Government of Vanuatu

VCAP2

Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zone of Vanuatu
Vanuatu Department of Climate Change
Ministry of Climate Change

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Quarterly Project Progress Report 1/2024 (January-March)

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

Date of the report: 13th June 2024



Basic Project Information

Project Title: Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zone in Vanuatu	
UNDP Award ID	00119130
UNDP Project ID	00115691
Project Duration	6 years
Reporting Period	Quarter 1 2024
Implementing Entity	Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology and Geohazards, Energy, Environment and Disaster Management (MoCCAMGEEDM)
National Collaboration agencies	Department of Climate Change (DoCC), Department of Environment Protection & Conservation (DEPC), Vanuatu Meteorology & Geohazards Department (VMGD), Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (DARD), Department of Forestry (DoF), Department of Water Resources (DoWR), Department of Local Authorities (DLA) and Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA).
Other UN/International Collaborating agencies	UNDP
Cost-sharing third parties (no direct cost-sharing)	National and Provincial Government
UNDP Programme Analyst	**Mohseen Dean**

1. Project Implementation Status and Key Result

Implementation Status Summary

The V-CAP II project is in its first year of activity implementation. The first three months of this year were focused on finalizing and approval of the 2024 Annual workplan, the ongoing recruitment of project staff, consultations with stakeholders on planned project activities and more planning. The project is delayed in the implementation of activities awaiting funds to become available in-country, however the successful stakeholder engagements has them well informed of the planned activities as well as the stakeholders' expectations on the outcomes of the project have been clarified, which will ease the implementation of activities moving forward.



The quarter commenced with the first meeting of the esteemed Project Board, dedicated to steering the V-CAP II Project towards success this year; approved the annual budget and annual work plan for 2024.

The project and UNDP Fiji worked on revising the budget for 2024 activities, while concurrently communicating as the disbursement of funds for quarter 1 activities faced a delay attributed to UNDP Fiji's transition to updated templates, forms and request for funding processes.

On the other hand, the efforts to strengthen the project's human resource continued unabated. There was the signing of contracts as well as the development of Terms of References (ToRs) for project positions' advertisements, guided by the project's Chief Technical Advisor. The recruitment process for vital project personnel progressed, with stringent criteria ensuring the selection of competent individuals aligned with the project's outcomes and outputs.

Additionally, the project welcomed the international Gender and Social Inclusion specialist and the international Protected Area Planning specialist to Vanuatu. The Gender specialist had a series of crucial meetings with stakeholders from both governmental and private sectors, where the engagements aimed to gain GESI perspectives from different stakeholders, and utilize the information to understand the concept of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and to guide the development of GESI tools that the project will utilize to mainstream gender equality and social inclusion in all project activities. On the other hand, the PA Planning specialist collaborated closely with the Protected Area & Environment coordinator, to strategize the forthcoming Community Conservation Area Planning workshop scheduled for April. Their expertise promised to enrich the workshop's outcomes, enhancing conservation efforts and community engagement.

Furthermore, by propelling the project forward, contracts for the installation of Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) and Automatic River Guages (ARG) were signed by the winning company, Campbell Scientific Australia and the Minister of Climate Change Adaptation, Honourable Ralph Regenvanu. These are crucial instruments that will bolster the project's output of timely releases of early warnings about disasters and that these early warnings are received in a timely manner by all communities in all the islands of Vanuatu. Another milestone achieved was Wilco hardware winning the tender for the supply and delivery of building materials of new climate-proof Area Council buildings to be constructed in six project sites and signing the contract. Soon after, the first delivery of building materials by Wilco reached the shores of South Maewo, the project site in Penama province.

In conclusion, the V-CAP II project's journey through the first quarter epitomized adaptability and unwavering commitment to achieving its mission. Despite encountering challenges, the project remained in the pursuit of achieving its outcomes and laying the groundwork towards the success of the project.

