

VANUATU

SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY FOR OP6 2015 - 2018



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**REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE NSC:
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COUNTRY: VANUATU

OP6 resources (estimated US\$)¹

- a. **Core funds: TBD**
- b. **OP5 remaining balance: OP5 Small Grants Programme funds finished**
- c. **STAR funds:**
Total of \$6.2 million consisting of:
 - **Government of Vanuatu climate change projects (supported by UNDP): \$3 million**
 - **Government of Vanuatu land degradation projects (supported by FAO): \$1 million**
 - **Government of Vanuatu biodiversity projects (supported by IUCN): \$2.6 million**
- d. **Other Funds to be mobilized:**
 - **AusAID SIDS CBA: \$210,000 available from OP5 due to be committed by December 2016**

Background:

As a GEF corporate programme, SGP aligns its operational phase strategies to that of the GEF, and provides a series of demonstration projects for further scaling up, replication and mainstreaming. Action at the local level by civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities is deemed a vital component of the GEF 20/20 Strategy (i.e. convening multi-stakeholder alliances to deliver global environmental benefits and contribute to UNDP's Strategic Plan and focus on sustainable development).² At the global level, the SGP OP6 programme goal is to “effectively support the creation of global environmental benefits and the safeguarding of the global environment through community and local solutions that complement and add value to national and global level action.”

¹ The level of SGP OP6 resources is an estimated total of: (i) the GEF6 core grant allocation (to be reviewed annually by CPMT on the basis of performance, co-financing and strategic partnerships, demonstrated NSC commitment rates, and UNOPS delivery); (ii) approved STAR resources; as well as (iii) other sources of third party cost sharing & co-financing (country, regional and/or global levels). Note that countries with remaining OP5 balances that have not been pipelined, will be expected to use these balances in line with the OP6 strategic approach in order to be coherent in terms of SGP programming and results expected.

² The initial SGP OP6 concept was incorporated into the strategic directions for the overall GEF-6 replenishment, and subsequently approved by the GEF Council paper “GEF Small Grants Programme: Implementation Arrangements for GEF-6” (GEF/C.46/13) in May 2014.

1. SGP country programme - summary background

Vanuatu joined the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) in 2008 when providing grants funding and technical support to Civil Society Organisations to address global environment protection. SGP Vanuatu gives priority to Community based initiative 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 negative impacts.

During the SGP 5th Operational Phase (OP5), SGP Vanuatu supported 34 projects implemented by local Civil Society Organisations, representing US\$1,293,667 in funding from the GEF, along with the AUSAID Mekong Asia-Pacific Community-Based Adaptation (MAP CBA) programme. During OP5, in-kind co-financing contributions for local projects were also mobilized from the Vanuatu Government, other donors partners, local communities, NGOs and CBOs, external volunteers organisations (equivalent to 48%).

The 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 local communities concerns linking with Vanuatu's national priorities through grass roots actions. In particular, notable achievements of SGP during GEF Operational Phase 5 include:

Biodiversity

- ✓ 17 newly formed CSOs mainly local community based organisation that were able to facilitate community consultations to identify local issues of related to global environment and implement projects to address those issues.
- ✓ Strengthening protection of fauna and flora in 5 local community conservation areas through ecotourism, invasive species eradication, marketing of forest products and handicrafts making and selling, promotion of water catchment management
- ✓ 1 newly established community conservation area in upland forest to protect water catchment supplying 5 local villages' water supply.
- ✓ Local community farmers have gained experience in nursery management for restocking local forest trees. And over 400,000 trees seedlings produced and distributed to local farmers in Vanuatu, with 60% in Penama province.
- ✓ 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);
- ✓ 700 preschool education material on endemic and global threatened species were developed and printed and distributed to preschool in Vanuatu
- ✓ Strengthening community coastal resource management through nature excursion through youth education in schools programme, networking of Community Resource monitors and village fishermen groups, and introducing biorock technology to promote coral growing in Vanuatu.

Establishment of the Vanuatu Coastal Fishermen Association for empowering local community for sustainable economic fisheries development.

Climate change

- ✓ Demonstrate women empowerment in promoting clean energy when 76 households lightings were replaced by solar lighting installed by trained local women solar engineers.
- ✓ Formation of a new women CSO organisation to support the promotion of clean energy in rural communities in Vanuatu.
- ✓ Improved community water supply infrastructure when reinforces 3 schools with more than 400 youths, over 600 households to have access to water supply, reducing hard labor to access water impose on women and children, and support food and forest trees production
- ✓ Empowering local women farmers crop diversifying, pest management, waste and water management in backyard gardening management as part of cyclone recovery

Land degradation

- ✓ Waste management and food production in small backyard gardening
- ✓ Soil improvement through restocking of forest trees on low Coralline islands
- ✓ 1 indigenous womens group that advocate for small yard gardening using local crops, food security and forest protection

Chemical

- ✓ Development and Implementation of communication strategy for local advocacy to eliminate POPs chemicals use in Vanuatu

The purpose of the CPS is to focus and achieve impacts that are both nationally and globally significant. It is the primary document which will set the platform of the programme in Vanuatu. It is the guide to programme and project development based on successes from OP5 and elsewhere, and it lays the foundation of project selection and criteria for assessment of impacts. The CPS will identifies the project impacts, outcomes and outputs. The CPS will set the bases for project eligibility towards indicators that will be used in determining the success of the programme and lessons learnt.

Recognizing the further need for further growth in development and continued the local communities' recovery from the mass destruction of cyclone PAM in 2015, the SGP will continue in this current OP6. The SGP will also continue to promote investment; in biodiversity protection paying particular attention to human destruction and climate change negative impacts on the local communities, promote clean power and secure food production in the selected area of Efate and Tanna, and to some extend in other areas in Vanuatu.

2. SGP country programme niche

2.1 *Alignment with national priorities*

The SGP country programme niche has been informed by the international conventions and national planning frameworks of Vanuatu (refer Table 1).

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 9 June 1992. Ratified 25 March 1993. |
| CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) | Completed 2000. Currently under review for update. |
| Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) | Vanuatu signed 18 November 2011. Ratified 1 July 2014. |
| UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) | Vanuatu signed 9 June 1992. Ratified 25 March 1993. |
| Paris Agreement - UNFCCC | Vanuatu signed and submitted. Ratification in progress. |
| UNFCCC National Communications (1st, 2nd, 3rd) | 1st UNFCCC National Communication completed 2002. |
| UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) | NAMA workshop held 2013. NAMAs currently in progress. |
| UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA) | Submitted December 2007. |
| UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) | Vanuatu signed 10 August 1999. Ratified September 28 1999. |
| UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP) | Completed 2010. |
| Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) | Vanuatu signed 22 May 2001. Ratified 16 September 2001. |
| SC National Implementation Plan (NIP) | Drafted 2007. Transmission pending. |
| Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) | Not applicable. |
| GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) | Completed 2007. |
| GEF-6 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) | Not applicable. |
| Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies | Completed 1997. |
| Minamata Convention on Mercury | Not applicable. Vanuatu not a signatory. |
| Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2016-2030 | Enacted 2016. |
| Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora | Accession 1989. Entry into force 1989. |
| RAMSAR Wetlands Convention | Signing in progress 2016. |

In addition there are numerous national policies and strategies which align with the vision of the Vanuatu SGP, and which will assist in directing and supporting the priorities of small grants. These policies and strategies are outlined in Table 2, accompanied by a short review of how these documents can complement the strategy of the Vanuatu SGP.

Table 2. Vanuatu's national strategies and policies relevant to the Vanuatu SGP

| Strategy / Policy | Status | Outline and Focus of Document | Links with Vanuatu SGP |
|---|--|---|---|
| National Environment Policy and Implementation Plan (NEPIP) | Vanuatu Council of Ministers to endorse the NEPIP before end of 2016 | <p>The NEPIP forms a framework that links existing environment-related policies and provides a roadmap for Vanuatu's long-term environmental actions.</p> <p>The NEPIP outlines the requirements of the national Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) under multilateral environmental agreements, legislation, corporate planning instruments, and existing policies and programs such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), the National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2020 (NISSAP) and the National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plans (NWMS).</p> <p>The NEPIP also links with international and regional strategies and the policies and work of other sectors and government agencies such as climate change, energy, forestry, fisheries, geology and mines, tourism and education.</p> | <p>As the NEPIP is the most important and overarching environment-related strategy in Vanuatu, it is imperative for SGP to link with outlined plans.</p> <p>There are actions contained within the NEPIP which SGP can assist in implementing on the ground through small community-based projects.</p> <p>SGP provides an opportunity for Vanuatu to improve its environment and assist in meeting its sustainable development goals at a grassroots level. The NEPIP outlines the collective responsibility for the environment and the importance of the involvement of each ni-Vanuatu citizen in helping Vanuatu to move towards a sustainable future.</p> <p>The vision and implementation of SGP grants aligns with this principle.</p> |
| National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) | Current in review, due to be finalised by the end of 2016 | <p>The NBSAP outlines the key biodiversity and conservation-based objectives and actions needed to meet these across Vanuatu.</p> <p>The NBSAP includes a strong focus on local conservation activities, the setup of community conservation areas and the importance of incorporating traditional knowledge in effective biodiversity and natural resource management.</p> | <p>It is acknowledged in the NBSAP that due to Vanuatu's traditional custom governance and land structure, it is the resource owners and users at the island and village levels who undertake biodiversity conservation and resource management.</p> <p>Landscape and seascape-wide conservation will only be possible through community-level conservation projects. For this reason, the strategic initiatives of OP6 will be strongly complimented by the NBSAP. SGP will be an important platform to assist the implementation of local actions contained within the NBSAP.</p> <p>The pre-existing focus on community conservation at a national and provincial level will be a strong foundation for the Vanuatu SGP office to build upon, with potential partnerships to be developed to support SGP grantees in their initiatives during OP6.</p> |

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| Fisheries Policy | Policy consultation currently underway, soon to be finalised | The Fisheries Policy will provide the first policy for coastal fisheries management. The policy will present an innovative approach to coordinate the management of shallow water species and community fishing. The policy will describe how to develop, manage and conserve these resources with identified activities and strategies. | The management of seascapes as outlined in the OP6 strategic initiatives will complement the new coastal Fisheries Policy, particularly with reef fishing management. The coastal zone is a heavily harvested area, and small-scale SGP projects could assist in implementing some of the overarching goals of the Fisheries Policy. |
| Overarching Productive Sector Policy (OPSP) 2012 - 2017 | Active | <p>The OPSP is a national-level overarching policy which determines the scope of priorities for development in the productive sectors of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in Vanuatu.</p> <p>The vision of the policy is to move Vanuatu towards a sustainable agricultural future, with more resilience within its domestic productive sectors, as the country increasingly faces issues relating to globalisation and development.</p> <p>The policy takes heed to ensure development within the productive sectors are environmentally sustainable, in line with the National Sustainable Development Plan.</p> | <p>Vanuatu is fundamentally an agricultural society, and the Government will continue to foster this way of life for the security and well-being of Vanuatu's citizens.</p> <p>There is focus within the OPSP on the productive sectors needing to adapt to oncoming climate change. The strategic initiative in the OP6 of climate-smart agro-ecology and sustainable land management across forestlands and rangelands or agricultural lands, complements the overarching vision of the Government of Vanuatu. Climate-proofing livestock and agricultural sectors has already commenced in Vanuatu and will be boosted through potential grassroots contributions of Vanuatu SGP.</p> |
| Forestry Policy 2013 - 2023 | Active | The Forest Policy aims to ensure that the nation's forest resources are managed in an integrated and sustainable manner and provide wood and non-wood forest products as well as environmental and social services to contribute profitably to income generation, employment opportunities, and social wellbeing for all people in Vanuatu, and thus to sustainable economic growth. | <p>Forest conservation goals outlined in the Forestry Policy are in line with the strategic initiatives of landscape/seascape conservation within the OP6 framework for SGP.</p> <p>Vanuatu's national goal to protect approximately 30% of its forests due to their important function in regulating whole-of-island ecosystems and environments, including minimizing impacts from land-based activities on marine ecosystems, strongly links with the landscape/seascape philosophy of GEF in that "working at landscape-scale encompasses ecosystems whereas a single community typically does not" (GEF/UNDP, 2014).</p> |
| National Water Strategy 2008 – 2018 (NWS) | Active | The NWS aims to overcome constraints that limit sustainable development of the water sector in Vanuatu including factors related to finances, human resources, | The strategies contained within the NWS relate to the OP6 strategic initiative to facilitate the 'Promotion of collective management of trans- |

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| | | <p>institutions and operations. Importantly, it outlines strategies and actions required by all Government departments of Vanuatu relating to water.</p> <p>The vision of the NSW is to ensure sustainable and equitable access to safe water and sanitation for the people of Vanuatu to support improved public health and promote social and economic development.</p> | <p><i>boundary water systems</i>'. The Department of Water does have the power to implement Water Protection Zones under the Water Resource Management Act, and the NWS does highlight the need to promote further collective water management strategies in Vanuatu.</p> |
| Biosecurity Policy | Policy consultation currently underway, soon to be finalised | <p>The Biosecurity Policy will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Having all the appropriate legal powers to carry out its mandate. - Maintaining and improving plant health management systems to protect Vanuatu's plant health. - Effective management of the importation and distribution of pesticides. - Improvement and strengthening of border control activities at all ports of entry. - Improvement and strengthening of inspection and treatment of import & export products - Maintenance of current markets for animals and animal products & facilitates access to new export markets. - Supplying safe and hygienic meat products. | <p>These two documents are important for the success of landscape/seascape conservation in Vanuatu. The management of invasive species is imperative due to how quickly invasives have spread in Vanuatu, and the vulnerability of Vanuatu's endangered and endemic species populations.</p> <p>Vanuatu SGP could potentially foster some projects in the field of invasive species management, particularly in the case of existing or proposed community conservation areas, or buffer zones to conservation areas, where management of invasive species is impacting on the ecological and livelihood integrity of an area or village.</p> |
| National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan 2014 – 2020 (NISSAP) | Active | <p>The NISSAP places emphasis on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintaining the current status of native biodiversity. - Maintaining strong border control. - Developing inter-island biosecurity programme. - Eradicating species where this is feasible. - Controlling those species that cannot be eradicated. | |
| National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan 2011-2016 (NWMSAP) | Policy consultation currently underway, soon to be finalised | <p>The NWMSAP was adopted in 2011 in line with the Pacific Regional Solid Waste Management Strategy 2010 – 2015. It outlines an approach of integrated solid waste management and the development of legislation and practical measures within government to support this principle.</p> | <p>Chemical waste management, advocacy and networking, as per OP6 initiatives, will fall under the NWMSAP and any actions will need to feed back into the waste management strategies and thinkings of government, as this field develops and starts to gain momentum in Vanuatu.</p> |
| National Sustainable Development Plan 2016 – 2030 (NSDP) | Policy consultation currently underway, | <p>The NSDP will be the highest-level government planning document for the next 15 years. It will inform all new government ministry and sector planning, and will guide the overall strategic direction of government activities to ensure</p> | <p>The NSDP contains a range of overarching objectives against which all strategic initiatives of OP6 align. In particular the environmental goals of the NSDP will be discussed with grantees, and SGP</p> |

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| | soon to be finalised | Vanuatu meets its long-term national vision of a "Stable, Sustainable and Prosperous Vanuatu". | grants have the potential in assisting Vanuatu to step towards these goals. |
| Climate Change and Disaster Risk Policy 2016 – 2030 (CCDRP) | Active | <p>The purpose of this policy is to provide the framework for mainstreaming climate change and disaster risk reduction into sustainable development processes, and to improve coordination and planning of programmes, projects and funding across ministries, departments, development partners, academia, civil society organisations (CSOs) and the private sector.</p> <p>There will be a focus on enabling more equitable sharing in resourcing relative to Vanuatu's high level of vulnerability; and facilitate accountability through monitoring, evaluation and reporting.</p> | <p>The aim of the CCDRP is to ensure that stakeholders, including donors, CSOs, the private sector and communities understand and align themselves and their actions with Vanuatu's policy direction.</p> <p>Vanuatu SGP projects will be addressing climate change impacts through their initiatives, and for this reason, will seek to align with the national CCDRP. Ground-level actions and difficulties faced will be able to feed back up into national level activities for climate change, as the experience of climate change impacts grows over time in this small-island development state.</p> |
| National Integrated Coastal Management Framework 2010 (NICMF) | To be reviewed during 2016 | <p>The NICMF was developed to assist responsible government agencies and concerned stakeholders to cooperate, collaborate and integrate their activities into a coordinated response to mitigate and reduce impacts affecting Vanuatu's coastal ecosystems and resources.</p> <p>The NICMF provides the structure and process which guide the behavior and conduct of government agencies, NGOs, the private sector, and communities to achieving sustainable coastal environmental management. The focus of the document is to assist all stakeholders to maintain the ecological balance, sustain biodiversity and sustain livelihoods in the coastal zones of the islands of Vanuatu.</p> | <p>Grantees' projects based in the selected seascape zones will reference the NICMF for relevance to their objectives.</p> <p>The NICMF is an important strategy document to take into consideration when applying landscape/seascape approaches to projects, due to its environmental priority to maintain the health of coastal ecosystems and minimise or ideally, completely remove, the threats to coastal zones, which are so prevalent in Vanuatu, particularly on the main island of Efate.</p> <p>Moreover, as an island nation, many of Vanuatu's globally significant ecosystems and species are found in its reefs and coastal zones, and these need to be protected as per the NICM and for the sake of the ecosystems and the services they provide to the human populations, the majority of which are located in the country's coastal areas.</p> |
| National Land Use Planning and Zoning Policy 2012 (NLUPZP) | Active | The Constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu states that the "rules of custom shall form the basis of ownership and use of land". As such, no government policy will ever be able to mandate a universal land use practice in Vanuatu. Rather this | The NLUPZP states that those responsible for land use planning will "strictly reserve, through legislation or regulation, part of Vanuatu's land |

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| | | <p>land use planning policy reflects Vanuatu's multifaceted cultural heritage and is intended to enable custom land owners to make good and sustainable decisions on how land is used.</p> <p>The policy aims to guide land use planning by setting priorities and outlining legislative and institutional settings to enable land use planning that encourages the best current use of land resources and at the same time allowing for future generations equitably benefit from the same resources. The policy is regarded as a framework for land use planning, from rural communities through to our urban centres.</p> | <p>heritage for the protection and conservation of rare, endemic or service providing land and seascapes.” This acknowledgement that protection of the environment is linked to how we manage our land resources through custom structures and traditions, complements the vision of OP6 to conserve whole landscape/seascape areas from the bottom-up.</p> |
| National Energy Road Map 2013 - 2020 | Active | <p>The Road Map focuses on the five following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access - Access to secure, reliable and affordable electricity for all citizens by 2030. 2. Petroleum Supply: Reliable, secure and affordable petroleum supply throughout Vanuatu. 3. Affordability - A more affordable and low cost of energy services in Vanuatu. 4. Energy Security: An energy-secure Vanuatu at all times. 5. Climate Change- Mitigating climate change through renewable energy and energy efficiency. | <p>The vision of the Road Map aligns with the energy access strategic initiative of SGP OP6 being that the program should 'support transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path.' Any energy projects will support a move towards the targets outlined in the Road Map.</p> |
| Vanuatu Strategic Tourism Action Plan 2014 – 2018 | Active | <p>The aim of the VSTAP is to increase investment in tourism, benefit more ni-Vanuatu tourism operators, and to spread tourism benefits throughout the country.</p> <p>It outlines a situational analysis of the tourism industry in Vanuatu and outlines five key strategic actions which will positively benefit Vanuatu's tourism future.</p> | <p>Whilst SGP OP6 does not target tourism directly, the benefits provided to communities by protecting their resources and environment, extend to the opportunity to use their environment for low-impact eco-tourism – a good livelihood option, particularly for Efate and Tanna where a tourism base is already established.</p> <p>The VSTAP will be taken into account during the design of OP6 grantee projects.</p> |

Relevant legislation to the Vanuatu SGP which will help guide projects includes:

- Constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu 1980
- Decentralization Act 1994
- Environmental Management and Conservation Act 2002
- Fisheries Act 2014
- Water Resources Management Act 2002
- Forestry Act 2001
- Waste Management Act 2014
- Pollution (Control) Act 2013
- National Parks Act 1993
- Wild Bird Protection Act 1962
- Ozone Layer Protection Act 2010
- Water Supply Apparatus Act 1974
- National Disaster Act 2000
- International Trade (Flora and Fauna) Act 1991
- Custom Land Management Act 2013
- Physical Planning Act 1986
- Land Reform Act 1988
- Land Leases Act 1984
- Preservation of Sites and Artifacts Act 2008

2.2 *Support of national priorities*

Capacity-building and seeking involvement from CSOs is one area which Vanuatu SGP will continue to support. This is a crucial area of development and with the growing CSO sector in Vanuatu, particularly in the field of those related to environmental causes, the SGP will be an important facilitator in bringing the views and knowledge of CSOs to the national level. SGP will seek a niche to fill the existing gap between CSOs and communities and the government departments.

It is vital that SGP provides a channel for communication between these levels in Vanuatu, as national planning needs a strong foundation of local knowledge and connection to communities in order to be effective and relevant, especially due to the geography and remote nature of some islands and communities in Vanuatu. Moreover, the development of CSOs in Vanuatu arise from a need to address localised issues but which need government support to develop, or to provide specialist resources to achieve their goals.

SGP Vanuatu will continue to follow a decentralized approach through CSOs to identify, plan for and address environmental problems throughout Vanuatu. Due to similar environmental problems being experienced on various islands, it is important that this information is fed up to the national or provincial planning level so that synergies in potential solutions can be sought, and longer-term approaches to particular environmental issues can impact policy at these levels. In the same way, it is important for CSOs to understand and connect their actions to the broader environment protection approach in Vanuatu, particularly as this information often only reaches certain sections of the population during policy consultations.

The Vanuatu SGP is in a unique position of being able to empower CSOs, and assist in piloting small-scale environmental management initiatives at a grassroots level, to highlight potential successes in order to attract future funding and expand effective solutions beyond the original SGP

site. The lessons learned process will be essential in delivering messages regarding successes and challenges to the national and larger NGO level.

