EPI ROAD NEARING COMPLETION

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FORECASTERS EQUIPPED WITH SKILLS ON NEW IWFS

CONSTRUCTION OF CLIMATE PROOF OFFICES

VCAP PROGRESSIVE NEWSLETTER

VANUATU COASTAL ADAPTATION PROJECT

WELCOME TO THIS THIRD EDITION OF THE VCAP PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Jackson Tambe, Project Manager, VCAP

Welcome to our Third Edition of the Vanuatu Coastal Adaptation Project (VCAP) Newsletter. This edition provides another initiative to share information's about the implementation of activities that has been carried out over the last period of three months, January to April of 2017, by the Project components at the target vulnerable areas of the Vanuatu Coastal Adaptation Project sites.

We hope you find it to be informative and interesting to find out what type of activities that has been implemented at your area in terms of addressing the climate change issues.

You can also find out more information by checking our Facebook page or NAB Portal or even contacting our main office in Vila.

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In Partnership with the :

FORECASTERS EQUIPPED WITH SKILLS ON NEW INTEGRATED WEATHER FORECASTING SYSTEM

Forecasters underwent training on new IWFS.

The weather forecasters recently underwent training, advancing their skills on how to operate the new integrated system and to disseminate weather information through out the country in flexible and timely manners to all the users and stakeholders.

The two-weeks training was conducted by Mr. Yves Magliulo from the Meteo France International (MFI) at the same time saw the instalment of the new Integrated Weather Forecasting System (IWFS) at the forecast section.

Comparing the current system to the previous one, Mr. Jerry said from now on they will no longer be using the Microsoft word to disseminate information however everything will be web- based which means that with just a click on a button, all information will automatically be updated on the website and be sent via email to all the clients.

At the end of the two weeks training Mr. Yves awarded the eight participants from the forecasting team with certificates.

Senior Forecaster, Levu Antafalo said, the new set up will help to spend more time on forecast, which will help to improve the quality of information given out.

The MFI team will be back in May or June this year for the final part of this activity to conduct a monitoring training for the system with the forecasting team.

After the training this activity will be 100% complete for the component 2 of the Vanuatu Coastal Adaptation Project (VCAP)

Mr. Jerry Also acknowledge VCAP project for providing great assistant in supporting the upgrade of the new integrated system within the Department and also will eventually install the Automated Weather Systems in all Provinces starting from Torres down to the southern part of the country.

This will contribute a lot in providing quality information to be released to the public.

The training was funded by the Global Environment Facility and coordinated by UNDP through the Ministry Of Climate Change.

Forecasters Awarded with Certificates

VETIVER GRASS USE TO PREVENT SOIL EROSION

Communities involve in Planting Of Vetiver Grass at Follen Hill, Epi.

Vetiver Grass is one of the required species that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry has been encouraging communities at the project sites to plant along with trees at the sloppy areas and erosion hot spot to prevent Soil erosion from being wash down to the sea.

Vetiver is a deeply rooted grass with tall stems and long thin leaves that could withstand cyclone, dry season and even bush fire and is effective in controlling soil erosion
when planted closely it can create a hedge row which also stabilises soil with its deep rooting system.

The upland team has planted it along the roadside at Follen Hill on Epi to Stabilise soil beside road after the civil works done by the Public Works Department to upgrade the Standard of road starting from Rovo Bay to Mavilao.

Vetiver may also help to divert water flows and reduce pressure during heavy rain.

This similar method will also apply to other VCAP project sites through out the Country.

Planting of Vetiver Grass, Follen Hill, Epi.

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EPI ROAD NEARING COMPLETION

The upgrade of Roads in the two area councils within West Epi is nearing completion.

All works are expected to be completed by the end of next month, May.
Coordinated by the Vanuatu Coastal Adaptation Project (VCAP), the project concentrates on repairing of damaged drift crossing on creeks starting from Rovo Bay to Mavilao. It also includes repairing of primary roads, drift crossing, fixing slopes and the construction of a steel bridge.

"The delay at releasing fund to the contractor has also delayed works thus affecting the working schedule but it has picked up phase and progressing well,'' VCAP technical Coordinator, Raysen Vire confirmed.