Component 1: Integrated Community Approaches to natural resource management and climate change adaptation developed and implemented

During this quarter, the component coordinators focused on establishing communication and having consultations with key stakeholders as well as planning out activities, whilst awaiting funds to come in for the implementation of activities.

Department of Environment Protection & Conservation (DEPC)

The activities carried out in quarter 1 were consultations with key stakeholders, preplanning for the National Protected Area Workshop; and drafting Terms of References (TORs) for the Protected Area (PA) & Environment staff to be recruited. The International Protected Area Specialist travelled to Vanuatu, met with various government Directors and senior staff, non-governmental organization (NGO) officers and the in-country Directors, alongside the International Gender & Social Inclusion (GESI) specialist; to discuss and collect information on conservation related activities and the GESI situation in Vanuatu. Meetings were held with the DEPC, Vanuatu Fisheries Department (VFD), Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA), Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (DARD), Department of Forestry (DoF), the Vanuatu Cultural Centre, Action Aid Vanuatu (AAV), ECARE

project and Care International; where crucial information needed was collected. Discussions on conservation related matters with DEPC, included the Global Conservation Standards Framework that will be introduced in the National PA workshop, along with DEPC's process of Community Conservation Area (CCA) registration and management in Vanuatu, to happen in the next quarter. The TORs for the PA & Environment staff, Social & Environment Safeguards local consultant and Fisheries coordinator to be recruited were finalized and job advertisements went out for the vacant posts to be filled.

Department of Forestry (DoF)

For the Sustainable Land Management (SLM) component, there were consultations made with the Department of Forestry (DoF) on how the project activities on SLM can be incorporated into the department's Annual Business Plan. There was also the formulation of a questionnaire survey on the Kobo toolbox that was sent to the Local Area Administrators of the targeted Area Councils of the project to collect data on the ground concerning land degradation. The international SLM specialist worked with the local Coordinator for SLM and provided reports with identified areas where the local Coordinator will work with the Department of Forestry and other government stakeholders for addressing these areas of need for improving the sustainable land management issues throughout the Country, especially at the remote rural project sites.

Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (DARD)

The climate-smart agriculture (CSA) component focused on planning activities related to the establishment of community nurseries and the establishment of climate-smart model farms in the 9 Area Council locations. The CSA coordinator joined the team in the month of February and began working with the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (DARD) to design the nursery shade and seedbank storage according to the DARD standard, which can be able to withstand a category 2 to 3 cyclone. Working together with the Principal Agriculture Development officer North, the CSA coordinator listed the materials and tools that were needed to be procured for the nurseries and climate-smart model farms.

Department of Local Authorities (DLA)

Quarter 1 was primarily focused on laying the groundwork for project activities: establishing and strengthening relationships with the Department of Local Authorities (DLA) and respective Area Administrators was key to further carrying out activities. For the target of six (6) climate-proof Area Council offices, the winning supplier for building materials, Wilco Hardware, signed the contract with the project's implementing partner, the Ministry of Climate Change, to supply and deliver building materials to the focal Area Council proposed building sites. After the signing of the contract, the first supply and delivery were made to South Maewo Area Council. The terms of reference for the seven (7) site coordinators and the local consultant for South Epi Hills pavement scoping were also advertised for recruitment.

Component 2: Information and early warning systems on coastal hazards

Vanuatu Meteorology & Geohazards Department (VMGD)

For this component, this quarter was inclusive of establishing communications with Area Administrators; collecting information on procurement processes as well as suppliers; had regular meetings with VMGD; collecting quotations from suppliers for station upgrade; and the highlight of having the contract signing for the Automatic Weather Station and Automatic River Gauges.