SGP Vanuatu will seek to build upon its existing facilitation of a dialogue between national and provincial governments, and CSOs. There will be opportunities to promote the meaningful involvement of communities and CSOs in all of the review and development of national policies and plans. CSOs have already been involved in the first stages of the Vanuatu NBSAP and National Environmental Policy and Implementation Plan review. This involvement will continue in the next phase of the review with a week-long workshop to discuss detailed strategy. Moreover, CSOs have been involved in the development of the SDGs of Vanuatu, and are included in consultations and development discussions about the national implementation plan to accompany these. SGP Vanuatu will continue to advocate and organise the involvement of CSOs in these multi-tiered discussions.

2.3 *Potential for complementary and synergy*

The potential for complementary and synergy of SGP Vanuatu's OP6 strategic initiatives, with other Government-funded projects and programmes, the strategic targets as outlined in the Vanuatu UNDAF, GEF-funded projects and other major donor/NGO-led/funded project and programmes, are outlined in Table 3.

Table 3. SGP contribution to national priorities / GEF-6 corporate results

| 1 SGP OP6 strategic initiatives | 2 GEF-6 corporate results by focal area | 3 Briefly describe the SGP Country Programme niche ³ relevant to national priorities/other agencies | 4 Briefly describe the complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming |
|---|--|--|--|
| Community landscape/seascape conservation | <i>Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society</i> | <p>Community-level conservation is an approach that is heavily advocated by the Vanuatu Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation and through regional NGOs working in Vanuatu. This approach is particularly relevant to Vanuatu due to its geographical layout and customary traditions and governance, which encompass stewardship and care for natural resources through traditional management measures.</p> <p>Several large environmental projects coordinated by international agencies (FAO, UN-REDD+, SPREP, SPC, SPC-GIZ) are focused on North Efate and its offshore islands with regard to ICM or landscape/seascape initiatives, with no major environmental projects currently occurring in Tanna. Whilst these projects can provide important baseline data with the support of technical specialists, SGP Vanuatu will continue to work locally to support local grassroots conservation projects on Efate, offshore islands and Tanna, especially those that are currently in progress and those that focus on protecting the water catchment areas, for ridge-to-reef approach.</p> | <p>UNDAF Outcome 1.1: National, local and community capacities to effectively plan and implement enhanced natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction are strengthened.</p> |

³ "Niche" refers to the role or contribution that the Country Programme is best fitted to perform and for which the other stakeholders agree with

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| | | <p>One particular large-scale project that could be assisted through SGP pilot site/s, would be the International GEF Pacific International Waters Ridge to Reef project running from 2016 – 2019, which plans to progress and improve water catchment management downstream on the Tagabe River, close to Port Vila on Efate. The project will focus on sustainable land and agricultural management within impacted riparian zones, waste management in areas currently impacting the Tagabe, and a focus on outcomes relating to water quality and flow. This is extremely important in the face of unprecedented urban population growth in Port Vila and the water resource demands this will bring, all of which are supplied by the upstream Tagabe River water catchment area. Community-based alternatives via creative SGP grantees would complement the larger vision of this project.</p> <p>Building local capacity to focus on protecting endemic species will be a focus area. Opportunities for rehabilitation and reforestation will be targeted through SGP grants.</p> <p>This strategic initiative is also relevant to several national pieces of legislation, which will be used to guide activities, including the Environmental Management and Conservation Act 2002, Community Conservation Area Guidelines, Constitution of Vanuatu, and the Decentralisation Act.</p> | |
| Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology; Community landscape/seascape conservation | <i>Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)</i> | <p>OP-6 grantees will manage community-level agro-ecology projects in appropriate communities, in line with broader landscape/seascape approaches and existing national approaches to sustainable agriculture and subsistence livelihoods.</p> <p>Vanuatu SGP can potentially focus on the following (amongst other projects):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable and organic agriculture on the ash plain on Tanna to increase food security in the area, and the sustainable use of these species. - Increasing knowledge and practice of soil conservation. - Promotion of knowledge regarding integrated land management which will assist in fostering knowledge about implications of clearing native forest for agriculture, and flow-on effects to waterways and water security of the islands. - Organic urban agro-ecology to promote food security and healthy nutrition options in urban centres, particularly Port Vila. <p>In addition, SPC's RESCCUE project in North Efate, which will last the duration of OP-6, is focusing on ridge-to-reef integrated coastal management which will</p> | <p>UNDAF Output 1.1.1: Capacity and structure of national & local government and civil societies to directly access and appropriately manage climate funds is strengthened.</p> <p>UNDAF Output 1.1.3: Community strategies for climate change and disaster risk management are up-scaled and replicated.</p> |

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| | | <p>support more sustainable management of agricultural practices. Vanuatu SGP will be in a position to develop grassroots measures which come out of this research if appropriate.</p> <p>SGP grantees could link in with existing agricultural climate-proofing trials being conducted through SPC-GIZ's activities and Departments of Livestock and Forestry, who are all seeking to find the best species suited to Vanuatu's environment that can withstand climate change impacts including long dry seasons, as well as those that are appropriate for cross-breeding for good reproduction in the outer islands. In the same way, Forestry are investigating tree species which can tolerate more exacerbated El Nino and La Nina periods for timber production purposes.</p> <p>This initiative will also be supported through a new GEF5 FAO-implemented project to be focused in north-west Efate, which will work with the Departments of Livestock and Agriculture on sustainable agricultural practices including silvo-pastoral activities.</p> | |
| Community landscape/seascape conservation | <p><i>Promotion of collective management of trans-boundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services</i></p> | <p>SGP projects on Efate and Tanna will seek to interact with the main priorities of Government promotion of the collective management of trans-boundary water systems. Whilst international trans-boundary water systems do not occur in Vanuatu, many water systems on each of the islands span tribal and community boundaries and are subject to collective management and use.</p> <p>Promotion of the collective management of ecosystem services, such as water catchment services, is linked to national priorities which seek to rehabilitate and strengthen governance of communities in general, and in turn, their management of communities and resources. The Malvatumauri Council of Chiefs is embarking on a reform of custom governance structures across Vanuatu, with the selection of pilot sites including Efate and Tanna, which will assist in finding collective solutions to the challenges facing Vanuatu's custom governance structures. Their resolutions include environmental management priorities, and improved custom governance overall will assist in management of resources.</p> <p>Several major NGOs on Efate are also implementing projects which align with improving trans-boundary ecosystem service management. The Teouma River management between Etas and Eratap is one site which could be complemented by SGP initiatives, due to its use by both original citizens of Efate and those of other islands. Another is the proposed Efate Land Management Area network, which aims to conserve the central water catchment region of Efate, which collects</p> | <p>UNDAF Outcome 1.1: National, local and community capacities to effectively plan and implement enhanced natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction are strengthened.</p> |

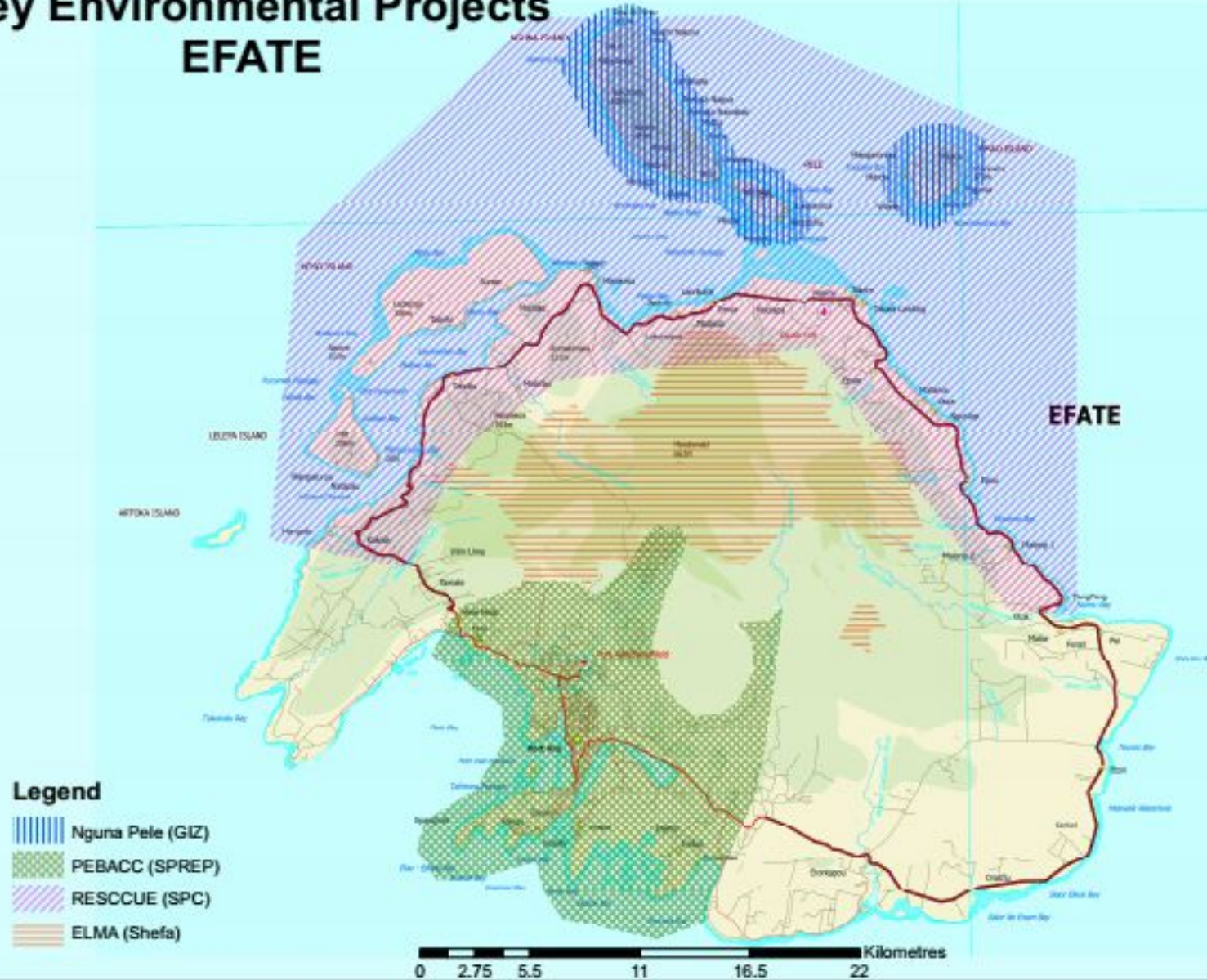
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| | | <p>water for the entirety of the island's rivers and populations.</p> <p>Moreover, small-scale management projects promoting collective management of trans-boundary water systems could make use of the Water Resources Management Act which includes the ability to declare buffer zones around freshwater systems in order to better manage riparian zones. SGP projects could focus on implementing rehabilitation in riparian zones, which could help to control water sources during times of drought, and act as a model for riparian rehabilitation across Vanuatu where this issue has arisen. This could extend to sustainable agricultural practices outside the buffer zones, involving rehabilitation and replanting of forests, to reinvigorate the provision of ecosystem services which have been lost in some areas of Efate and Tanna.</p> | |
| Energy access co-benefits | <i>Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path</i> | <p>Current SGP project of OP-5 <i>Building capacity for the women in improving community lighting through solar energy</i> will continue through 2016-17, and could be expanded through a linked SGP grant using this project as a pilot on which to build. SGP Vanuatu will seek to establish links to a new NAMA Rural Electrification in Vanuatu project, administered by the Ministry of Climate Change and Natural Disasters, and Department of Energy. The project's aims are aligned with those started by this SGP project, and are seeking to provide low-carbon options for electricity to rural parts of Vanuatu.</p> <p>The SGP project is focused on women's involvement in this process, and this could be expanded upon and used as a conduit in the larger national program, particularly to establish networks on the ground in communities. In addition, this SGP project is being allotted for up-scaling.</p> <p>Moreover, the National Energy Road Map 2013 - 2020 supports the transformational shift towards a low-emission and resilient development path, with strong targets on renewable energy increases and improvements in diesel efficiency. The Road Map has given special consideration to women and children in its development and activities presented in the strategy, which SGP will seek to feed into on a smaller scale.</p> | <p>Regional Pacific UNDAF Outcome 1.1: Improved resilience of PICTs, with particular focus on communities, through integrated implementation of sustainable environmental management, climate change adaptation/mitigation, and disaster risk management.</p> |
| Local to global chemicals coalitions | <i>Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern</i> | <p>This strategic area will fall into the cross-cutting portion of SGP Vanuatu funds. Management of chemicals is considered to be more of a priority in urban centres, and chemical waste is produced mainly by private businesses or large Government facilities such as Vila Central Hospital. The management of this through community-level SGP grants is therefore limited.</p> <p>However, where possible, chemical coalitions, awareness programs and waste management systems</p> | <p>UNDAF Outcome 1.1: National, local and community capacities to effectively plan and implement enhanced natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and</p> |

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| | | <p>will be assisted through SGP grants. The Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation's Waste Management Unit is currently working on a new project targeting the management of POPs and this could be linked into to develop local to global chemical coalitions.</p> <p>A project is in preliminary planning phase to analyse POPs in Teouma River on Efate, the largest river by flow volume on the island. Assistance with scientific methodologies and field resources would be sought externally to Vanuatu.</p> | <p>mitigation, and disaster risk reduction are strengthened.</p> |
| CSO-Government dialogue platforms | <p><i>Enhance capacity of civil society to contribute to implementation of MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and national and sub-national policy, planning and legal frameworks</i></p> | <p>Planned by the SGP National Office to create a CSO-Government dialogue during OP-6. This will formalise relationships which exist, with information sharing sessions between previous and new grantees and government agencies.</p> <p>The key aims of these sessions is to make existing government data accessible to CSOs to assist in project planning and implementation. Important on-the-ground lessons from CSOs will be shared with Government departments which are often under-resourced and not able to access sites as often as required. In addition, CSOs will continue to be invited to all relevant environmental and social policy and planning workshops to represent important local voices. Recently, CSOs have been involved and played an important role in NBSAP and NSDP consultations, as well as feeding ideas into the NEPIP. Due to the community-based structure of Vanuatu's society CSOs are not neglected and can continue to build on this involvement in higher-level strategic thinking and planning.</p> | <p>UNDAF Outcome 5.1: Enhanced governance capacity to effectively plan, implement and monitor national and sector development policies.</p> |
| Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples) | <p><i>GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Gender Equality Action Plan and GEF Principles for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples</i></p> | <p>Vanuatu's OP-6 aims include improving grantee's consideration of youth and gender issues and how these impact on their project, and can be included in their project.</p> <p>Grassroots initiatives supported by SGP will continue to be the best vehicle to facilitate actual practice of national policies on gender inclusion through active promotion of the inclusion of women and female youth in projects and capacity building initiatives.</p> <p>SGP projects will reflect national priorities of Vanuatu to include active involvement and leadership from women in their work and targets. Understanding the role of women in supply chains and in managing their environments will be built upon to foster better solutions to issues in communities.</p> <p>Support for traditional knowledge and custom, values which are strong in Vanuatu will continue to be advocated for through SGP projects from the bottom-up.</p> | <p>UNDAF Outcome 2.1: National and Local government, traditional bodies, civil societies, social partners and communities increasingly uphold and protect the rights of its people and ensure protection of most vulnerable groups.</p> <p>UNDAF Output 2.1.1: Increased involvement of women in decision making at national and local levels.</p> <p>UNDAF Outcome 3.1: Alleviation of poverty and increased inclusive growth, employment</p> |

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| | | | and livelihoods with a focus on women and youth. |
| Contribution to global knowledge management platforms | <i>Contribute to GEF KM efforts</i> | <p>Vanuatu's SGP office will continue to facilitate the contributions from grantees to the global knowledge management platform, starting with the Grantee Exchange meeting which occurs annually as part of SGP.</p> <p>It is envisioned that several Vanuatu SGP projects can be entered in the global Equator Prize initiative. Further to this, contributions to local KM will be promoted through the UNDP Country Office to ensure that exposure of SGP projects occurs for all larger donor-funded projects, related to the OP-6 strategic initiatives. During OP6 the Grantee Exchange meetings will also invite Government department staff to learn from the experiences of communities.</p> <p>Regional knowledge-sharing hubs will be accessed and fed into, including SPREP's formal database for knowledge sharing and past projects. Pacific-based environmental issues such as the eradication of <i>Meremima peltata</i> have been the focus of lessons learnt sharing, with reports and DVDs accessible which will be made available to relevant SGP grantees. Lessons learnt through their activities will be fed back into this regional base of knowledge.</p> <p>Vanuatu SGP is in the process of developing a new website, through a local youth NGO specializing in media production. The website is planned to be used as a knowledge-sharing forum for grantees and to showcase the achievements of local CSOs. It will be hosted by an overarching local environmental advocacy group.</p> <p>The Vanuatu SGP will use its unique position being in direct contact with CSOs to feed grassroots community information into national reporting on multi-lateral agreements and national State of the Environment reports. It will play a vital role for the NEPIP, which is to be made active by the end of 2016. Generally, information from CSO-level activities are hard to glean for these purposes, but OP6 is an opportunity to re-organise and empower the important work of CSOs. This knowledge-sharing platform will link with the UNDP Database for Information Management.</p> | <p>UNDAF Outcome 5.1: Enhanced governance capacity to effectively plan, implement and monitor national and sector development policies.</p> |

A map of the proposed/existing boundaries of the major donor-funded and NGO-implemented environmental projects currently in progress or soon to be implemented on Efate and the offshore islands is provided below.

Key Environmental Projects EFATE



3. OP6 strategies

3.1. Cross-cutting OP6 grant-making strategies

Critical cross-cutting OP6 projects that can be supported at national level outside of the selected landscape/seascape focus areas of Efate and Tanna, and that will be implemented with an allocated 40% of the SGP budget, include the following:

- Environmental education projects, particularly in more remote and smaller islands of Vanuatu that do not receive much attention from international aid donors, but are more vulnerable to impacts from climate change. Environmental education and awareness is a need in many parts of Vanuatu due to school education gaps, and SGP Vanuatu has the ability to assist with this, to complement traditional knowledge that exists in communities.
- Climate change adaptation projects focusing on vulnerable islands which are already facing the impacts of climate change. Lessons learnt through other existing climate change adaptation projects would be relied upon to form sound project design, and grantees could link in with existing climate change adaptation projects in Vanuatu.
- Water provision and water security projects on drier islands of Vanuatu such as those in the Shepherd Islands in Shefa Province, and the Banks and Torres groups in Torba Province. Identification and awareness of the existing water catchment and potential water issues would be a focus, as well as expected future water issues related to climate change. Guidance would be given to involve Department of Rural Water Supply to partner with grantees to ensure that project designs are innovative to the needs that exist on smaller islands with regard to water. Technical expertise would be able to identify where gravity-fed systems could be expanded where possible, or on drier islands, where rainwater catchment systems could be improved.
- Widening of the scope and influence of reforestation and sustainable agriculture projects in Penama Province where land degradation has occurred due to high population growth and expansion of areas of family gardens, particularly on Pentecost island, where the topography of the island makes it susceptible to erosion, considering the level of activity.
- Deepening and expansion of projects or environmental focus areas on Santo, the largest island of Vanuatu. Water catchment management both upstream and downstream in Santo will be a focus area.
- Network strengthening for conservation areas and support to formalize community conservation areas, with the vision of creating pragmatic environmental and landscape/seascape management plans across provinces (e.g. Shepherd Islands would benefit from knowledge sharing regarding their shared environmental features, and how best to manage these).
- Reforestation projects focusing on islands where logging in previous decades impacted on the forest ecosystems of the islands, and in turn water catchment and water supply quality.
- Urban environmental management projects, such as ecosystem-based adaptation measures in Port Vila and Luganville, as the largest urban centres in Vanuatu. Work could be implemented in coordination with the large SPREP ecosystem-based adaptation project, the focus are of which is Port Vila, using data collated from their baseline studies to identify the best on-the-ground options. Expansion of small scale organic urban home gardens would be encouraged, such as the ‘sup-sup karen’ projects in Solomon Islands, to promote a diversity of food and nutritional value in the food available in an urban setting. In turn this will have positive flow-on impacts to the health sector.

In addition, opportunities would be explored within existing projects to wide and expand their influence from their pilot sites across Vanuatu. The CSO platform would be utilised as vehicle for spreading the lessons and resources across Vanuatu, via local community organisations so as to adapt projects to the localized context.

It should be noted that the list provided above, of potential activities and locations, is not exhaustive and final grantees of the Vanuatu OP6 group will depend on the needs and motivation of particular communities and environments.

The strategic initiative of social inclusion (gender, youth and indigenous people) will be the most wide-ranging cross-cutting approach, and SGP Vanuatu will seek to include gender equality, youth and other marginalized people across the majority of its projects.

SGP has in the past produced 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 and youth considerations in community-based environmental initiatives. This method of improving livelihoods through social inclusion, as well as through tangible environmental initiatives during OP-6, will continue to be a guidance point for all grantees during project design, and supported as a requirement whenever possible.

3.2 Landscape/seascape-based OP6 grant-making strategies

Selected landscape/seascape areas

The selected landscape/seascape areas for OP6 in Vanuatu include:

1. **Efate and offshore islands of Lelepa, Moso, Nguna, Pele and Emau** – whole of these islands extending to the boundary of the fringing reef surrounding the islands and all ocean between mainland Efate and the offshore islands.
2. **Tanna** – whole of island extending to the boundary of the fringing reef surrounding the island.

The islands present a strong opportunity for involving projects ranging from ridge to reef, across a variety of typologies and land uses, such as mountain environments, agricultural areas, forest ecosystems, freshwater sources (rivers and wetlands), saltwater ecosystems (reefs/estuaries (brackish)) and urban environments.

The majority of OP6 grantmaking will be focused on these two islands. A summary of findings from the Baseline Assessment is provided below.