Mr. Vire said the contractor has displayed a professional job on delivering the civil works according to plans, despite bad weather conditions encountered.

Once completed on Epi, the similar project would be extended to other project sites through out the country such as Pentecost, South Santo, South Malekula and Aniwa.

Epi District Administration officer, Loui Korah has expressed their satisfaction regarding the project.

"The VCAP has done a tremendous work by targeting the worst areas on the island and it will be a great achievement to the Shefa Province as soon as the work is complete.

Malvasi Creek Drift Crossing

People on Epi are looking forward to improved infrastructure that will enhance accessibility to services such as banks, markets, airports, shipping hubs, police force and judicial services.

The site coordinator, Basil Mael, said the most significant thing about VCAP is that it is different compared to other projects, as it does not concentrate only on road works. It also focuses on other issues as well such as conserving marine resources , managing food and water security by the upland and forestry Department and also improve the standard of living with help from the Department of Local Authority.

The project also helps communities on Epi to understand the importance and responsibility to manage and care for their resources.

Funded by the Global Environment Facility as facility as facilitated by UNDP through the Ministry of Climate Change.






Agroforestry Demo Plot Planting Materials

AGRO FORESTRY DEMONSTRATION PLOTS

As part of the recovery after cyclone Pam, the upland team together with help from the Local Community have established a huge Agro Forestry demonstration plot at Banga Village on west Epi.

The plot is about 50 m length and 30 m wide and contain citrus (grafted Mandarin, Tahitian lime and orange), sandal wood and mahogany intercropped with recommended collection of Island Taro, Cassava and sweet potato.

The plot has consist of more than ten different Varieties of island Taro.
The planting materials established in the plot were being sourced from the Vanuatu Agriculture Research Training Centre (VARTC) in Luganville Santo

The agroforestry demonstration plot will be used as both a collection and multiplication plot. Planting material produced from the plot will be distributed to local farmers and the surrounding communities after the Harvest of the previous plot at Walavea agriculture station.

Such practices will also help local communities to identify which type of variety is suitable to grow in their area and become more resilient to the impact of Climate Change issues.

Agro Forestry Demonstration Plot At Banga Village, West Epi.

DLA - Field Mission to South Malekula

Malekula VCAP Site, Malampa Province

- South Malekula Area Council
- 7 Village Development Committees (VDC's) at site
- Mission Conducted 14 11 16 - 25 11 16 by Acting Director of DLA, DLA Coordinator & CAPS

The Department of Local Authorities (DLA) along with the provincial Area Secretary for the South Malekula Area Council led community-level planning exercises with communities targeted within the Malekula VCAP site including Peskarus, Pelong, Lutes, Avock, Hokai, Ahamb, and Farun. Vulnerability and Needs Assessments (VNA's) were facilitated with these target communities, which allowed the DLA team to collect valuable information about communities that may illustrate their vulnerability to climate change or natural disasters. Village Development Committees (VDC's) were also established at each target community and these VDC's prioritized a list of possible interventions for CCA through VCAP.

The DLA team also interviewed possible candidates who applied for the re-advertised position of South Malekula Site Coordinator and a man named Skepson Skepa from Ahamb Island was hired for the position.

