

COASTAL RESOURCES, VCAP & ANIWA AC

RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Recommendations re Coastal Resources: Aniwa AC

- Priority actions VCAP may take on Aniwa Island regarding coastal resources:
 - 1.) Support the development of a formalized Marine Protected Area (MPA), building upon successful fisheries projects & local knowledge on Aniwa and then link with a network of MPA's for Tafea Outer Islands
 - 2.) Installation of Fish Aggregating Device (F.A.D.'s) for communities on Aniwa to alleviate food security concerns and to support income generation
 - 3.) Crown of Thorns (COT) starfish removal initiative
 - 4.) Provide training and support for food preservation methods, alleviating food security concerns



(Above: Coastline along western edge of Aniwa Island)

Environment - Coastal Resources

Imatu and Isavai communities have requested technical assistance with an already established conservation area (mostly coastal mangroves) and support for potential eco-tourism initiatives. There was previously a community-owned bungalow managed by a conservation committee that was located at the conservation area by the lagoon, but reportedly it closed down due to mismanagement and is no longer operational. **Ikaukau** community requested technical training and awareness workshops regarding conservation methods to ensure the area's natural resources are being properly protected.

It may be possible to support a **Marine Protected Area (MPA)** to allow communities on Aniwa to receive technical and financial support from Fisheries and DEPC to help locals preserve the island's marine resources and alleviate concerns over inshore fishing.

Some community members complain that the local chiefs have created too many protected areas along the coastline and this has caused distress among some who feel challenged to adequately harvest coastal resources for consumption.



(Mangrove ecosystem found on Aniwa Island)



(Above: Shark meat on canoe near Imatu Village)

Protected Species

The consumption of turtle has been reduced drastically over the past decade but the local population still reports the occasional harvest of sea turtle for consumption, although there is general awareness that harvesting is prohibited by law. Recommend continuing awareness work with communities relating to protection of turtle population.

There are two dugongs that local frequently report sighting in coastal waters.

Mangrove Ecosystems

There is large mangrove eco-system located along the interior of the lagoon on Aniwa Island and closest to Imatu Village.

Coastal Erosion

No significant areas of coastal erosion that are affecting key infrastructure on Aniwa Island, although storm surge from Cyclone Pam impacted the foundation of the building housing the De-Salinization Plant.

Inshore Fisheries

Communities on Aniwa report that there are very strict traditional “tabus” placed on a large section of coastline near Ikaukau village as well as the entirety of the island’s lagoon. While these areas are generally respected, there have been instances of locals violating these “tabus” due to food security concerns. All three major population centers on Aniwa have requested assistance in the creation of a **management plan** to better preserve and look after their marine resources.

Due to the heavy damage from Cyclone Pam in 2015 to the island’s orange crops and the resulting loss of income, locals have had to rely heavily on inshore fishing to earn a small livelihood for their families. Locals report that there is an abundance of larger fish such as wahoo and tuna (*seasonal*) located just offshore that contributes greatly to the possibility of minor income generation for their families if their communities could have additional access to solar-powered freezers for preservation. Also when fish is harder acquire, such as during strong seas, it is helpful to have preservation options to access food reserves.



(Above: Solar freezer inside of a community cooperative used for fish preservation)

Installation of **Fish Aggregating Devices (F.A.D.’s)** for communities on Aniwa to alleviate pressures on inshore fisheries by providing alternative source for local fishermen, to improve food security and create sustainable income generation through domestic sale of fish.

Removal of **Crown of Thorns Starfish (COTS)** from coral ecosystems as led by Fisheries. This invasive species has only recently been observed by locals as growing in abundance on some parts of the coral reef on Aniwa, leading to concerns from local communities.

Ikaukau community members request the provision of **training, awareness activities** relating to sustainable inshore fisheries practices and a **solar ice box** for communal use for preserving fish for food security purposes and sustainable income generation.

Desalinization Plant

Consider replacing or complimenting diesel generator for desalinization plant provided by JICA with renewable energy power to ensure for improved water security on Aniwa Island.

Site Coordinator

Aniwa Island has a VCAP Site Coordinator in addition to the voluntary assistance provided from the Provincial Area Secretary to assist with coordinating of logistics and site-based reporting for VCAP implementation.



(Above: JICA funded desalinization plant near Imatu Village makes potable water when generator is operational)



(Above: Map of Aniwa Island)

Data for Coastal Resources

Refer to the Vulnerability Assessment Report for Aniwa from February 2016 to review data relating to coastal resources as reported by communities.