Process for selecting landscape/seascape and conducting the Baseline Assessment

The process for selecting the landscape/seascapes for Vanuatu, in which most of the SGP grantmaking will be focused, included the following steps:

- a) Consultation and scoping exercise
- b) Landscape/seascape selection criteria and priorities
- c) Baseline Assessment

These steps are outlined in more detail below. After the landscapes/seascapes for Vanuatu were selected, a baseline assessment was conducted and documented, and is provided as Annex 1.

a) Consultation and scoping exercise

The first steps taken to select the landscapes/seascapes involved the following participatory consultation process:

1. Tapping into current relationships with existing grantees from OP-5.

2. One inception stakeholder consultation session was held at Shefa Provincial Government (refer minutes of meeting in Annex 2) involving the following parties:
 - a. UNDP CSO Country Coordinator and assistants
 - b. Government of Vanuatu (national):
 - i. Ministry for Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology, Geo-Hazards, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management
 - ii. Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity
 - iii. Ministry of Trade, Tourism, Commerce and Industry
 - c. Provincial Government:
 - i. Shefa Provincial Government
 - ii. Tafea Provincial Government
 - d. Non-government organisations:
 - i. Live and Learn Vanuatu
 - ii. Save the Children Vanuatu
 - iii. Vanuatu Education Policy Advocacy Coalition (VEPAC)
 - iv. Vanuatu Association of National Government Organisations (VANGO)
 - v. Vanuatu Environment Advocacy Network (VEAN)
 - vi. Vanuatu Cultural Centre
 - vii. Vanuatu Friends of the Museum
 - e. CSOs
 - i. TAFEA Women's Group
 - ii. VANGO represented the majority of CSOs
 - f. Current grantees

The session was facilitated by the SGP National Coordinator and were participatory in nature involving feedback and discussion from all stakeholders, to determine the basis of this CPS, the OP6 funds and the selected landscape/seascape.

Some meetings and feedback sessions regarding OP6 were conducted as part of ongoing OP5 consultations and maintenance of relationships with existing stakeholders, whenever these parties met with the NC.

3. A grassroots participatory consultation workshop was held for Efate and the offshore islands of Lelepa, Moso, Nguna, Pele and Emau at Shefa Provincial Government (refer attached participant list) and involved the following participants:
 - a. UNDP SGP National Coordinator and assistants
 - b. Government:
 - i. Shefa Provincial Government Area Secretaries for Efate and the offshore islands.
 - ii. Department of Forestry.
 - c. Environmental non-government organisations:
 - i. Tasivanua Environment Network
 - ii. Efate Land Management Area Network
 - iii. Nguna-Pele Land and Marine Protected Authority Network
 - iv. Mere-Sauwia Conservation Area
 - v. Lelema Conservation Area
 - d. CSO representatives
 - e. Chiefs
 - f. Shefa women's representative
 - g. Shefa youth representatives
 - h. Village and community representatives from villages across south, east, north and north-west Efate and the offshore islands

Photo 1 and Photo 2 show the Efate and offshore islands consultation session.



Photo 1. Efate and offshore islands participatory consultation session with Leah Nimoho, UNDP SGP National Coordinator addressing the participants



Photo 2. Participant at the Efate and offshore island consultation session presenting on environmental issues in north-west Efate

- a. UNDP SGP representatives
- b. Government:
 - i. Tafea Provincial Government Area Secretaries for the full island
 - ii. Department of Forestry Extension Officer
 - iii. Department of Fisheries Extension Officer
 - iv. Department of Tourism Extension Officer
- c. Environmental non-government organisations:
 - v. Green Hill Botanic Gardens
 - vi. Keasi-Ianang and Iakarpesu Conservation Area
 - vii. Nusemetu Conservation Area
 - viii. Launamilo Conservation Area
- d. CSO representatives
- e. Village and community representatives from villages across north, west, south, south-east and east Tanna

Photos from the consultation workshop on Tanna are shown below.



Photo 3. Tanna consultation workshop in progress

Photo 4. Participants at the Tanna participatory consultation workshop for OP6

The purpose of these workshops were to give participants an opportunity to:

- Become familiar with the UNDP SGP for Vanuatu and specifically OP6.
- Discuss their landscape/seascape environment as a whole.
- Identify what they see as the most pressing environmental concerns in their landscape/seascape.
- Discuss potential solutions or projects that could be assisted through SGP.

- Assist in mapping existing chiefly taboo areas or community conservation initiatives both active or inactive.
- Identify important areas for endangered species or natural resources.
- Identify active CSOs/CBOs/other organised community groups.
- Take information back to their communities regarding the upcoming UNDP SGP OP6.

A workshop report outlining in detail the consultation process and findings is provided to this CPS as Annex 3 and explained further in the Baseline Assessment.

b) Landscape/seascape selection criteria and priorities

The landscapes/seascapes of Efate and its offshore islands, and Tanna were chosen based on their suitability of a range of criteria, which are outlined in Table 4 below, as well as their environmental significance within the broader context of Vanuatu, and the ability for Vanuatu SGP to build on pre-established community links and work on these islands.

Table 4. Suitability of proposed landscape/seascape areas based on selection criteria

| CRITERIA AND PRIORITIES FOR THE SELECTION OF THE LANDSCAPE/SEASCAPE | SUITABILITY OF PROPOSED LANDSCAPES/SEASCAPES |
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| ✓ Alignment with national priorities (SAP, NBSAP, NAP, NAPA, CCDRR Policy) | Both Efate and the offshore islands, and Tanna islands are included as priorities within the national environmental strategy documents of Vanuatu, due to their increasing environmental issues related to current high population growth rates. |
| ✓ Global significance of the landscape/seascape | The environments of Efate and its offshore islands, and Tanna are considered significant both regionally and globally. Despite the low level of diversity from a biological perspective on these islands, the species that have evolved on these sites are endemic and often vulnerable or endangered, making their protection all the more vital. Endangered species include a range of turtles, flying fox, birds, dugongs, palms and orchids. In addition, the landscapes of these islands are globally significant, particularly on Tanna, with the active volcano of Mt. Yasur. On Efate, the World Heritage Area of Eratoka island and Chief Roimata's domain, including part of Lelepa island, signifies the important history and culture of Vanuatu's customary traditions and history. The customs of these islands are globally significant, and the indigenous protection of these landscape/seascapes are important to promote through the Vanuatu SGP OP6. |
| ✓ Level of community interest and extent to which communities are organized | The Efate Vaturisu Council of Chiefs and the Niko le Tan (Tanna Council of Chiefs) have a history of being involved and leading environmental projects on their islands. In addition, Man Efate communities and Tannese communities have expressed interest and appreciation for the need to find solutions to the environmental issues on their respective islands. For example, on Efate, the Efate Land Management Area is a proposed community conservation area, to be initiated and managed by the chiefs and communities from the bottom-up. On the offshore islands of Nguna and Pele, the Nguna-Pele Land and Marine Protected Authority is a long-running successful terrestrial and marine conservation area network run solely by communities, and could be tapped into for future environmental solutions. |

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| ✓ Institutional capacity within the landscape/seascape (NGOs, CBOs, traditional organizations) and extent of current cooperation among different actors | Both landscapes/seascapes have demonstrated experience of institutional capacity on their islands, through their local and traditional organisations, and their Councils of Chiefs. Cooperation between all levels of stakeholders from international NGOs, to national government players to local CSOs is possible and has occurred in the past. These relationships will be fostered through the National Office of SGP. |
| ✓ Potential for triple wins (social, economic, environmental) | The links between environmental issues on these two islands are strongly connected to existing social, and in turn, economic experiences and history of these islands, particularly on Efate as the gateway to Vanuatu through Port Vila. Choosing these islands as landscapes/seascapes will require multi-faceted projects that deal with customary, cultural and governance issues, in order to ensure successful environmental outcomes. Whilst these are challenging fields, the opportunities for progress on these islands are great. |
| ✓ Alignment/linkages with OP6 strategic initiatives | Efate, the offshore islands and Tanna offer opportunities for SGP grantees to link with the broader strategic initiatives of OP6. The main strategic initiative which will see most alignment on-the-ground is Strategic Initiative 1: community landscape/seascape conservation. The priorities of these islands are to conserve and establish plans for the sustainable management of their natural resources as soon as possible due to their growing populations. Other strategic initiatives, such as agro-ecology will also link strongly with on-the-ground initiatives in communities on these two islands, due to their pre-existing agricultural industries. |
| ✓ Potential for collaboration with other partners | Efate and the offshore islands are a project site for some of the larger development partners and technical cooperation agencies currently conducting environmental research and projects in Vanuatu. Tanna has recently hosted some projects that have been implemented by local environmental NGOs. Opportunities for Vanuatu SGP to be able to facilitate some on-the-ground actions derived from the findings of these organisations are likely to arise and be founded on consultation and research, supported by these organisations. |
| ✓ Socio-economic factors (social inclusion) | Both landscape/seascape sites offer numerous opportunities for social inclusion through SGP projects, particularly through existing CSOs working on these islands. |
| ✓ Potential to build on existing community-level governance systems (such as ICCAs) | Both Efate, the offshore islands and Tanna have earmarked environmental community conservation areas, which are in the progress of being established. The SGP funds would greatly assist CSOs to establish networks, consultation programs and capacity building which will make the success of these proposals far more likely. |

c) Baseline Assessment

A detailed overview of the environmental context within the landscape/seascape areas is provided in the baseline assessment (refer Annex 1).

The baseline assessment included information gathered through a desktop review, interviews with Government staff (both national and provincial), grassroots participatory workshops and discussions with communities and current grantees. A systematic approach was taken to define the existing environment, followed by identification of the environmental threats and potential opportunities for Vanuatu SGP to assist in improvement of the environment and its management in the selected landscape/seascapes. Participatory consultation with communities in each of the landscape/seascape areas greatly informed the baseline assessment.

Summary of Threats and Opportunities in the selected landscapes/seascapes

An overview of the general environmental context and the existing environment of Efate and the offshore islands, and Tanna, is provided in the Baseline Assessment. However, the information below provides a summary of the main threats that have been identified in these two selected landscape/seascapes. This information was gathered through community consultation, Government department interviews, desktop review and aerial survey.

Environmental, social and cultural threats to Efate and the offshore islands include the following:

- Impacts from climate change in this region, including sea level rise and related impacts such as saltwater intrusion of groundwater systems, coral bleaching and death, exacerbation of dry seasons and regional meteorological events such as El Nino and La Nina periods, and associated impacts on local agriculture, increased intensity of cyclones and changes in rainfall distribution.
- Coral reef degradation.
- Clearing of primary forest for commercial and subsistence agriculture or by logging.
- Impacts of logging on native plants and animals including destruction of ecosystems.
- Spread of invasive plants and animals.
- Contamination of water supplies used through mismanagement of waste entering surface water sources, from both human waste and industrial waste.
- Unsustainable agricultural activities within riparian zones.
- Flooding of human settlements due to lack of riparian zone buffers and removal of riparian vegetation.
- Expansion of inappropriate land uses such as unregulated and unserviced settlements.
- Lack of good quality freshwater.
- Reduction of accessibility to custom plants and animals.
- Unplanned expansion of commercial agricultural activities such as coconut and cattle plantations and market gardens and resultant conversion of forest and garden land.
- Impacts associated with unfenced and unregulated domestic stock and feral cattle and pigs.
- Use of riparian areas for gardening and grazing.
- Soil erosion and/or depletion of nutrients in soil.
- Landslides in mountainous terrain during strong storms or cyclones due to vegetation removal and soil instability which further impacts surface water sources through high levels of sediment-laden runoff.
- Sediment-laden runoff entering surface water systems and the ocean.
- Impacts from land use activities on surrounding fringing reefs.
- Lack of sewerage treatment for runoff into the ocean or rivers.
- Uncontained fires during periods of drought or deliberate lighting of fires for no valid reason.
- Disrespect for chiefs and other community leaders and their resource management decisions.
- Depletion of marine resources due to indiscriminate use of new fishing methods.
- Increasing pressure on natural resources due to increased human populations, particularly leading to overharvesting of resources.
- Harvesting of undersized resources.
- Overfishing of impacted reefs.
- Heavy erosion impacts to beaches and shorelines due to sand mining for use in building construction.
- Impacts from mismanagement of solid waste.
- Lack of human resources and capacity to monitor natural resources.
- Degradation of mangroves.
- Shortage of water during extended dry seasons.

- Growing population of Port Vila, which is reported to have one of the highest population growth rates in the Pacific.
- Dispossession of custom land from custom owners.
- Unplanned urban sprawl around Port Vila and other urban settlements and service of these informal settlements.
- Growing disrespect for chiefs and other community leaders and their resource management decisions.
- Lack of identification of custom land boundaries on which to base planning or environmental protection decisions.
- Disconnect between custom and the youth population and associated confusion regarding community responsibilities and custom land.
- Loss of custom due to new competing cultural values, particularly in urban areas.

Current environmental, social and cultural threats on Tanna include the following:

- Rapidly increasing population, and associated impacts to biodiversity and natural resources.
- Threats to the observance of traditional resource management practices due to an increasing intensity of land use to meet livelihood needs.
- Impacts from climate change in this region, including sea level rise and related impacts such as saltwater intrusion of groundwater systems, coral bleaching and death, exacerbation of dry seasons and regional meteorological events such as El Nino and La Nina periods, and associated impacts on local agriculture, increased intensity of cyclones and changes in rainfall distribution.
- Disrespect for chiefs and custom environmental stewards and their resources management decisions. Disrespect for custom restrictions and tabus relating to the environment.
- Increased competition over increasingly scarce resources.
- Changing perceptions of the rights of the “landholder” to benefit materially from land and to enter lease type agreements, which is changing the balance between communities, chiefs and landholders.
- Impacts of invasive and introduced species, including Elephant Grass (*Panicum purpureum*), Agriculture Rope (Glycine), Cordia and Big Leaf (*Merremia peltata*), which is found at Port Resolution, and in the Nusumetu Conservation Area on Tanna.
- Use of riparian areas for gardening and grazing.
- Under-managed livestock which damage ecosystems, including trampling of forests by cattle and pollution of water sources by livestock.
- Impacts of the volcano and ash fallout on surrounding cultivated areas.
- Shortage of water during extended dry seasons and decrease in ambient flows of rivers
- Fires lit to clear gardens and deliberately lighting of fires for no valid reason.
- Expansion of commercial agricultural activities such as coffee and cattle plantations and market gardens, and the resultant conversion of forest and garden land and their impacts on tabu places and water sources.
- Creation of a primarily ‘used’ environment with remnant natural forest that is fragmented and vulnerable to further encroachment from human activity. Ecologically unsustainable land use practices impact on the margins of remnant forests. Intact forests at the coastal and lowland areas have been converted into agricultural land, especially for gardening purposes.
- Introduced agricultural crops such as rice farming in the middle bush area, which will pose a threat to the internationally significant plants and animals found on the island.
- Widespread use of local fish poisons including mosquito poisons to kill fish in pools, especially in remote villages where there are small streams.
- Over-exploitation of commercial resources due to the need for cash income.

- Impacts of soil erosion on denuded areas and general nutrient deficiency in soils due to .
- Impacts of introduced species including Tilapia (*Oreochromis sp.*), Indian Mynah Bird (*Acridothera tristis*), aquatic plant (*Salvinia sp.*), Gamusia affinis predated on fish lava and prawns and generally on biodiversity.
- Limited knowledge about the importance of Edemic flora and fauna species, needs to replicate environmental pride activities to other areas on Tanna.
- In north Tanna, poaching of resources by neighbouring communities due to the lack of existant remnant forest with abundant native resources.
- Rivers with good levels and clarity becoming silty and running dry due to upstream deforestation.
- Lack of proper solid waste management system, particularly to manage waste from foreign imported goods, and impacts of this pollution on the surrounding environment.

Maps and photos of selected sites

Maps of Efate and the offshore islands, and Tanna are included on the following pages. The maps are annotated with some threats and potential opportunities which may be focus areas for grantmaking in OP6. Please note that the threats and opportunities outlined are not exhaustive and priorities outside of these issues may arise during detailed grantmaking. A variety of existing or proposed conservation areas have been indicated on the maps, though the development of accurate boundary maps for all conservation areas within Efate, the offshore islands and Tanna are in the process of being developed for use by Vanuatu SGP and the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation. Aerial photos of existing threats and potential sites are also provided on the following pages.





Photo 5. Moso Island, Havannah Harbour and Tanoliu Village (from background to foreground), where degraded reef has been observed within the bounds of the harbour (Credit: Stuart Chape, SPREP)



Photo 6. Landslides evident after Cyclone Pam in north-west Efate, near Mt. McDonald, with impacts to waterways within Port Vila's upper water catchment (Credit: Stuart Chape, SPREP).



Photo 7. Evidence of the use of riparian areas for grazing and gardening, particularly prevalent in the river zones close to Port Vila (Credit: Vanessa Organo, Shefa Provincial Government Council)



Photo 8. Stretch of beach in Mele Bay, on the outskirts of Port Vila urban area, where sand mining is frequent and results in coastal erosion which is impacting the ability of the coast to cope with oncoming sea level rise and storm surges (Credit: Vanessa Organo, Shefa Provincial Government Council)



Photo 9. Part of the Nguna-Pele Land and Marine Protected Authority conservation area, looking towards the island of Pele from Nguna (Credit: Nguna-Pele Land and Marine Protected Authority)



Photo 10. The offshore islands of Nguna, Pele and Emau (with the small island of Kakula in the foreground), where environmental issues include overfishing of marine resources, poaching of endangered species and water security issues (Credit: Vanessa Organo, Shefa Provincial Government Council)



Photo 11. Aerial view across part of the proposed Efate Land Management Area conservation area in central Efate (Credit: Vanessa Organo, Shefa Provincial Government Council)





Photo 12. Port Resolution, Tanna, where trials to reduce the impact of *Merremia peltata* have been undertaken by local organisations (Credit: John Nicholls, South Pacific Organiser)



Photo 13. Invasive species spread along the road to south-west Tanna (Credit: Vanessa Organo, Shefa Provincial Government Council)



Photo 14. Mt. Yasur dominates the landscape in the south-west of Tanna, impacting food security in this area due to ash fallout and weak soils (Credit: Stuart Chape, SPREP)



Photo 15. Ash plain of Mt. Yasur with Mt. Malen in the background, which hosts important roosting sites for native sea birds, remnant forest and is an important water catchment area (Credit: Vanessa Organo, Shefa Provincial Government Council)



Photo 16. Looking towards north-east Tanna with evidence of forest fragmentation and edge effects due to increasing population density (Credit: Vanessa Organo, Shefa Provincial Government Council)



Photo 17. Community Conservation Area at Imaio village in south-west Tanna (Credit: Vanessa Organo, Shefa Provincial Government Council)

Prioritisation of OP6 Strategic Initiatives

The most relevant Strategic Initiatives to the chosen landscape/seascape areas will be (in order of priority):

1. **SGP OP6 Component 1:** *Community landscape/seascape conservation (including trans-boundary water systems)*
2. **SGP OP6 Component 2:** *Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology*
3. **SGP OP6 Component 3:** *Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits*
4. **SGP OP6 Component 4:** *Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions*

Promoting and building the capacity of local organisations to focus on community-based conservation of areas within the landscapes/seascapes suits existing plans of CSOs and VANGO, as well as the national Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation, who are promoting grassroots conservation, to be led and owned by communities who see the benefit in protecting their natural resources for the benefit of future generations. For example, on Efate, a large environmental and land conservation area (refer Photo 11) has been proposed by the Vaturisu Council of Chiefs, to be developed and managed by a network of 17 communities around Efate. This project in particular encompasses the principles of ridge-to-reef conservation, with a more holistic approach, and will assist in managing numerous typologies within the proposed area. Further examples of the potential to build upon existing grassroots ideas and plans are outlined in the baseline assessment provided in Annex 1.

In addition, the remaining Strategic Initiatives all have a place and need within the landscapes/seascapes of Efate, its offshore islands and Tanna, and projects under these areas will also be fostered by Vanuatu SGP.

The following Strategic Initiatives will be applied across all projects, within and outside of the landscape/seascape areas:

- **SGP OP6 Component 5:** *CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms*
- **SGP OP6 Component 6:** *Promoting Social Inclusion*
- **SGP OP6 Component 7:** *Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge program*

Grantmaking strategy during OP6

The specific strategy to be implemented by Vanuatu SGP in Efate and Tanna is outlined in Table 5 below, including the expected types of projects, stakeholders to be prioritized for each of the specific Strategic Initiative (which are not cross-cutting) and a proposed timetable. A more thorough analysis of specific opportunities and community organisations present in the area is provided in the Baseline Assessment.

Table 5. Expected types of projects, stakeholders and timeframe for implementation during OP6

| OP6 Strategic Initiative | Types of Projects | Stakeholders to be Prioritised | Timetable |
|---|--|---|--|
| SGP OP6 Component 1: <i>Community landscape/seascape conservation</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ridge-to-reef projects - Small community conservation projects focused on one type of ecosystem, local conservation including reef conservation - Food security projects - Rehabilitation projects (invasive species removal, forest rehabilitation, soil rehabilitation) - Establishing community conservation network (to link with national environmental CCA legislation) - Conservation education projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental CSOs (VEAN, VESS, individual community-based, Tasivanua, Nguna-Pele Marine Protected Authority) - Fisherman's Associations | 2016 – 2018 (projects to be running throughout) |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Projects that may establish one step in building sustainability of conservation (e.g. community governance improvement projects) - Cultural heritage projects - Climate change adaptation projects that include long-term conservation measures - Small-scale eco-tourism promoting community conservation - Community connectivity involved in project designs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mama's Association - Eco-livelihood Development Association - | |
| SGP OP6 Component 2: <i>Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate change/livestock projects - Introduction of - Small commercial livestock farm projects - Innovation education projects - Practical workshops exploring climate-smart innovation - Supporting MALFB small-scale community projects - Climate early warning systems for farmers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Farmer's Associations - Livestock farmers | At least 1 per year from 2016 – 2018 on Efate and Tanna |
| SGP OP6 Component 3: <i>Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community-based low carbon projects within single villages, favouring remote locations - Range of - Links with on-the-ground implementation of national low-carbon energy projects of the Department of Energy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women's Associations - Councils of Chiefs (for strategic identification of important villages in need (nasaras of particular tribes)) | At least 2 per year on Efate and Tanna from 2016 – 2018 |
| SGP OP6 Component 4: <i>Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Projects which seek to build coalitions for waste management - Chemical management education and awareness projects - Practical chemical management projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing waste-based CSOs - Communities with waste issues | At least 1 per year on Efate and Tanna from 2016 – 2018 Focus on Port Vila on Efate (due to access to more chemicals in urban areas) |

3.3. Grant-maker+ strategies

3.3.1. CSO-Government Dialogue Platform

After appointment of the grantees, SGP Vanuatu will facilitate meeting/s with the provincial governments (Shefa and Tafea) and Port Vila Municipal Government, if applicable. Provincial governments should be

aware of the activities of the grantees so that other potential NGOs implementing projects within the two landscape/seascapes can be informed of the SGPs relevant to their projects to promote cross-over. In addition, SGP Vanuatu will inform the National Advisory Board, which oversees all major climate change and disaster preparedness projects. The NAB, as the administrator of all projects, will be able to include SGP projects in their scope and correspond with relevant parties regarding the projects. All SGP projects will be added to the NAB. Moreover, the existing lessons learned template created by the Government of Vanuatu NAB will be used throughout OP6 and shared between stakeholders. It is in SGP Vanuatu's interests to find efficiencies via data sharing, field work overlaps and building community trust, when objectives of projects outside of the SGP framework correspond with the strategic initiatives within the same landscape/seascape.

