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Project title: Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zone of Vanuatu – Phase II (V-CAP II)		
Country: Vanuatu	Implementing Partner (GEF Executing Entity): Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology, Geo-Hazards, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management (MCCAMGEEDM), Government of Vanuatu	Execution Modality: Assisted NIM
Contributing Outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD, GPD): <i>SRPD Outcome 1: By 2022, people and ecosystems in the Pacific are more resilient to the impacts of climate change, climate variability and disasters; and environmental protection is strengthened</i>		
UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Category: <i>Substantial</i>	UNDP Gender Marker: 2	
Atlas Award ID: 00119130	Atlas Project/Output ID: 00115691	
UNDP-GEF PIMS ID number: 6374	GEF Project ID number: 10415	
LPAC meeting date: 20 August 12, 2021		
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Latest possible CEO endorsement date: 31 March 2022		
Project duration in months: 72 months		
Planned start date:	Planned end date: 31 May 2028	
Expected date of Mid-Term Review: May 2025	Expected date of Terminal evaluation: February 2028	
Brief project description: <i>The Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zone of Vanuatu – Phase II (V-CAP II) will improve the resilience of the vulnerable areas and communities therein to the impacts of climate change through the conservation of biodiversity and natural ecosystems and the implementation of integrated approaches in order to sustain livelihoods, food production and ensure biodiversity conservation and reduce land degradation by building on the lessons learned from the first phase project</i>		
FINANCING PLAN		

GEF Trust Fund grant (<i>GEF TF</i>)	USD 5,824,017	
GEF Trust Fund grant (<i>LDCF</i>)	USD 6,720,020	
UNDP	USD 120,000	
(1) Total Budget administered by UNDP	USD 12,664,037 [GEF grant, USD 12,544,037]	
CO-FINANCIERS THAT WILL DELIVER PROJECT RESULTS INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (FUNDS NOT ADMINISTERED THROUGH UNDP ACCOUNTS)		
Department of Environment	\$303,060	
Ministry of Agriculture	\$126,000	
Dept of Local Authorities	\$212,000	
Dept of Fisheries	\$300,000	
Dept of Water Resources	\$ 352,000	
Dept of Climate Change	\$1,272,000	
Australian Center for International Agricultural Research Project: Strengthening and scaling community-based approaches to Pacific coastal fisheries management	\$ 1,200,000	
Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department and Green Climate Fund	\$ 12,573,020	
Green Climate Fund	\$34,000,000	
USAID: Pacific Climate Ready Project (Donor)	\$150,000	
UNDP	\$250,000	
(2) Total confirmed co-financing	USD \$ 50,738,080	
(3) Grand-Total Project Financing (1) + (2)	USD \$ 63,402,117	
SIGNATURES:		
NOTE: IF THE PROJECT DOCUMENT IS IN FRENCH OR SPANISH, THE FINAL PROJECT DOCUMENT MUST BE CLEARED BY THE RTA BEFORE SIGNATURE.		
Signature:	Agreed by Implementing Partner	Date/Month/Year:
Signature: Levan Bouadze Resident Representative	Agreed by UNDP  C72335FE30FF4E0...	Date/Month/Year: 22 June 2022

22 June 2022

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACSE	Adapting to Climate Change and Sustainable Energy project
ALM	Adaptation Learning Mechanism
APAN	Asia Pacific Adaptation Network
APR	Annual Project Report
AusAID	Australian Agency for international development assistance (now under DFAT)
AWP	Annual Work Plan
AWS	AWS Automatic Weather Stations
BIOPAMA	EU-ACP Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (IUCN)
BPPS NCE-VF	Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, Nature, Climate and Energy, Vertical Fund team
CAE	Country Assistance Evaluation
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
CCA	Community Conservation Area
CCAP	Climate Change Adaptation Plan
CDCCC	Community Disaster and Climate Change Committee
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
CME	Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (Conservation and Management)
CO	Country Office
CRP	Comprehensive Reform Program
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DARD	Department of Agriculture & Rural Development
DEPC	Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australian Government)
DLA	Department of Local Authorities
DoWR	Department of Water Resources
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DSPPAC	Department for Strategic Planning, Police & Aid Coordination
EA	Executing Agency
ECARE	Expanding Conservation Areas Reach and Effectiveness in Vanuatu (IUCN project funded by GEF)
EDF	European Development Fund
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ENSO	El Niño Southern Oscillation
EU	European Union
EWS	Early Warning System
FAD	Fish Aggregating Device
FPIC	Free Prior and Informed Consent
FSP	Full Sized Project
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEFSEC	Global Environment Facility Secretariat
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
GOV	Government of Vanuatu
IA	Implementing Agency
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
INC	Initial National Communication

IPCC	Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change
IRCCNH	Increasing Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Hazards
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KBAs	Key Biodiversity Areas
KIWA	Multi-donor program that aims to strengthen the climate change resilience of Pacific Island ecosystems, communities and economies through Nature-Based Solutions
LDC	Least Developed Country
LDCF	Least Developed Country Fund
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality
LMMA	Locally Marine Managed Area
LPAC	Local Project Appraisal Committee
LTA	Long Term Agreement (UNDP)
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MACBIO	Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries
MALFFB	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Forestry and Biosecurity
MCCAMGEEDM	Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology, Geo-hazards, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MESCAL	Mangrove Ecosystems for Climate Change Adaptation and Livelihoods
MFEM	Ministry of Finance and Economic Management
MAIS	Management of invasive alien species
MoIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MIPU	Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities
MoL	Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
MMA	Marine Managed Area
MTTICVBN	Ministry of Trade, Tourism, Industry, Commerce and Ni-Vanuatu Business
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSP	Medium Sized Project
NAB	National Advisory Board (on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction)
NAPA	National Adaptation Program of Action
NBSAP	National Report on National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCCAS	National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NICZMF	National Integrated Coastal Zone Management Framework
NIWA	National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (New Zealand Government)
NSDP	National Sustainable Development Plan 2016 – 2030
PA	Protected Area
PAA	Priorities and Action Agenda 2006 – 2015
PACCSAP	Pacific-Australia Climate Change Science and Adaptation Planning
PCCSP	Pacific Climate Change Science Program (of the Australian Government)
PEBACC	Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change
PEQD	Pacific Equatorial Divergence
PICTs	Pacific Island Countries and Territories
PIR	Project Implementation Review
PIF	Project Identification Form
PIU	Project Implementation Unit proposed for V-CAP
POPP	Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures

PPG	Project Preparation Grant
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
PRRP	Pacific Risk Resilience Project
PWD	Public Works Department
R2R	Ridge-to-Reef
RCP	Representative Concentration Pathway
RESCCUE	Restoration of Ecosystem Services and Adaptation to Climate Change
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGP	Small Grants Program
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SNC	Second National Communication
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (now SPC Geo-science Division)
SPC	Pacific Community (formerly Secretariat of the Pacific Community)
SPCZ	South Pacific Convergence Zone
SPREP	Secretariat for the Pacific Environment Programme
SPSG	South Pacific Subtropical Gyre
SST	Sea surface temperature
STAP	GEF Scientific Technical Advisory Panel
SUMA	Special and unique marine areas
TC	Tropical Cyclone
TPR	Tripartite Review
TTPR	Terminal Tripartite Review
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United National Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USP	University of the South Pacific
Van-KIRAP	Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen blong Redy, Adapt mo Protekt (or Climate Information Services for Resilient Development in Vanuatu Project)
VBTC	Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation
V-CAN	Vanuatu Climate Adaptation Network
V-CAP	Vanuatu Coastal Adaptation Project (Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zone)
VANGO	Vanuatu Association of NGO's
VaVaC	Vanuatu Value Chain Programme
VFD	Vanuatu Fisheries Department
VMGD	Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department
VTSSP	Vanuatu Transport Sector Support Program
VIRIP	Vanuatu Infrastructure Reconstruction and Improvement Project
WB	World Bank
WFOD	Weather Forecast and Observation Division (of VMGD)

II. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT:

Vanuatu includes over 80 islands, of which 68 are inhabited, with a population of around 272,459 people (2016 Mini-Census, Government of Vanuatu). This comprised 138,265 males and 134,194 females. Vanuatu has a land area of 14,760 km² and a maritime exclusive economic zone of 680,000 km².

Most of Vanuatu's settlement and infrastructure (e.g. roads, buildings, power plants, industries, markets, and tourism facilities) are concentrated in the coastal zone. There is risk climate change may severely impact economic activity, the provision of social and economic services, and human security. Around 30% of households have reported that they have had their dwellings completely damaged by a recent tropical cyclone (TC Harold). The impact would be greater in smaller islands which often have inadequate access to resilient infrastructure. Communication is challenging in oceanic island countries. In recent history, rural villagers' regular communication came through public radio broadcasts. Today cellular telephone communications are improving with 86% of households having access to mobile phone networks. These mobile networks are concentrated in most large islands. On many of the smaller islands, mobile reception may be patchy or non-existent.

Vanuatu experiences severe tropical cyclones (TC) during the warmer seasons, dramatically impacting its people and economy. For example, there have been 2 catastrophic cyclones in the last 6 years (TC Harold in 2020 and TC Pam in 2015). In addition, there are unpredictable long dry spells associated with the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO). These climate risks combined with Vanuatu's frequent earthquakes, volcanic and seismic activity, due to its location along the "Pacific Ring of Fire", increase Vanuatu's levels of vulnerability. According to the Commonwealth Vulnerability Index¹, Vanuatu is one of the world's most vulnerable countries due to its high exposure to natural disasters, scattered and isolated island geography, narrow economic base, rudimentary communication and transportation networks and limited capacity to cope with disasters including climate change.

Adding to Vanuatu's physical characteristics, other factors contributing to the country's vulnerability include a narrow economic base and a weak developing economy. Vegetable crop production is undertaken by 88% of households and 97% of rural households. 74% of rural households rely upon agriculture for cash crop production. Sixty percent of rural households engage in fishing and the local market is small. The growing tourism sector, with 115,634 arrivals in 2018² mainly around Port Vila, is the main foreign exchange earner. In 2020, tourist arrivals plummeted due to the global pandemic. This narrow economic base makes the cash economy particularly vulnerable to disruption by global and natural disasters. Other challenges compounding the country's vulnerability include:

1. Weak inter- and intra-island communication and transport networks. Well-developed road infrastructure is only near population centers (just 111 km of roads are sealed), mostly on the larger islands. While air service is daily to the main islands, there are only 5 airports with sealed runways (out of 29 in total).
2. 83 islands dispersed over 680,000 km² with many islands isolated and extremely vulnerable to disasters.

CLIMATE CHANGE CONTEXT:

Modelling of climate change projections for Vanuatu was undertaken by the Pacific Climate Change Science Program and Adaptation Planning Program (PCCSP), led by the Australian Government in collaboration with the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department (VMGD) (CSIRO & BoM 2014 and updated in 2015³). A document "*Current and Future Climate in Vanuatu*" provided projections for Climate Change in Vanuatu. Key findings from these assessments are provided in Annex 16. In summary:

¹ Based on: (a) the impact of external shocks over which an affected country has little or no control and (b) the resilience of a country to withstand and recover from such shocks.

² VNSO – International arrival statistics December 2018

³ CSIRO, BOM [Australian Bureau of Meteorology] and SPREP (2015) Climate in the Pacific: A regional summary of new science and management tools, Pacific-Australia Climate Change Science and Adaptation Planning Program Summary Report. Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Melbourne, Australia

3. Increasing air temperatures are projected across Vanuatu. Compared to 1995, by 2050 temperature will be 0.6- 1.3°C higher (medium emissions scenario), and by 2070 1.0–1.9 °C higher;
4. Increasing sea surface temperatures will drive more frequent coral bleaching events;
5. Cyclones may not be more frequent but may be more intense increasing the level of impact and destruction on communities, infrastructure, and agriculture;
6. Rainfall change is uncertain, and trends are less obvious given the very high climate variability. Longer dry seasons are likely in line with the ENSO and wet season rainfall patterns are more variable;
7. Sea level has risen around Vanuatu by about 6 mm per year since 1993. This is larger than the global average of 2.8–3.6 mm per year;
8. In 20 years' time, ocean acidification may render ocean conditions marginal for calcification impeding coral growth and structure, impacting 80% of the coral reefs around the world, including in Vanuatu;
9. Projected climate change impacts may exacerbate geophysical activities, such as the vertical motion (subsidence/uplift) of the Vanuatu archipelago of +/- 1cm per year.

Such changes will have very significant impacts. Currently communities and government officials are reporting:

10. Local communities are reporting longer dry seasons impacting on water quality and quantity, agricultural crops and their ability to source quality potable water. Many communities report seasonal water shortages, and there are examples of communities on small island losing access to potable water during extended dry spells;
11. Due to climate change exacerbating other issues, agricultural crops are being impacted by reduced productivity, crop failure and pests. This is impacting on the livelihoods of local communities and impacting on food security. These agricultural issues are exacerbated in post cyclone situations where all crops and fruit trees are destroyed;
12. Changing rainfall patterns are impacting on rivers, their flows, flooding and riverbank erosion. Climate change will exacerbate these issues with increasing water flows damaging infrastructure, enhancing erosion and creating danger to human life;
13. The coastal and marine ecosystems are under increasing pressure from utilisation of local communities, upland erosion causing siltation of the reefs and overfishing. Climate change will exacerbate these issues with warmer water and acidification of coastal water impacting on productivity.

The impacts of climate change described above will have very serious consequences for coastal and upland environments in Vanuatu. The bio-geophysical effects include coastal and inland erosion, increased flooding, loss of coastal lowlands and wetlands, degradation of habitats, and salinization of surface and groundwater. The loss and degradation of coastal wetlands will impact on the livelihoods and food security of coastal populations that depend on ecosystem services provided by intact and healthy mangroves forests, seagrass meadows, coral reefs, and other coastal habitats. The socio-economic effects include the risks to human life and health, loss of property and infrastructure, deterioration of agriculture and fisheries, tourism and recreation as well as loss of livelihoods, all leading to a dependence on donor aid. This threatens the way of life of coastal communities that have strong reliance on coastal ecosystems for economic, social, and cultural purposes. These impacts will be felt most seriously by vulnerable groups, including women, children and persons with disabilities, who will be left even further behind. As such, the design of V-CAP II takes a human-rights based approach and has a strong focus on promoting gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) in all aspects of the project.

In summary, the cost of climate change impacts in Vanuatu are high. If more cyclones follow the path of TC Harold in 2020, livelihoods, as well as economic development of the country, will be negatively impacted as donor programs and funding focus on cyclone recovery programs. TC Pam in 2015 affected nearly 100,000 people and caused destruction in the hundreds of millions of dollars (US\$). The estimated average annual loss from tropical cyclones is about US\$37 million in terms of damage to buildings and other infrastructure and to agriculture (cash crops), which is a major sector of the economy (Figure 1)⁴. It is expected that most of the loss and damage will occur in the coastal zone where the concentration of population and infrastructure is greatest.

The Government of Vanuatu has been proactive in global and regional dialogues on climate change and finalised its National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) in 2007. V-CAP II will explicitly address four of eleven priorities identified in the NAPA including: 1) community-based marine resource management, 2) integrated coastal zone management, 3) Land use planning and management; and 4) mainstreaming climate change into policy and national planning processes. The NAPA places particular emphasis on the need for community-based resource management,

embracing both traditional and modern practices and enhancing the resilience of vulnerable communities. To address these priorities, the project will focus on adaptation options outlined in the NAPA including: i) development of provincial / local adaptation and ICM plans, ii) climate proofing of infrastructure design and development planning, iii) development of an efficient early warning system, iv) Landslides associated with prolonged and intense rainfall, iv) awareness raising and capacity building, and v) coastal re-vegetation and rehabilitation.

In 2021, Vanuatu published its Third National Communication (TNC) as a Party to the UNFCCC. This report shows how Vanuatu is progressing in meeting its' international commitments on climate change. The Third National Communication report lays out the level of vulnerability and risks faced to the current impacts of climate change, how the country is coping with these impacts, and what the future might look like as the climate rapidly changes. The report notes Vanuatu has taken significant policy and institutional reforms as evidence of its' continued support to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. This includes the National Sustainable Development Plan to attain overall sustainable development goals and, the National Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy for increasing resilience and adaptive capacity are central elements of Vanuatu's efforts to cushion the impacts of climate change. The TNC noted the role of VCAP in strengthening climate change adaptation.

BIODIVERSITY CONTEXT

Vanuatu's marine and terrestrial biodiversity is unique. In terms of species richness and, especially, endemism. Vanuatu is within the East Melanesian Islands, one of the most biologically important regions globally, as described in the Ecosystem profile for the East Melanesian Island Biodiversity Hotspot. Of the 308 globally threatened species in the East Melanesian Islands, 129 (42%) occur in Vanuatu, including 26 species found only in Vanuatu. Vanuatu remains a high priority for global biodiversity conservation due to the significant number of globally threatened species that are found nowhere else. Twenty-seven (28%) of the 95 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) identified in the East Melanesian Islands Hotspot were recorded in Vanuatu⁵. However, Vanuatu's biodiversity is under threat. Species number are being reduced, ecosystems are being degraded and the values and services of these ecosystems are being reduced.

The drivers of biodiversity loss are various, but include:

14. Rapidly growing populations leading to an increasing demand for natural resources by people who rely on biodiversity for daily needs, e.g., fish from the seas and NTFP from the forests;
15. Increasing engagement with the cash economy leading to agricultural expansion into new areas and increasing intensification of crops;
16. Lack of understanding of the biodiversity values of Vanuatu and the specific locations for biodiversity conservation interventions;
17. Alien invasive species that are continuing to spread in Vanuatu, e.g., plants such as Big leaf - American rope (*Merremia*), a climbing vine, and animals, such as Little red fire ant (*Wasmannia awopunctata*) and the crazy ant (*Anoplolepis longipes*) located in isolated islands; and
18. Limited distribution of protected areas in Vanuatu that are effectively managed to protect biodiversity

⁵ The Ecosystem profile for the East Melanesian Island Biodiversity Hotspot, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF 2012)

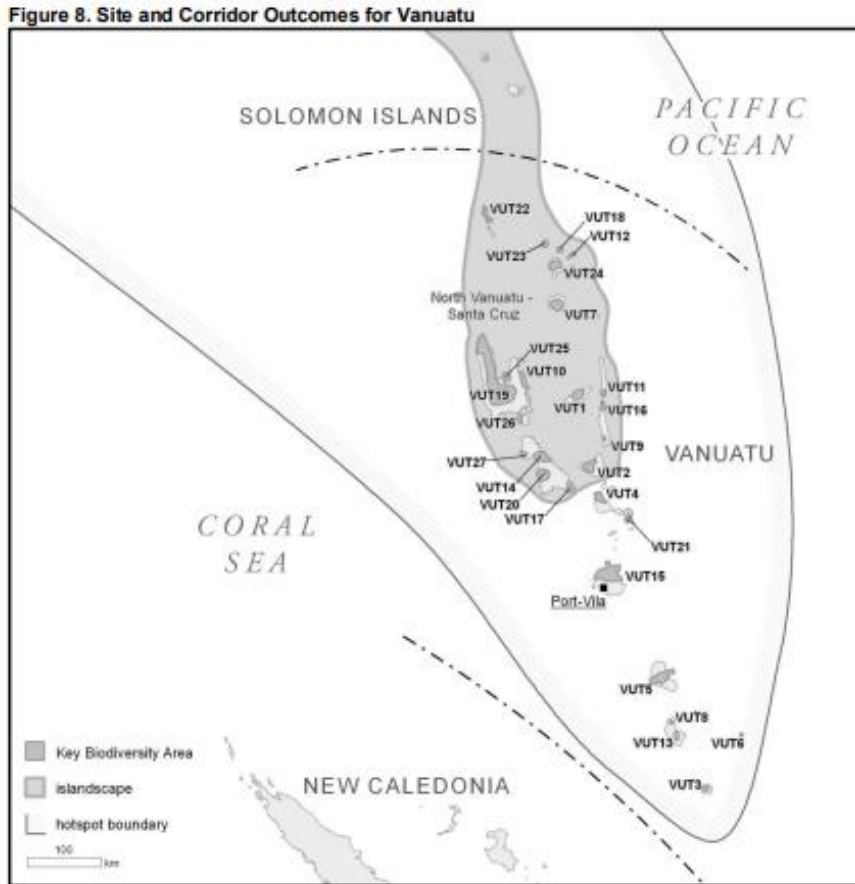


Figure 1: Key Biodiversity Areas - Vanuatu (from CEPF 2012)

Human settlements are generally found concentrated in the coastal lowlands. Consequently, biodiversity is most at risk in lowland and coastal and marine areas and small islands yet remains more intact in the high-altitude forests of larger islands. However, this is at risk from climate change, as these changes may push suitable habitats further and further up the altitudinal gradient until species have nowhere to go⁶. Land cannot be taken from the traditional landholders, but other innovative approaches can be used which ensure communities sovereignty over their land and protect ecosystem services and biodiversity at the same time. This system of land and resource management limits the capacity of government to conserve biodiversity without the support, understanding and commitment of landholders. This, therefore, creates an imperative for landholders as resource owners and managers to work independently or in cooperation with other landholders, organizations or government to conserve biodiversity. It is also critical that a GESI-responsive approach is used for such negotiations, as women are frequently left out of decision-making concerning their own land.

LAND DEGRADATION CONTEXT

The landscape context of Vanuatu is that it is from an active volcanic origin with volcanic peaks and a number of volcanos that are currently active. In many locations, the underlying soils are rich volcanic soils that are highly suitable for agriculture. Vanuatu is mountainous, and the small islands contain mountains from a volcanic origin. For example, VCAP will focus on the erosion issues of Mount Tabwemasana on the island of Espiritu Santo, which rises to height of 1,879 metres. There are also a number of high peaks and steep mountains in VCAP field sites including Mount Marum on Ambrym Island (1,270 metres), and Mount Tukosmera on Tanna Island (1,084 metres). Thus,

⁶ Heller, N.E. and E.S. Zavaleta, 2009. Biodiversity management in the fact of climate change: a review of 22 years of recommendations. *Biological Conservation* 142:14-32.

Vanuatu is to be considered as “mountainous Pacific Island” where the relatively newly formed mountainous islands are under pressure from erosion if the fragile top layer of soil is disturbed. Once soil is lost from these steep mountains by tropical rain, the topsoil is transported directly to the ocean.

Seventy four percent (74%) of land in Vanuatu is covered with natural vegetation. Forest types include tropical lowland evergreen rainforest, broad-leaved deciduous forest, closed conifer forest, montane rainforest, cloud forest and coastal forest. Other notable vegetation includes swamp forest on Efate, Pacific kauri pine strands on Erromango and scattered mangrove forests covering around 3,000 ha (most of which occur on Malekula Island)⁷.

Lowland forests have largely been cleared and replaced by anthropogenic vegetation, but forested areas remain the dominant landscape element on most islands, particular in upland areas. High forests are restricted on most of the islands (especially those that are densely populated, such as Pentecost, Ambae, Tanna and Shepherd; or have active volcanoes, such as Ambrym). However low montane forests are generally well preserved and occupy large areas. Secondary forests (often consisting of a *Hibiscus* community) are dense and extensive in Vanuatu²⁹.

The forests of Vanuatu have been impacted by human activities that have degraded and altered forest cover and associated biodiversity. In the mid-2000s, natural forest cover in Vanuatu was estimated at 444,000 ha, equivalent to 36% of the total land area (1.22 million ha) (FAO, 2010). At least 40% of the commercial forest area was regarded as degraded. Most of the high value forests were over-exploited in the 1980s and 1990s, until the government imposed a ban on the export of round logs in 1998. Large scale logging has been banned since that time. Many landowners have used their logged forest lands for alternative activities like commercial agriculture. The Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry sector has recovered from this decline and registered a positive growth of 5.1%; an increase of 10.7% by 2015. The components of agriculture that contribute to this positive growth, are crop production, which grew by 5.9%, followed by animal production at 2.6%, fishing at 3.9% and forestry at 0.7% (Vanuatu National Statistic Office, 2017). Balancing these changes in land use and land cover is essential in order to maintain a sustainable landscape. This means that a level of land degradation neutrality needs to be met. Vanuatu has not yet committed to a Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target, and this will be addressed by V-CAP II. LDN is enshrined in target 15.3 in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and can be defined as a state where “the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security remain stable or increase within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems”⁸.

A 2013 study of climate change and Agriculture in Vanuatu⁹ identified that soil erosion was a serious issue identified in all pilot study sites studied. In particular, the washing away of soil particles is a serious problem on slopes and deforested land. Washing away of the top layer (topsoil) means that there is little or no soil left to support crop plants. The top layer of the soil must be rebuilt if the degraded land is to support crop production. This study proposed a number of specific measures to address erosion including planting vetiver grass in areas with serious erosion to give the soil structure and stability, particularly planted in rows along slope or hilly land, the vetiver grass will help reduce soil erosion. Other options include crops or weaves to serve as barriers which reduces the impact of the falling droplets of rain on the soil and keep the soil particles intact or replanting of trees in deforested land is another option.

In Vanuatu there is not individual landowners, in fact 90% of the land is customarily held land while about 10% is Government owned or leased land. On the land under customary management 80% of the population use this land for their agriculture for their daily sustenance and well-being. Not all land in customary tenure is used for agriculture each year and the government estimate only one third of the cultivable customary land area is presently being farmed. Vanuatu’s total land area is 1,223,178 hectares of which only 492,177 hectares is good agricultural land. This is only 40% of the land area of the whole country, or 10.4 hectares per household.

However, due to the steep mountainous nature of Vanuatu together with tropical rainfall, and the occasional tropical cyclone, once erosion starts it is very difficult to control and interventions are needed. This was confirmed in the community consultations held by VCAP II PPG team (see Appendix 20 and 21).

⁷ Mackey et al. (2017) Vanuatu Ecosystem and Socio-economic Resilience Analysis and Mapping (ESRAM). Report prepared by Griffith University for SPREP, Apia, Samoa, 100pp.

⁸ UNCCD, 2016. Land in Balance. The Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). Science-policy Brief 02. September 2016, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Science-policy Interface. Bonn, Germany.

⁹ Climate Change and Agriculture in Vanuatu, FAO, 2013; A Study of crops and Farming Systems <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/CC%20and%20Agriculture%20in%20Vanuatu.pdf>

Agriculture is very important to Vanuatu's Gross Domestic Product (GDP – the value of all of all the goods and services produced in a country.) 75% of the Primary Sector contribution to GDP comes from Agriculture, 15% of overall GDP.

CULTURAL CONTEXT

According to the Constitution of Vanuatu, Article 4 states that, "For the purposes of determining national sovereignty, people of Vanuatu means all Indigenous and naturalized citizens of Vanuatu." The Ni-Vanuatu self-identify as indigenous peoples with their own concept and way of human development in a given socio-economic, political and historical context. The Ni-Vanuatu have tried to maintain their distinct group identity, languages, traditional beliefs, customs, laws and institutions, worldviews and ways of life;

The Ni-Vanuatu have exercised control and management of the lands, natural resources, and territories that they have historically used and occupied, with which they have a special connection, and upon which their physical and cultural survival as indigenous peoples typically depend. This project takes into full consideration the cultural context in the conduct of all activities.

Alignment with National policies and plans

Vanuatu National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) 2016 to 2030

"Vanuatu 2030¹⁰" is the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) for the period 2016 to 2030. It serves as the country's highest-level policy framework. It builds upon the Priorities and Action Agenda 2006-2015. This plan seeks to further extend the linkages between resources, policy and planning to the people. The NSDP in turn aligns with the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Environment is one of the three pillars as part of the NSDP. This environment pillar has five goals and 29 policy objectives with 62 indicators and 64 targets. V-CAP II is aligned to address:

19. Environment Goals 3,4 and 5 as outlined below.
20. Environment goal 3 – Climate and disaster resilience - A strong and resilient nation in the face of climate change and disaster risks posed by natural and man-made hazards
 - ENV 3.1 Institutionalize climate change and disaster risk governance, and build institutional capacity and awareness
 - ENV 3.2 Improve monitoring and early warning systems
 - ENV 3.3 Strengthen post-disaster systems in planning, preparedness, response and recovery
 - ENV 3.4 Promote and ensure strengthened resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related, natural and man-made hazards
 - ENV 3.5 Access available financing for climate change adaptation and disaster risk management.
21. Environment Goal 4 on Natural Resource Management and Environment will contribute to:
 - ENC 4.1 Strengthen local authorities and municipal planning authorities to enact and enforce land use planning laws and regulations
 - ENV 4.2 Protect vulnerable forests, watersheds, catchments and freshwater resources, including community water sources
 - ENV 4.3 Prevent land degradation and downstream environmental damage from mineral resource extraction
 - ENV 4.4 Promote the sustainable development of the fisheries sector that values the protection and conservation of marine and freshwater resources
 - ENV 4.5 Reduce and prevent the degradation and erosion of foreshore and coastal areas
 - ENV 4.6 Reduce deforestation and ensure rehabilitation and reforestation is commonplace
 - ENV 4.7 Build capacity and support local communities to manage natural resources.
22. Goal 5 on Ecosystems and biodiversity will be implemented:
 - ENV 5.1 Protect biodiversity and ecosystems and their significant role in our culture, society and environment
 - ENV 5.2 Create and manage conservation and protected areas

¹⁰ Vanuatu 2030 The Peoples Plan. <https://www.gov.vu/images/publications/Vanuatu2030-EN-FINAL-sf.pdf>

- ENV 5.3 Support local conservation and protection of endangered, threatened or endemic species and ecosystems including through traditional knowledge and practices
- ENV 5.4 Protect our borders and environment through effective customs and biosecurity services
- ENV 5.5 Increase awareness on biodiversity conservation and environmental protection issues across government and publicly
- ENV 5.6 Enhance environmental monitoring, evaluation and research with relevant, open and transparent data sharing among relevant agencies

National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA)

The Government of Vanuatu has been proactive in global and regional dialogues on climate change and finalized its National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) in 2007. The project will explicitly address four of eleven priorities identified in the NAPA including:

23. 1) community-based marine resource management;
24. 2) integrated coastal zone management;
25. 3) Land use planning and management; and
26. 4) mainstreaming climate change into policy and national planning processes.

The NAPA places particular emphasis on the need for community-based resource management, embracing both traditional and modern practices and enhancing the resilience of vulnerable communities. To address these priorities, the project will focus on adaptation options outlined in the NAPA including: i) development of provincial / local adaptation and ICM plans, ii) climate proofing of infrastructure design and development planning, iii) development of an efficient early warning system, iv) Landslides associated with prolonged and intense rainfall, iv) awareness raising and capacity building, and v) coastal re-vegetation and rehabilitation.

National Advisory Board for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (NAB)

Vanuatu established the NAB to strengthen the governance structure over CC adaptation, DRM and DRR initiatives. The secretariat of NAB is based in the Department of Climate Change in the Ministry. Vanuatu's NAB was mandated by the Council of Ministers on 15 October 2012 to "Act as Vanuatu's supreme policy making and advisory body for all disaster risk reduction and climate change programs projects disaster risk reduction and climate change programs, projects, initiatives and activities." It fulfils this mandate by:

27. Integrating the governance of climate change & disaster risk reduction across whole of Government;
28. Supporting the development of CC/DRR policies, guidelines and positions;
29. Advising on international and regional DRR and CC obligations;
30. Facilitating and endorsing the development of new DRR & CC programs, projects, initiatives and activities;
31. Acting as a focal point for information - sharing and coordination on CC/DRR;
32. Guiding and coordinating the development of national climate finance processes.

The NAB has specifically requested for VCAP II support to develop the National Adaption Plan (NAP). This will be supported in Component 3 of VCAP.

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2018-2030.

The NBSAP outlines specific links to the NDSP and ensures alignment in the delivery of Government efforts for both environment management and sustainable development. The NBSAP sets out a range of policies and targets including the listing of over 100 potential Protected Areas, Marine Protected Areas, Community Conservation Areas and Locally Managed Marine Areas. The NBSAP has 7 strategic areas for delivery. The V-CAP II project will support the delivery of the NBSAP and in particular, contribute to:

33. Strategic Area 1: Conservation Area Management (terrestrial and marine)– increase the area of representative coverage of Protected Areas (PAs) in Vanuatu in the form of community conservation areas (CCAs);
34. Strategic Area 2: Forest and inland water ecosystem conservation and management;
35. Strategic Area 3: Coastal and marine ecosystems conservation and management (CME);
36. Strategic Area 5: Management of invasive alien species (MIAS).

Land Degradation Neutrality

The GoV is in the process of considering LDN targets and has committed to considering these targets are part of the draft Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy (FLRS) (2020-2030) and other Government initiatives. VCAP II has aligned to the FLRS. The Directors of Departments of Environment, Forestry and Agriculture all committed to the PPG to review within the agencies and provide recommendations to the Government of Vanuatu on next steps

III. STRATEGY

Project Scope

The objective of V-CAP II is ***to improve the resilience of the vulnerable areas and communities therein to the impacts of climate change through the conservation of biodiversity and natural ecosystems and the implementation of integrated approaches to sustain livelihoods, food production and ensure biodiversity conservation and reduce land degradation*** by building on the lessons learned from the first phase project. It will scale up the successful project experiences from V-CAP Phase I (V-CAP) and will apply the innovative approaches and lessons learnt from V-CAP I into V-CAP II.

