN Women to support and expand this project to include women residing in South Santo and their specific needs. Additional funds will be required for this initiative; a funding proposal will need to be prepared by Project staff in collaboration with UN Women and the Government of Vanuatu Division of Women's Affairs.*

#### 5.1.4 Improved Water Quality, Supply and Management

The provision of a safe, adequate supply of water was one of the highest priorities reported to the PPG team.

Water resources in targeted sites include rainwater harvesting, groundwater and surface water sources piped to central points in villages. Most communities identified water scarcity during the dry season, lack of clean water following extreme events (e.g. cyclones and storms) and salinization of groundwater – all of which are likely to be exacerbated

by climate change. Some communities on Aniwa Island have declared “water emergencies” in recent years and on Akam Island schools are closed at regular intervals while students and staff collect water from upload sources. On the Muskelynn Islands people talked about “water fights” and growing tensions between family groups over who has access rights, as well as their concerns over chronic diarrhoea in children. Communities also reported an inadequate number of toilets on the island so people are now using the land and ocean for toileting purposes.

Climate change impacts both the supply and demand side of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) delivery systems. On the supply side, this can include direct impacts (i.e., increased incidence of extreme floods that damage WASH infrastructure) and indirect impacts (i.e., sea level rise leading to out-migration from coastal areas and harmful upland agriculture practises). On the demand side, in times of extended droughts people's need for WASH services increases dramatically which has already led to community disputes over access. Women and men are both involved in managing and using water resources but they may have different needs and priorities for managing these resources. Gender inequality can be reflected in the distribution of tasks within the household; in participation in decision-making; in control over financial resources; in land and resource ownership; and in access to technology, training, knowledge, and information. All of these factors are important for effective water resources management and need be carefully considered when designing policies, plans and programs on an area-by-area basis.

*“Communities consistently cite reliable and accessible water sources for household use as a development priority and increasingly stress the importance of sanitation as well....Inadequate and unsafe water, poor sanitation, and unsafe hygiene practices are the main causes of diarrhoea, which results in at least 1.9 million under-5 deaths annually with morbidity rates increasing...*

United Nations, Economic and Social Council, UNICEF Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Strategies 2006-2015

According to the Gender Monograph, “Women and Men in Vanuatu”, 2009 National Population and Housing Census, “18% of rural households rely on “unimproved sources” for drinking water. Unimproved sources are those most at risk of pollution and disease – unprotected wells, rivers, lakes and springs – or are environmentally unsustainable (bottled water)”.

MDG Target 10:

*Halve, by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation*

*Ensure that all schools have adequate child-friendly water and sanitation facilities and hygiene education programs.*

Endorsed by the World Summit for Sustainable Development

Water management policies, plans and actions should consider how the proposed interventions provide benefits to different members of society, and the ways in which different members can contribute to reducing vulnerability. Information, technology, training and investment in water resource management must be equally accessible for women and men, and customized to address their respective needs and abilities. In addition to addressing water supply and quality concerns, it is essential that the project also deal with water use issues including relevant watershed and sanitation issues.

The V-CAP approach to reducing vulnerability to climate change through the improved management of water resources at area and community level is threefold:

- (i) Use inclusive planning processes to ensure interventions will meet the needs of all community members, including men, women and children
- (ii) Climate proofing of essential water-related infrastructure, and
- (iii) Provision of community WASH training for women and other interested parties.

A Land Management Project Coordinator will be appointed in each V-CAP target sites to develop Upland Management CC Plans (CCCMPs) and oversee implementation and coordination of land and watershed management activities. General plans for water infrastructure improvements will be agreed by communities during the CCCMP planning phase, which could include installation or repair of water tanks at schools and health care centres, installation of emergency community rain tanks, climate proofing of water boreholes etc. The Pro-Doc includes specially designed rain collection apparatus to aid in rain water collection near buildings with thatched or rusting roofs.

**GESI R9:** *It is recommended that the project work closely with ACs and communities in each target area to establish and implement UMCCAPs which include addressing coastal and watershed management issues. In developing UMCCAPs, comprehensive “water mapping” surveys should be undertaken to ascertain the location of all water sources, quality and quantity baselines, access restrictions and management arrangements. It is critical that women and young people are actively involved in these mapping exercises given that water collection is primarily their responsibility.*

**GESI R10:** *It is recommended that whenever possible water infrastructure development includes local youth as this will enhance their interest and engagement in community adaptation measures as well as increase their skills in basic construction and maintenance.*

**GESI R11:** *It is recommended that WASH training be provided to women and other interested community members in each V-CAP site. This training could be provided by Vanuatu Rural Water Supply, the Department of Health, NGOs with relevant experience and/or by trained Project Officers. Topics to be covered in WASH training could include: mosquito management, sanitary toilet management, hand washing, water quality testing and other issues of local relevance. While the rapidly increasing rural population is not a climate change issue in itself, the consequences for coastal zone management, including food security and water supply, are enormous. As such, consideration should be given to integrating family planning and reproductive health in WASH training. The bottom line, unless population growth is reduced no manner of CCA measures will ensure sustainable food and water resources.*

### 5.1.5 Pedestrian River Crossings and Walkways

The majority of V-CAP sites do not have extensive road networks and, even when useable roads do exist, there are very few operational vehicles; where vehicles do operate most people cannot afford to travel by this means on a regular basis anyway. As such, the primary mode of travel for the vast majority of people living in V-CAP project sites is by foot and/or by boat (which is also expensive and not affordable for most people). While travel by these means is not considered a problem in dry weather/calm seas, some remote communities reported significant safety issues during the wet season. In some areas (like South Santo, North Ambae and Pentecost) children have died or been injured while attempting to cross flashy rivers en route to/from school.

Severe flooding also makes access to health and education services impossible for up to weeks at a time. As a result children are missing significant amounts of school and medical emergencies cannot be properly tended during these times. Access to markets is also restricted which adversely affects food security and income generation. Given rising precipitation levels, as well as increasing river bank erosion, river crossings are expected to become increasingly dangerous resulting in further injury and death, increased school absenteeism, increased nutrition and health problems and further isolation of already isolated communities.

In some areas community residents also reported safety and access issues related to the poor condition of pedestrian walkways. For example, the steep slopes of the Pentecost plateau are cut by a series of low flow streams that can become highly flash flood-prone, dangerous crossings during the wet season. When this happens, footpaths - which are the primary means of conveyance for farmers and school children - become unsafe for pedestrians. Last year alone four school children died when attempting to use these footpaths on their way to school.



A footbridge will be built across this North Ambae river crossing to make access by foot at all times. These river crossings cannot be used by anyone during periods of heavy rain and high flood waters.

While the PWD, with support from the TVSSP, is addressing road/vehicle transport, pedestrian transport is not being addressed, leaving deadly river crossings and dangerous footpaths unmitigated. In discussion with PWD managers, it was agreed that walkways and river crossings are essential to the health and socio-economic well-being of coastal communities. Given resource restrictions, PWD is unable to assume responsibility for secondary roads, pedestrian river crossings and footpaths but indicated their support for V-CAP to fund this infrastructure where warranted. However, it was stressed that these crossings and walkways should be managed at the local level with communities and Area Councils assuming responsibility for construction and maintenance of any new infrastructure. This “self-help” strategy is in line with the V-CAP approach to sustainable solutions and provides an excellent opportunity to engage youth through Rural Training Centres (RTCs) and incorporated in Area Council Strategic Plans.

**GESI R12:** *It is highly recommended that a series of pedestrian river crossings and footpaths be constructed in identified areas as outlined in Section 1.3.5 and all annexes on Climate proofing of river/tributary crossings and public access ways in the V-CAP Pro-Doc. This activity will benefit women and children by improving access to health care facilities and schools thereby improving attendance rates and decreasing incidents of untreated illness. It will also improve safety of river crossings thereby decreasing injury and death during flooding. Youth engagement in construction of river crossings and pedestrian walkways will increase local skills required for maintenance of climate proofed infrastructure, provide a source of income, and help young people feels more valued in their communities.*

*Women living in areas where this infrastructure development is taking place should also be encouraged and supported in setting up stalls to sell food to construction workers at each site during implementation.*

### 5.1.6 Climate Proof Essential Secondary Roads

The sustainability of the rural road network in many V-CAP sites is now at considerable risk due to the impacts of climate change. Secondary roads feed into the main road network and link rural communities to population centres, health and education facilities and to market places. Rural roads also facilitate agricultural development by enabling access by transport service operators and extension workers. In many V-CAP sites secondary roads leading to markets and essential services have been badly damaged by erosion and flooding rendering them dangerous and/or unusable other than on foot. Women frequently described the difficulties they face in transporting firewood and upload garden produce to home and marketplaces during the raining season, including frequent injuries. Poor road conditions serve to increase women's workloads and time spent away from home and children.

Maintaining secondary roads and tracks can be an effective poverty reduction strategy through improved access to goods and services which, over the long-term, can improve performance of the local economy. Proper maintenance of important secondary roads is also essential to ensure that people have at least one good escape route in an emergency situation. Given the increase in the number and severity of climate events in the Vanuatu coastal zone, it is essential that evacuation planning consider the needs of people with reduced mobility (including children, elders and people with disabilities), who will require safe and efficient conveyance.

**GESI R13:** *It is recommended that consideration be given to climate proofing secondary roads that have eroded due to climate change and that are essential to community livelihoods, access to services and/or that enable rapid mobilization in emergency situations. It will be important to work closely with Area Councils in determining which secondary roads are indeed essential for improved community well-being. As such, use of area mapping exercises may be useful in understanding the movement of people and goods (including frequency) in particular areas*

*It is also recommended that any secondary road infrastructure development be considered a joint venture with local communities contributing labour and/or materials. Proposed works should be included in annual community and area council work plans and accompanied by clear maintenance agreements. Whenever possible, local youth should be actively involved in construction and maintenance; partnerships with Rural Training Centres are strongly encouraged. This activity will improve access to markets for women thereby increasing their income earning potential through the increased sale of cash crops. It will also improve safety during inclement weather therefore decreasing injuries when vital secondary roads are slippery and dangerous.*

### 5.1.7 Climate proof essential public buildings

As identified during community consultations, damage to infrastructure caused from increasingly severe and frequent weather events has resulted in closure or restricted use of some public buildings including schools, boarding houses, health care centres, community meeting spaces and marketplaces. Damage to infrastructure from sea level rise and increased storm damage is likely to worsen over time causing further structural damage, especially where infrastructure is in poor repair and/or situated in close proximity to streams, rivers or the ocean.

In some V-CAP sites, people are migrating to higher ground or other island locations due to storm damage (or expected damage) to homes, gardens and infrastructure. At the same time, people are also expressing reluctance to relocate until public infrastructure is in place. While the project is not in a position to assist with relocation or to undertake repairs to private property, V-CAP can play an important role in climate proofing essential communal buildings such as marketplaces, schools and rural health centres, government housing etc. that are essential to achieving health and education outcomes and to family livelihoods.

Before undertaking this kind of refurbishment work however, it will be important for the project to carefully analyse how current (and projected) impacts of climate change are likely to affect service provision and livelihood opportunities for men, women and children within each service catchment

area. Infrastructure use surveys and mapping can help in determining medium to long-term community and area needs - factoring in shifting migration patterns, the high population growth rate, the increased demand for water and food supplies, and the likely impacts of climate change on the entire system.

Where groups of people are planning to migrate due to population and CC issues, and especially when this migration will cause a significant impact on the demand for service provision (at either location) the project will need to work closely with provincial planning authorities and area councils before making any significant expenditure on public buildings.