Email correspondence will be provided between SGP Vanuatu and all relevant national government departments to inform relevant stakeholders about the grantees and OP6 projects. This awareness will foster working with NGOs, who liaise and work with various government agencies.

For specific partnerships that are required for grantees, SGP Vanuatu will assist in setting up introductory meetings and enabling rapport and relationships to begin between grassroots communities and government agencies. SGP Vanuatu will not control the relationships, but will be ready and willing to assist in the background if needed by the grantees. Existing relationships with government agencies, particularly those most pertinent to SGP projects, such as with Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation, Department of Water and Department of Fisheries, will continue to be developed by the SGP Vanuatu CO so as to be drawn on for the benefit of SGP projects.

3.2.2. *Policy influence*

Grantees have a unique insight regarding the needs of communities, and how gaps can best be filled. Particularly in Vanuatu, where geography creates limitations on the ease of data collation, it is important to enable grantees to feed their insights and lessons to the levels of government and policy-makers. Policy will outline the priorities, vision and objectives of the country, but making these realistic and connected to what is happening in communities can be greatly assisted through grantees experiences during project planning and implementation.

SGP Vanuatu will provide opportunities for policy makers and grantees to sit at the same table and be heard by each other. In the same way that the bottom-up approach can assist those looking at the nation from a strategic viewpoint, grantees can benefit from understanding the broader goals and direction from those with a birds-eye view. Workshops involving stakeholders of various levels and expertise will be coordinated by SGP Vanuatu to ensure that policy is guided by informed participants and well-rounded information.

3.2.3. *Promoting social inclusion (mandatory)*

A set of criteria were developed by SGP management during OP5, to ensure that there is fair gender representation in all aspects of program delivery and that communities reap maximum benefit from the process. This set of criteria will be used during OP6, and is outlined in Table 6.

During OP5, three newly-formed women's groups have become grantees, and more women and youth are becoming involved or leading SGP projects in Vanuatu. Vanuatu SGP will continue to strongly promote social inclusion in its OP6 strategy.

Table 6: Criteria used to assess the adequacy of grant applications

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?

3.2.4 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, 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 have been allocated to support an NGO project for SGP knowledge management and sharing by creating a website that will be hosted by an overarching environmental advocacy on the ground. This will include generating information through research within the SGP interventions to draw out the best practices and lessons learnt for policy advice.

The reporting procedure will be assisted by 5% of the budget of each project allocated towards reporting and subsequent knowledge sharing. This will include creation of communication materials to share knowledge developed during projects and lessons learned to be shared between communities and CSOs and up the chain to provincial and national governments. There will also be links drawn to NGOs to support capacity building regarding the art of lessons learnt and drawing the best information from projects to support an improved project-development and design process in the future.

3.2.5 Communications Strategy

The Communications Strategy will be focused around the development of Communications Plans, targeted to each landscape/seascape, so as to meet the information needs of the local people in those areas. The Communication Plans will include the following components:

- What information is needed by the community?
- What resources are required to meet these information needs (human resources or cash/in-kind resources)?
- How will two-way information channels be facilitated?
- What mediums can be used and are most effective and appropriate for the transfer of information to the communities?
- Who will be the conduit between the information and the community?
- How will sustainability of the information be ensured?

Currently, a website is being developed to showcase on-the-ground activities, and to form a link between SGP projects. This will be an important communication channel, however it is acknowledged that rarely will communities and recipients of SGP grants be able to access the internet and the website. Other, more appropriate mediums will be used by the SGP NC such as field visits, phone calls, community meetings and the national radio.

Funding for communications will be allocated within the overall operating budget of SGP, as well as within each project's budget.

4. Expected results framework

Activities and indicators in Table 7 have been aligned with the Vanuatu NEPIP wherever possible.

Table 7. Consistency with SGP OP6 global programme components

| 1 OP6 project components | 2 CPS targets | 3 Activities | 4 Indicators | 5 Means of verification |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| <p><u>SGP OP6 Component 1:</u> <i>Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation:</i></p> <p>1.1 SGP country programmes improve conservation and sustainable use, and management of important terrestrial and coastal/marine ecosystems through implementation of community based landscape/seascape approaches in approximately 50 countries</p> | <p>The proposed two landscapes/seascapes for Vanuatu are the islands of Efate and the offshore group and Tanna, and surrounding ocean environments impacted by human activity.</p> <p>A ridge-to-reef approach will be used in both of these landscape/seascape focus areas.</p> | <p>A minimum of 4 projects in each landscape for a total of 8.</p> <p>Refer to Annex 1 Baseline Assessment for details on the typologies of projects to be targeted through SGP activities.</p> | <p>Landscape/seascape baseline assessment indicators, such as a target number of hectares to be impacted by projects, will be decided during project design and documented in this CPS, as it will be dependent on the specifics of projects to be developed.</p> <p>Other indicators to be used to assess the impact of SGP on the landscape/seascapes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of threatened species legally protected. - Implementation of activities in line with the NBSAP. - Number of hectares of land and/or marine resources locally protected (or proposed to be protected) with conservation committees undertaking management plans. | <p>Individual project reporting by Vanuatu SGP country team</p> <p>Baseline assessment comparison variables (use of conceptual models and partner data as appropriate)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p> |

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of hectares of forests and wetlands protected. - Number of hectares reforested. - Number of people reached through programs particularly through education and knowledge sharing. - Number of awareness activities undertaken. - Programs/communities using traditional knowledge in biodiversity management. - Number of sustainable resource management activities undertaken. | |
| <p><u>SGP OP6 Component 2:</u> <i>Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology:</i></p> <p>2.1 Agro-ecology practices incorporating measures to reduce CO2 emissions and enhancing resilience to climate change tried and tested in protected area buffer zones and forest corridors and disseminated widely in at least 30 priority countries</p> | <p><i>Outline of proposed agro-ecology practices, climate resilience, including integration into priority production landscapes and seascapes</i></p> <p>Proposed agro-ecology projects that may be implemented in the landscape/seascape areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting and developing sustainable traditional knowledge farming practices of Efate and Tanna. - Supporting and developing sustainable traditional fishing practices of Efate and Tanna. | <p>Approximately 1 per year on Efate and its offshore islands and Tanna from 2016 – 2018</p> | <p>Area of land/sea under effective management.</p> <p>No. of resilient crops, species, farming practices introduced, and those that are trialed and tested by DARD.</p> <p>Number of farmers and fishermen engaged in sustainable production of farm, forestry and fisheries products.</p> | <p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPLs)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p> |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate adaptation and resilience within small-scale agriculture projects. - Silvo-pastoral projects. <p>Like the field of agro-ecology, projects will not be tied to a certain definition or set of particular management practices, but will be heavily context-dependent.</p> | | | |
| <p><u>SGP OP6 Component 3:</u> <i>Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits:</i></p> <p>3.1 Low carbon community energy access solutions successfully deployed in 50 countries with alignment and integration of these approaches within larger frameworks such as SE4ALL initiated in at least 12 countries</p> | <p>At least one innovative typology of locally adapted solutions demonstrated and documented.</p> <p>At least 3 villages achieving energy access.</p> | Approximately 3 projects (at least 1 per village (at least 3 villages). | <p>At least 3 typologies achieved or (explored/experimented with) of community-oriented locally adapted energy access solutions with successful demonstrations for scaling up and replication.</p> <p>No of households with novel access.</p> <p>Number of mini-grid renewable energy systems in communities.</p> <p>At least three villages achieving energy access with locally adapted community solutions, with co-benefits estimated and valued.</p> | <p>AMR, country reports</p> <p>AMR, global database, country reports</p> <p>Special country studies⁴</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p> |
| <p><u>SGP OP6 Component 4:</u> <i>Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions:</i></p> | <p>Outline of innovative tools and approaches to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pesticide management | A minimum of 3 projects, most likely focused in Port Vila (Efate) | <p>At least 3 communities targeted, and within each of these, at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All women targeted | Individual project reporting by SGP country teams |

⁴ Only applies to lead countries in this strategic initiative

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| 4.1 Innovative community-based tools and approaches demonstrated, deployed and transferred, with support from newly organized or existing coalitions in at least 20 countries for managing harmful chemicals and waste in a sound manner | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> solid waste management (plastics, e-waste, medical waste and so on), heavy metals management, and local to global chemical management coalitions. | and/or Luganville (Santo). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All youth targeted All indigenous people targeted (this will definitely occur due to Vanuatu's population comprising 99% indigenous ni-Vanuatu) All people with disability targeted No. of targeted people No. of chemical storage and treatment facilities operating in line with DEPC targets. No. of waste management plans implemented. | <p>Strategic partnership with IPEN country partners</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p> |
| <p><u>SGP OP6 Component 5:</u> <i>CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms (Grant-makers+):</i></p> <p>5.1 SGP supports establishment of "CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms", leveraging existing and potential partnerships, in at least 50 countries</p> | <p>Development of the CSO-Government platform will be a compulsory part of the OP6 SGP CPS.</p> <p>The focus will be on improving two-way communication between communities and governments, and making this occur on a more frequent basis.</p> | Cross-cutting priority for the CPS at the national level. | <p>Number of CSOs and relevant Government departments/agencies participating in the platform.</p> <p>Number of meetings.</p> <p>Number of co-implemented activities.</p> <p>Number of CSOs assisted by Government departments.</p> <p>Number of Government departments involving CSOs in important consultation or activity planning.</p> | <p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>SGP Global Database</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p> |
| <u>SGP OP6 Component 6:</u> | Social inclusion will be treated as a cross-cutting measure to be included in all projects. | Cross-cutting priority for the | Number of people trained and made aware of social inclusion. | Individual project reporting by SGP country teams |

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|--|---|--|--|---|
| <p><i>Promoting Social Inclusion (Grant-makers+):</i></p> <p>6.1 Gender mainstreaming considerations applied by all SGP country programmes; Gender training utilized by SGP staff, grantees, NSC members, partners</p> <p>6.2 IP Fellowship programme awards at least 12 fellowships to build capacity of IPs; implementation of projects by IPs is supported in relevant countries</p> <p>6.3 Involvement of youth and disabled is further supported in SGP projects and guidelines and best practices are widely shared with countries</p> | <p>National content for supporting vulnerable and marginalized populations exists in the form of national Government policies, as well as in practice by Government departments, and NGOs. Vanuatu SGP will use resources and approaches sensitive to the cultural context of the situation.</p> | <p>CPS at the national level.</p> <p>Training of the NSC in social inclusion priorities.</p> <p>Training for grantees on project design, and monitoring and evaluation of social inclusion parameters.</p> | <p>Number of projects which incorporate social inclusion (of disadvantaged groups) in their activities.</p> <p>Number of women involved in or leading projects.</p> <p>Number of youth involved in or leading projects.</p> | <p>SGP Global Database</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p> |
| <p><u>SGP OP6 Component 7:</u> <i>Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge program (Grant-makers+):</i></p> <p>7.1 Digital library of community innovations is established and provides access to information to communities in at least 50 countries</p> <p>7.2 South-South Community Innovation Exchange Platform promotes south-south exchanges on global environmental issues in at least 20 countries</p> | <p>This will be a cross-cutting approach for all grants, aiming to improve storing, managing and disseminating data and information. The Communications Plans for each project will encompass a focus on feeding information into the digital library and enabling people to access information within the library. A website currently being produced as part of an SGP grant with the aim of showcasing local environmental projects, will be a key tool to assist the implementation of this Strategic Initiative.</p> | <p>Establish/improve digital database.</p> <p>Improve general communication between CO and grantees to ensure information is reflecting on-the-ground activities.</p> <p>Develop South-South partnerships with regions similar in nature, e.g. countries and</p> | <p>Approximately 50% of projects to be shared and featured on a digital medium, and knowledge to be shared via other means within communities.</p> <p>Number of South-South exchanges among CSOs in Pacific countries.</p> <p>Number of CSOs participating in information feeding through to international multi-lateral agreement reporting in Vanuatu.</p> | <p>SGP Global Database</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p> |

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| | | projects in the islands of the Caribbean Sea and Indian Ocean. | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|

5. Monitoring and evaluation plan

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 as shown in Table 8. 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 8. M&E Plan at the Project Level

| M&E Activity | Responsible parties | Timing |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| Participatory Project Monitoring | Grantees | Duration of project |
| Baseline Data Collection | Grantees, NC | At project concept planning and proposal stage |
| Two or three Project Progress and Financial Reports | Grantees, NC, PA | At each disbursement request |
| Project Workplans | Grantees, NC, PA | Duration of project |
| NC Project Proposal Site Visit | NC | Before project approval, as appropriate |
| NC Project Monitoring Site Visit | NC | On average once per year, as appropriate |
| NC Project Evaluation Site Visit | NC | At end of project, as appropriate |
| Project Final Report | Grantees | Following completion of project activities |
| Project Evaluation Report | 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.

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.

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. Monitoring and evaluation activities at the country programme level are outlined in Table 9.

Table 9. M&E Plan at the Country Programme Level

| M&E Activity | Purpose | Responsible parties | Budget source | Timing |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| Country Programme Strategy elaboration | Framework for identification of community projects | NC, NSC, country stakeholders, grantee | Covered under preparatory grant | At start of operational phase |
| Annual Country Programme Strategy Review | Learning; adaptive management | NC, NSC, CPMT | Covered under country programme operating costs | Reviews will be conducted on annual basis ⁵ to ensure CPS is on track in achieving its outcomes and targets, and to take decisions on any revisions or adaptive management needs |
| NSC Meetings for ongoing review of project results and analysis | Assess effectiveness of projects, portfolios, approaches; learning; adaptive management | NC, NSC, UNDP | Covered under country programme operating costs | Minimum twice per year, one dedicated to M&E and adaptive management at end of grant year |
| Annual Country Report (ACR) ⁶ | Enable efficient reporting to NSC | NC presenting to NSC | Covered under country programme operating costs | Once per year in June |
| Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) ⁷ Survey (based on ACR) | Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF; presentation of results to donor | NC submission to CPMT | Covered under country programme operating costs | Once per year in July |

⁵ The CPS is a living document, and should be reviewed and updated as deemed necessary by the NSC on a periodic basis as part of the annual strategy review.

⁶ The country programme should be reviewed in consultation with the NSC members, national Rio Convention focal points, and the associated reporting requirements. The Annual Country Report should be presented at a dedicated NSC meeting in June each year to review progress and results and take decisions on key adaptive measures and targets for the following year.

⁷ The AMR Survey will essentially draw upon information presented by the country in the Annual Country Report (ACR) with few additional questions. It will enable aggregation of country inputs by CPMT for global reporting.

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----|---|-------------------------------|
| Strategic Country Portfolio Review | Learning; adaptive management for strategic development of Country Programme | NSC | Covered under country programme operating costs | Once per operational phase |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----|---|-------------------------------|

6. Resource mobilization plan

As more and more CSO established to support delivery in country development, there is continued need for capacity building to the CSO meet partners objectives in their deliveries. In OP6 SGP Vanuatu will need to provide support for the grantees capacity building.

SGP Vanuatu as a mechanism to facilitate donor grant funding to support community based initiative that are of related to GEF mandates and are priority to the country needs. SGP will continue in OP6 to support the delivery of funding within the Ausaid MAP CBA Regional initiative for building community resilience to climate change negative impacts. SGP will pursue to empower women in clean energy delivery to the rural area that out of electrification grid. And also funding support to support the low carbon technologies in local communities where already fuel wood is scarce within the seascape selected sites. The SGP will pursue to secure resources to support the CSO in the Vanuatu NAMA implementation that is currently under development. Funding support to promote clean rural electrification and remove barriers to clean energy and energy efficient use in the country.

SGP Vanuatu will continue to source technical assistance to support the CSO in effective delivery that contribute to the GEF mandate for environmental benefits. SGP will continue in OP6 to implement the IWRM initiative and continue to seek technical and funds to support the local CSO in promoting tourism development and gain environmental benefits in the areas selected for seascape site. And SGP Vanuatu in OP5 allocated funds for community based implementation of the Nagoya protocol. In OP6 SGP Vanuatu will seek to source technical support to build the capacity of the government, CSOs to be able to facilitate the new global environmental agreement that Vanuatu has recently signed and ratified right to the local community for protection of Traditional knowledge and biodiversity.

7. Risk management plan

Table 10 outlines the potential risks to Vanuatu SGP, including social and environmental risks, climate risks, internal administrative risks and other risks.




Table 10. Description of risks identified in OP6

| Describe identified risk | Degree of risk (low, medium, high) | Probability of risk (low, medium, high) | Risk mitigation measure foreseen |
|---|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Social and environmental risks | | | |
| Political instability | Medium | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Base biodiversity management at local level. - Employ traditional, community-based and voluntary governance mechanisms to create resilience. |
| Weak community governance systems and societies in transition | High | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand and address these issues. - Nurture communal responsibility for actions, community direction and the environment. - Strengthening local governance capacity. |
| Customary land disputes | High | Medium - High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nurture sense that conservation and natural resource stewardship goes beyond disputes - Discuss sense of urgency in needing action on the environment. - Include Council of Chiefs in strategic project design to avoid land disputes affecting projects further down the line. |
| Corruption | High | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure SGP project protocols are followed at all times and that funds are managed by trustworthy sources and audited regularly. |
| Lack of interest/participation/motivation by community members involved in projects | High | Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus projects in areas where communities have initiated change and shown interest to establish a project. - Use existing networks to find effective community participants. - Ensure chiefs and community leaders are on board, and the project team includes a range of community members. |
| Climate risks | | | |
| Intense and damaging cyclone/s | High | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Base projects across several islands or several sites within the landscapes/seascapes. - Mainstream adaptive management to enable project staff to respond effectively to unexpected events. |
| Exacerbated drought / flood periods (El Nino or La Nina) | Medium | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Base projects across several islands or several sites within the landscapes/seascapes. |

| | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mainstream adaptive management to enable project staff to respond effectively to unexpected events. |
| Internal SGP risks | | | |
| Limited support in-country due to one staff | High | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential hiring of an additional staff |
| Weak participation of NSC | High | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish relationships with new NSC participants |
| Lack of administrative support from VANGO | High | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invest time in direct capacity-building and liaison with VANGO to ensure their participation and effective input into SGP |
| High cost of domestic travel making monitoring and project support difficult | Medium | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist in helping grantees to budget for telecommunication allowances within project budgets and ensure a communication schedule is implemented between main office and grantees to avoid need for unnecessary travel in-person. - Schedule inter-island trips in bulk, to avoid additional fees. |
| Other possible risks | | | |
| Other natural disasters such as a volcanic eruption or earthquake | High | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Base projects across several islands or several sites within the landscapes/seascapes. - Mainstream adaptive management to enable project staff to respond effectively to unexpected events. |
| Delayed funding arriving with grantees | High | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure project documentation is complete and full review occurs at NC level before going up the line to UNDP administration |
| Lack of capacity in reporting at local level | Medium | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potentially hold capacity-building workshops on reporting. - Link grantees with youth in community who may be more technologically-savvy and able to assist with reporting/computers. |
| Limited technical capacity at community-level | Medium | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure technical gaps are identified during project design. - Establish partnerships with NGO / Government agencies where technical skills are required. - Allow for meeting technical needs financially within project budget. |

8. National Steering Committee Endorsement

This signature of endorsement in Table 11 indicates that this is the complete and final CPS duly reviewed by the NSC and agreed to as the guide to the implementation of OP6 by the SGP Country Programme.

| Signed Name | Signature | |
|----------------------|--|----------|
| CHRISTOPHER BARTLETT |  | 29.7.16 |
| Kathy Brown |  | 29.7.16 |
| Donna Kalfatak |  | 29.07.16 |
| Lari Saliki |  | 29.07.16 |
| John Liu |  | 29.07.06 |
| Donald Wouboseje |  | 29.07.06 |

Annex 1: OP6 landscape/seascape baseline assessment

Participatory OP6 landscape/seascape baseline assessment

VANUATU

OP6 COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY

2016 - 2018

LANDSCAPE / SEASCAPE BASELINE ASSESSMENT:

1. EFATE AND OFFSHORE ISLANDS
(INCLUDING LELEPA, MOSO, NGUNA, PELE AND EMAU)

2. TANNA

To be read in conjunction with the Country Programme Strategy and annexes

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- 6.5 Promoting participatory monitoring and evaluation**
- 6.6 Facilitating knowledge management**

1 Introduction and Approach

This report is intended to provide a baseline assessment of Vanuatu's selected landscape/seascapes, in accordance with the guidance provided in the internal UNDP documents, *Call for Proposals: SGP 6th Operational Phase Country Programme Strategy Development Process* and *Technical Guidance Note: The Landscape/Seascape Approach in OP6*.

This document will provide a foundation from which to guide decision-making regarding focus areas for grants during OP-6, summarized in the overarching Country Programme Strategy.