V-CAP II will adopt an integrated approach to build the resilience of climate vulnerable communities in Vanuatu. The V-CAP II will safeguard interests of women and marginal communities through a Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy (GESI) to be implemented in all aspects of project implementation. The vulnerabilities and barriers to effective climate change adaptation and ensuring biodiversity conservation are addressed through four interlinked components that support enhancing and scaling up practices and approaches that include incorporation of the lessons learnt in V-CAP I.

A key aspect of delivery of V-CAP will be the co-benefits generated by addressing biodiversity loss and degradation in Vanuatu through specific interventions and the contribution of these elements to climate change adaptation. The specific actions to be undertaken by the V-CAP II will generate co-benefits in the form of nature-based solutions to enhance climate change resilience particularly in the areas of Protected Area creation and management, and sustainable land management (SLM).

A key underlying principle in the delivery of V-CAP II will be to continue to build on existing appropriate coping strategies of rural communities who have a long history of responding to geological and climate variability and change, with varying success. Men and women in these communities often have separate and unique sets of traditional knowledge, both of which must be considered. These short-term coping strategies form the basis of successful long-term development strategies. However, care needs to be taken as some of these traditional coping strategies could prove to be unsustainable over time as population and climate change progresses leading to a greater risk of maladaptation. Innovative approaches and new technologies, along with careful monitoring and adaptive management of the effectiveness of strategies, in view of changing circumstances, is needed to ensure these adaptation strategies remain appropriate. Rural communities are therefore the key actors for implementing adaptation strategies and hard-won lessons can be learned, communicated and fed into adaptation decision making at higher levels to benefit the nation.

The LDCF funded activities of VCAP II including investments in climate proofing water and transport infrastructure, enhanced agricultural production, provision of enhanced weather forecasting and dissemination of extreme weather warnings, and increased awareness of the issues associated with climate change will generate a range of socio-economic benefits to communities. These benefits will include improved access to health services resulting in better health outcomes, increased income opportunities through enhanced agriculture and better water supply and WASH outcomes.

- Better access to health services including maternal and children's health, through better access to health facilities through public infrastructure;
- Better health outcomes through establishment of better-quality drinking water, enhanced domestic water supply and provision of WASH education and training;
- Better access to markets for goods and services allowing for the generation of increased household income for rural communities working in subsistence economies;
- Better and safer access to schools and educational facilities through upgrading road and public conveyance infrastructure;
- Enhanced access to climate-smart agriculture allowing for diversification of cropping and enhanced opportunities to increase household income;
- Enhanced information and household preparedness and resilience to deal with natural disasters, e.g. cyclones, resulting in reduced household costs of natural disasters;

- Enhanced community preparedness for natural disasters through DRR planning and establishment of evacuation centers resulting in reduced community costs of natural disasters;

Approach

The approach of V-CAP II will be delivered through specific outcomes demonstrating a cohesive approach to project delivery.

37. At the community level V-CAP II will support a comprehensive and integrated approach to biodiversity conservation, sustainable land and coastal management and climate change adaption by supporting development in selected V-CAP II communities in each province of Vanuatu to develop integrated Area Council Development Plans. This will ensure these plans can be then integrated into Provincial and National government mechanisms. In this way V-CAP is not a standalone project, but rather fully integrated into and supporting existing government plans, policies and procedures realizing the long-term objective of building local and national level capacity and expanding or coordinating this approach to other programs and projects;
38. V-CAP II will support communities as the custodians of the land to assess the needs and approaches to protection of biodiversity in potential and existing Protected Areas. These assessments will identify those sites that are important for biodiversity conservation and as needed will develop management plans for conservation of biodiversity at these sites;
39. V-CAP II will recognize and build upon traditional knowledge and integrate appropriate approaches in the identification and application processes and plans to build resilient communities;
40. V-CAP II will ensure free prior and informed consent (FPIC) as the basis for negotiating establishment and ongoing operation of Protected Area for local communities, including specialized groups;
41. V-CAP II will contribute to building ecosystem resilience and monitor ecosystem health through baselines including climate change resilience indicators for each of the target V-CAP II sites. Sustainable land management, sustainable forest management and climate resilient and sustainable agriculture will build ecosystem and community resilience to climate change;
42. V-CAP II will seek to strengthen integration of Ridge-to-Reef (R2R) approach which will enhance livelihoods of downstream coastal residents through. It will demonstrate linking sustainable land management in watersheds (IWRM, SLM, SFM and managing upland erosion issues) and integrating Community Conservation Areas (CCAs) with both the marine and terrestrial environment.
43. V-CAP II will ensure that in its development and implementation, gender is mainstreamed so that the project contributes to equality and equity through the creation of equitable opportunities and benefits for both women and men;
44. V-CAP II will strengthen the capacity of the Government to collect useful and accurate information on extreme weather events and to disseminate to communities in a timely manner to all communities in Vanuatu, including sex, age, area, disability, ethnicity (SAADE) disaggregated data;
45. V-CAP II will seek to support an integrated planning and delivery mechanism that demonstrates best-practice in supporting efforts of appropriate agencies and institutions.
46. V-CAP II will ensure that biodiversity conservation and climate change adaption are supported by suitable policy frameworks;
47. V-CAP II will continue to support comprehensive capacity building at the local, Area Council, Provincial and National levels; and
48. V-CAP II will ensure that lessons learnt from implementation are incorporated into planning and implementation and shared with government, communities and development partners.

Alignment with GEF focal area strategy (GEF TF and LDCF)

V-CAP II design follows the Four-year Framework of the Program Priorities for GEF-7 and responds to the guidance that the “Framework encourages integrated approaches to project design”, as well as the GEF growing mandate to support activities that promote synergies across its focal areas aligned with an integrated approach to generate multiple global benefits. The project is expected to generate global environment benefits under two GEF focal areas, by tackling the underlying drivers of land degradation and biodiversity loss. In addition, V-CAP II aligns with the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change and adheres to the GEF Policy on Gender Equality.

- BD 1-1 Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors;

- BD-2-7 Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate;
- LD-1-1 Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management (SLM);
- LD-4-5 Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN;
- Climate Change Adaptation -1 Reduce vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change, including variability, at local, national, regional and global level;
- Climate Change Adaptation -3 Integrate climate change adaptation into relevant policies, plans and associated processes.

Targeting to maximize global environmental benefits:

V-CAP II has been designed to ensure coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) as a focus for its interventions. It is also seeking to support the existing Protected Area system as well as target those locations identified by the East Melanesian Hotspot Ecosystem Assessment. V-CAP II will also continue to build upon the efforts of the Government, local communities and NGOs to support management of threatened species in focus areas. The holistic approach to biodiversity utilizes a R2R approach that will sustain marine ecosystems and their biodiversity. The habitats of threatened Red List fauna species will be managed and management plans developed for threatened species.

Partnerships and complementing ongoing initiatives

V-CAP II has been designed to complement ongoing initiatives at all levels of government and in projects being delivered by other development partners. V-CAP II will be housed in the Department of Climate Change with an implementation team also in the Department of Environment, Conservation and Protection. This will enable integration with both Government and Development Partner initiatives in both these sectors. The coordination through the NAB will provide for integration and complementarity with other projects. Thus, V-CAP II will not be a stand-alone project, but rather an example of an integrated and coordinated approach to mainstreaming both biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation. VCAP II delivery will build upon and continue to support NGO efforts to be determined during implementation (as this would require further consultations not possible during project design due to travel restrictions.)

The Project sites

The V-CAP II sites will focus on the delivery of integrated approaches in 9 Area Councils in all six provinces of Vanuatu. A two-step site selection process was undertaken with the process informed by the experience and lessons learnt from V-CAP I. The first step at the PPG Inception Workshop held in Port Vila in March 2020 identified and evaluated sites based on the following criteria:

49. Sites demonstrating climate change adaptation, land degradation and biodiversity challenges in established Area Councils;
50. Protected Areas identified in the NBSAP and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) outlined in the *CEPF- Ecosystem Profile East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot (2012)*;
51. Isolated communities (geographically and in terms of distance) with challenges in accessing support;
52. Communities with heavy reliance on natural ecosystems for daily subsistence;
53. High vulnerability to climate and weather impacts from storm, flooding, erosion and climate risks;
54. Challenges in ability or inability to access- health, education, economic- markets, evacuation routes;
55. Communities considered as comparatively marginalized / disadvantaged;
56. Expansion potential / replication potential;
57. Alignment to national & provincial work plans;
58. Area councils with limited number (comparatively) of substantial development projects;
59. Area Councils where possible to avoid duplication with other initiatives / ongoing projects; and
60. Ensure ability to generate commitments from communities to project delivery.

The PPG Team undertook detailed consultations, site visits and investigations to refine the sites for of V-CAP II implementation. The consultations and investigations on site selection included:

61. Consultations at the V-CAP-II PPG Inception Workshop March 2020- Port Vila with approximately 20 representatives from national government agencies, Secretary General and officials from all six provincial governments, and NGOs and development partners;
62. Field visit each of the sites by the V-CAP II PPG design team during April- July 2020 with follow-up missions to fill in data gaps. These field missions included consultations with Provincial Government Representatives, Provincial sectoral agencies, (e.g. Fisheries, Agriculture, Forestry, and Environment), Area Councils, traditional leaders, community representatives and local community members in the 9 Area Councils and over 20 communities across all sites, as well as special focus group sessions for women and youth at most sites;
63. Consultations with development partners including FAO (GEF-5), IUCN-ECARE Project- (GEF6), other development projects with the relevant sectors;
64. Presentation of findings at the V-CAP II Validation Workshop held in Port Vila in February 2021 where the findings of the field assessments were reported upon and results shared with approximately 20 representatives from national government agencies, and the Secretary General or Senior officials from all six provincial governments; and
65. Presentations to the NAB throughout the design process with endorsement of this Project Document provided by the NAB and other government partners during the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) meeting on 20 August 2021 (as indicated in the cover page).

Table 1: Target communities and sites for V-CAP II

Province	SHEFA	SANMA	PENAMA	TAFEA	MALAMPA	TORBA
Island Group	Epi	Espiritu Santo	Maewo	Tanna & Futuna	Ambrym	Torres & Mota
Target Area Councils (AC)	1 Area Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yarsu <i>(+1 community only targeted in alternative AC – Votlo in Varsu AC + small uninhabited outlying islands for biodiversity)</i>	2 Area Councils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Coast Santo • Big Bay Inland <i>(+1 community only targeted in alternative AC – Araki in South Santo 2 AC)</i>	1 Area Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Maewo <i>(+1 BD area in alternative AC - North Pentecost AC)</i>	2 Area Councils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Tanna • Futuna 	1 Area Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Ambrym 	2 Area Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torres • Mota <i>(+1 `water catchment area only targeted in alternative AC – near Sola, East Vanua Lava AC)</i>
Site boundaries	Votlo, Vermaul AC + full Yarsu AC	4 communities only from West Coast Santo (Linduri, Wusi, Elia, Kerepua) + 5 communities from Big Bay Inland AC, + Araki community in South Santo 2 AC	From Navenevene & Naviso, to southern tip of island near Baitora	Full South Tanna & Futuna AC's	Baiap, Craig Cove, + communities in immediate upland areas to Lake Fanteng	Full Torres Islands & Mota AC's + water catchment area bordering – Nagpen (Selver) & Alligator rivers
Area						
Target Villages / communities	6 communities in on one island	10 communities on 2 islands	9 communities in 18 villages on one island	4 communities in 10 villages on 4 islands	5 communities in 7 villages on 4 islands	5 communities in 10 villages on 5 islands
Immediate Beneficiary	1,645	1,575	2,397	2,464	1,945	1,951
Additional Beneficiary	200 (*approx-other communities in AC)	1,500 (*approx- NW Santo, other communities in WC Santo and BBI)	1,000 (*approx beneficiaries from North Pentecost)	750 (*approx other communities from South Tanna AC)	600 (*approx other communities from West Ambrym AC)	500 (*approx other communities from Vanua Lava AC)

Total 11	1,845 972 – male 873 – female	3,075 1,507 – male 1,568 – female	3,397 1,766 – male 1,631 – female	3,212 1,575 – male 1,637 – female	2,545 1,171– male 1,374– female	2,451 1,050 – male 1,401– female

Assumptions

Key assumptions made in this theory of change are:

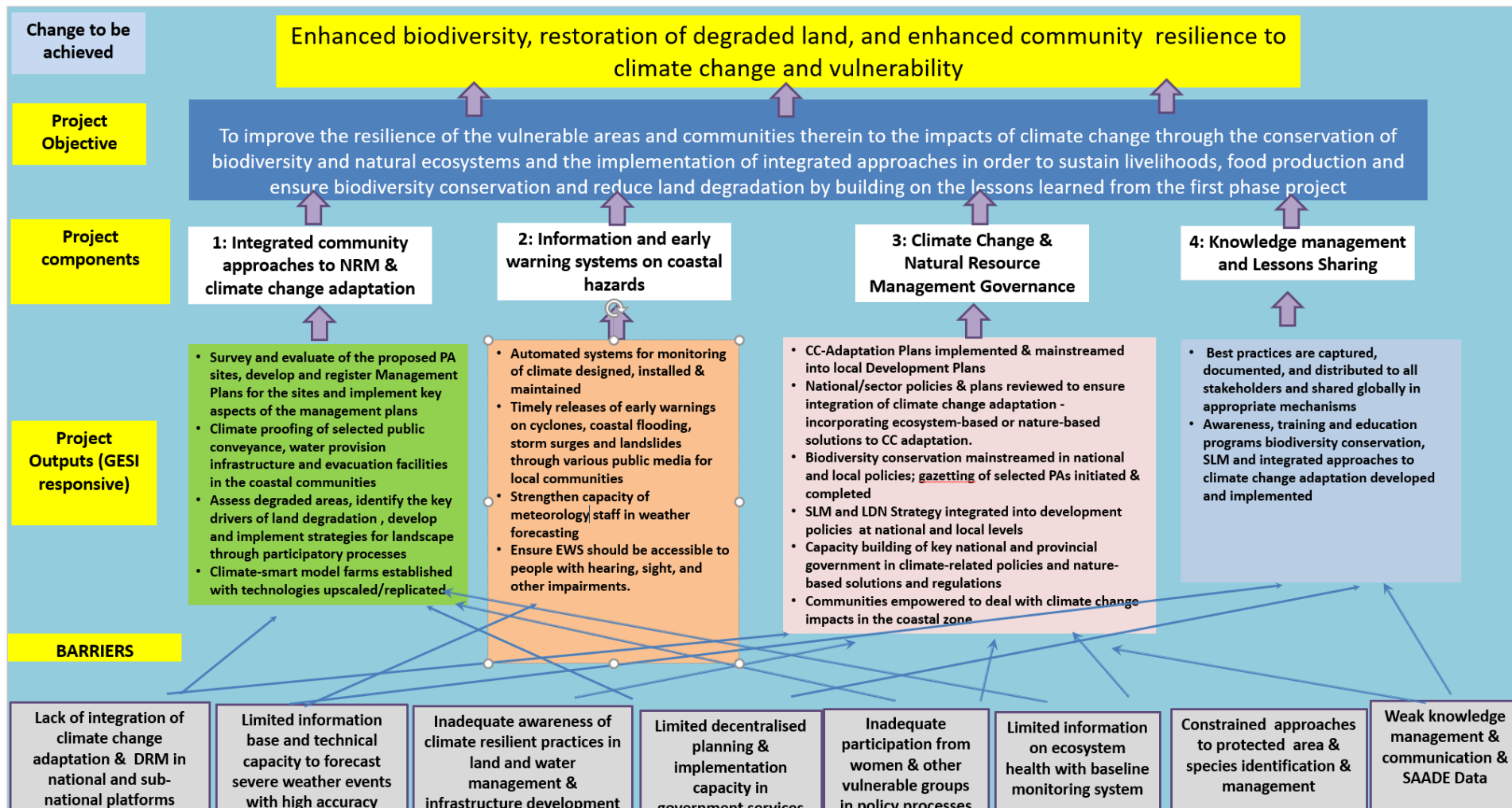
- Women, girls and marginalized groups will be provided equal and equitable access to all project related activities and benefits as outlined in the Gender and Social Inclusion Action Plan (GESI). This implies support and opportunities for them to represent their needs and participate fully, from both communities and government agencies in the project sites.
- Access to land and available infrastructure for project activities will be provided by the government and communities.
- Long term interventions from existing programs will reduce and/or address the baseline environmental problems which can otherwise negate the interventions made during the project in agriculture, landscape restoration and harvesting and utilization of rain/runoff for drinking and small-scale irrigation.
- Landscape-based restoration efforts will be supported by communities well past the project life span in terms of continued management, operation and monitoring in order to fully benefit from these interventions.
- The capacities built among technical staff during the project will be retained and utilized during project implementation, and that trained personnel are not transferred or assigned other responsibilities.
- The theory of change assumes that the management structures and platforms proposed during the project are integrated into existing frameworks to avoid duplication and redundancy and will be integrated with formal systems of management and coordination at the Area Council and Community levels and at the regional and national levels, where necessary.
- Financial services and private sector value chains proposed will receive support from concerned authorities. It is assumed that entrepreneurs will be able to access credit, insurance and other material and technical resources from existing sources in the government and private sector.

V-CAP Phase I was considered as one of the flagship projects in Vanuatu that has demonstrated a mainstreaming approach to the delivery of climate change adaptation by building resilience through nature-based solutions and climate proofing of infrastructure. The approach demonstrated in V-CAP 1 has been duplicated by a range of other development projects to deliver ecosystem-based adaption and community resilience investments. V-CAP II will continue to work with these biodiversity and climate change projects and ensure strong links are built through formal and non-formal approaches.

The Figure below presents the **Theory of change** that addresses the key barriers outlined above. The reasons for the approach outlined in this able area are explained above. In summary, V-CAP II will meet it objectives and change to be achieved through the activities outlined in the following sections.

11 Note: Disaggregated information on beneficiaries will be collected including gender, age, disability, location and ethnicity.

Figure 2: Theory of change



IV. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Expected Results:

In accordance with the project objective, V-CAP II will work to ensure improved management of critical island ecosystems to support better informed integrated management of land and coastal areas to achieve the co-benefits to strengthen resilience to climate change and achieve social and biodiversity conservation outcomes. This will be supported by information systems for climate and disaster forecasting and warnings that generate useful and timely information that can be effectively transmitted to local communities through existing and innovative methodologies. V-CAP II will work to build upon the current government decentralization initiative by developing capacity at the Area Council levels to mainstream action for biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation at the Provincial and National levels.

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Component 1: Integrated community approaches to natural resource management and climate change adaptation developed and implemented

Funding sources	Component 1
GEF- TF	\$ 4,934,417
LDCF	\$ 3,773,043
Sub-Total	\$ 8,707,460
Co-financing	\$ 31,869,481
Total Component	\$ 40,576,941

Component 1 of V-CAP II will focus delivery at the Local Area Council and community levels through the provision of technical support with a specific focus on developing a network of R2R Protected and Managed Areas, enhancing management of degraded landscapes, demonstrating and expanding climate-smart agriculture, and improving the resilience to climate change through supporting the incremental costs associated with public conveyance, water provision infrastructure and evacuation facilities. V-CAP II will support coordination and partnerships between national and provincial government departments that have responsibility for the natural resources that communities depend on for food, water, income, education and transport to synergize PA monitoring and management across land- and seascapes.

The design of Component 1 was based on a series of detailed consultations and investigations with local communities in 2020 as part of the PPG phased of V-CAP II development. The site selection process was detailed in the previous section. These detailed consultations focused on the following elements:

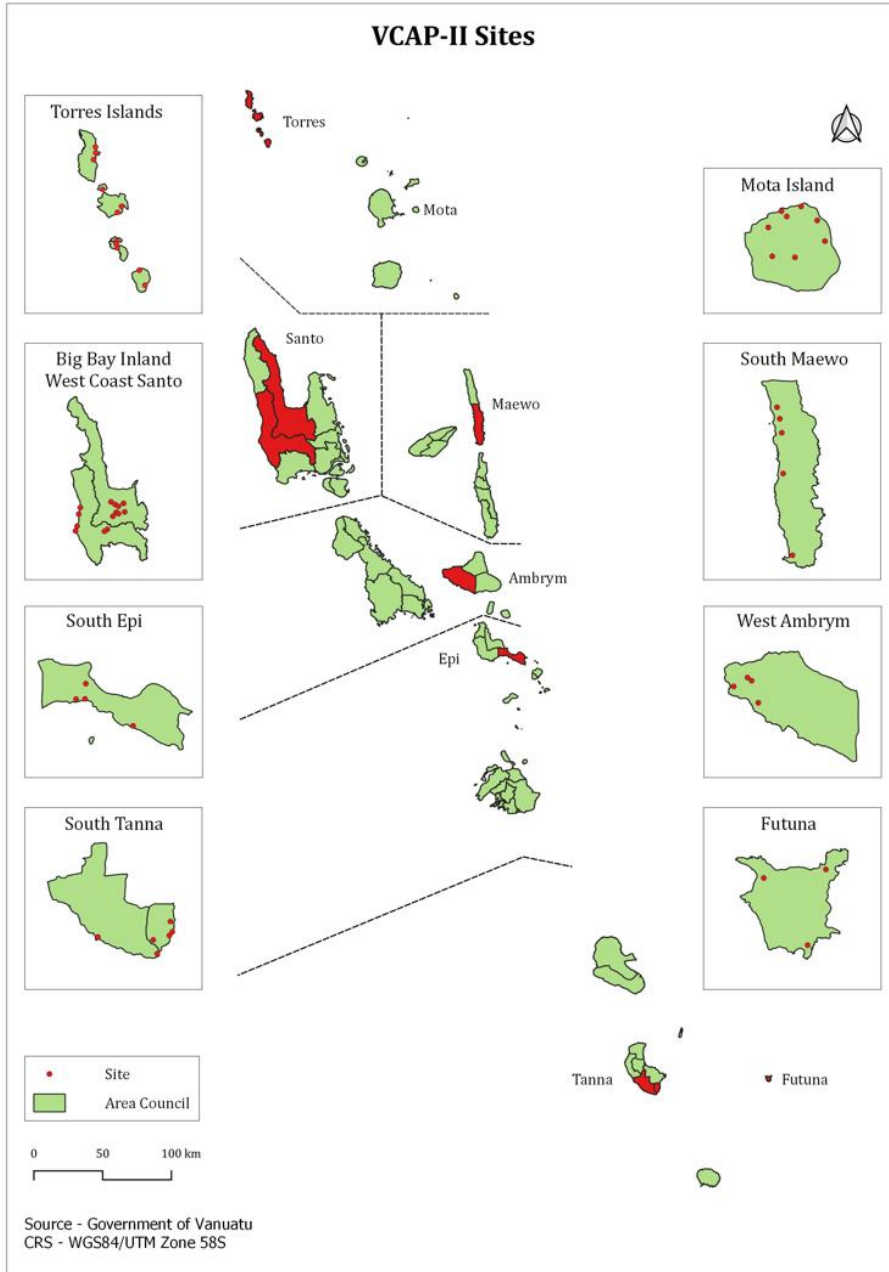
66. **Community Profiling** was undertaken for each of the Communities where V-CAP II is likely to operate. A profiling form was endorsed through the Department of Local Authorities under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The following information was collected:
67. Population data, disaggregated by age group, gender and disability;
68. Community leadership and traditional chiefly systems;
69. Economic resource profiling;
70. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) profile; climate change and disaster issues; GESI barriers; social and religious status; service delivery and partnerships with other development actors; and Health and education status.

- 71. Agriculture and upland management status and issues;
- 72. Protected Areas – status and options for establishing, protected areas; and
- 73. Coastal and fisheries management issues.

Based on these profiles and additional community consultations, in each Area Council a Community-based **Vulnerability Needs Assessment** was completed for each of the V-CAP II project sites. These VNAs contain detailed information on the status of communities, issues and proposed actions.

Annex 20 of the Project Document contains the VNA for each of the sites. These form the basis for the proposed actions in Component 1 of this Project.

Figure3: Field sites for V-CAP II.



This component is the largest component of V-CAP II. Each of the outcomes are discussed below in relation to the baseline situation, and the proposed alternative with the GEF project.

Outcome 1.1: Biodiversity conserved to improve the integrity of natural ecosystems towards increased climate resilience

With the support from GEF under this Outcome, the project will support the identification, planning and implementation of management in Protected Areas in each of the focal Area Councils.

Baseline condition for this outcome

The Vanuatu NBSAP 2018-2030 (2018) details Vanuatu's ambitious national targets which are by 2030, representative examples of at least 17% of terrestrial and 10% of coastal and marine areas are to support 100% of local communities' livelihoods, and kastom importance are conserved through effective community and government management measures. Milestones towards this target include 90% of community management committees complying with their CCA reporting obligations by 2020 and 10 registered CCAs in Vanuatu by 2020. The Vanuatu Forestry Policy has set a target to actively manage 30% of Vanuatu's forest by 2030 and the Vanuatu Ocean policy has set a goal to establish, by 2020, a national ecologically representative system of marine protected areas (GOV, 2012 and 2016). However, it is unlikely that these targets will be reached.

The Vanuatu NBSAP 2018-2030 (2018) lists over 100 potential Protected Areas, Marine Protected Areas, Community Conservation Areas and Locally Managed Marine Areas. However, many of these sites were identified only through consultations with national, provincial and local government officers with some limited community engagement. Very few of these listed sites have been visited nor sought inputs from the local communities for the formal management of these sites.

In addition, the challenge is that for most of these sites there are no baseline or biodiversity data, no boundaries established, little consultation with local communities or other stakeholders, such as the Cultural Centre nor specific management measures identified. Without significant collaborative support to local communities and local administrations with the leadership of the DEPC, the PA list will remain only in the NBSAP and will remain unimplemented. As of 2019, only 9 conservation areas had been formally registered, however limited information was available and on-ground management limited. It is vital to mobilize resources to meet the NBSAP target.

Currently there is limited capacity within DEPC to support communities in the establishment of Protected Areas. There is a need to develop a comprehensive and integrated national system of Protected Areas supported by appropriate policies, plans and legislation. These do not currently exist.

The Project "Expanding Conservation Areas Reach and Effectiveness (ECARE) in Vanuatu" (GEF-6) is planned to commence implementation in 2021-2. ECARE will develop comprehensive management planning guidelines for Protected Areas in Vanuatu. These management planning guidelines will be developed by the ECARE Project into a standard monitoring and evaluation system for Vanuatu's protected areas and reporting. In addition, the ECARE Project will develop a national standardized community management planning process for PAs with supportive legal frameworks (see Output 1.1 of ECARE). However, ECARE's field demonstrations will be limited in distribution. V-CAP II will complement this ECARE with expansion and not duplication with the Vanuatu PA network.

Vanuatu will develop management planning guidelines and the standardized monitoring and evaluation systems with support from the ECARE project for the development of Management Plans for the Protected Area sites. However, the limited number of sites being supported by the ECARE project will make a limited contribution to meeting the nation Protected Area target. There is more that needs to be completed.

In June 2017, Vanuatu attended the United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC) in New York and shared internationally its commitment to 1) a National Oceans Office by 2020, 2) a National Marine Spatial Plan by 2020, and 3) a national network of Marine Protected Areas by 2020. A publication was prepared - ***Biophysically Special, Unique Marine Areas (SUMA) of Vanuatu***. This report describes the preparations that preceded the workshop, the outcomes of that workshop, and follow-up research recommended during the workshop. There is currently no plan developed for a process for implementation of the SUMA sites.

Vanuatu has developed a complex protected area management system and there are several options for recognizing Protected Areas (PAs) including:

74. National parks and nature reserves under the National Parks Act 1993 – Ambrym National Park, Malampa Province in the archipelago of Vanuatu;
75. Empowerment of Provincial Councils to create environmental protection zones under the Decentralization and Local Government Regions Act 1994;
76. Conservation areas under the Forestry Act 2001;
77. Community conservation areas under Environmental Management & Conservation Act 2002;
78. Marine reserves under the Fisheries Act 2005; and
79. Protection of Sites and Artefacts (Amendment) Act 2008 – Cultural UNESCO – <https://whc.unesco.org/en/intassistance/1965> - Chief Roi Mata's Domain.

In general, these options tend to be under-utilized and protected areas are not fully 'protected' but managed by communities or leaders in such a way as to conserve resources for occasional exploitation, usually associated with ceremonies or cultural events (Government of the Republic of Vanuatu, 2013). There also appears to be a lack of understanding in communities regarding the best use of this range of protection mechanisms, the implications for access to their traditional resources, and which agency to approach when developing a protected area.

Alternative for this outcome (with GEF project):

V-CAP II will support the further development of existing Protected Areas with the target Area Councils and enhance management in these sites. In addition, V-CAP II will work with DEPC to assess the newly proposed PA sites identified and assessed during the PPG proposed Protected Areas. The effective management of these sites will contribute to Vanuatu's commitment to establish a national system of Protected Areas and to contribute to the global Protected Area Aichi Targets.

V-CAP II will support in both the existing and proposed Protected Areas surveys to identify their identified for yet to be fully surveyed to determine their full biodiversity values, condition, landscape context, ecosystem services and pollution provided and key threats. Detailed will be determined and possibilities for zoning identified.

This will identify suitable R2R PA sites, establishing boundaries, conducting baseline surveys, assisting with PA registration and capacity building with communities for local monitoring and management plans, and their implementation. Local communities will be consulted on any proposal and processes will be established to ensure Free Informed Prior and informed consent (FPIC) of any proposal for of the Protected Areas including Community Conservation Areas (CCAs). Activities under this outcome will not commence/proceed until FPIC consultations have been implemented.

The sites for identified as potential PA R2R sites are indicated in Annex 23. It is noted that the boundaries of all sites could not be finalized during the PPG phase considering the large scope (geographic and number) and the travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The work will continue during the implementation phase as described below. The list of proposed sites is outlined below. The sites identified avoid duplication with other biodiversity and Protected Area projects. The initial list of sites identified were drawn from:

80. Existing Protected Areas
81. Sites identified in the NBSAP;
82. Sites with conservation activities currently underway, e.g. funded by CEPF; and
83. Sites identified through community consultations with community representatives.

The R2R (terrestrial and marine) protected areas across the 9 Area Councils will have a combined area of about 13,200 hectares of existing and potential PA. The outputs detailed below will contribute to this outcome

Table 1. Priority provinces/sites and indicative focus of project interventions

Province and site	Specific focus	Species of concern	Focal activities	KBA from CEPF – HOTSPOT*	Number of Protected Areas
SHEFA					
South Epi	Area council planning with a focus on SLM and CC-A.		LD, CC-A		
TORBA					
Torres – all island	Area council planning addressing vulnerability and specific PA approaches and fisheries approaches	Coconut Crab	BD, LD, CC-A	CEPF hotspot (Ref VUT22)	Metoma Island, Quanlap
Mota Island	Biodiversity conservation focus: - Link in species protection and PA elements	Flying Fox	BD, CC-A	CEPF hotspot (Ref VUT22)	Bat Camp
Sola area, Vanua Lava	Biodiversity conservation focus: - Link in species protection and PA elements		BD		Port Patterson
TAFEA					
South Tanna	Focused delivery- Specific R2R approach including land degradation	Collated Petrel nests on Mount Tukwasmere and Mount Melon Turtles	BD LD, CC-A		Kwamera CCA
Futuna	Biodiversity TD focus: Link in species protection and PA elements	Coconut Crabs	BD, LD, CC-A	CEPF hotspot (Ref VUT 6)	Futuna island top
SANMA					
West Coast Santo	Area council focus including CC-A, PA, SLM with R2R approaches		BD, LD, CC-A	CEPF hotspot (Ref VUT 19)	Tabwemasana Wusi CCA
Big Bay Inland	PA, SLM and CC_A		BD, LD,	CEPF hotspot (Ref VUT 19)	Vatthe Comiunity Conservation Area East of Eden CCA Elia
PENAMA					
South Maewo	Area council focus with specific R2R approach including SLM ad PAs		BD, LD, CC-A	CEPF hotspot (Ref VUT 11)	
MALAMPA					
West Ambrym	Area council focus with specific R2R approach including SLM and PA	Megapod	BD, LD, CC-A	CEPF hotspot (Ref VUT 2)	Megapod breeding area
Total				8	

*CEPF refers to the CEPF Hotspot analysis and references the sites number (see Figure 1 above).

Output 1.1.1 Conducted survey and evaluation of the proposed PA sites to determine inclusion in Vanuatu's National Protected Area System and subsequent designation for PA establishment, governance and management at terrestrial and marine protected areas in 9 Area Council locations

This output will focus on the newly proposed sites for Protected Areas. Initial desktop studies will contribute to the site-based scoping process. Working at the landscape level the process will draw on available data and knowledge, including those documented during the PPG design phase. This will progress to more detailed investigations to collate baseline data, identify suitability as 'R2R' protected areas, land tenure, current protection status, aspirations and needs of the communities, willingness of communities to establish a PA and government priorities. The activities will draw on data collected through the design phase, engage with local, sub-national and national government and other stakeholders to identify suitable sites, boundaries, and habitats and species to be protected. These studies will include biophysical (e.g. sediment erosion), ecological (e.g. habitat status), and socioeconomic (e.g. dependence on natural resources for food) data.

