SGP Country Programme Strategy for utilization of OP5 grant funds

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Country:	**VANUATU**
Resources to be invested:	**GEF CORE: US$1,200,000**[1]
	GEF STAR Allocation: US$1,500,000

[1] The level of SGP OP5 resources is an estimated total of the GEF core grant allocation, anticipated STAR resources, as well as other sources of third party co-financing.

List of Acronyms

AusAID	Australian International Aid Agency
BD	Biodiversity
CBO	Community-based Organization
CCA	Community Conservation Area
CC	Climate Change
CPMT	Central Programme Management Team
CPS	Country Programme Strategy
FSPI	Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHGs	Greenhouse Gases
IW	International Waters
KM	Knowledge Management
LD	Land Degradation
MAP CBA	Mekong Asia-Pacific Community-Based Adaptation programme
MDGs	(a) Millennium Development Goals
NAPA	(b) National Action Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change
NBSAP	(c) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCs	(d) National Coordinators
NGOs	(e) Non-governmental Organizations
NSCs	(f) National Steering Committees
NZAID	(g) New Zealand International Aid Agency
PEF	(h) Pacific Environnent Fund
POPs	(i) Persistent Organic Pollutants
REDD	(j) Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SGP	(k) Small Grants Programme
TNC	(l) The Nature Conservancy
UNCBD	(m) UN Convention on Biodiversity
UNDP	(n) United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	(o) United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	(p) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. SGP country programme - summary background

Vanuatu joined the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) in September 2007 and started providing grants in June 2008. SGP Vanuatu gives priority to local community initiatives that help build local capacity to protect and sustainably manage biological resources whilst also (i) improving sustainable livelihoods; (ii) reducing waste impacts on biological resources; and (iii) strengthening community resilience to climate change risks (Vanuatu SGP strategy 2008-2010).

During the SGP 4th Operational Phase (OP4), SGP Vanuatu supported 21 projects implemented by local NGO and CBOs, representing US$571,420 in funding from the GEF, along with the NZAID Pacific Environment Fund (PEF), and the AUSAID Mekong Asia-Pacific Community-Based Adaptation (MAP CBA) programme. During OP4, in-kind co-financing contributions for local projects were also mobilized from a range of sources and organizations including external volunteers, communities, NGOs and CBOs (equivalent to 45%).

Due to limited financial and technical constraints, the overall impact of national policies in Vanuatu remains limited and cannot address the whole range of needs of the country towards sustainable environmental management. In this context, SGP projects in Vanuatu have helped to increase understanding amongst civil society organizations (CSOs) with regard to global environmental concerns, and increased CSO participation in implementing Vanuatu's national priorities through grass roots actions. In particular, notable achievements of SGP during GEF Operational Phase 4 include:

- ✓ 8 newly formed NGOs and CBOs were able to facilitate community consultations to identify local environmental priority concerns to support local actions to address global environmental concerns;
- ✓ 30 local community members engaged in research for effective eradication of invasive plant species that have (caused irreparable damage to trees by strangling them so threatening natural forest stand within local Community Conservation Areas);
- ✓ Local community farmers have gained experience in reforestation activities for improvement of forest biodiversity and soil fertility on low coralline islands. The initiatives have also helped (i) restocking of overexploited economic forest resources, (ii) improved rainwater harvesting for water supply to small island communities. In the reforestation projects, forest maintenance has also helped address communities' vulnerability to shortage of water during frequent droughts;
- ✓ Ecotourism demonstrated as an income-generating activity for sustainable management of local indigenous marine conservation areas. These "no take zones" or "*taboo*" areas are managed under traditional management systems, and will over time contribute to maintenance of stock, protection of spawning and roosting places for global endangered species (dugongs and turtles);
- ✓ Advocacy at the local community on the protection and conservation of an international endangered species, *Birgus latro,* which is over exploited for food in small islands. The project identified that crab stocks densities are higher when habitats are protected under traditional management. Project information has

helped the government policy adjustment to more support for local community engagement in the management of resources;

- ✓ Community capacity building on the utilization, management and maintenance of solar power system for lighting has helped improve food security and minimized disposal of batteries into marine and coral reef areas. Local church groups complement the clean lighting system by providing households with solar lanterns as replacements to kerosene lamps;
- ✓ 7 villages have demonstrated soil erosion control measures for improvement of garden foot tracks as a low cost bioengineering initiative, using *Vertiver* grass;
- ✓ Community climate change adaptation (under AusAID MAP/SIDS CBA): has improved community access to adequate water supply as part of building community resilience to droughts, thereby also reducing the labor burden on women and children

1.1 Key baseline considerations for the Vanuatu SGP CPS

Vanuatu comprises over 80 volcanic and coralline islands with a total land mass area of 12, 336 square kilometers. The country has a population of 234,023 with an annual population growth rate of 2.3%.[2] 76% of Vanuatu's population live in rural villages, ranging from one family to several hundred people, and speak over 100 local vernacular languages. Rural populations rely on environmental goods and services to sustain subsistence agriculture and fishing, supplemented by small-scale commercial agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

The rapidly increasing population in Vanuatu, faced with few economic opportunities, has placed pressure on the natural environment. Many species, in particular those with commercial value, are over exploited, the Trochus nautilus and other marine invertebrates[3]. Alteration of land use for increasing settlements, agriculture, forestry, and tourism development with poor planning has resulted in loss of coastal resources and increasing pollution of water bodies. Some traditional management systems that for a long time had sustained the livelihood of indigenous peoples, are now become unsustainable. In general, there has been a lack of knowledge and experience of other options of sustainable management, connected to a "lack of motivation" to address growing environmental problems. Within the economic constraints, national policies and legislations have limited effect and have often failed to deal with the degradation of environmental resources, creating social and economic hardships for the well-being of local communities.

Deforestation within a fragile island ecosystem contributes to the loss of biodiversity and land degradation. Natural forest cover in Vanuatu is about 36% of the total land area[4]. Many commercially valuable trees have been removed through large-scale logging with forest recovery failure, leading the government to impose a ban on such operations. Large natural lowland forests have been converted to coconut and pasture areas for cattle, and urban development expansion. Coastal vegetation, including areas of mangroves, have

[2] Vanuatu Government Statistics Department, Vanuatu National Census Report, 2009

[3] REEF CHECK:Empowering people to save our reefs and Oceans; *Reef Check with Ocean Watch in Vanuatu, 31-08-2011, viewed 20-3-2012;www.reefcheck.org/news/news_detail.php?id=774*

[4] Neill,P. 1987. Forestry Resources and Policies in Vanuatu. In: Chamber, M.R and Bani, E. Resources and Development and Environment.

been removed and replaced with tourism development infrastructures. Local wood supply also remains the dominant household energy source also increasing demands on forest resources. Traditional local knowledge of bird species are gradually eroding and high sedimentation have been noted in the lagoon and harbour in proximity of the capital, Port Vila.

While the lowland areas (that are less rugged) are targeted for commercial activities, subsistence farmers have been forced into other marginal areas (rugged upland and water catchment areas). The slash and burn traditional farming system has exposed the volcanic soil which has become susceptible to erosion. During heavy rains, the soil gets washed away as sediment load into the marine areas causing mass deaths of corals. Sediment load into freshwater sources has affected the quality and quantity of local community water supplies.

Vanuatu is vulnerable to a range of natural disasters that are detrimental to the environment, and suppress local livelihoods. Extreme weather events (cyclones, floods, storm surges, warmer temperatures, sea level rise, and droughts), volcanism, and tectonic movements, are all major natural environmental hazards to the islands. Their long term impacts are difficult to quantify or describe qualitatively. However, water and food shortages are regularly experienced by local communities on smaller islands. In addition, there are also regular incidences of fire, outbreaks of malaria, dengue fever; inundation of coastal zones and estuaries, damage to infrastructure and housing; bleaching of coral reefs, and outbreaks of *ciguatera*.

Invasive species present acute threats to biodiversity and food productivity. Plant species introduced for cattle pasture improvement and forestry development are now widespread in non targeted areas, including in natural forests and garden food crop areas. Increasing deaths of coral reefs due to the predator, the Crown of Thorns star fish, as well is the impact of siltation, is now more widespread within the northern part of Vanuatu [5].

With an open trade economy, Vanuatu is increasingly dependent on imported goods which are associated with unwanted by-products. These products are introduced into communities that have little knowledge and experience of proper waste management resulting in their poor disposal. There is limited waste management capacity in the country with only two landfills that are located in the major urban centres. Throughout the islands, waste is generally disposed of inappropriately without regard for productive environmental systems and human well-being.