**GESI R14:** *It is recommended that the project undertake refurbishment work on public buildings which provide/enable essential services (schools, health care facilities, government housing, market places and evaluation centres) in V-CAP sites that have been damaged by storms and flooding. This work could also include climate proofing of public facilities that are considered unsafe in cyclone conditions and/or prone to dangerous flooding during the rainy season. It will be important that infrastructure development work is agreed by the entire community and included as a priority in CCCA Plans. Whenever possible, construction work should involve village youth so as to enable them to learn new CCA building and maintenance skills, earn income and feel more valued in their communities. This activity will also ensure that children have access to stable and safe schools and that health care centres are not closed due to damage caused by increased flooding and storm conditions. Improvements to evacuation centres is considered critical to proper disaster preparedness and management, particularly with respect to ensuring that vulnerable people (i.e., children, the elderly, and those who are ill or disabled) are catered for.*

## 5. 2 Component 2: Information and early warning systems

### 5.2.1 Mainstream Social Inclusion Analysis in Information and EWSs

The NDMO has been active in supporting the establishment of Community Disaster Committees (CDCs) and Community Disaster Plans (CDPs); this work is also supported by a number of International NGO's including CARE International, the Red Cross and World Vision working in various parts of the country. However, during project design consultations concern was raised about the lack of follow-up to ensure communities review and update CDPs. As such, V-CAP can play an important role in updating and strengthening area and community disaster planning processes.

The day-to-day movement of people in rural communities is largely determined by gender roles and responsibilities which must be factored in when designing early warning communication systems. For example, women and men have regular times when they engage in fishing, gardening and market activities and children travel to and from school at specific times. As such, EWS's must take into account people's whereabouts at particular times of the day, especially when destinations are a significant distance from communication and IWS's. Less ambient members of communities may require special assistance in emergency situations and this must also be factored into the development of early warning systems.

**GESI R15:** *It is recommended that V-CAP Component 2 activities take into account the specific needs of women, children, elders, persons with disabilities and others who may have limited access to communications and/or restricted mobility. It will also be important to ensure that all information, education and communication (IEC) materials related to early warning systems are in accessible formats given some people may be illiterate. Ensuring that women and youth are actively involved in the Community Disaster Committees and the development of CDPs is essential.*

## 5. 3 Component 3: *Climate change governance*

### 5.3.1 Work through Area Councils and Community CCA Committees

Community Climate Change Adaptation (CCCA) plans should be developed in a holistic manner by considering the different elements of climate change impacts on local resources, including upland management, management of water and water sources, coastal and marine area management, DRR and management of infrastructure. In some villages physical mapping will be needed to identify household and community infrastructure usage and needs – it is essential this work be undertaken from a gender equality and social inclusion perspective. The CCCA planning process will take into account existing community level decision-making processes and the various mechanisms (i.e., committees) in place to address development issues. The CCCA process should not replicate or undermine this work but, rather, find opportunities for assimilation and capacity building as needed. In addition, CCCA Plans need to be developed with specific GESI targets, indicators and outputs to ensure effective results for all members of the community.

At the area level, the project will provide TA to each Area Council, with a specific focus on building the capacity of the Local Area Secretary to develop an Area Council Climate Change Adaptation Plan (AC CCCA Plan). This Area Council wide plan will be developed through an integrated “bottom-up” process and will be based on the priorities identified in CCCA Plans. The AC CCCA Plan will inform the allocation of funds provided to the Area Council through the Province allocated under the Amendment to the Decentralisation Act 2013 and will also provide a clear direction for assistance provided by other development partners.

Given the project’s focus on community-based interventions and building local capacity and ownership for sustainable CCA, working through ACs is critical. This approach not only supports implementation of the Decentralization Act, it also ensures that project supported activities delivered by national government agencies to hard-to-serve communities are carried-out in a timely and accountable manner. Another significant advantage to working through ACs is the legal requirement that women are included. The Decentralisation Act mandates the appointment of women as members of Local Government Councils. At present, all six Provincial Councils have women representatives either as nominees from provincial women’s organisations in the provinces or nominees of provincial-based women’s organizations. However, not all women representatives have been formally appointed by the Minister which means that these nominees have the right to participate in provincial sessions but do not have the right to vote. Provincial Councils are mandated by law to provide an annual operational budget which includes a provision for women nominees under the provincial President’s Council. There is also a budgetary provision for the development of women in the provinces under the women and youth code. While women are also represented in all the Area Councils, the Decentralization Act does not cover these councils.

While ACs are in varying states of organization and generally have very limited capacity, project supported TA provides an excellent strategic opportunity to: i) create customized CCCA plans in response to the specific needs and priorities identified by communities, ii) support implementation and monitoring of these plans, iii) build capacity for sustainable management at local level, and iv) ensure that vulnerable groups - including women, youth and people with disabilities - are included in all aspects of the CCCA process.

**GESI R16:** *It is recommended that V-CAP support village-based adaptation planning through the development, implementation and ongoing review of CCCA Plans. These plans will be based on comprehensive community vulnerability assessments that build on the work carried out during project design and will focus on identifying the key CC risks and vulnerabilities facing each target community, and each group of people within those communities. CCCA Plans will ultimately be incorporated into broader Community Development Plans and Area Council Development Plans, thereby ensuring an integrated bottom-up approach to CC Adaptation. The engagement of women and youth in the development of CCCA plans is essential to ensure that their perspectives and needs are fully understood and incorporated.*

### 5.3.2 Support Gendering of the NAPA and Sector Policies

The guiding principles for preparation of NAPA's adopted at COP 7 state that "NAPAs shall be guided by gender equality". At present the Vanuatu National Adaptation Program of Action is silent on the subject of gender equality and social inclusion. The fact that the current NAPA (which is really more of a guideline than a plan of action) does not include these elements means there is no requirement for attention to this area when planning and implementing CCA initiatives in Vanuatu. This serious omission is recognized by the PMU and there is acknowledgement that review and revision of the NAPA is required.

The recent Risk Governance Assessment Report, *Strengthening Climate and Disaster Risk Governance in Vanuatu*, recommends that the new NAPA "ensure participation from all levels - including communities - and that social and gender inclusiveness is threaded through all adaptation strategies".<sup>15</sup>

The Water Resource Division (WRD) is currently under significant pressure to improve water supply systems in rural areas. However, the WRD is not adequately staffed and has high demands on its scarce resources. Consequently, many V-CAP communities are in great need of technical and financial support to address urgent water issues which government is currently unable to respond to. In meeting this need, V-CAP will need to work in close collaboration with WRD at national and provincial level to develop sustainable solutions that can be effectively managed by local authorities and communities over the long-term. As such, it will be important to share the results and lessons learned from community mapping and baseline studies with WRD and provincial governments. Vanuatu, like most Pacific Island Countries, is progressing a national agenda for Integrated Water Resource Management and has recently adopted a new national water policy.

There are a range of other CC policies and plans currently being developed in various sectors as outlined in the Pro-Doc. Given the importance of ensuring that gender and social inclusion considerations are embedded in sector policies, plans and procedures, V-CAP could play an important role in sharing lessons learnt through implementation of GESI strategies.

**GESI R17:** *It is recommended that V-CAP provide technical assistance, as needed, in "gendering" the new NAPA. In addition to gender dimensions, the project should also advocate for inclusion of the broader principles of equality and inclusion to ensure impacts for children, youth and people with disabilities are fully considered.*

**GESI R18:** *It is recommended that V-CAP provide TA to government ministries and departments, as requested, to assist in mainstreaming GESI considerations in relevant climate change policies and plans.*

### 5.4 Component 4: *Enhancing knowledge and capacity for CCA*

A crucial factor in enhancing adaptive capacities of women, youth and other vulnerable groups is to ensure that they have access to the information they need in order to respond to the everyday manifestations of changing climate conditions.

Four of six V-CAP field sites have high schools that could play a pivotal role in testing climate change education and awareness materials that are centrally developed. In this regard, the UNDP PACC project has successfully involved high school students in constructing an integrated 3D map of Epi Island which could serve as a platform for planning local CC activities. There is potential to scale up this activity in schools in other V-CAP areas.

#### 5.4.1 Establish Local Youth CC Clubs

As previously reported, young people consulted during project design reported significant concern about the impacts of climate change and many expressed a high degree of frustration regarding their inability to be meaningfully involved in community planning and decision-making processes. They also

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<sup>15</sup> Supported by the Pacific Risk Resilience Project, Draft Report, December 2013.

said that marginalization and boredom were key factors in high teenage pregnancy rates, substance abuse and fighting.

**GESI R19:** *It is recommended that the project support the establishment of Local Youth Climate Change Clubs to educate young people about the impacts of CC and to encourage their active involvement in coastal zone adaptation measures. Working through Area Councils and under the direction of a Project Officer, these Youth Clubs could offer a range of activities for young people in each area including, for instance: training programs on sustainable farming and fisheries; removal of invasive species like crown of thorns starfish; exchange programs to visit marine conservation initiatives; species monitoring through One Small Bag; construction and maintenance of new pedestrian river crossings and walkways; development and maintenance of water sources; planting of vertier grass and bamboo in areas of high erosion; provision of awareness training for school children etc.*

**GESI R20:** *It is recommended that youth receive modest reimbursement for labour inputs tied into quantifiable outputs for implementation of some adaptation measures. For instance, in some Pacific Island countries, youth groups have been engaged to remove destructive species like crown of thorns starfish and compensated by the number of COTs destroyed. This is also possible with regard to planting protective species like vertier grass.*

In implementing this activity, it will be important to find ways to ensure that young women as well as young men are actively involved in all Climate Change Youth Clubs established by the project. Wherever possible, it will also be important to engage the Provincial Youth Officer in these clubs to build interest and capacity for youth CCA programming at the provincial level.

The objectives of this activity are to:

- (i) Increase interest and awareness of young people in climate change issues
- (ii) Build their capacity for implementation of adaptation measures at community level
- (iii) Encourage leadership in environmental education and advocacy, and
- (iv) Destroy destructive species and increase protective species.

#### **5.4.2 Support Youth Agricultural Business Training**

In almost all V-CAP sites, youth requested opportunities for training and income generation. As such, it is recommended that V-CAP partner with the Vanuatu Farm Support Association (FSA) to cover the cost of youth from each V-CAP area to participate in the “Young Farmers Development Course”. This training program is currently offered through the Napil Rural Training Centre (RTC) on Tanna Island and has been designed for young men and women who are interested in learning about new climate appropriate farming technologies as well as starting their own agri-businesses after graduation. The course teaches planning, production and marketing skills and works closely with students to set up their own bank accounts for income earned during the study period as this will provide the capital necessary for business start-up when they return to their own communities. While this program is in the early stages, it has experienced significant success in educating and empowering youth to become ecologically minded farmers with good business sense. The program has also been successful in involving young people with disabilities.

**GESI R21:** *It is recommended that Area Councils be fully involved in developing participant selection criteria to ensure equitable access to young women and men as well as those with disabilities. Participants will need to meet RTC entrance criteria and have a high level of interest in sustainable farming and community work. Consideration should be given to training 2-4 young people from each V-CAP community to build redundancy and ensure knowledge is sustained in the community.*

### 4.3.3 Dissemination of CCA Information

**GESI 22:** *Dissemination of climate change information, education and communication (IEC) materials and awareness programs implemented through schools, churches, health care centres, women and youth networks and area councils is recommended as an effective strategy to increase public knowledge and interest in climate change adaptation measures, as well as V-CAP objectives, strategies and work plans.*

*For efficiency, the project should disseminate existing CCA information developed by the PMU, NGOs and other CC projects whenever possible. It will be important to ensure that this information is user-friendly (i.e., in local vernacular at appropriate literacy level) and is accompanied by tangible actions that communities and individuals can take for improved resilience. IEC materials should also be GESI sensitive and target the specific interests and responsibilities of women, men and young people.*

*It is also recommended that descriptions of successful GESI - CCA activities be prepared on a regular basis and shared with project partners and beneficiaries. In this regard, the project should maintain a close working relationship with the Vanuatu Climate Adaptation Network (VCAN)<sup>16</sup>.*

## 5.5 Monitoring and Evaluation

### 5.5.1 Engage a GESI and M&E Officer

Given the number of project components and the wide range of activities to be implemented throughout the country involving numerous partner agencies and stakeholders, effective planning and M&E will be critical to the success of V-CAP. At the same time, project M&E is likely to be extremely challenging given the significant lack of existing baseline information, the absence of institutionalized data management systems and the overall lack of planning and monitoring capacity at all levels of the delivery system. In addition, understanding of gender equity and social inclusion issues in climate change adaptation initiatives is extremely low in government implementing agencies. Given this situation, there is a significant risk that the gender equality and social inclusion dimensions of the project could be overlooked and/or treated as a relatively unimportant side issue. The advantage to combining the GESI and the M&E role is that it ensures that gender equality and social inclusion are fully incorporated in the project monitoring and evaluation system.