The methodology used to conduct this baseline draws on the COMPACT model, outlined by UNESCO and the *World Heritage Convention* in the document *Engaging Local Communities in Stewardship of World Heritage: A methodology based on the COMPACT experience* (2014). The aim of this is to create a picture of the site that is real and can be used to identify gaps in knowledge or practice, which can be assisted through the Small Grants Programme.

Sections 3 and 4 include the Efate and offshore islands, and Tanna baseline assessments respectively, including a description of the existing environmental context and issues at play on these islands. Section 5 provides for an elaboration on the strategic initiatives chosen by Vanuatu SGP as the main priorities for this round of grantee projects. Section 6 outlines the modalities of implementation, or what pre-existing organisations or networks (or future relationships to be built) which Vanuatu SGP will be utilising to assist successful application of the strategic initiatives on-the-ground.

1.1 Overview of the landscapes / seascapes

The two landscapes/seascapes selected for OP6 in Vanuatu include:

1. **Efate and offshore islands of Lelepa, Moso, Nguna, Pele and Emau** – whole of these islands extending to the boundary of the fringing reef surrounding the islands and all ocean between mainland Efate and the offshore islands.
2. **Tanna** – whole of island extending to the boundary of the fringing reef surrounding the island.

1.2 Justification of the chosen landscapes / seascapes

The landscapes/seascapes of Efate and the offshore islands and Tanna were chosen based on their suitability of a range of criteria, which are outlined in Table 1 below, as well as their environmental significance within the broader context of Vanuatu, and the ability for Vanuatu SGP to build on pre-established community links and work on these islands.

Table 1: Justification of the chosen landscape / seascape areas

| CRITERIA AND PRIORITIES FOR THE SELECTION OF THE LANDSCAPE/SEASCAPE | SUITABILITY OF PROPOSED LANDSCAPES/SEASCAPES |
|--|---|
| ✓ Alignment with national priorities (SAP, NBSAP, NAP, NAPA, CCDRR Policy) | Both Efate and the offshore islands, and Tanna islands are included as priorities within the national environmental strategy documents of Vanuatu, due to their increasing environmental issues related to current high population growth rates. |
| ✓ Global significance of the landscape/seascape | The environments of Efate and its offshore islands, and Tanna are considered significant both regionally and globally. Despite the low level of diversity from a biological perspective on these islands, the species that have evolved on these sites are endemic and often vulnerable or endangered, making their protection all the more vital. Endangered species include a range of turtles, flying fox, birds, dugongs, palms and |

| | |
|---|---|
| | orchids. In addition, the landscapes of these islands are globally significant, particularly on Tanna, with the active volcano of Mt. Yasur. On Efate, the World Heritage Area of Eratoka island and Chief Roimata's domain, including part of Lelepa island, signifies the important history and culture of Vanuatu's customary traditions and history. The customs of these islands are globally significant, and the indigenous protection of these landscape/seascapes are important to promote through the Vanuatu SGP OP6. |
| ✓ Level of community interest and extent to which communities are organized | The Efate Vaturisu Council of Chiefs and the Niko le Tan (Tanna Council of Chiefs) have a history of being involved and leading environmental projects on their islands. In addition, Man Efate communities and Tannese communities have expressed interest and appreciation for the need to find solutions to the environmental issues on their respective islands. For example, on Efate, the Efate Land Management Area is a proposed community conservation area, to be initiated and managed by the chiefs and communities from the bottom-up. On the offshore islands of Nguna and Pele, the Nguna-Pele Land and Marine Protected Authority is a long-running successful terrestrial and marine conservation area network run solely by communities, and could be tapped into for future environmental solutions. |
| ✓ Institutional capacity within the landscape/seascape (NGOs, CBOs, traditional organizations) and extent of current cooperation among different actors | Both landscapes/seascapes have demonstrated experience of institutional capacity on their islands, through their local and traditional organisations, and their Councils of Chiefs. Cooperation between all levels of stakeholders from international NGOs, to national government players to local CSOs is possible and has occurred in the past. These relationships will be fostered through the National Office of SGP. |
| ✓ Potential for triple wins (social, economic, environmental) | The links between environmental issues on these two islands are strongly connected to existing social, and in turn, economic experiences and history of these islands, particularly on Efate as the gateway to Vanuatu through Port Vila. Choosing these islands as landscapes/seascapes will require multi-faceted projects that deal with customary, cultural and governance issues, in order to ensure successful environmental outcomes. Whilst these are challenging fields, the opportunities for progress on these islands are great. |
| ✓ Alignment/linkages with OP6 strategic initiatives | Efate, the offshore islands and Tanna offer opportunities for SGP grantees to link with the broader strategic initiatives of OP6. The main strategic initiative which will see most alignment on-the-ground is Strategic Initiative 1: community landscape/seascape conservation. The priorities of these islands are to conserve and establish plans for the sustainable management of their natural resources as soon as possible due to their growing populations. Other strategic initiatives, such as agro-ecology will also link strongly with on-the-ground initiatives in communities on these two islands, due to their pre-existing agricultural industries. |
| ✓ Potential for collaboration with other partners | Efate and the offshore islands are a project site for some of the larger development partners and technical cooperation agencies currently conducting environmental research and projects in Vanuatu. Tanna has recently hosted some projects that have been implemented by local environmental NGOs. Opportunities for Vanuatu SGP to be able to facilitate some on-the-ground actions derived from the findings of these organisations are likely to arise and be founded on consultation and research, supported by these organisations. |

| | |
|---|--|
| ✓ Socio-economic factors (social inclusion) | Both landscape/seascape sites offer numerous opportunities for social inclusion through SGP projects, particularly through existing CSOs working on these islands. |
| ✓ Potential to build on existing community-level governance systems (such as ICCAs) | Both Efate, the offshore islands and Tanna have earmarked environmental community conservation areas, which are in the progress of being established. The SGP funds would greatly assist CSOs to establish networks, consultation programs and capacity building which will make the success of these proposals far more likely. |

2 CPS Consultation and Scoping Exercise

The steps taken to select the landscapes/seascapes involved the following process:

4. Inception stakeholder consultation session
5. Landscape/seascape participatory community consultation sessions

The details of these sessions are outlined in further detail below.

2.1 Inception stakeholder consultation session

One inception stakeholder consultation session was held at Shefa Provincial Government (refer minutes of meeting in Annex 2 of the CPS) involving the following parties:

- a. UNDP CSO Country Coordinator and assistants
- b. Government of Vanuatu (national):
 - i. Ministry for Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology, Geo-Hazards, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management
 - ii. Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity
 - iii. Ministry of Trade, Tourism, Commerce and Industry
- c. Provincial Government:
 - i. Shefa Provincial Government
 - ii. Tafea Provincial Government
- d. Non-government organisations:
 - i. Live and Learn Vanuatu
 - ii. Save the Children Vanuatu
 - iii. Vanuatu Education Policy Advocacy Coalition (VEPAC)
 - iv. Vanuatu Association of National Government Organisations (VANGO)
 - v. Vanuatu Environment Advocacy Network (VEAN)
 - vi. Vanuatu Cultural Centre
 - vii. Vanuatu Friends of the Museum
- e. CSOs
 - i. TAFEA Women's Group
 - ii. VANGO represented the majority of CSOs
- f. Current grantees

The session was facilitated by the SGP National Coordinator and were participatory in nature involving feedback and discussion from all stakeholders, to determine the basis of this CPS, the OP6 funds and the selected landscape/seascape.

Some meetings and feedback sessions regarding OP6 were conducted as part of ongoing OP5 consultations and maintenance of relationships with existing stakeholders, whenever these parties met with the NC.

2.2 Landscape/seascape participatory consultation sessions

A grassroots participatory consultation workshop was held for Efate and the offshore islands of Lelepa, Moso, Nguna, Pele and Emau at Shefa Provincial Government (refer attached participant list) and involved the following participants:

- g. UNDP SGP National Coordinator and assistants
- h. Government:
 - i. Shefa Provincial Government Area Secretaries for Efate and the offshore islands.
 - ii. Department of Forestry.
- i. Environmental non-government organisations:
 - i. Tasivanua Environment Network

- ii. Efate Land Management Area Network
- iii. Nguna-Pele Land and Marine Protected Authority Network
- iv. Mere-Sauwia Conservation Area
- v. Lelema Conservation Area
- j. CSO representatives
- k. Chiefs
- l. Shefa women's representative
- m. Shefa youth representatives
- n. Village and community representatives from villages across south, east, north and north-west Efate and the offshore islands

Photo 1 and Photo 2 show the Efate and offshore islands consultation session.



Photo 1: Efate and offshore islands participatory consultation session with Leah Nimoho, UNDP SGP National Coordinator addressing the participants



Photo 2: Participant at the Efate and offshore island consultation session presenting on environmental issues in north-west Efate

Another participatory workshop was held for Tanna at Tafea Provincial Government and involved the following participants:

- f. UNDP SGP representatives
- g. Government:
 - i. Tafea Provincial Government Area Secretaries for the full island
 - ii. Department of Forestry Extension Officer
 - iii. Department of Fisheries Extension Officer
 - iv. Department of Tourism Extension Officer
- h. Environmental non-government organisations:
 - v. Green Hill Botanic Gardens
 - vi. Keasi-lanang and Iakarpesu Conservation Area
 - vii. Nusemetu Conservation Area
 - viii. Launamilo Conservation Area
- i. CSO representatives
- j. Village and community representatives from villages across north, west, south, south-east and east Tanna

Photos 3 and 4 from the consultation workshop on Tanna are shown below.



Photo 3: Tanna consultation workshop in progress

The purpose of these workshops were to give participants an opportunity to:

- Become familiar with the UNDP SGP for Vanuatu and specifically OP6.
- Discuss their landscape/seascape environment as a whole.
- Identify what they see as the most pressing environmental concerns in their landscape/seascape.
- Discuss potential solutions or projects that could be assisted through SGP.
- Assist in mapping existing chiefly taboo areas or community conservation initiatives both active or inactive.
- Identify important areas for endangered species or natural resources.
- Identify active CSOs/CBOs/other organised community groups.
- Take information back to their communities regarding the upcoming UNDP SGP OP6.

A workshop report outlining in detail the consultation process and findings is provided to the main CPS as Annex 3. This Baseline Assessment has drawn on the findings of the consultation sessions, as well as from desktop review and discussions and interviews with staff from Government departments and NGOs working in the selected landscape/seascape areas.

3 Efate and Offshore Islands Baseline Assessment

3.1 Boundary of landscape/seascape

The landscape boundary encompasses the whole of the Efate island, with a total landmass of 899.5 square kilometers, and the offshore islands of Lelepa, Moso, Nguna Pele and Emau. SGP funds may also be open for Eratoka island (Hat Island) off the coast of north-west Efate though it is taboo to inhabit this island. Eratoka is part of the World Heritage Site of Roimata's Domain in north-west Efate.

The seascape boundary includes the surrounding oceanscape used by humans, or impacted by land-based activities, namely the coastal zone to the boundary of the fringing reef surrounding the subject islands.

For the purposes of this baseline assessment the group of small islands to the north-west, north and north-east of Efate will be referred to as the offshore islands, unless specified by individual island name.

3.2 Existing environment and background context

3.2.1 Location

Efate and the offshore islands are situated at 17 °S and 168 °E, in the central portion of the Y-shaped archipelago that makes up Vanuatu.

The smaller islands that are located within a short distance of the larger island of Efate include:

- Ifira and Iririki within Port Vila harbour.
- Erakor island within the XX lagoon to the east of Port Vila.
- Eratap island offshore of Eratap village, to the south-east of Port Vila.
- Hideaway Island in Mele Bay which is not under customary control.
- Offshore islands including Eratoka, Lelepa and Moso to the north-west, Nguna and Pele to the north, the smaller island of Kakula to the north which is not under customary control, and Emau to the north-east.

These islands are administered as part of Shefa Province.

3.2.2 Climate

Vanuatu has a tropical maritime climate with relative constant temperature ranges, high humidity and variable degrees of rainfall. Two main seasons in Vanuatu: the cold (dry) season from May to October and the hot (wet/cyclone) season from November to April. Efate temperatures generally range from 25°C to 30°C throughout the year.

Average monthly rainfall recorded in the Port Vila area are shown in Figure 1, and range from between 275 to 300mm per month in the wet season, to 70 to 150mm in the dry season.



Figure 1: Average monthly rainfall recorded in Port Vila
(Source: Vanuatu Department of Meteorology, 2016)

Efate and the offshore islands are extremely effected by the El Nino/La Nina meteorological system, as it influences the South Pacific Convergence Zone which impacts on rainfall patterns in the region.

3.2.3 Topography, Geology and Soils

Efate and the offshore islands are Pleio-Quaternary volcanic-sedimentary islands comprising mainly volcanic eruptive rocks and ash deposits (DEPC, 2011). Their geology is made up of three major rock formations. The first is the Efate Pumice Formation, a Pliocene-Pleistocene series of submarine pumice tuff and breccias that generally occur in the central part of the island. It mainly occurs in central Efate with an extensive outcrop of over 300 square kilometres (Tawake, 2005).

3.2.4 Flora

The dominant vegetation of Efate and the offshore islands is tropical rainforest, similar to that found on the other larger islands of Vanuatu (Malakula, Pentecost, Erromango, Tanna and Santo). Within the tropical rainforest category, there are three types, including: coastal forest, lowland forest and montane forest. As the largest island of the group, Efate has representative species from most of the rainforest species groups found in Vanuatu.

Efate and the offshore islands' position at the centre of the archipelago of Vanuatu grants them a unique biological place in that they boast species found in both the northern islands and the southern islands. Approximately 70 to 80 per cent of species that grow in Vanuatu can be found on Efate. In addition there are species endemic to Efate that can not be found on other islands.

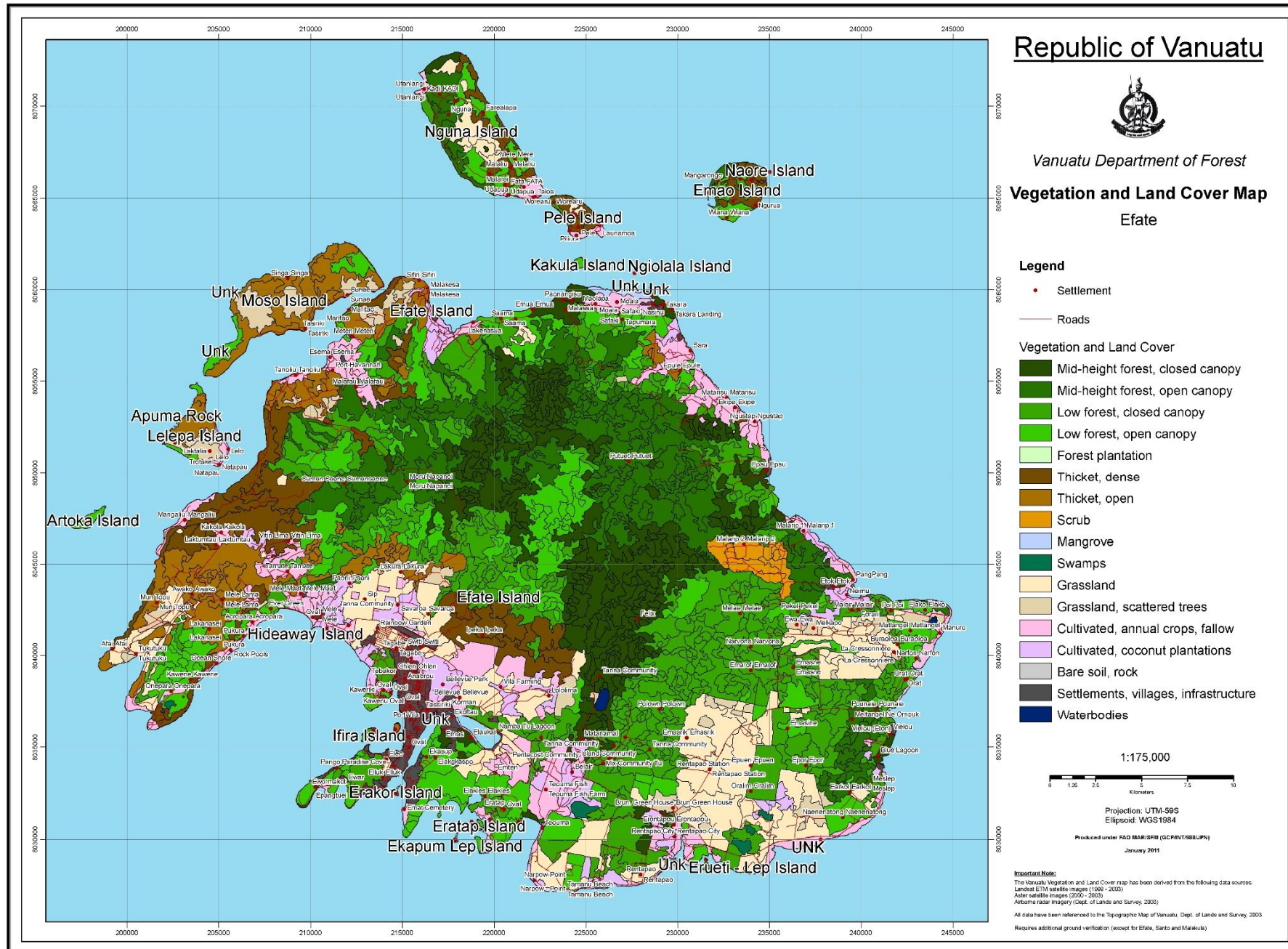
Expert advice suggest that over 116 plant species can be found within central Efate. Common plant species include *Endospermum endullosum* (Whitewood), *Ficus glandifera*, *Appendicula reflexa* (Back-Bent orchid) and *Asplenium nidus* (Birdnest Fern).

Central Efate is also home to at least 31 endemic plant and animal species. The number is likely to be much higher and further research is needed to properly identify them. There are at least 11 plant and animal species found on Efate that are considered vulnerable or endangered.

There are also a number different ecosystem types on Efate and the offshore islands, including Low Land Forests, Primary and Secondary Tropical Rainforest and freshwater streams and rivers.

Significant wetlands and mangrove environments exist on Efate, at Crik Ai in north-west Efate (which is earmarked to become a RAMSAR Wetland of International Importance), and in Erakor and Emten Lagoons. Some of the 23 mangrove species of Vanuatu are found on Efate and the offshore islands.

Vegetation mapping and land cover for Efate and the offshore islands is shown on the following page.



3.2.5 Fauna

The native fauna of Vanuatu comprises approximately 11 mammal species (all bats), 56 bird species and 22 reptile species. No indigenous amphibians are known in Vanuatu.

Invertebrate fauna in Vanuatu is relatively diverse, and boasts a high level of endemism. Some invertebrates are an important part of forest fauna (e.g. butterflies).

Common animal species found on Efate include *Macrobrachium gracilirostre* (Freshwater Prawn), *Emoia caerulecauda* (Melanesian Blue-tailed Skink), *Emoia sanfordi* (Vanuatu Green Tree Skink), *Miniopterus propitristis* (Large Melanesian Bent-wing Bat) and *Halcyon chloris juliae* (White-collard Kingfisher). These species are also found on some of the offshore islands.

There are significant caves which are crucial breeding sites for various microchiroptera and megachiroptera species.

Unique endemic species have been found in freshwater sources on Efate.

3.2.6 Land Cover

Land cover on Efate forest in the central, mountainous area in the central portion of the island. This gradates to cleared pasture land towards the coast, with livestock grazing and coconut plantations covering large areas within the immediate coastal zone. Subsistence farming areas are common around the area, particularly in the east. Urban development covers a large part of the south-west with Port Vila and its outskirts. Villages are scattered around the entire perimeter of the island, serviced by a tarred ring road.

The offshore islands boast an array of different landcover types. Lelepa and Moso are more open landscapes, with grasslands or open and closed thicket vegetation. Lelepa has only one village and Moso has two on the southern side. Nguna, Pele and Emau have more forested land cover, with low to mid-height canopies both of open and closed coverage. These islands have villages located around their perimeters. Nguna has several inland villages.

3.2.7 Hydrological

As Efate is a high-raised volcanic island, there are numerous streams and rivers based on the topography of the island.

