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Government of Vanuatu

Quarterly Project Progress Report 1/2016 (January-March)
Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zone in Vanuatu (VCAP)
Date of the report: 15th June 2016



Basic Project Information

Project Title: Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zone in Vanuatu	
UNDP Award ID	00082472
UNDP Project ID	00091375
Project Duration	5 years
Reporting Period	Quarter 1 2016
Implementing Entity National Collaboration agencies	VMGD, PWD, Fisheries, Agriculture and Forestry, and DLA
Other UN/International Collaborating agencies	UNDP
Cost-sharing third parties (no direct cost-sharing)	National and Provincial Government
UNDP Programme Analyst	Ms Loraini Sivo

1. Project Implementation Status and Key Result

Implementation Status Summary

Beginning quarter one of this year 2016, VCAP was able to recruit 99% of its project staff including all the project component coordinators. A communication officer is yet to be recruited who will be joining VCAP team in quarter 2 of 2016.

As a starting point for the project, a three days induction training was organized by the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) of the project, Mr Manfred Staab for all the project coordinators and PIU staff in order to bring them to speed with their respective output activities required.

The project has started its activities at Epi and Pentecost sites with the assessments of the original baselines as priority sites targeted by the government to begin with after the devastated cyclone Pam last year in March 2015. The coordinators were taken a leading roles together as a team with the aid of site coordinators and local area secretaries who are base in the local communities for implementing the activities as specified for each responsible partners.

The LOA (Letter of Agreement) was signed with the project responsible partners (with the assistance of CTA) namely: Department of Local Authorities at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Department of Public Works at the Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities, Ministry of Agriculture/Forestry/Fisheries/Bio-security and Vanuatu Meteorology & Geo-Hazard Department at the Ministry of Climate Change for the assistance required with the implementation of the output activities in the projects sites.

This quarter a Project Board meeting was scheduled on the 10th March 2016 at Crystal blue resort in Port Vila for decision making on some project issues. Further to this, a Technical Working Group (TWG) was established to provide technical support to the implementation of the project activities and the schedule of its meeting is every fortnightly. An Administration meeting for PIU was also established and its schedule of meeting is every fortnightly prior TWG meetings.

The Executing Entity and the Implementing Entities co-operate with the Department of Local Authorities (DLA) in carrying out activities under national implementation. The component activities were carried out as follows:

- ❖ *Component 1: Integrated community approaches to climate change adaptation.*

During this quarter 1, every component coordinators went to the project sites as listed below: Pentecost, Epi Island, Santo, Malekula, Sola, Ambae and Tafea Outer islands.

Department of Local Authority

During the first quarter, the project was able to deliver *output 1.1.1.1* which started that ‘*Establishment of Field capacity-co-located with area council officers in the six targeted provinces including climate-proofed field office facilities, transport and communication including a full time officer in each site to support Area Secretaries*’. On output 1.1.1.1 there are lots to be done but this quarter, DLA coordinator was concentrated mainly on the recruitment of site coordinators for South Santo Area II, Torres Islands and South Malekula as the last remaining sites. The other project sites ‘Pentecost CD1 & CD2, Epi, South Erromango, North Erromango and Aniwa, the recruitment process was made by the two UNDP consultants Matthew Hardwick and Corey J Huber when the project started in 2015. The DLA recruitment team includes the Project Manager, DLA coordinator and Provincial Planners.

The recruitment process was based on the Government Public Service Commission Act. The TOR was created for the recruitment and was advertised in the Daily Post News Paper and also advertised on the notice boards of the Provincial Government offices for Torba, Malampa and Sanma.

Vulnerable Assessment template, the project is working together with PRRP in collaboration with DLA to come up with the standard template and the task is still on going.

The office equipment for the local area councils were purchased and stocked at DLA storage while waiting for the completion of the climate-proofed offices to be built or refurbish at Epi, Pentecost, Santo, Tafea outer Islands and Torres Island before shipping them out.

Fisheries

The Fisheries Team conducted an approach community base consultation Epi site to get some baseline information on the reality of issues raised in the project document which may have direct effect to community adaptation capacity.

