Quarterly Project Progress Report 1/2025 (January-March)

Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zone of Vanuatu Phase II (VCAP 2)

Date of the report: 15th April 2025

Basic Project Information

Project Title: Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zone of Vanuatu Phase II	
UNDP Award ID	00119130
UNDP Project ID	00115691
Project Duration	6 years
Reporting Period	Quarter 1 2025
Implementing Entity National Collaboration agencies	Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) Department of Climate Change (DoCC), Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC), Vanuatu Fisheries Department (VFD), Department of Forests (DoF), Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), Department of Local Authorities (DLA), Department of Water Resources (DoWR), Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department (VMGD), and Department of Women's Affairs (DWA)
Other UN/International Collaborating agencies	UNDP
Cost-sharing third parties (no direct cost-sharing)	National and Provincial Government
UNDP Programme Analyst	**Mohseen Dean**

Part 1: Key Highlights of this Quarter

- 14,039 hectares of newly created terrestrial protected areas were achieved in the Area Councils of Big Bay Inland (2,903.325 ha) and West Coast (11,135.325 ha), Santo.
- 52.859 hectares of newly created marine protected areas were achieved in West Coast, Santo.
- All 12 Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) shipped to four project sites of South Epi, West Ambrym, South Maewo, and West Coast, Santo.
- A total of 18 agroforestry plots were established across 5 sites in South Epi Area Council, covering 9 hectares of land.
- The first climate-smart agriculture model farm was established in South Epi Area Council, with 352 planted crops.
- The Village Basic Plumbers training was successfully done in West Coast, Santo, with 27 participants from 10 villages.
- The refurbishment of the VMGD laboratory commenced on 27th January 2025.
- The Vanuatu Climate Hazard Analysis portal, funded by VCAP 2, was officially launched on 28th March 2025.
- Transmission equipment procured by VCAP 2 have been handed over to VMGD on 28th March 2025.
- Meteo Factory and Synergie training sessions for VMGD a success.
- The Department of Climate Change Strategic Plan for 2025 - 2030 was officially launched and handed over on 28th March 2025.
- Community leaders, both men & women, Area Council staff, and key stakeholders, a total of 112 participants, came together in Yarsu, South Epi Area Council for a Gender Equality and Disability Inclusion (GEDSI) Concept Workshop, strengthening their knowledge and commitment to making local decision-making more inclusive; produced an inclusive community based disaster preparedness & response and climate change adaptation plan.



Figure 1: *shows women and men discussing roles and responsibilities in the GEDSI workshop in South Epi Area Council.*

- The Department of Climate Change in partnership with VCAP 2, held its inaugural celebration of International Women's Day for the first time ever , bringing together key stakeholders to recognize and honor the vital role of women in climate action and leadership.



Figure 2: *shows the International Women's Day group photo with the Director of Women's Affairs (front left) and Acting Director Climate Change front center).*

Part 2: Key Outline Activities achieved this Quarter

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

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

- In March, the mapping of newly created PAs in Big Bay Inland and West Coast Area Councils were completed, totalling to 14,039 hectares. In Big Bay Inland, a newly created terrestrial PA was mapped at Mataloi, from Talimure to Sali river, covering an area of 2,903.325 hectares. In West Coast, four newly created PAs were mapped: Linduri Community Conservation Area (CCA), covering an area of 2,218.661 hectares, from ridge to reef (R2R); Wusi CCA, covering an area of 3,031.805 hectares, from R2R; Vasalea CCA, covering an area of 3,559.76 hectares; and Valapei Community Conservation Area, covering an area of 2,325.445 hectares.

- A total of 52.859 hectares of newly created marine PAs were mapped in West Coast, Santo: a total of 9.338 hectares in Linduri; and a total of 43.521 hectares in Vasalea.
- This is the link to the CCA tracker: **https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IwTQ8hJFF9c9KXjGk8LefOrTyfR_dxMR/edit?gid=563455829#gid=563455829**

1.1.1.2 Baseline biodiversity, biophysical, ecological and socioeconomic surveys of existing or proposed Pas 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)

- A total of 4 baseline surveys were conducted at Big Bay Inland and West Coast Area Councils. These surveys were conducted in the newly created or proposed PAs to collect information or data on: the current state of biodiversity, species abundance, presence of endemic species, ecosystem health, current protection status and human impacts. This activity was also aimed at documenting the presence and distribution of species, identification of critical habitats, assessment of threats, such as invasive species or poaching, and evaluation of ecosystem conditions. Socio-economic surveys were also conducted; data collected will contribute to developing PA management and Species Management Plans.
- For the development of PA Management plans, two firms, namely: Santo Sunset Environment Network (SSEN) and Blue Coast Enterprise Ltd, were selected through evaluation, to assist communities to develop the PA Management plans and launch with the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) and Vanuatu Fisheries Department (VFD). SSEN will work in Big Bay Inland and West Coast, Santo and Blue Coast Enterprise Ltd will work in South Epi Area Council to develop PA Management plans; pending contract signing.
- 12 Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) have been shipped to the project sites of South Maewo, West Coast, Santo, West Ambrym, and South Epi.



Figure 3: *shows FADs loaded onto HelpR-1 vessel, to be shipped to South Epi.*

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.

- Community PA awareness consultations and Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC) were conducted in Torres Islands, in the communities of Litau on Toga Island, Yegevigemene on Hiu Island, Rival on Metoma Island, Lirak on Tegua Island and Lunghariki on Loh Island. Participants included men, women, youths and children. Following these consultations, two communities expressed a strong interest in the CCA process and submitted consent letters to propose specific areas for conservation. A total of 156 people, 87 males and 69 females attended the consultations in Torres.
- Three consent letters were received in Mota Area Council for CCAs and two consent letters were also received by chiefs regarding a marine PA in Quanlap, East Vanua Lava Island.

1.1.2.3 Provision of competent technical baseline information and specific actions for key species are incorporated into the Management plans.