1.2 Partnerships and sources of Co-financing

Aside from the core GEF funding, SGP Vanuatu programme has also benefitted from financing support received from NZAID for the Pacific Environment Fund (PEF). CSOs' capacity in environmental management has been strengthened for community based project planning and development, ecotourism, sustainable forestry, and fisheries' management.

[5] REEF CHECK:Empowering people to save our reefs and Oceans; *Reef Check with Ocean Watch in Vanuatu, 31-08-2011, viewed 20-3-2012;www.reefcheck.org/news/news_detail.php?id=774*

A national climate change adaptation component of the Vanuatu SGP was also developed and approved in 2010 with financial support provided through the AUSAID Mekong Asia Pacific Community based climate change adaptation (MAP-CBA). Initial projects have focused on building communities' resilience to climate change impacts on their water resources, food production and coastal erosion.

Since the inception of the SGP in Vanuatu, the government has also allocated a budget each year for policy development and advocacy for sustainable environmental management in the country. All projects implemented by the SGP are designed to complement the Vanuatu government and its other partners for sustainable environmental programme, including for policy influence and replication through other initiatives.

2. SGP country programme niche

Table 1. List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programmes

Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Vanuatu signed 9th June 1992, Ratified 25 March 1993
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	Completed 2000
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Vanuatu signed 9 June 1992 Ratified 25 March 1993
UNFCCC National Communications (1st, 2nd, 3rd)	1st UNFCC National Communication completed , 2002.
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	Vanuatu signed September 28 1999, Ratified August 10 1999 3rd National Report completed 2007[6]
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	Completed 2010
Stockholm Convention (SC)	Vanuatu signed 22 May 2001 and ratified 16 September 2001[7]
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	Drafted, 2007
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	Completed in 2007[8]
GEF-5 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	Under progress while funding yet to sort
SPREP Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies Strategic Action Programme for International Waters of Pacific Islands-including Vanuatu	Completed 1997

The GEF SGP Vanuatu is managed by a National Steering Committee (NSC) comprising of 9 members representing a majority of NGOs and CBOs, 3 government representatives (including the GEF Operational Focal Point), a provincial government representative, and a UNDP country representative personel. The National Steering Committee decisions in direction for the Programme is supported by a National Technical group. The NSC develops the SGP Vanuatu Country Programme Strategy (CPS) in consultation with the stakeholders (NGOs, CBOs, government, partners and others) that set clear objectives within national priorities of relevance to GEF OP5 priorities.

[6] Vanuatu Environment Unit, Third National Report to the United Nations Convention to combat Dessertification (UNCCD), 2007. www.sprep.org
[7] United Nations Treaty Collection. *treaties.un.org/pages/view*
[8] Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Regional Programme,Vanuatu National Capacity Self assessment (NCSA) Project, 2006; www.sprep.org/att/irc/ecopies/countries/vanuatu/28

Stakeholders including NGOs, CBOs, government representative and other partners, held a consultation in August 2011 to prepare the SGP Vanuatu CPS interventions for OP5. The CPS targets not only global environmental protection but also the reduction of hardships on local community livelihoods, as well as strengthened adaptive capacity of local communities to withstand climatic and other natural disaster risks.

The Vanuatu National Biodiversity Strategy, prepared in 2002, has placed priority on the protection and wise use of biodiversity in Vanuatu through strong support to local community participation in activities that promote the sustainable management of biodiversity, strengthening the traditional conservation practices, and local community decision making.

The Vanuatu Government Priority Action Agenda (2006-2015) has emphasized the need to improve the lives of rural people through: (i) better access to markets; (ii) improved management of natural resources; (iii) sustainable forest and fisheries development; (iv) threat reduction to Vanuatu environment through effective implementation of the Environment and Conservation Act, 2002; (v) protection of globally significant biodiversity; (vi) minimization of the pollution of lagoons and harbours through effective waste management in urban areas; (vii) promotion of ecotourism where feasible as incentives for environment protection; as well as (viii) local community education for protection on the environment.

The Vanuatu National Energy Policy Framework (2006) has targeted the following key interventions: (i) an increase in the use of renewable energy that supports economic investment; (ii) efficient, affordable, reliable environmental clean transport system through energy efficiency; (iii) provision of appropriate, reliable and affordable energy services and technologies to rural remote areas; and (iv) active participation of CSOs in clean energy projects.

Community empowerment is one of crucial areas of development where GEF SGP can provide much needed support to participate in the implementation of national priorities. The SGP can play an important role in developing the capacity of civil society organizations (NGOs, CBOs, farmers, fisherfolk, women's groups, youth organizations) in facilitating community identification of challenges affecting their livelihoods; financial management; results-based environmental project planning and management; business management; and undertaking environmental research.

SGP Vanuatu will follow a decentralized approach to address local environmental issues at the grassroots level and ensure geographical concentration of projects for visible impact and synergy creation at the provincial level for sustainable environmental management policy impact at the provincial and national government levels.

SGP Vanuatu management will continue to work through local Civil society Organisation groups ensuring that there is proper diagnosis of local priority issues; that communities agree on priorities and implementation plans; and that there is proper monitoring and feedback to meeting the national SGP OP5 strategy objectives.

A full time National Coordinator (NC) has been recruited with the role to (i) oversee the daily management operations of the SGP in Vanuatu; (ii) to provide services as a secretariat to support NSC in their guidance to NGOs and CBOs on project development and implementation; (iii) facilitate the grant-making process during project implementation, and (iv) report annually on programme delivery to the SGP Global Manager and the Central Programme Management Team (CPMT) based at UNDP HQ in New York.

A Programme Assistant (PA), to be recruited during OP5, will support the NC on the management of SGP grantees' project records, support the daily management of SGP deliveries, provide administrative support to grantees in their project management, and assist in SGP Knowledge Management (KM).

The NC will continue to review project concepts and may recommend planning grants to help project formulation towards a full proposal. The NSC will select projects for grant making that are fit with the SGP OP5 Vanuatu strategy objectives. Proponents will be informed of NSC decisions on their project proposal within 2-3 days after the NSC decisions. All approved project information will be immediately uploaded on the SGP website for wider audience.

It is also anticipated that there will be additional support from NGOs and government agencies and the Provincial government to the SGP in Vanuatu in building local CBOs' capacities in community participatory project planning, development and project management that are in line with national priorities and ensure that there is transparency in all phases of project implementation on the ground.

Based on the diversity of cultures, the vulnerability of local livelihoods to human-induced development, a wide range of disasters, and limited knowledge of the longer term impacts of threats on the environment, SGP Vanuatu will continue to ensure a fair distribution of community-based projects at the national level. The stars on the map indicated the active volcanoes.

Table 2. Consistency with national priorities

OP5 project objectives	National priorities	SGP niche
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1: Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas through community-based actions	• Protection, wise use of biodiversity including threat reduction; protection of indigenous biological resources, managing & protecting endangered species and places under threat • Promote ecotourism for protection of the environment • Technical capacity to support effective traditional biodiversity management systems. • Environmental education, awareness & information sharing , including: - within the school system - wider awareness of biodiversity and its values - information sharing and cooperation within and between communities	• Local community capacity building for sustainable local community traditional conservation areas for protection of significant biodiversity

	- community awareness of environmental & natural resource legislation • Participation of local communities in the management of biodiversity, including traditional conservation practices and strengthening local community decision making	
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2: Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions	• Introduce environmental impact assessments for development activities so as to minimise adverse affects on significant habitats or species • Empower local traditional leaders to help local communities safeguard biodiversity in the areas under their control for the benefit of present and future generations • Protect the intellectual property rights (IPRs) of ni-Vanuatu to their knowledge and uses of biodiversity • Collect information on changes that are taking place among species and their ecosystems so that appropriate management decisions can be made • Monitor the impact of development activities on biodiversity including the success and failure of conservation programmes/projects • Environmental education within the school system	• Forest conservation areas for water catchment management • Agrobiodiversity management • Promote information sharing and collaboration within and between sectors and local communities to conserve and wisely use natural resources • Strengthen local communities capacity (farmers and fishers) in biological resources rehabilitation (reforestation, aquaculture etc.) • Monitoring changes among species and ecosystem • Research and document best practices
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3: Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level	• Innovative low-GHG technologies deployed and successfully demonstrated at the community level • GHG emissions avoided • Up-scaling and replication of good practices and lessons, as appropriate	• Support renewable energy including solar, micro hydro power as clean energy for livelihood activities • Promote energy saving technologies appropriate to households (reduced fuel demand, wood use stoves, solar lantern etc.) • Community-based waste management for agricultural activities (such as composting) • Water access technologies (gravity fed systems, mechanical pumps etc)
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4: Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level	• Low-GHG transport options demonstrated at the community level • Increased investment in community-level energy efficient, low-GHG transport systems • GHG emissions avoided	• Improved local community foot tracks • Demonstrate energy efficient transport system (canoes, use of horses) on economic livelihood activities
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective	• Sustainable land use, land use change, and	• Community sustainable