This will be followed by the V-CAP II team undertaking field scoping of each of the sites, which will include:

84. Undertaking a full, GESI-sensitive FPIC process before determining interest of local communities and their "buy in" for the establishment of community-based protected areas;
85. Targeted surveys to determine habitat quality, biodiversity values (species richness and diversity), and ecosystem services values;
86. Landscape context of the site to optimize protection of the full range of ecosystem values; and
87. Key threats and management issues assessment.

The data collected will be analysed and used in a systematic conservation assessment of the relative importance of each site. A formal report on the status and potential of each of the sites as a PA and specific needs and process to move forward will be identified. This will establish the feasibility and priority of progressing work with specific communities to support the development, monitoring, management and/or establishment of a Protected Area or Community Conservation Area at a particular site.

Activities contributing to this output will be delivered by the DEPC with the support of technical specialists, local NGOs and other stakeholders with knowledge of the sites and an interest in progressing PA management. Area Councils and Provincial Officers together with technical staff from DEPC and other relevant government departments will contribute extensively to this process. A capacity building element will ensure Area Council and Provincial staff, and community members can participate and learn survey methods to contribute to a long-term, sustainable and standardized monitoring system.

Through the above process, all available data on the sites will be reviewed and compiled, and recommendations provided on the sites proposed for protection as PA in each of the area councils. DEPC will convene and coordinate the technical panel to review the proposed list with key specialists. The specialists will be drawn from subject areas including land and marine ecology and conservation, Vanuatu *kustom*, natural resource management, and gender and social inclusion, to identify possible equity and inclusion issues.

This structured process will quantitatively rank all proposed PA sites in order of implementation priority based on an objective set of criteria, that may include important upland water sources, unique terrestrial or marine biodiversity or ecological feature, current ecosystem condition, current use (dependence for food or livelihoods), cultural value, threats, community capacity to support PA monitoring and management, community and government support.

Outline Activities:	
1.1.1.1	Identification of approximate boundaries of suitable R2R PA sites from targeted area councils based on NBSAP priorities, available data, community needs and government priorities
1.1.1.2	Baseline biodiversity, biophysical, ecological and socioeconomic surveys of existing or proposed PA in 9 Area Council sites including identification of threatened habitats of importance and endemic species including SAD-disaggregated data (see GESI Annex 18 - GESI Action Plan (GAP) 1.1.2)
1.1.1.3	Reporting on biodiversity and ecosystem services values of each of the proposed sites and evaluation of the possibility for incorporation into the National Protected Area system detailing possible designation, governance and management arrangements. Ensure reporting is aligned with the GESI Plan to identify possible equity and inclusion issues, constraints and risks (see GAP)
1.1.1.4	Prioritized ranking of proposed PA sites based on criteria (e.g. current condition, threats, community capacity, government support) considering safety risks that are gender-, ability-, and age-specific.
1.1.1.5	Selection of 6 priority PAs sites for development and implementation of long-term management

Output 1.1.2 PA Registration and Management Plans developed in at least 6 priority protected areas (either terrestrial or marine following prioritization in Output 1.1.1) selected from the 9 Area Councils; management planning conducted through participatory processes with local communities and other stakeholders

The sites identified as priorities selected from through 1.1.1 above will be registered as protected areas as part of Vanuatu' National PA system. These sites will either be terrestrial or marine sites. A management planning process will be initiated at each of the sites and Management Plans developed that are suitable for use at community, Area Council and National Levels.

The Management Plans must meet all requirements specified in DEPC's Community Conservation Area (CCA) Information Booklet as stipulated in *The Environmental Protection and Conservation Act CAP 283*. The V-CAP II design team also notes management planning guidelines will be developed by the ECARE Project and incorporated into a standard monitoring and evaluation system for Vanuatu's protected areas and reporting. V-CAP II will utilize these management planning guidelines and the standardized monitoring and evaluation system developed under the ECARE.

V-CAP II will support the participatory formulation of management plans for the priority PA. These will set-out key issues including management objectives, management strategies, internal zoning, resource needs, governance, organizational frameworks and financing. In the development of the PA, broader SLM and marine monitoring and management approaches developed in other outputs will be an important aspect to reflect landscape-wide considerations in the zoning and buffers for the sites.

Each site should be considered in the context of an integrated coastal R2R approach as the basis for the development of management plans. Management and conservation of island biodiversity relies upon these integrated approaches. Additionally, often it is the same community utilising both terrestrial and marine resources and responsible for the stewardship of these areas. Additionally, the Management Plans will include measures to mitigate illegal and unsustainable use of species and to reduce pressures on vulnerable ecosystems to improve ecological integrity and climate resilience.

For each of the sites, a consensus approved zonation map of the protected area and the surrounding lands will be developed. This map will highlight what activities are allowed within each zone. This can be a dynamic map based on seasonal or multi-year cultural requirements. There should however always be a core area for protection.

The management planning process will be inclusive and will ensure free prior informed consent is integrated into the planning process. All groups that have a stake in the management and benefits of the protected area will be involved in the process. The principals and action of the Gender and Social Inclusion Action Plan will be incorporated into the process. During project implementation, the role of women in decision-making relating to access to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources will be carefully documented and analyzed for greater understanding on the dynamics of gender and power, as related to natural resources decisions in a specific community setting

As required and where information is available species-specific management plans will be developed with local communities. These species management efforts make a valuable contribution to biodiversity conservation both in Vanuatu and globally. Component technical expertise will be required to provide inputs into the species-specific elements of the management plans. Some examples of the species conservation initiatives already underway to various extents within the focal Area Councils are listed in the table below: VCAP II will continue to engage NGOs partners to build upon their experience in working with local communities in VCAP sites to develop and implement local species action plans.

Table 2: Species of concern in PA Management Plans

Species	Species name	Location	IUCN Red List category
Vanuatu Megapode	<i>Megapodius layardi</i>	Ambrym Island	Vulnerable
Banks Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus fundatus</i>	Mota Island	Endangered
Collared Petrel	<i>Pterodroma brevipes</i>	South Tanna	Vulnerable
Coconut Crab	<i>Birgus latro</i>	Torres Island Group and Futuna	Data deficient
Marine turtles:	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>		Endangered
- green	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	South Epi	Critically endangered
- hawksbill	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	South Tanna	Vulnerable
- leatherback		Torres island group	

Strategic Area 5 of the NBSAP identifies invasive species eradication and control. The control, management and eradication of invasive species will be incorporated into the management planning process and will be included as an indicator in each Management Plan.

An outline of the specific activities to be conducted under this output are detailed below.

Outline Activities:

- 1.1.2.1 Community awareness campaigns in selected PA locations with a key focus on the participation of women and marginalized groups (See GAP 1.1.2) to ensure it is possible to attain prior informed consent to register and manage protected areas.
- 1.1.2.2 Develop draft participatory integrated community management plans for each PA by applying the integrated coastal R2R approach through engagement with local community, government, and development partners to identify budget, resource deployment plan and timeline (See GAP 1.1.2);
- 1.1.2.3 Provision of competent technical baseline information and specific actions for key species are incorporated into the Management Plans.
- 1.1.2.4 Complete consultation on the draft management plans with all stakeholders including women and groups with special needs (See GAP 1.1.2)
- 1.1.2.5 Formal endorsement (registration) of PA management plans through National approval

Output 1.1.3 Implemented key aspects of management plans, including measures to mitigate illegal and unsustainable use of species and to reduce pressures on vulnerable ecosystems to improve ecological integrity and climate resilience

V-CAP II will support the implementation of the Management Plans including measures to mitigate illegal and unsustainable use of species and to reduce pressures on vulnerable ecosystems to improve ecological integrity and

climate resilience. Each of the measures to be implemented will be detailed in the management plan and included in the operational annual plan to be supported by V-CAP II.

THE DEPC will have overall responsibility for overseeing the implementation arrangements for Management Plans. The responsibilities for implementation will be detailed in the plans, but will include the DEPC, local communities representing Kustom management systems and the Area Councils. Other Government agencies including Departments of Forestry, Fisheries, Agriculture, Water Resources and Livestock will all participate in the implementation of the Management Plan.

The project will support the establishment of appropriate structures required to sustain the management of the PA and to enable traditional owners to work with Government at all levels as well as civil society and specialist agencies. These structures will utilize existing community structures to ensure the potential for long-term sustainability. The monitoring and evaluation tools available in Vanuatu (e.g. Community Marine Monitoring Toolkit) will contribute to this process in alignment with activities under the ECARE Project.

Community awareness will be a critical and ongoing element of the implementation of each of the Management Plans with a focus on strengthened stakeholder engagement and ownership. Community Champions appointed at each site will play a leading role in education and awareness and monitoring. The Champions from each site will be trained and capacity built to play an ongoing leadership role in the management of the protected areas across the network of Protected Areas. The Community Champions will be part of the national Vanua Tai Environment Network and participate in established monitoring and awareness training as well as annual meetings.

Training and capacity building will be critical to the success of the PAs. Specific training and capacity building will be site based, but as needed will be developed nationally across all sites. Specific topics will include (i) awareness raising and leadership, (ii) resources monitoring (e.g. turtles, fish catches and habitats), and (iii) using monitoring to inform local decision-making and (iv) providing gender-specific training where beneficial to ensure women feel empowered to participate, e.g., Focused Women's-only Agriculture Training (See GAP .1.1.2).

Species-specific technical reviews of progress in species protection and management at individual PA sites will be developed to inform improved conservation as well as national management plans, e.g. Turtle (all Vanuatu), Coconut Crab (Torres/ Futuna), Megapod breeding in Ambrym) and breeding shorebird harvesting.

An annual workplan will be developed for each of the sites. There will be an assessment at the end of each year of the progress of implementation of the annual workplans. The funding and support for the following years annual workplan will be based on the progress achieved in the previous year. The annual workplan is to identify training and capacity building needs. In addition, it will identify the external technical support required from department partners including universities, NGOs and development partners. Monitoring of the implementation of the Management Plans will follow the guidance issued by the DEPC.

Outline Activities:

- 1.1.3.1 Development of an annual workplan for each of the sites for the implementation of community-based management with identification of clear roles in implementation from development partners and government;
- 1.1.3.2 Review and approve the annual workplan for each of the sites for the implementation of community-based management with support from development partners and government;
- 1.1.3.3 Conduct training for the Community Champions, Area Council staff and key community members in PA management and operation from each of the sites and site-based training programs as outlined in the annual workplans.
- 1.1.3.4 Strengthen community monitoring networks to include traditional and scientific knowledge in a series of national level training and capacity building exercise in relevant sectors, e.g. enhance turtle monitoring and management at South Epi, South Tanna and Torres island group, and other priority sites; fish catch surveys at priority sites.
- 1.1.3.5 Periodically (at least every 2 years) undertake species-specific technical review of progress in species protection and management at individual PA sites and provide recommendations for updating management plans.

Outcome 1.2: Supported Sustainable Land Management initiatives at the community level to restore ecosystem services and improve resilience to climate impacts

Baseline condition for this outcome

In Vanuatu, forests are part of all people's life, customs and culture. The 2007 Agriculture census showed that 95% of households rely on forest products and agriculture. The protection, management and restoration of the landscape is vital for the maintenance of the quality of local people's lives.

Exploitation of this resource, combined with a high rate of population growth, has placed tremendous pressures on Vanuatu's natural forests. This has affected the quality of services provided by them such as food security, water quality, climate change mitigation and adaptation, building materials, medicines, and many others. Vanuatu's forests have also been severely affected by natural disasters, particularly by increasingly frequent tropical cyclones, which have significantly reduced the quality of forest cover in some places.

The goal of Vanuatu's National Forest Policy, 2013-2023 (VNFP 2013) is to ensure that the Nation's forest resources are managed in an integrated and sustainable manner and that they contribute to the alleviation of poverty in rural areas. The policy notes that as the population of Vanuatu increases consumption of wood also increases, placing additional pressure on natural landscapes. Currently Vanuatu is a net importer of wood and other forest products.

The Vanuatu Forest and Landscape Restoration Strategy 2020-2030 (FLRS) details a restoration target of 24,500 hectares of land under restoration and enhanced management. It is envisaged that this will include plantation, agroforestry, and assisted restoration inside and outside protected areas. It is noted that restoration takes on a broader context considering the range of identified interventions.

The GoV is seeking to establish an enabling environment for the implementation of the FLRS through: (i) a better understanding of what FLR means in Vanuatu and where/how to best implement it, (ii) the support to FLR coordination groups, as stakeholder agreement and co-implementation is key for FLR, (iii) the development and the implementation on the ground of FLR supportive policies.

The NBSAP states in Objective FIW3 it will reverse trends in deforestation, enhance land degradation neutrality and improve biodiversity through improved policy support and governance framework, knowledge management and by implementing a strategic forest landscape restoration project to enable long term ecological recovery and increased economic benefits for all forest stakeholders. Specially the following items,

- FIW3.2 Soil fertility is improved through the conduct of soils schools and establishing soil improvement nurseries that are established and functioning at community level.
- FIW3.3 An increase in subsistence or commercial agricultural activities is recorded in areas when soil fertility has been improved and income from crops are assisting local livelihoods and food security.

In the context of small island systems, the V-CAP PPG considered the definition of "coastal areas" as all land within a catchment that drains into targeted coastal waters. In the majority of targeted sites, the landowners and communities responsible for coastal management are the same owners (or closely related) for adjacent upland areas. Additionally, the drainage areas in the upland areas have a direct interaction with the V-CAP II target coastal areas. Thus, an integrated R2R approach is the most suitable approach for the delivery of V-CAP II. Currently none of the project sites visited during the PPG have terrestrial upland or coastal land-use management plans.

Without V-CAP II intervention there will continue to be a substantial disconnect between the management of the land and the sea, and any opportunities for development of a comprehensive approach will not be implemented in the foreseeable future. The challenges of climate change will impact on both systems and the interaction between these systems needs to be addressed in the context of climate change.

One of the greatest challenges in upland management is the management of topsoil and sediment being washed from the upland and coastal area into the nearshore and marine systems. The source of sediment from a range of practices.

Forestry and deforestation were reported in most of the targeted communities and is one of the most serious environmental challenges in each of the V-CAP II sites and also in wider island management in Vanuatu. There are a variety of reasons for the deforestation including the need to harvest timber to meet building supply which often targets old growth forest, the creation of additional areas for agriculture and growing populations

requiring larger land areas. There is also logging in some locations for exporting to Port Vila and beyond. Significantly, deforestation has resulted in a loss of soil stability, increased runoff and has impacted on groundwater recharge. There is an urgent need to provide alternatives to the exploitation of old-growth forest, including forestry lots, seedlings and enhancement of agricultural practices.

Land-use planning in V-CAP II sites is typically undertaken by customary owners through traditional management regimes, which frequently exclude women. However, due to overpopulation and linked to challenges associated with sea-level rise, some communities reported to the PPG team that they were considering relocating (e.g. one coastal village in Epi Island and a number of communities in South Malekula). This has obvious implications for management and utilization of terrestrial resources and the lack of land-use planning and provision of associated government services will exacerbate this future issue.

Alternative for this outcome (with GEF project):

V-CAP II will focus on the implementation of the upland components of the Community Climate Change Adaptation Plans (CCAPs) developed under V-CAP II component 3.1.1. The upland elements of the CCAPs at village and Area Council levels will enhance landscape management and enhance resilience of upland areas to climate change and contribute to watershed management.

In each of the V-CAP Area Councils a comprehensive baseline survey will inform the development of the locations for restoration which will be included in the CCAPs. This will focus on establishing baselines in relation to locations of erosion, water sources, riparian vegetation, and their management. This baseline survey will be undertaken again in year five of the project to identify the impacts of the project on the quality of the coast lines, sediment production, water services, and erosion in relation to their contribution to enhancing resilience to climate change.

The upland components of the CCAPs will outline a comprehensive extension and outreach program for community members on land management, suitable forestry and erosion control plants (e.g. vetiver grass and bamboo). The planting of erosion control species will form part of the “softer measures” for addressing maintenance of infrastructure.

Field Coordinators will be appointed in selected target sites to oversee implementation and coordination of land management V-CAP II interventions. Their role will involve development and facilitation of community outreach initiatives; support to communities in developing the upland CCAPs, and organization of training sessions. Extension services will also be provided by the extension staff of the Department of Forestry in Santo. Topics for training and extension will include suitable forest and plantation species, and erosion control species.

In each target site, V-CAP II will provide direct support to the restoration of areas impacted by land degradation. These areas were initially identified in the site assessments through consultations with local communities in mid-2020. A more detailed assessment of each of these sites will provide useful information on the key factors leading to land degradation. The proposed action in these two outputs will enhance the sites’ ability to provide long-term ecosystem services. It will also contribute to supporting Land Degradation Neutrality in Vanuatu.

Output 1.2.1 Degraded areas assessed in the selected project sites to identify the key drivers of land degradation covering approximately 10,000 hectares within the 9 priority Area Council locations

In each of the localities, opportunities for restoration support will be identified through participatory and land use planning processes. Being aware of the R2R process, the identification of priority sites will be sought to stem erosion, improve water retention and improve upland water quality through the design of specific interventions to address these challenges. Across the R2R landscape of each project site V-CAP II will seek to develop integrated models for natural land, sustainable agriculture and forestry. It will document the lessons learnt from other similar initiatives in Vanuatu and other relevant countries and identify the key drivers of land degradation. Where applicable, a plan will be developed identifying specific applications for each of the project sites. These plans will focus on enhancing awareness among local people in the focal sites on the practical feasibility and benefits of ecosystem restoration and management.

A specific focus for these sites is around the existing and/or proposed protected areas to be supported by V-CAP II. This will seek to ensure broader landscape management with a focus on both addressing biodiversity conservation (Output 1.1) while addressing broader landscape management issues in an integrated approach.

Outline Activities:

- 1.2.1.1 Conduct comprehensive R2R wide landscape unit characterization, classification and mapping
- 1.2.1.2 Conduct a site-specific baseline biodiversity, biophysical, ecological assessments and identification of key drivers of land degradation in each of the Area Councils, particularly at farm level¹²
- 1.2.1.3 Identification of the high priority degraded landscapes impacting on R2R landscape's ability to provide the appropriate ecosystem service values in each of the focal area councils
- 1.2.1.4 Site specific assessments (baseline biodiversity, biophysical, ecological) and identification of key drivers of land degradation in each of the Area Councils
- 1.2.1.5 Based on information gathered in activities 1.2.1.1 to 1.2.1.4 together with the Provincial Government and Area Council's knowledge of proposed future infrastructure, agriculture or any other developments, develop a catchment wide map highlighting all opportunities and threats to the R2R landscape. These plans will be incorporated into the upland components of the CCAPs.
- 1.2.1.6 Development of a set of GESI-sensitive approaches and tools to work with local communities and landholders to address key drivers of land degradation and to contribute to enhanced R2R management (see GAP .1.1.2)
- 1.2.1.7 Development of a set of approaches and tools to work with local communities and landholders to address key drivers of land degradation

Output 1.2.2 Strategies for the rehabilitation of degraded landscapes agreed through participatory processes and subsequently implemented to cover approximately 10,000 hectares

Based on the results of Output 1.2.1, specific plans will be finalized and implemented through cross sectoral working groups engaging Area Councils with local communities. These specific actions may include planting vetiver grasses or other ecologically suitable and non-invasive species in high erosive areas, through to agroforestry and intercropping. This will be particularly critical on those islands with higher mountains and elevated plateaus that are more susceptible to erosion, e.g. Tanna, Maewo, and Santo Islands. The DEPC will review the species to be planted, including pineapple, to ensure they are both ecologically suitable and non-invasive species.

Opportunities for downstream activities will be investigated and incorporated into management strategies for restoration of identified degraded landscapes including a focus on improving the value chains linked to sustainable agricultural and forestry production.

Where there are terrestrial protected and community conservation areas, efforts will promote the sustainable management of the landscapes, and link to Outcome 1.1. Examples include agreed buffer zones to minimise the potential encroachment into PAs.

Outline Activities:

- 1.2.2.1 Assess available guides and tools for restoration to incorporate into national Toolkit of suitable techniques for restoration of degraded landscapes including erosion control practices, promote integrated natural resource management, agroforestry systems and integrated land rehabilitation practices
- 1.2.2.2 Development of management strategies for restoration of identified degraded landscapes (site boundaries, ownership and specific actions and timing) to contribute to R2R management in 9 priority Area Councils
- 1.2.2.3 Implementation of management strategies to restore degraded landscape to enhance R2R ecosystem service management in the 9 priority area councils
- 1.2.2.4 Develop and implement integrated coastal land management framework and rehabilitate/ restore coastal erosion hotspots at priority sites (e.g. South Epi, South Maewo) to halt degradation and

¹² See SPREP's ESRAM approach under the PEBACC project.

Outline Activities:

- protect downstream marine habitats, including, but not limited to mangrove forests and riparian vegetation.
- 1.2.2.5 Develop indicators for monitoring and evaluation of effectiveness of restoration of degraded landscapes nationally and in each site;

Outcome 1.3: Improved climate resilience of coastal and upland areas through integrated approaches

It is noted that the baseline conditions are described separately for each output. While the two outputs seek to improve climate resilience, the target economic sectors and approaches are different.

Output 1.3.1 Climate-smart model farms established in approximately 8 Area Council locations with the technologies upscaled/replicated at the farm level in selected areas

Baseline condition for this output

Agriculture is the largest source of income in Vanuatu. The majority of the population is located in rural areas where the majority of households depend on agriculture for income and food security. In some V-CAP II sites, shifting cultivation agricultural practices are resulting in high levels of sediment run-off, in particular from traditional shifting garden cultivation. Additionally, shifting cultivation and accelerating crop rotation has created additional sediment generation issues. There are practices that can reduce the sediment load such as farming on land with low gradient; planting erosion reduction species (e.g. vetiver grasses), and leaving a buffer between water courses and agricultural lands (e.g. riparian vegetation) that are currently not being promoted by agriculture officials or being implemented by communities.

In Vanuatu, livestock are a valuable source of income for rural communities and for larger scale commercial operations. Often cattle are associated with copra plantations which cover large tracks of Vanuatu. As the price of copra decreases more livestock are roaming the forest in an uncontrolled manner. On steep slopes, for example on Santo Island, the livestock cause hill-slope erosion, coastal erosion and increase landslide potential.

Communities in all target sites reported a range of challenges in relation to agriculture, particularly with regard to pests and diseases on crops that could have been due to changing climate patters. As a result of these agricultural issues communities reported times of food shortages. The increasing population has created the need for increased garden size which has resulted in clearing additional forest. This has severe implications for sustainable land management and a number of communities, particularly women, identified this issue as their highest priority.

The sustainability of traditional cyclical farming systems is, in many localities throughout the country, being undermined by the growth in population and the urgent need for food crops. Agricultural pests and diseases are also presenting challenges across all sectors of agriculture and livestock. These factors are exacerbated by climate change.

Extension services have limited reach and often communities in isolated sites, such as the V-CAP II sites, are not able to reach each of the communities.

Alternative for this outcome (with GEF project):

V-CAP II will support climate-smart agriculture to assist farmers and communities respond effectively to climate change. The provision of additional support, building on lessons learnt from V-CAP I and other relevant projects as well as the broader agricultural sector will contribute to more productive and sustainable agricultural landscapes.

Extension services will also be provided by the extension staff of the Department of Agriculture, Farm Support Association and agricultural research centre in Santo and in Port Vila. Topics for training and extension will include climate change, erosion control species and climate resistant crops. Furthermore, Field Coordinators will assist in creating terrestrial conservation plans and overseeing water resource projects.

Outline Activities:

- 1.3.1.1 Identify and document lessons learnt from successful Climate-smart agriculture (diversity, varieties, farming practices, seasonality) in Vanuatu and in relevant SIDS
- 1.3.1.2 Design climate smart model farms with suitable crops, species and techniques for each of the 9 Area Councils (see FAO 2014 report)
- 1.3.1.3 Establish 2-3 Climate-smart model farms in each of the 9 Area Council demonstrating sustainable land management systems at household and community farms
- 1.3.1.4 Conduct training for male and female farmers in the establishment of climate smart farms in each of the Area Councils (See GAP 2.1.1)
- 1.3.1.5 Monitor and evaluate the application and implementation of climate smart model farms in each Area Council;
- 1.3.1.6 Develop toolkits for agroforestry, conservation farming systems, alley cropping system, selection and promotion of resilient crops (high yield food and cash crops, drought and flood resilient high productivity crops as well as crops resilient to potentially increasing saline soils.

Output 1.3.2 Improved resilience through climate proofing of selected public conveyance, water provision infrastructure and evacuation facilities in the coastal zone in priority communities within the 9 priority Area Council locations

Baseline condition for this output

The Economy Pillar of the NSDP calls for Sustainable and well-maintained infrastructure and services for all, through inclusive and effective partnerships. The baseline situation for elements to be considered by V-CAP II are outlined below.

Climate proofing public conveyance infrastructure

Public conveyance or road and transport infrastructure is the infrastructure that provides linkages between communities and services and markets, e.g. health centres, schools and markets. Although public roads are often considered as the primary corridor, in the mountainous islands of Vanuatu it is often walking tracks, frequently through challenging terrain, that are the communities key transport routes to access markets, education and health facilities. This infrastructure is vitally important for women to access health centres, children to access schools and groups with special needs to access needed resources. Degradation and bottlenecks in these tracks often occur at river crossings, steep and mountainous inclines and descents and in muddy and erodible areas. Unsealed walking paths and trails are a source of erosion which will become worse under droughts, increased rains, and changes in seasonality. This will get worse under the proposed climate change scenarios. As the paths become impassable, new paths form, leading to an increase in land degradation around these paths. This degradation in steep areas may lead to an increased risk of landslides. Water flows in river will become more unpredictable making river crossings unreliable and possibly dangerous.

Often in Vanuatu, upgrading of public infrastructure is undertaken by communities with labour and limited materials they themselves provide. Due to a lack of planning, construction and maintenance skills and resources in communities often these public conveyance infrastructures degrade. It is likely that expected changes in climate will contribute to a more rapid degradation of this infrastructure and loss of access to markets, health and education services.



Above Left: Make-shift steps created by villagers on footpath with sticks and rope between Matangi and Ipau;
Above Right - descending damaged steps without railing near Marae village in Matangi (PC - Niki Kuautonga)



Above: Villager clings to side of cliff due to damaged walk-way and lack of railing (PC - Niki Kuautonga)

In addition, in isolated islands in Vanuatu, roads and related infrastructure are degraded by both vehicles (and pedestrians) and climate related weathering – and in many locations it is weathering that creates a greater degradation of the roads than vehicle use. This includes erosion of hill slopes, bogs from wheels being stuck in mud, and gully erosion on the side of roads. These types of weathering issues are already exacerbated by more intense cyclones and precipitation associated with climate change. Typically, there is no budget for maintenance of these roads once constructed. It is important that erosion and climate related maintenance such as management of river crossings is addressed to keep the roads open and operational.

Area Council Offices and evacuation facilities

The NSDP Objective SOC 6.5 is to strengthen local authorities and municipal institutions to enable decentralised service delivery. As part of this decentralization process the Government has committed to the establishment of Area Council Offices in selected Area Councils in Vanuatu. However, quality of construction of Area Council Offices is limited by Government fund allocation.



Above: Remains of West Coast Santo AC office after destruction caused by TC Harold in April 2020 in Wusi Village

Ensure all people have access to safe water

The Economic Pillar of the NSDP includes policy objective 2 “to ensure all people of Vanuatu have reliable access to safe drinking water and sanitation infrastructure”. The target in the NSDP M&E Framework¹³ is for 100% of households to have access to safe drinking water by 2030.

¹³ NSDP Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (July 2017) -Government of Vanuatu

The Water Resources Management (Amendment) Act No. 32 of 2016 and the Water Supply (Amendment) Act No. 31 of 2016, the Vanuatu National Drinking Water Quality Standards 2016, and the Vanuatu National Water Policy 2017–2030 all require community water supplies to have a Drinking Water Safety and Security Plan (DWSSP), an internationally-recognised approach for achieving safe drinking water. Both the current Vanuatu National Water Strategy 2008–2018 and the draft Vanuatu National Water Strategy 2018–2030 (NWS) include strategic directions and targets for introducing Drinking Water Safety and Security Planning to rural community water supply schemes (i.e. departments, private, communities, schools, health facilities and households).

Drinking Water Safety and Security Planning is a process of community engagement in identifying and discussing threats to safe and secure drinking water and making plans to manage these threats. The resulting community DWSSP guides day-to-day water supply operation and maintenance, as well as improvements. The Drinking Water Safety and Security Planning approach has been used effectively in a number of community-level projects in Vanuatu. Drinking Water Safety and Security Planning was adopted as a starting point to engage with communities about water supply recovery and improvements after Tropical Cyclone Pam (2015) and in preparation for El Nino seasons, supporting “Build Back Better” infrastructure and more resilient communities to future natural disasters. However, to achieve 100% of community water supply systems with a DWSSP by 2030, a significant step-up from on-request community project-based support will be required. In reality, given the challenges presented by climate change and related disaster events the pace of rollout will be slow.

Alternative for this outcome (with GEF project):

Enhancing resilience to climate change in the coastal zone of Vanuatu is part of the climate compatible development focus to be mainstreamed into Area Council and community development plans and projects. Specifically, this output will build upon the findings of the community and Area Council consultations of the PPG in target communities (see Annexes 20.1- 20.6). Specifically, this output will focus on the building resilience in three specific areas namely:

88. Climate proofing existing investments of roading and transport infrastructure;
89. Climate proofing Government investments in Area Council Offices and associated infrastructure; and
90. Climate proofing community and government investments in water infrastructure to provide water security in a changing weather regime.

The specific activities to be supported will be identified in Output 3.1.1 Community Climate Change Adaptation Plans (CCAPs) (including Nature-based Solutions) mainstreamed into Provincial and Integrated Area Council Development Plans and implementation supported in the 12 priority Area Councils. The activities identified below have been requested by local communities for support. These will be further refined in the development of the CCAPs. Each of the proposed project interventions will be subject to an internal review to ensure it is both in line with the V-CAP I GESI Action Plan and that it will not trigger additional environmental screening.

V-CAP II will work with communities to strengthen community and government constructed infrastructure to enhance climate resilience and demonstrate climate compatible development in the specific locations identified by communities during the V-CAP II PPG process (see VNA in Annexes 20.1-20.6). The activities in this component make use of soft, hard or hybrid interventions and are designed to increase resilience (i.e. reducing vulnerability) of this infrastructure to the impacts of adverse effects of weathering which will be enhanced as a result of climate change. VCAP II will engage local NGOs partners to build upon their experience in working with local communities in VCAP sites to develop and implement these plans. In addition, as appropriate the private sector construction companies will be involved in delivery of climate proofing solutions. For these small-scale private sector entities capacity be built of these construction companies to understand climate risks so that they can update their business practice/design standards generally for other projects.

This activity will be completed through the strengthening of natural, built, social, and governance systems. Co-financing for these interventions will be drawn from the provision of materials and funds from Area Council and government budgets and community co-financing through the provision of labour, and baseline contributions from other development projects. Options for “softer” engineered nature-based solutions will be identified together with local communities and may include slope stabilization of roads and walkways through planting with vetiver grass and bamboo (indigenous), the development of contoured paths and the stabilization of the coast through the planting or through encouraging natural regeneration of mangroves, coastal vegetation and related species.

Climate proofing public conveyance infrastructure



UNDP Analyst using staircase on footpath between Ipau & Herold Bay (PC - Niki Kuautonga)

V-CAP II will contribute, where possible, to the renovation of the buildings to meet technical specifications for the required construction of Area Council office and evacuation facilities.

Ensure all people have access to safe water

V-CAP II will contribute to the Government of Vanuatu's initiatives for securing community access to water in the face of climate change through supporting development of a Drinking Water Safety and Security Plans (DWSSP) in selected communities in the target Area Councils while incorporating a GESI sensitive approach. The V-CAP II PPG field mission was provided with many specific requests for contributions to support incremental efforts of the communities and government towards climate compatible development for the targeted community. Water provision infrastructure includes rainwater harvesting and storage particularly in the areas subject to prolonged droughts due to climate change. Vanuatu has a strategic approach to the delivery of water projects through the Vanuatu National Implementation Plan for Safe and Secure Community Drinking Water. V-CAP II will work within this framework and will deliver the proposed activities through the Department of Water Resources. The activities supported will be small-scale in nature and will not involve building dams or water diversion. The PPG team was not in the position to assess each of the community requests during the PPG phase and thus further assessment of the specific local needs will be conducted during implementation. Typical activities will include installation of solar pumps, provision of rainwater tanks and access to groundwater.

A particular focus will support water resources management and supply at water sources. **Water sources** in mountainous Vanuatu are water springs where water is "captured" by local communities and piped back to the community. It is important the water sources are managed as "mini-catchments" with land management, exclusion fencing for livestock (e.g. pigs) and catchment management and watershed protection (as outlined in Output 1.1 and 1.2). This links directly to, which is a key foundation for the R2R approach.

Area Council Offices and evacuation facilities

V-CAP II will contribute to the climate proofing of established and to be constructed Area Council Offices which are also able to act as Area Council Emergency Operations Centers to provide shelter and delivery and disaster shelter functions for vulnerable people who are affected by climate-related events such as cyclones and flooding. The value of climate proofing the Area Council offices was demonstrated during TC Harold in 2020 where community members sheltered from the cyclone in an Area Council Office where the "climate proofing" of construction was supported by V-CAP I.