- Awareness materials in the form of brochures and banners for the seven species identified for protection: Banks flying fox, Collared petrel, Vanuatu Megapode, Green turtle, Leatherback turtle and Hawksbill turtle; were drafted and will be printed once finalized for awareness raising.

- The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the International Consultant on Endangered Species was revised and advertised on the UNDP website. The consultant will continue with the work that Dr Peter (previous IC) have already started, to focus on writing the species actions plans for seven species identified for protection under the V-CAP II project.
- Communities on Mota Island have given consent to carry out assessments and consultations. Arrangements to conduct workshops on the endemic Banks flying fox is underway. The information collected will be provided to the International Consultant on Endangered Species for the development of the Banks flying fox Action plan.

1.2.1.1 Conduct comprehensive R2R wide landscape unit characterization, classification and mapping.

- The Vanuatu Climate Hazard Analysis Portal is a collaborative initiative between C4 EcoSolutions (a Company in South Africa), VCAP 2, and VMGD to enhance climate risk assessment and decision-making in Vanuatu. This portal provides detailed climate data, analysis tools, and projections to help communities, policymakers, and researchers understand and respond to climate hazards. Using historical weather station data and future climate projections (2041–2100) from NASA's NEX-GDDP-CMIP6 dataset (a collection of global, daily, downscaled climate projections derived from the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6 (CMIP6) General Circulation Model (GCM) runs, intended for studies of climate change impacts at local to regional scales).
  The portal analyzes key climate indices such as drought intensity, extreme rainfall, heatwaves, and wet/dry spells. The Methodology used in this project is similar to the ClimPact Model, developed by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which ensures accurate and standardized calculations for tracking climate trends. This tool will also play a crucial role in verifying Climate Projections with other climate models as well as identifying flood-prone regions, improving early warning systems, and supporting climate adaptation strategies in Vanuatu's vulnerable communities. By integrating gridded climate data and station-based analysis, the portal enhances climate resilience planning and enables informed decision-making for sustainable development. The Portal was officially launched on the 28th of March 2025.

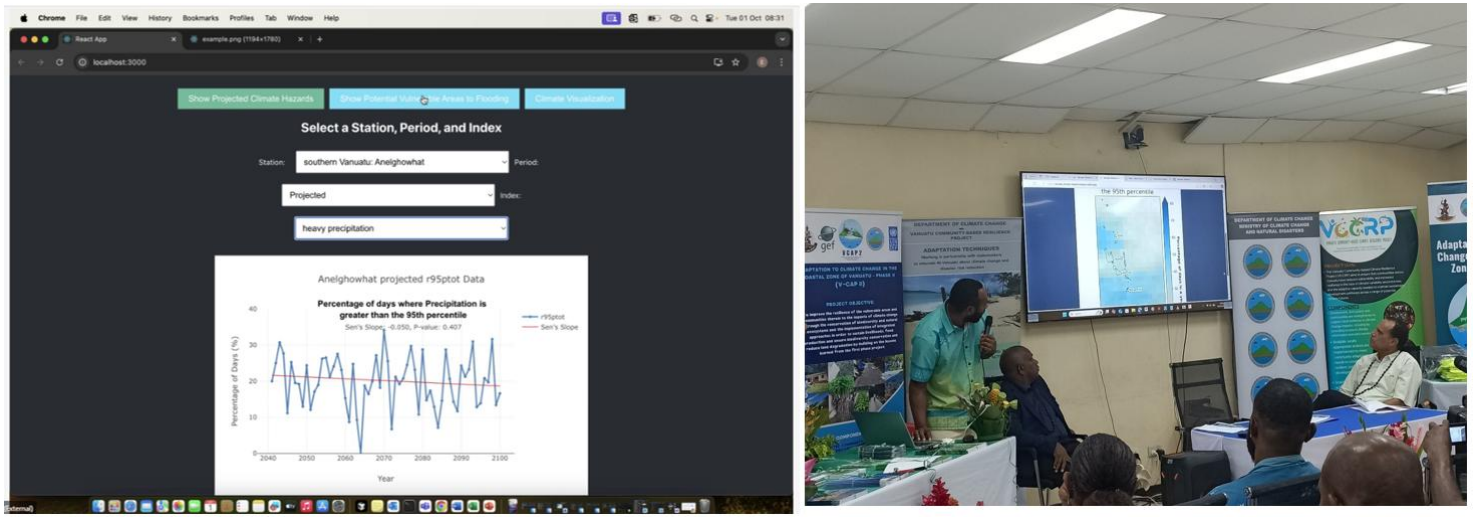


Figure 4: a) *shows the Vanuatu Climate Hazard Analysis Portal and* ***b)*** *shows the Climate Division Data Manager, Mr. Joseph Worwor, presenting the Portal during the official launching.*

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 level.

- Team SLM, with support from the Department of Forestry, successfully conducted a field mission to South Epi to commence the implementation activities at all targeted sites. This field mission is a crucial step in the early stages of the project, ensuring that on-the-ground activities align with project goals. The establishment of agroforestry plots will contribute to soil conservation, biodiversity, and climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration.

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.

- A total of 18 agroforestry plots were established across the five sites in South Epi: Tomali, Lopalis, Nulnesa, Filikara, and Votlo, covering approximately 9 hectares of land. These agroforestry plots will improve land productivity, restore degraded lands, and provide sustainable livelihoods to local communities. This aligns with the project's goal of promoting sustainable land management practices and enhancing resilience to climate change.

- The SLM team travelled to Santo towards the end of March, with support from the Department of Forestry's Santo Office, conducted site assessments and consultations for the sites in Big Bay Inland, Santo. These site assessments are essential for identifying the specific needs and opportunities for implementing sustainable land management practices in these areas. This information will guide the design of future agroforestry and restoration activities, contributing to the overall success of the project.



Figure 5: a) *shows the PA & SLM Field officer conducting an assessment in Big Bay bush and* ***b)*** *shows a group photo at Mataloi after community consultation.*

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)

- The first climate-smart model farm was established in Yarsu, South Epi Area Council; planting materials were procured from Vanuatu Agriculture Research and Training Centre (VARTC), namely: island cabbage (bele), taro, sweet potatoes, and cassava. However, at other project sites in West Ambrym, South Maewo, and Big Bay Inland, Santo, all farm materials have been procured and shipped to the project sites.



Figure 6: *shows the climate-smart model farm established in South Epi, fully fenced with planted resilient crops and other local agricultural crop varieties.*

1.3.2.3 Develop and implement 20 Drinking Water Safety and Security Plans and provision of associated water infrastructure in selected Area Councils based on GESI-sensitive comprehensive needs assessment.

- The development of Community Water Plans through Drinking Water Safety Security Plans (DWSSP) was still in the process of procurement.
- The water supply system in West Coast Area Council is ongoing and almost reaching completion. The village basic plumbers training for the community of West Coast Area Council has also been completed; to empower the villagers with the skills and knowledge in using plumbing tools and doing plumbing jobs, to manage their water catchment and ensure the water system's sustainability.



Figure 7: *shows the first completed distribution tap stand built by the basic plumbers training participants in the picture, following the training.*

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).

- Environmental Impact Assessment for the climate-proof Area Council buildings in South Maewo, West Ambrym, and South Maewo, and Early Warning Back-up Centre in Santo, are all done. The building permit applications for South Maewo, West Ambrym, and Futuna Area Council buildings, and the Early Warning Back-up Centre in Santo, are still in progress.
- Discussions to conduct Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in Area Councils where footpath, road, and water supply infrastructure will be constructed, is underway.

Component 2: Information and early warning systems on coastal hazards

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. AND 2.1.1.5 Procurement of SIX (6) river gauges and water level markers for South Santo river, Sarakata river, Pankumo river in Malekula, And Teouma and Rendapau river on Efate

- The procurement and delivery of AWS and ARiG accessories is ongoing, Request for Quotations (RFQs) have been resubmitted to Finance for payments to be done. Meanwhile, preparations are underway to verify the remaining AWS sites to confirm site suitability, logistics, storage, and necessary consents. The Port Olry site has been relocated to Cap Quiros in northeast Santo, which will also be verified. These instruments are essential for enhancing Vanuatu's early warning systems by enabling real-time data collection and monitoring of weather conditions across key locations, thereby improving the accuracy and timeliness of forecasts and alerts.

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.

- Due to limited funding, specifications were completed for only three manual weather stations. An LPO was issued to FAIRMOUNT Weather Systems Ltd in the UK for the procurement of Intellisense Digital Wet and Dry Bulb Psychrometers (Hygrometers), which are urgently needed at Bauerfield, Pekoa, and Whitegrass airports. Once payment is cleared by the finance department, the instruments are expected to be shipped to Vanuatu within three weeks. These hygrometers will play a vital role in strengthening Vanuatu's early warning systems by providing accurate humidity measurements, which are crucial for reliable weather forecasting and timely dissemination of warnings.

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.

- This quarter marked a significant milestone as we progressed with the long-anticipated development of a comprehensive system to monitor VMGD's equipment and operations. Working closely with the VMGD ICT team, the focus has been on procuring and installing essential infrastructure, including modern technological equipment and software to support ICT officers. As part of this initiative, we have successfully purchased key equipment for the system, which was officially handed over to VMGD on the 28th of March. However, some remaining items, such as TV screens, monitors, and tools, are still pending shipment to Vanuatu.

A core component of this project involves establishing a centralized data collection system, equipment monitoring platform, and metadata management system. These elements are vital to strengthening VMGD's data infrastructure, enhancing real-time monitoring capabilities, streamlining data processing, and ensuring greater accuracy and reliability of meteorological data.
Upon full implementation of the project, VMGD will operate a robust Data Ingestion, Cleaning, and Quality Check system that will provide forecasters with high-quality data enabling faster and more precise early warning alerts. In addition, the planned upgrades to AWS and ARiG systems will further support improved data collection and transmission, thereby boosting Vanuatu's climate resilience and disaster preparedness.
While the full development and rollout of the system will take several months, this quarter laid the critical foundation for a project that has been in discussion for years. Investing in these resources not only empowers technical teams to operate more efficiently and safely especially during fieldwork but also enhances communication and connectivity in remote locations. Ultimately, this project will significantly contribute to public safety, disaster risk reduction, and climate monitoring across Vanuatu.

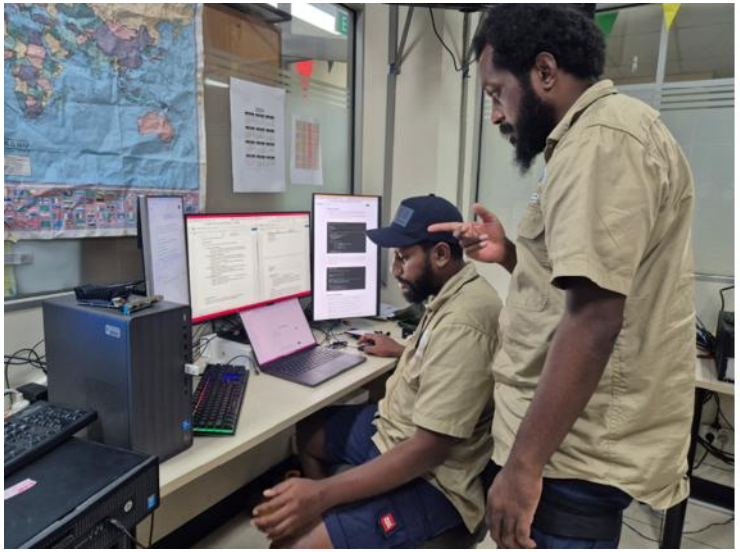




Figure 8: a) *shows VMGD ICT officers setting up the developing environment for monitoring systems, and* ***b)*** *shows the monitoring equipment displayed for launching.*

2.1.1.7 Refurbish and equip VMGD Equipment Laboratory to improve maintenance work on all monitoring equipment.

- The refurbishment of an old VMGD staff house into a dedicated VMGD Laboratory is intended to accommodate the VMGD ICT team for calibration and maintenance of all monitoring equipment. The RFQ for this project was awarded to VOTUT CONSTRUCTION. The existing room at the VMGD lab has been demolished; a concrete wall has also been constructed to divide the existing room into two separate rooms, as per the project scope; and the fresher board has been installed and completed to specification.



Figure 9: *shows images of the refurbishment works of the VMGD Laboratory.*

2.1.2.2 Upgrade the integrated weather forecasting system "Meteo Factory" to include the preparation and dissemination of severe weather warnings

- The current status of VMGD systems reveals a fragmented architecture with standalone workstations for tsunami and cyclone monitoring, limited integration of observation systems (like AWS, ARG, and Himawari) into SYNERGIE, and reliance on external internet-

based data sources. MeteoFactory is central to daily forecasting but has limitations in impact-based forecasting, marine expertise, and digital forecasting flexibility. Synergie remains in use despite being a legacy system with integration and data flow issues. Infrastructure checks revealed outdated OS (CentOS 6), backup inefficiencies, power outage vulnerabilities, and a need for better system monitoring and automation. A system assessment and capacity building training was conducted from 19th to 28th March 2024 to address these issues and enhance forecasting capacity. Overall, recommendations across all systems include upgrading to SYNERGIE-WEB and the latest Meteor Factory versions, implementing Impact-Based Forecasting in line with the WMO's Early Warning For All (EW4All) initiative, and pursuing a fully integrated VMGD architecture to improve forecasting efficiency, data access, service delivery, and early warning capabilities for Vanuatu.

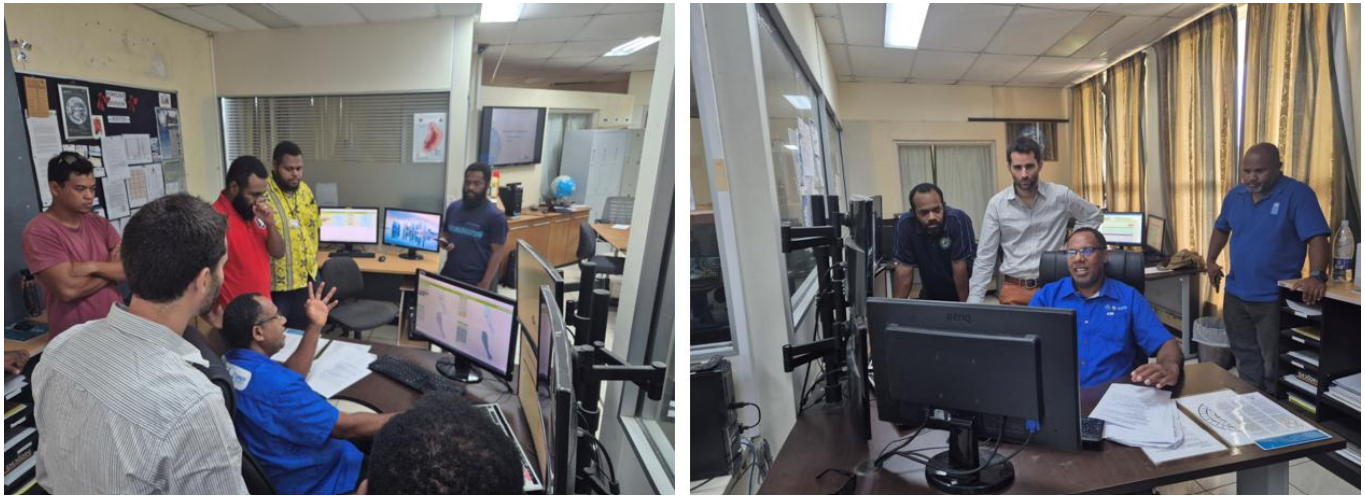


Figure 10: *shows photos of the Meteo Factory and Synergie training delivered by Stephane from Meteo France, to VMGD technical staff.*

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

- Franklyn's Joinery and Construction, the contractor building the Early Warning Back-up Centre in Luganville has completed the top floor reinforcements of the walls to ring beams according to the design specifications. Next inspection will be for the reinforcement of the top floor ring beams prior to pouring of concrete in two weeks.

Component 3: Climate Change and Natural Management Governance

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.

- There were 3 Community Climate Change Adaptation Plans (CCAPs) partially completed for 3 communities (Nulnesa, Tomali, and Nalema) in the South Epi Area Council. Community consultation workshops were held with women, men, youths, elderly people, and people with disabilities.

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, the Department of Women Affairs, etc.

- The TOR for the local Protected Area Specialist to carry out this activity is drafted and shared with DEPC, and other key stakeholders, for their inputs.

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).

- The TOR for the local Species Strategies Specialist to carry out this activity is progressing. No suitable applications were received and therefore, a revised TOR has been developed for readvertisement of the position.

Component 4: Knowledge Management and Lessons Sharing

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.

- A local consultant from Red Eye Creative Consultancy, was contracted on 17 February 2025 for a three-month period, to develop a comprehensive communications strategy aligned with project objectives. The consultancy engaged stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, NGOs, and media, through strategy development, content creation for digital and print platforms, capacity-building workshops, and monitoring and evaluation.
  Red Eye Creative has begun close collaboration with the VCAP 2 project coordinators to ensure communications align with project goals and reporting requirements. A detailed communication strategy document will be produced, incorporating stakeholder feedback and an implementation plan with clear actions and timelines. The consultancy will also assist in designing and facilitating workshops to

strengthen staff capacity and develop a 6-year Communication Strategy, outlining key milestones, resource allocation, and evaluation mechanisms

The consultancy work has been finalized in collaboration with all relevant coordinators, including those from Environment, Fisheries, Water, Forestry, Gender, Monitoring and Evaluation, as well as the Project Manager and the Senior Communications Officer at the Department of Climate Change. Additionally, an official introductory meeting between the Director and the Project Manager was conducted on 13th March 2025, providing further clarity on key activities to be incorporated into the strategy document. This engagement ensured alignment with departmental priorities and project objectives.



