



REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

**NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD  
ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND  
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

**C/- VANUATU METEOROLOGY AND GEO-HAZARDS  
DEPARTMENT**



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**CC/DRR Project Brief Form**

<b>Project Title:</b> Vanuatu Ecosystems & Adaptation Project	
<b>Implementing Organisation/s:</b> United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	<b>Project Contact Details:</b> Sefanaia Nawadra UNEP Pacific Representative UNEP Pacific Office Apia, Samoa <a href="mailto:Sefanaia.Nawadra@unep.org">Sefanaia.Nawadra@unep.org</a>  Brian Phillips Manager PMU Vanuatu Meteorology & Geo-Hazards Department <a href="mailto:piccap@vanuatu.com.vu">piccap@vanuatu.com.vu</a>
<b>Duration:</b> 5 Years	<b>Status:</b> Design
<b>Total Funding:</b> USD 30 million	<b>Funding Source/s:</b> GCF
<b>Mode of financing:</b> Vanuatu Gov Financial Management & Information System	<b>Location &amp; site/s:</b> Malekula
<b>Scope:</b>  Potential Project Interventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reforestation and afforestation as buffer around conservation areas and water catchment</li> <li>• Agroforestry and sustainable farming looking at climate resilient crops and enhancement of soil health and quality</li> <li>• Mangrove conservation and planting</li> <li>• Road alignment and coastal protection measures</li> <li>• Building design and strengthening of housing against disaster risks and possible use of renewable energy</li> </ul>	<b>Project Type:</b> Adaptation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of livelihood including aquaculture as part of food security</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Sectors &amp; Themes:</b> Mangrove Conservation, Infrastructure, Reforestation, Housing, Aquaculture</p>	<p><b>Other Government &amp; Partner Agencies:</b> Forestry, Fisheries, Agriculture, Water, DEPC</p>
<p><b>Lead Government Department:</b> Vanuatu Meteorology &amp; Geo-Hazards Department/Project Management Unit</p>	<p><b>NAB Approval sought:</b> [Please tick]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concept stage✓</li> <li>Site selection</li> <li>Final endorsement</li> <li>To seek project funding</li> <li>Partnership/implementation</li> <li>Continuation/extension of existing project</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objective/s:</b> [100 words max] To address the challenges Vanuatu is facing, this project proposes to focus on ecosystems and the services they provide at landscape level as a functioning unit. Goods and services provided by functioning ecosystems can provide poor communities with important livelihood options to cope with economic stresses and buffer them against natural hazards. Ecosystems – including wetlands, agricultural land, coastal and marine habitats (e.g. mangroves, coral reefs and sea grasses) and woodlands – provide a range of important services that support communities, such as provisioning services i.e. food products, fiber, fuel, freshwater, medicine etc., as well as regulatory functions i.e. CO2 sequestration, water purification, regulating water flow, reducing impacts of natural hazard, controlling erosion etc. In addition ecosystems provide protective, recreational, and cultural benefits.</p> <p>The project will be designed to increase resilience of vulnerable and marginalized communities through the application of ecosystem-based interventions and/or combining ecosystem-based adaptation interventions with gray-green and hard infrastructure. These interventions will be underpinned by strengthening the institutional policy framework on adaptation as well as capacity building at local and island level.</p>	
<p><b>Description:</b> [1-2 paragraphs per topic max]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline key project components</li> </ul> <p>The project will involve a participatory process to identify and implement climate change adaptation measures, through the use of gender sensitive data gathering tools; specific location/areas for implementing adaptation measures and project sites will be identified during the project design phase in close consultation with relevant stakeholders. The project will increase the climate resilience of poor communities living on the selected island. The project will focus on combining soft ecosystem-based, gray-green and hard interventions while also building on existing activities of other relevant projects.</p> <p>Enabling communities to increase their capacity to adapt to ongoing and uncertain changes requires active collaboration among government, partner agencies, CSOs, and particularly vulnerable and marginalized groups, in developing and delivering community-based adaptation and risk reduction programmes. Involving communities early onwards will lead to increased ownership of selected adaptation interventions and ensure that priority issues are being targeted. It will also ensure that local knowledge is being incorporated in the projects approach.</p> <p>Adaptation and risk reduction action in communities addresses real, current and priority vulnerabilities by:</p>	

- Undertaking community vulnerability assessments and comprehensive profiles prior to project implementation; [As part of this project will cover reforestation, afforestation around CCAs and mangrove replanting, the VA should also include sites that has gazette CCAs or those that are effectively managed through traditional resource management systems.](#)
- Engaging communities to participate in and lead the vulnerability assessment process in an appropriate language; and
- Ensuring that the results of community assessments are returned to the communities that have participated.