5: Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry	forestry management and climate proofing practices adopted at the community level for forest and non-forest land-use types • Land use planning for forest development • Afforestation of forested areas after logging operations • Promotion of agro-forestry • Assessment of best forest land suited for timber production, conservation and conversion. • Rehabilitating degraded land areas as a result of soil erosion • Fire management • The Code of logging Practice 1998 is a legally enforceable mechanism to minimize soil erosion, river pollution and degradation of water catchment areas and avoid logging operations on steep slope terrain • Conduct environmental impact assessments for forestry development prior to issuing logging permits and licenses.	management of forest protected areas through income-generating activities, and access to information • Established or strengthen forest protection and conservation areas for water catchment management and biodiversity significance • Community-based agroforestry for soil improvement and food security • Community-based reforestation of degraded forest areas • Sustainable land use management within buffer areas of forest protected areas
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities	• Strengthen the capacity of the forestry sector and other key players for adaptation policy, planning and implementation • Demonstrate how climate change adaptation by the forestry sector contributes to national sustainable development • Contribute to wider national and international understanding of climate change adaptation policies and measures by documenting and disseminating the success factors, lessons learned and barriers, as well as good practice guidelines for replication and up scaling	• Advocacy for protection and rehabilitation of mangrove ecosystem • Community-based coastal forest or soil improvement rehabilitation through agro forestry • Contribute to wider national and international understanding of climate change resilience and measures by documenting and disseminating the success factors, lessons learned and barriers, as well as good practice guidelines for replication and up scaling
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7: Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)	• Strengthen the capacity of the tourism sector and other key players for adaptation (or "climate proofing") policy, planning and implementation • Demonstrate how climate change adaptation (or "climate proofing")by the tourism sector contributes to national sustainable development, including through sound management of the environment and natural resources • Contribute to wider national and international understanding of climate change adaptation policies and measures by documenting and disseminating the success factors, lessons learned and barriers, as well as good practice guidelines for replication and up-scaling	• Promote income-generating activities that are eco-friendly, including ecotourism

SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8: Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives	• Effective and climate resilient community-based actions and practices supporting implementation of SAP regional priority actions demonstrated • Synergistic partnerships developed between SGP stakeholders and transboundary water management institutions and structures supporting implementation of SAP regional priority actions • Scaling-up and replication of good practices and lessons learned, as appropriate	• Protection of roosting places for migratory species (sea birds and turtles). • Community-based waste management so to reduce pollution into water bodies
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9: Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level	• Improved community-level initiatives and actions to prevent, reduce and phase out POPs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants, manage contaminated sites in an environmentally sound manner, and mitigate environmental contamination • Scaling-up and replication of good practices and lessons learned, as appropriate	• Community-based waste management (batteries collection etc.) • Community Education and awareness on Chemical and POPs and management
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10: Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends	• Participation of local communities in the management of biodiversity, including traditional conservation practices and strengthening local community decision making	• Assess the vulnerability and adaptive capacity of upland farmers and local institutions to climate change and Build resilience of upland farmers to the impacts of climate change by developing sustainable livelihoods (e.g. diversified farming, agro-forestry, and, conservation farming) • Promote local indigenous sustainable agriculture practices • Conservation of traditional knowledge (TK) on Vanuatu biodiversity
Cross-Cutting Results: Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender	• Sustainable agriculture, fisheries and forestry	• Build women and youth capacity for participation agro forestry, ecotourism, afforestation for sustainable environmental management

3. Capacity development, poverty reduction and gender results for SGP

The effectiveness of SGP in producing results will depend on the investment on building the local capacity to facilitate project planning and implementation. Many Civil Society Organizations depend on short term external volunteer support to carry out this role on their behalf which often undermines the retention of skills in-country (and for cultural purposes the gender and indigenous consideration are often over looked). SGP grant

resources will be made available to "umbrella" NGO organizations, such as VANGO, to provide capacity building to members CSOs in carrying their facilitation supporting roles to local communities development. VANGO has a mandate to support 110 CSOs including those that reach the most vulnerable communities.

While CSOs continue to add value to the SGP programme in terms of their linkages to rural communities throughout the country, there remain inherent limitations within each respective organizations' ability to deliver the program unhindered. The following are some of the issues that need to be understood and continue to be addressed for better delivery of services, particularly in rural communities:

- ✓ Financial management capacity of the majority of CSOs including womens' groups (particularly those located in rural areas) is very limited and remains a challenge to the programme. While many expressed the desire to be part of the program, it is difficult to find many CSOs who have robust management systems in place and flexible enough to be partners in the exercise;

- ✓ Many of the organizations that work as "catalysts" in rural areas continue to find it a challenge interpreting the technical aspects of the SGP with rural communities. It should be noted that there are very few environmental-based CSOs in the country (most are based in Port Vila);

- ✓ Rural communities are not "formal institutions" and operate very differently from the requirements of bureacratic agencies. It remains a challenge for CSOs to transfer information correctly to community members, and maintain their support and effective participation throughout the project.

A set of criteria were developed by the program management to ensure that there is fair gender representation in all aspects of program delivery and that communities reap maximum benefit from the process. The following is the set of criteria used:

Criteria 1: Relevance

1a) Relevance to the global GEF objectives

1b) Relevance to the objectives and outcomes expected of the CPS

1c) Relevance to issues affecting the applicant community

1d) Involvement of all groups within the applicant community including women & youth

Criteria 2: Applicant management and financial capacity

2a) Demonstrated experience in managing community projects or activities

2b) Relevant technical expertise

2c) Demonstrated management capacity

2d) Sufficient sources of finance to meet applicant contributions.

In addition, consideration will be given to access cash management or banking facilities appropriate to the size of the project.

Criteria 3: Appropriate and realistic project implementation methods

3a) Activities proposed are consistent with GEF and other donor objectives

3b) The proposal has a clear logical structure and is coherent

3c) Project budget is appropriate (neither understated nor overstated) and within allocated budget ceiling.

3d) Local contribution meets guidelines and is realistic and available.

3e) Risks are identified and risk management strategies are recognised.

Criteria 4: Impacts and results expected of the project

a) Are the expected results realistic and achievable?

b) Are the results expected consistent with the project activities, objectives and budget?

c) Are the likely results environmentally sound? Are the likely results in accord with global and national expectations of the SGP

d) Are the impacts on the target group and nearby communities beneficial? (including disadvantaged groups such as women)

e) Is there potential for adverse environmental impacts in addition to those expected? Are there any potential adverse impacts addressed and mitigated?

Criteria 5: Sustainability of the activities' results

a) There is a clear process for monitoring and evaluating implementation of the activity AND results of the activity.

b) Is there clear local ownership?

c) Are their partnership arrangements with other organisations that will help ensure sustainability?

d) How will ongoing costs (maintenance, management or operational) be met by the recipient? Is there a plan for meeting any such costs in the long term?

e) Are the results likely to be sustainable?

Criteria 6: Replication of results and lessons learned

a) Are results or lessons learned through the project likely to have wider benefits than just for the implementing community?

b) Is the activity likely to motivate and enhance the interest and capacity of others?

c) Is their opportunity for peer-to-peer exchange, experience sharing and communicating results?

d) Might other communities be able from replicate the activity with minimal assistance?