Climate proofing essentially means enhancing the quality of construction from a basic level to a standard that is suitable to withstand a tropical cyclone that are quite intense in Vanuatu. In total V-CAP will co-finance 5 new and refurbishment of 4 Emergency Operations Centres that will also be used as Area Council Offices. The technical specifications for the required construction of new Area Council office and evacuation facilities are standard government designs. In addition, where Area Council Offices are already existing in focal Area Councils,



*The old storage tanks (22500L *2)*

Table 3: Summary of infrastructure climate-proofing investments (co-financing by V-CAP in addition to Government and community baseline)

Province	SHEFA	SANMA	PENAMA	TAFEA	MALAMPA	TORBA
Island Group	Epi	Espiritu Santo	Maewo	Tanna & Futuna	Ambrym	Torres & Mota
Target Area Councils (AC)	1 Area Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yarsu • + <i>Votlo community in Varsu AC</i> 	2 Area Councils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Coast Santo • Big Bay Inland (<i>+1 community only targeted in alternative AC – Araki in South Santo 2 AC</i>) 	1 Area Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Maewo 	2 Area Councils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Tanna • Futuna 	1 Area Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Ambrym 	2 Area Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torres • Mota
Climate proofing of infrastructure						
Area Council Offices and evacuation shelters – refurbishment / construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening construction of Area Council office in South Epi (Yarsu) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening construction of Area Council office in Wusi, West Coast Santo • Refurbishment & climate proofing Big Bay Inland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbishment & climate proofing South Maewo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening construction – of Area Council in Futuna • Refurbishment & climate proofing South Tanna 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening construction of Area Council office in West Ambrym 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening construction of Area Council office in Torres • Refurbishment & climate proofing Mota 1
Public conveyance (climate proofing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road slopes near <i>Votlo</i>, Port Quimi and Nulnesa • Road crossing near Filakara 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian footpath on Araki Island 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road erosion near Naviso 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking tracks on Futuna 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate proofing of walking tracks on Mota
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWSSP Plan development • Upgrading of water source • WASH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWSSP Plan development • Upgrading of water source • WASH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWSSP Plan development • Implementation of DWSSP • WASH Water supply and WASH in Baitora 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWSSP Plan development • Implementation of DWSSP • Upgrading of water source • WASH • office on Futuna • Water supply and WASH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWSSP Plan development • Implementation of DWSSP • Upgrading of water source • WASH • Water supply in upland areas only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWSSP Plan • Upgrading of water source • WASH Water catchment needed / water supply

Specific activities are outlined below:

Outline Activities:

- 1.3.2.1 Climate proof of community footpaths to ensure safety the safety local communities and reduce land degradation around these paths (e.g. Futuna Island and Epi – south -hill pavement)
- 1.3.2.2 Erosion control using natural solutions in erosion hotspots along constructed unsealed roads (e.g. Maewo Island, South Tanna and Epi Islands) – erosion control along road – 1 km of road + 1 river crossing
- 1.3.2.3 Development and implementation of 20 Drinking Water Safety and Security Plans and provision of associated water infrastructure in selected Area Councils based on GESI-sensitive comprehensive needs assessment
- 1.3.2.4 Needs assessment, plan and implementation of climate proof renovations and construction of AC offices with resources (communications, equipment, supplies) to function as Emergency Operations Centre (5 sites climate proof new construction and 4 sites climate proof refurbishment)

Component 2: Information and early warning systems on coastal hazards

Funding sources	Component 2
LDCF	\$ 1,500,000
Co-financing	\$ 11,837,394
Total Component	\$ 13,337,394

The Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD) is a Department within the MCCAMGEEEDM. The VMGD aims to meet the growing demands of the GoV and all Ni-Vanuatu for improved meteorological and geohazards services that will:

91. Ensure the safety, security and wellbeing of the people and communities of Vanuatu;
92. Contribute to achieving national sustainable development; and
93. Fulfill Vanuatu's commitments and obligations under relevant regional and international agreements and conventions.

The VMGD Strategic Development Plan 2014-2023 states the VMGD mission to be a fully professional institution comprising skilled and motivated staff using updated and state of the art science and technology within an effective organization, providing high quality meteorological and geo-hazards services that are widely available and accessible, effectively applied, beneficial and highly valued by all sections of the community in Vanuatu. Specifically, this will be achieved through excelling in the following areas:

94. Excellence in weather and climate forecasting processes;
95. Leader in climate change adaptation and mitigation implementation, monitoring and negotiations;
96. Active monitoring and state of the art implementation of early warning systems for geo-hazards;
97. Accessing and supporting international and regional observation networks;
98. Research and innovation targeting improved products and services to all stakeholders;
99. Facilitating cooperation with respect to its monitoring networks;
100. Implementation and use of cutting edge technology; and
101. Quality control systems in place with supporting administrative and financial resources in place.

Climate change is expressed in the first instance as weather, seasons and then climate. Vanuatu needs up-to-date weather data to fill the gaps in weather system information and forecasting. This component will address the lack of understanding of CC and variability that requires a coordinated approach to addressing climate related risks in Vanuatu. It will enhance the capacity for systematic analysis and prediction of climate-related events.

Outcome 2.1: Reduced exposure to flood-related risks and hazards in the target coastal and inland communities

Output 2.1.1. Automated systems for real time monitoring of climate-related hazards such as cyclones, coastal flooding, storm surges, landslides, designed, installed and maintained in selected vulnerable areas

Baseline condition for this output

The current weather information collection platform implemented by the Government of Vanuatu with partial co-financing from V-CAP I is planned to be upgraded to improve forecasting. This quality information will be further supported by obtaining a satellite "Cloud Data Set" from an appropriate source. The Himawari-8/9 satellite provision of image data is an essential meteorological service. To distribute the large volumes of Himawari-8/9 imagery, Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) established an internet cloud service called HimawariCloud for National Meteorology and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in the East Asia/Western Pacific regions. To have access to this high resolution and true colour satellite data, the VMGD is establishing a high-capacity server with adequate internet band width. This will contribute to the production of high-quality TV weather and climate change information for dissemination throughout the country.

Alternative for this outcome (with GEF project):

V-CAP II will build upon the GoV's work to enhance forecasting and warning systems that will contribute to enhancing resilience of the economy. It will address financial and human constraints for departments dealing with climate-related issues, particularly meteorology and environment. It will ensure accurate and timely information is provided to those who need the information. This component will be housed in the VMGD to ensure coordination and integration with other related initiatives as this office will implement this component and the GCF "Climate Information Services for Resilient Development in Vanuatu (VANKIRAP)" Project. The specific elements are outlined below.

Vanuatu is in the process of building a national system of Automated Weather Stations (AWS). Over the last 10 years AWS were installed to support the Government's early warning system and alert services to the decentralized population. These include JICA-funded AWS located at Bauerfield (Port Vila) and Pekoa (Luganville Santo), the V-CAP 1 funded AWS installed by the New Zealand National Institute Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) and located at Aneityum, Lamap, Whitegrass, Longana, Norsup, Sola and Port Vila, and the ACSE project, funded by GIZ/SPC which installed AWS at Lonorore, Epau, Port Vila, and Namplontafo. These AWS collect and transmit vital meteorological data to VMGD every 1 to 3 minutes, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Vanuatu's population is sparsely spread throughout the 65 inhabited islands and the ability to collect reliable, accurate and timely meteorological data with only 10 AWS remains a challenge. The country's largest island, Espiritu Santo, currently has two AWS, however, this is considered inadequate to record weather conditions on the entire island. To be able to have accurate forecast and warnings and to reduce the proportion of Vanuatu people exposed to flood-related risks and hazards, more data must be collected. To be able to achieve this, greater spatial coverage of AWS throughout Vanuatu is needed.

In line with this outcome V-CAP II will support and strengthen the VMGD Early Warning and Information through the installation of six new AWS to strengthen and expand the collection of data. New sites will expand upon the 6 sites supported by V-CAP I. The new V-CAP II sites will include Torba, West Santo, East Santo, North Maewo, Epi and Erromango. The installation of six additional AWS will increase the total number to 16, providing vital meteorological data to VMGD to support delivery of timely information and early warnings. The AWS will transmit raw meteorological data (temperature, humidity, rainfall, wind direction, wind speed, pressure) to VMGD in real time. This data will support the work of meteorologists and climatologists by improving the coverage and real-time data and improve regional and global model forecast outputs for Vanuatu.

The existing AWS will be maintained and repaired supported by Government budget. In addition, there is a need for continuing to build the capacity of VMGD technicians/personnel. The PPG design team also identified a need to upgrade elements of the current and existing AWS. During tropical cyclone Harold in 2020, all AWS in the areas affected by TC Harold did not give accurate readings of wind speed, wind direction and atmospheric pressure due to the strength of the TC. This activity will refurbish and strengthen the seven existing automatic weather stations, initially funded by V-CAP 1 and the JICA project "Improvement of Equipment for Disaster Management" through purchasing of additional sensors for the existing AWS.

VMGD continues to maintain seven manual observation stations (equipment, instruments and personnel) throughout its provincial offices. These manual observation stations are maintained and used as back-up in the event of failure or partial failure of the AWS. However, these instruments were more than 20 years old and are in urgent needed repair and upgrade. This system will be strengthened for the use of basic manual observation instruments (rain gauge, thermometer, Stevenson screen, and barometer) as well as install them in these observation stations. This will enable continuous transmission of meteorological data in the event an AWS breaks down.

Communicating meteorological data from the sites (in this case weather observation stations at provincial offices) to the head office (VMGD) in a timely manner remains an important function of VMGD. During extreme events, particularly tropical cyclones, communication lines are typically cut due to gale and cyclonic winds, and the most reliable form of communication to transmit meteorological data as well as provide ground truth to the VMGD warning centre is using HF Radio. This activity will procure seven (7) HF Radio to be installed in the seven observation stations. VMGD will also install seven cameras to provide live feed images of current weather conditions over the seven observation stations, and to the warning centre within VMGD. This will support the day to day forecasting services, including warning services for severe weather events. Mobile network operators including Digicel and TVL

have already agreed to disseminate the information through their networks free of charge¹⁴ to all persons with mobile phone connected to these networks.

In addition, the overall system will be strengthened by installation of an equipment monitoring system to monitor all equipment currently in use by VMGD technicians to maintain AWS. This equipment will be housed in a laboratory. This will include checking meteorological data needed for irregularities and ensuring quality control measures to be applied prior to data being transmitted to the warning centre to be used by meteorologists and climatologists locally, regionally and internationally. The installation of the meta-data system to ensure data is closely monitored and quality check processes applied prior to its transmission.

In relation to rainfall and water related events, VMGD currently does not have access to real time data on major rivers to provide accurate flood information and warning. This activity will be new for Vanuatu and will develop a new flood forecasting system including installation of river gauges to establishing a platform/integrated system that transmits data from tide gauges to the warning centre in real time, and from the warning centre to end users. This activity will include the procurement of river gauges to collect and transmit hydrological data in real time.

The rainfall monitoring system will build upon and verify the VMGD the regular three-day Severe Weather Outlooks that include forecasts of the likelihood of 100 mm or more rainfall in a 24-hour period. VMGD also issues severe weather warnings for rainfall of 100 mm or more. But no warnings for river flooding are currently issued, and hydrological infrastructure to facilitate such warnings is lacking. Thus, a network of river gauges on major rivers will be developed to provide near real time river flow data to VMGD. This will establish 6 (six) river gauges in major rivers namely Pankumu River in Malekula, South Santo River, Sarakata river on Santo, Prima River on Efate, Toumea river on Efate and Rentabau river on Efate.

There remain challenges in accessing weather in remote areas and locations prior to natural hazard events where there are no observation stations and where the area is expected to be affected by a meteorological event. Thus, mobile monitoring equipment (1 GPS, 2 Laptops, 1 Camera and 1 drone) will be used for monitoring during field assessments. This equipment will also be used for warning verification purposes during disaster events to improve warning accuracy.

Finally, there is a need to safely store electronic maintenance equipment for VMGD technicians to use to conduct routine maintenance on AWS throughout Vanuatu. This ensures that AWS function to their optimum. This activity will involve the refurbishment of an existing building provided by the GoV within the VMGD compound. The refurbished building will then be converted into a laboratory for maintenance works on sensors and other meteorological equipment.

Outline Activities:

- 2.1.1.1 Procurement and training for use of six (6) Automated Weather Stations with meteorological sensors to measure wind speed, wind direction, temperature, rainfall, and pressure, and will be installed at the Sites of Torres, North Santo, West Coast Santo, Epi, North Maewo, and Erromango.
- 2.1.1.2 Procurement of spare sensors and upgrade of existing seven (7) automatic weather stations over Sola, Pekoa, Saratamata, Bauerfield, Whitegrass, and Aneityum and Upgrade of seven (7) manual synoptic stations over Sola, Pekoa, Saratamata, Lamap, Bauerfield, Whitegrass and Aneityum
- 2.1.1.3 Procurement and upgrade of HF Radio for seven (7) weather observation station sites of Sola, Pekoa, Saratamata, Lamap, Bauerfield, Whitegrass and Aneityum, including procurement of standby generators for Pekoa, Bauerfield and Whitegrass and procurement of 7 (seven) cameras for live feed of current weather conditions for seven (7) observation sites (Sola, Saratamta, Pekoa, Bauerfield, Norsup, Whitegrass, Aneityum) to improve real time observation
- 2.1.1.4 Procurement and installation of a Central Data Collection System, including Equipment Monitoring System and Meta Data System to ensure continuous data dissemination and data quality control
- 2.1.1.5 Procurement of six (6) river gauges and water level markers for South Santo River, Sarakata River over Santo, Pankumo River over Malekula, and Toumea and Rendapau River on Efate

¹⁴ https://www.dailypost.vu/news/telecom-operators-offer-free-sms-for-cyclone-warnings/article_de3c3cb9-df9a-5f94-8bc3-49a051f04db9.html

Outline Activities:

- 2.1.1.6 Procurement of mobile monitoring equipment (1 GPS, 2 Laptops, 1 Camera, 1 drone) for monitoring remote areas and locations prior to natural hazard events, including for warning verification purposes on disaster events to improve warning accuracy
- 2.1.1.7 Refurbish and equip VMGD Equipment Laboratory to improve maintenance work on all monitoring equipment

In relation to procurement, all activities above will be implemented in line with UNDP's Sustainable Procurement Policy. In addition, it is noted that UNDP has Long Term Agreements (LTAs) in place for Early Warning Systems and River Gauging Equipment, the project may consider leveraging on these LTAs to benefit from streamlined procurement process.

Output 2.1.2 Timely releases of early warnings about cyclones, coastal flooding, storm surges and landslides through various public media; early warnings are received in a timely manner by all concerned villages in all the islands of Vanuatu

Baseline condition for this output

The current weather forecasting is limited in its ability to deliver adequate a timely warning for the people of Vanuatu. While the Government is committed to delivery of a timely warning system, it is lacking in capacity to collect and disseminate real time data to achieve this commitment. V-CAP II will make a useful contribution to achieve this outcome.

Alternative for this outcome (with GEF project):

V-CAP II will continue to support a process for meteorological risk assessments, communication, and a monitoring and warning service operating 24 hours a day with reliable communication channels for early warning, and a response capacity. These services and functions are important for human security as well as economic development of both land- and marine-based activities. This will include utilisation of telephone and media channels. It will also strengthen the system for disseminating appropriate forecasts, warnings and technical reports that can be accessed remotely by all communities via different media sources, aviation industries, Education sectors, Insurance companies, transportation sectors, public, government and international communities.

Vanuatu currently does not have a flood warning system in place, nor does it currently have access to real time data on major river streams to be able to provide accurate flood information and warning to the public. The Vanuatu Council of Ministers in 2015 agreed to establish a flood warning system unit within VMGD. The field equipment to support system will be co-financed under Activity 2.1.1.5. To establish the national flood warning system the data collectors will be integrated into platforms/integrated system for data collection and warning dissemination (workstations and server). The integrated flood warning system (software, server and workstations) will collect real time data from river gauges (Activity 2.1.1.7) and transmit these hydrological data to the warning centre hub. The data would then be used by meteorologists and hydrologists to prepare forecasts and warnings for river systems around Vanuatu during heavy rainfall and severe weather events (Activity 2.1.2.1).

V-CAP II will follow-up on the progress of V-CAP I when the project co-financed the VMGD in procuring and installing the integrated weather forecasting system "Meteo Factory". The system has been operational within VMGD for over five years and has proven to increase the efficiency and automation of the production of weather forecasts. Now, VMGD has a plan to upgrade this platform to enable meteorologists to prepare warnings for hazard events, particularly tropical cyclone warnings. The upgrade of "Meteo Factory" will allow for the preparation of warnings for coastal hazards within Vanuatu (Activity 2.1.2.2).

To enhance weather literacy, V-CAP II will co-finance the installation of an equipped TV Weather Station to produce and disseminate meteorological information and warnings for the people of Vanuatu. Today, the Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation (VBTC) does not have the resources or the capacity to provide graphic weather information displayed on its television station during a meteorological event. Having a TV Weather Information Station within VMGD would allow VMGD meteorologists and climatologists to generate warning services, in graphical format, to the VBTC, which would then be aired to Vanuatu.

During the passage of severe tropical cyclone Pam in 2015, most parts of the south of Vanuatu, including the capital Port Vila, were heavily impacted. Phone lines and towers, internet connections and communications were disrupted. VMGD, at that time, was not able to fully function or able to disseminate vital warnings to the Vanuatu public. Luganville town in Santo was left untouched during TC Pam. A functional warning centre operational at all times is vital for Vanuatu. A second Warning Centre will act as a backup warning centre with built in redundancy so if one fails, the other kicks off without any disruption to the output of services and warnings from the VMGD Warning Centre in Port Vila. During the site visit, the team met with the Sanma Provincial Government to discuss the need to establish a replica of the warning centre in Luganville as a backup to the warning centre in Port Vila. The warning centre will also play a critical role in providing essential information, advice and warning services to the northern islands Vanuatu. This centre will be a mirror warning centre in the second largest town, Luganville, Santo. The Warning Centre will house all the necessary platforms to prepare and disseminate vital information and warning should the Port Vila Warning Centre fail to function to its full potential in the event of a meteorological or geological event. It will also have VMGD personnel to operate the office and provide essential services to the northern islands of Vanuatu (2.1.2.4).

V-CAP II notes ensuring a reliable Early Warning Systems requires a robust real time transmission network. There are a few sites which do not have access to the Vanuatu Government Broadband Network, and as such data can and will be transmitted via the two commercial communication carriers Vodafone and Digicel. There are also sites which do not have access to all communication carriers (Government Network, Digicel and Vodafone). For sites which do not have access to both Digicel and Vodafone, resources will be invested to provide the connection from the Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) and river gauges to Port-Vila using the Vanuatu Government Network. This transmission architecture will comprise two components (i) Link from Automatic Weather Station to the closest eGov tower using a dedicated transmission system (900 Mhz or 2.4 Ghz); and ii) Link from each eGov tower to the Port-Vila VMGD office via existing government network. V-CAP will co-finance a dedicated inter-connection system between the eGov tower equipment and the VMGD dedicated private transmission system in each province where eGov towers are located. This activity will involve the procurement, installation and upgrade of transmission equipment for sites over Santo, Malo and Malekula (2.1.2.5) in compliance with in line with UNDP's Sustainable Procurement Policy.

Outline Activities:

- 2.1.2.1 Procurement and installation of a flood warning system, including platforms/integrated system for data collection and warning dissemination (one (1) server and two (2) workstations for preparation and dissemination of warnings)
- 2.1.2.2 Upgrade the integrated weather forecasting system "Meteo Factory" to include the preparation and dissemination of severe weather warnings
- 2.1.2.3 Procurement and installation of an equipped TV Weather Station for the production and dissemination of information and warnings
- 2.1.2.4 Contribute to the establishment of a back-up warning centre in Luganville as a back-up replica of the warning centre in Port Vila
- 2.1.2.5 Upgrade of transmission equipment/hardware for sites over South Santo, Malo and Luganville to improve vital data transmission

Output 2.1.3 Strengthened capacity of VMGD staff in the operation and maintenance of weather forecasting (long-range and short-range), AWS and in the analysis of data

Baseline condition for this output

The current weather forecasting is limited by the technical capacity of the staff of the VMGD to utilize data collection mechanisms, data interpretation and weather forecasting. Once the forecasts are developed it is important that weather forecasts are disseminated to all people in Vanuatu, particularly those with special needs. Currently, resources are lacking to complete this important activity. As a result, the lives of the people of Vanuatu will continue to be impacted by severe weather events. Accurate development and dissemination of forecasts will both save lives in Vanuatu and provide more capacity to the people of Vanuatu to respond to a changing climate in both the short and medium terms.

Alternative for this outcome (with GEF project):

This output will enhance the capacity of the VMGD for weather forecasting in a range of areas to enhance their capacity. It will support the development of an appropriate “one stop weather forecast and warning system” that will pull together all weather data such as radar, AWS, manual observation data, community rainfall network, buoys, tide gauges, satellite data etc. The delivery of Output 2.1.1 will rely upon a continuation of the capacity building activities for the technical staff of the VMGD through exchange of meteorologists to master certain skills to improve EWS within VMGD.

The outputs of this component will be shared with other Government Initiatives including “Climate Information Services for Resilient Development in Vanuatu (VANKIRAP)” which will use this information to support Climate Information Systems (CIS) for 5 key sectors: tourism, agriculture, infrastructure, water & fisheries.

This output will be focused on delivery of a package of specific training for the staff of VMGD including weather observers, weather forecasters (meteorologists), climatologists, and ICT/Engineering staff. During the implementation phase, VMGD will ensure that those contractors or service providers who will be part of the installation process (AWS, river gauges/flood warning applications, TV Weather presentation) will have a component in the contract that stipulates the requirement to deliver a minimum training of two weeks training for local staff. Specific training activities will include:

102. Short term training for VMGD observers on the basics of providing maintenance to Automatic Weather Stations and equipment calibration. The training will be carried out during the installation of the AWSs (Activity 2.1.3.1)
103. Building capacity of Weather Forecast Division staff (meteorologists) in using the integrated flood forecasting system platform to prepare and disseminate forecasts and warnings. This training will be implemented during the installation of the integrated flood forecasting system (Activity 2.1.2.1).
104. Field testing and developing training for observers, forecasters and technical officers on how to provide quality control checks on meteorological data before disseminating it to the public.
105. Training to VMGD staff (meteorologists and climatologists) on the preparation and presentation of weather graphics to be displayed on TV (part of output 2.1.2.3).
106. Training on GESI sensitive warning for VMGD staff (Meteorologists and Climatologists) to develop training for meteorological observers, provincial officers, area council officers, and the disadvantaged (women, children disabled, and elderly), enabling them to have the ability to interpret meteorological information and warnings through targeted training and capacity building.

Finally, in the aftermath of an extreme weather event, such as severe flash flooding, landslide, mud slide, storm surge, or tropical cyclone, VMGD personnel (meteorologists and climatologists) almost always fail to conduct a thorough review and case study on these events to generate lessons learnt and apply these to future activities. This activity will allow VMGD meteorologists and climatologists to visit sites and areas that were recently being affected by meteorological hazards, and conduct extensive case studies on these events, allowing them to improve their overall warning systems, in particular the needs of disadvantaged and special groups.

Outline Activities:

- 2.1.3.1 Deliver technical training sessions for VMGD Observation Division Staff for installation, use and maintenance of the Automatic Weather System equipment and on equipment calibration.
- 2.1.3.2 Organize technical training sessions for VMGD Weather Forecast Division staff in the use of integrated flood forecasting system
- 2.1.3.3 Organize a short-term training on quality data control before its dissemination to the Warning Centre and the outside world
- 2.1.3.4 In collaboration with VBTC deliver a short training with VMGD staff on TV Weather Production and TV Weather Presentation.
- 2.1.3.5 Develop a short training to observers, provincial officers, area council officers and the most disadvantage and vulnerable (disabled, young, women, elderly) on the interpretation of weather warnings

Outline Activities:

- 2.1.3.6 Carry out reviews on two weather related disaster events (e.g. cyclone), including collection of severe weather data on post data events and generate lessons learned for incorporation into future planning.

Component 3: Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Governance

Funding sources	Component 3
GEF- TF	\$ 336,600
LDCF	\$ 765,200
Sub-Total	\$ 1,101,800
Co-financing	\$ 5,758,185
Total Component	\$ 6,859,985

Outcome 3.1: Climate change adaptation plans at the community level and enabling policies and supportive institutions in place at both local and national levels

Baseline condition for this outcome

The NSDP Objective SOC 6.5 is to strengthen local authorities and municipal institutions to enable decentralized service delivery. The three levels of Government in Vanuatu are National, Provincial and Area Council. The Decentralization Act (2006) and the Amendment to the Act (2013) outline the roles and responsibilities of the local administration regarding decentralisation of service delivery across Vanuatu. The Department of Local Authorities (DLA) of the Ministry of Interior is responsible for implementing the Act and the Amendment to this Act. The DLA is currently under-resourced however and lacks the capacity to drive implementation of the Decentralisation Act across all Acs at the same time.

Vanuatu has six provinces with operational Provincial Councils and Provincial Administration. The Secretary General of the Provincial Administration is responsible for the development of Provincial Development Plans which incorporate national level policies and plans. Further sub-divided within the jurisdiction of the Provincial Councils are Area Councils, which were established under the *Decentralization and Local Government Regions (Amendment) Act No. 13* of 1997. As of 2021, there are 71 Area Councils established throughout Vanuatu. As part of this decentralization process the Government has committed to the strengthening Governance at the Area Council level. This commitment has included the appointment of an Area Council Administrator to assist the appointed Area Secretary to develop and implement Area Council Development Plans.

The Area Councils are responsible for the formulation of an Area Council Development Plan. These plans should be developed through an integrated “bottom-up” process following the approaches endorsed by Vanuatu National Government and will be based on the priorities developed from the local (village) plans, which will incorporate climate change adaptation. The Area Council Development Plans will inform the allocation of funds provided to each Area Council from the Department of Local Authorities (DLA) through the province in line with the Amendment to the Decentralization Act 2013. The DLA will provide clear guidance for the use of the funds and will also inform other development partners of funding priorities in targeted communities. It is important that the allocation of funds is broad to address the full range of needs of local communities.

The government of Vanuatu is committed to mainstreaming biodiversity, SLM and climate change into national planning and development plans. The development of the NSDP and the inclusion of this specific climate change, biodiversity and SLM policy goals highlight the need to integrate these issues as a cross-cutting development issue at the highest national level.

Examples of this approach are the NSDP and the Vanuatu Climate Change Finance Review (2018) which seek more effective coordination and delivery of the policy to support integration of climate change adaptation into the various sectors. The Vanuatu Climate Change Finance Review (2018) notes that Vanuatu has made significant progress over the last few years in the development and endorsement of climate change specific policies, strategies and planning tools.

Vanuatu’s National Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management 2006-2016 is currently being reviewed and updated. This will align with the recent review of the National Disaster legislation that aims

to provide a strengthened legislative environment for disaster management in light of lessons learned from recent Tropical Cyclone Pam.

Finally, the Vanuatu National Environment Policy and Implementation Plan 2016-2030 within the Environmental Management and Conservation (Amendment) Act No. 28 specifies the need for consideration of climate change adaptation and mitigation issues within the scope of all environmental management activities. As such, this policy includes climate change as a key policy objective area and stipulates supporting the implementation of the CCDRR Policy and mainstreaming CCDRR into policies, strategies, budgets and planning at all levels

Alternative for this outcome (with GEF project):

V-CAP II will support and address the current challenges in the Area Council planning process. These challenges include:

- 107. Development plans have a limited approach with attention often provided to narrow sectoral priorities e.g. health and education;
- 108. Biodiversity, climate change and DRR are not viewed in a cohesive and integrated manner; and
- 109. Often short-term immediate planning priorities do not recognize the needs to wholistic integrated planning approaches.

This will be addressed in two comprehensive outputs that focus at the local level through the strengthening of the local planning processes at the Area Council level and the development of supportive policies and plans at the national level as detailed in the outputs below.

Outputs 3.1.1 Community Climate Change Adaptation Plans (CCAPs) (including Nature-based Solutions) mainstreamed into Provincial and Integrated Area Council Development Plans and implementation supported in the 9 priority Area Councils

V-CAP I provided the first comprehensive model in Vanuatu for developing Community and Area Council level Development Plans that fully integrated climate change resilience strategies. The successful demonstration of this approach prompted its replication by a number of development partners in the provision of CC adaption and biodiversity conservation support. This indicates that the lesson learnt from V-CAP I are mainstreamed and are being built into the approaches of Government and other development projects.

V-CAP I highlighted the need for a more refined approach to fully incorporate climate change, DRR, biodiversity conservation and SLM into the delivery of Community CCAPs at the Area Council (AC) level leveraging the institutional capacity experience generated in V-CAP I. Working through Acs is necessary to ensure that services from national government to the communities, and particularly to the most vulnerable CC communities, are delivered in a comprehensive and integrated manner. Area Councils throughout Vanuatu have vastly different priorities for development and vulnerabilities to CC.

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Successful implementation of planning at the Area Council will require an updated approach. V-CAP II will support a baseline review, gap analysis of strengths and weaknesses and consultations on Area Council planning process and links to provincial government planning processes (including review of Sub-National Governance Guidelines (DLA, 2016)).

Based on this, activity in 3.1.1.1 V-CAP II will support the design of integration of CCAPs (as detailed in Output 3.3.2) into Area Council and provincial plans (revision of Sub-National Governance Guidelines) including role of Community Disaster and Climate Change Committee (CDCCC) process (review & address policy / legislation gaps) through participatory processes.

V-CAP II will work to support Government processes in strengthening the Area Council planning process through a review of specific sites, gap analysis and working with stakeholders to identify a suitable process for development of the CCAPs. Together with the Department of Local Authorities (DLA) the Area Council Planning process will be agreed at the national annual workshops for DLA Area Community Liaison Officer (CLO) and the Area Administrators.

The Area Council Plans will then be developed and implemented as outlined in the proposed activities below. Annual reviews and ensuring the development/review of GESI responsive CCA/DRR policies and approaches will be critical. The Community climate change adaptation plans CCAPs will be developed in a holistic manner to address both the threats from climate change to the natural resources that communities depend upon and will focus on a number of different elements including SLM, management of water and water sources, coastal and marine area management, community conservation areas, disaster risk reduction and the management of infrastructure. Hence, V-CAP II will work closely with the Acs in V-CAP sites to create customized CCAPs in response to community needs and priorities and to support implementation and monitoring of these plans to ensure sustainable management. Because these strategies will be developed with specific targets, indicators and outputs to ensure their effective delivery, this will serve to build the capacity of the local committees whose members participate in the planning processes.

Outline Activities:

- 3.1.1.1 Baseline review, gap analysis of strengths and weaknesses and consultations on Area Council planning process and links to provincial government planning processes
- 3.1.1.2 Design of integration processes for community level CCAPs into Area Council and provincial plans (revision of Sub-National Governance Guidelines) including role of CDCCC's process
- 3.1.1.3 Build capacity in development of CCAP and integration with AC level planning (training gap analysis and development and implementation of training of facilitators and Government staff). This training should include topics on the benefits on NbS and types of NbS options available.
- 3.1.1.4 Develop Area Council CCAPs integrating Area Council DRR plans (linking to provincial plans, training delivered, and awareness workshops conducted) for priority Area Councils
- 3.1.1.5 Assist the Area Councils develop an annual workplan for the implementation of the Area Council CCAPs and support implementation of specific activities
- 3.1.1.6 Undertake annual reviews of CCAPs progress to achieving work plan and support development of the next annual work plan and V-CAP support plan
- 3.1.1.7 Support development/review of GESI responsive climate change adaptation / DRR policies and budgets at national, provincial, district & community level (see GAP 2.3.1)

Output 3.1.2. Legislation and national/sector policies reviewed to ensure integration of climate change adaptation and a policy reform agenda developed and implemented

The CCDRR Policy has several specific recommendations for integration of climate change adaptation into sectoral policies and plans. This policy proposes the development of a specific M&E Framework to assist in tracking and reporting on progress against the CCDRR Policy implementation.

Globally, the national adaptation plan (NAP) process was established under the Cancun Adaptation Framework (CAF). It enables Parties to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs) as a means of identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address those needs. It is a continuous, progressive and iterative process which follows a country-driven, gender-sensitive, participatory and fully transparent approach.

Vanuatu's NAPA (2007) provided a useful basis for the initial development of approaches to climate change adaptation. The Government of Vanuatu is committed to documenting its approach to CCDRR through the development of a NAP. V-CAP II will support this process.

V-CAP II will also conduct a review to ensure the policies and process outlined in Output 3.1.1 also are adequately supported by appropriate legislation and policies. If required, V-CAP II will support the integration of CCDRR policy frameworks into these policies.

In addition, V-CAP II will support the following plans as outlined in the activities below:

- 110. Development and finalization of the Integrated Coastal Zone policy that responds to the NSDP and incorporates the specific needs for integration of coastal zone management;
- 111. Water sector policy for the integration of catchment management, recognizing the ecosystem benefits provided by sustainably managed catchments; and

112. Contribute to future updates of relevant policies and plans for the development of new policies by contributing to guidance on actions, targets, indicators specifically addressing adaptation to climate change as standardized components.

