

Resilient after TC Pam?

UPDATED BASELINES FOR VCAP COMMUNITIES



VCAP POST PAM IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY



PROGRESS TO DATE MOVING VCAP FORWARD WITH MCC



SUPPORTING UNDP RESPONSE FIELD VISITS

BIMONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

VCAP (VANUATU COASTAL ADAPTATION PROJECT)



Picture above: Children on Aneityum Island sitting on debris from Cyclone Pam

Introduction



“Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zone in Vanuatu” or the Vanuatu Coastal Adaptation Project (VCAP), will provide a valuable opportunity to the Vanuatu government to increase the resilience of its communities to future climate change induced risks such as declining coastal and marine resources and intensifying climate related hazards. The overall objective of VCAP is to improve



VCAP is implemented by the Vanuatu government in partnership with UNDP with financial support from GEF-LDCF

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

VCAP will focus on community level adaptation to climate change and will address major environmental and associated socio-economic problems facing coastal communities impacted by climate change such as land degradation, biodiversity loss, and reef destruction, all of which severely undermine prospects for sustainable development and threaten the food security of coastal communities. The project will also build on and enhance CC adaptation initiatives through climate-proofing of infrastructure as needed.

VCAP will also support information and early warning systems on coastal hazards to address the current lack of systematic analysis and prediction of climate-related events. Thus coastal communities will be less vulnerable to the effects of climate change with improved information management and data dissemination systems in place.

This bi-monthly progress report details the various activities conducted from March to April of 2015. This is the first of an ongoing series of VCAP bi-monthly reports. The following sections provide detail on initial activities conducted through VCAP after TC Pam and in preparation for the inception phase of project implementation.

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Moving VCAP forward and supporting the MCC.

TC Pam hit Port Vila on Friday, March 13, 2015



Initial actions taken after TC Pam included updating community baselines from the effects of TC Pam; conducting / arranging field assessments; establishing VCAP Interim PIU & supporting the UNDP led humanitarian response.

Key Dates for VCAP Activities

Dates	Description
March 13	TC Pam strikes Port Vila, Vanuatu
March 19	VCAP Interim PIU working space was established
March 20 - 21	Draft for UNDP Flash Appeal was produced, support provided by VCAP Interim PIU
March 22 - 27	UNDP Regional Technical Specialist visit Vanuatu to meet with government stakeholders and support Interim PIU
March 31 - April 3	Field visit with government stakeholders to Tafea Province to conduct rapid assessments on communities from the islands of Aneityum, Aniwa and Futuna.
April 6 - 9	Field visit with government stakeholders to Penama Province to conduct rapid assessments on communities from the island of Pentecost.
April 10 - 14	Produced plan for early recovery efforts post TC Pam along with UNDP Fiji MCO staff
April 15	Coordination meeting of Interim VCAP PIU with senior government officials regarding integration of VCAP initiatives
April 16 - 17	Recruitment of VCAP Interim PIU Staff (CIS)
April 20 - 30	Preparation for VCAP Inception Week and initial Project Board Meeting



Picture above: Food relief distribution observed in Melsisi, Pentecost during Rapid Assessment April 6 - 9, 2015

Initial Steps After TC Pam

As soon as the communications networks in Port Vila were restored after the category 5 cyclone hit, UNDP MCO Fiji re-established contact with the Interim VCAP PIU. Initial steps were taken immediately to secure a functional working space for VCAP on March 19th, 2015. UNDP had responded to the humanitarian crisis posed by TC Pam very quickly by deploying senior staff from Fiji MCO to support the government-led response and the VCAP Interim PIU coordinated and supported their deployment to Vanuatu.

Much of the initial work conducted by the Interim PIU involved facilitating consultations and logistical arrangements for UNDP officials arriving to Vanuatu from MCO Fiji. The Resident Coordinator for



The Ministry of Climate Change and its responsible agencies (including NDMO) were incredibly busy during the immediate aftermath of TC Pam as various UN agencies, INGO's, media outlets and military representatives gathered to meet at their headquarters daily (*pictured above*). Government led "cluster" meetings also took place here, with the VCAP Interim PIU playing a key role in participating in the "Early Recovery" cluster.

the UN in the region was tasked as the Humanitarian Coordinator and visited Vanuatu on several missions along with Deputy Resident Representative from the Fiji MCO.