Component 3: Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Governance

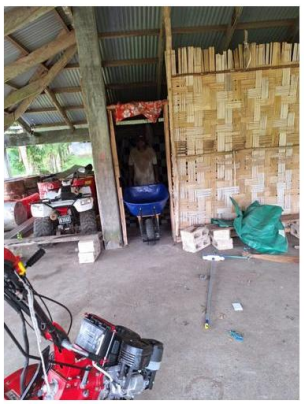
Department of Local Authorities (DLA)

The DLA coordinator was able to be part of a week training organized by the department on community profiling for Penama province, using the Kobo toolkit, which is used by DLA for community profiling in all the 72 Area Councils in Vanuatu.

Component 4: Knowledge Management and Lessons Sharing

Communication

VCAP 2 Facebook page	**Project Facebook page** – *Vanuatu Coastal Adaptation Project – VCAP* 
Television	*Figure 1: shows a screenshot of the news on the National Gender Action Plan workshop, where the International GESI specialist was a participant; that came out from Vanuatu Broadcasting Television Corporation (VBTC), which appeared both on television as well as Facebook live. Link: https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=1485201282036416* 

Newspaper	Apart from the advertisements for job opportunities within the V-CAP 2 project going out in the newspaper, there was also news on the V-CAP 2 project implementation activities. *Figure 2: shows a column in the Vanuatu Daily Post on V-CAP 2 project winning supplier for the building materials of the six (6) climate-proof Area Council buildings to be constructed. Link: https://www.dailypost.vu/news/wilco-secures-vt67m-contract-for-vcap2/article_4cdfeb75-98cc-5380-9904-b618c0bb0cef.html* Wilco secures VT67M contract for VCAP2 Feb 1, 2024 0  The contract signing Wilco Hardware has secured a VT67million contract to supply and deliver materials for local area councils' climate-proofing field officers at the sites of the Vanuatu Coastal Adaptation Project (VCAP) Phase 2. The Minister of Climate Change and Acting Deputy Prime Minister, Ralph Regenvanu, signed the contract alongside a representative from Wilco,Jeneth Bakokoto of Wilco. *Figure 3: shows a newspaper column on the South Epi Area Council preparing for the delivery of building materials for the construction of the climate-proof Area Council Office. Link: https://www.dailypost.vu/news/yarsu-area-council-excited-for-vcap-2-project-impact/article_e42d5bbb-bf56-5b7b-8df7-f8a5a937a4e2.html* Yarsu Area Council excited for VCAP 2 Project impact By Ezra Toara Feb 10, 2024 0 2 of 3  By Ezra Toara **The Yarsu Area Council in** South Epi is thrilled with a major project sponsored by the Vanuatu Coastal Adaptation Project 2 (VCAP 2) through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

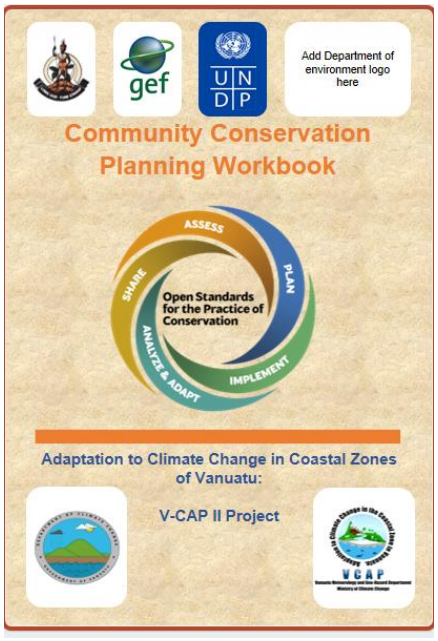
Achievements to date by components:

Component 1: Outcome 1.1: Output 1.1.1

Activity 1.1.1.1.2: National Protected Area Planning Workshop

- Community Conservation Planning Workbook developed,
- Workshop participants list created,
- Invitation sent out to respective government departments, NGOs and other key stakeholders,
- Workshop venue booked