Outline Activities:

- 3.1.2.1 Support in the development of the CCDRR Policy M&E Framework (see GAP 1.1.1; 2.3.1)
- 3.1.2.2 Review DLA Decentralization and Planning Act and ensure planning process incorporates climate change and DRR
- 3.1.2.3 Support the process of development of the updated National Adaptation Plan (NAP)
- 3.1.2.4 Incorporation of CCDRR into one additional sectoral policy (water, CZM)

Outcome 3.2 Mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable land management in national development and sectoral policies (Synergies with GEF-6 ECARE Project)

Baseline condition for this outcome

In Vanuatu the ownership and management of land is based on an ancestral tradition of nature conservation applying informal community-based (tabu) areas that are managed by customary-owners, using custom rules. It is not possible to take traditional western models of Protected Area and landscape management and implement them in Vanuatu. A considered approach is needed that involves landholders and community members, using appropriate traditional systems supported by good science and using the principles of landscape and seascape management. V-CAP II will support this process as detailed below.

In relation to national PA policies and planning approaches V-CAP II will link with the ECARE Project to support Outcome 1 of ECARE namely revised and improved policies, guidelines and knowledge for protected areas at national, provincial, area council and local levels in Vanuatu.

Alternative for this outcome (with GEF project):

Output 3.2.1 Biodiversity conservation mainstreamed in national and local policies; gazetting of selected PAs initiated and completed (in conjunction with Output 1.1.2)

V-CAP II will build on the approaches developed by complementary projects (e.g. PEBACC, RESCCUE, ECARE) and will apply the implementation of these approaches at the local level.

V-CAP II's focus at the Area Council and Community levels will enable cooperative participatory action research with communities in order to review their management practices for land and seascapes, PA and the biodiversity they support. This, together with the SLM and coastal protection activities of V-CAP II will contribute to a comprehensive detailing of the national integrated R2R PA approach with appropriate linkages to Vanuatu's Protected Area categories in the 9 V-CAP II Area Councils and other projects addressing R2R management (e.g. the GEF -5 FAO Project).

The formal endorsement of the revised Vanuatu system for PA designation will provide an important framework to enable this output. This will link with the endorsement of national standardized community management planning and monitoring process for PAs with supportive legal frameworks (see Output 1.1 of ECARE). This legislative framework will ensure the ability to have the PA management plans approved through national approval process.

Finally, V-CAP II will support several specific policy and legislation initiatives. These will provide the enabling environment to mainstream the implementation of the NBSAP. Include:

- 113. Supporting the development of species-specific regulations to control the exploitation of endangered flora and fauna for consumption and commercial purposes (the Department of Fisheries currently lists a range of marine species for protection, but there are plans to transfer this responsibility to DEPC);
- 114. Control measures and regulations for the management of mangroves ecosystems; and
- 115. Develop control measures and regulations for the physical planning of land-use and protected areas within current planning policies include related land legislation and regulations.

Outline Activities:	
3.2.1.1	Undertake a review of community management practices for land and seascapes, PA and species management in Vanuatu, and document lessons learnt, highlighting women's unique role in community management practices (see GAP 1.2.1), in partnership with key stakeholders such as the Cultural Centre, Ministry for Women etc.
3.2.1.2	Identify and detail a national integrated R2R PA approach
3.2.1.3	Support the DEPC process for the PA designation system for Vanuatu (link with ECARE project) aligned where possible with international standards
3.2.1.4	Formal endorsement of national standardized community management planning and monitoring process for PAs and apply establishment guidelines for formal CCAs (link with ECARE project)
3.2.1.5	Review of national policies relating to marine and coastal environments to clearly delineate governance responsibilities and connect processes for PA designation and governance between government departments.
3.2.1.6	Review forestry and agriculture legislation to ensure mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation

Output 3.2.2 SLM and LDN Strategy developed and integrated into development policies and decision-making processes at national and local levels

V-CAP II will contribute to support the frameworks for the development of an SLM and LDN Strategy for Vanuatu. V-CAP II will seek to develop a model for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target setting, planning and implementation at the local level. This will eventually be scaled up to national level. Using a phased approach, the project aims to first strengthen the enabling environment for Land Degradation Neutrality and multi-sectoral land-use planning processes. It will seek to support the development of a Decision Support System (DSS) for LDN.

In particular, V-CAP II will develop an M&E framework for the NSDP in relation to SLM and LND and will establish clear targets to be achieved as part of the NSDP through to 2030.

Outline Activities:	
3.2.2.1	Support V-CAP II team and Provincial and Area Council partners to participate in Vanuatu Forest and Landscape Restoration Strategy (VFLRS) 2020-2030 coordination committees
3.2.2.2	Review the existing policies linked to FLR planning and implementation and ensure adopted in local CAPs
3.2.2.3	Develop and implementation of two supportive policies and plans linking PAs and the VFLRS including consideration of LDN
3.2.2.4	Develop and implement mechanisms for ongoing monitoring and reporting of LD areas (remote sensing tools, using a standardised degradation classification scheme) ¹⁵
3.2.2.5	Launch Restoration Opportunities Assessment (ROAM) in each province (link to activity 1.2.2 above)
3.2.2.6	Establish and maintain forest plantation in three sites as outlined in the FLRS
3.2.2.7	Provide GESI-sensitive training for communities and interest groups on plantation through demonstration plots (see GAP 3.3.4)
3.2.2.8	Train DoF and other key governmental bodies on FLR planning, implementation and monitoring

Outcome 3.3: Human resources in place at the national, provincial and Area Council levels to support integrated approaches to natural resource management and climate change adaptation

Baseline condition for this outcome

¹⁵ See work undertaken by Griffith University for the Vanuatu ESRAM process under PEBACC.

Capacity to provide integrated approaches to biodiversity and climate change in Vanuatu is limited by the local capacity to deliver the innovative and progressive approaches to address biodiversity, protected area and climate change issues. The practical achievement of these integrated approaches will require knowledgeable, flexible and innovative teams of staff from government agencies and development partners.

Alternative for this outcome (with GEF project):

The depth of local capacity is recognised as a constraint. This component will seek to increase the capacity through trainings of relevant stakeholders, including communities to understand their circumstances and be better equipped at implementing integrated approaches. The specific outputs to achieve these elements are outlined below.

Output 3.3.1 Capacity building of key national and provincial government agencies in areas of local level planning, monitoring and evaluation and mainstreaming of climate-related policies and Nature-based Solutions (biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management) and regulations

This output will focus on building the capacity of national and provincial government agencies (DEPC, DCC, PWD, Department of Internal Affairs, Departments of Fisheries, Forestry, Water) in areas of compliance and enforcement, and mainstreaming of climate-related policies and nature-based solutions aligned with regional capacity building being undertaken by SPREP and IUCN. Priority areas for capacity building include design and identification of CC adaptation options in the context of ecosystem-based adaptation, formulation and mainstreaming of climate-related policies and regulations and monitoring and evaluating compliance and enforcement, within the context of their respective offices. The capacity building activities will be designed in ways that the analytical mindsets are broadened through periodic mentoring and monitoring. It is through sustained efforts that capacity building activities will have lasting impacts on the participants and therefore on the objectives of the project.

Outline Activities:

- 3.3.1.1 Establish national database / information management system and protocols to house data from community profiling (on CCDRR) with support from VNSO, OGCIO, including SAD-disaggregated information
- 3.3.1.2 Trial, evaluate, finalise and implement a system of community profiling activities for target Area Councils
- 3.3.1.3 Support the implementation of community profiles at in additional Area Councils
- 3.3.1.4 Establish and implement a system for Area Council mapping for the DLA to enhance the national GIS with protocols for creation, analysis and publishing standardised AC maps for use in all levels of planning and service delivery, including disaster response;
- 3.3.1.5 Strengthen Data Collection and data Management Processes ensuring the appropriate data is collected or managed for the purpose of improved decision-making. Review National Community Data compilation “Community profiling” initiatives and National Vulnerability Assessment Framework (strengths, weaknesses, etc).
- 3.3.1.6 Develop and implement capacity building program to develop and implement community-level management and monitoring, including species strategies for key flagship species (include dugong, turtles, bat, Megapod, coconut crab, seabirds and lizards)

Output 3.3.2 Communities empowered to deal with climate change impacts in the coastal zone through participatory approaches in vulnerability assessments, planning and community-based adaptation measures and capacity building.

Communities will be empowered to develop their local development strategies through participatory process that include detailed vulnerability assessment process to form the basis for detailed and holistic climate change adaption planning, biodiversity conservation and SLM planning and implementation with FPIC.

At the village level, communities will be supported to develop and/or enhance grassroots level governance and working groups (e.g. Community Environment working groups) focused on specific areas including community conservation and protected areas, SLM, SCM and disaster planning. These village level groups will be encouraged to integrate CC adaptation components to each of these plans.

The vulnerability assessments conducted in each community as part of the PPG identified a range of specific activities that were assessed as priority interventions by the local communities (see Annex 20). These interventions were in various sectors including water, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and protected areas. The V-CAP II project will work with communities to develop and implement activities within their management plans for these priority areas.

This output will focus on building capacity towards development of processes for CCAPs for community planning processes (including environmental, DRR, & WASH plans) at the village level to be implemented under Component 1. These plans will provide the community framework for the consideration of CCDRR into all sectoral plans including WASH, biodiversity, SLM, agriculture and fisheries. This will ensure the support provided to communities will be based on requests from the communities and not driven by external actors.

Once the CCAP process is established for 10 Pilot Sites, the process will be evaluated, and the lessons learnt incorporated into a document that outlines the process. The project team will be trained in the process. The CCAPS will then be rolled out into a further 30 communities within the target Area Councils. Priority elements of the CCAPs will be implemented this plan and outputs within Component 1. Monitoring and evaluation of the CCAPs together with the Area Council Development Plans will be ongoing by a team established within the PIU.

Outline Activities:

- 3.3.2.1 Baseline review of existing or planned community-level Community Climate Action Plans (CCAPs) planning processes (including environmental, DRR, & WASH plans) in targeted communities, integrating a GESI-framework into evaluation matrices
- 3.3.2.2 Design of comprehensive process for CCAP planning (allowing for identification of activities for environmental, DRR, & WASH plan integration) including M&E processes for CCAP plans (see GAP 1.1.1).
- 3.3.2.3 Trial approaches to development and implementation of community-based CCAP planning at 10 pilot sites (inclusive of training of GESI-sensitive facilitators, awareness sessions as needed) to identify priorities for resource management and conservation, WASH, and DRR planning integration
- 3.3.2.4 Develop and implement CCAPs in 20 communities remaining targeted priority Area Councils with clear plans, budgets, identified role of local communities and required technical expertise.
- 3.3.2.5 Implement technical DRR planning activities / or refresher DRR trainings for communities with existing plans (process developed, training delivered, and awareness workshops conducted for communities identified by prior CCAPs planning initiative), with a focus on access to markets and health.
- 3.3.2.6 Undertake progress monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the community CCA / DRR plans, incorporating evaluation metrics specific to GESI concerns

Component 4: Knowledge Management and Lessons Sharing

Funding sources	Component 4
GEF- TF	\$ 296,400
LDCF	\$ 385,957
Sub-Total	\$ 682,357
Co-financing	\$ 1,260,000
Total Component	\$1,942,357

Increasing understanding of climate change, adaptation approaches, sustainable land management and disaster risk reduction is vital for the people and economy of Vanuatu. TC Pam and the World Bank's Post Disaster Needs Assessment, endorsed by the Vanuatu Government, estimated total damage and loss from Tropical Cyclone Pam at around \$600 million, or 64 per cent of GDP. The TC Harold recovery strategy noted that 18,358 people have been temporarily displaced and took shelter in over 272 evacuation centres. Among the groups most affected are people with disabilities and female-headed households. Estimates suggest that a total of 26,359 households or 129,029 people were impacted equating to approximately 43 per cent of the population. A total of 21,086 houses were partially damaged and 5,272 destroyed. The need for increased awareness to build resilience to climate change and extreme weather events is obvious.

Outcome 4.1: Increased awareness and ownership of climate risk reduction processes at the national and local levels.

Baseline condition for this outcome

The NSDP, NAPA and FLMRS all emphasize that awareness raising and education are core issues that should be an integral part of sustainable island management. The lack of human, financial, and technical resources often constrain information sharing, education, and knowledge generation on climate change. Lack of knowledge and training constitutes a major barrier to biodiversity conservation, land management and climate resilience. Knowledge management will consider Vanuatu's high literacy rate (94% in 2009) and limited access to the internet (middle to bottom in the global rankings).

Alternative for this outcome (with GEF project):

Objective 6 of the NBSAP highlights the importance of the need for Environmental education, awareness and information sharing. The PPG team notes the important efforts of DEPC to increase awareness of the values of biodiversity with stakeholders. It also notes the efforts of the Vanuatu Environmental Science Society (VESS) to develop information leaflets on the special and threatened biodiversity in Vanuatu on species such as dugongs, bats and turtles. However, the resources provided to DEPC and other development partners are limited and insufficient to undertake large and broad awareness raising activities. The following outputs describe the alternative scenario.

Output 4.1.1 Best practices are captured, documented, and distributed to all local and national stakeholders and shared globally in appropriate mechanisms (development, populating and maintenance of national website for CC). V-CAP II will build upon the successful outcomes V-CAP I and replicate the emerging best practices from other similar projects (e.g. PEBACC, RESCUE, ECARE, etc). V-CAP II, by working at the national level, across all Vanuatu's provinces at the community level, will provide full documentation of the lessons learnt and translation of these to communication products to Bislama.

The PIU together with the DEPC and DCC will have a dedicated team to support the development of a **V-CAP II Communication Strategy** together with key stakeholders. The development of this communication strategy will be facilitated by a communication expert. The communication strategy will:

- Ensure best practices are captured, documented, and distributed to all local and national stakeholders in a culturally appropriate manner;
- Focus on building local capacity and coalitions to address resilience challenges at the national, Area Council and community levels;
- Document success stories that can be shared with communities in other implementation sites;
- Facilitate knowledge exchange visits between women and youth related to climate change adaptation and national resource management (see GAP 2.3.1);
- Utilize web-based information mechanisms (development, populating and maintenance of national website for CC);
- Develop a set of SMART indicators that enable monitoring of the impact and effectiveness of the strategy;
- Contribute to effective operation of the NAB climate change information portal;
- Ensure the flow of data and information to other portals, such as the INFORM and Pacific Climate Change portals; and

- Ensure best practices are shared globally in appropriate I such as through the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) and other regional and global platforms.
- Development of specific “campaigns” on specific biodiversity and climate change issues to develop community change.
- Translation of knowledge products to Bislama.

Based on the V-CAP II Communication Strategy, annual workplans will be developed to provide specific focus for each year. The annual workplans will specifically focus upon:

- Evaluation of the previous year’s delivery and effectiveness of the communication strategy in achieving deliverables;
- Identification of opportunities to share lessons on the most suitable and effective adaptation strategies delivered at the local levels, e.g. Reef to Ridge management, agriculture, forestry, water, DRR, etc.;
- Identification of stakeholder needs and responding to specific challenges identified, e.g. extreme weather, rehabilitation after cyclones, or other identified needs;
- Development of annual work plans on project broader specific project outcomes including awareness raising through various mediums (Radio/newspaper, adverts, portal, workshops, newsletters; and
- Development of specific “campaigns” on specific biodiversity and climate change issues to develop community change.

Some examples of actions to be included in the annual workplan are:

- In each area council a one-week training workshop on (i) Integrated land use management, (ii) Farming practices and sustainable agriculture, (iii) environmental assessment processes, and (iv) Post harvesting agriculture value-chain technologies;
- Suitable information kits about sustainable land management prepared based on field experience and through partnerships with other sustainable land management initiatives.
- Information material documenting best practices to integrated planning to incorporate climate change adaption for integration into planning processes of the Department of Local Authorities; and
- In the last two years of the project, the lessons learnt on the establishment of community conservation and protected areas will be documented and lessons learnt developed.

Outline Activities:

- 4.1.1.1 Develop a 6-year Communication Strategy to enhance awareness of climate change adaptation and relationships to productive sectors and biodiversity conservation
- 4.1.1.2 Develop and streamline data collection and project monitoring-evaluation indicators including GESI considerations.
- 4.1.1.3 Develop annual specific “campaigns” on specific biodiversity and climate change issues to develop community change
- 4.1.1.4 Development of annual work plans including awareness raising through various mediums (Radio/newspaper, adverts, portal, workshops, newsletters
- 4.1.1.5 Contribute to effective operation of the NAB climate change information portal including links to other relevant portals.
- 4.1.1.6 Facilitate knowledge exchange visits between women and youth related to climate change adaptation and national resource management (see GAP 2.3.1)

Output 4.1.2 Awareness, training and education programs in biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and integrated approaches to climate change adaptation developed and implemented.

This output will focus on the development of awareness, training and education programs in relation to biodiversity conservation, sustainable land and coastal management and integrated approaches to climate change adaptation.

V-CAP II will be implemented at the national level, and in each of all Vanuatu's provinces and with several national sectoral agencies. It is vital that V-CAP II has a consistent approach to the development of training and education programs related to biodiversity conservation, land use management and climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and other sectoral plans. Thus, the PIU together with the DEPC will have a dedicated team to support the development of a specific training and education programs to be delivered through and in collaboration with key stakeholders. This is particularly important as V-CAP II will seek to identify "best-practice" and deliver this to communities, Area Councils, National Agencies and the wider communities.

Thus, the PIU together with the DEPC will have a dedicated team to support the development of a specific training and education programs to be delivered through and in collaboration with key stakeholders. This is particularly important as V-CAP II will be seeking to identify "best-practice" and deliver this to communities, Area Councils, National Agencies and the wider communities.

A specific training strategy and capacity development program will be developed through a training needs analysis (TNA). The development of this strategy will be facilitated by a training expert. It will initially operate in two stages:

116. Stage 1- Year 1-2 develop and implement a TNA to build initial training strategy and capacity development program for national team implementing VACP II and key national partner agencies incorporating the lessons learnt from V-CAP II; and
117. Stage 2- Years 3-6 reassess the progress of the training strategy and capacity development program for the last 4 years of the project.

The TNA and training strategy and capacity development program in Years 1-2 will:

118. Identify training needs of the project implementation team and design specific training activities;
119. Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework with a specific indicator for training and capacity development;
120. Ensure the relevant elements of the GESI Plan are incorporated into the program;
121. Provide a template for the development of Annual Workplans; and
122. Develop a final scope of work for the Training Officers (based at PIU and DEPC) for implementation.

The TNA and training strategy and capacity development program will be expanded in Years 3-6 to ensure:

123. Best practices in field implementation are captured and shared as training courses and materials;
124. Lessons learnt are documented and shared with development partners;
125. Annual workplans are developed and implemented including monitoring and evaluation;
126. Sharing of training materials and activities in otifora including the NAB climate change information portal; and
127. Facilitate training exchange visits between women and youth related to climate change adaptation and national resource management (see GAP 2.3.1).

To be included in the training and awareness program will be:

128. Each Area Council is ensured of a one-week training workshop on (i) Integrated land use planning and management, (ii) Farming practices and sustainable agriculture, (iii) climate change adaptation (iv) Post harvesting agriculture value-chain technologies;
129. Suitable information kits about sustainable land management prepared based on field experience and through partnerships with other sustainable land management initiatives;
130. Information material documenting best practices to integrated planning to incorporate climate change adaptation will be prepared and training courses will be integrated into planning process of the DLA;
131. In the last two years of the project, the lessons learnt on the establishment of community conservation and protected areas will be documented and lesson learnt developed;
132. Training key officials, civil society staff and local communities on conservation, including ecosystem, biodiversity and cultural conservation and sustainable land use practices; and
133. Contributions will be made to global portals such as the Adaptation Learning Mechanism.

Outline Activities:

- 4.1.2.1 Training needs analysis developed in Year 1 to guide the development and implementation of a capacity building program within each of the productive sectors and biodiversity conservation that incorporates the GESI Plan.
- 4.1.2.2 Develop and implement annual work plans including specific annual targets, GESI considerations and monitoring and evaluation of effectiveness of the workplans
- 4.1.2.3 Review implementation of annual workplans and ensure lessons learnt are included in the following years annual work plan.
- 4.1.2.4 Development of specific GESI-relevant “toolkits” on specific topics including climate change adaptation, protected areas and species conservation. (see GAP 2.4.2)
- 4.1.2.5 Development of specific “toolkits” on specific topics including climate change adaptation, protected areas, species conservation, agricultural educational curriculum at secondary school.

Partnerships:

Climate change projects

The delivery approach of V-CAP II is broad and multifaceted in addressing the challenges of biodiversity resilience and climate change adaptation. There are several development partners and agencies that V-CAP II will engage with as the project is delivered over the next 6 years. These are detailed below.

The **Vanuatu Infrastructure Reconstruction and Improvement Project (VIRIP)** is reconstructing and/or improving the disaster and climate resilience of selected public sector assets in provinces impacted by Tropical Cyclone (TC) Pam, and to provide immediate and effective response to an Eligible Crisis or Emergency. The MIPU and the World Bank are implementing this \$50 million project (2016-2022) to contribute to reconstruction and improvement in response to the impacts of TC Pam. These include improvements to road assets, school reconstruction and improvement for more than 70 primary and secondary schools; public building reconstruction and improvement include provincial and national government offices, workshop and associated buildings. The project is working in Ambae, Malekula, Tanna and Efate. V-CAP II will ensure that the lessons learnt from VIRIP are incorporated into the delivery of V-CAP II. In addition, V-CAP II will strengthen the longer-term reconstruction and resilience efforts in V-CAP II’s focal Area Councils where VIRIP has supported initiatives.

The Project **“Climate Information Services for Resilient Development in Vanuatu (VANKIRAP)”** is supporting Climate Information Systems (CIS) for 5 key sectors: tourism, agriculture, infrastructure, water and fisheries. To enhance utility of CIS, capacity to use CIS by national development agents, to enhance CIS communications, knowledge products, tools, and resources; and to improve information sharing and data management. This Green Climate Fund (GCF) project is contributing US \$22.95 million to support these efforts between 2017 and 2022. VANKIRAP will support: Capacity development activities; CIS development case studies; Suite of customized communication, capacity development and outreach resource materials including communication and media products, training materials, climate management tools; New weather and climate infrastructure for enhancing development and delivery of CIS in Vanuatu; Digitised and quality controlled observational and related/ancillary socio-economic data secured and accessible within functional CDMS; and Down-scaled and/or regionally specific CLEWS, sub-seasonal/seasonal forecast and long- term projections data and information tailored to sectoral needs. SPREP is assisting in implementation of this project. The PPG team notes the complementary V-CAP II and the VANKIRAP.

The **Vanuatu Community-based Climate Resilience project (VCCCRP)** aims to build resilience of rural communities to increasing climate variability and extreme events over 8 years starting in 2022. The aspirational beneficiaries of this project are up to 75% of Vanuatu’s population, particularly rural and remote communities, meaning that the project is likely to operate at the same site as V-CAP II. Focused on adaptation that support food security and livelihoods, and the governance capacity to deliver adaptations and build resilience, there are obvious synergies between the two projects, and the intent is to collaborate and value-add between the projects. These two projects will deliver coordinated capacity building at all levels of government and implement a standardized and consistent approach to community-based natural resource management and monitoring. The V-CAP II PPG notes that outputs and approaches from V-CAP I were incorporated into the design of VCCCRP and that there has been very careful

consultation during the design process to ensure that there is no overlap in the delivery of site-based activities. V-CAP II will work cooperatively with VCCCRP and both projects are based in the DCC. Joint programming of both projects in relation to annual and semi-annual work plans and synergies will be maximized.

There are pipeline projects targeting similar climate change adaptation outcomes being established in Vanuatu.

Coordination and cooperation with these projects are critical to optimize the use of resources through the NAB.

In addition to the projects discussed above, there will be additional projects in Vanuatu targeting similar climate change adaptation outcomes being established in Vanuatu. Coordination with and cooperation between these projects are critical if the work being done by V-CAP II and the other similar projects is to have maximum impact. To ensure strong partnerships, this will be coordinated through the following mechanisms:

- National Implementation of V-CAP II will allow national level coordination through the Department of Climate Change: and
- The NAB will provide a coordination mechanism for all projects working on climate change in Vanuatu.

Biodiversity projects

In addition, V-CAP II will build upon the projects and initiatives supported by the **CEPF Eastern Melanesian Hotspot**. The CEPF has supported 32 projects in Vanuatu¹⁶. The V-CAP II design team worked with the CEPF Implementation Unit in IUCN Oceania and Birdlife International to identify mechanisms to support some of the key investments into the future by V-CAP II. There will continue to be cooperation with Birdlife International in their roles as a technical advisor to the Eastern Melanesian Hotspot.

The **EU-ACP Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA)** program has supported the implementation of the NBSAP and protected areas management in Vanuatu. BIOPAMA was jointly implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (EC-JRC). In the Pacific region, BIOPAMA is implemented by IUCN's Oceania Regional Office (IUCN ORO) in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The partnership between IUCN ORO and SPREP has seen the enhancement of the Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal (PIPAP), the 'one-stop shop' for all information on Protected Areas maintained by SPREP with partners and members.

Nia Tero is working on Vanuatu in the Santo Mountain range which is also a KBA for Vanuatu. They will work with local NGO's and communities to support their community initiatives for conservation. The project should start by early 2020. This initiative has a budget of approximately \$60,000.

The Australian Government through DFAT and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) is supporting a project titled "**Strengthening and scaling community-based approaches to Pacific coastal fisheries management in support of the New Song – Phase III**" (also known as Pathways). The objective of this project is to enhance food security, sustainability and human well-being achieved through improved governance and management; Increase capacity in research and management in national and sub-national agencies and in communities; and policy outcomes including improved sub-national and national law and policy, and integration of fish into rural development policy through whole-of-government approaches to nutrition outcomes. Pathways includes development of coastal management plans in partnership with communities at eight sites in Vanuatu. The project is working with communities to identify their key marine resource issues and develop ecosystem-based coastal management plans. V-CAP II and cooperation with the Pathways project will ensure a realistic and universal approach that can be extended to many coastal communities and locations in Vanuatu is supported to ensure sustainable coastal resource management throughout the country.

The **GEF ECARE Project** will be integral to the delivery of V-CAP II. There has been careful collaboration in the design of both projects to ensure complementarities. V-CAP II will provide capacity support to ensure this collaboration and cooperation. There will be regular meetings between the two initiatives and joint programming where possible.

The **GEF- 5 FAO Project Integrated Sustainable Land and Coastal Management Project (ISLCM) GEF 5 Project commenced in 2020**. There was careful collaboration between V-CAP II and ISLCM to ensure consistent application of the R2R approach. There is no duplication in field sites. V-CAP II will continue to work with ISLCM to and coordination of support to DEPC.

¹⁶ [https://www.cepf.net/grants/grantee-projects?f\[\]=field_countries:1106](https://www.cepf.net/grants/grantee-projects?f[]=field_countries:1106)

The **Pacific Ecosystems-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC)** project is a five-year project that explores and promotes Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) options for adapting to climate change. The Project is implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in partnership with the Governments of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The Phase II of PEBACC is currently under development.

In addition, additions projects currently under development to support integrated coastal R2R management, using a *kustom* traditional foundation for developing management plans and/or approaches include:

134. The **Climate Resilient Islands Programme**, implemented by Live & Learn and funded through the New Zealand Government's Resilient Ecosystem and Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

135. The **Melanesian-Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Resilience Project**, funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and implemented by SPREP and IUCN.

Coordination and building on existing initiatives and successes in Vanuatu will be critical for V-CAP II as it works to conserve biodiversity and natural ecosystems and implement integrated R2R approaches to sustain livelihoods and food production.

Risks:

In line with UNDP Social and Environmental Safeguards (SES) Policy and the project risk management practices, a Social and Environmental Standard Procedure (SESP) and a Risk Log have been prepared which outlines respectively. The SES and Risk Log both identify and outline major risks and proposed mitigation actions (see Annex 7 Risk Log)

A key risk in attempting to work simultaneously in nine Area Councils with 5-10 villages per Area Council located in six provinces are expected logistical project management issues that could negatively affect the timely and effective delivery of V-CAP II activities. Given that many V-CAP communities are functionally accessible only by plane (some of which only operate once or twice per week) and/or by boat (often with infrequently scheduled trips and also dependent on good weather conditions), travel time within and between sites will be time consuming.

This will be addressed through a number of different approaches. The first approach is increasing the period of implementation to 6 years allowing greater flexibility in delivery. The second approach which was adopted in V-CAP I was to focus on clusters of sites, e.g. 3 northern Area Councils in the first 2 years followed by the 3 southern Area Councils in years 3 and 4.

In addition, V-CAP II is designed to address this risk through a number of measures including: the placement of permanent staff in field offices; ensuring project field staff receive comprehensive training in project planning and management; conducting comprehensive annual work planning processes; and ensuring that each field site has the best possible communication system available including a good connection to the V-CAP PIU. Comprehensive field monitoring visits will also ensure high quality delivery of V-CAP II.

An additional risk remains that involves the need to ensure that V-CAP can meet its' aims and objectives given existing national and provincial government capacity constraints. There are a limited number of civil servants who are keen to deliver government services to isolated communities and the significant financial resource constraints facing most government agencies further impede effective field work. As such, formal agreements and work plans will be developed with key government partners including DOF, DEPC, DLA, DOA, DoWR, Ministry of Women, DCC, PMO to deliver on specific project outputs. A monitoring and evaluation plan will also be developed (and agreed by all implementation partners) to ensure systematic assessment of these arrangements.

Lack of government capacity will be addressed by appointing project-funded Field Officer as well as other Technical Advisors. In addition, INGOs will be contracted to deliver specific components of the project and provide institutional support to communities, area councils and provincial governments as needed. INGOs and other development partner will be directly contracted to conduct one or more of the following tasks in particular sites: carry out vulnerability assessments; assist in the development and implementation of community climate change adaptation plans and/or delivery of specific project components such as DRR, community PAs, agriculture extension and WASH.

V-CAP II will support "Training of Trainer" events so that involved community members themselves are able to become conduits for knowledge sharing and capacity development on their respective islands. It will be important to ensure that women, youth and people with special needs are included in these training programs.

A key V-CAP II risk management strategy will be the engagement of a full-time Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) officer who will work within the PIU for at least the first 3 years. This position will also assume overall responsibility

for ensuring that gender equity and social inclusion approaches, strategies and interventions are fully mainstreamed into all V-CAP II activities.

In addition to risk management, a Planning and M&E Officer position will provide benefits including assurance that: (i) high quality data is systematically gathered, analysed and used to improve project performance in accord with the project Log Frame and M&E strategy, (ii) the project M&E system adequately incorporates gender and social inclusion indicators and targets in cooperation with the GESI Officer (iii) the M&E capacity of the PIU is strengthened, and (iv) the capacity of the PIU to undertake gendered CC and social inclusion analysis and intervention is enhanced and reflected in national policies.

The key assumptions are that communities are willing to participate in the process of undertaking vulnerability assessments and associated planning process, and that sufficient governance structures are in place at the community level to support this process.

Additional assumptions are that communities are willing (as was expressed to the PPG team) to utilize traditional practices, i.e. tabu areas, and link to broader processes to build resilience in coastal ecosystems. Finally, that suitable “soft infrastructure” investments have demonstrable impact on marine ecosystem resilience within project period.

A Social and Environmental Screening (SESP) was completed for V-CAP II and is attached in Annex 6. The screening identified a number of the risks outlined above. Most of the social and environment risks were identified as low to moderate. However, the SESP identified that it is likely that during the period of implementation of V-CAP II there will be a severe tropical cyclone or volcanic eruption that will require an adaptive response as was the case with V-CAP I. This in fact the case for all development projects in Vanuatu. Vanuatu and its people have learnt resilience in the face of natural disasters and an adaptive management approach has been built into V-CAP II to address this eventuality (e.g. supporting refurbishment of a second meteorology office in Santo Island). An ESMF has been prepared to address this issue.

Stakeholder engagement and South-South cooperation: *See stakeholder engagement plan in Annex 9.*

A wide range of stakeholders will be involved with V-CAP II implementation to meet the specific outcomes of the four project components. Key stakeholders include a range of national government line ministries, civil society organizations (CSOs) including NGOs and Churches, provincial leaders and extension officers, area councils, local communities and their special interest groups.

Annex 9 provides a detailed stakeholder’s engagement plan with the various roles to be assigned during the implementation of V-CAP II. The PPG team did consult widely in the proposal development phase, however it is expected that additional stakeholders will be identified that will play a key role in project delivery.

A key difference in V-CAP II compared to V-CAP I will be the substantial role of Vanuatu Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) in the delivery of V-CAP II. As a key stakeholder it is important that a priority is given to strengthening this agency to grow into a role for the sustainable delivery of the V-CAP II approach.

In addition, it will be vital for V-CAP to develop and deliver a targeted and useful communication program to ensure the engagement of the wider community and additional partners. Innovative approaches will be needed to deliver this program. It is important that this communication program is innovative and delivers materials that are socially appropriate for Vanuatu. The long-term nature of the challenges of climate change needs to be emphasized and empowering communities in partnership with governments and other development partners will be a key element in this process.