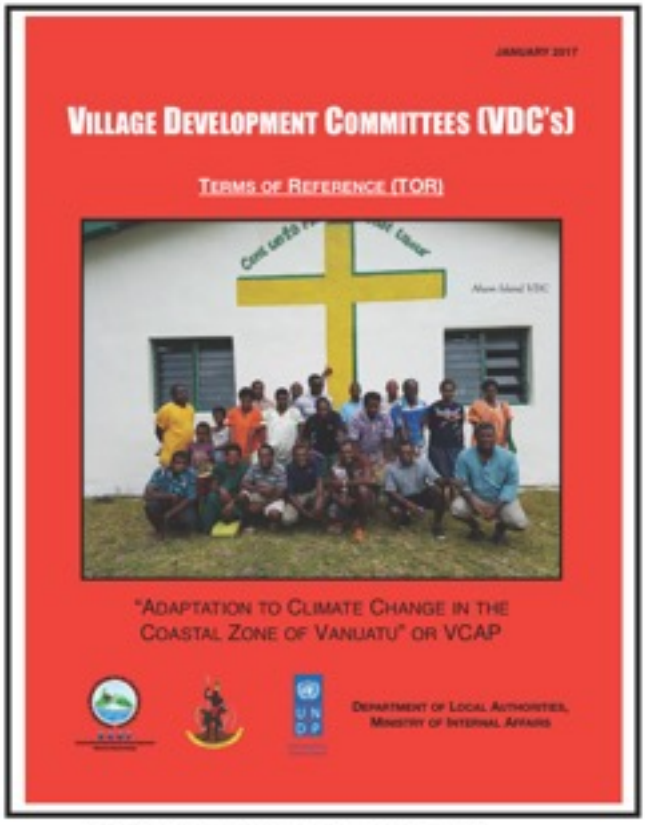
Malekula CCA Priorities (collective results from Malekula communities)	
1st Priority	Water security- Throughout the Malekula VCAP site, alleviating water security vulnerabilities to allow for access to clean & safe water was reportedly a top priority especially for offshore islands of Ahamb and Maskelynnes.
2nd Priority	Environment- In the Maskelynnes, Hokai and Ahamb, the communities were concerned that the "bush toilets" were affecting wells used to collect water for washing / cooking. Avock Island seemed particularly vulnerable. Creation of protected upland areas also considered important.

Village Development Committee with DLA team on Uluveo, Maskelynnes

DLA - VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TOR

The Department of Local Authorities (DLA) recently created a Terms of Reference (TOR) for the grassroots structure known as a Village Development Committee (VDC) in order to provide guidance regarding the formulation, roles & responsibilities of a VDC.

A Village Development Committee (VDC) is an informal, inclusive and voluntary community-level technical working group that supports development planning and work activities for a village** (or a group of several small villages) **and is comprised of sectoral leaders** (representatives from existing community groups and committees) **& technically skilled individuals from the community.



(VDC Terms of Reference document cover)

As VDC's are comprised of sectoral leaders & representatives from various communities, VCAP will utilize VDC's to create, monitor and evaluate community planning processes. VDC's will assist in organizing and mobilizing community members to participate in activities and monitoring and evaluation for VCAP and will seek to ensure fair inclusion for women, youth, and vulnerable people.

Site	Number of VDC's established at site
Tafea	16 VDC's
Shefa	5 VDC's
Penama	11 VDC's
Malampa	7 VDC's
Sanma	5 VDC's
Torba	5 VDC's
TOTAL	49 VDC's

FADs

The aim of this activity is to allow communities fish around the FADs while preserving and conserving the marine resources along the reefs.

Fish Caught on FADs

COMMUNITIES OF WEST COAST EPI AND ANIWA BENEFITED FROM FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (FADS)

Fish Aggregating Devices known as FADs or rafters are used widely in developing countries to concentrate pelagic fish, making them easier to catch. Near shore FADs anchored close to the coast of Aniwa Island and west coast of Epi allowing access for rural communities. The Development and Deployment of 6 FADs in total was installed in the two communities through the Vanuatu Fisheries Department in Collaboration with the Vanuatu Coastal Adaptation Project (VCAP).

Based on technical results, it showed that marine reef resources have been decreased gradually over the past years to date. With that, communities of Aniwa and west coast Epi have agreed to establish Tabu areas within their coastline to relief pressure from the reef allowing marine reef resources for restocking, given that FADs is the alternative measure taken to support the community's livelihood.

Communities of West Coast Epi and Aniwa are now benefiting on the installed FADs. Over 800 poullet and other deep bottom fish such as wahoo were caught around those FADs during the month of February to March this year. Income from the sale of these was used for school fees. Fishing gears and household goods', confirmed by Local Fisherman on Epi, Mr. Jonas Steven.