OP5 country outcomes, indicators and activities

Table 3. Results Framework

SGP OP5 IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES	OUTCOMES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
Objective 1: Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas through community based actions	SGP BD Outcome 1.1: Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on biodiversity resources in and around protected areas, and indigenous and community conservation areas SGP BD Outcome 1.2: Benefits generated at the community level from conservation of biodiversity in and around protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas SGP BD Outcome 1.4: Increased understanding and awareness at the community-level of the importance and value of biodiversity	*At least 5 projects* Sustainable income generating activities (such as eco-tourism, marketing of local BD products) Conservation and protection of water catchment areas for water supply Sustainable land use within conservation areas buffer areas, sustainable agriculture, ecotourism, reforestation Monitor and evaluate sustainability of local conservation initiatives in Vanuatu for success and lessons learnt	Hectares of indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs) influenced Hectares of protected areas influenced Number of projects implemented Number of indigenous people directly supported Number of women involved	GIS mapping records Observations and discussions during NC or NSC site visits Reports on individual projects
(q) SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2: (r) Mainstream biodiversity conservation and (s) sustainable use into	(v) SGP BD Outcome 2.1: Improved (w) community-level sustainable use of (x) biodiversity in	*At least 5 projects* Reduce or eliminate unsustainable harvesting practices Establishing *tabu* & conservation areas of	Number of projects implemented Hectares of production landscapes/seascapes applying sustainable use practices Number of indigenous people	GIS mapping records Observations and discussions during NC or NSC project site visits Reports on

production landscapes, (t) seascapes and sectors through community (u) initiatives and actions	production landscapes / (y) seascapes through community-based (z) initiatives, frameworks and market (aa) mechanisms, including recognized (bb) environmental standards that (cc) incorporate biodiversity considerations SGP BD Outcome 2.2: Increased understanding and awareness of sustainable use of biodiversity	productive biodiversity significance Reducing reliance on wild resource stocks through aquaculture and reforestation. Protection and conservation of water catchment areas for clean water supply or mini hydro Ecotourism initiatives to realize economic benefits from habitat conservation.	supported	individual projects
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3: Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level	SGP CC Outcome 3.1: Innovative low-GHG technologies deployed and successfully demonstrated at the community level SGP CC Outcome 3.2: GHG emissions avoided	*At least 5 projects* Awareness and education activities Reducing reliance on wood fuels. Establishment of wood lots for livelihood purposes Alternate fossil fuel use, such as gravity-fed water supply system, mini hydro and solar power supply for economic activities	Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies Number of community members demonstrating or deploying low-GHG technologies	Observations and discussions during NC or NSC site visits Reports on individual projects
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4:	SGP CC Outcome 4.2: Increased	*At least 5 projects*	Tones of Carbon dioxide	Observations and

Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level	investment in community-level energy efficient, low-GHG transport systems SGP CC Outcome 4.3: GHG emissions avoided	Promote use of traditional inter-islands transport system where feasible to promote economic activities Improve foot pathways	avoided by implementing low carbon transport Number of community members demonstrating or deploying low GHG technologies	discussions during NC or NSC site visits Reports on individual projects.
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5: Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry	SGP CC Outcome 5.1: Sustainable land use, land use change, and forestry management and climate proofing practices adopted at the community level for forest and non-forest land-use types SGP CC Outcome 5.2: Restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks in forests and non-forest lands, including peatland SGP CC Outcome 5.3: GHG emissions avoided	*At least 5 projects* Strengthened community forest conservation areas Sustainable land use that promote forest protection within buffer areas of community conservation areas Protection of forest within community water catchment areas for water supply	Hectares of forest under protection Hectares of land applying sustainable forest, agricultural and water management practices	GIS mapping Observations and discussions during NC or NSC site visits Reports on individual projects
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities	SGP LD Outcome 6.1: Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on agro-, and forest ecosystems and ecosystem services demonstrated to sustain ecosystem functionality SGP LD Outcome 6.2: Community-based models of sustainable forestry management developed, and tested, linked to carbon sequestration for possible upscaling and replication where appropriate, to reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhance carbon sinks from land use, land use change, and	*At least 5 projects* Collate Indigenous knowledge on traditional agriculture and reduce threats to ecosystem Rehabilitate forest ecosystem through reforestation, and invasive species management	Hectares of degraded land restored and rehabilitated Number of communities demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices	Observations and discussions during NC or NSC site visits Reports on individual projects

	forestry activities			
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7: Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)	SGP LD Outcome 7.1: Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts in land use frontiers of agro-ecosystems and forest ecosystems (rural/urban, agriculture/forest)	*At least 5 projects* Collate information on local land uses using participatory process Demonstrate community based land use planning to improve livelihoods	Hectares of areas sustainably managed Number of indigenous people directly supported	Observations and discussions during NC or NSC site visits. Reports on individual projects.
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8: Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives	SGP IW Outcome 8.1: Effective and climate resilient community-based actions and practices supporting implementation of SAP regional priority actions demonstrated SGP IW Outcome 8.2: Synergistic partnerships developed between SGP stakeholders and transboundary water management institutions and structures supporting implementation of SAP regional priority actions	*At least 2 projects* Networking of community based marine conservation areas that support productive biodiversity	Hectares of marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds managed sustainably Number of local, national and provincial policies influenced	Observations and discussions during NC or NSC site visits. Reports on individual projects.
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9: Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level	SGP CH Outcome 9.1: Improved community-level initiatives and actions to prevent, reduce and phase out POPs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants, manage contaminated sites in an environmentally sound manner, and mitigate environmental contamination	*At least 2 projects* Organic farming Community Awareness on POPS and toxic chemicals Reuse, recycling and composting waste	Number of women led projects directly supported Number of community participating members Tonnes of solid waste prevented from burning by alternative disposal	Observations and discussions during NC or NSC site visits. Reports on individual projects
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10: Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate	SGP CD Outcome 10.1: Active participation of NSCs and NFGs in GEF focal areas at the national level SGP CD Outcome 10.2: Improved information flows to/from CBOs and CSOs in SGP countries regarding good	*At least 2 projects* Evaluate the SGP interventions impacts in Vanuatu development and the contributions made for lessons learnt	An national M& E report on impacts of SGP intervention in Vanuatu Number of NGOs/CBOs formed or legally registered	Observations and discussions during NC or NSC site visits. Reports on individual projects.

information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends	practices and lessons learned, and application of such practices SGP CD Outcome 10.3: Increased public awareness and education at the community-level regarding global environmental issues SGP CD Outcome 10.4: Capacity of CBOs and CSOs strengthened to support implementation of global conventions SGP CD Outcome 10.5: Increased application of community-based environmental monitoring SGP CD Outcome 10.6: Evaluation of SGP projects and programs against expected results strengthened, including increased capacity of CBOs and CSOs to apply relevant evaluation methodologies	and best practices Training on Women organizations in project proposal development, finance and project management for sustainable environmental	Number of indigenous peoples directly supported Number of women-led projects directly supported Number of quality standards/ labels achieved or innovative financial mechanisms put in place	
Cross-Cutting Results: Livelihoods and Gender	SGP's Results Framework for OP5, as approved by the SGP Steering Committee, does not include specific objectives on livelihoods and gender. Nonetheless, SGP does produce positive results in these areas, which contribute to the overall achievement of Global Environmental Benefits through sustainable development. Generally, SGP seeks to improve livelihoods through increasing local benefits generated from environmental resources, and mainstream gender considerations in community-based environmental initiatives.	*At least 2 projects* Water catchment management and reduce labour on women by providing water supply Agroforesty in economic activities Strengthening community governance	Accessible clean water supply Increase number of CBOs	
FOR ALL PROJECTS ACROSS ALL OBJECTIVES		*At least 2 projects* Training in sustainable	Number of NGO & CBOs formed and registered	

		environmental project planning, development. Training in project and financial management	Number of indigenous peoples directly affected	

4. Monitoring & Evaluation plan

SGP Vanuatu interventions at the programme level and project level will be monitored to ensure that projects and programme are meeting the SGP Vanuatu CPS objectives. The M&E approach will adopt conventional and participatory approaches at all levels of the SGP Vanuatu interventions. M&E approaches will involve the collection, analysis and compilation of both qualitative and quantitative data to be generated in the development. The framework will provide basis for the assessment of impacts and constraints of the SGP project on regular basis and address the changes the programme has brought at the level of the programme activities, community project level, and impact at the national level.

Table 4. M&E Plan at the Project Level

SGP Individual Project Level		
M&E Activity	**Responsible Parties**	**Timeframe**
Participatory Project Monitoring	Grantees	Duration of project
Baseline Data Collection[9]	Grantees, NC	At project concept planning and proposal stage
Two or Three Project Progress and Financial Reports *(depending on agreed disbursement schedule)*	Grantees, NC, PA	At each disbursement request
Project Workplans	Grantees, NC, PA	Duration of project
NC Project Proposal Site Visit *(as necessary / cost effective[10])*	NC	Before project approval, as appropriate
NC Project Monitoring Site Visit *(as necessary / cost effective)*	NC	On average once per year, as appropriate
NC Project Evaluation Site Visit *(as necessary / cost effective)*	NC	At end of project, as appropriate
Project Final Report	Grantees	Following completion of project activities
Project Evaluation Report *(as necessary / cost effective)*	NC, NSC, External party	Following completion of project activities
Prepare project description to be incorporated into global project database	PA, NC	At start of project, and ongoing as appropriate

Throughout the year, the project reporting of grantees projects implementation will be monitored for capacity building needs identification. The capacity building fund will be allowed to provide to local NGO and CBO that has the capacity to undertake capacity building for the CBOs and NGOs partners towards effective delivery.