All the communities at the project sites at Epi were invited to a one day consultation workshop and shared information on problems faced by the communities with the coastal ecosystem in the events of climate change. The Fisheries Team and the communities’ representatives have gone through the process of problem identification by constructing a problem tree. At the end of the consultation, they were asked to identify the core problem faced by the communities. The Fisheries Team will conduct the same consultation in all sites using the overall Epi objective tree to confirm the priority actions to be taken for addressing the main problems identified.

Three approaches were being identified based on the objectives that were made by the community representatives with the guidance from the V-CAP Fisheries Team. From the three approaches (*Environment and Resource Adaptation Approach, Community base Management approach and Fishery Development and Adaptation Approach*), two prioritization of approaches were identified and they are: ‘*Integrated Community base environment adaptation Approach and Integrated Food security and livelihood adaptation approach*’.

The evaluation showed the quantitative results for invertebrates and coral reef survey targeted the main reef species that exploited locally for commercial or subsistence purposes, i.e. trochus, green snail, and clams tridacna species and others which locally harvested for local consumption. The study was conducted at the western part of Epi (from Laman Bay to

Foreland) in 65 stations in total that covers an approximate surface area of 291 hectares of reef. The communities discussed to increase the conservation area as part of the project activity that will be implemented in Quarter 2 was a measure taken by the communities to protect the coastal resources from overfishing and allowing the ecosystem to recover the habitat of coastal creatures.

Upland

The activity carry out was mainly based on the baseline assessment on the project sites at Epi and Pentecost. The assessment forms used were mainly designed to target crop production, food security, farming and cropping systems practices, Forestry, water and livestock in our targeted sites. The assessments focused on group discussions with the communities in our targeted project sites. Each assessment carried out involves men, women and children, church leaders, chiefs, area secretaries etc. After each meeting, sites visitations were conducted at the coastal and upland areas where they do gardening.

The communities within the VCAP sites at Epi and Pentecost during the assessments revealed that they have grown variety of staple crops in the gardener for consumption. These include bananas, Fiji taros, sweet potatoes, cassavas, yams and island taros. Pests and diseases caused a lot of problems too in the communities' gardens since they reduced the yields and make crops unmarketable and with the changing weather patterns it triggers some pests to attack more while others less. The Upland Team proposed some recommendations on crop production and food security i.e. need training on how to multiply roots crops, farmers need training on Pests and diseases management etc.

The Team had been following the same process that was mentioned above concerning '*Crop production*' and *food security* to carry out the activity on '*Farming and Cropping system, Forestry, water and the Livestock*' on the project sites.

Public Works Department

The main purpose for these sites assessments is to confirm the proposed sites and the proposed baselines given in the project document. However there are few sites that should have been consider as priorities but have not been included in the project document. There were four finding sections in the project site at Epi and six finding sections in the project sites at Pentecost.

The team covered these sites which needed to be consider as priority sites to be included in the project, but awaiting approval by the Project Board before works can be done. All the sites assessments were done within the project sites as per project document including both Epi and Pentecost. According to the analyses done by the PWD assessment Team, the priority site for works to be carried out in Q2 is at Epi follow by Pentecost and other remaining sites of the project.

Vanuatu meteorology Geo-hazards Department

Component 2 mainly focused on the procurement of AWS (Automotic Weather Stations) and IWFS (Integrated Weather Forecasting System) and refurbishment of existing weather stations facilities. The implementation of the activities associated with component 2 will help to provide real time data/information and early warning systems on climate change impact to coastal communities. The component has three outputs to deliver early warning systems to 6 sites which include White grass (Tafea province), Analguahat(Tafea province), Sola(Torba province), Saratamata (Penama province), Lamap (Malampa province) and Norsup(Malampa province). For this first quarter, the focus is primarily on the **output 2.1**. *Mainly focused on real*

time monitoring of climate related hazards such as coastal flooding, storm surges, sea level rise designed, installed and maintained. The VMGD team has begun with the activity 2.1.1.1 procurement and installation of 6 AWS comprised of wind, temperature, rainfall, barometer, cloud coverage and others for weather focus observation sites. The output 2.1, activity 2.1.1.1 has begun, the technical team with VMGD coordinator has travelled to 6 sites and done the sites assessment. Most of the facilities that was assessed need urgent maintenance work and refurbishment of the offices prior Installation of AWS. During the sites visitations, the schools were also visited and advised on how VCAP project will help them provide vital real time data on climate change to their area.