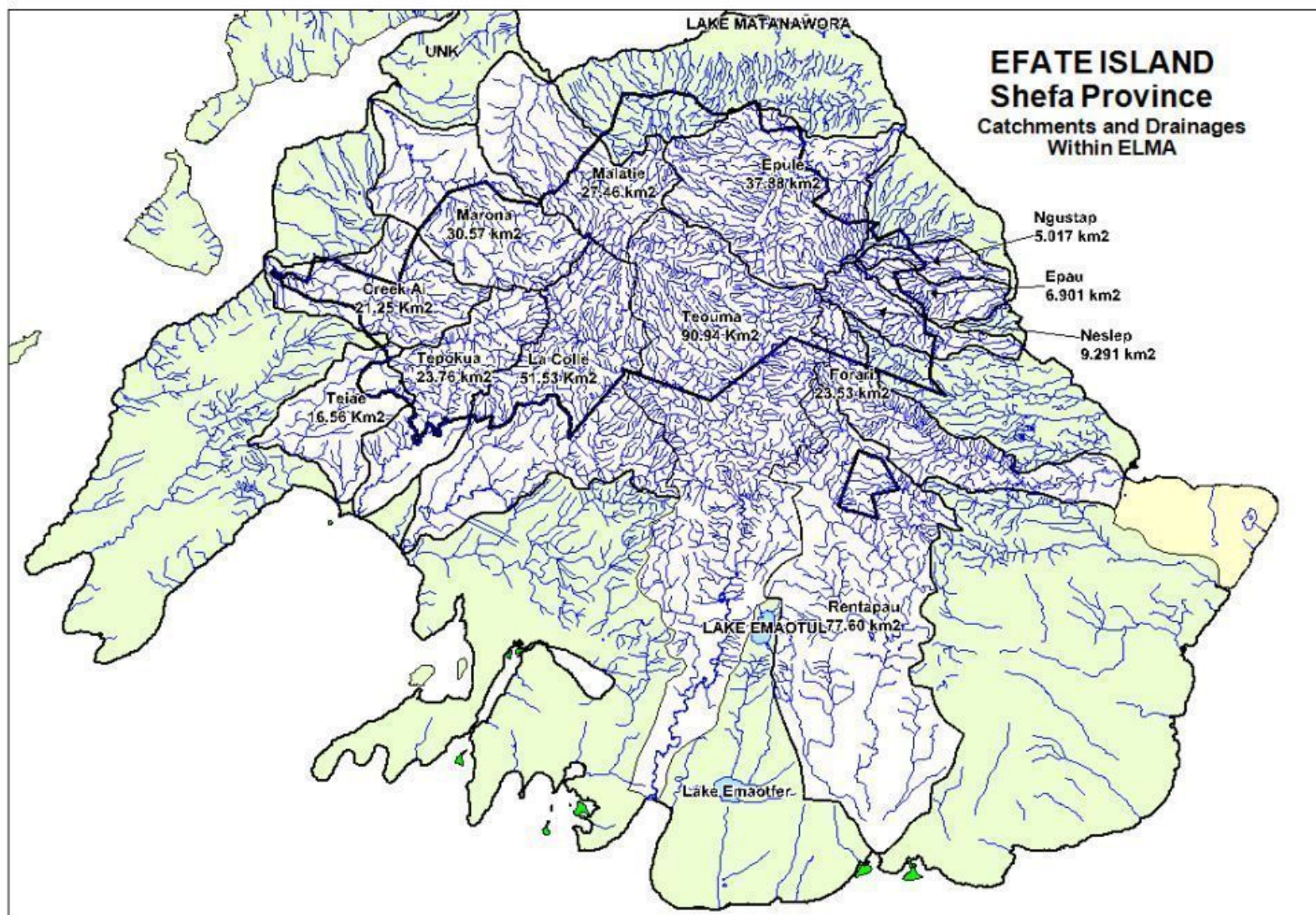
The major rivers on Efate include:

- Tagabe River
- La Colle River
- Teouma River
- Rentapao River
- Crik Ai
- Epule River

There are many more first, second and third-order streams on the island and numerous tributaries in the catchment areas. Two lakes, Lake Emautfer and Emaotul are located in the south-eastern part of the island.

A map of the island's water catchment layout and volumes is provided below.

The offshore islands do not have freshwater creeks or rivers that are constantly flowing. Nguna has some ephemeral creeks and springs. A large lagoon is located on the island of Emau.



Map X: Water catchments of Efate (Source: Government of Vanuatu – Department of Geology, Mines and Water, 2015)

3.2.8 Marine Environment

Coral reefs surround Efate. The only current data for the whole of Efate with mapped corals is from the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre and is shown in Figure 2. As indicated, a fringing reef extends around the entirety of Efate.



Figure 2: Coral reefs shown in red around Efate and offshore islands.
(Source: UNEP WCMC, 2016)

3.2.9 Population and Demographics

The population of Efate is the highest of any island in Vanuatu, with the capital city of Port Vila located in the south-west of the island. Efate is thought to have a population of approximately 100,000, which equates to approximately 40% of Vanuatu's total population.

Vanuatu has the highest annual growth rate in the Pacific at 2.4% (UNFPA-PSRO estimates). The annual urban growth rate is also relatively high (3.5%) and the total urban population has doubled in the last two decades—an indication of continuing rural-urban migration.

Typical of the region, Vanuatu has a young population, with 57% aged under 25 years.

According to the most recent census of 2009, the urban growth rate on Efate was at 4.1%. The population of Vanuatu has one of the highest growth rates in the Asia-Pacific region (UNESCAP, 2013).

Outside of Port Vila, the main villages and populated areas in the peri-urban and rural parts of Efate island include:

- Pango
- Erakor
- Eratap
- Teouma
- Eton
- Pang Pang
- Forari
- Epau
- Epule
- Ekipe
- Takara
- Paunangisu
- Emua
- Siviri
- Malafau
- Mangaliliu
- Mele

The villages on the offshore islands are identified below.

- Emau:

- Lausake
- Mangarongo
- Maou
- Mapua
- Ngurua
- Wiana
- Nguna:
 - Farealapa
 - Fareavau
 - Malaliu
 - Matoa
 - Newora
 - Rewoka
 - Taloa
 - Unakap
 - Utanlangi
 - Mere
- Pele:
 - Launamoa
 - Piliura
 - Worasiviu
 - Worearu
- Moso:
 - Tassiriki
 - Sunae
- Lelepa:
 - Natapau

3.3 Current environmental threats

Current and expected threats to the landscape/seascape of Efate and the offshore islands are identified in Table 2. Some threats are shown in photos below.

Table 2: Current environmental threats experienced in Efate and the offshore islands

| Threat | Location |
|--|--|
| Impacts from climate change in this region, including sea level rise and related impacts such as saltwater intrusion of groundwater systems, coral bleaching and death, exacerbation of dry seasons and regional meteorological events such as El Nino and La Nina periods, and associated impacts on local agriculture, increased intensity of cyclones and changes in rainfall distribution. | All islands |
| Coral reef degradation. | Efate Lelepa Pele |
| Clearing of primary forest for commercial and subsistence agriculture or by logging. | Efate Moso Nguna Pele Emau |
| Impacts of logging on native plants and animals including destruction of ecosystems. | Efate |

| | |
|---|---|
| Spread of invasive plants and animals. | Efate |
| Contamination of water supplies used through mismanagement of waste entering surface water sources, from both human waste and industrial waste (Photo 5). | Efate Lelepa |
| Unsustainable agricultural activities within riparian zones. | Efate (particularly near the Tagabe River) |
| Flooding of human settlements due to lack of riparian zone buffers and removal of riparian vegetation. | Efate (particularly near the Tagabe River) |
| Impacts of introduced freshwater species, on native fauna and surface water systems. | Efate |
| Expansion of inappropriate land uses such as unregulated and unserviced settlements. | Efate |
| Lack of good quality freshwater. | Emau Lelepa Pele Nguna Moso |
| Reduction of accessibility to custom plants and animals. | Efate |
| Unplanned expansion of commercial agricultural activities such as coconut and cattle plantations and market gardens and resultant conversion of forest and garden land. | Efate |
| Impacts associated with unfenced and unregulated domestic stock and feral cattle and pigs. | Efate |
| Use of riparian areas for gardening and grazing (refer Photo 6). | Efate |
| Landslides in mountainous terrain during strong storms or cyclones due to vegetation removal and soil instability which further impacts surface water sources through high levels of sediment-laden runoff (refer Photo 7). | Efate |
| Soil erosion and/or depletion of nutrients in soil. | Moso Nguna Efate Emau |
| Sediment-laden runoff entering surface water systems and the ocean. | Efate |
| Impacts from land use activities on surrounding fringing reefs (refer Photo 8). | Efate Emau |
| Lack of sewerage treatment for runoff into the ocean or rivers. | Efate (specifically Mele, Eratap and Tanvasoko Area Councils) |
| Uncontained fires during periods of drought or deliberate lighting of fires for no valid reason. | Efate |
| Disrespect for chiefs and other community leaders and their resource management decisions. | All islands |
| Depletion of marine resources due to indiscriminate use of new fishing methods. | Efate |
| Increasing pressure on natural resources due to increased human populations, particularly leading to overharvesting of resources. | Efate Nguna Pele |
| Harvesting of undersized resources. | Nguna |
| Overfishing of impacted reefs. | Efate Moso |
| Heavy erosion impacts to beaches and shorelines due to sand mining for use in building construction (refer Photo 9). | Efate (particularly Mele) |

| | |
|---|--|
| Impacts from mismanagement of solid waste. | Lelepa Nguna Pele |
| Lack of human resources and capacity to monitor natural resources. | Nguna Efate |
| Degradation of mangroves. | Efate Moso Emau |
| Shortage of water during extended dry seasons (refer Photo 10). | Efate Moso Nguna Pele Emau Lelepa |
| Growing population of Port Vila, which is reported to have one of the highest population growth rates in the Pacific. | Efate |
| Unplanned urban sprawl around Port Vila and other urban settlements and service of these informal settlements. | Efate |
| Dispossession of custom land from custom owners. | Efate |
| Growing disrespect for chiefs and other community leaders and their resource management decisions. | All islands |
| Lack of identification of custom land boundaries on which to base planning or environmental protection decisions. | Efate |
| Disconnect between custom and the youth population and associated confusion regarding community responsibilities and custom land. | All islands |
| Loss of custom due to new competing cultural values, particularly in urban areas. | All islands |



Photo 5: Tagabe River, which flows through communities in the Port Vila area, is contaminated with waste and sewerage, but relied on heavily by the local population as a freshwater source (Credit: Vanuatu Ecotours, 2013).



Photo 6: Evidence of the use of riparian areas for grazing and gardening, particularly prevalent in the river zones close to Port Vila (Credit: Vanessa Organo, Shefa Provincial Government Council)



Photo 7: Landslides evident after Cyclone Pam in north-west Efate, near Mt. McDonald, with impacts to waterways within Port Vila's upper water catchment (Credit: Stuart Chape, SPREP).



Photo 8: Moso Island, Havannah Harbour and Tanoliu Village (from background to foreground), where degraded reef has been observed within the bounds of the harbour (Credit: Stuart Chape, SPREP)

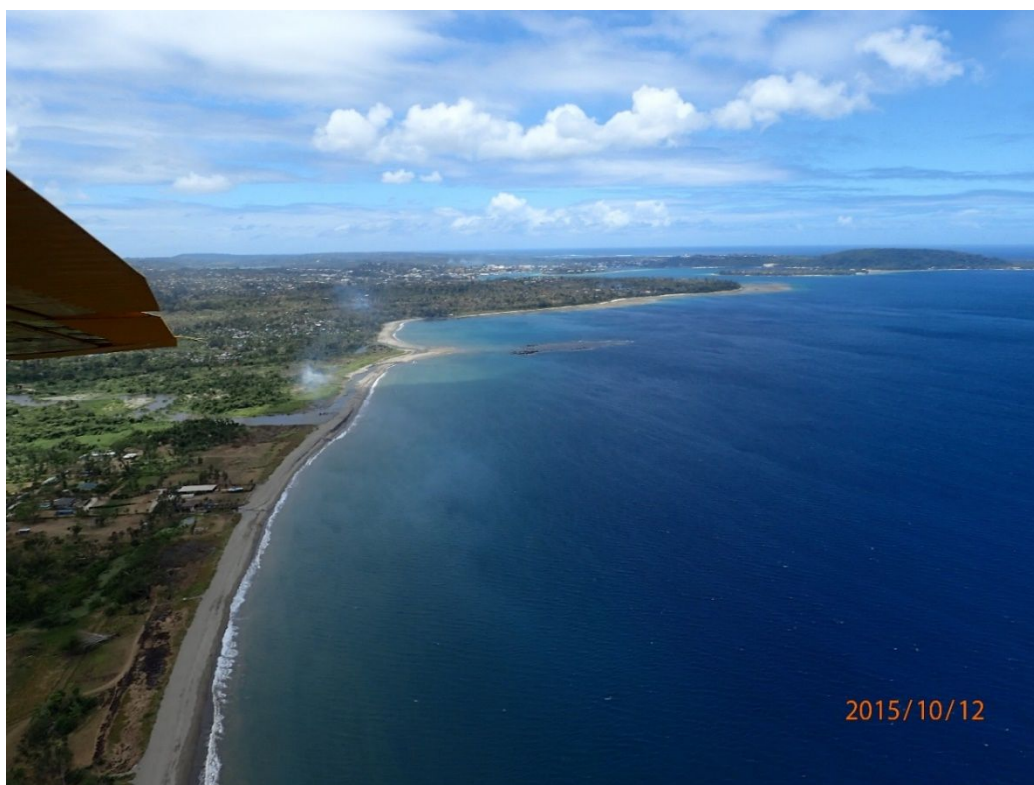


Photo 9: Stretch of beach in Mele Bay, on the outskirts of Port Vila urban area, where sand mining is frequent and results in coastal erosion which is impacting the ability of the coast to cope with oncoming sea level rise and storm surges (Credit: Vanessa Organo, Shefa Provincial Government Council)



Photo 10: The offshore islands of Nguna, Pele and Emau (with the small island of Kakula in the foreground), where environmental issues include overfishing of marine resources, poaching of endangered species and water security issues (Credit: Vanessa Organo, Shefa Provincial Government Council)

3.4 Key actions and plans underway

The key actions, project and plans underway or recently completed in Efate and the offshore islands are identified in Table 3. This list includes existing Vanuatu SGP grantees, as well as community-based conservation areas and other larger NGO/Donor-funded environmental projects. Some of the projects listed are identified in Photos 11 and 12 below.

Table 3: Existing projects in Efate and the offshore islands

| PROJECT / NETWORK | IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION | LOCATION | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|---------------------|--|
| Vanuatu SGP Grantees | | | |
| North Efate Coastal Resources Management Network | UNDP SGP: Foundation of the South Pacific | North Efate | Capacity building of local conservation networks and management methods. Focus on knowledge sharing. |
| Land and Livelihoods: Sustainable Land Use Planning and Tourism Development in the Lelema Region | UNDP SGP: Vanuatu Cultural Centre | North-West Efate | Sustainable management of activities within a World Heritage Site buffer zone. |
| Enhancing Community Management of Marine | UNDP SGP: Reef Check Vanuatu | Efate – full island | Capacity building of villages to understand and implement simple reef monitoring |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Resources through Coral Reef Monitoring in Vanuatu | | | techniques to assist in locally protected areas. Data to contribute to the Global Reef Monitoring data system. |
| Building community resilience to climate change risks affecting local school water security | UNDP SGP: Shefa Community Development Programme | North-East Efate | Facilitation of adaptation to climate change including improvement of water supply system, and a communication and education program to education students and surrounding communities about water security and water conservation methods. |
| Advocacy for local action for environment protection using communication | UNDP SGP: Further Arts | Efate – full island | Development of a suite of media tools and resources to assist in promotion of good environmental behaviours, and environmental projects across Vanuatu. |
| Preschool Education and Awareness on Endangered Species | UNDP SGP | Efate – full island | Creation of games for pre-school students to start early awareness of environmental problems and endangered species with the vision to grow environmental philosophy from a young age. |
| External to Vanuatu SGP | | | |
| Community Conservation Initiatives (both legally and customarily recognized) | | | |
| Efate Land Management Area | Efate Vaturisu Council of Chiefs and Shefa Provincial Government Council | Central Efate (extending to western, northern and eastern Efate) | Proposed environmental conservation area on the last area of unleased custom land on Efate (refer Photo 11). The area is proposed to be a community-managed area, with legal protection under national environmental legislation. The initiative is a joint collaboration between 17 villages around Efate, with the view to protect the natural resources of Efate, particularly the water catchment, forest ecosystems and biodiversity in the middle of Efate. |
| Nguna-Pele Marine Protected Area | Nguna-Pele Marine Protected Authority (CSO) | Nguna and Pele | The Nguna-Pele MLPA Network is a fully-independent, and self-governing community-based organization. The chiefs and people of each member community have set aside a significant area of village-owned reef or forest to be considered 'tabu' (temporarily |

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|---|
| | | | or permanently off-limits) to serve as a 'resource factory' (refer Photo 12). Each community has elected volunteer representatives to conduct regular reef surveys, tag sea turtles, plant coral and run continuous environmental awareness sessions. |
| Malafau Forest Conservation | Local community | Malafau (north-west Efate) | Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the Environment Management and Conservation (EMC) Act. |
| Mauta Marine Conservation | Local community | Tanolu (north-west Efate) | Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Sanoa Marine Conservation | Local community | Tanolu (north-west Efate) | Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Lelema Marine Conservation | Local community | Lelepa (offshore island) | Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Fultuk Bay | Local community | Lelepa (offshore island) | Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Lelo | Local community | Lelepa (offshore island) | Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Matapua Lelo | Local community | Lelepa (offshore island) | Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Creek Ai | Local community | Lelepa (offshore island) community, located in north-west Efate | Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Aretok | Local community | Lelepa (offshore island) | Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Mangasi | Local community | Lelepa (offshore island) | Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Roimata's Domain – World Heritage Area | Local community | Lelepa (offshore island) / Mangaliliu (north-west Efate) | World Heritage Area |
| Sunae Marine Conservation | Local community | Moso (offshore island) | Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Siviri Marine Conservation | Local community | Siviri (north Efate) | Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Paunangisu Marine Conservation | Local community | Paunangisu (north Efate) | Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Emua Marine Conservation | Local community | Emua (north Efate) | Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Takara Marine Conservation | Local community | Takara (north-east Efate) | Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Emau Forest Conservation | Local community | Emau (offshore island) | Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Emau Marine Conservation sites | Local community | Emau (offshore island) | Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Epau Marine Conservation Area | Local community | Epau (east Efate) | Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Terau/Masipe | Local community | Blacksands (peri-urban Port Vila) | Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Ewetai Marine Conservation | Local community | Eratap | Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Eratap Point Marine Conservation | Local community | Eratap | Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Eratap No. Lagoon Marine Conservation | Local community | Eratap Area Council | Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Ifira Island Mangrove Conservation | Local community | Ifira | Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| NGO/Donor-led Projects | | | |
| Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change | Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) | Port Vila (municipality and peri-urban area) | PEBACC is a five year project funded by the German Government, implemented by SPREP to explore and promote Ecosystem-based options for adapting to climate change. The overall intended outcome of the project is: EbA is integrated into development, climate change adaptation and natural resource management policy and planning processes in three Pacific island countries providing replicable models for other countries in the region. |
| RESCCUE | SPC / Live and Learn | North Efate (Mangaliliu to Pang Pang) | The overall goal of RESCCUE is to contribute to increasing the resilience of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) in the context of global changes. To this end RESCCUE aims at supporting adaptation to climate change (ACC) through integrated coastal management (ICM), |

| | | | |
|---|------------|---|---|
| | | | resorting especially to economic analysis and economic and financial mechanisms. |
| Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Region | SPC-GIZ | North Efate and offshore islands (Nguna and Pele) | The CCCPIR programme aims to strengthen the capacities of Pacific member countries and regional organisations to cope with the impacts of climate change. |
| GEF6: Integrated Sustainable Land and Coastal Management | FAO / DEPC | North West Efate | <p>This upcoming project to be operational between 2017 – 2022, will assist the Government of Vanuatu to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve biodiversity conservation by creating new terrestrial and marine protected areas (35,000 ha) following a "ridge-to-reef" approach (R2R); • Support sustainable forest, land and coastal management in the watersheds linking these protected areas (100,000 ha) and improve the livelihoods of local communities living in these areas (+8,000 ha) and • Build capacity in sustainable forest, land and coastal management techniques, protected area management and other conservation techniques and monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity, land-use and land-use change. |



Photo 11: Aerial view across part of the proposed Efate Land Management Area conservation area in central Efate (Credit: Vanessa Organo, Shefa Provincial Government Council)



**Photo 12: Looking towards Pele from Nguna, over part of the Nguna-Pele Marine Protected Area
(Credit: Nguna Pele Land and Marine Protected Authority)**

3.5 Potential opportunities for SGP Vanuatu

Based on the existing projects within the landscape/seascape of Efate and the offshore islands, Vanuatu SGP can assist to guide community projects which could intervene to address some outstanding gaps. The landscape/seascape approach offers a holistic 'ridge-to-reef' approach which Vanuatu can use as a powerful catalyst to assist in addressing a range of environmental impacts and environmental management issues occurring at a community level.

The areas not covered thoroughly by existing projects, with which Vanuatu SGP could assist in tackling through grantees' projects include:

- **Reef conservation:** With increasing population on Efate, it is now more important than ever to educate communities that protection of Vanuatu's fringing reefs starts with the management of land-based activities, such as agriculture and waste activities. Linking life on land to the state of reefs is important and locally-based projects, specific to particular contexts within the landscape/seascapes of Efate will be important during OP6.
- **Locally managed protected areas:** A proposed protected area in central Efate, the Efate Land Management Area, is being led by the Efate Vaturisu Council of Chiefs, and the communities around Efate. The purpose of the protected area is to conserve the water catchment area and biodiversity found in central Efate, and to protect the natural resources in the last area of custom land on the island. In addition, there are numerous areas reserved under traditional systems or informal agreements within or between villages for the purposes of resource regeneration or complete protection of the environment and resources. Building the capacity of those who look after these areas, and supporting these groups to formalise the management of these areas (if this is considered necessary), is a vision which SGP could assist in realising. There are several community-based taboo areas on all of the offshore islands which could be supported through the SGP.
- **Promotion and implementation of eco-tourism as a sustainable livelihood option:** In the face of increasing large-scale tourism industries such as cruise ships on Efate, a focus on grassroots bottom-up environmentally conscious tourism within the landscape/seascape is an opportunity for Vanuatu SGP to stimulate. At the same time, liaison with large-scale tourism providers regarding their expansion plans is important for local communities, to assist their understanding of potential impacts of decisions. It is important for communities to be aware of the Department of Tourism's new eco-tourism standards, and this awareness is an area Vanuatu SGP could highlight during grant application periods.
- **Forest ecosystem conservation:** Preservation and rehabilitation of forested areas on Efate are vital during OP6, particularly with regard to linked conservation of water catchment areas. This would include forest rehabilitation projects to re-establish native communities that have been wiped out through illegal logging, especially in the central region of Efate, and on some of the offshore islands where the focus has been on marine ecosystems but should also include important terrestrial conservation.
- **Well-connected communities:** Villages in Efate have a history based on displacement from the interior of the island to the coast. In addition, Efate has seen the largest population of migrants from other islands and other countries coming to its shores. For this reason, there has been a state of flux within and between villages on Efate and the offshore islands which has led to some disintegration of good cooperation between villages. Cooperation and collaboration are two soft skills that could be worked on from within villages, that would greatly enhance the possibility of carrying out environmental conservation work, and making sure it is sustainable.

A map of Efate and the offshore islands below shows some of the threats and opportunities in this landscape/seascape, which could be assisted through the Vanuatu SGP.