While the project design provides a draft M&E framework, it is essential that key representatives from all stakeholder agencies (including EAs and IAs) are actively involved in reviewing and validating this framework if they are going to feel any sense of ownership for achieving gender equality and social inclusion results. The project M&E framework should include specific GESI strategies, targets and means of verification.

In order to establish GESI targets for V-CAP activities, it is essential to have accurate baseline data with respect to the current level of participation of women and other vulnerable groups in CCA processes. For instance, in the planning domain project officers will need to conduct pre-intervention analyses to determine current participation levels on relevant community and area level committees and well as the degree to which vulnerable groups are actually empowered as decision-makers. Before carrying out training activities, it will be important to assess how many women have previously received FAAT in relation to men living in targeted areas, including who engages with and benefits from extension services. In assessing whether V-CAP interventions have resulted in GESI outcomes, accurate disaggregated data (by age, gender and location) will be critical. In pre-activity planning meetings with communities and area councils, it will be important to discuss gender targets and set realistic goals to increase participation levels over time.

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<sup>16</sup> VCAN is a network of civil society organizations (CSOs) engaged in climate change projects that share best practise information. VCAN, which is supported by Oxfam, also plays an important role in promoting collaborative approaches and ensuring CSO efforts are not duplicated. Oxfam represents the interests and views of civil society on the National Advisory Board (NAB).

**GESI R23:** *It is recommended that the project engage a highly qualified and experienced international “Gender Equality, Social Inclusion and Monitoring and Evaluation (GESI/M&E) Officer” as a key member of the Project Management and Implementation Unit. At the project level, this position will ensure that gender equality and social inclusion approaches, strategies and interventions are fully mainstreamed in all aspects of V-CAP work and that targeted activities under the GESI Component are properly supported.*

*Suggested tasks of the GESI/M&E Officer would include, amongst others:*

- *Developing appropriate gender equality and social inclusion indicators, targets and performance measures for the project as a whole and for specific activities in close collaboration with project partners and beneficiaries*
- *Providing over-sight in the implementation of the V-CAP M&E system including data gathering, analysis and reporting*
- *Providing sensitivity training on gender equality and social inclusion for project staff, EAs and IAs to build local awareness*
- *Providing locally relevant training on monitoring and evaluation for project staff, EAs and IAs to build local capacity,*
- *Supporting key government ministries, including the PMU, in mainstreaming GESI and climate change dimensions in sector and agency policies and plans,*
- *Assisting the Chief Technical Advisor in the preparation of annual plans and reports.*

## 5.5.2 Provide GESI Awareness Training

**GESI R24:** *It is recommended that GESI awareness training be provided to all project staff as a critical part of their professional development and to project partners at national, provincial and area level.*

*This training should be designed to develop and strengthen participants’ capacity to:*

- *Analyse the effects of climate change from the perspective of men and women, youth, elders and people with disabilities*
- *Understand gender dynamics from a socio-cultural and economic perspective*
- *Develop and apply GESI-sensitive criteria and indicators for project activities*
- *Gather and analyse relevant statistics for M&E purposes*
- *Capitalize on the talents and contributions of both men and women*
- *Set targets for female and youth participation in all adaptive activities, and*
- *Ensure women and youth are represented in all project planning and decision-making processes.*

In implementing this training, there are numerous gender and climate change training materials available such as the “*Pacific Gender and Climate Change Toolkit; Tools from Practitioners*” (SPC et al., 2013) which would be a valuable resource for use by the project.

## 5.5.3 Model Equality and Inclusion

It is extremely important that the project practice gender equality and social inclusion both internally and externally as modelling - in itself - can be highly influential in changing public attitudes. Organisational/project culture is significantly shaped by structure, policies and procedures and by the attitude of staff in relation to gender equality and social inclusion.

**GESI R25:** *It is highly recommended that the project:*

- *Strives to ensure engagement of both female and male staff in leadership positions*
- *Highlights climate change adaptation work being carried out by women in non-traditional occupations such as agriculture extension and fisheries management*
- *Develops, implements and enforces a Staff Code of Conduct, which includes a zero tolerance for violence policy and non-discriminatory practise requirement, and*

➤ *Develops policies and procedures to ensure that GESI issues are proactively identified and addressed in all aspects of project work.*

## 6. Conclusions

Men, women, youth, children, the elderly and people with disabilities are all affected differently by climate change - which generally has the greatest impacts on the most vulnerable people in society. Women and children are more vulnerable to climate variables because of their social roles, inequalities in access and control of resources, lower education levels, higher health risks and lower participation in decision-making processes. Worldwide, and especially in developing nations like Vanuatu women tend to be poorer, more marginalized and much more likely to be severely affected by natural disasters.

In order for adaptation strategies to be effective, all groups of people need to fully participate. Therefore, it is essential that V-CAP:

- i) Identifies and supports development strategies that ensure gender, age and “wellness” dimensions are fully integrated into national and sector policies, district and local level adaptation strategies and community action plans
- ii) Supports direct engagement of marginalized groups in all aspects of project planning, implementation and monitoring, and
- iii) Seeks to build social inclusion and community activism for climate change adaptation.

The V-CAP design process assessed the differential impacts of climate change on men, women, youth, children, elders and people living with disabilities. Based on this analysis, a range of targeted CCA interventions are recommended in response to identified vulnerabilities at community level. Recommendations are also provided to ensure that all members of society are well served by early warning systems; that knowledge of relevant climate change adaptation strategies is enhanced, and that the capacity of vulnerable groups to fully engage in and benefit from CC solutions is strengthened. Further, recommendations for good governance and policy reform work required to ensure compliance with international standards with respect to gender equality and social inclusion are incorporated in the V-CAP GESI Strategy.

Notwithstanding the need to address vulnerabilities through the use of tailored interventions, vulnerable groups of people also need to be seen as having the potential to move beyond passiveness and victimization and become powerful and effective agents of change in leading and managing mitigation and adaptation measures. For example, older people often have extensive knowledge of traditional agricultural and fisheries practises used to ensure species sustainability that can be applied when selecting contemporary adaptation measures; women and youth representatives can play a critical role in mobilizing communities, to build resilience and manage risk using their own networks. Children and youth who are provided with information on climate change and adaptation strategies at school or church can assist with household and community initiatives and can also educate and influence their parents on climate change adaptation solutions.

The project M&E system has a critical role to play in ensuring GESI related information is routinely collected, rigorously analysed and consistently used to improve performance and results. Sharing of lessons learned with government and non-government agencies in Vanuatu and throughout the Pacific can play an important role in promoting best practise in GESI and CCA work. To ensure credibility and integrity, the need to ensure that the project models gender equity and social inclusion principles in all dealings with beneficiaries and partners is stressed.

In addition to the specified GESI interventions, gender and social inclusion will also be mainstreamed in all V-CAP activities - from planning and implementation through to monitoring and evaluation using GESI sensitive indicators and targets. Taken together – mainstreaming plus targeted activities in each Component area – forms the basis of the V-CAP GESI Strategy.

The V-CAP model represents a comprehensive approach to CCA by encompassing communities, area councils, provincial and national mechanisms. In this way V-CAP is not a standalone project, but

rather supports existing government plans, policies and procedures with the long-term objective of building local and national level capacity and expansion to other areas.

## Perspectives of Women and Youth on Climate Change Impacts in their Communities

Detailed information regarding the perspectives of women and other vulnerable groups on the impacts of climate change in their lives and communities, on a site-by-site basis, are presented in this Annex.

### 1. Santo, Sanma Province

The project site for Sanma Province is located on the southern coast of Santo Island, from Asevaia Village proceeding westward along the road to Parisa, and within the boundary of South Santo Area 2. Target villages included within this project site are Wailapa and Asevaia, with a possible expansion to nearby Tangoa Island following further consultations and project performance reviews. As of the 2009 Census, the total population of Santo Island was 39,606 people and the annual population growth rate was 2.4%.

Area Council	Villages	Population
South Santo Area 2	Wailapa Village (plus Namalo, Parisa, Naone & Vimele)	177+
	Asevaia Village (plus Vunarara, Vipaka & Vunkalato)	182

Historically, copra was the focus in this area but due to fluctuating market prices the local population has moved away from this activity over the past decade. The planting and sale of fresh kava to supply the production of “ready-made” kava bars in Luganville has increased to become a primary source of income generation for many people in the area. Cacao is also sold but not in major quantities. The sale of local produce (root crops and fruits) also contributes significantly to income generation as the project area is located approximately 1.5 hours drive from Luganville, a commercial hub for Vanuatu’s northern provinces and the second highest populated town in the country. The target community of Wailapa indicated that households typically travel to Luganville to sell agricultural produce once every 2 months for a period of about 3 days at a time. While entire families are involved with the farming of produce to sell within the market, the women typically take a lead role in the sale at local markets, where they often sleep several nights before returning to their respective villages.

Villagers indicated they occasionally sell coastal resources such as hardwood trees, fresh-water fish and prawns, flying foxes, fish from the coral reef, bottom fish such as pule and larger fish such as wahoo and tuna locally and to buyers in Luganville. Although women in Vanuatu typically are very active in small scale reef fishing, they generally do not fish within this target area as the fishing generally requires the use of boats or canoes which are not readily available. The sale of livestock also generates some income for target communities (excluding Tangoa) estimate that which estimate they collectively own 300+ cattle, 38 pigs and around 600+ chickens. Livestock is typically sold domestically within the communities or to buyers in Luganville. The sewing of hand-woven mats and baskets also generates a modest amount of income for local women.

In South Santo, women expressed numerous climate change related concerns which are having a serious impact on community health and well-being. A primary issue relates to food security. In all villages visited (Ipayato, Wailapa and Asevaia) women talked about recent changes to subsistence crops, both in terms of quality and quantity issues. For instance, island cabbage no longer grows well and dries out quickly; leaf laplap is also dry and can no longer be used for in-ground cooking; taro plants have become much smaller, taste different and are covered in a white powder. A black beetle is invading taro plants as well as hard and soft yams causing an increased proportion of these crops to be inedible. In some cases, women talked about food shortages, especially given the increasing population in the area. They also said that there are more cases of reef fish food poisoning, and that fish stocks are dwindling, especially inshore. Women indicated that many families no longer eat the fish they catch, choosing rather to sell their catch to other families for needed income. In the words of one Wailapa woman “men only fish now for money, not food, and then they sell the fish to buy kava and the family has nothing”. Women identified the need for training on more resilient crops and how to deal with agricultural diseases.

As a result of increased population and crop spoilage, women have significantly less crop to sell at the Luganville Market (there are no markets in South Santo) which was their primary, and generally their only source of income. In addition, the poor condition of the South Santo road combined with increased transport costs (due to high fuel costs and bad road conditions) makes selling at the Luganville market uneconomic for most women. In Ipayato, women said that the only way they benefit from market sales now is if they take huge loads of produce and stay in Luganville for 2–3 days and sell everything. This is problematic however because they can no longer stockpile enough crop to make the trip viable. Further, the “market mammas” have to sleep under tables at the Luganville market, which is difficult given the frequent incidents of stealing and sexual harassment. In addition, there is no place to cook at the Luganville market and women have to pay for use of toilets and for table/floor display space which further reduces profit. A major priority for women in South Santo is to improve road conditions and address economic and security issues at the Luganville market.

Women in South Santo also raised a number of health concerns including increased incidents of asthma, teeth and eye problems (older people), skin disorders and diarrhoea, especially in children. They are concerned about access to clean water, particularly in the dry season and are concerned that livestock are contaminating rivers in upland areas. A major concern is the lack of water supply at the Tasmalun Health Centre which has led to women deciding to have home births. Also of significant concern to women in Ipayato is the lack of access to the health centre during heavy rains; more frequent flooding means that the health services are not accessible for 2-3 days at a time. Women prioritized the need to address water supply issues in villages and at the health centre, including increasing the number of publically accessible water tanks and to clean and fix existing tanks that no longer work. In Waiolapa women stated that they have no representation of the Village Water Committee so are not included in decision-making processes.

Another significant concern raised by female informants was the lack of access to the Ebenezer School during heavy rains. They reported that children frequently miss school when river crossings are flooded and sometimes get stuck on the school side of the river for up to two weeks. They are also concerned about the safety of young children who try to cross the river in dangerous situations and reported that although there have been no deaths as yet, there have been many close calls. A major priority of women in South Santo is for pedestrian walkways to enable safe river crossing and access to education and health services.

Youth consulted in South Santo expressed concern about lack of opportunities to generate income, and reported feeling isolated and bored. In communities where Save the Children has assisted in establishing Youth Cooperatives (stores), they said they felt “more important” and “less scattered”. Youth expressed a high degree of interest in being involved with climate change clubs that could assist their communities in dealing with water and crop issues.

## 2. Epi Island, Shefa Province

The project site is located on the western coast of Epi Island, Shefa Province. The identified V-CAP target sites are located within the boundary of Vermauli & Vermaul Area Councils. The Epi Sub-District Office is located at Rovo Bay, in Vermauli Area Council. The villages included in the project site are Malvasi, Ruwo/Yopuna, Ponkovio, Burumba and Mavilao. As of the 2009 Census, the total population of Epi Island was 5,647 people, which includes the population of Lamén Island. There are four Area Councils on Epi - Vermaul, Vermauli, Varsu and Yarsu, which collectively contain over 25 villages. The proposed project site covers 2 Area Councils and a number of villages as outlined in the table below.

Area Council	Villages	Population
Vermauli	Malvasi Village (plus Rovo Bay)	177
	Ruwo and Yopuna Villages (plus Yervali School, Komerana 1)	153
Vermaul	Ponkovio (plus Paen, Komerana 2, Foreland, Jusmasume, Kudut Ponkovio School)	400
	Burumba (plus Masou, Burumarmar communities)	271
	Mavilao (plus Nambatri, Kalakala, Anduan, Lempeto)	323

In Epi women expressed concern about erosion of their gardens and reported that “local crops are making people sick now”. In particular they mentioned cassava and taro and the white residue that began appearing on plant leaves about eight years ago. They are concerned about fungus on soft fruit and vegetables and their need to learn more about food handling and preservation. They are also concerned about fisheries stocks and the fact that some species are dying and “don’t taste good anymore”. Further, women believe that illnesses are increasing because more packaged foods are being consumed, some of which are past their expiry date by the time they arrive in Epi.

Women talked about the critical importance of the local markets as the primary source of income to support their families. However, funds derived from market sales is currently restricted due to the high cost of road and sea transport from gardens to market outlets, particularly for villages located furthest from markets and where feeder roads from village to gardens are longest and/or in poor repair. Women also noted that the market building in Rovo Bay is over-crowded and that there are no cooking facilities available. As such, they are unable to meet the growing demand for cooked foods, which produces the highest profit. They reported that monies earned from market sales are given to husbands and are not always used for children and household needs. Women expressed strong interest in learning more about household and financial management and other sources of income.

Youth informants in Epi expressed significant concern about a wide range of social, health, economic, environmental and culture issues. Young people consistency mentioned the erosion of traditional family and cultural values which has led to an increase in teenage pregnancy, STIs and increasing use of kava, alcohol and marijuana. Youth also expressed concern about the number of young people who do not complete school and lack of educational and training problems available for them. They said that many young people no longer respect family and community rules, including marine tabu sites. The youth consulted strongly stressed the need to create more opportunities for meaningful engagement in community initiatives, including income generation activities and expressed their keen interest in learning more about environmental issues facing their communities

### **3. North Ambae and Pentecost, Penama Province**

During initial consultations with the design team, the Secretary General of Penama Province recommended the project focus on North Ambae rather than the original project site of Saratamata (the Provincial Centre) as this area is already well-served. Further, the DFAT funded Vanuatu Transportation Sector Support Project (VTSSP) operates in North Ambae thus offering high potential for collaboration and value added results.

The Secretary General also identified another priority project site in Penama Province in Pentecost. This site is located in the central part of the island comprising the communities of Bwatnapni on the west to the Levetlis area on the eastern side of the island. The identified target site is located within the boundary of Area Council Central Pentecost 1 (CP1) of Central Pentecost. This area also corresponds with a VTSSP work site.

The steep slopes of the northern Ambae are cut by flashy rivers. The rivers are generally low flow streams (with a stage less than a meter and width of less than two meters). When it rains the rivers quickly rise. The VTSSP is currently improving river crossings for vehicle transport. However, these wet crossings are unsuitable for pedestrians, the primary means of connivance for farmers and school children.

Women in North Ambae expressed grave concern about several dangerous river crossings during heavy rains. Children are often kept home from school and people are cut off from health services when rivers flood. Communities reported that three school aged children had drowned over the last five years - this was confirmed by government officials. Women also described serious water shortage issues during the dry season which they believe is causing children and older people to become sick. They said some livestock have died of dehydration.

Women also expressed significant concern about the poor road condition, which prevents them from taking goods to the main market in the Provincial Centre, Saratamata. There are only a few small markets in North Ambae so without road or boat access, women have no means of generating income. They are also very concerned about the condition of root crops – some informants indicated that only one-in-ten kasava is edible – this was confirmed that the senior World Vision staff on Ambae.

### **4. Aniwa Island, Tafea Province**

The initial V-CAP site for Tafea Province is the Island of Aniwa, which plans to expand to additional islands in the province (likely Futuna and Aneityum) over the span given the small size of Aniwa. The four villages on Aniwa Island are located coastally and are under the jurisdiction of one Area Council (each island in Tafea is a separate Area Council, with the Tafea provincial headquarters located on Tanna Island). Aniwa Island is formed from uplifted limestone reef from the late Miocene or Holocene related to the Australian Plate subducting zone. The surface of the island is mildly erosional covered with a thin layer of top soil, and the southern, eastern and western coasts of the island are exposed limestone. The majority of the northern portion of the island is composed of a lagoon with long sandy beaches and ample mangroves. Today the island experiences frequent earthquakes. Aniwa Island is well known for production of oranges which have historically been the major export crop and source of income.

Female respondents expressed strong concern about recent changes to their citrus trees, reporting that the fruit is now smaller and dryer and that parrots and flying foxes are consuming greater amounts. This serves to limit the amount of crop available for sale thereby reducing family food stocks and income. Lack of income means more children are not attending school as parents cannot pay the fees. Women on Aniwa are also concerned about parasites attacking subsistence crops and causing them to wither and dry out and about depleting fisheries stocks. The growing number of crown of thorns starfish was frequently mentioned. While Aniwa communities generate income from the sale of sandalwood, women are concerned that the sandalwood may be drawing too much water from the ground and having an adverse affect on crop production. Older sandalwood trees are also becoming full of holes. Women raised concern over the growing number of incidents of theft of sandalwood trees and lack of access to clean water. They reported that children are frequently dehydrated during the dry season and have skin problems. According to the Nurse Aid, NCDs are the biggest health problem on Aniwa, particularly hypertension and diabetes.

Women's representatives interviewed in Aniwa indicated the following priorities: improved water supply; improved access to road and wharf; introduction of climate resistant crops (i.e., wild yam); assistance in dealing with invasive species, including removal of crown of thorns starfish that are destroying the reef and shore fisheries. They expressed a strong desire for specialized resource management training to increase sustainable production of fisheries, livestock and agriculture and to also address water and sanitation issues that are having a negative impact on community health and well-being.

Youth informants on Aniwa expressed concern about a range of issues, including an increase in teenage pregnancy, STIs and excessive use of kava. Youth also expressed concern about the number of young people who do not complete school and lack of educational and training problems available for them. The youth consulted stressed the need to create more opportunities for meaningful engagement in community initiatives, including income generation activities and expressed their keen interest in learning more about environmental issues facing their communities.

### **South East Malekula, Malampa Province**

This project site consists of a coastal area located in South East Malekula, including offshore islands, its western border starting at Farun Village on the mainland and nearby Akam and then proceeding eastwards to the Maskelynnes. Lamap is not included within the target area of this project. The villages within this target site are all located within the South East Malekula Area Council.

As of the 2009 Census, the total population of Malekula was 22,934 people with an annual growth rate of 1.9%. In 2009, the outer island of Akam had a total population of 646 people with an annual growth rate of 1.3%. However, locals from Akam indicated there has been a concentrated relocation effort to move to the mainland meaning and as such there should be a significant change in this annual growth rate. Maskelynnes had a recorded population of 1022 with an annual growth rate of 0.8%. The villages located within the currently defined project site are outlined in the table below:

<b>Area Council</b>	<b>Villages</b>	<b>Population</b>
South East Malekula	Akam Island (Lemlan, Robianas, Turak)	400+
	Farun Village (+ Falou, Aromai, Lohorfar, Barbismor, Renaour, Lasovsae,	400+

	Lamolghai, Lebus stations)	
	Okai Village (+Lemang, Marbagho, Hojef)	248
	Maskelynn Island (Peskarus, Pelong, Lutas)	1,200
	Vao Island	898

The target communities in South East Malekula generate the majority of their household income through the sale of kava, copra and fish. The planting and sale of fresh kava to supply the production of “ready-made” kava bars in Port Vila, Luganville and elsewhere has increased to become a primary source of income generation. Fishing and the sale of marine resources produces substantial income generation for certain villages. The islands of Maskelynn and Vao in particular receive multiple weekly shipping services that cater to fishermen with ice facilities for the transport of fish and lobster to Port Vila. In Okai, Akam and Farun Villages the fisherman sell bottom-fish such as “pule”, smaller fish from the reef and lobster as well. Due in access issues, tourism activity in this area are limited to Maskelynn Island.

**Farun:** The women interviewed stated their biggest concern is that current food shortages will get given the rapidly increasing population. Food shortages are the result of increased demand for food, the destructive impact of invasive species on subsistence groups and increasingly depleted fish stocks. They also reported that lack of access to the road is having a devastating impact on education and health services and on community wellness. The women said that government health workers often refuse to travel to Farun due to the dangerous sea crossing which results in unattended births, incidents of maternal and infant mortality, lack of family planning services and children not being vaccinated on time, or at all. The highest priorities for men, women and youth are: (i) road access, (ii) clean, accessible water, (iii) a fully staffed and functional health centre and, (iv) that the secondary school to be upgraded (as endorsed by the Council of Ministers in 2010).

**Akam:** Consists of about 100 households and 500 people. A significant number of people from Akam are now living on Malekula Island and in Port Vila (estimated at well over 200). This out-migration is due to two primary factors: i) Church and government encouragement that Akam communities relocate to the mainland due to rising sea levels, and b) for employment and education purposes. Women indicated that while the community is not opposed to moving to the mainland, they want to make this move in an organized manner, which involves ensuring the health and education services are available on Malekula Island before they relocate – they think this will take 10-15 years. Both women and youth have representation on the ‘negotiation committee’ and feel that their views are heard and respected by community leaders.

During community consultations, female respondents mentioned many of the same concerns as women living in Farun. For instance, health care workers do not regularly visit the island due to dangerous travel conditions and the local health centre is now staffed by an aid post worker rather than a nurse. As a result, women are not able to deliver their babies at this centre, nor can they receive family planning supplies or have their children vaccinated. They reported that the aid post is very short of medical supplies and consequently children and older people are often sick for long periods of time. Mothers reported that their children frequently suffer from eye infections, diarrhoea, asthma, colds and skins infections. In addition, the women reported recent outbreaks of malaria and the measles (the last outbreak was in 1994), which affected most of the children and many adults, including pregnant women. The women also expressed concern about the lack of qualified teachers at the primary school as government teachers refuse to live in South Malekula. As a result, schools in the area are generally staffed by local teachers and volunteers. In addition, the rapidly increasing population (60 plus children in the village “kindy” and over 100 children in the primary school) means that classrooms are overcrowded and inadequately supplied. There is only one toilet for 100 students and one working water tank. Given the shortage of water at the school, and in the community, school is often closed on Wednesdays so that teachers can accompany children to the mainland on dug-out canoes to collect water, hence the name “Water Wednesdays”.

The other major concern expressed by the women is the increasing shortage of food given the rapidly growing population and the declining quantity and quality of subsistence crops due to invasive species, change in weather patterns and over-farming. For instance, white fungus and black beetles are now deeply infesting the cabbage, taro, manioc and watermelons; citrus fruits are now smaller and drier and flying foxes and rats are eating most crops before they ripen. Women are no longer able to sell produce at the district market due to the high cost of boat transport (vatu 10,000 return)

and food shortages. While men continue to sell fish and kava, transport costs greatly diminishes profit and the amount of money available for basic family needs.

For women, the highest priorities for intervention are: i) improving the water supply; ii) improving health care services (though qualified medical practitioners and equipped dispensary); and access to an improved road to Lamap to enable access to services and markets.

**Okai:** Similarly to the other communities in South Malakula, the lack of road access affects all aspects of community well-being. There were stories of women and children dying on boats in rough seas en route to the hospital in Lamap and the lack of a health care worker at the Okai aid post this year. Mothers are concerned about the growing number of children with malaria, measles and diarrhoea. Young people talked about the lack of training opportunities, excessive use of kava and teenage pregnancy. With respect to agriculture and fisheries, the same concerns exist throughout South Malakula in terms of food source depletion and degradation; women indicated that 10-15% of taro and yams are now inedible due to black beetles. The priorities of the men, women and youth consulted in Okai included: improved water catchments; a properly equipped and staffed medical facility; improved toilets and hygiene.

**Muskelynn Islands:** Communities are extremely concerned about water shortages and water quality in the dry season, which is creating significant tensions between family groups regarding who has access rights, as well as serious health issues including chronic diarrhoea. There are also an inadequate number of toilets on the island; hence women said people are now using the land and ocean for toileting purposes. The rapidly increasing population is creating food shortages especially given other environmental and human induced factors (i.e. the soil erosion of mainland gardens, over-farming and increasing invasive species). A number of social problems related to over-crowding and lack of opportunities were also reported including teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, increased property crime and violence against women.

The priorities identified by community representatives consulted included: improved water supply, toilets and hygiene; improved lighting; FADs to help reduce the impact on reef fisheries; training programs on climate resistant crops and improved access to medical services, including family planning.

## 5. Torres Islands, Torba Province

The province of Torba consists of thirteen (13) islands and a population of about 9,500 people. The provincial headquarters is located at Sola, on Vanualava. About 80% of the population of Torba is employed in the subsistence and semi-subsistence agricultural sector; the major commercial crop and livestock activities are copra and beef, which together make up 42% of the provincial economy. The agricultural sector is expected to continue to dominate the Torba economy; hence the Torba Strategic Plan 2013-2017 focuses on improving the productivity of this sector and engaging additional Agricultural Officers. This Plan also indicates the need to conduct awareness on climate change and its effect on agriculture crops and to encourage crops that are adapted to climate change.

Area Council	Villages	Population
Torres Islands Area Council	Hiu (Yugavikamena, Yakwana, Yawia)	310
	Metoma	19
	Tegua (Lirak, Tenya, Litetra)	70+
	Loh (Lunhariki, Renunha, Teleklek, Linua)	232
	Toka (Litau, Liqal)	450+

**Hiu Island:** Women on Hui are extremely concerned about their crops indicating that yams and taro are much smaller and drier and the black beetle infestation is rendering many crops inedible. In addition, the flying fox is destroying much of the fruit stock (banana, watermelons, pineapple and citrus) and they also reported that a 'brown caterpillar' and a "black moth" are now invading both fruits and vegetables. The women also indicated it is much more difficult to catch fish now all of which is contributing to food shortages. They reported an outbreak in ciguatera (fish poisoning) last year, increasing cases of malaria and severe diarrhoea in young children. Women and youth are also concerned the number of teenage pregnancies and the lack of opportunities and activities for young people on the island.

The main priorities for the women and youth consulted in Hui include: i) the establishment of a training centre on resource management (including agriculture, fisheries and livestock) and family issues (including family planning, water and sanitation), ii) the development of income earning activities, such as eco-tourism to provide financial resources for health, education and transport services, and iii) the construction of a community hall/evacuation centre (which would also serve as the training centre).

**Loh Island:** The major development concerns expressed by the women and youth consulted included; increasing population, loss of fisheries stocks, cutting down of bush for firewood, declining quality of subsistence crops and food shortages (people are now reliant on rice as a staple food source during non-harvest times). Women are especially concerned about the flying fox and invasive black moth that is said to be destroying all fruit species – citrus trees are now barren. They are also concerned about water supply and quality issues and reported that the water is dirty and insufficient to serve the area. The priorities of the women and youth consulted were: improved water supply, training on invasive species and climate resilient crops; training for women on alternative income generation activities and marine conservation areas to ensure adequate supply of fisheries stock for the future.

**Toga Island:** The same issues regarding invasive species were reported, which is of significant concern to the women who are worried about the impact of food shortages. The priorities for intervention identified by women and youth on Toga Island included; training on water and sanitation; training on resource management including fisheries and climate resilient crops, and assistance in establishing alternative forms of income (i.e., sewing projects).

**Tegua Island:** The most significant concerns reported by the women and youth consulted is the lack of water and catchments, flooding during the wet season, crop spoilage due to invasive species. As such, the women requested assistance with crop diversification and climate resilient species and farming technical and “business training for mamas”.

**ANNEX 2:  
Stakeholders Consulted**

**Epi Island, Shefa Province**

Community-Based Consultations	Men	Women, Youth, Disabled	Total
Yopuna Community Consultation – Vermauli	5	2	7
Ruwo (Niu Ples) Community Consultation – Vermaul	25	14	39
Komerana 1 (Brisbane) Community Consultation - Vermauli	4	3	7
Lamen Bay Community Consultation – Vermauli	15	18	33
Ponkovio Community Consultation (with sub-communities Komerana 2, Paen, Jumesmar, Foreland) – Vermaul	42	18	60
Ponkovio Women & Youth Focus Group	8	39	47
Ponkovio Environmental / Infrastructure Focus Group	15	0	15
Burumba Community Consultation - Vermaul	38	19	57
Burumba Women & Youth Focus Group	12	22	34
Burumba Environmental / Infrastructure Focus Group	17	0	17

External Individuals and Organizations Consulted	Men	Women	Total
Rovo Bay, Epi- District Administrative Officer	1	0	1
Vermaul Area Secretary and Wan Smol Bag Turtle Monitor	1	0	1
Ponkovio Ecole Public Headmaster	1	0	1
Yervali School Headmistress – Ruth Roberts	0	1	1
Rovo Bay Women's Market Committee	6	4	10

**Santo, Sanma Province**

Community-Based Consultations	Men	Women, Youth, Disabled	Total
Ipayao Community Consultation (with sub-communities)	06	03	9
Ipayao Community Women's & Youth Focus Group	0	13	13
Ipayao Community Environmental / Infrastructure Focus Group	16	0	16
Wailapa Community Consultation (with sub-community Nalamo)	25	14	39
Wailapa Women & Youth Focus Group	0	8	8
Wailapa Environmental / Infrastructure Focus Group	5	0	5
Asevaia Community Consultation	3	2	5
Asevaia Women & Youth Focus Group	0	3	3
Asevaia Environmental / Infrastructure Focus Group	4	0	4
Tasmaulu Youth Group	0	25	25

Individuals and Organisations Consulted	Men	Women	Total
Provincial Government: representatives: Secretary General, Planners, Environmental Officer, Publics Works Officers and Women's Affairs Officer.	7	1	8
Ebenezer Centre School Headmistress	0	1	1
World Vision	2	1	3

Save the Children	1	0	1
Rotary Club	0	1	1
UN Women	0	2	2

#### Ambae and Pentecost, Penama Province

Communities Consulted	Men	Women, Youth, Disabled	Total
North Ambae- Lombaha Community Consultation	22	6	28
North Ambae- Walariki Community Consultation	TBC	TBC	TBC
World Vision- Seratamata Office	1	2	3
Central Pentekost- Enna Community- Ward Consultation (Reps from Enna, Leravingu, Tosi, Vanuwalekaro, Vanue, Lemamlege, Narawa, Nokoratawea, Mournhal, Nokonraloonga, Lenga, Nuwi, Naowoto, Wujamel- CP1)	42	6	48
Central Pentekost- Enna- Women & Youth Focus Group	TBC	TBC	TBC
Central Pentekost- Enna- Environment / Infrastructure Focus Group	TBC	TBC	TBC
Central Pentekost- Bwatnapni Community / School Consultation- CP1	34	42	76
Kumreut Community Consultation- CP 2	23	12	35

Individuals & Organizations Consulted	Men	Women	Total
Provincial Secretary of Penema	1	0	1
Provincial Planners	2	0	2
Public Workers Department in Saratamata	1	0	1
World Vision of Ambae	2	2	4

#### Aniwa Island, Tafea Province

Community-Based Consultations	Men	Women, Youth, Disabled	Total
Aniwa - Imatu Community Consultation	16	7	23
Aniwa - Ikaukau Community Consultation	7	8	15
Aniwa - Isavae Community Consultation	14	6	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>58</b>

Individuals and Organizations Consulted	Men	Women	Total
Provincial Secretary and Project Officers	2	1	3
Area Leaders (Area Secretary, Area Council Chairman, Island Nurse, Headmistress of the School, Women's Committee Chairwoman)	2	3	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>

### South Malekula, Malampa Province

Community-Based Consultations	Men	Women, Youth, Disabled	Total
Faroun	TBC	TBC	TBC
Akhem Community Consultation	40	0	40
Akhem Women & Youth Focus Group	0	14	14
Akhem Environmental/Infrastructure Focus Group	16	0	16
Okei Community Consultation	18	5	23
Okei Women & Youth Focus Group	0	5	5
Okei Environmental/Infrastructure Focus Group	12	0	12
Maskelynes Community Consultation	99	52	151
Maskelynes Women & Youth Focus Group	0	52	52
Maskelynes Environmental/Infrastructure Focus Group	20	0	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	TBC	TBC	TBC

Individuals and Organizations Consulted	Men	Women	Total
Area Leaders (Area Secretary and Area Planner)	2	0	2
Provincial Project Officer	1	0	1
Provincial Fisheries Officer	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>TOTAL</b>	TBC	TBC	TBC

### Torres Islands, Torba Province

Community-Based Consultations	Men	Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities	Total
Torres – Hiu Island Community Consultation (Yugavikamena, Yakwana, Yawia)	16	23	39
Torres – Hiu Island Women & Youth Focus Group	0	17	17
Torres – Hiu Environment / Infrastructure Focus Group	TBC	TBC	TBC
Torres – Metoma Island Community Consultation	2	3	5
Torres – Tegua Island (Lirak, Litetra, Tenya)	22	15	37
Torres – Toka Island (Litau, Liqal)	30	28	58
Torres – Toka Island Women & Youth Focus Group	0	14	14
Torres – Toka Island Environment / Infrastructure Focus Group	TBC	TBC	TBC
Torres – Loh Island (Lunhariki, Renunha)	24	31	55
Torres – Loh Island Women & Youth Focus Group	0	13	13
Torres – Loh Island Environment / Infrastructure Focus Group	TBC	TBC	TBC
Individuals and Organisations Consulted	Men	Women	Total
The Red Cross	2	1	3
The Area Secretary	1	0	1

**Rovo Bay Market Development and Climate Change Training and Resource Center Project Activity Sheet**

No.	Category	Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI Component)
1.	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Rovo Bay Market Development and Climate Change Training and Resource Center Project</b>
2.	<b>Thematic Area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NAPA Adaptation Strategies 6 and 7</li> <li>• Project component 1.2.2</li> <li>• V-CAP Project Outcome 1.3: Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas.</li> </ul> <p>Cross-cutting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender / special needs groups</li> <li>• Youth</li> </ul>
3.	<b>Province</b>	Shefa Province
4.	<b>Site Description</b>	<p>The project site is located within the Vermali Area Council on 11.5 acres of government owned land at the Shefa Provincial Sub-district Headquarters on the western side of Epi Island. This site currently houses a number of buildings including offices for provincial workers, a covered market venue, a courthouse, the Epi Island branch of the National Bank of Vanuatu, two large covered meeting halls and a field sports area.</p> <p>The Rovo Bay Sub-District hosted the Council of Ministers Meeting (COM) in 2013 which led to upgrading of meeting houses in preparation for this event.</p> <p>The Rovo Bay Market currently operates on a fortnightly basis, which coincides with government payday and youth sports day.</p>
5.	<b>Target Communities</b>	This project will target women and youth from 9 villages within the Vermauli and Vermaul Area Councils (including Malvasi, Ruwo/Yapuna, Ponkovio, Burumba and Mavilao communities) who sell agricultural goods and prepared food at the Rovo Bay market.
6.	<b>Project Description</b>	<p>This initiative involves two primary components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Climate proofing of the market building at Rovo Bay Sub-district headquarters to address drainage issues, enable catchment of rainwater, prevent erosion of the concrete pad and rain proofing. The project will also increase the size of the market to address current overcrowding of</li> </ol>

		<p>vendors (a particular problem during rain events) and allow for the establishment of a new cooking area for the farmer-vendors of the market. This expansion will increase market sales and enable demonstration of smokeless stoves for greater environmental efficiency and improved health (i.e., reduced incidents of respiratory and eye infections in women and children).</p> <p>2. Provision of training to support women and youth in adapting to climate change through customized, “hands-on” educational programs designed to improve food security, livelihoods, water and sanitation management and ridge to reef land management. These programs will link with and compliment training initiatives described in the Ridge to Reef Land Management Project (and the Local Marine Managed Areas Project In conjunction with the Ridge to Reef Land Management t Project, this project site will also host the Community Training Garden and Nursery.</p>
7.	<p><b>Rationale – addressing what climate change issue</b></p>	<p><b>Problem Identification:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the objectives of the V-CAP is to climate-proof important public infrastructure in project sites to withstand extreme weather events and resulting spill-over effects to the local economy. The Rovo Market is the primary source of income for women living in the V-CAP Epi Island site and is the established meeting area for youth, sporting events and for the delivery of government, NGO and banking services. Rovo Bay is expected to expand over the coming years to meet the Government’s commitment to locate additional services at the district headquarters at Rovo Bay.</li> <li>• It is anticipated that climate change impacts will intensify, posing a significant threat to market infrastructure and impeding its’ use. The Rovo Market building does not have rain guttering which leads to standing water building up around the periphery of the building which attracts mosquitoes and is eroding the concrete pad. The market also does not any rain protection which limits its use during periods of high precipitation and adds to current overcrowding as perimeter areas are not useable during rainy weather.</li> <li>• Climate change is also affecting the crops grown and sold within the project area, which is forcing an economic loss for market venders, who are village women. Market venders can no longer produce the same amount of traditional agriculture product as before due to damage caused by invasive pests, over-cultivation and soil erosion caused by heavy rains, poor farming practises and deforestation. As such, people in Epi require training and support to produce climate resistant crops for household consumption and for cash income. For almost all women in this site area, selling at the Rovo Bay Market is their only source of revenue generation.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The majority of the population has little knowledge about climate change and its predicted impacts. Lack of knowledge and training constitutes a major barrier to climate resilience. The NAPA emphasizes that awareness raising and education are core issues that should be an integral part of any proposed CC adaptation project. The lack of human, financial, and technical resources constrains information sharing, education, and knowledge generation on climate change. The Government of Vanuatu recently committed to “push the gender agenda” with respect to improving inclusion of women in climate change resilience efforts (2013 Submission to the UNFCCC).</li> <li>• A major factor hindering enhanced CCA knowledge is the lack of agricultural extension services and a central training facility. Currently, there is no premise allocated to host community trainings within the project site, although the District Administrator believes this is a high priority and is prepared to convert an unused building for this purpose. Trainings for climate change resiliency are being organized through the Upland Erosion Project and the Local Marine Managed Areas Project however, they require a central training venue and a dedicated area for demonstration planting and cultivation.</li> <li>• The youth consulted reported a high degree of concern about current and future impacts of climate change and many expressed a high degree of frustration over their inability to be meaningfully involved in community activities due to socio-cultural factors. Young people requested opportunities for training and income generation - the challenge is to find ways to capitalize on youth interest in climate change adaptation while also providing young people with opportunities to learn new skills, be meaningfully engaged in local planning processes and contribute to the development of their communities. Given that income will be a significant motivating factor for most young people, the project will need to find creative ways to provide incentives such as employing youth to remove destructive invasive species, assisting with climate proofing of infrastructure, preparing demonstration gardens and nurseries, teaching school children about climate change etc.</li> <li>• The newly released <i>Shefa Corporate Plan 2014-2018</i> identifies many of these same problems and outlines numerous activities to address CCA impacts and build resilience across the district. V-CAP has been included as a partner, along with other agencies including the UNDP Market Project in the implementation of this Corporate Plan. Of relevance to this initiative are the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 1.13 Conduct awareness on farming techniques in</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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		<p>relation to climate change and distribution of planting materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 1.15 Conduct awareness and promotion on forming Farmers Cooperatives by developing associations</li> <li>➤ 1.8 Establish Agricultural nurseries specializing in climate change resilient species with nursery trial species available to distribute to local farmers</li> <li>➤ 3.3 Conduct training on Agro-Forestry and establish Agro-Forestry Nurseries to improve domestic markets and products</li> </ul>
8.	Impact of proposed activity	<p><b>Outcomes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate proofing of the market infrastructure will create a weather resilient facility to better support income generation for female vendors and their families.</li> <li>• Water supply to the market place will be improved thereby improving sanitary conditions. The market place will also be expanded to house cooking facilities and the installation of smokeless stoves. This appropriate technology will provide vendors with the option to sell prepared food at the market place (which is in high demand) thereby increasing family income. Smokeless stoves require less fuel and will help to address current respiratory and eye problems in women and children (related to cooking on fires in poorly ventilated, confined areas) if this technology is adopted by households following market demonstration.</li> <li>• Food security will be improved through crop diversification and improved quality of staple foods. By encouraging the use of new crops through trainings, demonstration gardens, market cooking instruction and equipment the project will increase the use and sale of CC resistance crops. The Training Center will distribute grasses and saplings for household and community use to mitigate erosion problems (see the Ridge to Reef Land Management Activity Sheet).</li> <li>• Area-wide CCA knowledge and social capital will be enhanced through training and other activities that bring people together for improved resilience. The Rovo Bay Training Center buildings will be used for several purposes: (i) as a meeting place for the Climate Change Youth Club supported by the Project (ii) as a training venue for villagers (with priority focus on women) to learn about a wide range of climate change related topics including food security, terrestrial and marine conservation, water and sanitation (WASH), reproductive health (due to the high birth rate and the impacts this has on sustainable natural resource management) and small business development skills – including crop diversification and sales strategies so women are not all selling the same produce at the same time (iii) as a meeting place for area council and community representatives when working on V-CAP supported Community Climate Change Adaptation Plans (CCCAPs) and (iv) for CCA education programs for children in</li> </ul>

		<p>collaboration with local schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth will have increased knowledge and skills in climate proofing of community infrastructure (which is also important for maintenance); they will earn income from construction work; and be involved in improving an important meeting centre for area residents.</li> <li>The Rovo Bay Market Committee (currently 11 members, 6 men and 5 women) will have improved knowledge of CCA issues and greater capacity to manage market activities for the benefit of vulnerable groups.</li> </ul>
9.	<b>Base line</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The current Rovo Bay market place infrastructure is not climate proofed.</li> <li>There are currently no facilities for cooking at the Rovo Bay market.</li> <li>There is currently no training venue in the area but the buildings at Rovo Bay District Headquarters are standing idle most of the time.</li> <li>There is a limited supply of water during the dry season at the market place.</li> </ul>
10.	<b>Proposed specific activities</b>	<p><b>Planning Phase: Issue identification, intervention identification and planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Market Committee and Rovo Bay District Administration Consultation: The Project Coordinator will meet with key Rovo Bay stakeholders to confirm plans for the market upgrade and training center development including facility maintenance and management arrangements. It will also be important to consult with current and potential vendors regarding their views on proposed market upgrades prior to commissioning the works.</li> <li>Market climate proofing and expansion design by an engineer working in collaboration with the Rovo Bay Administration and the Market Committee.</li> <li>In consultation with the Rovo Bay District Office, establish a representative Rovo Bay Training Center Committee comprised of representatives from the Market Committee, women and youth representatives (drawn from exciting networks across the area), church, school and health representatives etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In collaboration with Rovo Bay District Office, the Rovo Bay Training Center Committee and Rovo Bay CC Youth Club representatives develop a plan for the use of the Rovo Bay Training Center including education programs for CC resiliency, CC Resource Center requirements and use, training garden and nursery development etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
11.	<b>Activity Outputs</b>	<b>Proposed specific outputs of activities</b>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate proofing of the Rovo Bay Market</li> <li>• Extension to Rovo Bay Market and the addition of 9 cook stoves, an oven and a water tank</li> <li>• Conversion of an under-used Rovo Bay building to a training center for CCA education programs for women, youth, children and community/area council CCCAP processes. This center will also have a resource library with CCA materials which can be used by schools, churches, community leaders and community climate change committees; this will support V-CAP Component 4: enhance knowledge and capacity for CCA.</li> <li>• Establishment of a demonstration garden and nursery.</li> </ul>
12.	<b>Indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The market is climate proofed</li> <li>• The market is extended and enhanced with cooking facilities (9 cook stoves and an oven) and water tank</li> <li>• Local youth engaged with infrastructure upgrade work</li> <li>• Market facilities are well maintained</li> <li>• Existing Rovo Bay meeting building is converted to a training and resource center</li> <li>• Number of trainings conducted in the training center</li> <li>• Schools and community groups use of resource center materials</li> <li>• Level of participation of women and youth throughout the area</li> <li>• Number of market vendors increases</li> <li>• Sale of raw and cooked foods increases</li> <li>• Rovo Bay Market Committee and Rovo Bay Training and Resource Center Committee “are active and effective” in their management roles as determined by pre-agreed criteria</li> <li>• Changes in upland and water management in villages apparent as a result of training and women and youth are more engaged with the management.</li> </ul>
13.	<b>Links with Other Initiatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Forestry currently have ongoing outreach projects that promote best farming practices. This project will link into the efforts that are already being made by these Ministries.</li> <li>• There are several NGOs with village outreach programs that correspond with the education goals of this project, specifically Live and Learn and One Small Bag. The project will have funds to bring in organizations that can aid in CCA education/training.</li> <li>• An aquaculture (tilapia fish farm) project component of PACC is also planned for Rovo Bay. As such the training centre will add value to this activity and enable a broader approach to livelihood development and food security.</li> <li>• The project will also collaborate with the UN Women &amp;</li> </ul>

		<p>Shefa Province on the Millennium Markets Program, which will be support market initiatives in Lamén Bay and Varsu on Epi Island. A Markets Officer has been employed by the province as a part of this project, but will be based out of the Port Vila Office. It will be important to work closely with this project to share plans and lessons learned and to explore opportunities for collaboration, cost sharing, replication and expansion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within the scope of the V-CAP this project will link to the Marine Conservation Activity, the Ridge to Reef Land Management Activity, and the WASH Activity. This project will enable use of the Training and Resource Centre to implement these activities.</li> </ul>
14.	<b>Implementation</b>	<p>The Rovo Bay Market has an established and effective Market Committee that is well positioned to guide and support the infrastructure development component of the program. The training center component will require the establishment of a new Rovo Bay Training Center Committee comprised of the District Manager, representatives from the Market Committee, women and youth representatives (drawn from exciting networks across the area), church, school and health representatives.</p> <p><b>Implementation Phase: Implementation of specific interventions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Climate proofing of the market <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Addition of rain gutters</li> <li>▪ Fix erosive spots at the base of the market infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Install rain tarps</li> </ul> </li> <li>ii) Extension and enhancement of the market <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Market expansion (3mx 10m concrete pad and roof)</li> <li>▪ Addition of 9 fuel efficient cook stoves</li> <li>▪ Addition of 9 ventilating fans (1 for each stove)</li> <li>▪ Addition of the community oven</li> <li>▪ Addition of the water tanks and purging tube</li> </ul> </li> <li>iii) Conversion of a Rovo Bay District Office building to a Training Center, including purchase of training equipment and supplies</li> <li>iv) Development and delivery of customized training programs designed to address the specific interests and needs of women in adapting to climate change impacts on food security, water and sanitation and livelihoods. Training programs will be delivered by Project Officers, government extension workers and/or NGOs</li> <li>v) Development of the demonstration garden and nursery in collaboration with the agricultural extension worker</li> <li>vi) In collaboration with the V-CAP initiative to develop the Rovo Bay CC Youth Club, establish an organizing committee comprised of youth representatives (male and</li> </ul>

		<p>female) from each village in the site area to develop a youth engagement strategy and assist in formulating the Training Center educational program.</p> <p>vii) Provide capacity building support to the Rovo Bay Market Committee and the Rovo Bay Training Center Committee for improved planning and management skills required for effective CC resilience responses.</p> <p><b>Monitoring and evaluation: Ongoing</b></p> <p>i) In collaboration with the Market Committee and District Administrator, routinely assess the impact of project interventions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The planning and management capacity of the Rovo Bay Market Committee and the Rovo Bay Training Center Committee</li> <li>▪ The ability of the improved infrastructure to assuage the impacts of climate change</li> <li>▪ The use and maintenance of the cook stoves, oven and water tank additions</li> <li>▪ The number of market vendors (% increase) and market sales (% increase)</li> <li>▪ Sale of cooked foods (% increase)</li> <li>▪ Use of new climate change resistant crops</li> <li>▪ Engagement of youth in climate proofing market infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Number of trainings conducted at the training venue and participation rates of women and other vulnerable groups from all villages in the V-CAP site</li> <li>▪ Use of the resource centre and outcomes arising from this use</li> </ul> <p>Effectiveness of trainings with respect to crop diversification, adoption of new species, improved upland and water management practices etc.</p>
15.	<b>Outline Terms of Reference</b>	<p>TOR to be developed for a Market Development and Training Center Coordinator on a half time basis for 4 years to manage this initiative. The duties of this Officer would include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Rovo Bay Market Committee, District Office management and V-CAP Field Officer in scoping and commissioning climate proofing of the market place, addition of cooking area, acquisition and installation of smokeless stoves, budget preparation and supervision of infrastructure development works.</li> <li>• Collaborate with the District Agricultural Office and V-CAP Field Officer in establishing the demonstration garden and nursery.</li> <li>• Establish the CC Resource Centre, acquire and distribute materials to villages, schools, women and youth networks</li> </ul>

		<p>etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish the Climate Change Youth Club, organize trainings and programs on sustainable terrestrial and marine ecosystems and engage young people in income-earning opportunities related to CC resilience efforts such as removal of invasive species, development of demonstration garden and nursery, assisting in market CC infrastructure development.</li> <li>• Organize land and marine management s trainings for female and male farmers with specific focus on food security and WASH.</li> <li>• Ensure linkages with other CC projects, initiatives and V-CAP activities in the district are developed and maintained for optimal efficiency and effectiveness.</li> <li>• Carry out capacity development activities with the Rovo Bay Market Committee to ensure sustainability of market place improvements and the new CC Training and Resource Centre.</li> <li>• Work closely with the V-CAP Project GESI/M&amp;E Officer to ensure that all project activities will promote gender equity and social inclusion and that a robust M&amp;E system is established and implemented to capture changes in CC knowledge, practice and attitudes and documentation of lessons learned.</li> </ul>
16.	<b>Benefits</b>	<p><b>Expected benefits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved crop quality and diversity</li> <li>• Improved market sales and livelihoods</li> <li>• Market infrastructure climate proofed</li> <li>• Use of the Rovo Bay meeting buildings for CC trainings</li> <li>• Use of the Rovo Bay land as a training garden and nursery</li> <li>• Improvements in land and marine management practices as a result of the training</li> <li>• Improvements in water management and WASH practices as a result of the training</li> <li>• Active engagement of youth in local climate change resilience efforts</li> <li>• Greater capacity of local committees and District Officers to plan, manage and monitor climate change impacts and interventions.</li> <li>• Women are more knowledgeable and empowered to deal with the impacts of climate change on their families and households.</li> </ul>
17.	<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<p>Through the village consultations we were informed that the majority in the villages use the facilities or services of Rovo Bay in some capacity. In that case the beneficiaries of this project include the entire population of the project area (1324 people).</p>

		<p>Specifically, the beneficiaries are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmers and fishers will benefit through hands-on training programs that enable them to successfully use climate proofing techniques for better land and marine management resulting in improved food security and water management</li> <li>• Women and children will benefit from increased good quality local food and income derived from the increased sale of market produce .</li> <li>• Youth will benefit by gaining knowledge and skills required for sustainable farming and fishing needed to manage their natural resources for future security; through income generation activities related to CC resilience efforts; and by greater engagement in community development efforts.</li> <li>• Market venders will benefit from a climate proofed market facility; increased space; provision of cooking facilities; use of energy efficient cook stoves; improved water supply and knowledge of good WASH practices.</li> <li>• Local Development Committees will benefit through enhanced management capacity.</li> </ul>
18.	<b>Gender</b>	<p><b>Links to Gender Equity and Social Inclusion Strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This project directly responds to the priority needs identified by women, youth and other vulnerable groups on Epi Island during project preparation. It is an important component of the V-CAP Gender Equity and Social Inclusion Strategy as it provides a range of targeted, inter-related activities to enhance climate change resilience using a district station (the natural meeting point for the area) as the focus.</li> <li>• The project will provide customized training for women on new farming techniques and sustainable upland management practices required for the production of high quality food crops needed for household consumption and livelihoods. Market sales is generally the only source of income for women in this area and is essential for paying school fees and supplies, purchasing staple food supplies not grown locally, transport to health centers and markets etc. Training will also address water, sanitation and hygiene issues, business establishment skills and other areas of concern to women such as reproductive health, violence against women, leadership skills, business development etc.</li> <li>• This project will also benefit youth through their active engagement in training programs, CC Youth Clubs and income generation opportunities designed to build local resilience.</li> </ul>

19.	<b>Environment</b>	This will be completed and submitted to the Department of Environment as is required by the Environment and Conservation Act (2006).
20.	<b>Risks and assumptions</b>	<p><b>Risks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rovo Bay meeting buildings are not used to support climate change resilience trainings</li> <li>• The Market Committee does not maintain climate proofing solutions</li> <li>• The Market Committee does not maintain the market enhancement infrastructure.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assumptions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The projects for Local Marine Managed Areas and Ridge to Reef Land Management entail plans to use the Rovo Bay meeting buildings for trainings. If these projects are successful then the buildings will be used for area trainings.</li> <li>• From our consultations we assume that the Rovo Bay leadership and the Market Committee involved in this project will engage in the management and maintenance of the new and improved infrastructure.</li> <li>• The number of female market vendors will increase along with the sale of high quality cash crops.</li> </ul>
21.	<b>Prepared by</b>	Colleen Peacock-Taylor, V-CAP PPG International Gender Advisor and Virginia Smith, International Coastal Zone Management Specialist

**Budget** (waiting costing info from ADAPT engineer)

	<b>Inputs</b>					
		<b>Unit description</b>	<b>Unit cost</b>	<b>No of Units</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Comment</b>
	Material & goods					
	- Saplings					
	- Gardening supplies					
	- Garden construction					
	- Grasses (stabilizing species)					
	Communication Audiovisual & Print Production Costs					
	Contractual services -					
	- Companies					
	- Small grants, etc					
	Training, Workshops and Conferences					
	- Training courses					
	- Meetings					

	- Others					
	Travel					
	- domestic					
	- per diem					
	Miscellaneous Expenses					
	<b>TOTAL</b>					

## Projected Climate Change Impacts on Food Security and Water Resources in the Pacific

### Projected climate change impacts on food security in the Pacific

- Warmer temperatures could benefit some crops, for example by extending fruiting seasons, but wetter or drier conditions may offset any gains.
- Important cash crops (for example sugar, coffee, copra and cocoa) are likely to experience production, yield and quality declines due to changed climatic conditions.
- Climate change will alter agro-biodiversity across the Pacific and change pest and disease regimes, both of which will adversely impact on agricultural production.
- Coastal fisheries harvests could be reduced by 50% by 2100. This decline is as a result of the direct effects of global warming and ocean acidification on fish and invertebrate species, and the indirect effects on their habitats (coral reefs, mangroves, seagrasses and intertidal flats) which exacerbate underlying challenges from overfishing and coastal pollution.
- Freshwater fisheries and aquaculture may benefit from warmer, wetter conditions.
- Offshore fish stocks are expected to increase in the medium term and move further east due to changing ocean currents.
- Rising sea levels are likely to affect food security, particularly in low-lying atoll countries and coastal areas of high volcanic islands through erosion of land and salinisation. Such effects are generally longer term and could have a major impact on regional food production later this century.
- Further along the food chain, climate change impacts may damage infrastructure, especially transport systems.

Adopted from Food Security in the Pacific and East Timor and its vulnerability to climate change, As contained in *Pacific Gender and Climate Change Toolkit; Tools from Practitioners*. SPC 2013

### Projected climate change impacts on water resources in the Pacific

- Increased rainfall variability is very likely, and will lead to unpredictable water availability.
- More frequent and/or more intense floods are very likely, with potential to damage water infrastructure and add to pollution problems; but could also contribute to increasing water availability in areas where it is currently limited.
- There is likely to be an increase in areas affected by drought, which will contribute to reduced water availability, depleted groundwater, reduced water quality and increased risk of water-borne diseases.
- More intense tropical cyclones are also likely, which will damage water systems as well as power systems affecting water supply, and will contribute to water pollution and increase in water-borne diseases.
- Sea level rise will cause saltwater intrusion in coastal areas and salinisation of groundwater, as well as possible damage to water systems.
- Changes in river flow and discharge may lead to changes in seasonal water availability, cause increased risk of flash floods, have impact on groundwater recharge, and may affect hydropower generation where used.

Adopted from IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, 2007, As contained in *Pacific Gender and Climate Change Toolkit; Tools from Practitioners*. SPC 2

## ANNEX 4: Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change and Gender

The following “key messages” were extracted from *Pacific Gender and Climate Change Toolkit; Tools from Practitioners* (SPC 2013) Module 2.4 on Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change and Gender and are highly relevant to project work in DDR and EWSs.

- Disasters happen when a hazard – such as flood, cyclone or sea level rise – occurs in a place where people are vulnerable
- Men and women have different vulnerabilities and exposure to disasters, due to traditional roles and the specific situation or context, which we must analyse case by case
- Men and women also have a range of different capacities for anticipating and reducing the likelihood of disasters occurring
- Women’s vulnerability is partly due to lack of mobility, as they are often expected to stay close to home to undertake household work and attend to family members
- Men tend to have greater access to resources, such as income and vehicles, and due to social roles generally have more mobility which makes them less vulnerable to disasters
- To effectively reduce disaster risk programmes and projects must identify and acknowledge the various capacities and skills that both women and men can contribute to risk reduction, such as traditional knowledge and practices
- Initiatives for disaster risk reduction must also build the capacities of both men and women equitably, by training both in the use of new technologies, such as early warning systems
- To be successful, investments in disaster risk reduction, such as local infrastructure projects or community activities and plans, must consult both men and women extensively, to learn about their ideas and preferences
- Leadership by both men and women at the community and national level is essential for effective disaster risk reduction

**Promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations  
and in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the  
Kyoto Protocol  
Submission by the Republic of Vanuatu, 2013**

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1. Welcoming the invitation from decision 23/CP.18 to provide views on options and ways to advance the gender balance goal adopted by the UNFCCC Secretariat and Parties in this decision, the Republic of Vanuatu acknowledges the great advancement made by Parties at COP18 on gender by adopting the above mentioned decision stating “Promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol”.

2. Reminding the Parties of the central role played by women in climate change adaptation, mitigation, scientific research, policy and decision making, but also in the pursuit of sustainable development, peace and democracy, the Republic of Vanuatu also recognises the importance of including women in all levels of climate change decisions and frameworks, while ensuring that their voice, views and priorities are taken into account and that gender-sensitive approaches are used to implement climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

3. Underlining that women’s participation has been undermined throughout the history of the UNFCCC and that women continue to be underrepresented in the bodies of the Convention, the Republic of Vanuatu recalls that from 2008 to 2012, the ratios of women in the UNFCCC delegations (30%) and in all bodies and boards of the UNFCCC (10%) have remained steady, highlighting the lack of progress on the issue<sup>1</sup>. Even though gender imbalances are common to all countries, significant differences have been identified between Annex I and non Annex I countries. For example, 42% of the national delegations of Eastern and Western Europe are women, whereas in Africa and Asia- Pacific this ratio only reaches 21%<sup>2</sup>. This significant gap between Annex I and Non Annex I countries is a reflection of the difficulty encountered by women in developing countries to break through strong structural and cultural barriers. However, considering the dual status of women, especially in developing countries, as both one of the most vulnerable groups and key actors of change, it is all the more crucial to address gender imbalances and support women in becoming more fairly and equally part of the UNFCCC negotiations.

4. Informing the UNFCCC Secretariat and the Parties of the significant efforts that have been made to place women at the core of the development of the nation, through, for instance, the drafting of a National Gender Policy which is to be completed by September 2013, with extensive consultations throughout the Provinces and with all stakeholders within Government and civil society organisations, the Republic of Vanuatu calls on the UNFCCC Secretariat and Parties to consider the following components in their discussions towards gender balance.

### **1. Substantive Equality Principle in the Processes towards Gender Balance**

The Republic of Vanuatu requests more clarity and specificity in the statements made under decision 23/CP.18, adopting the goal of “gender balance”, referring to the participation of women in high-level decision-making processes. Although the Republic of Vanuatu agrees with the vision that is carried by this terminology, the nation suggests that more clarity be brought in regards to the processes and efforts undertaken by Parties on the issue.

The Republic of Vanuatu calls for this commitment to be more specific on its implications. Indeed, adopting the terminology “gender balance” does not imply that Substantive Equality, as defined in the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), referring to the actions taken to provide equal opportunities and to correct the inequality of power between men and women, has been fulfilled. The Republic of Vanuatu therefore suggests that the principle of Substantive Equality be explicitly included in Decision 23/CP.18, emphasizing the two different kinds of efforts that will be needed to achieve gender balance.

Also, considering the contextual differences between Annex I and Non Annex I parties in the achievement of Substantive Equality, and the difficulties faced in the latter to transcend a male-dominated political life and break through heavy cultural barriers, the Republic of Vanuatu suggests that Parties adopt nationally relevant processes to reach gender balance, therefore aligning with the principle of Equality of Results as defined in CEDAW.

## **2. Using Temporary Special Measures to Reach a “Critical Mass ” of Women in UNFCCC Bodies**

Reminding the UNFCCC Secretariat and Parties that across the Pacific, excluding Australia and New Zealand, only 3% of the Members of Parliament are women<sup>3</sup>, the Republic of Vanuatu calls on the Parties to acknowledge the alarming scale of women’s underrepresentation in high level decision making spheres and the need to urgently reverse this current trend. Considering the substantial underrepresentation of women in all bodies of the UNFCCC, the Republic of Vanuatu suggests that Parties take decisive actions to reach a “critical mass” of women in the bodies pursuant to the Convention.

Recalling paragraph 1 of Decision 23/CP.18, stating that “additional efforts need to be made by all Parties to improve the participation of women”, the Republic of Vanuatu suggests that the Parties adopt “temporary special measures” as presented in Article 4.1 of the CEDAW adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979 and ratified by Vanuatu in 1995. These measures, represented under the terminology “Positive Discrimination”, are part of the legal framework that has already been agreed on by Parties at the seventh session of CEDAW in 1988. Quoting the above mentioned article, the Republic of Vanuatu reminds the Parties that such measures would enable the UNFCCC to “accelerate the improvement of the position of women to achieve their de facto or substantive equality with men”, while simultaneously implementing longer term efforts to ensure sustainable gender balance.

Recalling the General Recommendation No. 5 of the seventh session of CEDAW, the Republic of Vanuatu recommends that Parties use “temporary special measures such as positive action, preferential treatment or quota systems”. Lessons learned on women’s empowerment show that these measures and, more specifically, the use of numerical targets, have a more effective impact on the advancement of gender balance. Therefore, acknowledging that countries should have their own aspirations and common but differentiated processes to achieve gender balance, the Republic of Vanuatu recommends that temporary special measures be adopted by the UNFCCC Secretariat and Parties. More specifically, the Republic of Vanuatu suggests that Parties discuss the establishment of a numerical target to be included in Decision 23/CP.18. The Republic of Vanuatu also suggests that an incentive mechanism be put in place to grant bonuses to the Parties that implement and meet such numerical gender targets, whilst taking into consideration national contexts, reminding that achieving modest targets in very patriarchal settings may be much more impressive than achieving close to, or equal gender balance in other countries.

## **3. Providing an Enabling Environment Leading to Sustainable Gender Balance**

The representation and participation of women will not improve as long as the underlying causes of inequality and inequity are not properly addressed. For this reason, the Republic of Vanuatu has identified four main areas on which the UNFCCC Secretariat and Parties could focus their efforts to make progress towards gender balance.

### **A. Education and Capacity Building**

Studies on women’s participation in high-level decision-making, such as The Full View published this year by UN Women and Mary Robinson Foundation, added to lessons learned from the experiences of regional actors such as the African Union or the Quito Consensus<sup>4</sup>, reveal that women’s empowerment cannot be achieved without capacity-building activities.

The Republic of Vanuatu therefore encourages the UNFCCC to make proactive efforts in supporting women’s education and skills building. This could take the form of including gender issues and gender sensitisation in the capacity building training and workshops organised under the

UNFCCC, targeting both men and women, and taking measures ensuring that women have every opportunity to play an active role in these sessions.

## **B. Financial Resources**

In Non Annex I countries where financial resources are limited, it is common that opportunities are given to men as they traditionally hold political and economic power. In our efforts towards gender balance, it is crucial to ensure that women are not discriminated against for financial reasons.

Consequently, the Republic of Vanuatu suggests to the UNFCCC Secretariat to consider gender balance in the allocation of funds, especially regarding the delegates attending the Conference of Parties as statistics show that women's participation is lower at these meetings than at others<sup>5</sup>. While acknowledging that governments have sovereignty on the nomination of the attending delegates, the Republic of Vanuatu urges the UNFCCC Secretariat to allocate specific resources to ensure that women have every opportunity to participate in and attend the Conference of Parties every year.

## **C. Policy and Reporting**

Considering the stakes of the UNFCCC negotiations, gender balance cannot be solely considered as an end goal, but rather as a means towards the development of fairer and more comprehensive policies and legal frameworks enabling the Parties to address climate change issues. The Republic of Vanuatu therefore welcomes the paragraph 9 of Decision 23/CP.18 adding "the issue of gender and climate change as a standing item on the agenda of sessions of the Conference of the Parties" and suggests that discussions on gender are included in all panel discussions.

In order to assess and ensure progress of Parties on the issue, the Republic of Vanuatu urges the UNFCCC Secretariat to establish strong monitoring and reporting mechanisms. The Republic of Vanuatu suggests that all reports submitted by Parties to the UNFCCC have a gender section, outlining actions and measures undertaken to reach gender balance and reporting on their progress to date. In return, the Republic of Vanuatu insists that all UNFCCC reports made by Parties contain sex-disaggregated data. The Republic of Vanuatu also suggests that the UNFCCC Secretariat maintain a ranking of countries and regions progressing towards greater gender balance and that this data be made publicly available, therefore encouraging a friendly spirit of competition between Parties.

## **D. Culture and Sociology**

As highlighted in the introduction, one of the strongest structural barriers to overcome in most of Non Annex I countries deals with negative gender-based stereotypes prevalent in the culture and society. Women's empowerment cannot be fully achieved as long as these negative stereotypes persist and until the broader society accepts the role women can play at high decision-making levels.

While welcoming the paragraph 10 of Decision 23/CP.18 and the organization of an in-session gender workshop, the Republic of Vanuatu suggests that gender equity and the weight of negative gender stereotypes be addressed in the agenda. In addition, given the high number of applications for Side Events at the Conference of Parties this year, and the new selection process established by the Secretariat, the Republic of Vanuatu proposes that, for the 19th session and future Conference of Parties, one of the selection criteria for Side Events include how the proposed side event discusses gender impact or analysis or integration. Finally, the Republic of Vanuatu reminds the Parties of the importance of gender awareness amongst the UNFCCC bodies themselves, and suggests that all UNFCCC staff undergo gender sensitization training and/or workshops.

Although the Republic of Vanuatu has not yet been able to display high levels of gender balance, the nation is committed to place gender at the core of national development. In June this year, the Vanuatu Government led by the Hon. Prime Minister Moana Carcasses Kalosil after 33 years of independence marked a historical event in unanimously approving the tabling of bills in the next Parliament session to introduce a Temporary Special Measure of a 16-year quota of 30-34% to be allocated for women's seats in all Municipal Councils. This Quota Bill has been passed by Vanuatu

Parliament on the 26th August 2013, making of the Port Vila Municipal Council the first to be elected with this quota in place.

The Republic of Vanuatu is also committed to integrating gender into climate change policies, as outlined in the National Priorities and Actions Agenda, National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Land-Based Resources 2012-2022 and in the draft National Climate Change and Disaster Risks Reduction Policy of the National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risks Reduction (NAB). Beyond the development of a National Gender Policy, the Republic of Vanuatu has taken ambitious measures to make progress on the issue in its approach to the UNFCCC process. This year, the Republic of Vanuatu set up a numerical target for full gender equality, e.g. 50% women, in the composition of the national delegation. It should also be noted that the Republic of Vanuatu entered the process of submissions with this very submission focused on gender balance, reflecting the determination of the country to push the gender agenda at both national and international levels.

In spite of these great efforts to achieve gender balance, the Republic of Vanuatu reminds the UNFCCC Secretariat, Parties and partners that comprehensive support and effective measures will be needed, in particular in Non Annex I countries where structural barriers keep challenging the role of women in political life.

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