Implementation Progress Summary

The summary of implementation progress is indicated in the attached spreadsheet.

Achievement to date by components

Component 1.1.1

- Completed recruitment of the remaining site coordinators across 5 sites (South Santo, Torres Islands and South Malekula)
- Community consultation conducted regarding plans on implementation of project activities for 6 communities.
- Tender for DLA is already on the process at the Vanuatu Central Tenders Board.

Component 1.2.1

- The team went to Epi to do resource assessment (Trochus, green snail & clam).
- Resource & habitat data analysis.
- Identification of resource monitors, turtle monitors on site.
- Mapping and evaluation of existing tabu areas.
- Identification of suitable conservation area for each communities
- Habitat assessment (coral reef)
- Awareness and workshops at all sites on integrated coastal zone management plan to all VCAP targeted sites at Epi
- The activities done on site was 80% complete. The remaining 20% consist of ICZMP & Siltation study (awaits International consultant).

Component 1.2.2

- Baselines assessments were conducted in five villages and site visitation of erosion sites (garden, creeks, coastal erosion) in each village were carried out within 7 days at Epi.
- Baselines assessments were conducted in five villages and site visitation of erosion sites (garden, creeks, river, and sea coast) were carry out in the two area council within 10 days in Pentecost.

Component 1.2.3

- The team went to Epi and Pentecost to conduct baseline assessment and site visitation on the area council.
- The PWD has conducted discussions with communities, chiefs, Youths, men and women on the propose sites in Epi and Pentecost.
- The team has signed communities' agreements with land owners for allowing their properties as contribution to the project for having access to improve public road conditions and rivers/creeks crossings.

Component 2

- VMGD team managed to complete 45% of the component activity 2.1.1.1. Procurement of AWS, IWFS will be done in quarter 2 and quarter 3 including the refurbishment of existing weather stations facilities.

Outcome	Output	Source of Funding	Output Budget (what was requested for Q1 (Vatu))	Expenditure of the current reporting period by output (Vatu)	Delivery Rate of the current reporting period (%)	Accumulated Delivery Rate by the current reporting period (%)	
Output 1.1.1 Integrated CC-Adaptation Plans mainstreamed in the coastal zone.	1.1.1.1 Establishment of field capacity	GEF	2,849,470	2,676,147			
	1.1.1.2 Undertake pilot in CC Vulnerability Assessment						
	1.1.1.3 Completion of comprehensive vulnerable assessment						
	1.1.1.4 Development of Coastal Climate Change Adaptation Strategies						
	1.1.1.5 Implementation of the mainstreamed CCCAD Strategies at community and Area Council levels						
Output 1.2.1 Threatened coastal ecosystems and resources such as mangroves, coral reefs and fisheries rehabilitated to support livelihoods and food production and increase climate resilience.	1.2.1.1 Build upon initial PPG assessments to develop detailed marine ecosystem health baselines			3,465,758	3,539,188		
	1.2.1.2 Develop Community Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans						
	1.2.1.3 Implementation of the CICZM Plans including deployment of FADs						
	1.2.1.4 Support the site-based network of marine managed areas throughout Vanuatu which include V-CAP sites and existing CCAs to facilitate learning between resource monitors						
	1.2.1.5 Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of these						

Output 1.2.2 Coastal areas stabilized through re-vegetation and other 'soft' approaches to complement 'hard' measures.	plans will be completed annually by Field Officer from V-CAP sites				
	1.2.2.1 Develop baselines of issues and threats of terrestrial upland and coastal ecosystems	2,437,498	2,484,710		
	1.2.2.2 Develop Integrated Upland Management and Climate Change Adaptation Plan (UMCCAP)				
	1.2.2.3 Implementation of the Upland Management and Climate Change Adaptation Plan (UMCCAP) including nurseries, agricultural training and extension,				
	1.2.2.4 As part of the implementation of Upland Management and Climate Change Adaptation Plan (UMCCAP) develop specific cooperative programs with forestry, agriculture and water resources agencies				
	1.2.2.5 Monitoring, evaluation and work planning will be based on the UMCCAP prepared in Year one, and annual participatory reviews,				
Output 1.2.3 Improved resilience through climate proofing of selected public conveyance infrastructure (roads, bridges, etc. Implemented by the Public Works	1.2.3.1 Undertake further in-depth community mapping, in particular transport routes and use of secondary conveyances	2,248,298	2,165,925		
	1.2.3.2 Develop an integrated and detailed work plan for the implementation of the works				