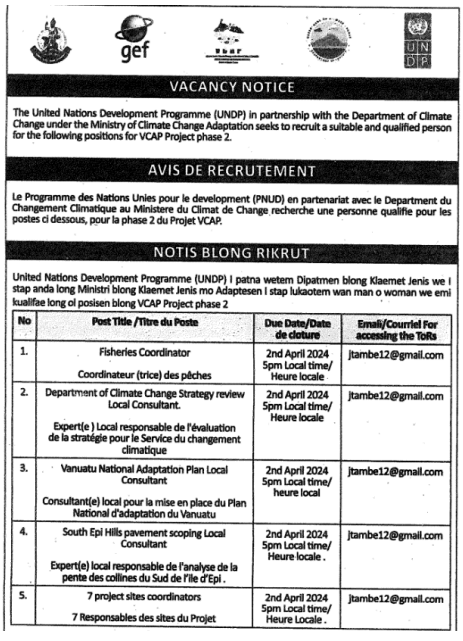
Figure 4: shows the Community Conservation Planning Workbook developed for the National PA Planning workshop



Activity 1.1.1.1.4: Specialist input on PA, Fisheries and Species – National Coordinator for Fisheries

- Terms of Reference drafted for National Protected Area Specialist
- Post advertised on Vanuatu Daily Post

Figure 5: showing the Vanuatu Daily Post of 26.05.24 vacancy notice for the posts of: Fisheries Coordinator, Local Consultant for Department of Climate Change (DOCC) Strategy review, Local Consultant for Vanuatu National Adaptation Plan update, Local Consultant for South Epi Hills pavement scoping and seven (7) project site coordinators.



VACANCY NOTICE

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Department of Climate Change under the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation seeks to recruit a suitable and qualified person for the following positions for VCAP Project phase 2.

AVIS DE RECRUTEMENT

Le Programme des Nations Unies pour le development (PNUD) en partenariat avec le Department du Changement Climatique au Ministere du Climat de Change recherche une personne qualifie pour les postes ci dessous, pour la phase 2 du Projet VCAP.

NOTIS BLONG RIKRUT

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) I patna wetem Dipatmen blong Klaemet Jenis we I stap anda long Ministri blong Klaemet Jenis mo Adaptesen I stap lukaotem wan man o woman we emi kualifae long ol posisen blong VCAP Project phase 2

No	Post Title /Titre du Poste	Due Date/Date de cloture	Email/Courriel For accessing the ToRs
1.	Fisheries Coordinator Coordinateur (trice) des pêches	2nd April 2024 5pm Local time/ Heure locale	jtambe12@gmail.com
2.	Department of Climate Change Strategy review Local Consultant. Expert(e) Local responsable de l'évaluation de la stratégie pour le Service du changement climatique	2nd April 2024 5pm Local time/ Heure locale	jtambe12@gmail.com
3.	Vanuatu National Adaptation Plan Local Consultant Consultant(e) local pour la mise en place du Plan National d'adaptation du Vanuatu	2nd April 2024 5pm Local time/ heure local	jtambe12@gmail.com
4.	South Epi Hills pavement scoping Local Consultant Expert(e) local responsable de l'analyse de la pente des collines du Sud de l'île d'Epi .	2nd April 2024 5pm Local time/ Heure locale .	jtambe12@gmail.com
5.	7 project sites coordinators 7 Responsables des sites du Projet	2nd April 2024 5pm Local time/ Heure Locale .	jtambe12@gmail.com

Activity 1.1.1.1.6: Consultation with key stakeholders - technical meetings and consultations
This is a list of the key stakeholders consulted with:

- Department of Environment, Protection and Conservation (DEPC),
- Department of Woman Affairs (DoWA),
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD),
- Department of Forests (DoF),
- Department of Climate Change (DoCC),
- Vanuatu Kaljoral Centre (VKS),
- Live and Learn Vanuatu (LLV),
- Action Aid Vanuatu (AAV),
- Care International,
- Other government projects including: Expanding Conservation Areas (ECARE) project and Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Activity 1.1.1.1.7 Recruitment of National Protected Area Specialist