3.6 Relevant stakeholders to SGP Vanuatu OP6

The key stakeholders who will need to be involved include in the Efate landscape/seascape projects include:

- **Locally-based NGOs/CSOs/CBOs:**
 - o Live and Learn
 - o Vanuatu Christian Council (VCC)
 - o Vanuatu Environmental Science Society (VESS)
 - o Wan Smolbag
 - o Tasivanua Network
 - o Nguna Pele MPA Authority
 - o Eco Livelihoods Development Association (EDA)
 - o Village Development Committee (VDC) (otherwise known as Village Councils) have the following groups within them:
 - Water
 - Chiefs
 - Youth
 - Women
 - o Lelema Conservation Committee
 - o Mangaliliu Water Committee
 - o Mangaliliu Markets for Change
 - o Warnapau Youth
 - o Mantantapoa Mamas Association (through the Village Council)
 - o Emua Water Committee
 - o Saama Water Committee
 - o Siviri Water Committee
 - o Epau Solar Committee
 - o Epau Water Committee
 - o Epau Environment Committee
 - o Epau Water Committee
 - o Tasivanua Environment Network
 - o Sicotau Association (women's tourism association in Ifira)
 - o Melemaat Water Committee
 - o Mele Rice Farmers Association
 - o Mele Youth Organisation
 - o Teouma Women's Association
 - o Teouma Youth Association
 - o Teouma Farmers Association
 - o Tanoliu Farmers Association
 - o Eratap Water Committee
 - o Eratap Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union (PWMU)
 - o Eratap Youth Group
 - o Etas Youth Group
 - o No. 2 Lagoon Youth Group
 - o No. 2 Lagoon Women's Group
 - o No. 2 Lagoon Chiefs
 - o Teouma Valley Youth Group
 - o Teouma Valley Women's Group
 - o Teouma Valley Chiefs Group
- **Cultural institutions:**

- Malvatumauri Council of Chiefs (national Council of Chiefs)
- Efate Vaturisu Council of Chiefs (island Council of Chiefs)
- Vanuatu Cultural Centre (VKS)
- National Customary Land Management Office (NCLMO)
- **Government agencies/departments:**
 - Shefa Provincial Government Council
 - Port Vila Municipal Council
 - Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation
 - Department of Energy
 - Department of Agriculture
 - Department of Forestry
 - Department of Fisheries
 - Department of Livestock
 - Department of Climate Change
 - Department of Lands
 - Department of Local Authority
 - National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction
- **Internationally-represented governments:**
 - Australian High Commission
 - New Zealand High Commission
 - French Embassy
- **International/regional NGOs:**
 - Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
 - REDD+
 - Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
 - GIZ
 - FAO
 - CARE
 - World Vision
 - Save the Children
 - ADRA
 - Red Cross
- **Academic institutions:**
 - University of the South Pacific

4 Tanna Baseline Assessment

Boundary of the landscape/seascape

The landscape boundary encompasses the whole of Tanna island. The seascape boundary includes the surrounding oceanscape used by humans, or impacted by land-based activities

4.1 Existing environment and background context

4.1.1 Location

Tanna is situated at 19.5 °S and 169.4 °E, in the southern portion of the Y-shaped archipelago that makes up Vanuatu. Its land area totals approximately 550 square kilometres. The island is approximately 40km long and 19km wide.

Tanna is administered as part of Tafea Province.

4.1.2 Climate

Vanuatu has a tropical maritime climate with relative constant temperature ranges, high humidity and variable degrees of rainfall. Two main seasons in Vanuatu: the cold (dry) season from May to October and the hot (wet/cyclone) season from November to April. Tanna temperatures generally range from 23°C to 30°C throughout the year.

Average monthly rainfall recorded at Whitegrass in Tanna is shown in Figure 3 and ranges from 175mm to 200mm in the wet season, and between 50mm to 100mm in the dry season.

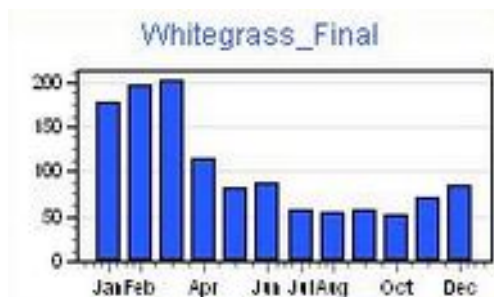


Figure 3: Average monthly rainfall recorded at Whitegrass (Tanna)
(Source: Vanuatu Department of Meteorology, 2016)

Tanna is extremely effected by the El Nino/La Nina meteorological system, as it influences the South Pacific Convergence Zone which impacts on rainfall patterns in the region.

4.1.3 Topography, geology and soils

The highest point on Tanna is Mt. Tukumera in the south of the island, at 1,084m. The main topographical feature of Tanna is the Mt. Yasur volcano, which dominates the south-east of the island, at 361m. Yasur is continuously emitting volcanic fumes and stones, with impacts on down-wind environments. While the baseline impacts are low, during periods of high volcanic emissions can reduce garden and agricultural productivity, contaminate surface water and contribute to respiratory illnesses¹.

Raw mineral soils from recent volcanic deposits, like lithosols on lava flows or rhegosols on ashes, cover a large area around the active volcanoes of Vanuatu, like Tanna island. They bear neither vegetation nor cultivation. Vitric andosols are weakly matured soils, derived from very recent volcanic deposits, surrounding the active volcano of Tanna. The soils have a low or medium grade fertility and are rarely cultivated. On the central plateau of Tanna, the soils are saturated andosols, which are young soils from recent volcanic products. They are fairly well developed and matured and are very fertile, thus often cultivated. In the south of Tanna, the soils are mainly dominated by unsaturated andosols which are also

young soils for recent volcanic products, but are located in wet and rainy zones. The soils are very hydrated and often cultivated. On the north-western slopes of Tanna, the soils are eutric-vertic cambisols or saturated fersiallitic soils. They are more mature soils, are very clayey. They are fairly fertile but often used more for pasture purposes.

4.1.4 Flora

Tanna hosts an internationally significant flora (refer Table 4) which is restricted to remnant natural vegetation blocks and custom sites. Tanna is one of only 3 islands where the monospecific palm genus *Carpoxylon* occurs in the wild, and the only island known to host genetic variants of *Carpoxylon* (Benzie and Ballment, 1995⁸). Tanna is one of two centres of genetic biodiversity for the culturally and commercially important plant *Piper methysticum* (Lebot and Cabalion, 1988⁹). In addition, a number of endemic butterflies, orchids, and snails have been documented, mostly in association with natural vegetation. The biodiversity of Tanna is also characterized by affinities with New Caledonia that are not present in islands further north. A number of species are restricted to the islands of Tafea Province and New Caledonia.

Some endemic plant species of Tanna Island are *Cryptocaria tannaensis*, *Sterculia tannaensis*, *Semercarpus tannaensis* and *Shiiflera tannae*. Other endemic plant species found on Tanna and in some other islands of Vanuatu include *Garcinia platyphylla*, *Bleasdalea lutea*, *Corynocarpus similis*, *Ixora aneityensis*, *Croton insularis*, *Elaeocarpus persicaefolius*, *Dysoxylum aneityensis*, *Dysoxylum amooroides*, *Ficus subcordata*, *Ficus prolixa*, *Calophyllum neoebudicum*, *Alphitonia zzyzphoides*, *Garcinia pseudoguttifera*, *Garcinia platyphylla*, *Dendrobium sp* and *Melicytus ramiflorus*. The endemic palm species include *Carpoxylon macrospermum*, *Veitchia sp* and *Caryota ophiophelis*. These plants are restricted to remnant natural vegetation areas and custom sacred sites.

The palm, *Carpoxylon macrospermum* is rare endemic species and is endangered while 75% of the plant species mentioned above are considered rare with restricted range. Tanna is one of the only 3 islands where the monospecific palm genus, *Carpoxylon* naturally occurs in the wild and the only known to host genetic variants of *Carpoxylon* (Benzie and Ballment, 1995). The natural stands of the rare *Carpoxylon* and *Caryota ophiopellis* palms is found in Nusumetu Conservation Area at Green Hill, north Tanna (refer Photo 13). The Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific Vanuatu (FSPV) in 1990s implemented a project by making awareness of the important endemic palm species and encouraged their ex-situ conservation.

⁸ Benzie & Ballment (1995) RAPD analysis of genetic variation in the rare Vanuatu Palm, *Carpoxylon macrospermum*. AIMS, Townsville.

⁹ Lebot, V. and Cabalion, P. (1988) Kavas of Vanuatu. Cultivars of *Piper methysticum* Forst. South Pacific Commission. Noumea.



Photo 13: Endemic species *Caryota ophiopellis*

This project in collaboration with the Department of Forests has led to planting of *Carpoxylon macrospermum* in front of the Vanuatu Parliament house as well as along some streets in Port Vila. Both the Department of Forest and Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation continuously encouraging ex situ conservation of the endemic palm species. Tanna, one of the islands targeted by this project, is one of the two centres of diversity of kava, with common cultivars planted in one locality in middle bush (Lebot and Cabalion, 1998). In general, diversity beneath the species level has only been classified by indigenous knowledge systems that vary from one language group to another and are not documented.

The biodiversity of Tanna is also characterized by affinities with New Caledonia that are not present islands further north. A number of species are restricted to the islands of Tafea Province and New Caledonia.

Table 4: Internationally significant flora identified on Tanna Island

| Species | Endemic to Vanuatu | Status ¹⁰ | Limited Range |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| <i>Caryota ophiopellis</i> | √ | Rare | √ |
| <i>Carpoxylon macrospermum</i> | √ | Endangered | √ |
| <i>Veitchia sp</i> | √ | Considered rare | √ |
| <i>Schefflera tannaensis</i> | √ | Considered rare | √ |
| <i>Cryptocarya tannaensis</i> | √ | Considered rare | √ |
| <i>Garcinia platyphylla</i> | √ | Considered rare | √ |
| <i>Bleasdalea lutea</i> | √ | Considered rare | √ |
| <i>Corynocarpus similis</i> | √ | Considered rare | √ |
| <i>Ixora aneityensis</i> | √ | Considered rare | √ |
| <i>Croton insularis</i> | √ | Considered rare | √ |

¹⁰ The species that have been indicated as “considered rare” have not been adequately studied to have their status formally established.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| <i>Elaeocarpus persicaefolius</i> | √ | Considered rare | |
| <i>Dysoxylum aneityensis</i> | √ | Considered rare | √ |
| <i>Dysoxylum amooroides</i> | √ | Considered rare | |
| <i>Ficus subcordata</i> | √ | Considered rare | |
| <i>Ficus prolixa</i> | √ | Considered rare | √ |
| <i>Calophyllum neoebudicum</i> | √ | Considered rare | |
| <i>Alphitonia zyzyphoides</i> | √ | Considered rare | |
| <i>Garcinia pseudoguttifera</i> | | Unknown status | |
| <i>Garcinia platyphylla</i> | | Considered rare | √ |
| <i>Earina santoensis</i> | | Considered rare | √ |
| <i>Dendrobium sp.</i> | √ | Unknown status | √ |
| <i>Spiraanthemum katakata</i> | | Unknown status | |
| <i>Eurya japonica</i> | | Unknown status | |
| <i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i> | | Unknown status | |

4.1.5 Fauna

Tanna avifauna diversity indicated 37 birds (30%) out of the total of 121 birds recorded by Bregulla, the author of Birds of Vanuatu. This figure includes the invasive introduced Indian Mynah, *Acridotheres tristis*. Bruggella's records of bird distributions show a higher number of species, endemic subspecies and endemic species in the central islands than in the south or north of the archipelago. Recent bird studies on Tanna include the sea bird Collared Petrel, *Pterodroma brevipes* which is not recorded by Bregulla. This bird species inhabits the interior areas of Mount Tukusmera and Mount Malen. Four endemic birds are found on Tanna such as the moderately common Vanuatu Fruit Dove, *Ptilonopus tannensis*; Incubator Bird, *Megapodius freycinet layardi* is found in lowland forest but can also be found at moderate altitudes and the abundantly common Vanuatu White-eye, *Zosterops flavifrons*. The rare endemic Green Palm Lorikeet, *Charmosyna palmarum* was also recorded on Tanna by Bregulla but local communities consulted reported that this bird do not exist on this island anymore. This bird species can be found regularly at the higher altitudes of their range, where they live on all types of forest and may be found anywhere there is food. It must have been extinct on this island due to its forest being heavily modified for agricultural activities as a result of highly population density.

Megapodius freycinet layardi are still encountered on Tanna in suitable habitats but are rarely common. Its nesting sites are threatened by encroaching agricultural and other development activities. It is likely that this species will also extinct if there is no sustainable land management and conservation measures are in place at areas where they currently inhabit.

Out of the four species of flying fox found in Vanuatu, only one species, the common Pacific Flying-fox, *Pteropus tonganus* is found Tanna. Insectivorous bats found on Tanna include the Little Bentwing-bat, *Miniopterus australis* and the Small Melanesian Bentwing-bat, *Miniopterus macrocneme*. There is also an endemic butterfly found on Tanna called the Paco.

4.1.6 Land cover and use

The majority of the land use on Tanna is classified as being cultivated, or used for annual crops or fallow. The cultivated areas are indicated in the lowland and coastal areas. More than 50% of the intact forests have been destroyed as a result of population density and land use intensity for agricultural activities. In addition, during the 1990s much land in Tanna was cleared for cultivation of coffee plantations. This

resulted in a lot of clearing of remnant forest, with only pockets of remnant vegetation found in central Tanna now.

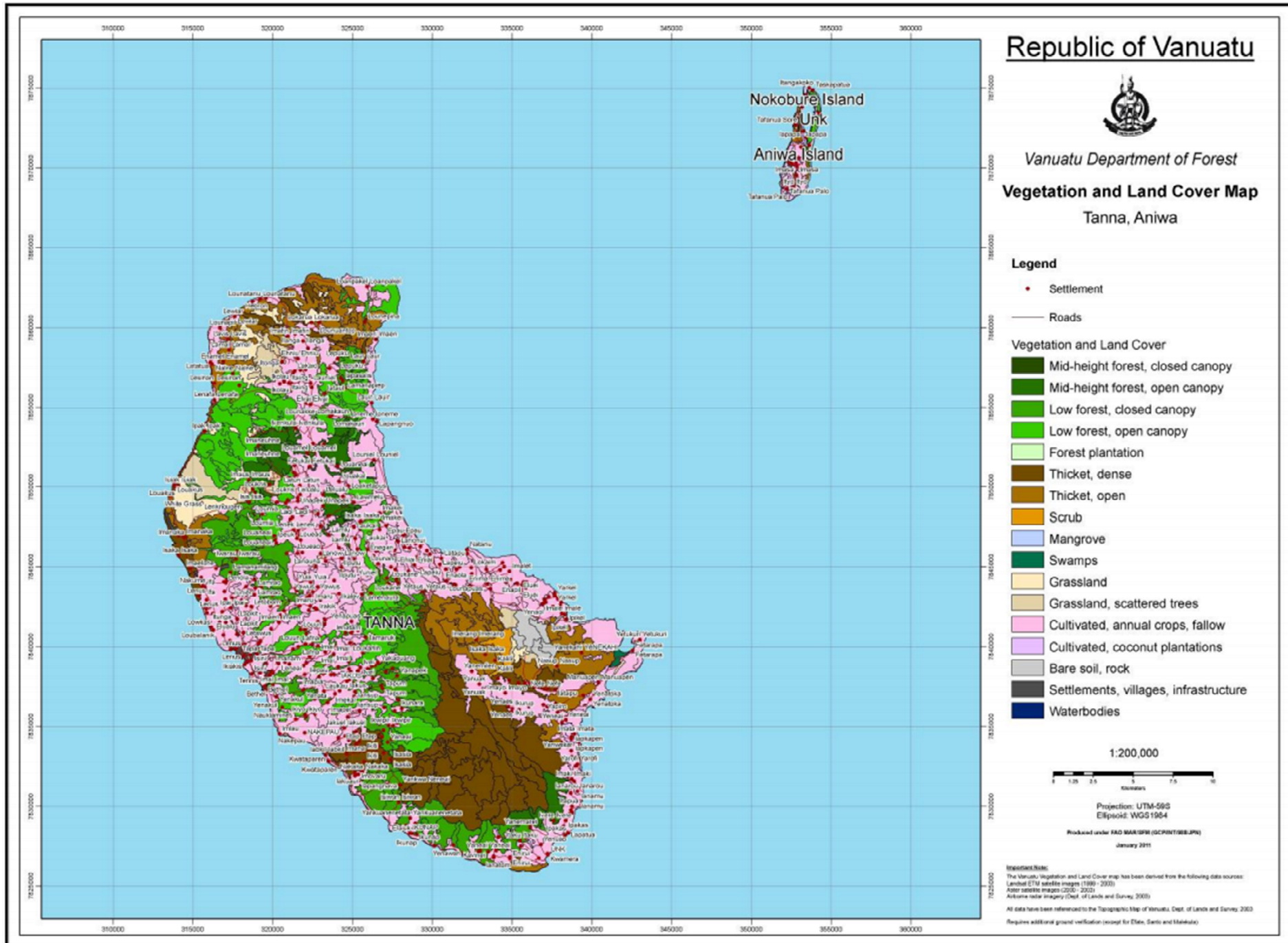
An important factor linked to this large proportion of cultivated land on the island are the traditional Tannese beliefs regarding their gardening practices, particularly yams, as each year requires the cutting of new gardens, thus the clearing of primary forest for this purpose.

Another change in land use is being driven by a mini-sawmill project and livestock, primarily cattle projects.

Thicket dense vegetation is more dominant on south Tanna covering Mt. Malen area and extends to the interior ridge of the island on the western side of Yasur volcano. Blocks of the same vegetation type also occurs on southwest and northwest of the island. Scrub and thicket open forest vegetation surrounds the Yasur volcano at southeast. Mid-height forest, open canopy covers some parts of south Tanna and low forest, open canopy is found towards the south western side of the island extending to the mount Tukusmera and mount milen. Patches of similar forest types are found in some parts of middle bush and north Tanna.

Through the Mangrove Ecosystems for Climate Change Adaptation and Livelihoods (MESCAL) project, a total of 24 species are known for Vanuatu of which two species are three species are recorded for Tanna. A substantive mangrove area is found at Port Resolution. Mangrove areas are important habitats that provide feeding, breeding, and nursery grounds for a wide variety of fish and other wildlife species, serve as carbon sink and protection from coastal storms and extreme events.

A map indicating vegetation and land cover is shown on the following page.



4.1.7 Hydrology

There are a number of rivers or streams that are still running. Keasi forest reserve is located at Imayo and close to the Vegal River from which flows Vegal Falls which becomes a stream whose direction flows past northern foot of the Yasur volcano. Nusumetu conservation area has a stream that flows through it which is also located within the water catchment area at Green Hill in North Tanna. Two other streams are also found within the area.

4.1.8 Population, demographics and culture

The population of Tanna as recorded in the last national census was 28,799 (NSO, 2009). It is by far the most populous island in Tafea Province and the third-most populous island in Vanuatu, after only Efate and Santo which both host the two major urban centres of Vanuatu.

Tanna has four main language and cultural groups, and is well known as a strong hold of custom. Chiefly status is hereditary and a distinctly hierarchical society exists. The leni, or custom chiefs, have wide reaching authority over land and people within their area of jurisdiction. leni are supported by leni Mara, who act as spokesman and Chief Minister of the leni; Tupunis who have special environmental powers and capacities; and traditional police. The concept of landholder does not exactly exist – with the leni holding all land and resources in trust - however the caretaker and user of a particular area carries out his work for everyone to benefit from the land.

On Tanna numerous parcels of land are considered sacred where no-one may enter except men with relevant authority or custom powers. While the principle motives for these areas tend to be religious, their effects are evidently beneficial to biodiversity management. For example, by indirectly ensuring that gardening does not occur in an area, they have a valuable role in protecting soils, natural vegetation and water regimes. There is nothing material to mark the boundaries of these places, but knowledge of the places is passed down through the generations.

Tupunis, environmental chiefs, have special powers over environmental resources. They have knowledge of the use of special “stones” to preserve everything that grows on Tanna, as well as to care for the elements like rain, sunshine, wind, water and sea. In exercising these skills the Tupunis are instrumental in managing the use of particular resources, including setting times when resources can, or cannot, be harvested.

Tubuhan is the Tannese word describing the placing of special marker leaves to show that specified place or resources are temporarily tabu. To every tubuhan a penalty is attached and no man will touch a thing so tabooed.

Totemism has been described on Tanna for turtles. In addition to the turtle clan, it is known there are a number of other resources that act as totems although these have not been documented and recorded.

Seasonal restrictions on resource use have also been described on Tanna, and these help to ensure that not all resources are taxed at one time. It appears that seasonal gardening practices and restrictions placed on certain activities (activities that vary from eating specific foods to visiting specific places and even coitus) help to ensure crops are bountiful and are important within the overall resource management scheme.

VKS reported that on Tanna, despite the strongly hierarchical social system, individuals and clans have significant responsibility and guardianship over resources and are more highly involved in the ritual aspect of closures compared with other islands.

4.2 Current environmental threats

Current environmental threats on Tanna include the following (with references to associated photographs):

- Rapidly increasing population, and associated impacts to biodiversity and natural resources.