Department) in the coastal zone in at least 6 priority vulnerable coastal communities.	1.2.3.3 Develop and finalise an agreements between PWD, communities, provincial governments and V-CAP on implementation arrangements.					
	1.2.3.4 Develop and implement an overall monitoring and evaluation plans for the roll out of works in each of the site					
	1.2.3.5 Training of students from the RTC in Ambae and communities from V-CAP sites					
Outcome 2 Early warning system	2.1.1 Automated system for real time monitoring of climate-related hazards such as coastal flooding, storm surges, sea-level rise designed, installed and maintained	1,892,952	1,827,476			
	2.1.2 Timely releases of early warnings against coastal flooding and storm surges through various public media					
	2.1.3 Capacity of 18 VMGD staffs in the operation and maintenance of AWS and in the analysis of data strengthened					
Outcome 5 Project Management	Project implementation Unit	2,153,458	2,353,989			
Total		15,047,434	15,047,435	100%		

2. Financial Management

Financial Information Summary (against valid Quarterly WP)

Reporting Period: Quarter 1 of 2016

Financial Information Summary (against AWP 2016)

Component	Outcome	Source of Funding	Activity Budget (Vatu)	Accumulated Expenditure of the current reporting year period (Vatu)	Accumulated Expenditure by previous years (Vatu)	Delivery Rate of the current reporting year (%)	Accumulated Delivery Rate since start of project (%)
C1 Integrated community approaches to climate change adaptation	Outcome 1.1: CC adaptation plans, including risk management, preparedness and response plans, formulated in the context of ICM and in relation to site-specific vulnerabilities, subsequently adopted and mainstreamed in planning processes		11,001,024	10,865,970			
	Outcome 1.2: Improved climate resilience of coastal areas through integrated approaches						
C 2 Information and early warning systems on coastal hazards.	Reduced exposure to flood related risks and hazards in the target coastal communities.		1,892,952	1,827,476			
C 5 Project Management	Project Implementation Unit		2,153,458	2,353,989			
Total			15,047,434	15,047,435		100%	

2. Project Management and Oversight

The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) commenced its role in quarter 1 of 2016 after the recruitment of Project Manager in quarter 4 of 2015. This followed by the recruitment of Administration and Finance officer, Monitoring and Evaluation officer including all the component coordinators and remaining sites coordinators in quarter 1 of 2016.

Office spaces for PIU staff were allocated at the Project management Unit in the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazard Department at the Ministry of Climate Change, while the rest of the component coordinators were house at various responsible partners premises. The project team started to mobilize with the assistance of UNDP Project Analyst, Ms Loraini Sivo and the Project Chief Technical Advisor (CTA), Mr Manfred Staab.

The team has organized and started to venture the assessment of existing baselines in the priority sites as mandated by the Government of Vanuatu as a recovery measures for tragedy cyclone Pam. Thus the first deployed team of Public Works Department (PWD), Upland and Fisheries with the coordination of the Department of Local Authorities (DLA) went to Epi and Pentecost. Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazard Department team went to their allocated project sites and did the same assessment. The beginning of these assessments on sites aided all the component coordinators including PIU staff to know how to do their quarterly work plans and quarterly progress reports with much assistance from the project CTA and Ms Loraini Sivo.

The oversight of the project management is the delaying of the quarter 1 acquittals and advance request for quarter 2 from PIU. The reason being the project team is beginning to familiarize with the UNDP tools such as Face Forms including Monitoring and Evaluation reporting tools. However, the guarantee is assured here for such delay will be improve in the coming quarters.

• Monitoring and Evaluation

The Monitoring and Evaluation of the project has been done via desktop assistance in several occasions with UNDP Program Analyst and Project Chief Technical Advisor. The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) with the Monitoring and Evaluation officer closely monitored progress in its fortnightly Administration and Staff meetings including the Technical Working Group meetings every monthly.