Figure 11: a) *shows local consultant engaging with the Fisheries Component Coordinator and* ***b)*** *shows consultation between the local consultant and SLM Component Coordinator.*

4.1.1.4 Development of annual work plans including awareness raising through various mediums (Radio/ newspaper, adverts, portal, workshops, newsletters.

- Three pull-up banners were produced to enhance visibility and stakeholder engagement for key project activities.

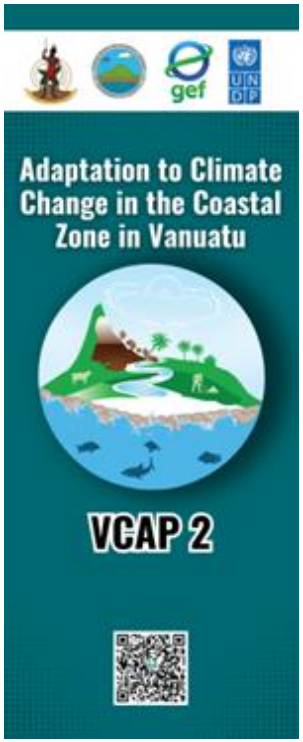


Figure 12: *shows a sample of the VCAP 2 banner.*

- Additionally, targeted advertisements were disseminated through relevant media channels to amplify project messaging. online advertisement had much higher reach due:
    - **13th January:** *Preparation and Implementation of 6 Protected Areas Management Plans* in VCAP II project sites
    - **29th January:** Recruitment of an *Analyst Specialist* for *Database Establishment (Community Profiling)*
    - **14th February:** Technical contributions from specialists in *Forestry and Sustainable Land Management (SLM)*, alongside a *Local Community Adaptation Specialist* and an *NGO partner* to support community-based *Climate Change Adaptation Plans*
    - **6th March:** Advertisement for a *Community Engagement Specialist (DLA)*
    - **20th March:** Progress on the *Community Climate Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP)* development
- **Online Advertisement Links:** ***https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560145515796***

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.

- The local Awareness and Training Consultant was formally recruited in March 2025 to support capacity-building initiatives under the project. An initial consultation was conducted with key personnel, including the project's Project Manager, Chief Technical Advisor (CTA), GESI officer, and Communications officer, to reel alignment on the consultant's scope of work and integrate their activities with existing project work plans. The discussion focused on clarifying deliverables, timelines, and coordination mechanisms for the upcoming months, ensuring the consultant's efforts are strategically aligned with project objectives and stakeholder priorities. This foundational meeting established a clear roadmap for the consultant's engagement and set expectations for collaborative implementation.



Figure 13: *shows the local Awareness & training consultant meeting with Project Manager, CTA, GESI officer, and Communications officer.*

Part 3: Project Results Framework Quarterly Progress

Component 1: Integrated community approaches to natural resource management and climate change adaptation developed and implemented	
Outcome 1.1: Biodiversity conserved to improve the integrity of natural ecosystems towards increased climate resilience	
Targets for Outcome 1.1 and planned activities	**Status** (*On track, Off track or state the number of hectares reached, if you have already started achieving the target)*
Core Indicator 1: **1.1** 2298 hectares of terrestrial protected areas newly created	Overachieved: 14,309 hectares in Big Bay Inland and West Coast Area Councils, Santo

Core Indicator 1: **1.2** 11,215 hectares of terrestrial protected areas under improved management for conservation and sustainable use	On track: Mapped and registered boundaries of existing CCAs in West Coast, Santo (Elia, Kerepua, and Tasmate) and Vatthe Conservation Area in East Santo with DEPC, total up to 18,508.091 hectares. Consultations have started with the CCA committees, to identify priority actions to improve the PAs' management effectiveness
Core Indicator 2: **2.1** 575 hectares of marine protected areas newly created	Partially achieved: 52.859 hectares in Vasalea and Linduri, West Coast Area Council, Santo
Core Indicator 2: **2.2** 1,766 hectares of marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness	On track
Core Indicator 5: 5,000 hectares of marine protected areas under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (hectares; excluding protected areas)	On track
Indicator 5.1: a. 4 local species action plans developed and implemented effectively	On track: International Consultant for Endangered species post readvertised. Consent to conduct assessment and consultations on Banks flying fox has been given; and preparations towards the coconut crab stock assessment on Futuna and the Torres islands is ongoing.

Outcome 1.2: Supported Sustainable Land Management initiatives at the community level to restore ecosystem services and improve resilience to climate impacts	
Targets for Outcome 1.2 and planned activities	**Status** (*On track, Off track or state the number of hectares reached, if you have already started achieving the target)*
Core Indicator 3: **3.1** 2,000 hectares of degraded agricultural lands restored	Partially achieved: 9 hectares of degraded agricultural lands restored across Tomali, Lopalis, Nulnesa, Filakara, and Votlo.
Core Indicator 3: **3.2** 2,000 hectares of forest and forest land restored	On track: Fieldwork and site consultations in Big Bay Inland and West Coast, Santo, supporting identification of forest restoration opportunities
Core Indicator 3: **3.3** 1,000 hectares of natural grass and shrublands restored	On track: Ongoing assessment work to support site selection and future restoration of grass and shrublands restored
Core Indicator 4:	On track: Inclusive planning, ensuring biodiversity considerations are integrated into site-level land management strategies

4.1 1,000 hectares of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (qualitative assessment, non-certified)	
Core Indicator 4: **4.3** 4,000 hectares of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems	On track

Outcome 1.3: Improved climate resilience of coastal and upland areas through integrated approaches	
Targets for Outcome 1.3 and planned activities	**Status** (*On track, Off track or state the number of hectares reached, if you have already started achieving the target)*
Indicator 9: 8 Climate-smart model farms established in the focal Area Council locations	Partially achieved: 1 climate-smart model farm established in South Epi. 3 other climate-smart model farms in West Ambrym, South Maewo, and Big Bay Inland, Santo, are still in progress.
Indicator 10: 25 investments in climate proofing of selected public conveyance, water provision infrastructure and evacuation facilities	On track

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	
Targets for Outcome 2.1 and planned activities	**Status** (*On track, Off track or state the number of hectares reached, if you have already started achieving the target)*
Indicator 11: 6 Automatic weather stations installed and operational	On track: 80% of parts and accessories have been received. Once all installation equipment and materials are received by VMGD, shipment for installation will proceed thereafter.
Indicator 12: By the end of the project at least 100% of targeted V-CAP communities (25) receiving timely and accurate early warnings of coastal hazards including floods, cyclones and other natural disasters	On track: Infrastructures are in the process of being completely set up, outreach, and early warning systems will follow.

