**South Pentecost Community Ecosystems-Based Adaptation – Pacific Coral Triangle Program**

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| **Funding Administrator:**  ADB (proposed) | **Funding source:**  *ADB TA 7753-REG; Strengthening Coastal and Marine Resources management in the Coral Triangle of the Pacific*. |
| **Total funding:**  149,707 USD (estimated) | **Duration:**  March 2013 to March 2015 (yearly review) |
| **Status:**  Project Inception | **Project type:**  Community-based Adaptation, Ecosystem regeneration, Governance |
| **Sectors:**  Climate Change Adaptation; Forestry, Agriculture | **Scope:**  Local |
| **Lead Agency:**  Live & Learn Environmental Education (Vanuatu) | **GoV Agency:**  Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) |
| **Media Contact:**  Andrina Thomas, Country Manager, Live & Learn, andrina.thomas@livelearn.org | **Project Contact:**  Andrina Thomas, Country Manager, Live & Learn, andrina.thomas@livelearn.org |

**Background**: This proposal has been developed to support the program in Vanuatu of the *ADB TA 7753-REG; Strengthening Coastal and Marine Resources management in the Coral Triangle of the Pacific*.

In an *Aide Memoire of the ADB Consultation and Review Mission to Vanuatu* dated September 2012, the following Vanuatu-specific outputs were identified:

1. strengthen capabilities of national and local institutions in sustainable coastal and marine resource management; (ii) provide opportunities for coastal communities to gain experience in applying best practices in ecosystem-based management and climate change adaptation; (iii) enhance resilience of coastal ecosystems to climate change.

Live & Learn has been engaged with the community of Ranputor in South Pentecost since 2011. With community leaders Live & Learn set up a three-day project planning workshop 24 – 26th May 2011 focused on the topic of climate change. The community specifically looked at the ways their natural resources are being managed and what the future might look like if current practices continue in the face of climate impacts.

The community suggested what activities could be done to build the resilience of the community. Most of these requests have been developed into the South Pentecost Community Ecosystems-based Adaptation Project below.

**The project will focus on three key areas:**

(i) Governance**:** The Ranputor community has identified a desire for small enterprise training and development. In 2012 Live & Learn has developed a Good Governance manual aimed at assisting communities in Melanesia who would like to develop small businesses and cooperatives. This resource will be adapted for the Ranputor community and while the set up of a business is not included in this phase of engagement with the community, the good governance training and establishment of a committee for the project will lay a strong foundation for its development in future.

The first year of the project will focus on the establishment and strengthening of community-based governance processes through a project committee. The second year will require the committee and community it represents to develop a Marine Protected Area (MPA) or Community Conservation Area (CCA) and management plan and work to implement the actions found within the plan for the marine area.

(ii) Ridge to Reef: The concept of Ridge to Reef centers around establishing the clear connections between terrestrial environmental impacts and marine environmental impacts. This fact is not new to the Ranputor community who in the RAP report highlight the concerns for both river and marine health and were able to make connections between these two ecosystems. Live & Learn seeks to use already developed resources on climate change to explain to the community the connections between their surrounding ecosystem and climate change adaptation. A workshop will be developed and delivered which highlights an ecosystems-based adaptation approach as central to increased resilience in the face of climate change.

This education will then be put into practice through various activities to strengthen the health of the river and marine system. Such activities may include revegetation, exclusion zones, turtle monitoring, community education awareness training, water testing and data collection, tree propagation and planting, Live & Learn hopes to engage the Departments of Environmental Protection and Conservation, Forestry, Fisheries and NGO, Reef Check, as stakeholders in this implementation phase. All fieldwork will be done in agreement with the Provincial Government and use Government extension employees where possible rather than bringing experts from Port Vila.

Live & Learn will be responsible for carrying out all activities. It will seek the engagement of Government Agencies for in-community advice on how to proceed and will therefore budget for these field trips. Live & Learn will seek further support from Government should it require assistance with tree planting, water quality maintenance or marine baseline determinations although it is hoped that the current budgeted field work can cater for this.

(iii) Food Security

The communities of Ranputor and Homo Bay identified that a key driver of environmental degradation was local agriculture. In order to ensure that the benefits of the project are lasting, it is important that Live & Learn addresses the key drivers of deforestation and overharvesting. Live & Learn is now undergoing the second phase of a Food Security Program throughout Melanesia that establishes knowledge hubs of local farmers and partners closely with agricultural departments in each country. For Ranputor, water taro is a main staple crop as well as key cash crop supplied to markets for sale. River systems are affected by diversion to feed water taro plots and other cash crop plots. In Year Two of this project, Live & Learn’s food security experts will support the project to assess food security needs such as improved taro production. The Department of Agriculture will be asked to support this work by providing expertise and planning experience.