The current indicators in the project document remains the same for this quarter. However, the baselines for each component need to be updated in quarter 2 after the component teams identified these on sites this quarter. For instance, the Public Works Department team identified new baselines alone the project sites at Epi and Pentecost which are not in the project document. These new baselines include rivers and creeks crossings.

- **Risk management**

This quarter there were several risks encountered which have some impact on the project and these are as follows:

- i. Recruitment of Project Implementation Unit (PIU) staff and the component coordinators in quarter 1, which affected the starting of the implementation of output activities. Despite these late recruitment, the PIU has organized the training for the coordinators to bring them up to speed with the assistance of the project Chief Technical Advisor and UNDP Programme Analyst.
- ii. The Project Director, Mr Jotham Napat who is the former Director General of the Ministry of Climate Change has been replaced by Mr Jesse Benjiman in quarter 1. This also has an effect on the implementation of the project activities, but with the assistance of the Project Management Unit and the Department the logistics of works were carried on until the official appointment of Mr Jesse Benjiman as a new Director General for the Ministry of Climate Change and at the same time as VCAP new Project Director.
- iii. Domestic airline flights for air Vanuatu in quarter 1 were not reliable, so the PIU had to charter several flights using private planes for the project teams to go and carried out their activities on sites.
- iv. Remoteness of some project sites which required more time for travelling to these sites and carry out the activities. Project Implementation Unit for VCAP had to take other options by chartering private planes to drop off the teams on sites and arranged for picking up the teams after works were completed. Furthermore, some of the Site Coordinators are living in remote places such as East Pentecost where it was very difficult to reach by mobile phones. The project had to contact the local area council secretaries

- **Communication and Advocacy**

We are yet to recruit the communication officer to carry out the output activities for communication. The reason why the recruitment for the communication has delayed because on the first quarter there is no implementation of the output activities has been done for each component. She will be recruited on 06/06/2016 on this quarter 2.

- **Focus on gender equity and equality**

During the site assessments, the community's consultation mainly focus on gender. These focus groups enable women and young people to express their views openly with regards to assessment of the climate change issues. For instance, Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazard team engaged female teachers in the project sites for providing feed backs of what needs to be done in the communities and government as a whole. The same for Fisheries, DLA and Upland teams who involved the women in the communities at various project sites during their consultations.

The involvement of women in the communities has great impacts since majority of works done in the gardens are from women. Women are more concern for food, water, shelter and other households' needs than men. Women often take the leading roles for passing on the climate change information to the children and take the initiatives for making some resilience plans.

3. Management Responses and Recommendations

(To be completed by project in coordination with UNDP)

This quarter Project Implementation Unit (PIU) has set up the Technical Working Group (TWG) with the assistance from the project Chief Technical Advisor, Mr Manfred Staab for guiding the implementation of the project activities. Also, for resolving some technical issues which might affect the implementation of output activities. The Technical Working Group meets once a month for assessing and reviewing the implementing strategies for each component activities. The TWG consist of the Responsible Partners' Directors of the project and the Implementing Partner.

Furthermore, PIU has also set up the staff meeting for all the project component coordinators to assess, fast track the implementation of activities on ground and assist the coordinators with their progress reports including the quarterly work plans. The schedule for staff meeting is every fortnightly. PIU has also established the administration meeting every fortnightly prior to staff meeting for making sure the administration matters are being address according the project time frame.

With these management responses undertaken so far this quarter, Project Implementation Unit would like to make some recommendations for the beneficiary of the project. These include the following:

1. Admin and Finance officer needs an intensive financial training at UNDP Fiji base office so she can be able to thoroughly master the use of UNDP financial tools and get to know the financial staff at Fiji office.
2. Monitoring and Evaluation officer needs an intensive training for up skilling his capacity in the M&E area.
3. Need for Project Analyst, Mrs Loraini Sivo to pay a visit to PIU once a quarter for building up the confidence of the coordinators and staff with their responsibilities.

4. Annexes

Find attached are the following documents:

- 100% Acquittal for Quarter 1 of 2016
- Quarter 2 work plan
- Update Project Risk Log

PREPARED BY PM

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VCAP Project, Project Management Unit
Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation

Date: 15th June 2016

APPROVED BY NPD

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Date:

RECEIVED AND REVIEWED BY UNDP

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Date: