



NEW STAFF
NEW VCAP STAFF ON BOARD WITH PIU



FIELD MISSIONS
ENGAGING VCAP COMMUNITIES

Community Planning

ADDRESSING CLIMATE VULNERABILITIES



KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT
CREATIVE MEDIA & VCAP

VCAP PROGRESS REPORT

VCAP (VANUATU COASTAL ADAPTATION PROJECT)



(National Project Manager Jackson Tambe addressing a community on Epi Island during a community vulnerability assessment)

Project Updates



The “Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zone in Vanuatu” or the Vanuatu Coastal Adaptation Project (VCAP) has recently recruited several key staff members within its Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and has made steady progress in delivering its Annual Work Plan for 2015 by engaging targeted coastal communities in a series of vulnerability assessments and climate change adaptation planning sessions.



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

As VCAP will support integrated community based approaches for building climate resilience, the PIU has worked closely with the Department of Local Authorities (DLA) and other various partners to develop a standard approach to performing vulnerability assessments and facilitating community-based climate adaptation plans. This “bottom-up” planning process will be complimented by various technical specialists and national level VCAP stakeholders who will further refine and implement components from these community plans in coming months.

Finally, this reporting period culminated in the VCAP Project Board Meeting, where senior authorities from the Vanuatu government and UNDP made important decisions affecting future project delivery and approved the Annual Work Plan and Budget for 2016.

This progress report details the various activities conducted from July through December of 2015. This is the third VCAP progress report produced to date.

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Listing key activities and developments within VCAP with corresponding dates for this reporting period.

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Summary and outcome from Project Board Meeting from November 6, 2015

*Content, layout and design of report by Matthew Hardwick
Contributions of content by Corey Huber*

VCAP Community Planning Begins!



VCAP has conducted field missions to support the DLA and provincial stakeholders in facilitating community climate adaptation plans and conducting vulnerability assessments

Pictured from top to bottom:

1. Fishermen holding their catch at Epi Island site 2. Coastal view of Erromango Island in Tafea Outer Islands site 3. Steep footpath on Futuna Island, Tafea Outer Islands site

Key Dates for VCAP

Dates	Description
07 July	VCAP Procurement Officer, Mr. David Malakay, is hired
20 - 21 July	UN Resident Coordinator Osnat Lubrani and UN Deputy Representative Akiko Fuji facilitate UNDP Retreat and visit VCAP PIU in Port Vila, Vanuatu
13 - 20 Aug	Coordination meetings held between VCAP PIU, PRRP, and DLA for developing community based vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans
24 - 29 Aug	VCAP PIU participates in review of draft sub-national planning guidelines with DLA, Tafea Provincial Government Council & PRRP
16 - 19 Sept	Field mission to Ambae Island by Interim Project Manager to facilitate start of capacity building initiative with Torgil Rural Training Centre (<i>activity 1.2.3.5</i>)
28 Sept - 02 Oct	Field Mission by VCAP PIU to Epi Island to trial community vulnerability assessments and climate adaptation planning (<i>100% completion of activity 1.1.1.2</i>)
05 Oct	VCAP National Project Manager, Mr. Jackson Tambe begins work at VCAP PIU
06 - 13 Oct	Field mission to North Erromango Area Council to facilitate community vulnerability assessments, adaptation plans and organize VDC's (<i>activity 1.1.1.3</i>)
08 - 13 Oct	Field mission with Acting Director of DLA to Futuna Area Council to facilitate community vulnerability assessments, adaptation plans and organize VDC's (<i>activity 1.1.1.3</i>)
22 - 26 Oct	Field mission to Aniwa Area Council to facilitate community vulnerability assessments, adaptation plans and organize VDC's (<i>activity 1.1.1.3</i>)
01 Nov	Chief Technical Advisor, Mr. Manfred Staab, begins work with VCAP
06 Nov	VCAP Project Board Meeting held in Port Vila
12 - 19 Nov	Field mission to South Erromango Area Council to facilitate community vulnerability assessments, adaptation plans and organize VDC's (<i>activity 1.1.1.3</i>)
18 Nov	Admin & Finance Officer, Ms. Netty Joseph, starts work at VCAP PIU
19 - 26 Nov	Field mission to Aneityum Area Council to facilitate community vulnerability assessments, adaptation plans and organize VDC's (<i>activity 1.1.1.3</i>)
30 Nov - 14 Dec	Field mission to Central Pentecost 2 Area Council to facilitate community vulnerability assessments, adaptation plans and organize VDC's (<i>activity 1.1.1.3</i>)