Component 3: Climate Change and Natural 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	
Targets for Outcome 3.1 and planned activities	**Status** (*On track, Off track or state the number of hectares reached, if you have already started achieving the target)*
Indicator 13: 20 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 and climate proofing infrastructure)	On track: There are 3 Community Climate Change Adaptation Plans (CCAPs) partially completed in South Epi Area Council.

Outcome 3.2: Mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable land management in national development and sectoral policies (Synergies with GEF-6 ECARE Project).	
Targets for Outcome 3.2 and planned activities	**Status** (*On track, Off track or state the number of hectares reached, if you have already started achieving the target)*
Indicator 14: 3 policies and sector reviews developed incorporating biodiversity conservation, SLM and LDN	On track

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.	
Targets for Outcome 3.3 and planned activities	**Status** (*On track, Off track or state the number of hectares reached, if you have already started achieving the target)*
Indicator 15: 2,000 (1,000 males: 1,000 females) participants in local, provincial and national level training activities (disaggregated by gender)	On track
Indicator 16: 10 communities actively implementing a Management Plan that includes good practices from R2R	On track

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.	
Targets for Outcome 4.1 and planned activities	**Status** (*On track, Off track or state the number of hectares reached, if you have already started achieving the target)*
Indicator 17: 4,000 (2,000 males: 2,000 females) beneficiaries informed through community-based awareness, capacity building programmes and advocacy (disaggregated by gender)	Over achieved: Additional 343 males and 210 females

Part 4: Quarterly Financial Reporting

See Annex 1.

Part 5: Communication and Knowledge Management

Internal Communication:

Meetings were organized with project staff, the Project Management Unit (PMU), and the Acting Director to align departmental and project expectations for the Communications Strategy Plan. Additional consultations were held with coordinators to ensure their needs are incorporated into the three-year plan, mirroring the approach taken by the Training and Awareness Consultant.

External Communication:

One press release was issued this quarter, highlighting the rehabilitation of Futuna Islands staircase (Press Release). Project updates were primarily disseminated via social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter/X), while key announcements, such as the VCAP II grants selection, were published on the Department's website. An awareness campaign was also conducted during the Department's Soft Launch, emphasizing VCAP 2's support for the 2025–2030 Strategic Plan.



Figure 14: *Shows the UNDP Area Manager for Vanuatu, Ms. Sherryl Mahina, handing over the Department of Climate Change Strategic Plan 2025-2030 to the Honorable Minister of Climate Change, Mr. Ralph Regenvanu, on 28th March 2025.*

Part 6: Innovative actions

- Utilization of visual aids such as pull-up banners, brochures,and posters to ensure inclusivity in learning as not all members of local communities can read.
- Agroforestry plot design co-creation with communities: Rather than applying a top-down technical model, the SLM team introduced **co-design of agroforestry systems** with community members. Through visual mapping and participatory discussions, villagers selected tree species, intercropping combinations, and plot layout based on their lived experiences, traditional knowledge, and preferences. Impact: Strengthened local ownership, improved ecological relevance, and increased likelihood of maintenance and long-term success.
- Gender-responsive engagement strategy: The team piloted a **gender-sensitive consultation model**, using separate focus group discussions and tailored sessions for women, youth, and the elderly. This allowed traditionally underrepresented groups to voice concerns and contribute to land-use planning without intimidation or power dynamics. Impact: Enhanced inclusivity and ensuring agroforestry systems meet the diverse needs of the entire community, not just the dominant voices.
- Integration of traditional knowledge (TK) with scientific practices: By blending **local ecological knowledge** (e.g., best planting seasons, culturally significant species) with scientific agroforestry principles, the project introduced a **hybrid knowledge system** that is both technically sound and locally grounded. Impact: Boosted community confidence and improved ecological performance by using resilient species adapted to local conditions.
- Community resource mapping with inclusive symbols: In place of complex maps, the project used **hand-drawn community maps** with culturally appropriate symbols to identify degraded lands, key resources, and preferred restoration zones. This approach was

accessible to elders and low-literacy participants and encouraged broader contributions. Impact: Fostered greater participation and created a sense of shared responsibility over land management plans.

- Engaging community members in the establishment of Climate-smart model farms: This approach speeds up the establishment of the model farms, while also educating the community on how the farm works and the benefits, for sustainable food production and minimized impacts of climate change on food production.
- Dedicated recruitment system: A dedicated procurement email was created vcap2.procurment@gmail.com in centralize all job applications and candidates inquiries. This streamlined approach has led to a measurable surge in both quality applications and expression of interest. Impact **:** The central channel has provided a clear communication pathway but also a more effective fulfilment, this has shown through the high number of applicants being recorded.
- Creation of a Gantt chart to outline work plan and key activity milestones in the Meteorology Component: This is to ensure effective time management, tracking of progress, and meeting deadlines.