- Terms of Reference drafted for National Protected Area Specialist
- Post advertised on Vanuatu Daily Post (*see Figure 3 below*)

Activity 1.1.1.1.9 Community Engagement Specialist

- Terms of Reference drafted for the Community Engagement Specialist
- Post advertised on Vanuatu Daily Post (*see Figure 3 below*)

Activity 1.1.1.1.11 GIS Analyst

- Terms of Reference drafted for the GIS Analyst
- Post advertised on Vanuatu Daily Post (*see Figure 3 below*)

Activity 1.1.1.1.13 Administration Officer - Department of Environment

- Terms of Reference drafted for the Administration Officer
- Post advertised on Vanuatu Daily Post (*see Figure 3 below*)

Component 1: Outcome 1.2: Output 1.2.1

Activity 1.2.1.8.1 SLM Component Coordinator

- Post readvertised on Vanuatu Daily Post

Figure 6: showing the Vanuatu Daily Post of 05.03.2024 vacancy notice for the posts of: Sustainable Land Management Coordinator, Local Protected Area Specialist, Local Community Engagement specialist, Local GIS Analyst, and Administration officer - Department of Environment.



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Le Programme des Nations Unies pour le development (PNUD) en partenariat avec le Department du Changement Climatique au Ministere du Climat de Change recherche une personne qualifie pour les postes ci dessous, pour la phase 2 du Projet VCAP.

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No	Post Title /Titre du Poste	Due Date/Date de cloture	Email/Courriel For accessing the ToRs
1.	Sustainable Land Management /Coordinator Coordinateur(trice) de la gestion durable des Terres	12th March 2024 5pm Local time.	jtambe12@gmail.com
2.	National Protected Area Specialist/ Spécialiste National des zones protégées.	12th March 2024 5pm Local time	jtambe12@gmail.com
3.	Social and Environment Safeguards National Consultant / Consultant National en matière de protection sociale et environnementale	12th March 2024 5pm Local time.	jtambe12@gmail.com
4.	National Geographical Information Systems Analyst / Analyste Nationale des systèmes d'information géographique	12th March 2024 5 pm Local time.	jtambe12@gmail.com
5.	Administration Officer / Agent Administratif	12th March 2024 5pm Local time	jtambe12@gmail.com
6	Community Protected Area Specialist / Spécialiste des zones protégées communautaires	12th March 2024 5pm Local time.	jtambe12@gmail.com

Component 1: Outcome 1.2: Output 1.2.1

Activity 1.2.1.7.1 Establish community nurseries at 10 sites

- DARD standard nursery shade designed

Figure 7: showing the nursery shade design by the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development standard - 12m x 8m



- Cyclone-proof seedbank/ storage house designed

Figure 8: showing the design of the cyclone-proof seedbank/ storage house



Component 1: Outcome 1.3: Output 1.3.2

Activity 1.3.2.4.1 Climate proofing of Area Council Office – 6 Area Councils

- Wilco Hardware, the winning supplier, signed the contract to supply and deliver the building materials to the 6 Area Council locations

Figure 9: showing 2 images of the contract signing of Area Council building materials supply and delivery by Wilco representative and V-CAP 2 Implementing partner, Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, represented by Hon. Ralph Regenvanu, the Minister of Climate Change Adaptation.





- The first supply and delivery of building materials to South Maewo Area Council happened.

Figure 10: showing 3 images of South Maewo communities assisting the Wilco staff in offloading the building materials at Narovrovo village, South Maewo Area Council



Component 2: Outcome 2.1: Output 2.1.1

Activity 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, West Coast Santo, Epi, North Maewo, and Erromango.

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

- Winning contractor being Campbell Scientific Australia, to supply and install both Automatic Weather Stations and Automatic River Gauges, signed the contract with the project's implementing partner, the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation.