Staff Acquisition for VCAP PIU

Having effective staff working within VCAP's Project Implementation Unit (PIU) is essential to efficiently delivering project outputs and strengthening the resilience of coastal communities to adverse impacts of climate change in Vanuatu. The following staff have recently joined the PIU team:

NATIONAL PROJECT MANAGER - Jackson Tambe

Mr. Jackson Tambe has joined VCAP to serve as the National Project Manager. He has extensive experience in project management within the Vanuatu National Government, previously overseeing large infrastructure projects within the Ministry of Education. As Project Manager, Mr. Tambe will be responsible for project staffing, planning and budgeting as well as coordination between the various stakeholders involved in implementation.



(Director General of the Ministry of Climate Change, Jotham Napat with VCAP National Project Manager, Jackson Tambe)

PROCUREMENT OFFICER - David Malakay

Procurement Officer, Mr. David Malakay has previously worked with UN Agencies and Vanuatu government partners on a community-based climate change adaptation project called Vanuatu Community Resilience (VCR). Having worked with UNDP, UNICEF, FAO and many Vanuatu government stakeholders, his background and contextual knowledge will be very helpful to the VCAP team.





ADMIN & FINANCE OFFICER - Netty Joseph

Ms. Netty Joseph will play an important role in the PIU as the Admin and Finance Officer. She will assume direct responsibility for financial and administrative management related to VCAP, under the supervision of the Project Manager whilst also working closely with other VCAP project team members as part of the PIU. Ms. Joseph recently graduated this year from Zhongnan University of Economics and Law in the People's Republic of China with a degree in accounting.

CHIEF TECHNICAL ADVISOR - Manfred Staab

Although new to Vanuatu, Mr. Manfred Staab has a wealth of experience in supporting international climate change adaptation projects. Manfred Staab has demonstrated strategic leadership skills in a diverse range of complex environments, including collaboration and cooperation with senior government officials in countries such as Afghanistan, Cambodia and Papua New Guinea. Having just successfully completed his role as a Senior Technical Advisor for another UNDP climate resilience project in the Southeast Asian nation of Laos, Mr. Staab will be a valuable asset for VCAP to rely upon.



Additional Staff to join VCAP team soon! *In December of 2015 or in early 2016*

- **Department of Local Authorities (DLA) VCAP Coordinator**- for assisting in the development and implementation of Community Action Plans and strengthening Area Council and provincial level VCAP stakeholders
- **Public Works Department (PWD) VCAP Coordinator**- to coordinate infrastructure related project activities including the improvement of public conveyance infrastructure to allow for increased climate resilience, linking VCAP PIU with PWD
- **Fisheries & Coastal Resource Management VCAP Coordinator**- to assist with implementing activities for sustainable fisheries & coastal resource management to improve climate resilience of coastal zone, linking VCAP PIU to Fisheries / DEPC
- **Upland Resource Management VCAP Coordinator**- to assist w implementing activities for sustainable upland resource management to improve climate resilience of coastal zone, linking VCAP PIU to MoAFFLB, Water Resource Dept & DEPC
- **Monitoring & Evaluation, Planning & Social Inclusion Officer** - to provide monitoring, evaluation and planning assistance for all works being conducted through VCAP and ensure participatory approaches inclusive of vulnerable people
- **Vanuatu Meteorological & Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD) VCAP Coordinator** - to provide overall coordination within VMGD for implementation of VCAP component related to early warning systems & automated weather stations

Development of Community Planning Processes

An integral part of fulfilling VCAP's mandate to improve the resilience of coastal communities to the effects of climate change consists of thoroughly engaging communities in a participatory planning process that will empower local stakeholders to identify for themselves any relevant climate-related vulnerabilities affecting their quality of life and then to create community climate-adaptation plans to address these vulnerabilities.