[9] Capacity-development workshops and M&E trainings may be organized in relation to innovative techniques for community monitoring, including new technologies (i.e. GPS-enabled cameras, aerial photos, participatory GIS, etc.); as well as in response to guidelines for "climate proofing" of GEF focal area interventions; REDD+ standards; and/or other specific donor/co-financing requirements.

[10] To ensure cost-effectiveness, project level M&E activities, including project site visits, will be conducted on a discretionary basis, based on internally assessed criteria including (but not limited to) project size and complexity, potential and realized risks, and security parameters.

At least one or two project site visits throughout the life of project to provide support and advice in any need arise for well implementation of project. Due to locality of the provincial centres that are distant by water, at least 2 visits each year to each one of the 6 Provinces will be conducted by the National Coordinator (NC), the National Steering Committee (NSC) or VANGO representative, in order to provide the support to the projects. Annual reportings on the overall programme deliveries will be done to clearly present the impacts, results and challenges for programme readjustment and information for wider national stakeholders.

Funds will be granted to NGOs that has the capacity to review implementation of SGP projects and documentation of particular focal areas of relevance to need of country policy directions or in reportings for Vanuatu to global environmental conventions.

Table 5. M&E Plan at the Programme Level

SGP Country Programme Level		
M&E Activity	**Responsible Parties**	**Timeframe**
Country Programme Strategy Review	NSC, NC, CPMT	Start of OP5
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	NSC, NC	Once during OP5
NSC Meetings	NSC, NC, UNDP CO	Minimum twice per year
Performance and Results Assessment (PRA) of NC Performance	NC, NSC, UNDP CO, CPMT, UNOPS	Once per year
Country Programme Review resulting in Annual Country Report[11]	NC presenting to NSC and CPMT	Once per year
Financial 4-in-1 Report	NC/PA, UNOPS	Quarterly

6 Knowledge Management Plan

The Vanuatu OP5 CPS has an emphasis on sharing information and knowledge widely at the community, provincial, national, regional and global levels.

NGOs and provincial government are mandated by the recommendation of the National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) framework for active education and outreach programme to reach civil society for their active participation in environmental protection and management through biodiversity, climate change and sustainable and management. Through local community projects initiatives, community members will gain improve knowledge and skills from awareness and training conducted on a variety of environmental interventions including *inter alia* management of conservation areas, small scale ecotourism, resource stock assessment, basic book-keeping, laying water pipes,

[11] The annual Country Programme Review exercise should be carried out in consultation with the national Rio Convention focal points and the associated reporting requirements.

fitting water taps, setting up water tanks, generating income from water fees, entrepreneurial knowledge and skills.

There is a requirement on the Vanuatu programme to provide information to CPMT as a global programme for reporting to the GEF Council on achievements made in GEF focal areas. As a requirement for grant-making, all information from grantees projects that are approved by the NSC are input into the SGP global database website. Project information on the SGP global database will continue to be fully accessible to SGP partners and the wider audience.

With the help of UNDP and other partners, SGP Vanuatu will continue to seek opportunities to share the good practices and lesson learnt from project interventions to a wider audience, such as through project photo stories, video stories, local participation in national, regional and international fora.

Due to the limited presence of technical research capacity or academics in country there has been limited research on SGP projects findings for best practices and lesson generated for advice on environmental development in Vanuatu. At the country programme level, grant funds will be allocated to support an NGO project for SGP knowledge management and sharing. This will include generating information through technical research within the SGP interventions to draw out the best practices and lessons learnt for policy advice.

7 Resource Mobilization Plan

As a donor-funded initiative to support global environmental benefits and sustainable development, SGP Vanuatu recognizes that effective resource mobilization and leverage is vital for its continued growth and success.

SGP Vanuatu has received an endorsement from the Vanuatu GEF Focal point for GEF STAR Resources ($1,200,000 from biodiversity, $200,000 from climate change mitigation, and $100,000 from land degradation) to continue support for civil society participation in biodiversity protection and conservation, sustainable land management and climate change in Vanuatu during OP5.

The NZAID Pacific Environment Fund (PEF) support to SGP Vanuatu, which ended in December 2010, also helped significantly to build capacity of NGOs and CBOs for ecotourism development, reforestation program and fisheries resource management. In this regard, NZAID continues to provide funds through VANGO (the SGP national host insitution) to build NGO and CBO capacity for service delivery during the period 2011 to 2013.

The development of the SGP Vanuatu AusAID MAP CBA strategy intends to further secure resources for community-based adaptation to climate change. Grants have been provided for NGOs to build local capacity for community resilience to climate change risks in relation to water resources and food security.

SGP Vanuatu since it’s establishment in 2008 has partners through it’s various activities such as the grant making for projects, National Steering committee participation, SGP Vanuatu membership to small grant donors partners and other national technical groups.

The SGP Vanuatu will continue to implement it's communication strategy to share information with partners where possible for support for empowering civil society for sustainable environmental management in Vanuatu.

ANNEX 1: GEF SGP OP 5 PROJECT LEVEL INDICATORS

SGP OP5 results indicators	
Biodiversity (BD)	
BD1	o Hectares of indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs) influenced o Hectares of protected areas influenced o Hectares of significant ecosystems with improved conservation status
BD2	o Hectares of production landscapes / seascapes applying sustainable use practices o Number of significant species with maintained or improved conservation status o Total value of biodiversity products/ecosystem services produced (US dollar equivalent)
Climate Change (CC)	
CCM1	o Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies: ▪ Renewable energy measures (please specify) ▪ Energy efficiency measures (please specify) ▪ Other (please specify) o Number of community members demonstrating or deploying low-GHG technologies o Total value of energy or technology services provided (US dollar equivalent)
CCM4	o Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies: ▪ Low carbon transport practices (please specify) o Total value of transport services provided (US dollar equivalent)
CCM5	o Hectares of land under improved land use and climate proofing practices o Tonnes of CO2 avoided through improved land use and climate proofing practices
Land degradation (LD) & Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)	
LD1	o Hectares of land applying sustainable forest, agricultural and water management practices o Hectares of degraded land restored and rehabilitated
LD3	o Number of communities demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices
International Waters (IW)	
IW	o Hectares of river/lake basins applying sustainable management practices and contributing to implementation of SAPs o Hectares of marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds managed sustainably o Tonnes of land-based pollution avoided
Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	
POPS	o Tons of solid waste prevented from burning by alternative disposal o Kilograms of obsolete pesticides disposed of appropriately o Kilograms of harmful chemicals avoided from utilization or release

SGP OP5 results indicators	
Capacity Development, Policy and Innovation (all focal areas)	
CD	o Number of consultative mechanisms established for Rio convention frameworks (please specify) o Number of community-based monitoring systems demonstrated (please specify) o Number of new technologies developed /applied (please specify) o Number of local or regional policies influenced (level of influence 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5) o Number of national policies influenced (level of influence 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5) o Number of people trained on: project development, monitoring, evaluation etc. (to be specified according to type of training)
Livelihoods, Sustainable Development, and Empowerment (all focal areas)	
Cross-cutting	**Livelihoods & Sustainable Development:** o Number of participating community members (gender disaggregated) (Note: mandatory for all projects) o Number of days of food shortage reduced o Number of increased student days participating in schools o Number of households who get access to clean drinking water o Increase in purchasing power by reduced spending, increased income, and/or other means (US dollar equivalent) o Total value of investments (e.g. infrastructure, equipment, supplies) in US Dollars (Note: estimated economic impact of investments to be determined by multiplying infrastructure investments by 5, all others by 3). **Empowerment:** o Number of NGOs/CBOs formed or registered o Number of indigenous peoples directly supported o Number of women-led projects supported o Number of quality standards/labels achieved or innovative financial mechanisms put in place

Appendix 1

SGP AusAID Community-Based Adaptation Programme (CBA)
Country Programme Strategy

Vanuatu

August 2010 (updated November 2012)

This document serves as a guide to the Vanuatu SGP National Steering Committee (VNSC) to implement the AusAID-funded Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) programme. The strategy determines action guidelines and criteria to support eligible projects, and also helps various stakeholders understand the CBA rationale and complementarities with existing programmes.

1.1 Introduction: Country Situation Analysis

Vanuatu is an archipelago of volcanic islands and submarine volcanoes located between latitude 12_o and 23_o south and longitude 166_o to 173_o east, some 1,300 km from north to south in the Western Pacific Ocean (Figure 1). The country comprises over 80 islands with a land area of 12,336 $km^{-2,}$ and a maritime exclusive economic zone of 680,000 km^{-2}. The two largest islands, Espiritu Santo and Malekula, comprise nearly 50% of the total land mass. The total coastline is about 2,528 km long.