Figure 11: showing a piece written on the Ministry of Climate Change website on the contract signing of the AWS and ARG installation by the winning contractor, Campbell Scientific Australia.

Written by MOCC Admin on 23 February 2024.

VCAP 2 Project Installing 6 Automatic Weather Stations and 6 Automatic River Gauges



Two contracts were signed on Friday February 2, 2024 by the Hon. Minister of Climate Change, Ralph Regenvanu on behalf of the Ministry of Climate Change (the Purchaser), with Campbell Scientific Australia, the Supplier for delivery and installation of six Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) and six Automatic River Gauges (ARG) on seven islands of Vanuatu.

The contracts signing, partly done via Zoom with suppliers in Australia, was made possible through the Vanuatu Coastal Adaptation 2 Project (VCAP 2), with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Component 3: Outcome 3.1: Output 3.1.2

Activity 3.1.2.3.1 Recruitment of local consultant to update the National Adaptation Plan (NAP)

- Terms of Reference drafted for National Protected Area Specialist
- Post advertised on Vanuatu Daily Post (*see Figure 1)*

Activity 3.1.2.5.1 Recruitment of local consultant to undertake review of Climate Change Strategic Plan

- Terms of Reference drafted for National Protected Area Specialist
- Post advertised on Vanuatu Daily Post (*see Figure 1)*

Component 4:

Activity 4.1.1.1.2 Recruit a Communications and Training officer

- Evaluation process for recruitment done
- The Communications & Training officer signed her contract and will be onboard in the next quarter after serving her one month notice at her current work place.

Outcome	Output	Source of Funding	Output Budget (what was requested for Q1) (Vatu)	Expenditure of the current reporting period by output (Vatu)	Delivery Rate of the current reporting period (%)	Accumulated Delivery Rate by the current reporting period (%)
Outcome 1.1: Biodiversity conserved to improve the integrity of natural ecosystems towards increased climate resilience	**Output 1.1.1** Conduct 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.	GEF-TF & LDCF	5,925,690			
	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.		8,025,824.25			
	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		0			
Outcome 1.2: Supported Sustainable Land Management initiatives at the community level to restore ecosystem services and improve resilience to climate impacts	**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		8,863,361.28			
	Output 1.2.2 Strategies for the rehabilitation of degraded		0			

	landscapes agreed through participatory processes and subsequently implemented to cover approximately 10,000 hectares					
Outcome 1.3: Improved climate resilience of coastal and upland areas through integrated approaches	**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		1,742,850			
	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		90,013,554.9			
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	LDCF	3,460,525.11			
	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		11,921,907.33			
	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		0			
Outcome 3.1: Climate Change Adaptation plans at the community level and enabling policies and supportive	**Output 3.1.1** Community Climate Change Adaptation Plans (CCAPs) (including Nature-based Solutions) mainstreamed into Provincial and Integrated Area Council	GEF-TF & LDCF	1,161,900			

institutions in place at both local and national levels	Development Plans and implementation supported in the 9 priority Area Councils					
	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		2,033,325			
Outcome 3.2 Mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable land management in national development and sectoral policies (Synergies with GEF-6 ECARE 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)		0			
	Output 3.2.2 SLM and LDN Strategy developed and integrated into development policies and decision-making processes at national and local levels		0			
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	**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		1,219,995			
	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		0			
Outcome 4.1: Increased awareness and ownership of climate risk reduction processes at the	**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	GEF-TF & LDCF	1,832,897.25			

national and local levels	maintenance of national website for CC)					
	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		0			
Monitoring and Evaluation	M & E of GEF Core Indicators & Project Results Framework		0			
	M & E of GEF Core Indicators & Project Results Framework		0			
Project Management Costs	Project Management Unit salaries		1,045,710			
	Operations		197,523			
		Total	**137,445,063.12**		**%**	

Financial Management

Financial Information Summary ***(against valid Quarterly WP)***
Reporting Period: Quarter 1 of 2024
Financial Information Summary ***(against AWP 2024)***

The advance that was requested for Quarter 1 will be available in-country in April of Quarter 2. Therefore, there are no expenses to be reported for this quarter.