The development of VCAP's community planning processes has been driven by the Department of Local Authorities (DLA) through extensive consultations and field missions since the design phase of the project began in 2013 until now. Throughout the early stages of project implementation in 2015, the DLA has been at the forefront of this process in directing the VCAP PIU in how to effectively engage community and provincial stakeholders. The DLA is in an advantageous position to facilitate this process, as it is responsible for the administration of Vanuatu's 6 provincial governments and 2 municipalities, which contain a vast network of field officers the Area Councils. It is important to note that Amendment No. 16 of 2013 of the Decentralization Act, authorizes the DLA to support community planning as well.

Consultations with relevant provincial partners, INGO's and other government departments involved in conducting vulnerability assessments or facilitating community planning has been a critical step in development of community planning processes. Currently, there are large numbers of organizations performing similar work in the field related to community planning and vulnerability assessments, each utilizing its own unique methodology and using different participatory engagement tools and processes. This has resulted in much confusion and replication at times:

Challenges due to the multitude of approaches to vulnerability assessments utilized in Vanuatu are:

- They may not reflect the contextual situation present in rural Vanuatu or use appropriate language to allow for tool to be understood by average Ni-Vanuatu stakeholders, as many tools have been adopted from other regions & countries
- Some assessments fail to capture effectively multi-sector data that may be important to consider for non-climate adaptation and disaster planning needs; they focus exclusively on certain sectors while not collecting general multi-sector data
- Sometimes approach utilized is not culturally appropriate and will fail to elicit accurate responses in group settings
- Sometimes approach does not engage full spectrum of community stakeholders- women, youth, vulnerable people, etc
- Often results from vulnerability assessments have not been shared with national, provincial & community stakeholders
- Some approaches are overly dependent on facilitation by technical or international specialists; would be difficult & expensive to carry out nation-wide as communities are scattered across a large & isolated island geography
- Cannot aggregate and analyze data collected if a standardized approach has not been endorsed or utilized

Challenges due to varying approaches to community planning currently utilized in Vanuatu are:

- Often plans are unrealistic, not practical in local context or dependent on external funding that may not be available - creating a series of "wish-lists" for communities that raises expectations, do not consider available budgets / resources
- Some plans are overly complex and detailed, consisting of lengthy documents that may rarely be referenced by the communities after their creation, often in language that is difficult for the community to understand
- Some plans have no linkage to vulnerability assessments or data to support community identified needs or priorities
- Some plans are created through approaches that are not inclusive of the entire community, but are reflections of special interests from smaller groups or individual leaders only
- Some plans do not instill a sense of ownership from the community, as they are formulated by external groups outside of a community meeting setting (even though they may use data acquired from the community to create these plans)

Due to the shortcomings and challenges presented by these multiple approaches to conducting community-based vulnerability assessments and community planning in Vanuatu, the DLA is attempting to formally standardize these

approaches through developing “*Risk Resilient Planning, Budgeting, and Monitoring Guidelines for Sub-National Government*”. UNDP’s Pacific Risk Resilience Project (PRRP) is supporting the Vanuatu National Government to develop these *Guidelines for Sub-national Governance* (currently in draft format) with contributions from VCAP PIU to identify and trial an efficient a standardized process for vulnerability assessments and planning on the community level. This formulation of an official approach to community planning processes will ensure that adopted methods consider risks and climate vulnerabilities when used by government agencies and partners in future initiatives. From August 24 - 29 of 2015, a representative from VCAP PIU attended a consultation with authorities from the Tafea Provincial Government Council and staff from PRRP, to further refine the development of community planning processes and vulnerability assessments before VCAP began field-testing with the DLA at project sites.



(UNDP PRRP Staff facilitating session with Tafea Provincial authorities in Lenekel, Tanna with assistance from VCAP PIU)

The VCAP PIU is focused on supporting the DLA to improve its community planning and vulnerability assessments methodology as VCAP requires “*the creation of community-level Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) plans with risk management, preparedness and response plans formulated in the context of integrated Coastal Zone Management (CZM) and in relation to assessed site-specific vulnerabilities for at least 6 priority vulnerable coastal communities*”.