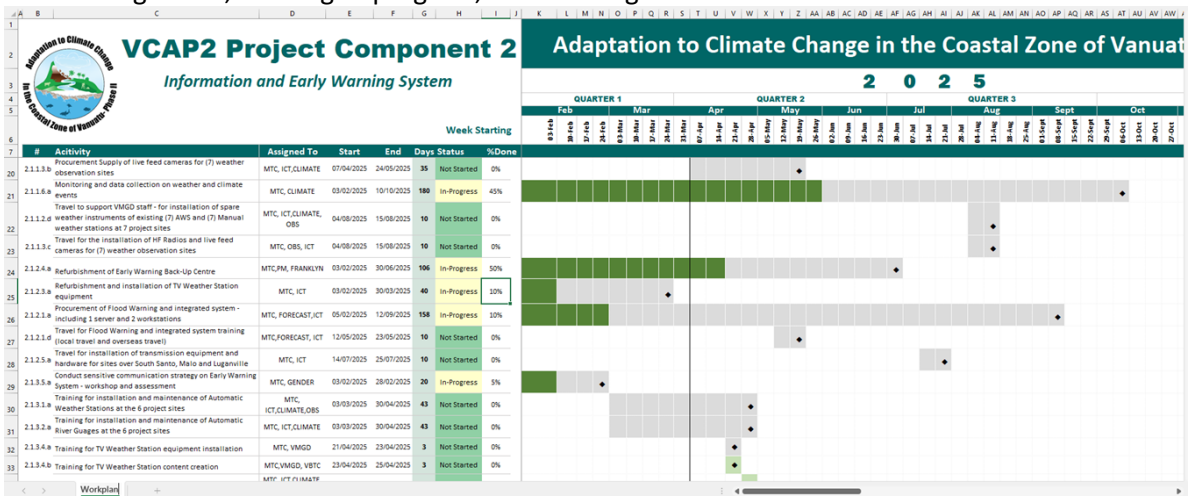


Figure 15*: shows the Gantt chart used by the Meteorology component.*

Part 7: Digital Marker

- **Handheld Garmin GPSMap 64s devices:** The PA & Environment team used these handheld devices to accurately collect geospatial data in the field. These units allowed for efficient data gathering across remote locations, supporting the mapping of CCAs, MPAs, SLM Areas, and other project-related zones.
- **DJI Mavic 3 Enterprise (RTK) + DJI RTK 2 Base Station:** The DJI Mavic 3 Enterprise (RTK) + DJI RTK 2 Base Station was utilized for high-

accuracy aerial mapping (for areas far to reach but within the capabilities of the device). The drone enabled the collection of high-resolution imagery and topographic data, supporting land use classification, coastal monitoring, and change detection analysis.

- **Cloud Computing:** Google Earth Engine (GEE) was utilized for processing satellite imagery and conducting spatial analysis. This platform facilitated land cover classification, NDVI time-series analysis, and visualization of spatial changes over time, enhancing the project's data-driven decision making and monitoring capacity.
- **Mobile-based Field Monitoring using GPS Photos & Geo-tagging:** To enhance monitoring in remote areas, the team began piloting photo documentation and geo-tagging via smartphones. Forestry officers and trained community members recorded baseline conditions and restoration progress directly from the field, even in low-connectivity areas. This led to improved real-time visibility, simplified reporting, and empowered local actors in tracking changes.
- **Kobo Toolbox:** This tool was used as a data collection tool for Fisheries team to conduct socio-economy surveys. Data collected can also generate charts and/or plot results within the tool.
- **Digital Camera:** For climate-smart agriculture field missions, a digital camera was utilized to take better pictures to use for reporting.
- **IPhone:** With the advanced camera specifications of this phone model, the Water resources team captured great pictures to show workshops, training, and work being done on the community water supply systems.
- Microsoft Excel
- **Vanuatu Broadcasting Television Corporation:** Boosted the project's visibility in terms of broasting through the national Radio, televised project news and posting it up on their website and social media pages.

Part 8: Gender Marker

Gender marker analysis for activities done this quarter and assessment of gender mainstreaming efforts using the UNDP Gender Marker criteria, VCAP marker is coded at GEN 2.

Agroforestry SLM plot establishment:

Sex:

Women: 27 (31.4% of total beneficiaries: 85)

Men: 34 (39.5% of total beneficiaries: 85)

Age:

Youth (Girls & Boys): 22 (25.6% of total beneficiaries: 85)

Adults (Assumed to be the remaining): 36 (Men 34 + Women 27 - Youth 22 - Elderly 9 - PWD 3 = 36, note overlap possible)

Elderly (Women & Men): 9 (10.5% of total beneficiaries: 85)

Disability:

People with Disability (Women & Men): 3 (3.5% of total beneficiaries: 85)

Provisional Gender and Social Inclusion Marker Code: GEN1 (Contributes to gender equality in a limited way). The data indicates the involvement of women (31.4%) in the establishment of the agroforestry plots. However, they are underrepresented compared to men (39.5%). The inclusion of youth, the elderly, and people with disabilities suggests some consideration for broader social inclusion, but the proportions, particularly for people with disabilities, are low.

DWSSP training

Women: 3 (10% of total beneficiaries: 30) Men: 27 (90% of total beneficiaries: 30)

Provisional Gender and Social Inclusion Marker Code: GEN1 (Contributes to gender equality in a limited way). The data indicates the involvement of women (10%) in the plumber's training. However, they are significantly underrepresented compared to men (90%). No specific information was provided regarding the inclusion of youth, the elderly, or people with disabilities, suggesting a limited focus on broader social inclusion beyond the inclusion of a small number of women. The current statistics indicate that the activity's contribution to gender equality is limited due to the severe imbalance in participation.

CCA mapping, Baseline survey & MPA consultation

The Environment Team's progress report indicates the following participation in consultation and data collection processes:

Torres: 87 Men, 69 Women

Santo: 128 Men, 66 Women

Analysis per Activity:

Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC):

Torres: The participation of 69 women out of a total of 156 participants (44.2%) suggests an effort to include women in the initial stages of project engagement and decision-making. However, the significant difference in numbers indicates that men were still more heavily represented.

Santo: The participation of 66 women out of a total of 194 participants (34%) shows a lower level of female representation compared to

Torres. This disparity suggests a potential challenge in ensuring women's voices are equally heard in the FPIC process in Santo.