Adaptation and risk reduction is owned and driven by communities by:

- Developing community adaptation and risk reduction plans and actions through a bottom-up planning approach;
- Utilising and strengthening existing community systems for adaptation and risk reduction initiatives;
- Identifying adaptation and risk reduction activities that bring additional, no regrets, social, environmental and economic benefits to communities and individuals;
- Including capacity building to ensure continuity and meaningful ownership;
- Requiring initiatives at the community level to include strong in-kind community contributions to avoid reliance on external support; and

Working within traditional and local knowledge and values so that these systems become more resilient. Rights and needs of individuals are respected and recognized by:

- Ensuring that adaptation and risk reduction initiatives incorporate the rights, priorities and needs of individuals (particularly vulnerable and marginalized groups,); and
- Ensuring that community stakeholders and vulnerable groups are included in climate change adaptation and risk reduction initiatives and have an institutionalized role and voice.

Potential Project Interventions

- Reforestation and afforestation as buffer around conservation areas and water catchment. [Such interventions should focus on legally gazetted CCAs and/or those CCAs effectively managed through traditional resource management systems.](#)
- Agroforestry and sustainable farming looking at climate resilient crops and enhancement of soil health and quality
- Mangrove conservation and planting..[One of the Vanuatu mangrove sites \(Amal-Crab Bay\) is legally protected and has in its management plan an action to replant mangroves on areas that have been affected by SLR.](#)
- Road alignment and coastal protection measures
- Building design and strengthening of housing against disaster risks and possible use of renewable energy
- Promotion of livelihood including aquaculture as part of food security....[Tilapia is a good aquaculture activity but it is now found in natural water systems..eg. Teouma River. \(Freshwater fishes and crustaceans assessment by Donna Kalfatak on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2016\). Tilapia has invasive impacts on freshwater biodiversity. Vanuatu has 12 endemic fish species that can be impacted by introduction of Tilapia into natural waters. Look at other options ie. Native naura \(\*Macrobrachium lar\*\) aquaculture](#)
- How will it be implemented?

The project will be implemented through the VMGD/PMU under the oversight of the NAB and a project specific Steering Committee/Board comprising key Government Implementing Agencies. Implementation will be coordinated with other projects including VCAP, IRCCNH,

SPREP PEBAC and others to build synergies and avoid duplication. [The DEPC will also be implementing the GEF 5/FAO National Ridge to Reef \(R2R\) Project...Project title is: Integrated Sustainable Land and Coastal Management \(ISLCM\) Project. Sustainable Land, forest and silvo-pastoral activities are part of this project's activities including establishment of terrestrial and marine conservation area strengthening and even setting up new ones. Water catchment areas are proposed for conservation... \(project sites are: South Pentecost, Efate –part of ELMA, Tanna and Aneityum\). So some activities area similar with this propose project ones.](#)

#### **How does the project link to GoV priorities:**

The Project links well with the Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2016-2030 as a vehicle to contribute to the resilient development of Vanuatu through the policy's 4<sup>th</sup> strategic priority of "Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction".

[The project will also support/contribute to the policy objectives of the Vanuatu National Environment Policy and Implementation Plan \(VNEPIP\) i.e. Conservation of biological, ecosystem, genetic, human and cultural diversity. Also check the NSDP to see where \(objectives, targets, etc\) these project will contribute/support. Even the overarching productive sector policy, the agriculture policy, fishery policy and the forest policy.](#)

#### **Progress to date and current activities:**

- Consultations with VMGD/PMU March 2016
- Discussions with VMGD, PMU and MoCC DG Nov 2016
- National consultations planned for March/Apr 2017
- Submission to GCF mid 2017

#### **Outputs:**

The project will support Vanuatu's transition towards climate-resilient development in consistency with the government's own adaptation and disaster risk-reduction strategies. The project aims to build the resilience of vulnerable populations along the coastal zone and reduce exposure to climate risks through ecosystem-based adaptation; consequently a pivotal part of the project will be to implement activities in the selected sites. A strengthened institutional policy framework on integrated coastal zone management for the sustainable development of coastal areas, as well as mainstreaming adaptation into development planning at the local, national and regional levels, will underpin the activities.

The project outputs will contribute to the following expected results achieved through this project:

**Result 1:** EbA mainstreamed at Islands/Landscape Level: Islands/landscape level planning and management approach have integrated climate change as well as budgeting system

**Result 2:** Enhanced resilience of natural and human system: This will achieved through reforestation and afforestation as buffer around conservation areas and water catchment, conservation and plantation of mangroves as well as agroforestry and sustainable farming through introducing climate resilient crops and enhancement of soil health and quality.

**Result 3:** Improved adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities: This will be achieved through protecting and enhancing sources of livelihoods as well as diversification of livelihoods options of vulnerable communities.