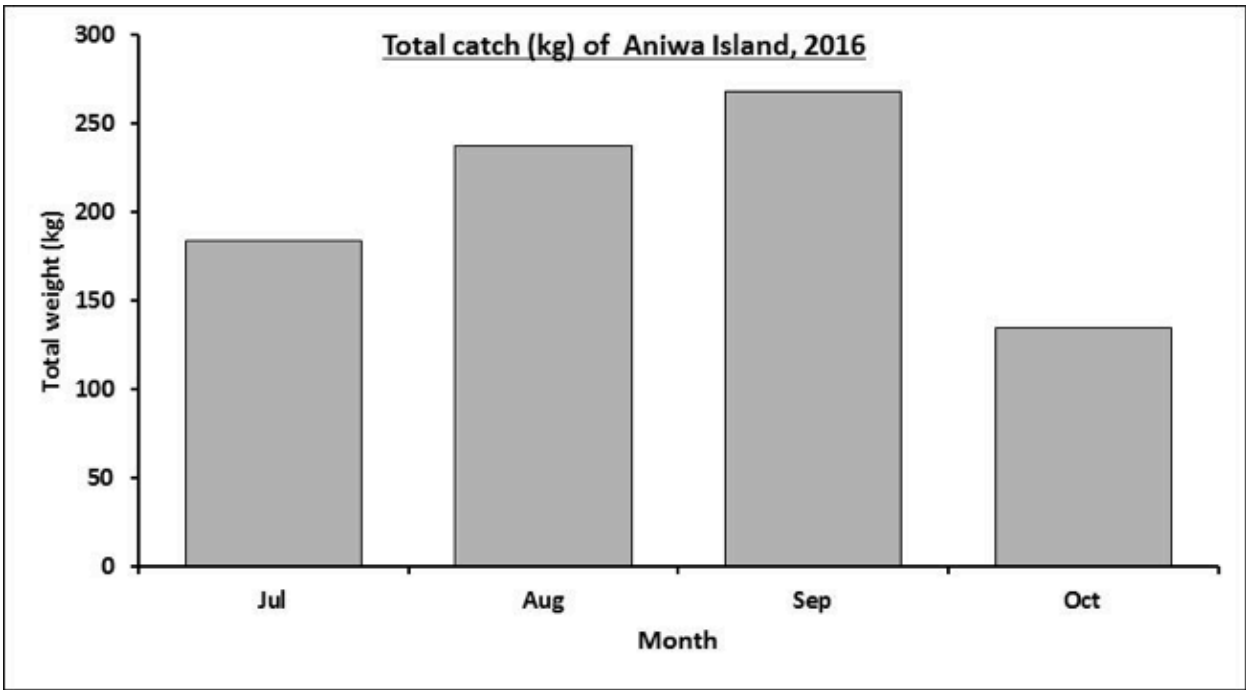
VCAP Fisheries Coordinator, Ms Elena Silas has also reported that communities on Aniwa have also benefited from the installed FADs.

On the next two page is the analysed data based on monthly catch reports provided by the Aniwa Island fish data monitors for the months of July to October 2016.

Pelagic Fish Caught on Fish Aggregating Device, FADs at Aniwa.