The stakeholder engagement in V-CAP implementation will begin at the Inception Workshop which will be held in Port Vila. The role of the inception workshop will be to ensure that government agencies, communities and development partners have a clear understanding of V-CAP and are able to identify their roles. The inputs of stakeholders into this process will be important. The Inceptions workshop will include detailed discussions on key outputs, indicators, project structure, roles and responsibilities and key milestones. It will seek to identify additional partnerships that may be able to ensure successful project delivery. Dialogues at the Inception Workshop will focus on a process that includes the following steps:

136. Who are the key stakeholders (in addition to those already extensively identified)?
137. What role(s) do they play and what contribution can they make to the project (are they interested in contributing to the project)?
138. What capacities are available to assist in supporting the project?

139. What type of engagement does the project need that they can offer (and if support is needed, what approaches are needed to generate interest in the project)?

V-CAP II will be overseen by the NAB, thus providing representation by key government agencies, VANGO, NGOs and development partners. It is important that updates and communications are regularly provided to the NAB to ensure the engagement of key partners. In particular, Outcome 3 on policy review and capacity development will be an important part element of the focus with NAB members. In addition, each component of the project has its own stakeholder groups which will need to be engaged on an on-going basis.

Outcome 1 and Outcome 3 have important elements of working with communities to establish protected areas on land that is under community control. Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is required to ensure community buy-in to establishment of protected area management over particular sites and land and seascapes. This needs to be agreed with local communities and all relevant stakeholders.

Outcome 1 and Outcome 3 have a heavy focus on the engagement of communities in the vulnerability assessments and development of climate change adaptation strategies. It will also be vital to engage all key elements within these communities including the chiefly systems, churches and other social organizations. In addition, NGOs working in these locations will have a crucial role to play in supporting the development of adaptation solutions that enhance resilience to change. Additionally, it will be vital to ensure V-CAP II keeps the six provinces engaged in the delivery of V-CAP II and a mechanism needs to be agreed during the Inception Phase. This will be challenging in those locations where an island is remote from the provincial capital, e.g. Torres in Torba Province, however only through mainstreaming will the efforts of V-CAP be able to be scaled up.

Outcome 2 will be delivered by VMGD and will build upon their expanding network and partnerships. It is important that key beneficiaries are considered as real partners and are able to ensure that the products provided by communities are able to meet their local needs.

Outcome 4 will have a component that seeks to broaden the community development dialogues to engage the private sector with the expectation of development of partnerships between private sector entities and various stakeholder including communities in the promotion of CC resilient livelihood activities. Additionally, partnerships with stakeholders including schools, media agencies and other development partners will ensure the development of a comprehensive education and awareness program.

In addition, to bring the voice of Vanuatu to global and regional fora, the project will explore opportunities for meaningful participation in specific events where UNDP could support engagement with the global development discourse on climate change and biodiversity conservation, such as the UNFCCC COP and the CBD COP. The project will furthermore provide opportunities for regional cooperation with countries that are implementing initiatives on *climate change and biodiversity conservation* in geopolitical, social and environmental contexts relevant to the proposed project in Vanuatu.

Annex 9 outlines the various role of the various stakeholders during project implementation.

In addition, to bring the voice of Vanuatu to global and regional fora, the project will explore opportunities for meaningful participation in specific events where UNDP could support engagement with the global development discourse on biodiversity and climate change. The project will furthermore provide opportunities for regional cooperation with countries that are implementing initiatives on *biodiversity and climate change* in geopolitical, social and environmental contexts relevant to the proposed project in Vanuatu.

Gender equality and Women's Empowerment:

A Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy (GeSI) has been prepared. This document titled "Integrating gender equality and social inclusion dimensions into adaptation to climate change in Vanuatu. This is attached in Annex 18. This document will be used for guiding implementation of the gender and social dimensions into project delivery with the four strategic focus areas of the National Gender Equality Policy, the National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA), the Strategy for the Justice and Community Services 2018-2021, and the Decentralisation Policy 2017-2027.

V-CAP II Project's Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) Analysis and Action Plan prepared by the local design team, with technical support from an international Gender Specialist funded by the USAID Climate Ready Project. The GESI Analysis and Action Plan (GAP) (See Annex 18) is based on the results of an extensive literature review; a national inception workshop (March 2020), attended by 29 stakeholders and various beneficiaries from community, district level, provincial and national level; a stakeholder consultation process that involved more than 1,500 people,

including 46 percent women, in 40 locations, including 37 community meetings, conducted throughout Vanuatu between May and July 2020. The recommendations also take into account the findings of the V-CAP I evaluation. These results will be shared with key stakeholders and confirmed at a Validation Workshop to be held in March 2021.

The key findings of the GESI assessment identified that V-CAP II communities are dealing with significant impacts of climate change on their personal lives and livelihoods resulting in food and water insecurity, health problems, economic loss, infrastructure breakdown, service interruption, as well as access and connectivity issues. There is also growing concern about the increased movement of people through migration and relocation caused by natural events and the impacts this has on social capital and vulnerable groups, including women, children, and people with disabilities (PWD). Land disputes and conflict over food and water sources are also increasing, and unless carefully managed, this situation is likely to further erode traditional safety nets and lead to serious conflict.

Focus group meetings with women in V-CAP II sites revealed that they are largely excluded from local decision-making processes, as are youth, seniors, and people with disabilities, despite Government efforts to increase inclusivity. As vulnerabilities increase, inclusive planning processes at area council and community level are critical to ensuring that the needs and interests of all community members are addressed.

Throughout the country, women reported common concerns about the impacts of climate change on their environments and resources, and generally requested similar interventions, including developing skills for sustainable livelihoods through training in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry; infrastructure development - in particular construction or reconstruction of women's gathering spaces, and general life and continuing education skills.

The GESI assessment concluded that comprehensive GESI analysis is critical to understanding the connections between climate change, vulnerability and sustainability, and to determining how best to respond to the needs and priorities of marginalized and disadvantaged people. Environmental shocks illuminate gender and social exclusion inequalities within households as women, children and people with disabilities are often poorly positioned to adapt to these events and their consequences. As such, the V-CAP II design process assessed the differential impacts of climate change on men, women, youth, children, elders, and PWD on a site-by-site basis.

Key findings from this GESI analysis were used to develop a series of recommendations, including mainstreamed and targeted interventions, in response to identified vulnerabilities at community level (see Section 4). Recommendations are also provided to ensure that all members of society are well served by early warning systems (EWS); that capacity to apply relevant climate change adaptation strategies is increased to ensure sustainability; and that the capacity of vulnerable groups to fully engage in and benefit from climate change adaptation efforts is strengthened. Further, the GAP makes suggestions regarding national policy reform work required to ensure compliance with international GESI standards and achieve GOV goals concerning equity and inclusion. Lastly, strategies to ensure that V-CAP II models best practise in project implementation are highlighted.

Notwithstanding the need to address vulnerabilities using mainstreamed and tailored interventions, a paradigm shift in attitude is also required. This means that vulnerable groups of people need to be seen as having the potential to move beyond passiveness and victimization to become powerful and effective agents of change in leading and managing mitigation and adaptation measures. For example, older people often have extensive traditional knowledge and local wisdom about agricultural and fisheries practises used to ensure species sustainability that can be applied when selecting contemporary adaptation measures; women and youth can play a critical role in mobilizing communities to build resilience and manage risk using their own networks. If children are provided with information on climate change adaptation at school or church, they can better assist with adaptive household and community initiatives and can also educate and influence their parents. An excellent example of such inclusion is modelled by the Forestry Sector Policy on the Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy (2020-2030), which offers programs for women, youth, and vulnerable persons and aligns with V-CAP II GESI principles.

The following recommendations are detailed in the GESI Action Plan (see Annex 18).

140.P1. It is recommended that gender equity and social inclusion is mainstreamed across all V-CAP II components and activities and that the Project take every opportunity to strengthen women's voice and influence in climate change adaptation planning and implementation to counter existing marginalization caused by socio-cultural factors and gender-based violence. This recommendation means ensuring that all project planning processes involve direct input from women; that barriers to women's engagement in project activities are addressed pro-

actively (including any concerns related to safety, permissions, transportation, childcare etc.), and that opportunities to increase women's leadership and decision-making skills are exploited.

- 141.P2. In keeping with lessons learned from V-CAP I, it is recommended that specific activities targeting women and other vulnerable groups are designed and implemented to ensure project benefits are fairly and equitably distributed. Proposed activities, designed in response to key issues raised by women and youth in V-CAP II communities are outlined in Section 5 by component and include: #C1.1 (supporting women's economic empowerment); #C1.2 (improving women/youth/PWD access to climate change adaptation activities); #C1.3 (supporting development of women and multi-purpose centers); #C2.1 (ensuring EWS development is disability inclusive); #C2.2 (training youth to maintain EWS equipment/sites); #C3 (giving priority to gender-responsive budgeting and inclusive policy making), and #C4 (sharing lessons and knowledge, inclusive of women's and youths' contributions and experiences).
- 142.P3. It is recommended that the entire V-CAP II implementation team adopt an ideological framework that recognizes women and youth as key drivers of change and whose engagement and empowerment is critical to sustainable climate adaptation and community resilience. This includes recognizing and making use of traditional knowledge and local wisdom held by both women and men and reducing socio-cultural barriers that marginalizes people based on gender, age, and/or disability.
- 143.P4. It is recommended that V-CAP II model gender equity and social inclusion in Project governance, management, staffing and operating procedures by ensuring gender balance on the Project Steering Committee; engaging both female and male staff in leadership positions; requiring all staff and contractors to sign a Code of Conduct which includes zero tolerance for all forms of harassment and violence, and providing compulsory GESI training to Project staff, contractors and partners to ensure adequate understanding and commitment to the V-CAP II GESI strategy.
- 144.P5. It is recommended that the Project Results Framework is inclusive of GESI actions, outcomes and indicators as set out in this Action Plan and that all Project reports include identification of GESI achievements, challenges, risks, mitigation strategies and lessons learned.
- 145.P6. It is recommended that adequate resources are committed to properly support the implementation of the V-CAP II GESI Action Plan including capacity building and M&E functions. This could be provided by a dedicated GESI specialist, or through a contractual arrangement with a state or non-state agency with GESI expertise such as the Women's Division of the Ministry of Justice or an NGO (such as OXFAM).

Explain compliance with UNDP Safeguards Policies

The environmental and social screening template has been completed and is attached in Annex 6. To ensure the on-going planning, screening and implementation, the following is proposed:

146. All new activity proposals, in particular related to infrastructure development are reviewed and screened by the DEPC to ensure the specific activities are planned to be implemented in a manner to minimize environmental impacts. The PIU will also undertake a review and screening. The results of the environmental screening will be provided to the Project Steering Committee;
147. Should an activity be deemed by the process above to be environmentally sensitive, an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be developed and approved prior to implementation. The EMP will outline specific activities that must be followed by relevant agencies to limit impacts.
148. Should an investment arise through the implementation of V-CAP that is identified as requiring an EIA and/or an EMP, the project will support the EIA process in a manner agreed with the Director of Department of Environment, Conservation and Protection.

Innovativeness, Sustainability and Potential for Scaling Up:

V-CAP II is a follow-up project upon the request of the government. This request is anchored on two aspects. The first is the innovative implementation arrangement whereby key national government agency involved in project implementation has been provided a coordinator to enable them to deliver on their respective responsibilities. At the local level, the close involvement of Area Councils will continue to be instrumental in facilitating the involvement of communities. These will be continued and scaled-up in V-CAP II.

The scaling up aspect is that VCAP II will develop coordinated approaches planning and implementation of biodiversity conservation, addressing land degradation and climate change adaptation at the 9 focal Area Councils.

Once effective mechanisms are developed, implemented and documented these will be able to be scaled up to the remaining 65 Area Councils in Vanuatu by the Department of Local Authorities (there were 75 Area Councils is mandated following the Decentralization Act).

The sustainability of this approach is that at the core the Department of Local Authorities is responsible for leading delivery of planning at the Area Council level. The government through the Decentralisation Decree is providing annually additional funds to support Area Council planning and operation. Thus, there is increasing government budget finance to continue to support this Area Council planning approach.

On the more substantive aspects, the concrete CC adaptation interventions have been widely appreciated by the communities and Area Councils as these have improved access to their isolated locations with the climate proofing of public conveyance infrastructure. The climate proofing of Area Council Offices on Santo Island by V-CAP 1 was credited with saving lives during TC Harold in 2020. The soft approaches related to the management of fisheries, forests, agriculture and other sectors have supported livelihoods and improved well-being among community residents. These will also be continued and replicated in V-CAP II.

In addition to the above, V-CAP II will make possible a broader integrated approach with the blending of funds from the GEF TF and LDCF. The conservation of biodiversity and sustainable land management which will bring in global environmental benefits will also result in significant (ecosystem-based) adaptation co-benefits. Where it is possible to implement the different activities in each focal area in the same site, some sort of multiplier effect could be achieved as these activities will have mutually reinforcing impacts.

A key underlying principle in the delivery of V-CAP II will be to build on existing coping strategies, including methods employed by both women and men, of rural communities who have a long history of responding to geological and climate variability and change, with varying success. These short-term coping strategies form the basis of successful long-term adaptation strategies. However, care needs to be taken as some of these traditional coping strategies could prove to be unsustainable over time as climate change progresses leading to a greater risk of maladaptation. Seeking refuge in a safe evacuation centre in times of cyclones could be considered as a short-term coping mechanism. When the occurrence of cyclones becomes more frequent due to climate change, affected households may find it more beneficial to relocate closer to evacuation centres. The clustering of houses around an evacuation centre has been observed in some Pacific Island Countries such as Fiji.

Innovative approaches and new technologies, along with careful monitoring of the effectiveness of strategies in view of changing circumstances is needed to ensure these adaptation strategies remain appropriate. Rural communities are therefore the key actors for implementing adaptation strategies and hard-won lessons can be learned, communicated and fed into adaptation decision making at higher levels to benefit the nation.

In addition, V-CAP II will build upon the donor funded projects being implemented in rural communities aimed at addressing the effects of climate change which are delivered by both government, non-state agencies and other development partners. Frequently these initiatives take the form of “pilots” or “demonstration projects” which are useful in addressing climate change related challenges at community level. As such, V-CAP II provides a pivotal opportunity to upscale successful pilots for deployment in targeted communities.

Similarly, V-CAP II will build upon DRR planning processes that have been piloted and will broaden these initiatives to ensure communities are aware of disaster plans and that these plans are regularly reviewed, updated and able to be implemented as needed in response to a situation requiring its implementation.

V-CAP II will be inclusive and develop partnerships. In the biodiversity areas of Protected Areas V-CAP II will work with partners projects such as ECARE and the GEF 5 R2R project. In the focal area of species conservation V-CAP II will build upon the institutional and community support for species conservation in key areas.

V-CAP II will develop and deliver a targeted and useful communication program to ensure the engagement of the wider community and additional partners. Innovative approaches will be needed to deliver this program. It is important that this communication program is innovative and delivers materials that are socially appropriate for Vanuatu. The long-term nature of the challenges of climate change needs to be emphasized and empowering communities in partnership with governments and other development partners will be a key element in this process.

In the final two years of operation of V-CAP– a clear transition arrangement/phase out plan will be developed with key stakeholders in order to sustain or scale up results

As indicated above, the innovative approaches are being continued and replicated in this project. It is expected that further lessons will come about in V-CAP II that would be useful in other projects and in other locations not only in LDCs but in SIDS.

V. PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goal (s):				
GOAL 5: Gender Equality				
GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation				
GOAL 13: Climate Action				
GOAL 14: Life Below Water				
GOAL 15: Life on Land				
This project will contribute to the following country outcome:				
Sub-Regional Program Outcome 4 (UNDAF Outcome 1.1): Improved resilience of PICTs, with particular focus on communities, through integrated implementation of sustainable environment management, climate change adaptation/mitigation and disaster risk management				
Sub-Regional Program Outcome 2 (UNDAF Outcome 5.1): Regional, national, local and traditional governance systems are strengthened, respecting and upholding human rights, especially women's rights in line with international standards.				
	Objective and Outcome Indicators (no more than a total of 20 indicators)	Baseline ¹⁷ <i>Must be determined during PPG phase</i>	Mid-term Target ¹⁸ <i>Expected level of progress before MTR process starts</i>	End of Project Target <i>Expected level when terminal evaluation undertaken</i>
Project Objective: To improve the resilience of the vulnerable areas and communities therein to the impacts of climate change through the conservation of biodiversity and natural ecosystems and the implementation of integrated approaches in order to sustain livelihoods, food production and ensure biodiversity conservation	Mandatory Indicator 11 # direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people) ¹⁹	Total: 0 Male: 0 Female: 0	Total: 4,000 Male: 2,040 Female: 1,960	Entire Population of Vanuatu Total: 307,150 Male: 156,646 (51 %) Female: 150,504 (49%)
	Mandatory GEF Core Indicators: <i>use selected GEF Core indicators (including sub-indicators, as appropriate) add other objective-level indicators here.</i> <i>Indicator 2: Indirect Project beneficiaries</i>	Not applicable: Entire population will benefit directly.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

¹⁷ Baseline, mid-term and end of project target levels must be expressed in the same neutral unit of analysis as the corresponding indicator. Baseline is the current/original status or condition and needs to be quantified. The baseline can be zero when appropriate given the project has not started. The baseline must be established before the project document is submitted to the GEF for final approval. The baseline values will be used to measure the success of the project through implementation monitoring and evaluation.

¹⁸ Target is the change in the baseline value that will be achieved by the mid-term review and then again by the terminal evaluation.

¹⁹ Provide total number of all direct project beneficiaries expected to benefit from all project activities until project closure. Separate the total number by female and male. This indicator captures the number of individual people who receive targeted support from a given GEF project and/or who use the specific resources that the project maintains or enhances. Support is defined as direct assistance from the project. Direct beneficiaries are all individuals receiving targeted support from a given project. Targeted support is the intentional and direct assistance of a project to individuals or groups of individuals who are aware that they are receiving that support and/or who use the specific resources.

and reduce land degradation by building on the lessons learned from the first phase project				
Project Component 1	Integrated community approaches to natural resource management and climate change adaptation developed and implemented			
Project Outcome20 1	Core Indicator 1: Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (hectares)			
Outcome 1.1: Biodiversity conserved to improve the integrity of natural ecosystems towards increased climate resilience	1.1 Terrestrial protected areas newly created	0	1,000	2,298
	1.2 Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness	0	5,000	11,215
	Core Indicator 2: Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (hectares)			
	2.1 Marine protected areas newly created	0	200 hectares	575 hectares
	2.2 Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness	0	1,000 hectares	1,766 hectares
	Core Indicator 5: Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (hectares; excluding protected areas)	0	2,000	5,000
	Indicator 5.1: a. Number of local species action plans developed and implemented effectively	0	2	4
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.1	<p>1.1.1 Conducted survey and evaluation of the proposed PA sites to determine inclusion in Vanuatu's National Protected Area System and subsequent designation for PA establishment, governance and management at terrestrial and marine protected areas in 9 Area Council locations</p> <p>1.1.2 PA Registration and Management Plans developed in at least 6 priority protected areas (either terrestrial, marine or integrated following prioritization in Output 1.1.1) selected from the 9 Area Councils; management planning conducted through participatory processes with local communities and other stakeholders</p> <p>1.1.3 Implemented key aspects of management plans, including measures to mitigate illegal and unsustainable use of species and to reduce pressures on vulnerable ecosystems to improve ecological integrity and climate resilience</p>			
Outcome 1.2: Supported Sustainable Land Management initiatives at the community level to restore	Core Indicator 3: Area of land restored (hectares)			
	3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands restored	0	1,000	2,000

20Outcomes are medium term results that the project makes a contribution towards, and that are designed to help achieve the longer-term objective. Achievement of outcomes will be influenced both by project outputs and additional factors that may be outside the direct control of the project.

ecosystem services and improve resilience to climate impacts	3.2 Area of forest and forest land restored	0	500	2,000
	3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored	0	500	1,000
	3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries and mangroves) restored			0
	Core Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)			
	4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (qualitative assessment, noncertified)	0	500	1,000
	4.2 Area of landscapes that meet national or international third-party certification and that incorporates biodiversity considerations	0	0	0
	4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems	0	1,500	4,000
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.2	<p>Output 1.2.1 Degraded areas assessed in the selected project sites to identify the key drivers of land degradation covering approximately 10,000 hectares within the 9 priority Area Council locations</p> <p>Output 1.2.2 Strategies for the rehabilitation of degraded landscapes agreed through participatory processes and subsequently implemented to cover approximately 10,000 hectares</p>			
	<p>Note: this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restoration of current agricultural land to integrated use in line with Reef-2 Ridge Management – 2,000 hectares - Restoration of current forest land to integrated use in line with FLRS in Reef-2 Ridge Management – 2,000 hectares - Restoration of current grassland (often highly erosive) land to integrated use in line with Reef-2 Ridge Management – 1,000 hectares - Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity- 1,000 hectares – link to FLRS with co- benefit for biodiversity - Area of landscapes under SLM systems as detailed in FLRS - 4,000 ha (national target 24,000 ha) 			
Outcome 1.3: Improved climate resilience of coastal and upland areas through integrated approaches	Indicators 9: Number of Climate-smart model farms established in the focal Area Council locations	0	0	8
	Indicator 10: Number of investments in climate proofing of selected public conveyance, water provision infrastructure and evacuation facilities	0	15	25
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.3	<p>Output 1.3.1 Climate-smart model farms established in approximately 8 Area Council locations with the technologies upscaled/replicated at the farm level in selected areas</p> <p>Output 1.3.2 Improved resilience through climate proofing of selected public conveyance, water provision infrastructure and evacuation facilities in the coastal zone in priority communities within the 9 priority Area Council locations</p>			

Project component 2	Information and early warning systems on coastal hazards			
Outcome 2.1: Reduced exposure to flood-related risks and hazards in the target coastal and inland communities	<i>Indicator 11: 6 Automatic weather stations installed and operational</i>	0	3	6
	<i>Indicator 12: By the end of the project at least 100% of targeted V-CAP communities receiving timely and accurate early warnings of coastal hazards including floods, cyclones and other natural disasters</i>	0	10	25
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.1	<p><i>Output 2.1.1. Automated systems for real time monitoring of climate-related hazards such as cyclones, coastal flooding, storm surges, landslides, designed, installed and maintained in selected vulnerable areas</i></p> <p><i>Output 2.1.2 Timely releases of early warnings about cyclones, coastal flooding, storm surges and landslides through various public media; early warnings are received in a timely manner by all concerned villages in all the islands of Vanuatu.</i></p> <p><i>Output 2.1.3 Strengthened capacity of VMGD staff in the operation and maintenance of weather forecasting (long-range and short-range), AWS and in the analysis of data</i></p>			
Project component 3	Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Governance			
Outcome 3.1: Climate change adaptation plans at the community level and enabling policies and supportive institutions in place at both local and national levels	<i>Indicator 13: Number of Climate change adaptation plans in various sectors developed and implemented; and integrated into Area Council Development Plans (CCA Plans areas of CC/DRR, SLM, ecosystem resilience an climate proofing infrastructure)</i>	0	10	20
Outputs to achieve Outcome 3.1	<p><i>Output 3.1.1 CC-Adaptation Plans (CCAPs) (including nature-based solutions) mainstreamed into Provincial and Integrated Area Council Development Plans and implementation supported in the 9 priority Area Councils</i></p> <p><i>Output 3.1.2. Legislation and national/sector policies reviewed to ensure integration of climate change adaptation and a policy reform agenda developed and implemented</i></p>			
Outcome 3.2 Mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable land management in national development and sectoral policies (synergies with GEF-6 ECARE Project)	<i>Indicator 14: Number of policies and sector reviews developed incorporating biodiversity conservation, SLM and LDN</i>	0	1	3
Outputs to achieve Outcome 3.2	<i>Output 3.2.1 Biodiversity conservation mainstreamed in national and local policies; gazettement of selected PAs initiated and completed (in conjunction with Output 3.2.2 SLM and LDN Strategy developed and integrated into development policies and decision-making processes at national and local levels</i>			
Outcome 3.3: Human resources in place at the national, provincial and Area Council levels to support integrated approaches to natural resource management and climate change adaptation	<i>Indicator 15: Number of participants in local, provincial and national level training activities (disaggregated by gender)</i>	Total: 0 Male: 0 Female 0	Target = 500 Male: 250 (50%) Female: 250 (50%)	Target = 2,000 Male: 1,000 (50%) Female: 1,000 (50%)
	<i>Indicator 16: Number of communities actively implementing a Management Plan that includes good practices from R2R</i>	0	5	10

Outputs to achieve Outcome 3.3	<p><i>Output 3.3.1 Capacity building of key national and provincial government agencies in areas of compliance and enforcement, monitoring and evaluation and mainstreaming of climate-related policies and nature-based solutions (biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management) and regulations</i></p> <p><i>Output 3.3.2 Communities empowered to deal with climate change impacts in the coastal zone through participatory approaches in vulnerability assessments, planning and community-based adaptation measures and capacity building.</i></p>			
Project component 4	Knowledge Management and Lessons Sharing			
Outcome 4.1: Increased awareness and ownership of climate risk reduction processes at the national and local levels.	<p><i>Indicator 17: Number of beneficiaries informed through community-based awareness, capacity building programmes and advocacy (disaggregated by gender)</i></p>	<p>Total: 0 Male: 0 Female 0</p>	<p>Target = 500 Male: 250 (50%) Female: 250 (50%)</p>	<p>Target =4,000 Male: 2,000 (50%) Female: 2,000 (50%)</p>
Outputs to achieve Outcome 4	<p><i>Output 4.1.1 Best practices are captured, documented, and distributed to all local and national stakeholders and shared globally in appropriate mechanisms (development, populating and maintenance of national website for CC).</i></p> <p><i>Output 4.1.2 Awareness, training and education programs in relation to biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and integrated approaches to climate change adaptation developed and implemented</i></p>			

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) PLAN

The project results, corresponding indicators and mid-term and end-of-project targets in the project results framework will be monitored annually and evaluated periodically during project implementation. If baseline data for some of the results indicators is not yet available, it will be collected during the first year of project implementation. The Monitoring Plan included in Annex 5 details the roles, responsibilities, and frequency of monitoring project results.

Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP and UNDP Evaluation Policy. The UNDP Country Office is responsible for ensuring full compliance with all UNDP project monitoring, quality assurance, risk management, and evaluation requirements.

Additional mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements will be undertaken in accordance with the GEF Monitoring Policy and the GEF Evaluation Policy and other relevant GEF policies²¹. The costed M&E plan included below, and the Monitoring plan in Annex 5, will guide the GEF-specific M&E activities to be undertaken by this project.

In addition to these mandatory UNDP and GEF M&E requirements, other M&E activities deemed necessary to support project-level adaptive management will be agreed during the Project Inception Workshop and will be detailed in the Inception Report.

Additional GEF monitoring and reporting requirements:

Inception Workshop and Report: A project inception workshop will be held within 60 days of project CEO endorsement, with the aim to:

- a. Familiarize key stakeholders with the detailed project strategy and discuss any changes that may have taken place in the overall context since the project idea was initially conceptualized that may influence its strategy and implementation.
- b. Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the project team, including reporting lines, stakeholder engagement strategies and conflict resolution mechanisms.
- c. Review the results framework and monitoring plan.
- d. Discuss reporting, monitoring and evaluation roles and responsibilities and finalize the M&E budget; identify national/regional institutes to be involved in project-level M&E; discuss the role of the GEF OFP and other stakeholders in project-level M&E.
- e. Update and review responsibilities for monitoring project strategies, including the risk log; SESP report, Social and Environmental Management Framework and other safeguard requirements; project grievance mechanisms; gender strategy; knowledge management strategy, and other relevant management strategies.
- f. Review financial reporting procedures and budget monitoring and other mandatory requirements and agree on the arrangements for the annual audit.
- g. Plan and schedule Project Board meetings and finalize the first-year annual work plan.
- h. Formally launch the Project.

GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR):

The annual GEF PIR covering the reporting period July (previous year) to June (current year) will be completed for each year of project implementation. Any environmental and social risks and related management plans will be monitored regularly, and progress will be reported in the PIR. The PIR submitted to the GEF will be shared with the Project Board. The quality rating of the previous year's PIR will be used to inform the preparation of the subsequent PIR.

GEF and/or LDCF/SCCF Core Indicators:

²¹ See https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies_guidelines

The GEF and LDCF/SCCF Core indicators included as Annex 10 and 19 will be used to monitor global environmental benefits and will be updated for reporting to the GEF prior to MTR and TE. Note that the project team is responsible for updating the indicator status. The updated monitoring data should be shared with MTR/TE consultants prior to required evaluation missions, so these can be used for subsequent ground-truthing. The methodologies to be used in data collection have been defined by the GEF and are available on the GEF website.

The required Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METTs) have been prepared and the scores included in the GEF Core Indicators.

Independent Mid-term Review (MTR):

The terms of reference, the review process and the final MTR report will follow the standard templates and guidance for GEF-financed projects available on the UNDP Evaluation Resource Centre (ERC).

The evaluation will be ‘independent, impartial and rigorous’. The evaluators that will be hired to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. Equally, the evaluators should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project under review.

The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be actively involved and consulted during the evaluation process. Additional quality assurance support is available from the BPPS/GEF Directorate.

The final MTR report and MTR TOR will be publicly available in English and will be posted on the UNDP ERC by May 2025. A management response to MTR recommendations will be posted in the ERC within six weeks of the MTR report’s completion.

Terminal Evaluation (TE):

An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place upon completion of all major project outputs and activities. The terms of reference, the evaluation process and the final TE report will follow the standard templates and guidance for GEF-financed projects available on the UNDP Evaluation Resource Centre.

The evaluation will be ‘independent, impartial and rigorous’. The evaluators that will be hired to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. Equally, the evaluators should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project being evaluated.

The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be actively involved and consulted during the terminal evaluation process. Additional quality assurance support is available from the BPPS/GEF Directorate.

The final TE report and TE TOR will be publicly available in English and posted on the UNDP ERC by *February 2028*. A management response to the TE recommendations will be posted to the ERC within six weeks of the TE report’s completion.

Final Report:

The project’s terminal GEF PIR along with the terminal evaluation (TE) report and corresponding management response will serve as the final project report package. The final project report package shall be discussed with the Project Board during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lessons learned and opportunities for scaling up.

Agreement on intellectual property rights and use of logo on the project’s deliverables and disclosure of information:

To accord proper acknowledgement to the GEF for providing grant funding, the GEF logo will appear together with the UNDP logo on all promotional materials, other written materials like publications developed by the project, and project hardware. Any citation on publications regarding projects funded by the GEF will also accord proper

acknowledgement to the GEF. Information will be disclosed in accordance with relevant policies notably the UNDP Disclosure Policy²² and the GEF policy on public involvement²³.

Mandatory GEF M&E Requirements and M&E Budget:

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget:		
GEF M&E requirements	Indicative costs (US\$)	Time frame
Inception Workshop	US\$ 15,050	Within 60 days of CEO endorsement of this project.
Inception Report	None	Within 90 days of CEO endorsement of this project.
M&E of GEF core indicators and project results framework	20,000 over 6 years	Annually and at mid-point and closure.
GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)	<i>None</i>	Annually typically between June-August
Supervision missions	None (from Agency Fee)	Annually
Independent Mid-term Review (MTR)	US\$ 40,000	May 2025
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)	\$50,000	February 2028
TOTAL indicative COST	US\$ 125,050	

²² See http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/transparency/information_disclosurepolicy/

²³ See https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies_guidelines

VII. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Roles and responsibilities of the project's governance mechanism:

Implementing Partner: The Implementing Partner for this project is the Ministry for Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology, Geo-hazards, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management (MCCAMGEEDM).

The Implementing Partner is the entity to which the UNDP Administrator has entrusted the implementation of UNDP assistance specified in this signed project document along with the assumption of full responsibility and accountability for the effective use of UNDP resources and the delivery of outputs, as set forth in this document.

The Implementing Partner is responsible for executing this project. Specific tasks include:

- Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary. The Implementing Partner will strive to ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data used and generated by the project supports national systems.
- Risk management as outlined in this Project Document;
- Procurement of goods and services, including human resources;
- Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets;
- Approving and signing the multiyear workplan;
- Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year; and,
- Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.

Responsible Parties:

The implementing partner, MCCAMGEEDM, will engage a number of Responsible Parties to implement various Components of V-CAP. The funds will flow through GOV financial system. The delegated responsibilities include:

- Outcomes 1, 2 and 4 responsible parties will include DEPC, DoAg, DoF, D of Fish, PWD and DLA; and
- Component 2 responsible party will be Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazard Department.

A Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) Framework assessment has been completed for the MCCAMGEEDM. The HACT Framework represents a common operational framework for UN agencies' transfer of cash to government and non-governmental implementing partners. The HACT Assessment is available. It considers the overall assessment of the Implementing Partner's programme, financial and operations management policies, procedures, systems and internal controls with regard to cash transfers is Moderate. A number of recommendations are provided for the implementation.

