



CLIMATE CHANGE
DIVISION,
VANUATU
METEOROLOGY AND
GEO-HAZARDS
DEPARTMENT

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

Welcome to this Edition		1
What is the IRCCNH Project?		2
East and West Tanna Baseline Survey		3
First Micro-projects in Tanna Island		4
Government assist farmers with agriculture tools		5
Interview: Staff profiles		6
New Disaster Centers for Torba and Tafea provinces		7
Strengthening of the Early Warning Systems in Vanuatu		8
VARTC Develops improved crop varieties		8
Government assists communities with VT12 million worth of sawmills		9
Project mid-term review brief report		9
Villagers benefited from water tanks		10
Ministry of Climate Change Contact		10

INCREASING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL HAZARDS PROJECT IN VANUATU

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WELCOME to this first edition of the IRCCNH Project newsletter



Brian Philips, Project Manager, IRCCNH Project

Welcome to our stakeholders, partners and readers to this first edition of the Increasing Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Hazards (IRCCNH) Project newsletter. This quarterly newsletter is an initiative to share information on the project's activities to increasing the resilience of our people and communities to the issues affecting our countries as a result of

climate change and natural hazards in Vanuatu. In this first edition, we provide an overview of the IRCCNH Project approach and locations and some highlights of components past activities in various project sites in Vanuatu. We hope you will find it to be informative and interesting to find out the type of activities the project is implementing in your areas in the past years in terms of addressing issues concerning climate change and natural hazards. You can find out more by contacting our office in Port Vila or by checking the NAB Portal.



In partnership with the:



Government of Vanuatu



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WHAT IS THE IRCCNH PROJECT IN VANUATU?

Its development objective is to help increase the resilience of communities in Vanuatu to the impacts of climate variability and natural hazards on food and water security as well as livelihoods.



A project activity in Tanna—doing the baseline survey consultation with facilitators

The Increasing Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Hazards (IRCCNH) Project in Vanuatu is a project belonging to the Vanuatu Government and is currently implemented by the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department (VMGD) under the Ministry of Climate Change and Natural Disasters.

Other government agencies involved in the coordination and implementation of the different components of this project are the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Department of Local Authorities, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), Vanuatu Agriculture Research and Training Centre (VARTC) and the Department of Mines, Geology and Rural Water Supply.

The Project got its funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), The European Union (EU) Africa, and Caribbean Pacific (ACP) Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) Program through the Global Fund for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and the European

Union (EU) Global Climate Change-Alliance (GCCA) Program. Its development objective is to help increase the resilience of communities in Vanuatu to the impacts of climate variability and natural hazards on food and water security as well as livelihoods. In this regard it pilot investments in priority villages in Vanuatu to increase the resilience to the impacts of natural hazards and climate variability and change, strengthen disaster risk management systems, and support recovery efforts post Tropical Cyclone Pam that hit Vanuatu in March 2015.

There are four components to this project and **Component 1** is looking at institutional strengthening for climate change and disaster management sectors in terms of strengthening of the National Advisory Board to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in Vanuatu (NAB) Secretariat, strengthening the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and strengthening the Early Warning Systems (EWS) at the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department (VMGD). **Component 2** is focusing on

increasing community resilience in coastal areas through the strengthening of methods, processes and protocols for climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk management (DRM) and enhancing community and eco-system Based Adaptation and DRM in coastal areas and on active volcanic islands (two coastal and volcanic areas councils identified Gaua and Tanna. This component also focuses on the core of the project which is community investments through micro-projects and building resilience in terms of improving access to fresh water, developing options for improved crops and increasing access to government services such as health and trade centers.

Component 3 is looking at promoting improved technologies for food crop production and resilience to climate change through the production and distribution of improved plant genetic material and distribution of improved Agricultural Technologies to support on-farm production and resilience to climate change with farmers.

Component 4 looks at Rural Water Security by improving the increased access to secure water supply by strengthening the rural water supply through the completion of the national inventory of rural water systems, updating rural water supply standards and guidelines, improving outreach to partners and the installation of rainwater catchment and storage systems in affected communities.

At this stage of the project, the focus is concentrated on community investments that is building community resilience through micro-projects. The current micro-projects on Tanna focus on water systems rehabilitation, establishment of emergency evacuation centers, strengthening feeder roads and building multi-purpose rain harvesting water systems.

Look up the NAB Portal Website on the following link: <http://www.nab.vu/projects/increasing-resilience-climate-change-and-natural-hazards-vanuatu> for more information about this project.

“NAB Portal provides information on events, calendars, project profiles and information, documents, news and many more. Book mark www.nab.vu in your internet browser today.”

EAST AND WEST TANNA BASELINE SURVEY

IRCCNH Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) baseline survey field data collection and data entry was implemented in collaboration with the Vatu Mauri Consortium (VMC) and the Project Management Unit (PMU) at the Vanuatu Department of Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department (VMGD). The survey commenced in February 2016 with a training of the VMC facilitators and led onto the launching of the baseline in May 2016 at Lounapiktuan village on West Tanna. Data collection was only started in late June 2016 and finishing in early September 2016.

To some extent, some identification of risks and vulnerabilities were sought through this comprehensive baseline survey. The baseline survey assessed a total of 220 villages of East and West Tanna. Baseline data was then analysed and produced village profiles and reports for the 220 villages and the reports show the current situation of these villages. Current situation covers topographic situations, a history of natural disasters in the area, land degradation issues, availability of natural resources, social relationships, water and sanitation situations, infrastructure types and everything one needs to know about a village.

The baseline profiles and reports were then used by the Tafea Provincial Technical Advisory Commission (TAC) in September 2016 to select fifty (50) micro-projects for the island of Tanna. These are small community investments focussing on increasing resilient livelihoods through increased access to fresh water and access to improved agricultural root crops and improving roads to enable access to trade centres and medical services. The selections were centred on the degree of vulnerability and isolation of each of the communities. The ground project operations team includes the provincial water engineer, the provincial disaster officer and the provincial project officer who work very closely with the project team in Port Vila to coordinate the implementation of the micro-projects on the ground in Tanna.



A show of hands agreeing to water as their priority during the Tanna baseline exercise in one of the villages in Tanna.



Tafea province and VMC heads at the official launching of the Tanna baseline survey in Tanna.



Field data collection in Tanna

FOUR MICRO-PROJECTS LAUNCHED ON TANNA

Four micro-projects were launched in Tanna at the end of last year 2016, which benefited many communities by accessing clean and safe water. The micro-projects were mainly on rain water catchment and water gravity fed systems. The communities benefited from these micro-projects were latukwei, Imaio, Enima, and Launelapen. The completion of these water systems benefited a total population of 561 people and 230 households in North West, South East and West Tanna Area Councils.

The launching ceremony of these micro-projects also marked the handing over of the completed water systems to the benefited communities in Tanna. These projects were part of the World Bank funded project called the Increasing Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Hazards (IRCCNH) in Vanuatu.

The launching of these micro-projects were attended by the World Bank team members, Tafea provincial Secretary General, Director of Water Resources and staff from the Ministry of Climate Change from Port Vila and Tafea provincial government.

The objectives of establishing such micro-projects scheme under the IRCCNH Project are to provide a

safe and secure water supply for the designated communities that are resilient to climatic changes and natural hazards and also to enable communities to take charge of and maintain their water supply systems without external support in future. It is also to ensure that water systems and pipeline networks are sufficiently scalable and can support future additional load such as adequate water supply for additional communities and projected population increases.

These sites were selected by the Tafea Provincial Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) based on the results from a baseline study conducted in Tanna in 2016. The baseline is part of the community assessment and contains the following sections; general information, baseline survey workshop participants, geographic and population profile, committees, economic and asset profile, infrastructure and communication profile, village access, wash situation, risk profile and natural resources profile.