The VCAP Interim PIU worked to produce the UNDP “Flash Appeal”, in order to solicit support from international partners in order to restore livelihoods and critical infrastructure after the storm. VCAP worked with the PMU staff and the UNDP Vanuatu JPO to compose a first draft of the “Flash Appeal”, providing contextual information regarding possible interventions.

The Regional Technical Specialist based at the UNDP Fiji MCO, arrived in-country on March 22 and helped the VCAP Interim PIU extensively to focus on revising baselines for affected VCAP communities and to create a work plan moving forward after the disaster. With the support of UNDP Fiji MCO, VCAP created the “Post TC Pam Assessment and Implementation Strategy”. Recruitment for potential VCAP staff (including local Engineer, Communications Officer, Community Implementation Specialist & CTA) also took place during this time and TOR’s for these positions were developed.

The VCAP Interim PIU assisted with the development of a draft version of the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) along with government stakeholders, targeting livelihoods based activities that could be conducted after the cessation of humanitarian relief work.

VCAP Interim PIU staff deployed to the field to make assessment of communities after the cyclone. VCAP team members were able to deploy to two VCAP sites by the means of military transport via ship and helicopter, at a time when commercial travel was not yet an available option. VCAP supported government-led assessment teams to Central Pentecost, Aniwa Island, Aneityum Island and Futuna Island, which helped greatly to provide updated baselines to these remote areas where communications networks had yet to be re-established.

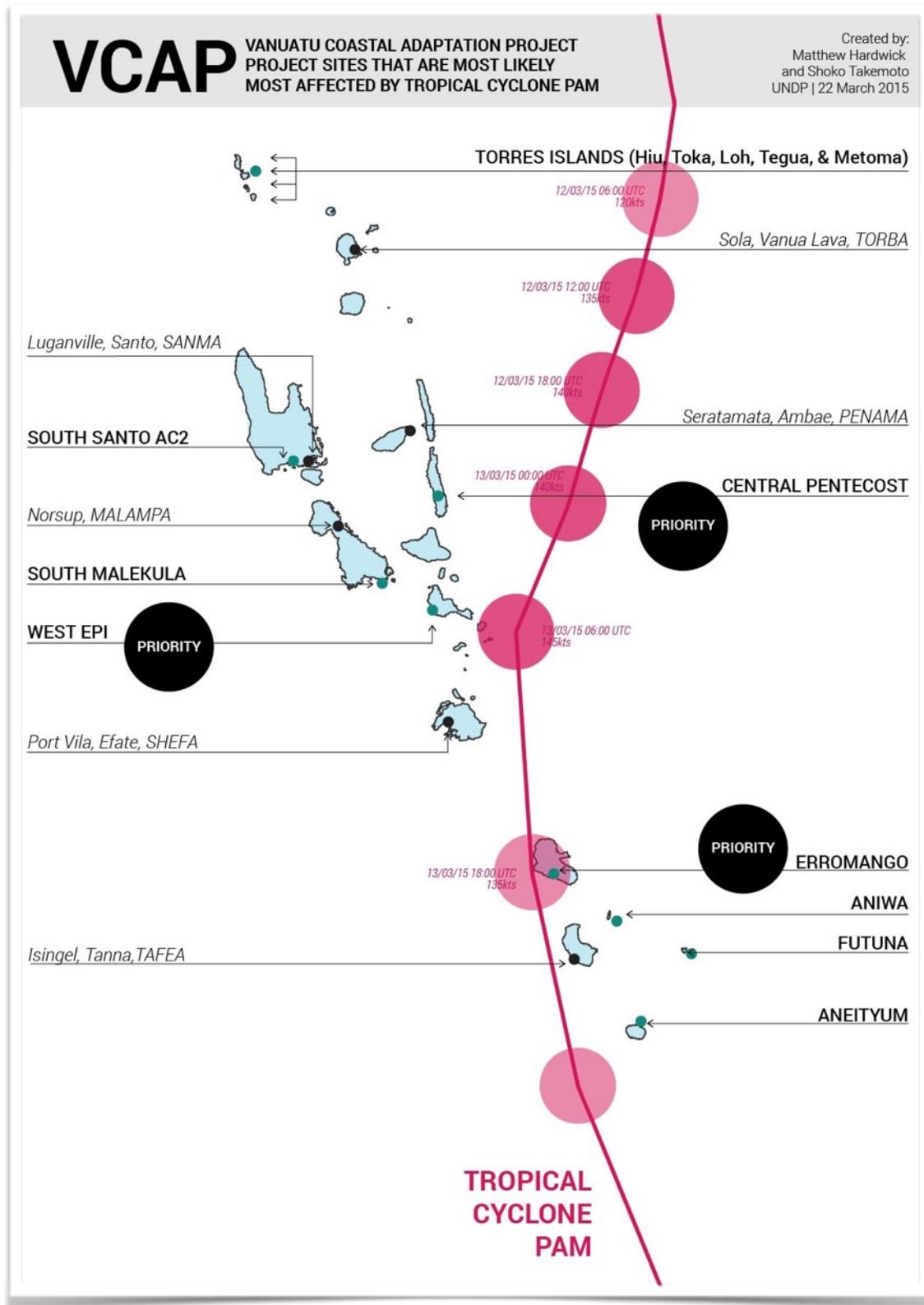
A temporary work station for the VCAP Interim PIU was established at the UN JPO in Port Vila, once utilities were restored to the office building.