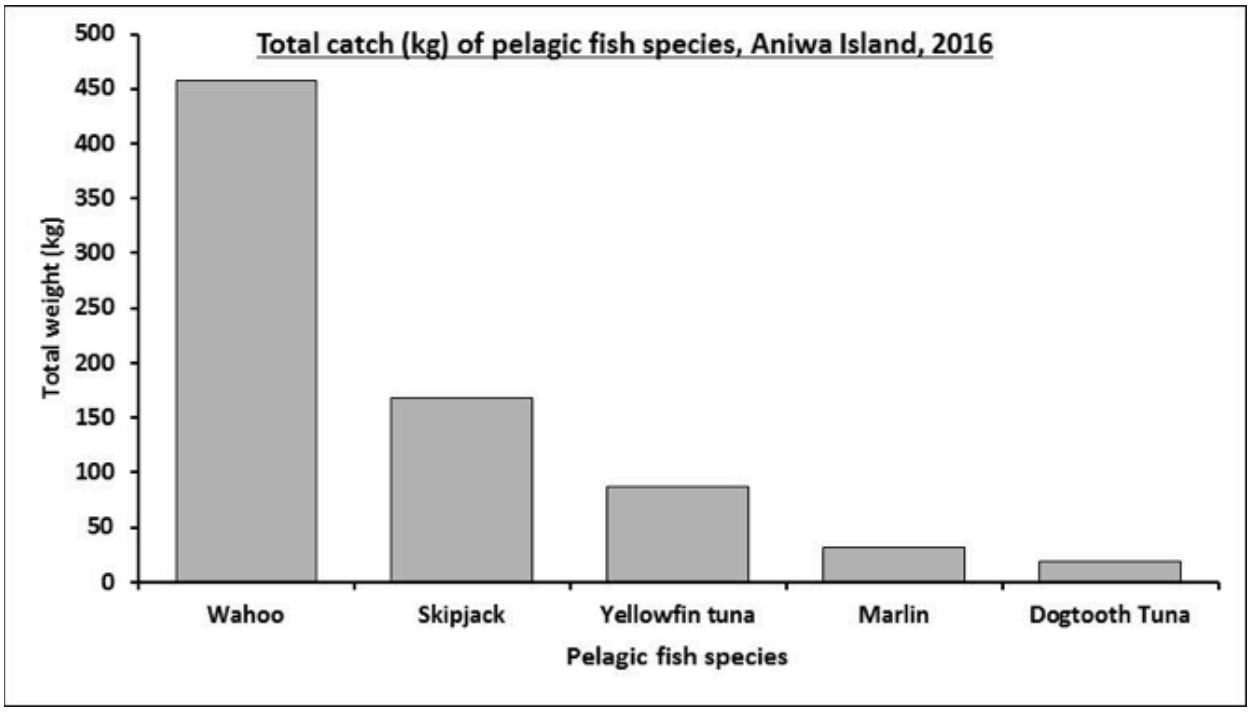
This data was sourced from both artisanal and subsistence fishers whom landed their catches at the landing sites of; Samania, Tacin and Yatoto, all in Aniwa Islands.

Month	Number of fish (pcs)	Total Weight (kg)
Jul	11	184
Aug	44	237
Sep	34	268
Oct	17	134
Total	**106**	**822**



This data is based on pelagic fish species only (FADs catches)

Species	Number of fish (pcs)	Total Weight (kg)
Wahoo	27	457
Skipjack	41	168
Yellowfin tuna	12	87
Marlin	1	32
Dogtooth Tuna	2	19
Total	**83**	**764**



Hopefully this year more FADs will be install on other projects sites such as South Malekula to help the local fishermen and also helps conserve the marine resources for future benefits.Further training and capacity building will be conducted to fishers on the island with more installation of FADs to targeted VCAP communities.

CONSTRUCTION OF CLIMATE - PROOFED OFFICES FOR EPI, PENTECOST AND SOUTH SANTO IN PROGRESS

Foundation of Vermaul Area Council building in Rovoliu, Epi.

Construction works for establishing the local Area Council office buildings on Epi, Pentecost and South Santo has been progressing well over the last month.

VCAP Coordinator, Noel Jacob says, foundation works on Rovoliu Area council building on Epi has been completed while the other two have just started on laying out the foundation.

The main purpose of these buildings is to provide climate-proofed offices for these three areas, whereas in the past there were no permanent offices. Also the buildings will be used as Evacuation centre for vulnerable groups such as disable, Site coordinator Basil Mael says, the communities on Epi were so happy to see the progress of the climate proof building and were looking forward to its completion.

Mr. Jacob said all construction works were expected to be completed within three – four month's time.

