

Training Series on Agrometeorology and Climate Change Adaptation

Setting-up Community Conservation Areas



In 2002, the national Parliament passed the Bill for the Environmental Management and Conservation Act with the purpose of conservation, sustainable development and management of environment and regulation of related activities. The Act allows for the identification and registration of Community Conservation Areas dedicated to the protection, maintenance and sustainable use of biological diversity and of natural and associated cultural resources in Vanuatu, anaged through legal and effective means.

What is a Community Conservation Area?

CCA are sites which has most of the following features:

- ✚ A location of intense biological activity (i.e. reef fish spawning aggregation)
- ✚ An area with great aesthetic beauty, sustainable tourist attraction or is a natural monument.
- ✚ A crucial habitat for a particular species or groups of species or of national biodiversity significance.
- ✚ An area with special cultural values, educational, historic, religious or recreational values.
- ✚ An area important for resource maintenance, rehabilitation, restocking or re-vegetation
- ✚ A site for ex-situ and in-situ conservation activities (i.e. tree seedling nurseries, or giant clam gardens)
- ✚ An area which covers important land features.
- ✚ A customary or sacred site.
- ✚ A research area.
- ✚ Area threatened by current future development.
- ✚ A critical ecosystem service area i.e. water catchment, watershed management and climate mitigation site.



Application to register CCAs are submitted to the Department of Environmental Portection and Conservation.

Characteristics of CCA

- Any size (big or small)
- Land and/or marine resources
- Privately or community-owned
- Cooperatively managed with other organization
- Allows use and harvest of resources inside the CCA
- Used on short-term, periodic or permanent basis
- Support indigenous and non-indigenous local practices

Exisiting CCAs

- Uri
- Narong
- Wiawi
- Ringi Te Suh
- Malekula
- Mystery Island Reserve
- Spuaki Conservation Area
- Kauri Forest Resrve
- Vatthe Conservation Area

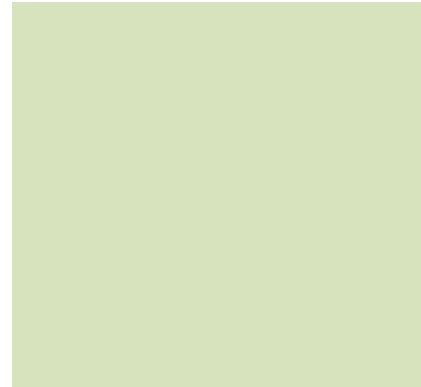
Registration of CCA

Several Vanuatu Departments and organizations offer registration of community areas:

- ✓ Forestry Department: Forestry Conservation Areas
- ✓ Fisheries Department: Marine Reserve
- ✓ Vanuatu Cultural Centre: Sacred Sites

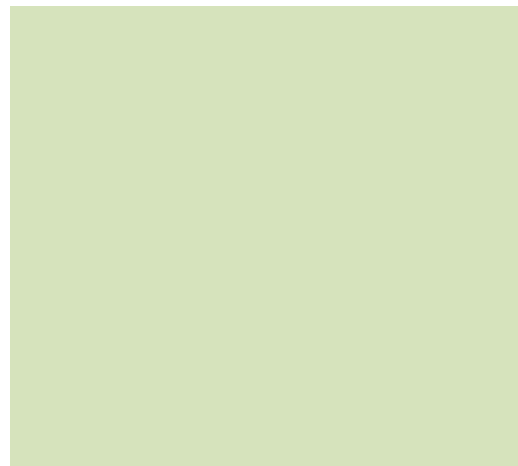
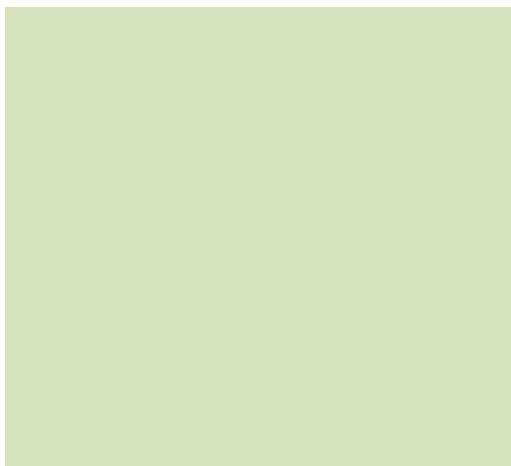
The registration process and application procedures are comprehensive and will need:

- ✓ Letters of support from chief, councils and provincial government.
- ✓ Time
- ✓ Commitment



Benefits of a CCA

- + Publicity
- + Special consideration by aid donors for conservation and development projects.
- + Access to important conservation information.
- + Membership in national networks and programs.
- + Nomination for international awards and recognitions.
- + Invitation opportunities to participate in capacity building exercises, national workshops and meetings.
- + Administrative support for management activities.
- + Opportunities to participate in site visits and exchanges with other communities.
- + Opportunities to host national and foreign researchers.
- + Receive assistance from Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation to improve and make management of the CCA sustainable



CCA Step-by-step registration checklist

- Collect an application package from the Vanuatu Department of Environmental protection and Conservation.
- Read through the application form and Information booklet.
- Discuss registration of your CCA with your community and other interested parties.
- Write/update a management plan for the proposed Community Conservation Area.
- Present and obtain approval for the proposed CCA management plan at a community or village meeting and prepare minutes or verification letter of the meeting.
- Obtain a letter of support for the proposed CCA from the appropriate governing body.
- Notify adjacent villages and communities of your intent to register your CCA under the Environmental Protection Act.
- Obtain a letter of support from the area or island Council of Chiefs.
- Obtain a letter of support for the proposed CCA from the Secretary General of the Provincial Government.
- Answer and complete all the questions in the application form.
- Collect all required signatures on the application form.
- Check if all your documents are complete and make copies of all your records.
- Submit your application to: **Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation**,
PMB 9063 Port Vila Vanuatu. Ph: 25302 Fax: 23565 Email: environ@vanuatu.com.vu

*This training guide was prepared by the **National Advisory board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction** and **Vanuatu Department of Meteorology and Geo-Hazards** in cooperation with **SPC/GIZ Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region** with funding support from the **EU Global Climate Change Alliance**.*



NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD
on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction
GOVERNMENT OF VANUATU

Where can I get advice?

- For more information on Climate Change & Disaster policy, projects and activities, contact:
National Advisory Board on Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction (NAB)
Private Mail Bag 9054, Port Vila Tel: (678) 2231;
Fax: (678) 22310
Web: www.nab.vu; Email: commp@meteo.gov.vu
- For more information on Climate Change Science, contact:
Climate Section of the Vanuatu Meteorological and Geohazards Department (VMGD)
Tel: (678) 24686
- For more information CCA, contact:
Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation
PMB 9063, Port Vila Vanuatu
Tel #: (678) 25302 Fax: 23565
Email: environ@vanuatu.com.vu