Picture above: Coastline of Erromango Island observed during rapid assessment deployment to Tafea Province

Updated Baselines

How VCAP communities were affected by TC Pam.



Three priority sites most affected by TC Pam: Tafea Outer Islands, Epi Island & Eastern Pentecost



Photos (top to bottom): 1- Women receiving relief items in North Aneityum; 2- Damaged copra-processing house in Eastern Pentecost; 3- Damage to classroom in South Epi

Updated Baselines

As a direct impact of Tropical Cyclone Pam, many baseline conditions have changed – especially worsened, making planned interventions under VCAP even more relevant.

New stakeholders have emerged, especially INGO and military partners. During the immediate relief efforts of TC Pam- it was important to follow the government led “cluster meetings” to keep track of emerging developments for planning purposes in order to build synergies and avoid duplication. Every week there were continuous change in the hardest-hit rural areas, with support being offered by numerous stakeholders supporting early recovery.

Priority 1: Tafea Outer Islands

Erromango Island- was the only island in Tafea Province to suffer a direct hit from TC Pam. Australian military assisted considerably in repairing immediate infrastructure priorities such as repairing classrooms, especially in William’s Bay community. CARE International has played a role in water and food security initiatives. World Vision recently emerged as well performing relief work after the cyclone. Both a field assessment and an aerial (helicopter-based) assessment was conducted by VCAP.

Most baselines worsened in Erromango after TC Pam with sustained damage to water security systems, debris blocking footpaths (primary conveyance infrastructure network on the island) and much damage to agricultural produce.

Aniwa Island- serious damage incurred to critical infrastructure on Aniwa Island. CARE International leading water security & food security initiatives. Field assessment conducted by VCAP.

Baselines on Aniwa regarding livelihoods severely impacted as main income generating opportunities have been affected- orange plantations severely damaged and “pandanus leaves” used for mat-weaving have been damaged. Canoes used for fishing have been destroyed, thus leaving villagers with little opportunity to generate income.

Aneityum Island- not as much damaged was inflicted here as was observed on Erromango & Aniwa. The northwest side of the island had the some significant damage and a few isolated homes were swept away by coastal storm surge. The larger villages along the southern coast had moderate to minor damage- primarily to their gardens. Limited NGO presence on Aneityum Island. Field assessment conducted by VCAP.

Baselines on Aneityum remain largely unchanged except for immediate food security concerns and disruption of tourism related activities on the island.

Futuna Island- mild damage sustained mainly to gardens, with a few homes affected in a village called Iasua. Debris has blocked primary footpaths used as main accessway. CARE International has an established presence working in this community. Baselines were moderately affected by TC Pam which caused erosion issues along the primary footpath used for public conveyance. Field assessment conducted by VCAP.

Priority 2: Epi Island (Rovo Bay to Valesdir)

Epi Island- although the southern most portion of Epi Island was severely impacted by TC Pam, the VCAP site experience slight to moderate effects. Primary conveyance infrastructure was moderately compromised on the island within the VCAP sites, as vegetation along roadways eroded during the storm leading to even further erosion affecting the roadways. Vehicular river crossings were compromised due to erosion issues as well.