The DLA and the VCAP PIU have created a new draft template of a vulnerability assessment in the national pidgin language of Bislama that can be facilitated by Ni-Vanuatu generalists (*no technical specialists required*). With basic training about the facilitation process and the participatory engagement tool, generalists such as provincial Area Secretaries can be utilized to carry out these assessments. The vulnerability assessment involves a community meeting format where data is collected from the entire community, along with focus group sessions and key respondent interviews. It covers a diverse range of sectors and consists of a participatory approach that is inclusive of all community stakeholders including vulnerable peoples.

For the creation of community-level CCA plans, VCAP is utilizing and strengthening existing structures and leadership mechanisms present at the grassroots level. There is an emphasis on building capacity of these existing bodies located within project sites rather than inventing new systems that may not be sustainable after the life of the project. Common village organizations are directly engaged in the community planning process for creating CCA plan, such chiefly councils, women’s groups, youth groups, school committees, health committees, church leadership, Community Disaster Committees (CDC’s), water committees and any other functioning bodies deemed important by the community such as committees established by INGO’s. By VCAP gathering together the leaders (or nominated representatives) from these existing community sub-groups, this will allow for a diverse and inclusive range of community level stakeholders to take part in the CCA planning process. This body comprised of leadership from existing community sub-groups aggregated together has been labeled a Village Development Committee (VDC) by the DLA. It is important to understand that while the term VDC may be new, it is actually only grouping together leadership from all existing and functional community based organizations to serve as stakeholders in the community planning process.

The VDC will be considered an informal community-level technical working group comprised of all sectoral based leaders within the community. It will serve as an evolving and flexible group whose membership may change according to any changes made within the various sub-groups and committees that are active and present within the given community.

VCAP Community Field Missions

Summary figures about missions to the field to engage communities in vulnerability assessments and climate adaptation planning at VCAP sites in 2015 (as of December, 2015- excluding VCAP sites in Samna, Malampa and Torba provinces where field missions will take place in 2016):

8,164 *total population living within VCAP communities where community level vulnerability assessments and CCA planning has taken place through DLA support*

3 *provinces in Vanuatu where field missions have taken place to date*

5 *Site Coordinators hired and working within project sites (Tafea & Shefa province sites only)*

6 *islands in Vanuatu where field missions have taken place so far*

8 *Area Secretaries trained & utilized in engagement process*

9 *Area Councils in Vanuatu where field missions have taken place so far, Area Councils representatives have been consulted and review VDC results*

32 *vulnerability assessments conducted by VCAP team*

32 *VDC's established and strengthened*

32 *community level CCA Adaptation plans created with stakeholders by VCAP team*



(Women's focus group in Herold Bay, Futuna discussing climate vulnerabilities during VCAP assessment)

VCAP Community Field Missions

1. Epi Island Site - Shefa Province

- 5 Village Development Committees (VDC's) at site
- 2 Area Councils with Total Population of 1,761 people at site
- Mission Conducted 28.09.15 - 02.10.15 by CAPS, CIS & National Project Manager



This trip served as the pilot exercise in performing CC vulnerability assessments at the Epi Island site in Shefa Province. It was conducted by the Community Adaptation Planning Specialist (CAPS), CIS (Community Implementation Specialist) and the National Project Manager in unison so that there would be unified approach in community level and Area Council level planning processes while engaging communities throughout Component 1 of VCAP, especially considering that VCAP team members would subsequently divide and engage communities at different sites separately.

Community based vulnerability assessments and CCA planning took place in Mabfilau, Burumba, Ponkovo, Ruwo, Yopuna & Malvasi villages. The Provincial Area Secretaries from Vermaul and Vermali Area Councils accompanied the VCAP team and facilitated assessment and planning sessions along with the District Administrative Officer from Shefa Province. Area Council and Technical Advisory Group members (such as the Agriculture Field Extension Officer) were briefed regarding the results of the mission and were able to contribute to the overall site level CCA plan.

Minor adjustments to the participatory engagement tool used by VCAP for vulnerability assessments and needs for revision were noted during this trial mission. VCAP team members discussed CCA planning methodology and possible improvements that could be made in future missions.

Epi Site CCA Priorities (collective results from Epi site)

1st Priority	Improve climate resilience of public road, ex- repair bridges, drainage, inclines of roadways
2nd Priority	Water and food security support - particularly vulnerable to disasters such as cyclones & drought



(VCAP team meeting with Vermaul and Vermali Area Council members along with VDC chairs at Rovo Bay, October 1, 2015)

VCAP Community Field Missions

2. North Erromango Sub-Site - Tafea Outer Islands Site, Tafea Province

- 3 Village Development Committees (VDC's) at sub-site
- Mission Conducted 06.10.15 - 13.10.15 by CIS
- 1 Area Council with Total Population of 1,035 people at sub-site



VCAP PIU staff traveled to North Erromango between October 6th - 13th to facilitate community-based vulnerability assessments and planning for targeted CCA interventions. The main population centers of Ipota, Cook's Bay, and Port Narvin were engaged and the Site Coordinators for Erromango and respective Area Secretary assisted.

Communities from North Erromango observed that they struggle with both food and water security due in part to damage incurred during Tropical Cyclone Pam as well as current drought conditions caused by El Niño weather patterns. Improving the accessibility along footpaths that often become flooded, suffer from erosion after heavy rains and are dangerous to climb or descend along hillsides during inclement weather was deemed important by communities as an overall priority.

North Erromango Sub-Site CCA Priorities (collective results from North Erromango communities)

1st Priority	"Climate proofing" of coastal footpaths and installation of safe pedestrian bridges at river crossings
2nd Priority	Water security support; strengthening gravity feed water systems and expanding coverage



(Footpaths such as these serve as primary access ways for communities on Erromango)



(Site Coordinator facilitating meeting)



(Women's focus group from Ipota Village)

VCAP Community Field Missions

3. South Erromango Sub-Site - Tafea Outer Islands Site, Tafea Province

- 4 Village Development Committees (VDC's) at sub-site • Mission Conducted 12.11.15 - 19.11.15 by CIS
- 1 Area Council with Total Population of 1,441 people at sub-site

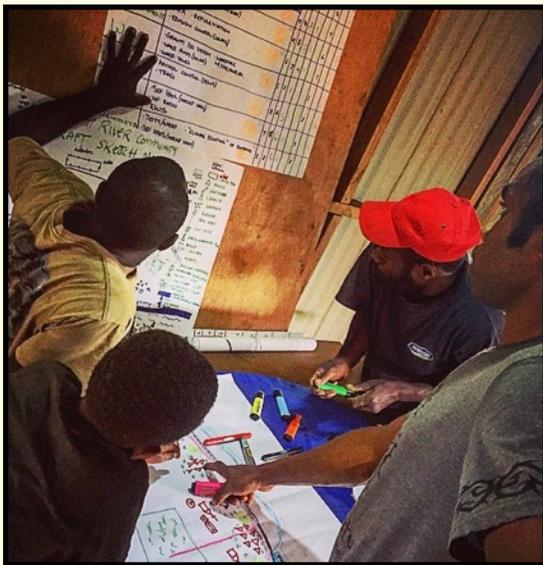


(Community meeting underway during vulnerability assessment in Antioch, Erromango)

South Erromango Sub-Site CCA Priorities (collective results from South Erromango communities)

1st Priority	Water security: upgrading gravity feed system, installing backup rain catchment tanks
2nd Priority	“Climate proofing” of coastal footpaths and installation of safe pedestrian bridges at river crossings

The VCAP community field mission to South Erromango took place between November 12th - 19th to facilitate community-based vulnerability assessments & planning for targeted CCA interventions. The larger communities of William’s Bay, Happyland, South River & Antioch were engaged for vulnerability assessments and CCA planning.



(VDC planning session in South River)

As Erromango is one of the largest islands in Vanuatu, with a landmass of 891 square kilometers, this sub-site within the Tafea Outer Islands site has two Site Coordinators facilitating work on the ground in both North and South Erromango Area Councils. This mission worked closely with both coordinators and the provincial Area Secretary for South Erromango Area Council.