- Threats to the observance of traditional resource management practices due to an increasing intensity of land use to meet livelihood needs.
- Impacts from climate change in this region, including sea level rise and related impacts such as saltwater intrusion of groundwater systems, coral bleaching and death, exacerbation of dry seasons and regional meteorological events such as El Nino and La Nina periods, and associated impacts on local agriculture, increased intensity of cyclones and changes in rainfall distribution.
- Disrespect for chiefs and custom environmental stewards and their resources management decisions. Disrespect for custom restrictions and tabus relating to the environment.
- Increased competition over increasingly scarce resources.
- Changing perceptions of the rights of the “landholder” to benefit materially from land and to enter lease type agreements, which is changing the balance between communities, chiefs and landholders.
- Impacts of invasive and introduced species, including Elephant Grass (*Panicum purpureum*) (refer Photo 14), Agriculture Rope (Glycine), Cordia and Big Leaf (*Merremia peltata*), which is found at Port Resolution (refer Photo 15), and in the Nusumetu Conservation Area on Tanna.
- Use of riparian areas for gardening and grazing.
- Under-managed livestock which damage ecosystems, including trampling of forests by cattle and pollution of water sources by livestock.
- Impacts of the volcano and ash fallout on surrounding cultivated areas (refer Photo 16).
- Shortage of water during extended dry seasons and decrease in ambient flows of rivers
- Fires lit to clear gardens and deliberately lighting of fires for no valid reason.
- Expansion of commercial agricultural activities such as coffee and cattle plantations and market gardens, and the resultant conversion of forest and garden land and their impacts on tabu places and water sources (refer Photo 17).
- Creation of a primarily ‘used’ environment with remnant natural forest that is fragmented and vulnerable to further encroachment from human activity. Ecologically unsustainable land use practices impact on the margins of remnant forests. Intact forests at the coastal and lowland areas have been converted into agricultural land, especially for gardening purposes (refer Photo 18).
- Introduced agricultural crops such as rice farming in the middle bush area, which will pose a threat to the internationally significant plants and animals found on the island.
- Widespread use of local fish poisons including mosquito poisons to kill fish in pools, especially in remote villages where there are small streams.
- Over-exploitation of commercial resources due to the need for cash income.
- Impacts of soil erosion on denuded areas and general nutrient deficiency in soils due to .
- Impacts of introduced species including Tilapia (*Oreochromis sp*), Indian Mynah Bird (*Acridothera tristis*), aquatic plant (*Salvinia sp.*), Gamusia affinis predating on fish lava and prawns and generally on biodiversity.
- Limited knowledge about the importance of Edemic flora and fauna species, needs to replicate environmental pride activities to other areas on Tanna.
- In north Tanna, poaching of resources by neighbouring communities due to the lack of existant remnant forest with abundant native resources.
- Rivers with good levels and clarity becoming silty and running dry due to upstream deforestation.
- Lack of proper solid waste management system, particularly to manage waste from foreign imported goods, and impacts of this pollution on the surrounding environment.

Region-specific threats are outlined in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Threats specific to particular regions of Tanna

| Thematic areas | REGION OF TANNA | | |
|-------------------------|--|---|--|
| | North Tanna | East /South East | West and south west Tanna |
| Forest | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Big damage after Cyclone Pam. Invasive species encroaching into conservation areas (e.g. Nusumetu). Animals especially cattle are breaking into conservation areas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High population, affects forest resource population especially trees. Gardening practices threatening primary forest. No replanting of trees/ sustainable forest management. Lots of damage to trees after Cyclone Pam. Invasive vines. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uncontrolled logging. Shortage of trees /timber trees to build house. Not enough trees/ plant stocks in the forest. Traditional gardening practices encouraging into primary forest. |
| Biodiversity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of endemic and endangered plants – e.g <i>carpoxylon macrospermum</i> Invasive species (Myna Bird) Pijin blong anatiyum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invasive vines – Port Resoulion Myna bird Small hawk (from Aneityum – agreesive bird) Fungus on plants (crops and forest) Rabis wildcane | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overharvest of resources/ wild stocks birds/ chickens /fish/prawns and fishery resources. Poaching in taboo areas Invasive species (big leave vines and Myna bird) Damage to crops by wild chickens (loanamilo CA) Coconut crab habitats have been destroyed Rapid loss of endemic /endangered/ indigenous flora and fauna species e.g native palms (niwe (<i>carpoxylon macrospermum</i> and nip <i>Caryota ophiophelis</i>) |
| Climate change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> El Nino Water bodies are contaminated | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change on traidioaitonal calenders for planting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase of pests and diseases to crops Food security issues |
| Land degradation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dry session/ soil is too dry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil erosion / sea level rise - Wasisi-Louniel north Tanna , Port Resolution, Sulphur Bay | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil is no longer rich – west Tanna/south west Tanna Soil erosion – west Tanna Bush fire – Middle Bush, White Grass Lack of awareness |
| Agriculutre | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gardening practices No proper fencing/ management of livestock Shortage of fruit trees | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce crop sizes Fruits trees sometimes do not bear fruits Shortage of kava | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low crop yield Native varieties of yam /taro and disappearing |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change of traditional gardening calendar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low protein source from small livestock – chicken, goats and pigs Damage of coconuts needs to replant coconuts |
| Solwater / freshwater | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not enough awareness on watershed management Fresh water species such as eels and prawns have decreased Gardening along riverine vegetation's (watershed areas) Sedimentation affecting marine areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overfishing in reefs and streams Sedimentation affecting marine resources Watershed areas affected due to gardening along watershed areas and on steep slopes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overfishing of invertebrates, fresh water prawns, fish Lack of watershed management/ including contamination of water tables Lock stock of troachas and green snails Not enough marine conservation areas |
| Waste management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not dump site/ waste management facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tumas plastic tins, bottles irons lying around everywhere No proper dumb site for each village Mosquito nets/ fishing nets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of dumpsite – villages/ Lenakel town High number of used vehicles on Tanna No good waste management e.g plastic/tins/olfala iron |



Photo 14: Invasive species spread along the road to south-west Tanna (Credit: Vanessa Organo, Shefa Provincial Government Council)



Photo 15: Port Resolution, Tanna, where trials to reduce the impact of *Merremia peltata* have been undertaken by local organisations (Credit: John Nicholls, South Pacific Organiser)



Photo 16: Mt. Yasur dominates the landscape in the south-west of Tanna, impacting food security in this area due to ash fallout and weak soils (Credit: Stuart Chape, SPREP)



Photo 17: Peanut farming in Tanna – an example of expanding agricultural practices impacting on native forests, and edge effects such as invasive species taking advantage of disturbed areas



Photo 18: Looking towards north-east Tanna with evidence of forest fragmentation and edge effects due to increasing population density (Credit: Vanessa Organo, Shefa Provincial Government Council)

4.3 Key actions and plans underway

The key actions, project and plans underway or recently completed in Tanna are identified in Table 6. This list includes existing Vanuatu SGP grantees, as well as community-based conservation areas and other larger NGO/Donor-funded environmental projects.

Table 6: Existing projects in Tanna

| PROJECT / NETWORK | IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION | LOCATION | DESCRIPTION |
|---|--|-----------------|--|
| Vanuatu SGP Grantees | | | |
| Strengthening the local Conservation and protection work of international and locally endangered species, <i>Birgus latro</i> in Tanna Community | Tanna Fishermans Cooperative Association | Tanna | The project will assist the local traditional leaders to plan and advocate the protection and conservation of the resources and their forest habitats amongst the communities and provincial and national government. The project will help communities, community base organizations to developed local policies to eliminate unsustainable deforestation lowland coastal forest for crab regeneration. |
| Secure Forest biodiversity protection for community adequate clean water supply in Tanna | Entani Community Based Organisation | Katalaei, Tanna | The project will continue to build local capacity for forest biodiversity protection through demonstration local protection of water catchment clean water supply for the local community. Knowledge generated will help build local knowledge on forest biodiversity in Tanna. |
| Keasi-laniyang-lakarpesu | Local community | Imayo | Forest conservation. Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Iankuanenauar | Local community | Imayo | Forest conservation. Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Ianap | Local community | Imayo | Forest conservation. Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Kueipiri | Local community | Imayo | Forest conservation. Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Eneiai | Local community | Kalili | Forest conservation. Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Lowkai | Local community | Lawenata | Forest conservation. Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. Special note of Flying Fox in the area. |
| Loatan | Local community | Iahwenata | Forest conservation. Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |

| | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|--|
| | | | Act. Special note of freshwater prawns and eels in the area. |
| Enkofu | Local community | Waisisi | Marine conservation. Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Ekipang | Local community | Lahtapu | Marine conservation. Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Kaokasai | Local community | Isaka | Forest conservation. Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Laonamilo CA | Local community | Loanamilo | Forest conservation. Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Lamasak | Local community | Loupukas | Forest conservation. Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Imaus | Local community | Imaus | Forest conservation. Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Isapia | Local community | Isapia | Forest conservation. Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Nelwalhu | Local community | Nelwalhu | Forest conservation. Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Loulipang | Local community | Loulipang | Forest conservation. Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Whitegrass MPA | Local community | Whitegrass | Marine conservation. Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Nusumetu | Local community | Entakausuat | Forest conservation. Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| GreenHill Botanical Garden | Local community | Green Hill | Forest conservation. Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| Lounapaiu | Local community | Lounapaiu | Marine conservation. Custom taboo in place. Not registered under the EMC Act. |
| External to Vanuatu SGP | | | |
| Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change | Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) | Tanna (whole of island) | PEBACC is a five year project funded by the German Government, implemented by SPREP to explore and promote Ecosystem-based options for adapting to climate change. The overall intended outcome of the project is: EbA is integrated into development, climate change adaptation and natural resource management policy and planning processes in three Pacific island |

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| | | | countries providing replicable models for other countries in the region. |
| Testing and modelling preventative measures to limit the spread and ecological impacts of invasive species | Live and Learn Vanuatu | Port Resolution and south Tanna | The aim of the EU funded Invasive Species project is to develop an invasive species management model, test it in the field and if it is effective, replicate it into other parts of Vanuatu, including other Pacific Island countries (refer Photo 15). The project also looks at providing educational/awareness materials on invasive species and how they impact the environment, social and economic aspects of the community and the nation. Furthermore the project aims to provide appropriate strategies to control each of the key invasive species identified. The project also aims to assist the government to strengthen its capacity to control invasive species. |
| Landholders Conservation Initiative (LCIP) | Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation | GreenHill (north Tanna), Lounamilo (middle bush), Imayo village (south-west Tanna) | The aim of this project is to facilitate landholders conservation initiative. The project works with local communities by promoting conservation of terrestrial endemic and rare flora species to increase knowledge of the presence of internationally significant endemic species, and the importance of their preservation to the sustainable long-term future of their environment and their ability to live subsistence lives on Tanna. |

4.4 Potential opportunities for SGP Vanuatu in Tanna

Based on the existing projects within the landscape/seascape of Tanna, Vanuatu SGP can assist to guide community projects which could intervene to address some outstanding gaps. The landscape/seascape approach offers a holistic 'ridge-to-reef' approach which Vanuatu can use as a powerful catalyst to assist in addressing a range of environmental impacts and environmental management issues occurring at a community level.

The areas not covered thoroughly by existing projects, with which Vanuatu SGP could assist in tackling through grantees' projects include:

- **Biodiversity conservation and local community conservation areas:** Due to the growing population growth on Tanna, it is important that communities continue to develop local community conservation areas which will protect important indigenous species of flora and fauna, and remnant vegetation communities. SGP could assist in informing communities of the CCA process as per the Vanuatu EMC Act which entitles customary land owners to legal protection of their resources. Development of management plans could also be supported through SGP grants, for particularly for existing terrestrial conservation areas (refer Photo 19). Tanna's focus on terrestrial conservation areas could be expanded to marine conservation in partnership with Department of Fisheries and upcoming data collection regarding the state of the reefs around Tanna.

- **Food security issues and strengthening of the farming system:** Communities on Tanna have raised the issue of the poor state of soil in some parts of Tanna for cultivating crops. Projects based around nutrient-fixing mechanisms and sustainable agriculture/farming systems would be welcomed in Tanna.
- **Fostering motivation, cooperation and communal responsibility:** Projects should try to foster this principle through education and practice in an environmental context. It has been raised by communities that a lack of cooperation and division within communities prevents projects from being developed to success. All project designs should consider this risk, and develop creative solutions to involve a cross-section of communities to ensure that motivation can spread throughout various age groups and to women and children as well as men.
- **Fostering catchment management actions and plans:** As the population on Tanna grows, a focus on protection of the water catchment areas is vital. Communities raised eye-witness evidence of people cultivating riparian zones and areas close to the heads of water sources, which is impacting downstream users and surface water sources. Projects involving ways to manage transboundary water sources, and helping raise awareness of the issues associated with mismanagement could be useful in Tanna.
- **Invasive species management:** Many invasive species have been introduced to Tanna throughout history. These are spread throughout the island. Previous Live and Learn projects based in Port Resolution and focusing on *meremmia peltata* could be built upon to assist communities to manage the impact of invasive species.
- **Awareness-raising of endemic endangered species and their importance to the long-term future of Tanna:** Whilst Tanna boasts important endemic species, not all communities are aware of these or their importance to conservation (refer Photo 20). This knowledge needs to be developed and is an area where SGP could assist.
- **Ecotourism opportunities:** Tanna's existing conservation areas could be an incentive for ecotourism on the island, with tourists already coming to see Mt. Yasur. SGP could assist in helping communities see the livelihood benefits that can arise through community conservation.



Photo 19: Community Conservation Area at Imaio village in south-west Tanna (Credit: Vanessa Organo, Shefa Provincial Government Council)



Photo 20: Ash plain of Mt. Yasur with Mt. Malen in the background, which hosts important roosting sites for native sea birds, remnant forest and is an important water catchment area (Credit: Vanessa Organo, Shefa Provincial Government Council)

A map identifying the threats and potential opportunities in Tanna is shown on the following page.



4.5 Relevant stakeholder to SGP Vanuatu in OP6

The key stakeholders who will need to be involved include in the Efate landscape/seascape projects include:

- **Locally-based NGOs/CSOs/CBOs:**
 - o Live and Learn
 - o Ecolivelihoods Development Association (EDA)
 - o Taule Taule
 - o Tafea Fisherman's Associations
 - o Green Hill Botanical Garden
 - o Nusemtu Conservation Area
 - o Niko Le Tan
 - o Green Hill City Trade
 - o White Grass Conservation Committee
 - o Area Councils
 - o Tourism Associations (registered local organisations) of:
 - West Tanna
 - Lenakel Town
 - East Tanna
 - North and Central
 - South West
 - o Tanna Handicraft association
 - o Restaurant Association
 - o Nasituan NGO (Jeferey Lava) (specializing in livelihoods/agriculture/seeds) (registered)
 - o Tanna Sandelwood Farmers Association (registered)
- **Cultural institutions:**
 - o Malvatumauri Council of Chiefs (national Council of Chiefs)
 - o Niko le Tan (island Council of Chiefs)
 - o Vanuatu Cultural Centre (VKS)
 - o National Customary Land Management Office (NCLMO)
- **Government agencies/departments:**
 - o Tafea Provincial Government Council
 - o Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation
 - o Department of Energy
 - o Department of Agriculture (Extension Officer present on Tanna)
 - o Department of Forestry (Extension Officer present on Tanna)
 - o Department of Fisheries (Extension Officer present on Tanna)
 - o Department of Livestock (Extension Officer present on Tanna)
 - o Department of Climate Change
 - o Department of Lands
 - o Department of Local Authority
 - o National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction
- **Internationally-represented governments:**
 - o Australian High Commission
 - o New Zealand High Commission
 - o French Embassy
- **International/regional NGOs:**
 - o SPREP (whole of island)
 - o REDD+ (whole of island)
 - o FAO (TBD)
 - o CARE (Central and South-East Tanna)
 - o Red Cross (North Tanna)
 - o Salvation Army (North-East/North-West Tanna)

- ADRA (Central Tanna)
- World Vision (South-West Tanna)
- World Bank (North-East Tanna)
- New York Botanical Gardens (Green Hill Botanical Garden – North Tanna)
- Not For Us But For the People (Middle Bush)
- **Academic institutions:**
 - University of the South Pacific

5 SGP OP6 Strategic Initiatives within the Landscape/Seascape Context

5.1 Strategic initiatives for Vanuatu during OP6

Strategic priorities for OP6 for SGP Vanuatu include the following:

1. Community landscape/seascape conservation (including transboundary water management)
2. Climate smart innovative agro-ecology
3. Low carbon energy access co-benefits
4. Local to global chemical management coalitions
5. CSO-government policy and planning dialogue platforms
6. Promoting social inclusion:
 - i. Gender mainstreaming
 - ii. Youth involvement
 - iii. Indigenous Peoples fellowships
7. Global reach for citizen practice based knowledge programme
 - i. Digital library of community innovations
 - ii. South-South community innovation exchange

The main priorities for Vanuatu will include:

- Strategic Initiative 1: Community landscape/seascape conservation.
- Strategic Initiative 2: Climate-smart agro-ecology.
- Strategic Initiatives 3 and 4 will be part of cross-cutting projects.
- Strategic Initiatives 5, 6 and 7 will be encouraged throughout all projects.

5.2 Project typologies

The types of projects to be implemented through Vanuatu SGP will be dependent on the needs of communities on-the-ground. However the following areas can be used as a guide for the different areas into which projects may fall:

- Protection of native biodiversity, particularly endemic and endangered species.
- Protect intellectual property rights of ni-Vanuatu to their traditional knowledge and custom uses of biodiversity.
- Research and monitoring of biodiversity.
- Strengthen and support local communities, land owners and chiefs so they can execute sustainable biodiversity management activities.
- Climate change adaptation initiatives.
- Improve environmental education within the younger generations and within communities.
- Support cooperation of chiefs and local communities to govern common resources well and manage their biodiversity.
- Strengthen traditional management of biodiversity.

5.3 Indicators, targets and results framework

Refer to the main CPS document for the relevant indicators, targets and results framework.

6 Modalities for Implementation

6.1 Linking and connecting projects for learning and exchange

An aim of Vanuatu SGP is to provide the opportunity to link and connect projects within the landscape/seascape, so as to facilitate learning and exchange between grantees. This will take the form of arranging all previous grantees, with current projects, and all new grantees to come together to share lessons learnt, and to discuss best project methodologies and approach. This will also be an opportunity to identify overlaps and potential collaboration opportunities.

6.2 Fostering engagement with local authorities

After appointment of the grantees, SGP Vanuatu will facilitate meeting/s with the provincial governments (Shefa and Tafea) and Port Vila Municipal Government, if applicable. Provincial governments should be aware of the activities of the grantees so that other potential NGOs implementing projects within the two landscape/seascapes can be informed of the SGPs relevant to their projects to promote cross-over.

In addition, SGP Vanuatu will inform the National Advisory Board, which oversees all major climate change and disaster preparedness projects. The NAB, as the administrator of all projects, will be able to include SGP projects in their scope and correspond with relevant parties regarding the projects. It is in SGP Vanuatu's interests to find efficiencies via data sharing, field work overlaps and building community trust, when objectives of projects outside of the SGP framework correspond with the strategic initiatives within the same landscape/seascape.

Email correspondence will be provided between SGP Vanuatu and all relevant national government departments to inform relevant stakeholders about the grantees and OP6 projects. This awareness will foster working with NGOs, who liaise and work with various government agencies.

For specific partnerships that are required for grantees, SGP Vanuatu will assist in setting up introductory meetings and enabling rapport and relationships to begin between grassroots communities and government agencies. SGP Vanuatu will not control the relationships, but will be ready and willing to assist in the background if needed by the grantees. Existing relationships with government agencies, particularly those most pertinent to SGP projects, such as with Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation, Department of Water and Department of Fisheries, will continue to be developed by the SGP Vanuatu CO so as to be drawn on for the benefit of SGP projects.

6.3 Potential to influence policy

Grantees have a unique insight regarding the needs of communities, and how gaps can best be filled. Particularly in Vanuatu, where geography creates limitations on the ease of data collation, it is important to enable grantees to feed their insights and lessons to the levels of government and policy-makers. Policy will outline the priorities, vision and objectives of the country, but making these realistic and connected to what is happening in communities can be greatly assisted through grantees experiences during project planning and implementation.

SGP Vanuatu will provide opportunities for policy makers and grantees to sit at the same table and be heard by each other. In the same way that the bottom-up approach can assist those looking at the nation from a strategic viewpoint, grantees can benefit from understanding the broader goals and direction from those with a birds-eye view. Workshops involving stakeholders of various levels and expertise will be coordinated by SGP Vanuatu to ensure that policy is guided by informed participants and well-rounded information.

6.4 Opportunities to scale up and out

It is well understood by SGP Vanuatu that the small-scale and localized nature of the projects funded under this program are at an advantage in that work on-the-ground can be undertaken relatively quickly

and with local knowledge, unlike many of the larger international environmental projects, that require a period of establishment prior to fieldwork and project implementation commencing.

For this reason, SGP Vanuatu will prioritise and foster project design that suits scaling resources, knowledge and grassroots activities beyond the two chose landscape/seascapes. Progress reports and monitoring of projects will enable identification of which elements of projects are successful and could be used to scale out beyond the landscape/seascape.

6.5 Promoting participatory monitoring and evaluation

SGP Vanuatu understands participatory monitoring and evaluation (M&E) to be a process where stakeholders at various levels of the project are involved in assessing the effectiveness of project approaches, activities and outcomes, and can be involved in identifying or undertaking corrective action. SGP Vanuatu strongly believes in promoting participatory monitoring and evaluation, as it provides a more realistic and responsive way of assessing projects that is more responsive to the needs of communities involved in implementation or for whom benefits are intended.

Participatory monitoring and evaluation will be built into each project design. During monitoring and evaluation processes, community members will be active participants. M&E will be used as a capacity building opportunity for local stakeholders build skills in analysis, reflection and identifying the best way to take action. Ownership of the project at a local level will be encourage and M&E will be used as a catalyst for local stakeholders to take corrective actions if necessary.

SGP Vanuatu will assist in scheduling and preparing projects for participatory M&E, providing resources and techniques to help people on-the-ground to draw out the best discussion and lessons from project participants. Moreover, importance and value will be placed on the opinions and feedback from those directly impacted by the project.

6.6 Facilitating knowledge management

Vanuatu SGP will practice knowledge management throughout OP6 between grantees, NGOs and government agencies. It is understood that it will be important to assist the flow of knowledge between grantees, rather than stockpiling knowledge at the Country Office with no dialogue between stakeholders. Vanuatu SGP will enable the creation of a shared context between grantees and other stakeholders by using technology available in communities, such as mobile phones and social media, which is often offered for free in Vanuatu, in areas where the internet is available. In addition, the cultural context of communication in Vanuatu is appreciated, in that building rapport and trustworthy relationships are important to assist effective knowledge sharing. For that reason, more of an ongoing dialogue will be established with grantees, rather than single opportunities for giving feedback. Face-to-face knowledge sharing will be facilitated whenever possible for grantees and other stakeholders. In addition, Vanuatu SGP will seek to develop direct ways to measure how knowledge is shared back to communities.