The New Zealand military performed relief and early recovery interventions on Epi following Cyclone Pam in cooperation with authorities from the Shefa Provincial Government Council. Oxfam and Save the Children have also been involved in relief distribution and WASH initiatives post TC Pam.

Priority 3: Pentecost Island (Eastern Central Pentecost Area Council 2)

Pentecost Island- TC Pam passed along the eastern side of Pentecost and impacted communities along the eastern coast. These communities became vulnerable due to food security and water security needs arising. The western coast of Pentecost had very limited damage in comparison, with limited damage to agricultural produce such as kava, which is a staple crop for income generation here.

Baselines conditions worsened considerably, especially the condition of the primary footpaths used to access communities on the eastern coast of Pentecost. The VCAP rapid assessment took place in Melsisi along the western coast but inclement weather conditions forced the assessment team to abandon attempts to reach the eastern coast via helicopter.

Phase 2: VCAP Sites relatively unaffected by TC Pam: Torres Islands, South Malekula & Santo

Phase 2 sites- As the VCAP sites in the Torres Islands, Malekula and Santo were minimally impacted by TC Pam, it is proposed by the VCAP Interim PIU that the VCAP sites from Torba, Malampa and Sanma provinces be delayed until priority sites have been engaged first. This would allow VCAP to align the delivery of its outputs following directives from the Vanuatu government to focus primarily on early recovery efforts after TC Pam by implementing in Tafea, Shefa and Penama province VCAP sites first.

Methodology used for revising baseline information- field based rapid assessments took place using community based focus group discussions, walking tours of communities and key interviews with community leaders. These activities were conducted by VCAP on Aniwa, Aneityum, Futuna and Pentecost islands as part of a government-led post-disaster assessment. Aerial assessments by helicopter were conducted over Erromango and Epi Islands, and VCAP Interim PIU consulted with UNDP colleagues that visited these islands in person. "Cluster" meetings were attended by the VCAP I for Early Recovery, Infrastructure, Shelter and Food Security "clusters" where government and NGO leaders reported on conditions from the field.

VCAP STRATEGY AFTER TC PAM - SUMMARY

***BASED ON POST TC PAM ASSESSMENT OF GOVERNMENT IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES AND IMPACTS, THERE ARE NO MAJOR CHANGES OR DEVIATIONS FROM ORIGINAL VCAP OBJECTIVES, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS.**

- Instead, TC Pam has led to improved government and community awareness regarding the need for enhancing coastal resilience to climate change risks.
- VCAP can build upon disaster-recovery efforts and compliment and/or sustain them in order to ensure that there is a smooth transition from response, recovery to resilience.
- The VCAP sites that were most affected by TC Pam have been selected as the initial sites where implementation will begin. These priority sites include Tafea Outer Islands, Epi Island and Pentecost Island.
- Other provincial VCAP sites that were less affected by TC Pam will be engaged after these priority sites are enaged first
- Valuable lessons learned regarding the vulnerabilities of coastal communities in Vanuatu to climate related natural disasters to be incorporated into VCAP activities.



(Photo above: Local man on Aneityum Island near damaged classroom)

Establishment of Interim VCAP PIU

The Ministry of Climate Change (MCC) requested support from UNDP in establishing an Interim VCAP PIU. The following services have been successfully provided to the MCC through the VCAP Interim PIU during this reporting period:

- *Recruitment of PIU staff (Interim Project Manager and short-term consultancies while the Vanuatu government follows internal recruitment processes)
- *Recruitment of field-based officers from VCAP sites- 5 Site Coordinators- based in Aniwa, S Erromango, N Erromango, Epi and Pentecost.
- *Procurement and travel related to immediate interventions on the ground in the most affected VCAP sites in consultation with stakeholders
- *Acquisition of temporary VCAP office until relocation back to PMU- along with office furniture, supplies and equipment
- *Preparation for Inception workshop and travel arrangements for approx 15 site based participants
- *Arrangements for capacity building initiative of GIS data management systems (through an organization called MapAction) for Ministry of Climate Change and partners.



(Photo above: VCAP Rapid Assessment team on Aniwa Island)

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