The communities within the VCAP site selected for South Erromango are recovering from the heavy impact of Cyclone Pam that struck early this year, as well as adapting to El Niño currently. While Erromango has many natural water sources, including upland springs and coastal rivers, there is a lack of plentiful crop yields that are affecting villagers daily.

Most communities here have only footpaths to serve for transport purposes (as boats are quite expensive and used infrequently), even modest “climate proofing” interventions along footpaths would greatly improve access to vital services for vulnerable community members in South Erromango.

VCAP Community Field Missions

4. Futuna Sub-Site - Tafea Outer Islands Site, Tafea Province

- 1 Area Council with Total Population of 604 people
- 3 Village Development Committees (VDC's) at sub-site
- Mission Conducted 08.10.15 - 13.10.15 by CAPS, Acting Director of DLA & National Project Manager

The mission to Futuna Island within the VCAP Tafea Outer Islands site was led by the Acting Director of the DLA along with the VCAP National Project Manager and a planning specialist from the VCAP PIU. This mission team was fortunate to have among its ranks senior leadership from the DLA in order to receive further feedback regarding VCAP's approach in strengthening provincial Area Councils and in engaging communities.

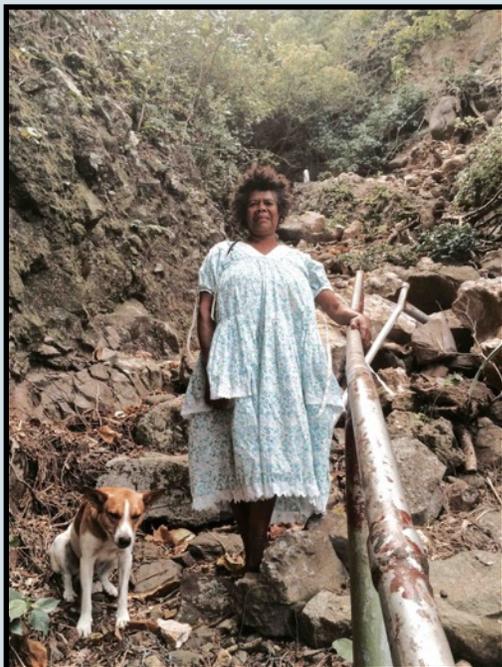


The VCAP team engaged entire communities and VDC's from Mission Bay, Herold Bay and Matangi in comprehensive vulnerability assessments and CCA planning to address identified vulnerabilities working alongside the Area Secretary for the Futuna Area Council.

Communities on Futuna indicated that a priority need related to CCA was improving the accessibility of public footpaths in inclement weather as heavy landslides, erosion from rainfall and rising coastlines threaten reliable access to services on tiny but mountainous island. The Acting Director of the DLA commended the VCAP team on its approach during its final consultation with the Futuna Area Council, stating VCAP was a role model for future projects.

Futuna Sub-Site CCA Priorities (collective results from Futuna communities)

1st Priority	Improve climate resilience of public footpath, ex- maintain areas affected by coastal & upland erosion. Footpath on this island was
2nd Priority	Water security support - upgrade sources affected by heavy rains, repair pipes, upgrade storage



(A woman using the main footpath near Matangi)



(Acting Director of DLA Ben Tabi, front, and VCAP Project Manager Jackson Tambe, behind, walking to Herold Bay)

VCAP Community Field Missions

5. Aniwa Sub-Site - Tafea Outer Islands Site, Tafea Province

- 1 Area Council with Total Population of 502 people
- Mission Conducted 22.10.15 - 26.10.15 by CIS
- 3 Village Development Committees (VDC's) at sub-site



The VCAP team facilitated community-led vulnerability assessments and sector-based planning for targeted CCA interventions in Isavai, Imatu and Ikaukau communities on Aniwa Island.

The biggest climate vulnerability and need reported from communities on Aniwa was for improved accessibility to safe drinking water, as the island is heavily dependent on rain harvesting. With no upland or coastal springs water sources, water is collected either through rain harvesting (El Niño impacted), water pumps (only 1 operational with salt water intrusion) or the island's small desalination plant (which requires costly fuel and has only a 450L capacity).

Supporting local fisheries in a sustainable manner was deemed another priority for VCAP to support. As the large cyclone that struck Vanuatu earlier this year has adversely impacted livelihoods supported by sandalwood cultivation and orange crops, local fisheries is viewed as a sustainable way to enable locals to generate income after this disaster. The continued support for encouraging drought resistant crops on Aniwa was also stressed as an immediate need.

This mission to Aniwa facilitated vulnerability assessments and community CCA plans with the assistance of the Site Coordinator from Aniwa Island and the provincial Area Secretary, along with Area Council members.

Aniwa Sub-Site CCA Priorities (collective results from Aniwa communities)

1st Priority	Improve water security: install at least 2 additional pumps & expand of capacity of "desal" plant
2nd Priority	Support to sustainable fisheries; installation of F.A.D. (Fish Aggregating Device) to alleviate fisheries pressures to inshore reefs, establishment of Marine Protected Area



(Desalination equipment on Aniwa still not enough to meet water security needs currently)



(Aniwa Area Council and VDC chair persons)

VCAP Community Field Missions

6. Aneityum Sub-Site - Tafea Outer Islands Site, Tafea Province

- 1 Area Council with Total Population of 1,328 people
- Mission Conducted 19.11.15 - 26.11.15 by CAPS
- 4 Village Development Committees (VDC's) at sub-site

A planning specialist from VCAP PIU worked with the provincial Area Secretary and communities to facilitate vulnerability assessments and planning for targeted CCA interventions on Aneityum Island in the communities of Anelcauhat, Umej & the Port Patrick area (Anejo, Anaowanse, Anaowanje).

As there are no vehicular roads currently in use on the island, access to services is largely reliant on local footpaths, which are often inaccessible or dangerous during heavy rains or at high tide. Multiple pedestrians have died on Aneityum's footpaths in past decades while crossing rivers, streams and walking along dangerous coastal areas.



Addressing food security vulnerabilities was considered to be a pressing need by communities too, as growing dependence on the tourism industry has left communities ill-prepared to face disasters affecting traditional food reserves produced from local gardens. Continued support to sustainable fisheries was seen as contributing towards food security also.

Aneityum Sub-Site CCA Priorities (collective results from Aneityum communities)

1st Priority	Improve climate resilience of local footpaths affected by climate vulnerabilities, pedestrian bridges for river crossings that frequently flood during inclement weather
2nd Priority	Improving food security efforts on the island, agro-forestry nurseries promoting CCA resilient species



(Aneityum Area Council members and VDC representatives at VCAP briefing and CCA planning meeting)

VCAP Community Field Missions

7. Pentecost Island Site - Penama Province

- 2 Area Councils with Total Population of 2,897 people
- 10 Village Development Committees (VDC's) at site
- Mission Conducted 30.11.15 - 14.12.15 by CIS & CAPS



The VCAP team facilitated community-led vulnerability assessments and sector-based planning for targeted CCA interventions at the project site, which focuses on the eastern coast of Central Pentecost Area Council 2 (CP2). Communities along the western coast were also engaged in planning meetings and vulnerability assessments, from Bwatnapni Village in CP1 Area Council down to the Ranwadi / Waterfall area to explore possible interventions to support adaptation to climatic challenges.

As eastern communities in CP2 do not have access to vehicular roads or even access to transport via boat or ship due to strong coastal tides, access to services is reliant on local footpaths passing through very dangerous and challenging conditions created by significant periods of rainfall on the island.

In times of great need, sick or injured villagers from the eastern coast must be physically carried to health facilities on the western coast by teams of men hoisting the affected villager over their heads and walking along the slippery and steep footpaths for a distance of over five kilometers. Management of upland resources, especially water sources and the environment located within water catchment areas was listed as a priority as well due to environmental threats posed by large quantities of livestock on the island and encroaching agricultural activities. This field mission was supported by the provincial Area Secretary of CP2 and the VCAP Site Coordinator for Pentecost Island.

Pentecost Site CCA Priorities (collective results from Pentecost site)

1st Priority	Improve climate resilience of local footpaths affected by climate vulnerabilities along eastern coast, pedestrian bridges for river crossings that frequently flood during inclement weather
2nd Priority	Water security measures including protecting water catchment areas from contamination from livestock, logging and agricultural activities



(Left-Pentecost VDC members discussing climate vulnerabilities in a mapping exercise in Vanrasini Village; Right- muddy conditions experienced by pedestrians along footpaths leading to the eastern coast of CP2)

Creative Knowledge Management



(A captive audience watched video content on display on Aneityum Island during a community meeting)

Sharing climate knowledge by video with rural communities - The VCAP PIU has been utilizing customized video productions to engage communities in discussions regarding climate change adaptation and possible interventions within their own communities. Often while conducting community meetings and vulnerability assessments, the VCAP PIU has utilized a projector and laptop to showcase these VCAP videos to the public and raise awareness about the effects of climate change as well as inform communities about VCAP's various components. The VCAP field missions have provided an excellent opportunity to distribute these media productions via flash drive and mobile phone as well to interested community members, who can continue to watch and share the content with others.

These VCAP videos were developed during the design phase of the project and are professionally narrated in Bislama, the national pidgin language of Vanuatu. They feature a soundtrack produced by local Ni-Vanuatu musicians, often utilizing musicians from the actual target sites themselves, which in itself has attracted additional interest from community audiences. Often in Vanuatu, rural community members have limited literacy rates, therefore audio-visual materials have proven more effective than traditional pamphlets and printed materials, in disseminating key messages and spreading information.

Rather than simply playing the videos for the communities, these multi-media tools have been used as a starting point for continued conversations about the vulnerabilities and priorities for action concerning climate change. Feedback and discussions involving the video production and its content have proven valuable for the VCAP PIU during field missions.



(Large crowd at Fest'Napuan where VCAP videos were shared with the public)

Partnering with the largest public event in Vanuatu, which is called the "Fest'Napuan" music festival, the VCAP PIU was able to hold a "knowledge-sharing" booth at the festival where video content was shared and questions about VCAP were answered for the public. VCAP videos were displayed on a large jumbo screen during intermission breaks for the crowd of 5,000+. The music festival had a climate resilience theme, leading up to COP21!

VCAP PROJECT BOARD MEETING

November 6th, 2015 at Moorings Hotel
Conference Room, Port Vila

Bullet points covering important outcomes from the second VCAP Project Board meeting from November 06, 2015:

*Public Works Department will focus on improving footpath accessibility on Futuna Island in Tafea Province as part of its AWP for 2016. Recruitment of a coordinator to organize community based island contractors for Epi Island is also planned for next year. Roadwork support for Pentecost Island to compliment Australian funded assistance to primary roadways was also discussed as a planned activity for 2016, as many roads are inaccessible during frequent rainy periods on the

*VCAP Project Board agreed to a changing Activity 1.2.3.5 to focus on supporting a water security module at Torgil Rural Training Centre on Ambae Island instead of a construction course on pedestrian bridges, with VRTCDA as major partner. This change is due to changing baselines after TC Pam and worsening drought conditions experienced through El Niño.

*Project Board approves the formation of a technical working group for VCAP, comprised of the staff members for nationally implementing partners to consider technical working matters that may arise during VCAP implementation.

*Presentation of progress to date by DLA led missions to facilitate community vulnerability assessments and CCA planning. DLA to hire a staff VCAP coordinator before the end of the year and missions to South Santo, Malekula and Torres Islands are planned for next year.

*Forestry Director presents on behalf of Forestry and Agriculture plans for 2016, along with Director of Fisheries. Proposal to change project boundaries to include additional sites is declined as Project Board decides to first deliver in sites agreed upon in the Project Document before considering expansion perhaps during the Mid-Term Review.

*Introduction of Chief Technical Advisor, Manfred Staab, to VCAP Project Board. A list of recommendations from Mr. Staab to improve project efficiencies is delivered to the project board.

*Project Board supports and encourages Project Manager, Mr. Jackson Tambe, to hire additional VCAP staff as soon as possible in order to have a functional PIU and staff capacity at line agencies.

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matthew.hardwick@undp.org to receive the
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