Provisional Gender Marker Code: GEN1 (Contributes to gender equality in a limited way). While women's participation is evident, the numerical imbalance suggests that gender equality was likely considered but not systematically and comprehensively addressed to ensure equal representation and influence in the FPIC process. Further qualitative information is needed to understand the nature and quality of women's participation.

Conservation Areas (CA) Baseline & Survey:

Torres: Similar to the FPIC process, the participation of 69 women (44.2%) indicates some level of gender consideration in data collection related to the establishment or management of Conservation Areas. However, the underrepresentation compared to men (87) suggests potential biases in the baseline data if women's perspectives and experiences related to resource use, conservation, and potential impacts are not adequately captured.

Santo: The lower participation of women (34%) in the CA baseline survey raises concerns about the representativeness of the data and whether it adequately reflects the diverse knowledge, roles, and potential impacts on women and men within the context of Conservation Areas.

Provisional Gender Marker Code: GEN1 (Contributes to gender equality in a limited way). The inclusion of women in the survey is a positive step, but the numerical disparity suggests that the baseline data may not be fully gender-sensitive. Further analysis of the survey instruments and data collected is needed to determine if gender-specific questions were included and if the analysis will be disaggregated by sex.

DLA / Climate adaptation planning

A series of activities were conducted to promote inclusive local governance in developing climate change adaptation plans, including:

- GEDSI concept workshop
- Community Disaster Action Plan (CDAP) development
- Community Climate Change Adaptation Plan (CCCAP) development

Total Participants: 10 representatives from *all* communities in South Epi participated across these activities.

Disaggregated Participation:

Women & Girls: 45

Men & Boys: 67

Gender and Social Inclusion Marker Assessment:

Total Participants (Aggregated across activities): 45 (Women & Girls) + 67 (Men & Boys) = 112

Percentage of Women & Girls: (45 / 112) * 100% ≈ 40.2%

Percentage of Men & Boys: (67 / 112) * 100% ≈ 59.8%

Provisional Gender and Social Inclusion Marker Code: GEN1 (Contributes to gender equality in a limited way). While a significant number of women and girls participated in these crucial planning processes, they were underrepresented compared to men and boys. This suggests that while efforts were likely made to include women and girls, achieving gender parity in representation was not fully realized.

Overall observations

Across all the reported activities, there is a consistent pattern of **underrepresentation of women** compared to men. While women's participation is evident in varying degrees, none of the activities demonstrate gender parity or a significant focus on achieving gender equality as a primary objective based solely on the participation statistics. This aligns with the Provisional GEN 1 coding assigned to each. To move towards a higher Gender Marker 2 code, more deliberate and targeted efforts are needed to ensure equitable participation and address the specific needs and perspectives of women in each context and activity.

Recommendations

Understand the barriers, set targets, reach out directly, create a welcoming space, track activity progress, and keep learning. Our goal is to move from just having *some* women involved to making sure women and other underrepresented groups have a real and equal chance to participate and benefit.

VCAP Goals: Make sure women and other underrepresented groups are meaningfully involved in all project activities.

Part 9: Risk Log Update

There were no new risks identified.

Part 10: Management Responses and Recommendation

During this reporting period, the project continued its implementation of output activities in quarter 1 of 2025 with the various activities in collaboration with the Responsible Partners of the Project. These activities include the following: (1) The construction for the Local Area Council climate proof field office facilities at South Epi Local Area Council in Shefa Province, West Ambrym Local Area Council in Malampa Province, South Maewo in Penama Province, Torres Local Area Council in Torba Province, South Tanna Local Area Council and Futuna Local Area Council. (2) Conducted a Free Prior Informed Consents for the Biodiversity and PA Conservation project sites at West Coast Santo, Big bay inland, South Epi, West Ambrym and South Maewo. (3) The construction of Early Warning Back up Centre in Luganville, Santo. (4) Establishment of the community nursery at South Epi. (5) Conducted the Drinking Water Safety and Security Plans at South Maewo and South Epi. The Project Management Unit has also recruited 3 local consultants during this reporting period.

The Project Management Unit is working closely with its Responsible Partners of the Project for implementing the project activities very successfully in collaboration with the existing mechanisms of the various Departments at the National level to the Provincial level and to the Local Area Council level. These Responsible Partners include: The Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture/Livestock/Forestry/Bio-Security, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Justice and Social Services and Ministry of Fisheries/ocean/Maritime Affairs. The representatives of the project's responsible partners are members of the project's Technical Working Group which comprises of the senior officers of the various departments of these responsible partners, while the Directors are members of the Project Board.

Quarter 1 implementation was delayed when the advance was received at the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu on the 14th November 2024 with a total amount of 238,579,838vt. The Project Implementation Unit managed to commit just over 1million dollars the Local Purchase Orders (LPOs) to the Department of Finance, but since the financial system of the government (Smart Stream) closed down on the 2nd week of December 2024 and re-open on the 2nd week of February 2025, most of our LPOs were not paid during this period of the Vanuatu Government Financial closure.

After the 2nd week of February 2025, we continuously followed up with the department of Finance and now most of our LPOs were already paid and closed in the smart stream financial system. We are now pushing to expend the remaining funds of the advance for Q4 of 2024 this month April 2025, so we could get our next advance to achieve most of our project targets this year 2025.

We have regrouped as a team to implement faster and smarter in Q2 and Q3 of this year 2025 to expend our next advance for achieving the project targets as indicated in the Project Document.

Part 11: Annexes

Annex 1: VCAP 2 Financial Reporting _17.03.2025

Annex 2: Q1-2025_Protected Area and Environment Component

Annex 3: Q1-2025_Fisheries Component

Annex 4: Q1-2025_Sustainable Land Management Component

Annex 5: Q1-2025_Climate-smart Agriculture Component

Annex 6: Q1-2025_Water Resources Component

Annex 7: Q1-2025_Meteorology Component

Annex 8: Q1-2025_Area Council Planning Processes Component

Prepared by Project Manager

Mr. Jackson Tambe
National Project Manager
Project Management Unit
Department of Climate Change
Ministry of Climate Change