The population of Vanuatu is 243,304 with an annual population growth rate of 2.8%, distributed amongst 46,029 households (National census, 2009). The population is fairly well distributed throughout the islands with the least number of people in Torba province. Approximately 24% of the total population is based in the two main urban areas of Luganville and Port Vila, whilst the majority continues to live in rural areas.

1.2 Economy

Two main economic systems operate in Vanuatu: the subsistence economy, and the cash economy. Roughly 76% of the population lives off their own land, through growing of food crops, harvesting forest and marine resources for their own consumption, exchange of gifts, and other traditional ceremonies. Most necessities of life are available locally. In most cases, these groups also earn cash income from cash crops, copra, kava, cocoa, shell, handicrafts, timber, and ornamental trees. Cash income is used for the most part to pay for school fees, fuel, transport, housing materials, and purchasing of other household items. Over time, there has been a gradual merging of the two economies as interest has grown in small holders business development in the sectors of transport, agriculture, tourism, fisheries, and forestry.

In 2003, the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was estimated at US$580 million with per capita GDP at US$2,900. As a proportion of GDP, agriculture accounts for 14.9%, industry 8.5%, and the service sector 76.6%. The service sector includes government services, an offshore finance centre, tourism, and construction. The Vanuatu

cash economy remains vulnerable to external market influences in terms of local commodity prices and tourism, the country's limited resource base, high infrastructure costs (communication and electricity), limited market opportunities, as well as natural disasters, cyclones, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

1.3 Transports and Communication

Inter-island and intra-island travel is mainly in the form of foot paths. Land motor transport services, local boats, trading ships, and air flight services remain limited. The topography of the large volcanic islands, made up of a rugged terrain, mean that villages tend to be scattered and separated over large distances. Many villages are connected by limited road networks which are confined to the larger islands and provincial headquarters. There are regular shipping services to the central islands, but the outer islands are serviced very irregularly. Air Vanuatu Limited, a locally-owned company which operates domestic and international flights, provides daily passenger and cargo flights between the islands, whereas more remote islands are served only 2 or 3 times per week. Some smaller islands do not even have airstrips, although with the assistance of NGOs a few remote local communities have undertaken local initiatives to develop these infrastructures.

Telecommunication facilities have improved in recent years with the use of mobile phone networks, and teleradio communication in many areas. However some remote areas remain difficult to reach. The use of the internet is very limited, and confined to urban centres and some provincial government centres.

1.4 Natural disaster

Vanuatu is vulnerable to a broad range of natural disasters. Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, cyclones are the most frequent. Destructive tidal waves (tsunami) occur occasionally as the result of earthquakes. In a report for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction for the Pacific Island Countries, Vanuatu was rated as highly vulnerable to all natural hazards: tropical cyclone, storm surge, coastal flood, river flood, drought, earthquake, land-slide, tsunami and volcanic eruption (UNFPA,1996).

Climate change is likely to impact on all sectors that are pertinent to sustainable human development in Vanuatu. As an LDC, the country will be severely constrained to meet the challenges of climatic stress, both financially, as well as in terms of human and institutional capacity. For the *Ni-Vanuatu*, their livelihood and social structure are inextricably linked to the natural environment and its resource base. Any perturbations to this availability of natural resources will have a direct bearing on poverty levels and the very survival of rural populations. Changes to the traditional social system, coupled with any decrease in food security and water availability, could lead to deterioration of social systems, law and order.

1.5 Climate

The climate in Vanuatu varies from wet tropical in the northern islands to dryer subtropical in the south of the archipelago. Average temperatures range between 21oC and 27oC, and average humidity ranges between 75% and 80%. Average annual rainfall declines from over 4000mm in the north, to less than 1500mm in the south (Mourgues, 2005). The country is prone to cyclones during the warmer months from November to

April, although cyclones have recently shown signs of development outside this season (i.e. Cyclone Rita in May 1991, and Cyclone Gina in June 2002). Vanuatu has also experienced long dry events and prolonged wet conditions associated with the El Nino (warm phase) events and La Nina (cool phase) events related to the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon.

2. Vulnerability Assessment

The SCENGEN scenario generator (http://scengen.net/) has been used to generate climatic scenarios for the country. Using the Global Circulation Models (GCMs)[12] developed, results were compared with analogue predictions based on observation of past trends. The two climate change scenarios predict increases in temperature of between one and two degrees up to the year 2050. However, with respect to rainfall the scenarios are quite different. The sea level increase of 50 cm over the next 100 years is well within the predictions by the IPCC Third Assessment Report (AR3).

The results of the climate scenario models and historical/observational trends point to warmer and drier conditions in much of Vanuatu (Vanuatu National communication to the UNFCCC, 1999). Observational records for Vanuatu's two weather stations began in 1949 for Port Vila, and 1948 for Anietyum station in the South of Vanuatu. The trends suggest a gradual increase in temperature which becomes more marked in the south. For Port Vila, an increase trend of maximum temperatures at a rate of 0.0196 degrees Celsius per year and an increase trend at the rate of 0.0128 degrees Celsius per year for the South islands. The annual precipitation records for the year period 1953 to 2001show a decreasing trend for Port Vila at a rate of 4.0603mm per year and a more marked decline for Southern islands with a trend of decline rate of 24.781 mm per year (Vanuatu Vulnerability Assessment Report 2005). However, it is likely that some parts of the country may receive increased rainfall, due largely to the frequent tropical depressions and storms that are likely to develop around Vanuatu waters.[13]

The islands of Vanuatu frequently experience low atmospheric depressions, with some eventually going on to become cyclones. A total of 124 tropical cyclones have affected Vanuatu since 1939. Forty-five (36%) of these were categorized as having hurricane force winds (>64 knots), twenty-six (21%) were of storm force winds (48-63 Knots), and twenty-five (20%) were of gale force winds (34-47 knots). An additional 28 tropical cyclones were not categorized (NAPA Report, 2008).

The agriculture sector is particularly affected by changes in climatic factors. Staple garden food crops yields are declining, though many of them have also showed resilience to drought conditions. Generally, garden production has decreased significantly according to local populations despite an increase in the area dedicated to gardening. The loss of traditional agricultural practices and knowledge are also a contributing factor to decline in productivity (Vanuatu V&A report, 2005).

Climate-related disasters have had huge impacts on the economic growth and national

[12] HADCM2 and CSIRO9M2.
[13] The HADCM2 model indicates there may be more frequent El Nino type conditions associated with prolonged dry seasons.

development. Tropical cyclones Uma, Anne and Bola that hit Vanuatu during the period 1987–88 resulted in 50 deaths, a number of inter-island coastal trading vessels were lost, and caused massive damage to instrastructure. The total destruction of property was valued at over US$152 million. In 1999, heavy rain associated with tropical cyclone Dani caused serious damage, estimated at US$8m to infrastructure (NAPA Report 2008). The loss of subsistence food crops on islands affected during cyclones damage were however not fully recorded.

3. Goal, Objective(s), Outcomes and Impact indicators

The objective of the CBA programme in Vanuatu is to enhance adaptive capacity of the most vulnerable rural communities to be resilient to climatic stresses with the following target outcomes:

- ✓ Community coastal development has the capacity to adapt and be resilient to coastal degradation;
- ✓ Community traditional subsistence agricultural practices are adapted to changes in rainfall and temperatures and improvement of food productivity and security;
- ✓ Community water supply systems are resilient to droughts for adequate and clean water supply.

The projects will be monitored based on the number of stakeholders (NGOs and CBOs) engaged in the capacity adaptation development project activities. The number of target beneficiaries social groups (local farmers, women, elders, youth, and the disabled) served by the new or expanded CBA measures will be monitored. The number of provincial and national policy changes resulting from projects interventions will also be documented.

The CBA programme will be implemented over a period 2010 till 2014 with approximately 3 to 5 projects supported. Small grants for an SGP AusAID CBA project will have average of 20,000 USD to 50,000USD. Grants will be awarded to local registered nongovernmental and community based organizations that have the capacity to implement CBA projects.

4. Sectoral Focus

In 2008, a national and provincial consultation took place for the development of a Vanuatu National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA). Significant inputs were received from the relevant government agencies,provincial governments, NGOs and communities. In the context of Vanuatu, the stakeholders identified that water resources and their management, coastal zone and marine resources, agriculture and health sectors, were those that had already been negatively affected by the current climatic conditions. In addition, it was observed that any future climate change would further aggravate impacts currently being observed or experienced by those sectors.