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination:

VCAP II will be implemented through the Government of Vanuatu within Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology, Geo-Hazards, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management, This will provide the overall coordination with the various elements of Government and implementing partners. A Project Implementation Unit will be based in the Department of Climate Change and will be responsible for day-to-day implementation of VCAP II. ***Vanuatu's National Advisory Board (NAB) on Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction, mandated by the Council of Ministers on 15 October 2012 to "Act as Vanuatu's supreme policy making and advisory body for all disaster risk reduction and climate change programs projects disaster risk reduction and climate change programs, projects, initiatives and activities."*** The NAB secretariat is also based in the DCC.

While the project will be implemented following the National Implementation Modality (NIM), UNDP will provide support services upon the request of the government through the GEF Operational Focal Point. This exceptional arrangement addresses the recommendation of HACT/MA (Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer/Micro Assessment) of the Ministry that was commissioned by UNDP through an independent firm. The support services as indicated in the OFP letter cover the following: a) identification and/or recruitment of project personnel; b) procurement of goods and services; and c) program finance support services. The total amount for the entire duration of the project is \$75,000. This arrangement was discussed with and approved by the GEF Secretariat.

The Department of Environment Protection and Conservation will also play a leading role in the implementation of VCAP II. It will ensure the integration of other GEF initiatives in Vanuatu including:

- a. The GEF 6 ECARE Project, which will be integral to the delivery of V-CAP II. There has been careful collaboration in the design of both projects to ensure complementarities. V-CAP II will provide capacity support to ensure this collaboration and cooperation. There will be regular meetings between the two initiatives and joint programming where possible.
- b. GEF- 5 FAO Project Integrated Sustainable Land and Coastal Management Project (ISLCM) GEF 5 Project which commenced in 2020. There was careful collaboration between V-CAP II and ISLCM to ensure consistent application of the 'ridge to reef' approach. There is no duplication in field sites. V-CAP II will continue to work with ISLCM to and coordination of support to DEPC.

The range of other initiatives and projects that are described on pages 49-51 of this Document that outline other initiatives with which VCAP II will coordinate. Of special note are the GCF Projects namely:

- c. the GCF "Climate Information Services for Resilient Development in Vanuatu (VANKIRAP)" Project will be housed in the Vanuatu Meteorology & Geo-Hazard Department to ensure coordination and integration with other related initiatives as this office will implement this component. .
- d. Vanuatu Community-based Climate Resilience project (VCCRP) has the objective to build resilience of rural communities to increasing climate variability and extreme events over 8 years starting in 2022. The VCCRP is focused on adaptations that support food security and livelihoods, and the governance capacity to deliver adaptations and build resilience, there are obvious synergies between the two projects, and the intent is to collaborate and value-add between the projects. *In particular, to deliver coordinated capacity building at all levels of government and implement a standardized and consistent approach to community-based natural resource management and monitoring. The V-CAP II PPG notes that outputs and approaches from V-CAP I were incorporated into the design of VCCRP and that there has been very careful consultation during the design process to ensure that there is no overlap in the delivery of site-based activities. V-CAP II will work cooperatively with VCCRP and both projects are based in the DCC. It is recommended that there is joint programming of both projects in relation to annual and semi-annual work plans and synergies are maximized.*

In addition, additions projects currently under development to support integrated coastal ('ridge to reef') management, using a kustom traditional foundation for developing management plans and/or approaches include:

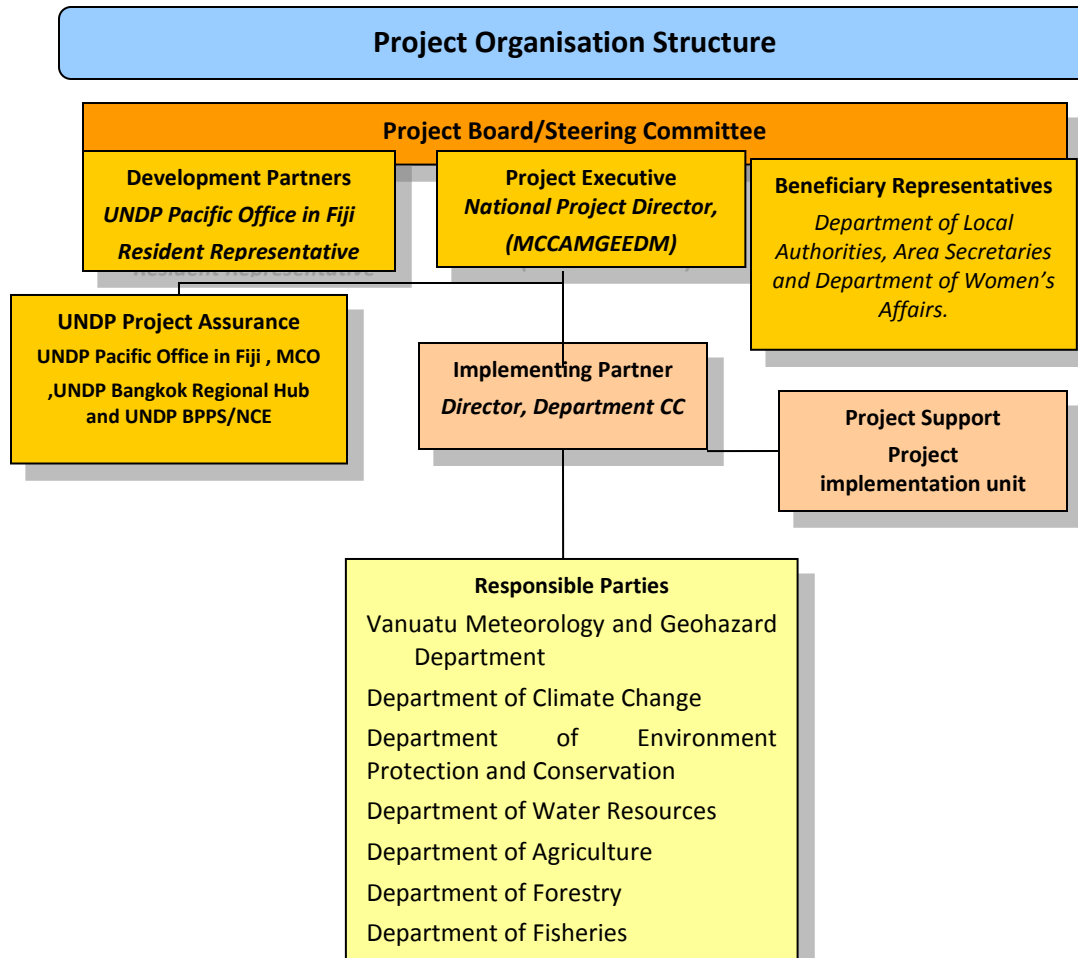
- e. The Climate Resilient Islands Programme, implemented by Live & Learn and funded through the New Zealand Government's Resilient Ecosystem and Climate Change Adaptation Programme.
- f. The Melanesian-Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Resilience Project, funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and implemented by SPREP and IUCN.
- g. The Pacific Ecosystems-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) project is a five-year project that explores and promotes Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) options for adapting to climate change. The Project is implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in partnership with the Governments of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The Phase II of PEBACC is currently under development.

The VCAP II PPG consulted with each of the initiatives highlighted above and all parties agree that coordination and building on existing initiatives and successes in Vanuatu will be critical for V-CAP II as it works to conserve biodiversity and natural ecosystems and implement integrated 'ridge to reef' approaches to sustain livelihoods and food production.

Other Government agencies will be responsible for the delivery of various aspects of VCAP II. These include the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazard Department, Department of Water Resources, Department of Agriculture, Department of Forestry, Department of Fisheries and Department of Local Authorities.

Project stakeholders and target groups: The project will work very closely with local government and community representative who will be the overall target group to this project. This will include DLA, Traditional Chiefs and customary governance structures, wards/district councils, Area Council representatives, Area Secretaries and island level community disaster committees. These target groups will be involved through outreach consultation from inception phase and throughout the project via awareness programs and implementation of specific interventions to enhance food and water security and protect community assets. This is detailed in **Annex 9 - Stakeholder Engagement Plan**. Special attention will be given to those women and other groups within the community that have special needs as outlined in the **Gender and Social Inclusion Action Plan (Annex 18)**.

UNDP: UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes overseeing project execution undertaken by the Implementing Partner to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures and the standards and provisions outlined in the Delegation of Authority (DOA) letter for this project. **The UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator, in consultation with UNDP Bureaus and the Implementing Partner, retains the right to revoke the project DOA, suspend or cancel this GEF project.** UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance function in the project governance structure and presents to the Project Board and attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.



Project organisation structure:

First line of defense:

UNDP oversight of project support to IP cannot be UNDP staff providing project assurance or providing programmatic oversight support to the RR.

Second line of defense

Regional Bureau oversees RR and Country Office compliance at portfolio level. BPPS NCE RTA oversees technical quality assurance and GEF compliance. BPPS NCE PTA oversees RTA function. UNDP NCE Executive Coordinator and Regional Bureau Director can revoke DOA/cancel/suspend project or provide enhanced oversight.

The UNDP Resident Representative assumes full responsibility and accountability for oversight and quality assurance of this Project and ensures its timely implementation in compliance with the GEF-specific requirements and UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP), its Financial Regulations and Rules and Internal Control Framework. A representative of the UNDP Country Office will assume the assurance role and will present assurance findings to the Project Board, and therefore attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

UNDP project support: The Implementing Partner and GEF OFP have requested UNDP to provide support services in the amount of **USD\$75,000** for the full duration of the project, and the GEF has agreed for UNDP to provide such execution support services and for the cost of these services to be charged to the project budget. The execution support services – whether financed from the project budget or other sources - have been set out in detail and

agreed between UNDP Country Office and the Implementing Partner in a Letter of Agreement (LOA). This LOA is attached to this Project Document.

To ensure the strict independence required by the GEF and in accordance with the UNDP Internal Control Framework, these execution services will be delivered independent from the GEF-specific oversight and quality assurance services.

Section 3: Segregation of duties and firewalls vis-à-vis UNDP representation on the project board:

As noted in the [Minimum Fiduciary Standards for GEF Partner Agencies](#), in cases where a GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) carries out both implementation oversight and execution of a project, the GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) must separate its project implementation oversight and execution duties, and describe in the relevant project document a: 1) Satisfactory institutional arrangement for the separation of implementation oversight and executing functions in different departments of the GEF Partner Agency; and 2) Clear lines of responsibility, reporting and accountability within the GEF Partner Agency between the project implementation oversight and execution functions.

In this case, UNDP's implementation oversight role in the project – as represented in the project board and via the project assurance function – is performed by Programme Analyst. UNDP's execution role in the project (as requested by the implementing partner and approved by the GEF) is performed by Finance /Procurement Assistant, and HR Assistant who will report to Finance Team Leader; Operations Manager; Procurement Team Leader, and HR Team Leader.

Section 4: Roles and Responsibilities of the Project Organization Structure:

- a) **Project Board:** All UNDP projects must be governed by a multi-stakeholder board or committee established to review performance based on monitoring and evaluation, and implementation issues to ensure quality delivery of results. The Project Board (also called the Project Steering Committee) is the most senior, dedicated oversight body for a project.

The two main (mandatory) roles of the project board are as follows:

- 1) **High-level oversight of the execution of the project by the Implementing Partner** (as explained in the ["Provide Oversight"](#) section of the POPP). This is the primary function of the project board and includes annual (and as-needed) assessments of any major risks to the project, and decisions/agreements on any management actions or remedial measures to address them effectively. The Project Board reviews evidence of project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, evaluations, risk logs and the combined delivery report. The Project Board is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results.
- 2) **Approval of strategic project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner** with a view to assess and manage risks, monitor and ensure the overall achievement of projected results and impacts and ensure long term sustainability of project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner (as explained in the ["Manage Change"](#) section of the POPP).

Requirements to serve on the Project Board:

- ✓ Agree to the Terms of Reference of the Board and the rules on protocols, quorum and minuting.
- ✓ Meet annually; at least once.
- ✓ Disclose any conflict of interest in performing the functions of a Project Board member and take all measures to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest. This disclosure must be documented and kept on record by UNDP.
- ✓ Discharge the functions of the Project Board in accordance with UNDP policies and procedures.

- ✓ Ensure highest levels of transparency and ensure Project Board meeting minutes are recorded and shared with project stakeholders.

Responsibilities of the Project Board:

- ✓ Consensus decision making:
 - The project board provides overall overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints, and providing overall oversight of the project implementation.
 - Review project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, risk logs and the combined delivery report;
 - The project board is responsible for making management decisions by consensus.
 - In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, Project Board decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition.
 - In case consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the UNDP representative on the board will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed.
- ✓ Oversee project execution:
 - Agree on project manager's tolerances as required, within the parameters outlined in the project document, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project manager's tolerances are exceeded.
 - Appraise annual work plans prepared by the Implementing Partner for the Project; review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the implementing partner.
 - Address any high-level project issues as raised by the project manager and project assurance;
 - Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP and the donor and refer such proposed major and minor amendments to the UNDP BPPS Nature, Climate and Energy Executive Coordinator (and the GEF, as required by GEF policies);
 - Provide high-level direction and recommendations to the project management unit to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily and according to plans.
 - Track and monitor co-financed activities and realisation of co-financing amounts of this project.
 - Approve the Inception Report, GEF annual project implementation reports, mid-term review and terminal evaluation reports.
 - Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project.
- ✓ Risk Management:
 - Provide guidance on evolving or materialized project risks and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks.
 - Review and update the project risk register and associated management plans based on the information prepared by the Implementing Partner. This includes risks related that can be directly managed by this project, as well as contextual risks that may affect project delivery or continued UNDP compliance and reputation but are outside of the control of the project. For example, social and environmental risks associated with co-financed activities or activities taking place in the project's area of influence that have implications for the project.
 - Address project-level grievances.
- ✓ Coordination:
 - Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes.
 - Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities.

The composition of the Project Board includes the following roles:

- a. Project Executive: Is an individual who represents ownership of the project and chairs the Project Board. The Executive is normally the national counterpart for nationally implemented projects. The Project Executive is: **Director General, Ministry of MCCAMGEDM**

- b. Beneficiary Representative(s): Individuals or groups representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the project. Their primary function within the board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Often civil society representative(s) can fulfil this role. The Beneficiary representative (s) is/are: Director General, Department of Local Affairs, Area Council Representatives (feedback mechanism for local communities, youth, church, and groups with special needs) and Department of Women's Affairs.

Specific Responsibilities (as part of the above responsibilities for the Project Board) include:

149. Prioritize and contribute beneficiaries' opinions on Project Board decisions on whether to implement recommendations on proposed changes;
150. Specification of the Beneficiary's needs is accurate, complete and unambiguous;
151. Implementation of activities at all stages is monitored to ensure that they will meet the beneficiary's needs and are progressing towards that target;
152. Impact of potential changes is evaluated from the beneficiary point of view;
153. Risks to the beneficiaries are frequently monitored.

- c. Development Partner(s): Individuals or groups representing the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding and/or technical expertise to the project. The Development Partner is UNDP Resident Representative

Project Assurance

- d. Project Assurance: Project assurance is the responsibility of each project board member; however, UNDP has a distinct assurance role for all UNDP projects in carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. UNDP performs quality assurance and supports the Project Board (and Project Management Unit) by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions, including compliance with the risk management and social and environmental standards of UNDP. The Project Board cannot delegate any of its quality assurance responsibilities to the Project Manager. Project assurance is totally independent of project execution.

A designated representative of UNDP playing the project assurance role is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative. It should be noted that while in certain cases UNDP's project assurance role across the project may encompass activities happening at several levels (e.g. global, regional), at least one UNDP representative playing that function must, as part of their duties, specifically attend board meeting and provide board members with the required documentation required to perform their duties. The UNDP representative playing the main project assurance function is CO programme Officer.

The Project will establish a **Project Level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)** during the Inception Phase, in order to receive and facilitate resolution of any complaints and grievances. The GRM will be established at the national level in Port Vila to address grievances. Information about the GRM will be widely disseminated, and a system for tracking complaints will be established. Interested stakeholders may raise a grievance at any time to the Project Implementation Unit, Provincial Governments, DLA, UNDP or the GEF

VIII. FINANCIAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

The total cost of the project is *USD 63,402,117*. This is financed through a GEF TF and LDCF grant of *USD 12,544,037* administered by UNDP; *USD 120,000* in cash co-financing to be administered by UNDP and additional support of *USD 50,738,080*. UNDP, as the GEF Implementing Agency, is responsible for the oversight of the GEF resources and the cash co-financing transferred to UNDP bank account only.

Confirmed Co-financing: The actual realization of project co-financing will be monitored during the *mid-term review* and terminal evaluation process and will be reported to the GEF. Note that all project activities included in the project results framework that will be delivered by co-financing partners (even if the funds do not pass-through UNDP accounts) must comply with UNDP's social and environmental standards. Co-financing will be used for the following project activities/outputs:

Co-financing source	Co-financing type	Co-financing amount	Planned Co-financing Activities/Outputs	Risks	Risk Mitigation Measures
Government	In kind	\$2,565,060	All project activities – Components 1-4	Challenging to identify and align co-financing.	Government co-financing to Project implementation mechanism is using government systems National level coordination through NAB
	Grant	\$12,573,020			
Donor Agency [Australian Center for International Agricultural Research Project]	Grant	\$1,200,000	All project activities – Components 2	Challenging to identify and align co-financing.	\$10 million of donor funds is supporting project implementation mechanism is using government systems. National level coordination through NAB
Donor Agency [GCF & USIAD]	Grant	\$34,150,000	Project activities – Components 1 and 3	Challenging to identify and align co-financing.	NGO co-financing is supporting project implementation mechanism is using government systems. National level coordination through NAB

UNDP	In-kind	\$250,000	<p>Support the gender engagement/participation in the marketplace and community livelihoods/agriculture development</p> <p>Support Vanuatu to ensure that they adapt decision making and governance systems towards risk-informed development in the area of agriculture and livelihoods, water management, health sanitation, energy and small-scale infrastructure.</p>	<p>Limited engagement of women due to cultural set-up whereby men make decisions while women are usually seen in a supportive role.</p> <p>Limited support from government based on their respective priorities</p>	<p>Broader outreach on the importance of the engagement and participation of women. Key social and cultural groups in communities will also be targeted for planning workshop and increase awareness raising on gender engagement. Ensure that target groups also include men so that they are educated on the importance of woman engagement and participations</p> <p>Create a platform of discussion with key government stakeholders on the relevance of the work and its priorities and obtain commitment</p>
UNDP	Grant	\$120,000	Support the Knowledge Management Component of the Project – Outcome 4 & project management	TRAC Allocation to UNDP can be limiting	Ensure TRAC allocation requests are made prior to the budgeting year
TOTAL		\$50,858,080			

Budget Revision and Tolerance: As per UNDP POPP, the project board may agree with the project manager on a tolerance level for each detailed plan under the overall multi-year workplan. The agreed tolerance should be written in the project document or approved project board meeting minutes. It should normally not exceed 10 percent of the agreed annual budget at the activity level, but within the overall approved multi-year workplan at the activity level. Within the agreed tolerances, the project manager can operate without intervention from the project board. Restrictions apply as follows:

Should the following deviations occur, the Project Manager/IP through UNDP Country Office will seek the approval of the BPPS/NCE-VF team to ensure accurate reporting to the GEF. It is **strongly encouraged** to maintain the expenditures within the approved budget at the budgetary account and at the component level:

- a) Budget reallocations must prove that the suggested changes in the budget will not lead to material changes in the results to be achieved by the project. A strong justification is required and will be approved on an exceptional basis. Budget re-allocations among the components (including PMC) of the approved Total Budget and Work Plans (TBWP) that represent a value greater than 10% of the total GEF grant.
- b) Introduction of new outputs/activities (i.e. budget items) that were not part of the agreed project document and TBWP that represent a value greater than 5% of the total GEF grant. The new budget items must be eligible as per the [GEF and UNDP policies](#).
- c) Project management cost (PMC): budget under PMC component is capped and cannot be increased.

Any over expenditure incurred beyond the available GEF grant amount must be absorbed by non-GEF resources (e.g. UNDP TRAC or cash co-financing).

Project extensions: The UNDP Resident Representative and the UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator must approve all project extension requests. Note that all extensions incur costs and the GEF project budget cannot be increased. A single extension may be granted on an exceptional basis and subject to the conditions and maximum durations set out in the UNDP POPP; the project management costs during the extension period must remain within the originally approved amount, and any increase in PMC costs will be covered by non-GEF resources; the additional UNDP oversight costs during the extension period must be covered by non-GEF resources, in accordance with UNDP's guidance set out in UNDP POPP.

Audit: The project will be audited as per UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules and applicable audit policies. Audit cycle and process must be discussed during the Inception workshop. If the Implementing Partner is an UN Agency, the project will be audited according to that Agencies applicable audit policies.

Project Closure: Project closure will be conducted as per UNDP requirements outlined in the UNDP POPP. All costs incurred to close the project must be included in the project closure budget and reported as final project commitments presented to the Project Board during the final project review. The only costs a project may incur following the final project review are those included in the project closure budget.

Operational completion: The project will be operationally completed when the last UNDP-financed inputs have been provided and the related activities have been completed. This includes the final clearance of the Terminal Evaluation Report (that will be available in English) and the corresponding management response, and the end-of-project review Project Board meeting. **Operational closure must happen at the end date calculated by the approved duration after the Project Document signature or at the revised operational closure date as approved in the project extension. Any expected activity after the operational date requires project extension approval.** The Implementing Partner through a Project Board decision will notify the UNDP Country Office when operational closure has been completed. At this time, the project should have completed the transfer or disposal of any equipment that is still the property of UNDP.

Transfer or disposal of assets: In consultation with the Implementing Partner and other parties of the project, UNDP is responsible for deciding on the transfer or other disposal of assets. Transfer or disposal of assets is recommended to be reviewed and endorsed by the project board following UNDP rules and regulations. Assets may be transferred to the government for project activities managed by a national institution at any time during the life of a project (it is strongly encouraged to be done before the operational closure date). In all cases of transfer, a transfer document must be prepared and kept on file²⁴. The transfer should be done before Project Management Unit complete their assignments.

Financial completion (closure): The project will be financially closed when the following conditions have been met: a) the project is operationally completed or has been cancelled; b) the Implementing Partner has reported all financial transactions to UNDP; c) UNDP has closed the accounts for the project; d) UNDP and the Implementing Partner have certified a final Combined Delivery Report (which serves as final budget revision).

The project will be financially completed **within 6 months of operational closure or after the date of cancellation**. If Operational Closure is delayed for any justified and approved reason, the Country Office should do all efforts to Financially Close the project within 9 months after TE is completed. Between operational and financial closure, the implementing partner will identify and settle all financial obligations and prepare a final expenditure report. The UNDP Country Office will send the final signed closure documents including confirmation of final cumulative expenditure and unspent balance to the BPPS/NCE-VF Unit for confirmation before the project will be financially closed in Atlas by the UNDP Country Office.

Refund to GEF: Should a refund of unspent funds to the GEF be necessary, this will be managed directly by the BPPS/NCE-VF Directorate in New York. No action is required by the UNDP Country Office on the actual refund from UNDP project to the GEF Trustee.

²⁴ See

https://popp.undp.org/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/UNDP_POPP_DOCUMENT_LIBRARY/Public/PPM_Project%20Management_Closing.docx&action=default.

IX. TOTAL BUDGET AND WORK PLAN

Total Budget and Work Plan			
Atlas Award ID:	00119130	Atlas Output Project ID:	00115691
Atlas Proposal or Award Title:	Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zone of Vanuatu – Phase II (V-CAP II)		
Atlas Business Unit	FJI10		
Atlas Primary Output Project Title	Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zone of Vanuatu – Phase II (V-CAP II)		
UNDP-GEF PIMS No.	6374		
Implementing Partner	Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology, Geo-Hazards, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management Government of Vanuatu (MCCAMGEEDM)		

Atlas Activity (GEF Component)	Implementing Agent	ATLAS Fund ID	Donor	Atlas Budgetary Account Code	ATLAS Budget Account Description	Amount Year 1 (USD)	Amount Year 2 (USD)	Amount Year 3 (USD)	Amount Year 4 (USD)	Amount Year 5 (USD)	Amount Year 6 (USD)	Total (USD)	Budget Note	
1: Integrated community approaches to natural resource management and climate change adaptation developed and implemented	MCCAMGEE DM/ UNDP	62000	GEF TF	71800	Contract Services-Implementing partners	143,502	149,002	149,002	143,502	70,000	131,002	786,010	1C	
				71200	International Consultants	200,000	160,000	80,000	60,000	40,000	40,000	580,000	1A	
				71300	Local Consultants	300,698	316,598	287,198	112,598	86,698	89,198	1,192,988	1B-1	
	UNDP			71400	Contract Services-Individual	57,000	57,000	57,000	57,000	57,000	57,000	57,000	342,000	1B-2
	MCCAMGEE DM			71600	Travel	93,400	93,400	83,000	63,200	63,200	63,200	63,200	459,400	1D
				72100	Contractual SVC-companies	60,000	120,000	150,000	100,000	138,000	12,000	580,000	1I	
				72300	Materials and Goods	27,950	600	600	24,350	600	600	54,700	1E	
				73400	Rental & Maint of other Equipments	34,120	72,920	39,120	37,920	37,920	39,120	261,120	1F-1	
				72200	Equipment and Furniture (Transportation Equipment)	140,000	0	0	0	0	0	140,000	1F-2	

				74200	Audiovisual & Printing	10,800	10,800	10,800	2,700	5,400	8,100	48,600	1G	
				75700	Trainings, Workshops and Conferences	67,200	85,200	155,599	80,200	66,200	35,200	489,599	1H	
					Subtotal GEF	\$1,134,670	\$1,065,520	\$1,012,319	\$681,470	\$565,018	\$475,420	\$4,934,417		
	UNDP	62160	LDCF	71200	International Consultants	\$ 200,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 580,000	1A	
	MCCAMGEE DM/ UNDP			71300	Local Consultants	\$ 128,202	\$ 128,202	\$ 126,602	\$ 128,202	\$ 126,202	\$ 126,202	\$763,612	1B-1	
				72100	Contractual SVC-companies	\$118,000	\$619,150	\$798,831	\$575,300	\$293,150	\$25,000	\$2,429,431	1I	
					Subtotal LDCF	\$446,202	\$907,352	\$1,005,433	\$763,502	\$459,352	\$191,202	\$3,773,043		
				TOTAL Component 1		\$1,580,872	\$1,972,872	\$2,017,752	\$1,444,972	\$1,024,370	\$666,622	\$8,707,460		
2. Reduced exposure to flood-related risks and hazards in the target coastal communities	MCCAMGEE DM/ UNDP	62160	LDCF	71300	National Consultants	\$94,000	\$94,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$284,000	2A	
	MCCAMGEE DM			71600	Travel	\$6,400	\$5,400	0	\$7,000	0	0	\$18,800	2B	
	MCCAMGEE DM/ UNDP			72100	Contractual Services Company	\$300,000	\$250,000	\$200,000	\$136,500	\$266,200	0	\$1,152,700	2C	
	MCCAMGEE DM			73400	Rental & Maint of other Equipments	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$6,000	2D
				74200	Audiovisual & Printing	\$4,000	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$16,500	2E	
				75700	Trainings, Workshops and Conferences	\$500	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$6,500	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$22,000	2F	
							TOTAL Competent 2		\$405,900	\$355,400	\$229,500	\$177,000	\$299,700	\$32,500
3. Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Governance	MCCAMGEE DM/ UNDP	62000	GEF-TF	71300	Local Consultants	\$18,000	\$15,700	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$8,000	\$5,000	\$71,700	3A	
	DLA/ DCC/ DEPC			71600	Travel	\$31,760	\$32,760	\$23,960	\$18,260	\$18,260	\$10,500	\$135,500	3E	
	MCCAMGEE DM			72100	Contractual Services Company	\$6,950	\$600	\$600	\$2,350	\$600	\$600	\$11,700	3G	
				73400	Rental & Maint of other Equipment	\$1,800	\$600	\$1,800	\$600	\$600	\$1,800	\$7,200	3H	
				74200	Audiovisual & Printing	\$13,800	\$13,800	\$11,800	0	0	\$9,100	\$48,500	3B	

				75700	Trainings, Workshops and Conferences	\$27,300	\$27,300	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$500	\$62,000	3C	
					Subtotal GEF TF	\$99,610	\$90,760	\$55,460	\$33,510	\$29,760	\$27,500	\$336,600		
	MCCAMGEE DM	62160	LDCF	75700	Trainings, Workshops and Conferences	\$36,600	\$55,100	\$40,100	\$35,100	\$8,800	\$5,400	\$181,100	3C	
	UNDP			71200	International Consultants	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$10,000	0	0	0	0	\$150,000	3D
	MCCAMGEE DM/ UNDP			71300	Local Consultants	\$117,800	\$146,100	\$49,300	\$36,800	\$38,800	\$25,300		\$414,100	3A
				72100	Contractual Services Company	0	\$10,000	\$10,000	0	0	0	0	\$20,000	3F
							Subtotal LDCF	\$224,400	\$281,200	\$109,400	\$71,900	\$47,600	\$30,700	\$765,200
				Total Component 3		\$324,010	\$371,960	\$164,860	\$105,410	\$77,360	\$58,200	\$1,101,800		
4 Increased awareness and ownership of climate risk reduction	UNDP	62000	GEF TF	71200	International Consultants	\$30,000	\$15,000	0	\$10,000	0	0	\$55,000	4E	
	MCCAMGEE DM			71300	Local Consultants	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$21,000	\$12,000	\$7,000	\$10,800	\$78,800	4F	
				71600	Travel	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$0	0	0	0	\$18,000	4A	
				75700	Trainings, Workshops and Conferences	\$11,850	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$2,950	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$19,600	4B	
				74200	Audiovisual & Printing	\$7,700	\$7,700	\$7,700	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$2,700	\$35,800	4C	
				75700	Trainings, Workshops and Conferences	\$5,700	\$5,700	\$5,700	\$5,700	\$5,700	\$5,700	\$34,200	4D	
					Subtotal GEF TF	\$78,250	\$52,600	\$35,600	\$35,650	\$18,900	\$20,400	\$241,400		
	UNDP	62160	LDCF	71200	International Consultants	\$30,000	\$15,000	0	\$10,000	0	0	\$55,000	4E	
	MCCAMGEE DM			71300	Local Consultants	\$25,000	\$22,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$16,200	\$113,200	4F	
	MCCAMGEE DM/ UNDP			75700	Trainings, Workshops and Conferences	\$21,400	\$29,900	\$29,500	\$27,500	\$21,370	\$18,037	\$147,707	4G	
						Subtotal LDCF	\$76,400	\$66,900	\$44,500	\$52,500	\$41,370	\$34,237	\$315,907	
	UNDP	04000	UNDP	75700	Trainings, Workshops and Conferences	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$60,000	4H	



					Subtotal UNDP	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$60,000		
				Component 4 (GEF & LDCF)		\$154,650	\$119,500	\$80,100	\$88,150	\$60,270	\$54,637	\$557,307		
				Total Component 4 (GEF, LDCF & UNDP)		\$164,650	\$129,500	\$90,100	\$98,150	\$70,270	\$64,637	\$617,307		
M&E Component	UNDP	62000	GEF-TF	71400	Contract Services Individual	0	0	\$20,000	0	0	\$25,000	\$45,000	ME-1	
	MCCAMGEE DM			71800	Contract Services - Implementing Partners	0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$10,000	ME-2
							Subtotal GEF TF	0	\$2,000	\$22,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$27,000	\$55,000
	UNDP	62160	LDCF	71200	Intl Consultant			\$20,000			\$25,000	\$45,000	ME-1	
	MCCAMGEE DM			71800	Contract Services - Implementing Partners	0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$10,000	ME-2
				75700	Training Workshops and conferences	\$15,050	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$15,050	ME-3
							Subtotal LDCF	\$15,050	\$2,000	\$22,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$27,000	\$70,050
				Total M&E		\$15,050	4,000	\$44,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$54,000	\$125,050		
Project Management costs	MCCAMGEE DM	62000	GEF-TF	71800	Contractual Services- Implementing Partner	\$10,397	\$10,397	\$10,397	\$10,397	\$10,397	\$10,395	\$62,380	PM E-1	
	UNDP			71400	Contractual Services- individual	\$16,200	\$16,200	\$16,200	\$16,200	\$16,200	\$16,200	\$16,200	\$97,200	PM E-2
				74100	Professional Services	\$6,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$24,000	PM C
	MCCAMGEE DM			71600	Travel	\$2,370	\$2,670	\$2,670	\$2,670	\$2,670	\$2,670	\$3,870	\$16,920	PM A
	MCCAMGEE DM			72300	Materials and Goods	\$24,850	\$3,400	\$3,400	\$17,650	\$3,400	\$3,400	\$3,400	\$56,100	PM B