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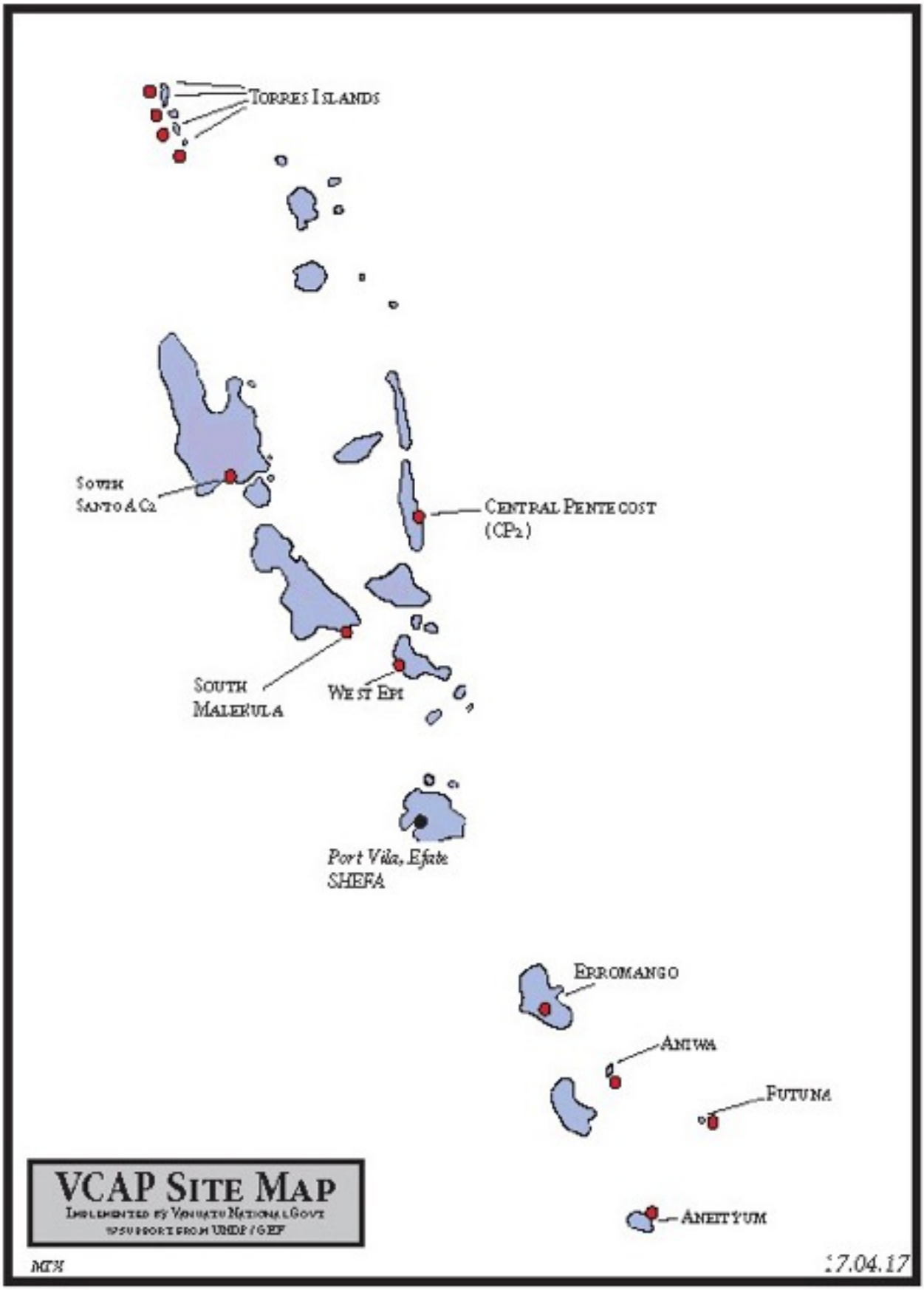
Torres Islands
Sowie
Santo A Co
Central Pentecost
(CP2)
South
Malekula
West Epi
Port Vila, Efate
SHEFA
Erromango
Aniwa
Futuna
Aneityum
VCAP Site Map
Implemented by Vanuatu National Govt
Support from UNDP/GEF
MTN
17.04.17

General Agroforestry Practices Benefits

- Increase crop production and food security (Quantitative and qualitatively).

- Generates short, medium and long term benefits e.g income, maximise yield from a given piece of land.

- Enable sustainability of food sources.

- Agro forestry can reduce the risks of NCD's.

- It is a conservation system for flora and fauna representing a dynamic ecological Ecosystem of Biodiversity.

- agro forestry can enhance soil water availability to land - use systems.

- Nitrogen - fixing trees & Shrubs can substantially increase nitrogen inputs to agroforestry systems. It can be employed to reclaim eroded and degraded land. The decomposition of tree litter and pruning can substantially contribute to maintenance of soil fertility. The addition of high quality tree pruning (i.e. High in Nitrogen but which decay rapidly) leads to large increase in crop yields.

For more information :

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