In this regard, given the limited surface water, most of Vanuatu's urban centres and outer islands are dependent on ground water for drinking. Increased temperatures are likely to increase the demand for potable water. Increased radiative load, greater run-off from high intensity rainfall events, decreased rainfall and associated increase in evaporation could also reduce the rate of ground water recharge. Water shortages are already apparent in dry seasons in many areas. These would become more pronounced and require more

sophisticated technology to provide drinking water of the populations. Higher intensity rainfall could lead to erosion, and greater sedimentation and contamination of drinking water.

Drought combined with higher temperatures would lead to greater evaporation, reduced availability of water for agriculture and added thermal stress to plant growth. These characteristics, often associated with the El Nino events, were experienced during the late 1990's. Agriculture in Vanuatu relies on rain-fed agricultural production systems. Any changes in rainfall distribution and temperature could also have severe impacts on agricultural production.

All the islands coastlines, including the beaches and vegetation, are eroded by the intrusion of sea water. Coastal village settlements and infrastructures including ground water lenses are affected by intrusions of sea water impacting on both the agriculture sector, as well as on the availability of potable water. This effect will be most pronounced in small low-lying islands that are dependent on shallow ground water aquifers for human consumption.

5. Baseline: additionality reasoning

Baseline Pressure	Additional Pressure
Agricultural Production: o Coastal deforestation o Little is known about local traditional agricultural knowledge and practices o Volcanic activity o Pest and rat outbreaks o Seasonal rainfall and dry periods o Small incentives to improve productivity o Forest fires	***Agricultural Production:*** o Increasing intensity of rainfall during cyclones and low depression o Increased temperatures, high water evaporation from the ground o Increased damage to agricultural crops o Increase pest and rat outbreaks o Widespread crop damage by cyclones destructive winds or floods o Longer droughts periods o Increasing soil erosion o Salt intrusion o Increasingly severe and common forest fires
Coastal Erosion o Coastal deforestation o Cyclones o Sand mining	***Coastal Erosion*** o Sea-level rise o Decreasing mangrove resilience o Decreasing protection from large waves cause by coral reef damage o Decreasing coastline resilience from storm surges
Mangrove Ecosystem Depletion o Mangrove deforestation & clearance for coastal development o Tectonic uplifting	***Mangrove Ecosystem Depletion*** o Sedimentation caused by climate change-driven erosion o Sea-level rise

Coral Reef Ecosystem Degradation o Overharvesting of coastal fisheries resources o Baseline cyclone damage o Human-caused damage to reefs o Coral reef dying from sediment load o Tectonic uplifting	***Coral Reef Ecosystem Degradation*** o Coral bleaching o Sedimentation from increased, climate-related erosion o Increased wave damage from increasingly intense cyclones
Water supply system inadequate and unsafe o Deforestation in water catchment areas o Seasonal rain and dry seasons o Shortage of water supply in long dry seasons o Ground water lens water supply contaminated with domestic waste	***Water supply system inadequate and unsafe*** o Increased sedimentation in water sources o Longer dry season increasing drought risks o Intrusion of salt water into ground water aquifers

6. GEF focal areas and climate resilience

The GEF Small Grant Programme (SGP) currently funds projects interventions which deliver global environmental benefits in the focal areas of biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, international waters and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). SGP funding can also be made "climate resilient" to reduce the vulnerability of local communities to climate change impacts. In the biodiversity focal area of the GEF, SGP Vanuatu seeks to secure local communities sustainable utilization of biological resources through protection of productive habitats, protection of coral reef, sea grass beds, and mangrove habitats. Each of the above interventions will also help build resilience and buffer shoreline from the corrosive actions of increased sea surges.

In the land degradation focal area of the GEF, SGP Vanuatu supports traditional agricultural farming on slopes in order to reduce soil erosion and improve soil fertility for high productivity. Any initiatives to improve agriculture may be expanded to counteract food crops damage by cyclones, pests, high water evaporation and soil nutrient loss caused by erosion. Promoting the use of traditional knowledge (TK) and practices for biodiversity significance in Vanuatu can be expanded for low cost innovative ways to secure food supply in the face of extreme climatic events.

Protection of watershed areas and natural forests for biodiversity and ecosystem-based adaptive resilience may also be expanded to relieve increased demand for water related to extreme climatic events.

7. Local priorities

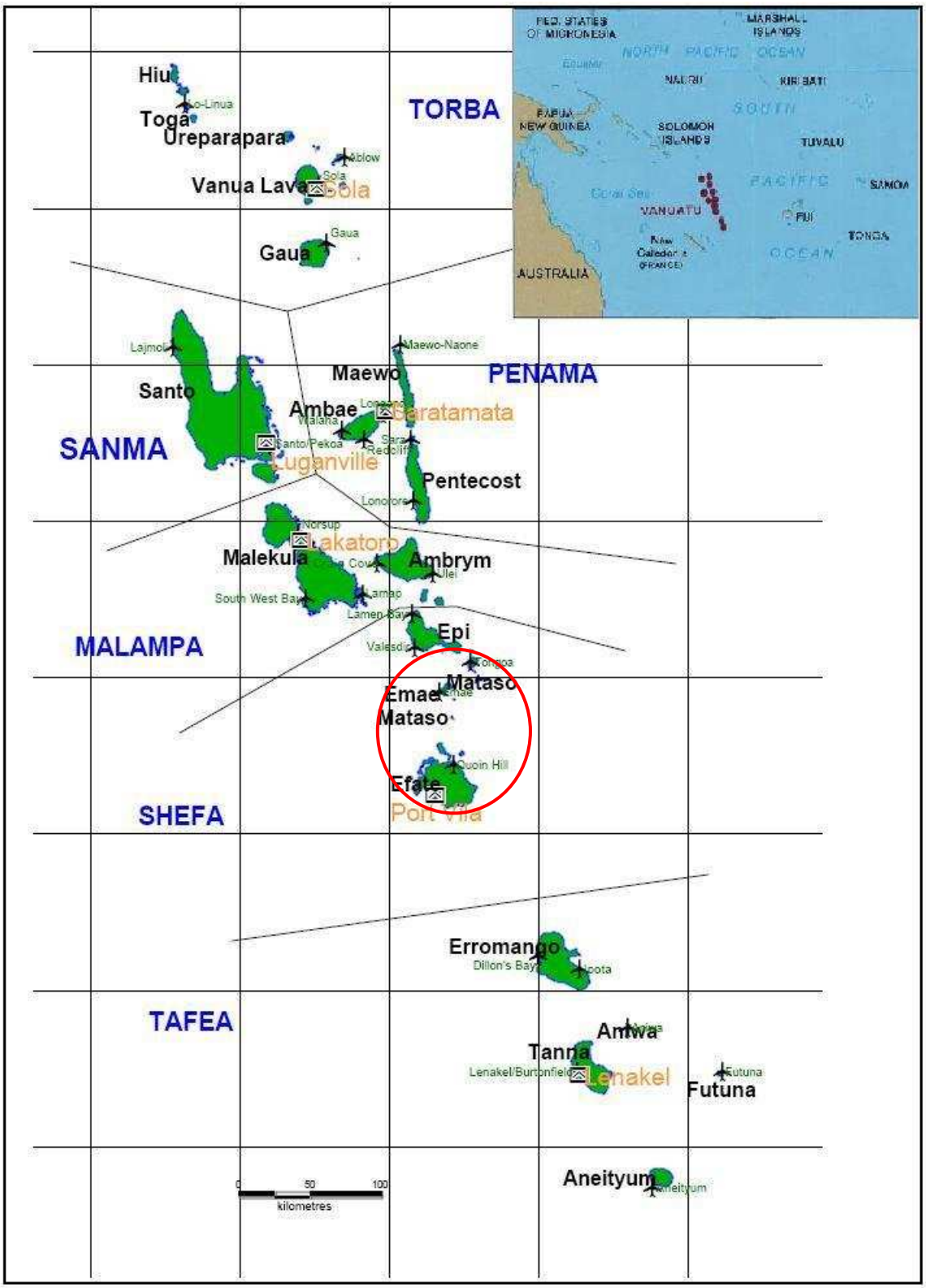
This SGP AusAID CBA strategy draws on information from community experiences and processes shared through the Vanuatu National vulnerability assessment reports (2005). Additional information and insights for the CBA strategy were incorporated from (i) the Vanuatu National Adaptation Programme for Action (NAPA) conducted in 2008; (ii) the

Vanuatu Report of the International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative workshop in Brisbane Australia, 2009; as well as (iii) the National SGP AusAID CBA consultation workshop, July 2010. In summary, the priorities concerns identified during the consultations are as follows:

- ✓ Improve food production through the development of agricultural crops resilient to droughts and water stress through diversification of agricultural crops and development of new agricultural calendar;
- ✓ Research traditional agricultural knowledge and practices for low cost adaption to climate change stress;
- ✓ Increase water catchment storage capacity in mountainous islands, and tap inland streams as alternative sources to address the increasing demand for water in climatic stress conditions;
- ✓ Protect and rehabilitate zoning development plans in coastal areas

8. Geographic focus

The location of SGP AusAID CBA project sites will be targeted at the most vulnerable communities on smaller islands who are the most severely affected by climate change impacts, but are the least equipped economically to cope and adapt.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Maewo-Naone
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Santo/Pekoa
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Norsup
Malekula
Ambrym
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Lamap
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Erromango
Dillon's Bay
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KIRIBATI
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
SOLOMON ISLANDS
TUVALU
SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN
SAMOA
VANUATU
FIJI
TONGA
AUSTRALIA

9. Community project typologies

Projects to be funded by the SGP AusAID CBA will involve strong participation of local communities with the support of NGOs, academic institutions, and the government. The types of CBA projects will very much depend on the local community vulnerability reduction assessment (VRA) needs identified. The project types outlined in the Vanuatu National Action Plan for Adaptation (2008) will be used as guidelines for proponent community projects development.

Local issues	
Agricultural adaptation	**SGP AusAID CBA project interventions**
Most garden food crops are resilient to drought but their yields are decreasing affecting family food consumption. *Cultivation of garden crops are often on steep hills sides. Intense cultivation causes soil erosion during extreme rainfall and storms.*	o Diversify food crop varieties to develop drought resistant crops and practices; o Demonstrate local community garden soil erosion control for cultivation of food crops on slope gardening systems; o Seek traditional knowledge and practices for lessons to improve agricultural productivity in extreme climatic conditions.
Water Supply Adaptation	
Most local communities depend on coastal ground waters that dry out during droughts or become contaminated during intense rainfall.	o Increase community rainwater catchment and storage capacity; o Establish water distribution facilities; o Develop community based gravity water supply systems drawn streams and sustainable management of water use; o Enact local community bylaws to protect and sustainably manage watershed areas.
Coastal Erosion	
Coastal erosion, cyclones & flooding (prolonged and intense rainfall) threaten settlements and major infrastructure.	o Develop community adaptation plans or incorporate climate change into community planning; o Replanting of coastal vegetation to protect coastlines; o Demarcation of hazard and risk areas; o Ban/control sand mining; o Establish community coastal zone management plans.

10. Policy Strategy

The SGP AusAID CBA programme in Vanuatu will demonstrate community-based adaptation projects based on the 4 national priorities for evidence based results for policy decision at the local, provincial and national levels. The initiative will seek to support up 5 projects that will pilot a range of climate change risk management activities focus on agricultural practices, coastal erosion and water management. Interventions will provide policies lessons for local farmers, community leaders, provincial planners, as well as the national government advisory development committee.

The National Advisory Climate Change Committee (NACCC) is a technical team that encourages appropriate policy development to enable effective national and global responses to climate change addressing the needs of Vanuatu people. SGP representation in the NACCC will be an opportunity to sharing lessons for national policy adjustments.

Lessons and best practices will be shared widely in written and audio forms, locally regionally and globally. Feedback from stakeholders will be use to make adjustments to future project implementation.

11. Vanuatu National coordinating committee formulation

The SGP National Steering Committee (NSC) will play the role of Vanuatu National coordinating committee for the Vanuatu SGP AusAID CBA. The NSC will be responsible for programme implementation, selection and monitoring of CBA projects. The NSC members were selected based on the SGP operational guidelines with 7 members made up of a non-governmental majority. For the purpose of the SGP AusAID CBA, a member with additional expertise in climate change has been added to the SGP NSC. The NSC also works closely with the NACCC for advisory policy direction, both at the stage of programme implementation, as well as to help leverage additional resources to support the programme strategy objectives.

12. NGO/CBO identification

The Vanuatu SGP programme has partnered with over a dozen local NGOs and CBOs in the delivery of 14 community-based projects that support livelihoods during the 4th Operational Phase (OP4) from 2007-2010. A number of the OP4 projects were well completed, whilst others are ongoing. The SGP AusAID CBA is “embedded” within the SGP delivery mechanism, and will tap into this network of experiences for the development, and implementation of CBA projects in Vanuatu.

The SGP programme in Vanuatu is based within the umbrella body of Non Governmental Organizations’ (VANGO) which has over 90 members, of which 40 are registered NGOs and CBOs members, including a number of others that are not registered but are doing community-based development activities in Vanuatu. The members meet once every year in a national forum to report on their works and get information to enhance their deliveries on the ground (including opportunities for CBA).

13. NGO capacity building

Training and capacity building will be a component of the GEF SGP implementation in Vanuatu. NGOs and CBOs will be provided training support to conduct the Vulnerability Reduction Assessment (VRA) methodology, as well as other relevant tools, and develop their projects based on clear information on the issues on the ground for achievable results.

Training will also be provided to external volunteers based in rural communities to help provide extension and facilitation support to local communities. Field visits by the NC and members of the NSC will help to better advise support where they can and allow for sharing of lessons learned. A Vanuatu communication strategy will circulate information through various communication channels with different grantees activities as a means of sharing information on field projects.

References

Climate Change Unit, Department of Meteorology (2007) National Adaptation Programme for Action. Port Vila, Vanuatu.

UNDP/GEF SGP Community –Based Adaptation in Action; www.undp-adaptiation.org/prject/cba

Government of the Republic of Vanuatu (2006) Priorities and Action Agenda 2006–2015

National Advisory Committee on Climate Change (2007) Planning for the Future. A Climate Change Policy and Implementation Strategy Discussion Paper for Vanuatu.

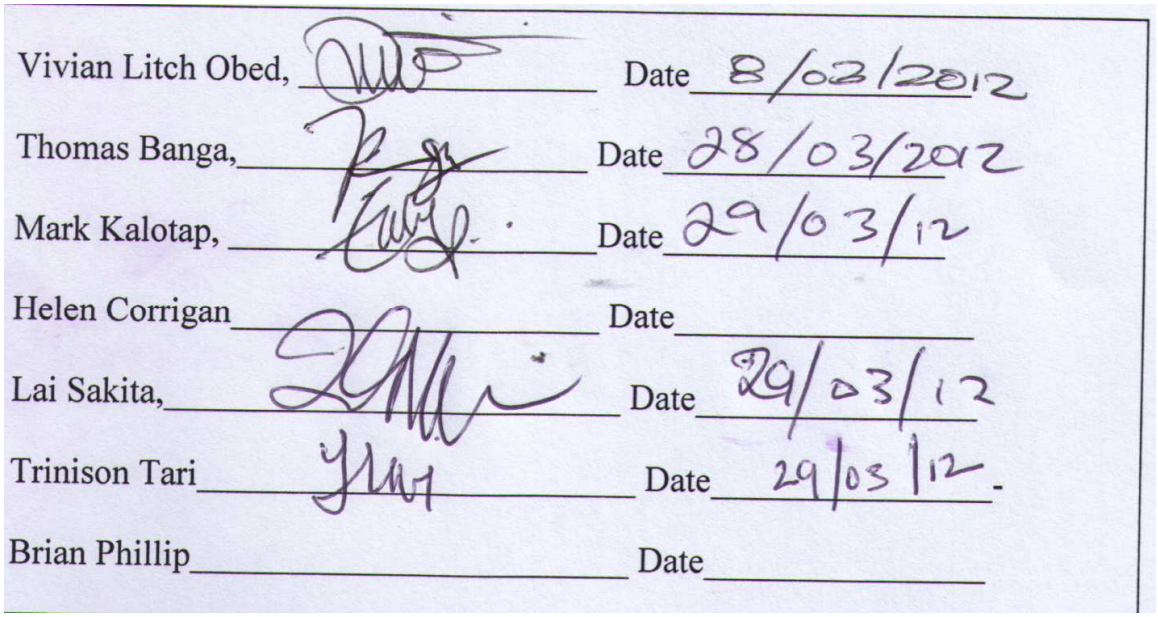
Government of the Republic of Vanuatu, Initial National Communication (1999)

Vanuatu Country presentation at the International Climate change Adaptation conference, Brisbane, Australia (2009)

Appendix 2:

GEF SGP Vanuatu National Steering Committee Endorsement of the strategy

The strategy was circulate electronically and obtained their approval of the strategy which also includes email agreement from members not able to signed, which are also attached below.



Hi Leah

Sorry but don't think I can sign off as I did not attend. Apologies there – think there needs to be a replacement that will be better at attending although I do love getting your updates.

Best wishes

Helen

Helen Corrigan

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Leah,

Many thanks for the email and the minutes attached.

I just got back from field work on Epi and resumed work today.

Ta,

Brian Phillips.

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