Access to water is currently considered the main priority on the island of Tanna, Cyclone Pam had an adverse effect on many of the water systems and this coupled with the extended and extreme El Niño event (2015-16) that has



Itukwei community



Enima community



Imaio community



Launelapen community

affected the area for the past 10 months has meant that the current water systems have not been able to cope with the demands from the communities. These factors indicate that

the water systems in these areas are not sufficiently resilient to natural hazards and climatic effects. It is the intention of these micro-projects to alleviate this problem in future.

Vanuatu Government Assists Communities With Vt32 Million Worth of Agricultural Tools After Cyclone Pam

The aim of this initiative is to support our rural communities and especially local farmers with the necessary tools needed to bring about quick recovery to their subsistence and agricultural activities from the effects of Cyclone Pam.



Left: VMGD Director David Gibson handing the tools over to Antoine Ravo from the Department of Agriculture in Port Vila. Right: Tools being transported to the islands during distribution.

The Government of the Republic of Vanuatu has assisted local communities with Vt32 million worth of agriculture tools as part of its response, recovery and reconstruction efforts to its people to the effects of Tropical Cyclone Pam in 2015.

The official handing over of agricultural tools took place at the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) between the representatives of the Ministry of Climate Change and Natural Disasters and the Ministry of Agriculture.

The aim of this initiative is to support our rural communities and especially local farmers with the necessary tools needed to bring about quick recovery to their subsistence and agricultural activities from the effects of Cyclone Pam.

The total quantity of agricultural tools are 21,900 bush knives, 4,300 axes, 800 spades and 2,200 crow bars. The distribution of tools have already reached the affected rural communities mainly to the

identified farmers based on a distribution plan prepared by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in close coordination with the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster in Vanuatu.

The purchasing of the tools was made possible through the Increasing Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Hazards (IRCCNH) Project in Vanuatu, which is currently managed by the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department (VMGD) through its Project Management Unit (PMU). The project is jointly funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the European Union (EU) and the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR), and administered through the World Bank Group.

The IRCCNH project is a Government owned Project with an overall development objective to help increase the resilience of communities in Vanuatu to the impacts of climate variability and change and natural hazards on food and water security as well as livelihoods.

With this objective, it was the Government's wish to use some of the project resources to contribute to the Government-led recovery efforts as an immediate response to the effects of Tropical Cyclone PAM. This decision, part of the Post Pam Action Plan of the IRCCNH project, was also critical since our country's population is highly reliant on subsistence farming for food security.

Distribution of the farming tools have began in mid-June 2015 through the Logistics team at the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) with close coordination with the Department of Local Authority (DLA) and the Agriculture Department (DARD). The dispatching of these tools ended beginning of August 2015. The tools were distributed to over 32 Area Councils reaching over 17,594 households and benefiting over 84,792 individuals in Tanna, Tafea outer islands, South Pentecost, Ambrym, Paama, Epi, Efate and the shepherd's group of islands.

Profile: Interview with Provincial Disaster Officers Daniel and Fisher

In all our newsletters for this year, we will present two officers who are working under the IRCCNH Project in Vanuatu. They will be discussing their work, what made them do this job and what they like about their job. In this first issue of the IRCCNH project newsletter, we are presenting our two provincial disaster officers from Tafea and Torba provinces. Daniel Samson is our provincial disaster officer in Isangel, Tanna and Fisher Young Dinh is our provincial disaster officer in Sola, Vanua Lava. The two officers were the first PDOs in Tafea and Torba provinces and represents the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) in the two provinces. Their positions were funded under the IRCCNH Project.



Mr Daniel Samson:

What is your home island/country?

I come from the island of Tanna in the Tafea Province in Vanuatu.

What was your education background?

I only completed secondary school level in Tanna and since then I have been participating in a lot of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation trainings over the years, which has helped to develop my knowledge and skills in the areas of climate change and disaster risk reduction in Vanuatu. These trainings have also build my interest and experience into running activities that can help my people, community and island on how to prepare towards any disaster events happening in future. Also learn-

ing from the elders and people on traditional coping techniques has helped build my skills in disaster preparedness, which I also use in my awareness in disaster preparedness in communities around Tanna.

What made you work in the area of Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction?