			Subtotal GEF TF		\$59,817	\$36,667	\$36,667	\$50,917	\$36,667	\$35,865	\$256,600		
MCCAMGEE DM	62160	LDCF	71800	Contractual Services-Implementing Partner	\$4,003	\$4,003	\$4,003	\$4,003	\$4,003	\$4,005	\$24,020	PM E-1	
UNDP			71400	Contractual Services-individual	\$28,800	\$28,800	\$28,800	\$28,800	\$28,800	\$28,800	\$172,800	PM E-2	
			74100	Professional Services	\$6,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$24,000	PM C	
			74596	Services to Projects - GOEs	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$75,000	PM D	
			Subtotal LDCF		\$51,303	\$49,303	\$49,303	\$49,303	\$49,303	\$47,305	\$295,820		
UNDP	04000	UNDP	71600	Travel	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$30,000	PM F	
			75700	Training Workshops and conferences	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$30,000	PM G	
			Sub Total PMC (UNDP)		\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$60,000		
			Total PMC (GEF & LDCF)		\$111,120	\$85,970	\$85,970	\$100,220	\$85,970	\$83,170	\$552,420		
			Total PMC (GEF, LDCF & UNDP)		\$121,120	\$95,970	\$95,970	\$110,220	\$95,970	\$93,170	\$612,420		

1) TOTAL GFF Grant	1,372,347	1,247,547	1,162,046	803,547	652,345	586,185	5,824,017
2) TOTAL LDCF Grant	1,219,255	1,662,155	1,460,136	1,116,205	899,325	362,944	6,720,020
TOTAL PROJECT GRANT (GEF & LDCF)	2,591,602	2,909,702	2,622,182	1,919,752	1,551,670	949,129	12,544,037
3) Total UNDP TRAC	\$20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	\$120,000

Grand Total (GEF, LDCF & UNDP)	\$2,611,602	\$2,929,702	\$2,642,182	\$1,939,752	\$1,571,670	\$969,129	\$12,664,037
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Summary of funds

	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount	TOTAL
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	
GEF - TF	\$1,372,347	\$1,247,547	\$1,162,046	\$803,547	\$652,345	\$586,185	\$5,824,017
LDCF	\$1,219,255	\$1,662,155	\$1,460,136	\$1,116,205	\$899,325	\$362,944	\$6,720,020
Government	\$889,680	\$889,680	\$889,680	\$889,680	\$889,680	\$889,680	\$5,338,080
Other Donors	7,525,000	7,525,000	7,525,000	7,525,000	7,525,000	7,525,000	\$45,150,000
UNDP	\$61,667	\$61,667	\$61,667	\$61,667	\$61,667	\$61,665	\$370,000
TOTAL	\$11,067,949	\$11,386,049	\$11,098,529	\$10,396,099	\$10,028,017	\$9,425,474	\$63,402,117

Budget notes

Note	Description of cost item
1A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1.1 -1.3. International Technical Advisor of 34 months @ \$10,000 / month= \$340,000 • 1.1.1 International PA Planning Specialist – 42 months @ \$10,000 months – F/t year 1&2 then P/t = \$420,000 • 1.1.1 Specialist inputs on endangered species management plans for 7 species @ 240 days / plan @ \$500/ day= \$120,000 • 1.1.1 SLM specialist 20 months over 6 years @\$10,000 = 200,000 (1.2.1) • 1.3.2 International safeguards specialist 40 days @\$500 = 20,000 • 1.3.2 Independent consultant – Conducting Strategic Environmental and Social Impact 40 days @\$500 = 20,000 • 1.3.2 Independent consultant -Conducting the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) 40 days @\$500 = 20,000 • 1.3.2 Independ consultant Developing and Establishing the Environmental Management Plan(ESMP) 40 days @\$500 = 20,000 <p>Total \$1,160,000</p>
1B-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1.1-1.3.2 Planning, Monitoring and evaluation officer - Full time for 60 months = \$150,000 • 1.1.1-1.3.2 Gender , Safeguard, and Social inclusion Officer – Full time 72 months (\$2,000/month) for 6 years = \$144,000 • 1.1.1-1.3.2 Administration and Procurement Officer – 40% of full time (\$2,000/month) for 6 years = \$800 x 72 months = \$57,600 • 1.1.1 Protected Area Component Coordinator - PA and Environment - 72 months @ \$3,000 /month = \$216,000 • 1.1.1 Protected Areas Specialist - 54 months @ \$2,000 /month = \$108,000 • 1.1.1 Community engagement specialist - 54 months @ \$2,000 / month = \$108,000 • 1.1.1 Training and information officer - 45 months @ \$1,500 / month = \$67,500 • 1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 GIS Analyst - 41.5 months @ \$2,000 / month = \$83,000 • 1.1.1 Admin officer- Department of Environment (1.1.1) - 30 months @ \$2,000 / month = \$60,000 • 1.1.1 Specialist inputs national consultant – PA, fisheries and species - 300 days @ \$200/day = \$60,000 • 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 PA + SLM field officer - 3 sites Santo, Ambrym & Torres and – @ 48 months / site for three sites = 144 months @ \$300 / month = \$43,200 • 1.2.1 SLM Component coordinator - 72 months @ \$2,250 / month = \$162,000 • 1.2.1 Monitoring and evaluation Officer - 45 months @ \$2,000 = \$90,000 • 1.2.1 Specialist inputs in forestry and SLM specialist areas - 300 days @ \$200/day = \$60,000 • 1.2.1 Awareness and training specialist - 180 days @ \$100/day = \$18,000 • 1.3.1 Climate Smart Agriculture Component Coordinator – 50% for 4 years = 24 months @ \$3,000/ month = \$72,000 • 1.3.1 Awareness and training specialist - 180 days @ \$100/day = \$18,000 • 1.3.2 DLA Component coordinator – 80% 72 months @ \$1,600 = \$115,200 • 1.3.2 Water Resources Component Coordinator (1.3.2) 45 months @ \$2,000 = \$90,000 • 1.3.2 National Safeguard Consultant/expert (ESIA) 25 days @ \$300 = \$7,500 • 1.3.2 Specialist inputs - Infrastructure and water – 300 days @ \$200 = \$60,000 • 1.3.2 Tracking tools update- Consultant - 2 @ \$5,000 = \$10,000 • 1.3.2 Awareness and training specialist -(1.3.2) - 180 days @ \$100/day = \$18,000 • 1.3.2 - 7 field coordinators @ \$300 / month for 66 months - \$138,600 <p>Total \$1,956,600</p>
1B-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1-1.3 Project Manager (70% of full time)= 72 months @ \$3,150 / month = \$226,800 • 1.1.1-1.3.2 Finance Manager – 40% of full time (\$4,000/month) for 6 years = \$1,600 x 72 months = \$115,200 <p>• Total \$342,000</p>

1C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to implementation PA Management Plans - 20 grants @ \$10,000 = \$200,000 • Contribution to implementation of species management plans – 18 grants @ \$10,000 = \$180,000 • Purchase of satellite imagery and GIS services - as needed for SLM / PA - \$66,000 • Contribution to implementation of SLM plans – 18 grants @ \$10,000 = \$180,000 • Establishment of community nursery -24 sites @ \$5,000 = 120,000 • Monitoring and evaluation of SLM plans – 10 plans @ 4,001 = 40,010 <p>Total \$ 786,010</p>
1D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1 Flights and travel to field sites –= \$64,000 • 1.1 Perdiem - 10 days / trip @ 2 pax @ 9 sites @ 6 years @60/day Perdiem = \$64,800 • 1.1 Local transport - \$400 @ 9 field site @ 3 missions @year = 54 mission @ \$400 = 21,600 • 1.2 Flights and travel to field sites – 72 field trips@ 600 / trip = \$43,200 • 1.2 Perdiem - 10 days / trip @ 1 pax @ 6 sites @ 6 years @60/day Perdiem = \$21,600 • 1.2 Local transport - \$400 @ 9 field site @ 3 missions @year = 36 mission @ \$400 =14,400 • 1.3.1 Flights and travel to field sites – 54 field trips (3 to each site) @ 1 person @ 600 / trip = \$32,400 • 1.3.1 Perdiem - 5 days / trip @ 2 pax @ 9 sites @ 6 years @60/day Perdiem = \$21,600 • 1.3.1 Local transport - \$400 @ 9 field site @ 3 missions @year = 27 mission @ \$400 = 10,800 • 1.3.2 Flights and travel to field sites = \$64,000 • 1.3.2 Perdiem - 10 days / trip @ 2 pax @ 9 sites @ 6 years @60/day Perdiem = \$64,800 • 1.3.2 Local transport - \$400 @ 9 field site @ 3 missions @year = 50 mission @ \$400=\$20,000 • 1.3.2 Travel for SEA and safeguards specialists – local travel \$16,200 <p>Total \$459,400</p>
1E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1.1 Dept of Env Protection (Computers and printer sets) – 15,200 • 1.2.1 Dept Agriculture implementation support (Computers and printer sets) – 8,000 • 1.3.1 Area Councils for VCAP II implementation support (Computers and printer sets) – 31,500 <p>Total \$54,700</p>
1F-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field travel rental (boat, bikes, 4x4 vehicles), fuel cost, maintenance, insurance under 1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.3.1, 1.3.2 • 1.1.1 Field travel – rental - 9 sites @ 100 / month - 72 months =\$7,200 • 1.1.1 Quad bike and boat fuel - 9 sites @ 100 / month - 72 months=\$64,800 • 1.1.1 and 1.2.1 Vehicle operations (insurance and service) \$400/ month for 72 months = \$28,800 • 1.2.1 Field travel – rental - 9 sites @ 50 / month - 72 months =\$32,400 • 1.3.1 Field travel – rental - 9 sites @ 100 / month - 72 months =\$ 7,200 • 1.3.2 Field travel – rental - 9 sites @ 100 / month - 72 months=\$ 7,200 • 1.3.2 Quad bike - fuel cost \$160/ month / 72 months = \$11,520 • 1.3.2 Boats 2 boats @ \$15,000 = \$30,000 (Torres and West coast Santo) • 1.3.2 Boat - fuel cost 72 months @ \$400 = @28,800 • 1.3.2 Vehicle operations fuel (4x4) = \$200/ month @72 = \$14,400 • Misc transporting costs: \$28,800 <p>Total \$261,120</p>
1F-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.2.1 4 x 4 vehicle Santo - Purchase 1 vehicle \$50,000 =\$50,000 • 1.3.2 Quad bikes - purchase 4 bikes @ \$10,000 = \$40,000 • 1.3.2 4 x 4 vehicle PIU - Purchase 1 vehicle \$50,000 <p>Total \$140,000</p>
1G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising and knowledge management materials under 1.1.1,1.2.2,1.3.1,1.3.2) =\$48,600
1H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1.1 Meeting expenses - 150 local meetings with communities @ 233.33 =\$35,000

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1.1 Formal site meeting / community consultations 108 meetings @ \$200 = \$21,600 • 1.2.1 Meeting expenses - various local meetings with communities 150 @ \$15,000 • 1.1.1 Annual Provincial review 6 @ \$500 @ 6 years = \$18,000 • 1.1.1 National PA Workshop - 3 @ \$5,000 = \$15,000 • 1.1.1 National PA Training (V-CAP II) 10 @ \$2,500 = \$25,000 • 1.1.1 Community training / management plan – various meetings = \$87,999 • 1.1.1 Various training / awareness activities – local 48 events @ \$500 = \$24,000 • 1.1.1 Support Vanuatu participation in international training 5 courses @ \$5,000 • 1.2.1 Annual Provincial review 6 @ \$500 @ 6 years = \$18,000 • 1.2.1 National training – all sites 2 @ \$15,000 = \$30,000 • 1.2.1 Community SML training various – 6 training @ 10 / Area Council @ \$1,000 = \$60,000 • 1.3.1. Model farm training 27 @ \$1,000 (3 / Area council) = \$27,000 • 1.3.2 Various training / awareness - local community - 24 training @ \$1,000 = \$24,000 • 1.3.2 Wash - local training courses - local community - 24 training @ \$1,000 = \$24,000 • 1.3.2 6 meetings @ \$10,000 = \$60,000 <p>Total \$ 489,599</p>
1I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1.1 Initial PA site assessment 15 sites @ \$7,000 = \$105,000 • 1.1.1 Detailed Management Plan assessment and preparation @ \$15,900 / site = \$15,900 • 1.1.1 Management Plan implementation 6 sites @ \$30,000 = \$113,601 • 1.1.1 Rapid Biodiversity Assessment (BIORAP) 2 @ \$100,000 = \$200,000 • 1.1.1 FAD assessment and implementation (R2R) 12 @ \$5,000 = \$60,000 • 1.1.1 Awareness materials development by NGO @ \$3,000 set = \$3,000 • 1.2.1 SLM - SLM site assessment and action planning 8 sites @ \$5,000 = \$40,000 • 1.2.1 SLM Implementation of SLM Plan 7 sites @ \$30,000 = \$210,000 • 1.3.1 Establishment of climate smart farms 9 @ \$4,000 = \$36,000 • 1.3.2 Development of Community water plans 30 @ \$3,000 = \$90,000 • 1.3.2 Implementation of community water plans = \$690,000 • 1.3.2 Climate proofing infrastructure investments 12 @ \$25,000 = \$300,000 • 1.3.2 Co-financing road climate proofing – Epi Islands 1 @ \$150,930 • 1.3.2 Co-financing footpath on Futuna Island @ \$100,000 = \$100,000 • 1.3.2 Erosion control measures 9 sites @ \$5,000 = \$45,000 • 1.3.2 Co-financing Area Council Office climate proof construction 6 offices @ \$100,000 = \$600,000 • 1.3.2 Co-financing Area Council Office climate proof refurbishment 3 offices @ \$50,000 = \$150,000 • 1.3.2 Co-financing Area Council PV Solar systems 6 @ \$10,000 = \$60,000 • 1.3.2 Co-financing Area Council Satellite links for internet communications 4 @ \$10,000 = \$40,000 <p>Total \$3,009,431</p>
2A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metrology Technical coordinator – 72 months @ \$2,000 = \$144,000 • National Local Consultant - Early Warning System Consultant 400 days @ \$350 = \$140,000 <p>Total \$284,000</p>
2B	<p>Travel costs for AWS installation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel for installation of AWS and WS – 6 trips @ 2 persons = \$3,000 • Per diem 7 missions of 4 nights = 56 days @ \$50/day = \$2,800 <p>Installation River Gauges/Water Level Markers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel for installation of River Gauges and WS – 6 trips @ 2 persons = \$3,600 • Per diem 7 missions of 3-4 nights = 48 days @ \$50/day = \$2,400 <p>Installation of HF Radio/Camera live feed/Sapares/sensors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel for installation 6 trips @ \$700 = \$4,200 • Per diem 7 missions of 4 nights = 56 days @ \$50/day = \$2,800 <p>Total \$18,800</p>
2C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automatic Weather Stations - Airport Sites – 6 units installed @ \$50,000 = \$300,000 • Upgrading AWS / training/ installation = \$42,000 • Equipment for upgrading manual stations 7 @ \$500 = \$3,500 • HF Radio for 7 weather stations 7 @ \$3,000 = \$21,000 • Camera and accessories for live feed 7 @ \$1,000 = \$7,000

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment Monitoring System/Meta Data System – 1 set @ \$32,500. • River gauges and water levels, Labour, Installation= \$102,000 • Mobile monitoring equipment (GPS, 2 Laptops, 1 Camera, 1 Drone= \$4,200 • Refurbish and equip VMGD equipment Laboratory – Various= \$17,500 • Flood warning system/Integrated system, including 1 server, two workstation =\$170,000. • Upgrade of the Integrated Forecasting System "Meteo Factory" - \$57,000 • TV Weather Station =\$70,000 • Refurbishment of a backup warning centre= \$296,000 • Upgrade of transmission equipment/hardware 1@"3links" = \$30,000 <p>Total: \$1,152,700</p>
2D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car rental and petrol for 4 years@ \$1,500 = \$6,000
2E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge management materials 8 @ \$1,000= \$8,000 • Audio / visual, and meeting printing costs \$8,500. <p>Total: \$16,500</p>
2F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation and maintenance training for Observers - 1 @ \$2,000 =\$2,000 • Training for Forecasters on the use of flood forecasting system – 1 training course @ \$1,000 =\$1,000 • Training on quality control - 2 @ \$1,000 =\$2,000 • Training on TV Weather presentation =\$4,000 • Provincial Training delivered to VRN and provincial officers 2@ \$5,000 = \$10,000 • Case studies and lessons learnt 6 @ \$500 = \$3,000. <p>Total \$22,000</p>
3A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.1.1 Component Coordinator - Area Council Planning Processes - 48 months@\$2,500 =\$120,000 • 3.1.1 Community engagement specialist - 24 months@\$2,000 =\$48,000 • 3.1.1 GIS Analyst - 6 months@\$2,000=\$12,000 • 3.1.1 Specialist inputs - various 4@ \$2,000 =\$8,000 • 3.1.1 Awareness and training specialist - 80 days @ \$100 =\$8,000 • 3.1.2 Specialist - Decentralization act 3 months @ \$3,000 =\$9,000 • 3.1.2 Specialist - M&E Framework for DRR 3 months @ \$3,000=\$6,000 • 3.2.1 National Protected Areas Specialist - 4 months @ \$2,000 = \$8,000 • 3.2.1 National Community engagement specialist - 4 months @ \$2,000 = \$8,000 • 3.2.1 National Protected Areas Specialist - coastal review - 4 months @ \$2,000 = \$8,000 • 3.2.1 National Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Agriculture and forestry - 4 months = \$8,000 • 3.2.2 National Consultant – SLM and local planning - 3 months @ \$3,000 = \$9,000 • 3.2.2 Protected Areas Specialist & FLRS linkages policy- 6 months @ \$3,000 = \$18,000 • 3.3.1 Analysis specialist - Database establishment 4 months @ \$2,500 = \$10,000 • 3.3.1 Component Coordinator – DLA - \$28,800 • 3.3.1 GIS and database Analyst (3.3.1.4) 12 months @ \$2,000 = \$24,000 • 3.3.1 Species Strategies Specialists 12 months @ \$3,000 = \$36,000 • 3.3.2 Community engagement specialist 39 @3,000 months = \$117,000 <p>Total \$485,800</p>
3B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.1.1 Awareness and Knowledge management materials 4@ \$2,700 = \$10,800 • 3.1.2 Awareness and Knowledge management materials 4@ \$1,000 = \$4,000 • 3.2.1 Knowledge management materials 3@ \$2,700 = \$8,100 • 3.2.2 Awareness and Knowledge management materials 4@ \$2,700 = \$10,800 • 3.3.1 Awareness and Knowledge management materials 4@ \$2,700 = \$10,800 • 3.3.2 Knowledge management materials 2@\$2,000 = \$4,000 <p>Total \$48,500</p>
3C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.1.1 Meeting expenses - various =\$4,800 • 3.1.2 Support to the NAP Process \$50,000 • 3.3.2 Community meetings 72 @ \$100= \$7,200 • 3.1.1 National training course on community approaches 3 @ \$5,000 = \$15,000 • 3.1.1 Area Council training - 9 Area Councils @ \$500 = \$4,500

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1.1 Area Council training with communities - 1 training /9 Area Council / 6 years @ \$200= \$10,800 3.1.1 Various training / awareness – 30 training @ \$1,000 = \$30,000 3.2.1 National consultation meetings 6@ \$ 4,000= \$24,000 3.2.2 Training on links FLR planning with CAPs = \$22,000 3.2.2 Various training / awareness -; local 24 @ \$1,000 = \$24,000 3.3.1 Training for DLA and Area Council officers in data collection - 12 @ \$2,000 = \$24,000 3.3.1 Various training / awareness - national 24 @ \$1,000 = \$24,000 3.3.2 Misc training costs- \$2,800 <p>Total \$243,100</p>
3D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1.1 Community CC Planning - local governance Specialist - 2@ \$10,000 = \$20,000 3.1.2 Governance Specialist - 1.5 @ \$10,000 = \$15,000 3.1.2 M&E Framework Specialist / DRR - 1.5 @ \$10,000 = \$15,000 3.2.1 Community PA Planning Specialist - 2@ \$10,000 = \$20,000 3.2.2 Specialist inputs – 1 month @ \$10,000 = \$10,000 3.3.1 Governance and Area Council information system Planning - 5@ \$10,000 = \$50,000 3.3.2 Local Governance Specialist (incorporating Gender) - 2@ \$10,000 = \$20,000 <p>Total \$150,000</p>
3E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1.1 Flights and travel to field sites – 54 field trips@ \$600 / trip = \$32,400 3.1.1 Perdiem - 5 days / trip @ 2 pax @ 6 sites @ 6 years @60/day Perdiem = 21,600 3.1.1 Local transport - 9 field site @ 3 missions @year = 54 mission @ \$100= \$5,400 3.2.1 Flights and travel to field sites – 12 trips@ \$600 / trip = \$7,200 3.2.1 Perdiem – 60 days @60/day Perdiem = 3,600 3.2.1 Local transport - 12 @ \$400 = \$4800 3.2.2 Support local participation in VFLRS - 20 trips @ \$300 = \$6,000 3.2.2 Perdiem 8 days @ \$600 = \$4,800 3.2.2 Local transport - 20 days @ \$100= \$2,000 3.3.1 Flights and travel to field sites – 9 trips@ \$600 / trip = \$5,400 3.3.1 Perdiem – 180 days @60/day Perdiem = 10,800 3.3.1 Local transport - 9 @ \$100 = \$900 3.3.2 Flights and travel to field sites – 30 trips@ \$300 / trip = \$9,000 3.3.2 Perdiem – 300 days @60/day Perdiem = 18,000 3.3.2 Local transport - 36 @ \$100 = \$3,600 <p>Total: \$135,500</p>
3F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1.1 NGO support to planning process -2 @ \$10,000 = \$20,000
3G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1.1 Office supplies = \$11,700
3H	<p>Rented vehicles for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1.1 Field travel 3 missions @ \$200 @6 years = \$3,600 3.2.1 Field travel 3 missions @ \$200 @6 years = \$3,600 <p>Total: \$7,200</p>
ME-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1.1 Mid term review Consultant - \$40,000 4.1.1 Terminal Evaluation consultant- \$50,000 <p>Total \$90,000</p>
ME-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring Indicators 5 years= \$20,000 (PIU)
ME-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIU Inception meeting \$ \$15,050
4A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1.1 Flights and travel to field sites – 6 visits with 2 pax @ \$600 / trip = \$7,200 4.1.1 Perdiem – 120 days @60/day Perdiem = 7,200 4.1.1 Local transport - 9 field site @ 2 missions @ \$200 = \$3,600 <p>Total \$18,000</p>
4B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.4.2 Training package & supplies= \$19,600

4C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1.1 Communication materials & Awareness materials = \$25,000 4.2.1 Knowledge management materials = \$10,800 Total \$35,800
4D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1.1 Awareness raising activities 18 activities @ \$1,500 = \$27,000 4.1.1 Website management 72 months @ \$100 = \$7,200 Total \$34,200
4E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1.1 Community PA Planning Consultant 4 months @ \$10,000 = \$40,000 4.1.2 Training specialist - 4 months @ \$10,000 = \$40,000 4.1.2 Gender and Social inclusion specialist 3@ \$10,000= \$30,000 Total \$110,000
4F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1.1 (50%) & 4.1.2 (50%) Communication & training Officer 72 months =\$144,000 4.1.1 Communication specialist 10 months @ 3,000 = \$30,000 4.1.1 Awareness and training specialist 180 days @ 100 = \$18,000 Total \$192,000
4G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1.1 Various training workshops national level (GESI, etc) = 15 @ \$2,000 = \$30,000 4.1.1 training – local level around 40 events @ \$500 = \$15,907 4.1.1 Annual national project meetings =5@ \$6,000 = \$30,000 4.1.1 Annual provincial review = 5 @ \$3,000 = \$15,000 4.1.2 Annual provincial planning PA meeting 6 provinces @ 6 years @ \$300= \$18,000 4.1.2 Meeting expenses on PAs \$10,800 4.1.2 National training events – 15 events = \$28,000 Total \$147,707
4H	UNDP co-financing to support knowledge management and communication activities =\$60,000
PM A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIU Flights and travel to field sites = \$5,100 PIU Per diem = \$5,040 PIU Local transport = \$6,780 Total \$16,920
PM B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIU over 6 years - 10Laptops and workstations = \$24,500 PIU Printers 4@ \$1,000 = \$4,000 PIU 8 workstations @\$900 = \$7,200 PIU – utilities @ \$1,600 / year = \$9,600 PIU –telephone @ \$600 / year for 6 years = \$3,600 PIU – Office supplies @ \$600 / year for 6 years = \$3,600 PIU – Internet @ \$600 / year for 6 years = \$3,600 Total \$56,100
PM C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local audit cost 6 years =\$48,000
PM D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDP Direct project cost \$75,000 for identification/recruitment of project personnel, consultants, ,procurement of goods /services, and payment support services
PM E-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIU – Admin Officer - 60% of full time = \$1,200 per month = \$86,400 Total \$86,400
PM E-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIU- Project Manager – 30% of full time for 6 years = \$1,350 / month = \$97,200 PIU – Finance Manager – 60% of full time = \$2,400 / month for 6 years = \$172,800 Total \$270,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Note on national staff. Base salary is 20% lower. Includes termination fee (1 month / year of service) and 2.5 % salary increase per year over following 5 years.
PM F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIU staff's travel =\$30,000
PM G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIU's training, workshop =\$30,000

X. LEGAL CONTEXT

This project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of Vanuatu and UNDP, signed on 27th March 1984. All references in the SBAA to “Executing Agency” shall be deemed to refer to “Implementing Partner.”

This project will be implemented by the MCCAMGEEDM (“Implementing Partner”) in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures only to the extent that they do not contravene the principles of the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP. Where the financial governance of an Implementing Partner does not provide the required guidance to ensure best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition, the financial governance of UNDP shall apply.

The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations or UNDP concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

XI. RISK MANAGEMENT

Implementing Partner is a Government Entity (NIM)

Consistent with the Article III of the SBAA [or the Supplemental Provisions to the Project Document], the responsibility for the safety and security of the Implementing Partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the Implementing Partner's custody, rests with the Implementing Partner. To this end, the Implementing Partner shall:

- a) Put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried; and
- b) Assume all risks and liabilities related to the Implementing Partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of the Implementing Partner's obligations under this Project Document.

The Implementing Partner agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that no UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/aq_sanctions_list.shtml.

The Implementing Partner acknowledges and agrees that UNDP will not tolerate sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse of anyone by the Implementing Partner, and each of its responsible parties, their respective sub-recipients and other entities involved in Project implementation, either as contractors or subcontractors and their personnel, and any individuals performing services for them under the Project Document.

- a) In the implementation of the activities under this Project Document, the Implementing Partner, and each of its sub-parties referred to above, shall comply with the standards of conduct set forth in the Secretary General's Bulletin ST/SGB/2003/13 of 9 October 2003, concerning "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse" ("SEA").
 - b) Moreover, and without limitation to the application of other regulations, rules, policies and procedures bearing upon the performance of the activities under this Project Document, in the implementation of activities, the Implementing Partner, and each of its sub-parties referred to above, shall not engage in any form of sexual harassment ("SH"). SH is defined as any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation, when such conduct interferes with work, is made a condition of employment or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.
- a) In the performance of the activities under this Project Document, the Implementing Partner shall (with respect to its own activities), and shall require from its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 (with respect to their activities) that they, have minimum standards and procedures in place, or a plan to develop and/or improve such standards and procedures in order to be able to take effective preventive and investigative action. These should include: policies on sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse; policies on whistleblowing/protection against retaliation; and complaints, disciplinary and investigative mechanisms. In line with this, the Implementing Partner will and will require that such sub-parties will take all appropriate measures to:
 - o i. Prevent its employees, agents or any other persons engaged to perform any services under this Project Document, from engaging in SH or SEA;
 - o ii. Offer employees and associated personnel training on prevention and response to SH and SEA, where the Implementing Partner and its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 have not put in place its own training regarding the prevention of SH and SEA, the Implementing Partner and its sub-parties may use the training material available at UNDP;

- iii. Report and monitor allegations of SH and SEA of which the Implementing Partner and its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 have been informed or have otherwise become aware, and status thereof;
 - iv. Refer victims/survivors of SH and SEA to safe and confidential victim assistance; and
 - v. Promptly and confidentially record and investigate any allegations credible enough to warrant an investigation of SH or SEA. The Implementing Partner shall advise UNDP of any such allegations received and investigations being conducted by itself or any of its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 with respect to their activities under the Project Document, and shall keep UNDP informed during the investigation by it or any of such sub-parties, to the extent that such notification (i) does not jeopardize the conduct of the investigation, including but not limited to the safety or security of persons, and/or (ii) is not in contravention of any laws applicable to it. Following the investigation, the Implementing Partner shall advise UNDP of any actions taken by it or any of the other entities further to the investigation.
- b) The Implementing Partner shall establish that it has complied with the foregoing, to the satisfaction of UNDP, when requested by UNDP or any party acting on its behalf to provide such confirmation. Failure of the Implementing Partner, and each of its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4, to comply of the foregoing, as determined by UNDP, shall be considered grounds for suspension or termination of the Project.

Social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (<http://www.undp.org/ses>) and related Accountability Mechanism (<http://www.undp.org/secu-srm>).

The Implementing Partner shall: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism.

All signatories to the Project Document shall cooperate in good faith with any exercise to evaluate any programme or project-related commitments or compliance with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. This includes providing access to project sites, relevant personnel, information, and documentation.

The Implementing Partner will take appropriate steps to prevent misuse of funds, fraud or corruption, by its officials, consultants, responsible parties, subcontractors and sub-recipients in implementing the project or using UNDP funds. The Implementing Partner will ensure that its financial management, anti-corruption and anti-fraud policies are in place and enforced for all funding received from or through UNDP.

The requirements of the following documents, then in force at the time of signature of the Project Document, apply to the Implementing Partner: (a) UNDP Policy on Fraud and other Corrupt Practices and (b) UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations Investigation Guidelines. The Implementing Partner agrees to the requirements of the above documents, which are an integral part of this Project Document and are available online at www.undp.org.

In the event that an investigation is required, UNDP has the obligation to conduct investigations relating to any aspect of UNDP projects and programmes in accordance with UNDP's regulations, rules, policies and procedures. The Implementing Partner shall provide its full cooperation, including making available personnel, relevant documentation, and granting access to the Implementing Partner's (and its consultants', responsible parties', subcontractors' and sub-recipients') premises, for such purposes at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions as may be required for the purpose of an investigation. Should there be a limitation in meeting this obligation, UNDP shall consult with the Implementing Partner to find a solution.

The signatories to this Project Document will promptly inform one another in case of any incidence of inappropriate use of funds, or credible allegation of fraud or corruption with due confidentiality. Where the Implementing Partner becomes aware that a UNDP project or activity, in whole or in part, is the focus of investigation for alleged fraud/corruption, the Implementing Partner will inform the UNDP Resident Representative/Head of Office, who will promptly inform UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI). The Implementing Partner shall provide regular updates to the head of UNDP in the country and OAI of the status of, and actions relating to, such investigation.

UNDP shall be entitled to a refund from the Implementing Partner of any funds provided that have been used inappropriately, including through fraud or corruption, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms

and conditions of the Project Document. Such amount may be deducted by UNDP from any payment due to the Implementing Partner under this or any other agreement. Recovery of such amount by UNDP shall not diminish or curtail the Implementing Partner's obligations under this Project Document. Where such funds have not been refunded to UNDP, the Implementing Partner agrees that donors to UNDP (including the Government) whose funding is the source, in whole or in part, of the funds for the activities under this Project Document, may seek recourse to the Implementing Partner for the recovery of any funds determined by UNDP to have been used inappropriately, including through fraud or corruption, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Project Document. Note: The term "Project Document" as used in this clause shall be deemed to include any relevant subsidiary agreement further to the Project Document, including those with responsible parties, subcontractors and sub-recipients.

Each contract issued by the Implementing Partner in connection with this Project Document shall include a provision representing that no fees, gratuities, rebates, gifts, commissions or other payments, other than those shown in the proposal, have been given, received, or promised in connection with the selection process or in contract execution, and that the recipient of funds from the Implementing Partner shall cooperate with any and all investigations and post-payment audits.

Should UNDP refer to the relevant national authorities for appropriate legal action any alleged wrongdoing relating to the project, the Government will ensure that the relevant national authorities shall actively investigate the same and take appropriate legal action against all individuals found to have participated in the wrongdoing, recover and return any recovered funds to UNDP.

The Implementing Partner shall ensure that all of its obligations set forth under this section entitled "Risk Management" are passed on to each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient and that all the clauses under this section entitled "Risk Management Standard Clauses" are included, mutatis mutandis, in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into further to this Project Document.

XII. MANDATORY ANNEXES

The following annexes are available in the separated attachment :

1. GEF Budget Template
2. GEF Execution Support Letter
3. Project Map and geospatial coordinates of the project area
4. Multiyear Workplan
5. Monitoring Plan
6. Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP)
7. UNDP Atlas Risk Register
8. Overview of technical consultancies/subcontracts
9. Stakeholder Engagement Plan
10. GEF Core Indicators
11. GEF Taxonomy

ADDITIONAL ANNEXES

- 12 Partners Capacity Assessment Tool and HACT assessment
- 13 Environmental Social Management Framework (ESMF) (forthcoming)
- 14 Procurement Plan – for first year of implementation
- 15 Co- financing letters
- 16 Climate change projections
- 17 PPG Inception Workshop report
- 18 Gender and Social inclusion Plan
- 19 CCA Results Framework
- 20 Site Profiles
- 21 R2R Baseline assessment
- 22 METT Tracking tool
- 23 Site Maps
- 24 GEF Checklist