I want to work in the area of climate change and disaster risk reduction because I want to help my community on ways they can be well prepared before any disasters can happen and how they adapt in situations where climate change issues can affect them, which is already regarded as a cross cutting issue amongst many sectors in Vanuatu and the world as a whole today. I also believe that equipping our people with the right knowledge is very important to keep them safe from any disaster events at all times in future.

What part of your work do you like the most?

I like to provide awareness and basic trainings on climate change and disaster risk reduction issues and to our local disaster committees in our different communities. I believe that providing our people in the communities with the right information, knowledge and training on how to become resilient before, during and after a disaster is very important, and so providing trainings to our community disaster and climate change committees (CDCCC) and to help set them up in the communities in Tanna is what I enjoyed most in my job.

"I believe that equipping our people with the right knowledge is very important to keep them safe from any future disaster events at all times".



Mr Fisher Young Dinh

What is your home island/country?

I come from the island of Vanua Lava in the Torba Province in Vanuatu.

What was your education background?

I attended Arep Primary and went to Lycee de Bougainville to complete my secondary education. Because I have interest in computing science, I went on to do Computer Hardware and Networking at the Edwards Computer Foundation. From there I completed an online Diploma in Computer science with the Pakistan Institute of Computer Science. Then from 2012 to 2014 I did an online course on Disaster Risk Management and currently doing a degree program with USP in Computer science.

What made you work in the area of Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction?

My knowledge and experience on DRR was developed while working with the Red Cross from 2011 to 2013 in a DRR project called, "Together Becoming Resilient". During those years I was employed as the Vanua Lava Sub-branch officer and Torba Branch Officer. My prime responsibilities are to work with three pilot communities in Vanua Lava and to manage other Red Cross Sub-branch officers in other islands around Torba Province. It was during those years that I became familiar with the DRR and DRM and climate change

issues by attending various trainings, workshops, meetings and participating in the establishment of CDCCCs through the community based DRR processes. When I joined the IRCCNH project team in 2014, I felt like I already acquired knowledge and experience to better perform my responsibilities as outlined for the Provincial disaster and climate change officer position. My great achievement in 2016 is the development of the Torba Provincial Disaster response plan. Thank you to the Red Cross and funding from the ECHO for their assistance in completing this response plan. What made me to work in DRM and climate change is working and helping the rural communities.

What part of your work do you like the most?

As many communities still need to be better prepared to cope with climate change and disasters facing them today, an ongoing challenge is to build their resilience. I love to travel

"I see that many communities still need better preparations to cope with disaster and climate change issues, an ongoing challenge is to build their resilience through my work".

to the islands to visit the communities mostly on boat and I enjoyed setting up these Community Disaster and Climate Change Committees (CDCCC) and providing them with the adequate information on disaster issues and later revisiting them.

To find out more information about their work, contact Daniel on tafeadisasterofficer@gmail.com or Fisher on fdinh@vanuatu.gov.vu.

New Disaster Centers for Torba and Tafea Provinces



The NDMO office at Isangel, Tafea Province.



The NDMO office at Sola, Torba Province.

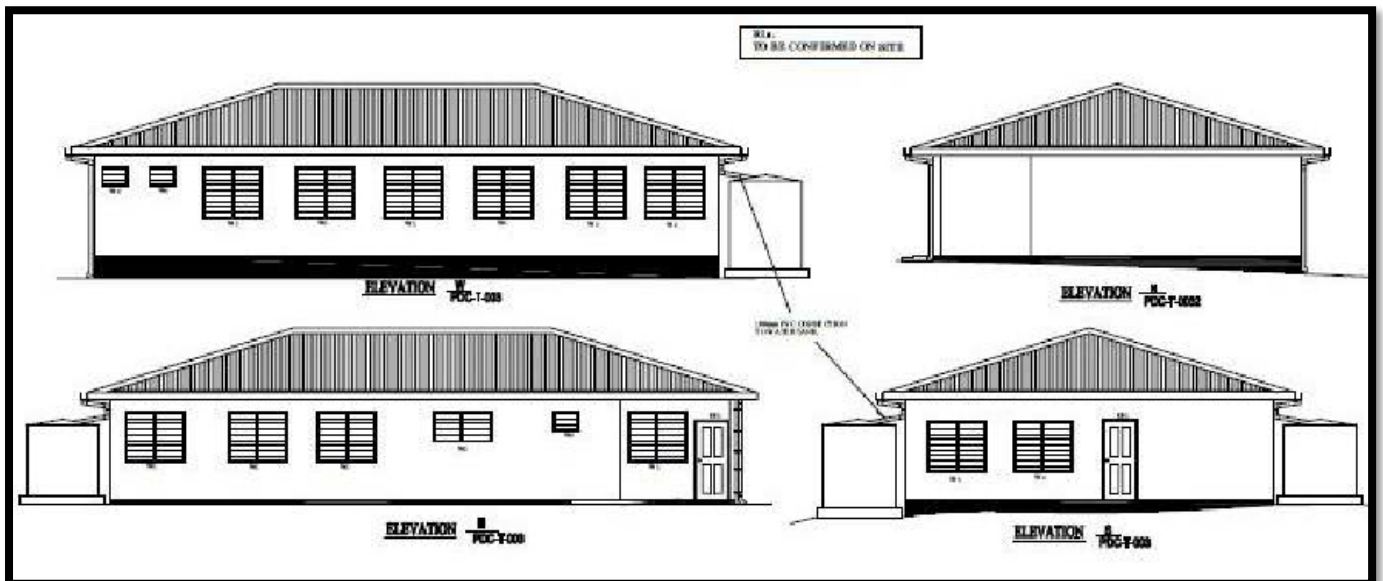
Two new fully equipped disaster centers worth over 52 million vatu were built for the Torba and Tafea provinces under the Increasing Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Hazards (IRCCNH) Project in Vanuatu as part of its continued efforts to strengthen the government’s capacity to respond effectively and timely to disaster events in Vanuatu. The project also support two officers to look after the centers for both provinces.

Both Torba and Tafea provinces are a strategic sites for this project because they have active volcanos and are more prone to cyclones and other natural hazards, which makes them susceptible and vulnerable to Natural Hazards.

The completion and opening of the two centers at the end of 2016 marked a success by the national government in fulfilling its efforts to providing easy access to disaster management services to help people in rural communities in their preparedness for natural disasters by decentralizing services to these provinces.

The total cost for building the disaster centers were Vt47,

358,450. The Isangel center is worth Vt25M and the Sola center is worth Vt22.3M to build. The two centers each housed a conference room which will be used as the national disaster operation center, two office spaces, a media room, storage and archives room, a server room, kitchen, bathroom and a reception area. The handing over ceremonies of the two buildings largely contributed to the progress of the Government’s ongoing efforts to improving emergency response services through the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) to the two Provinces. Their Provincial Disaster Officers were stationed at the sites since April 2014. The IRCCNH project’s overall development objective to help increase the resilience of communities in Vanuatu to the impacts of climate variability and change and natural hazards on shelter, water supply as well as livelihoods.



Drawings of the two buildings built in Sola and Isangel provincial headquarters.

Strengthening Early Warning Systems



Seismic station built at the Ambanga site on the island of Ambae.



The Increasing Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Hazards Project in Vanuatu (IRCCNH) has helped to strengthen the Early Warning Systems (EWS) in Vanuatu through the work of the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department (VMGD) in its Volcanic and earthquakes monitoring throughout the country. This has been done by establishing real time data communication networks linking the existing volcano, seismic and weather observing stations with the national data and warning center and strength-

ening multi hazards standard operating procedures currently established by VMGD under the Ministry of Climate Change and Natural Disasters. To support the strengthening of the country's Early Warning Systems, this component has assisted with the refurbishing of the multi hazards warning center by integrating operations of the weather forecast and Geo-hazards monitoring divisions and at the same time linking it with the National Disaster Operation Centre and strengthening multi-hazards activities in Vanuatu. The main purpose of this part of the project is to monitor earthquake detection which will help to lower detection times, which means that now we can locate the earthquake information within two minutes. This in turn improves our EWS in Vanuatu. Also, by increasing the number of seismic stations around the country will also help to locate more earthquakes and will expand the cover-

age of our monitoring. It also improve good coverage as we now through this project have been able to put some stations in our remote and isolated islands in Vanuatu. The new seismic stations are built in Santo, Malo, Malekula, Ambae, Maewo, Lopevi, Vanua Lava and Tanna. Construction works on all sites have been completed last year and currently undergoing installation work on sites by the Geo-hazards Division's technician's team. The two stations on Ambae and Lopevi will also help with the monitoring of the two volcanoes located on Ambae and Lopevi islands. The addition of these new stations will now leave Vanuatu with a total of nineteen (19) seismic stations altogether operating around the country. Their current locations number of stations for each island are four stations on Efate, two each for Tanna, Malekula, Ambrym, Ambae and Santo and one each for the islands of Vanua Lava, Gaua, Maewo, malo and Lopevi.

VARTC Develops improved crop varieties

One of the key components of the IRCCNH Project in Vanuatu is focussing on the promotion of improved technologies for food crop production and resilience to climate change. This component provided support to develop approaches, strategies and technologies for adapting to climate change and responding to food security and market demands. This is done through the production and distribution of improved plant genetic material to further enrich their gene pool of root and tuber crops under ongoing international collaborative agreements. This component also enhanced the ongoing process of selection and multiplication of superior lines of root and tuber crops erosion which are effects of climate change and to expand field testing and multiplication of improved culti-

vars for distribution to farmers in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD). The other area of support through this project is supporting the distribution of improved agricultural technologies to support on-farm production and resilience to climate change through the distribution of improved plant material to farmers in at least five key food crop areas. It also supported the implementation of farmer training and technology delivery systems in at least key food crop areas and supported the adoption of improved cultivars and technologies by farmers that enhance farm incomes, food security and improved resilience to the effects of weather extremes and other impacts of climate change. This component of the project is currently implemented by the



Yam pollination technique at the VARTC

Vanuatu Agriculture Research and Training Centre (VARTC) based in Santo. During the past two years, the project has already successfully developed six improved kumala varieties and yam breeding amongst other improved planting materials which have been distributed to over one thousand farmers throughout the country. More updates on the new crop varieties developed by VARTC will be in our June issue.

“Visit www.nab.vu, or send an email to commp@meteo.gov.vu to get more information on climate change and disaster risk reduction issues in Vanuatu.”

Government Assists Communities With Vt12 million Worth Of Sawmills

The Government through the Increasing Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Hazards Project in Vanuatu (IRCCNH) has assisted local communities with over Vt12 million worth of Sawmills as part of its commitments towards response, recovery and reconstruction efforts to its people to the effects of Tropical Cyclone Pam. The official handing over of the 9 Lucas Mills and 18 mini-mills took place at the Department of Forestry Office in Port Vila between the Director of Forests Hanington Tate and the Director of the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department (VMGD) witnessed by staff of both Departments and Donors. The handing over ceremony largely contributes to the progress of the Government's recovery plan and an important partnership initiative established between the Vanuatu Government and its donor partners in providing such important assets to the recovery efforts especially related to shelter needs for affected communities. The Department of Forests is taking lead in this initiative by putting together an

Action Plan, supported by the UNDP in collaboration with the project and NGO partners, to salvage and utilize fallen trees in the affected communities mainly in Tafea and Shefa as the two most affected Provinces. This is to help people build back their houses damaged and destroyed by cyclone Pam. According to the Department of Forests records, some 90 hectares of woodlot were newly established in 2014 in Tafea province and some 109 hectares in the central region including Shefa province. This is in addition to some 1,400 hectares of woodlot previously established in Tafea and some 500 hectares in Shefa Province. All these plantations were damaged by Cyclone Pam and the mature trees required milling. Therefore this plan will mainly assist small holder woodlot farmers and community based forestry within these two Provinces with portable and mobile sawmills. The decision taken by the Government in bringing this action together



The handing over of sawmills between VMGD and Forestry Directors and looking on is a representative from the World Bank.

was based on the amount of trees destroyed in the two Provinces during the recovery and reconstruction assessments. The islands who benefited from these forestry tools were Epi, Bunigna, Tongariki, Tongoa, Emae, Makira, Efate, Erromango, Aneityum and Tanna. These are the islands who were hit hard by Pam.

PROJECT MID-TERM REVIEW



Mid term review internal discussion with implementing agencies

The mid-term review as stated in the IRCCNH grant agreement eventuated in November 2015 after a preparation mission in March 2015, with the various thematic workshops and wide consultation organized that helped lay the foundations for a clear understanding of all actors on what to expect and what was expected to be achieved out of the process. The process involved a mission team from the World Bank, the implementing agencies, the civil

society network and the Vanuatu meteorology and geo-hazards department through the PMU as the coordinating government agency. The first meeting was held at Aquana resort which focused on Project Management Unit presenting the progress on all project components to the World Bank Team and all participating agencies. This looked at the summary of the progress of the project from 2012 to November 2015. The most significant change on the project was the impacts of the devastating tropical cyclone Pam, which hit Vanuatu on March 2015, which forced the development of technical note number 5, a concept paper with the new priorities requested through the clusters to the IRCCNH project. This looked at livelihoods, water rehabilitation, shelter, emergency tools and natural resources.

The overall outcome of the Mid Term Review was a reminder on the overall development objective of the project which is building community resilience to climate change and natural hazards. The mid-term review also evaluated the coordination of the project in terms of financial management and procurement and the management of component 2 which is community investments or micro-projects. There was an urgent need to finalise the micro-project manual which existed in draft and develop a micro-project selection criteria for selection of micro-projects. The Mid Term Review confirmed the sites which were Tanna and Tongoa-Shepherds as the two sites to focus on. Another significant change that caused delays in implementations for almost 6 months was the coordination of component 2 micro-projects by then department of local authorities. During a World Bank mission after the Mid Term Review mission, which was six months later the coordination of component 2 was given back to the Project Management Unit at VMGD, which then saw a quick start to the rolling out of component 2.

Villagers Benefited From New Water Tanks



The rain water catchment system in Launelapen village. Insert, Salok Harry collecting water from the new tank..

In Tanna like the rest of Vanuatu, traditionally, women and children are the primary collectors, users and managers of household water. When water systems break down women and children are the most affected, since they then have to travel far to search for water for household use. According to a baseline survey conducted under the IRCCNH Project in Vanuatu, the Nariakene Community in Launelapen Village in West Tanna identified livelihood and water access as issues of concern which they need support with from the national and provincial government. They have a population of 156 people with 68 households. Access to

water in this community has been a problem for decades. The village's only gravity fed water system was installed way back in 1988 by the government and from time to time got contaminated by dead leaves and mud during heavy rain. When this happened, people will have to use other alternative sources, which most times people walk for around fifteen minutes to get there. Collecting drinking water is the women's responsibility and they spend three to four hours daily just completing that task. Given these circumstances, the need for improved access to water and sanitation was urgent for this commu-

nity. A new rain water catchment system was installed for this community and was handed over to them in November 2016. This new system provided much relief to the community as they can now access water for drinking and cooking at no costs and close to home. This system is one of the first micro-projects on rain water catchment systems for Tanna under the World Bank funded project in Vanuatu. Salok Harry a woman leader in this community shared their story of how hard it is for women and other family members in accessing water in their community in the past. When the project team approached her, she was sitting under a nicely local built hut with her daughters sewing island dresses for them. Their hut is close to the road where the newly rain water catchment system for their community is located. When asked if this new system helped them in terms of accessing drinking water compared to what they have experienced in the past, she responded with a big smile saying that now women and children do not have to walk hours to get water or do washing from Lenakel beach, which many times involved huge transport costs for some families. "Now we can only get our containers to this tank to get our water for our children and now we can stay at home and do other work instead of spending most of the day just collecting water," She said.



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AND NATURAL HAZARDS PROJECT IN VANUATU**