Component	Outcome	Source of Funding	Activity Budget (Vatu)	Accumulated Expenditure of the current reporting year period (Vatu)	Accumulated Expenditure by previous years (Vatu)	Delivery Rate of the current reporting year (%)	Accumulated Delivery Rate since start of project (%)
C 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	GEF-TF & LDCF	13,951,514.25				
	Outcome 1.2: Supported Sustainable Land Management initiatives at the community level to restore ecosystem services and improve resilience to climate impacts		8,863,361.28				
	Outcome 1.3: Improved climate resilience of coastal and upland areas through integrated approaches		91,756,404.90				
C 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	LDCF	15,382,432.44				
C 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	GEF-TF & LDCF	3,195,225				

	Outcome 3.2 Mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable land management in national development and sectoral policies (Synergies with GEF-6 ECARE Project)		0				
	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		1,219,995				
C 4 Knowledge Management and Lessons Sharing	Outcome 4.1: Increased awareness and ownership of climate risk reduction processes at the national and local levels	GEF-TF & LDCF	1,832,897.25				
C 5 Monitoring and Evaluation	Monitoring and Evaluation		0				
C 6 Project Management Unit	Project Management costs		1,243,233				
		Total	**137,445,063.12**			**%**	

Project Management and Oversight

The project started its implementation of output activities this year with the contract signing for the Automatic Weather Stations, Automatic River Gauges with Campbell Scientific Australia for the contract amounts of 23,114,940vt (US$201,191.92) and 16,241,868vt (US$141,368.86) respectively. Furthermore, a supply contract for supplying and delivery of the building materials for the climate proofing of the Local Area Council field office facilities was also signed with Wilco hardware for delivering the building materials to 6 Local Area Councils throughout the 6 Provinces of the Country with a contract amount of 67,000,700vt (US$583,172.60). This was a very positive commencement of the project activities for the year. The Project Management Unit has also recruited 6 local project staff during this reporting period and working to recruit the remaining local staff and will be reported in the next quarterly progress report. The Project Management Unit has established its Project Management Unit for implementing the project activities very successfully in collaboration with the existing mechanisms of the responsible partners of the project at the National level to the Provincial level and to the Local Area Council level. These Responsible Partners are: The Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture/Livestock/Fisheries/Forestry/Bio-Security, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Justice and Social Services. 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.

The structure of the project as outlined in the Project Document has guided the Project Management Unit for establishing the pathway as a way forward to implement and oversight the various output activities which the responsible partners of the project carry out with the participatory of the local e communities at the project sites throughout the country. This pathway will encourage the local communities to be involved in the implementation of the project's activities on ground with the capacity building required for educating the local communities about the importance of natural resources management and for taking ownership to maintain the activities with the assistance of the Local Area Councils' Administrators when the project ends. This is what the Project Management Unit has been doing during this reporting period for making sure the project objective is met and the deliverable of the project targets are achieved for improving the livelihoods of our people and to provide accessibility of government services to our vulnerable people in the remote communities throughout the country.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The project developed a Monitoring & Evaluation plan and had it approved along with the 2024 Annual Work Plan (AWP), where we tracked the progress for the implementation of activities.
- There was also the monitoring of consultancies when international consultants work with the project staff to implement activities to achieve the project targets.
- The Project Manager monitored the supply of building materials from Wilco Hardware (supplier) and at the project sites where materials are unloaded; for the construction of climate proof Area Council Office buildings
- PMU meetings are another means of monitoring project progress and the topic of monitoring & evaluation is usually included as an agenda.
- The Terms of Reference for the project's mid-term review will be drafted in the coming quarters, preferably commencing in quarter 3 of 2024.

Risk Management

During this quarter there are some risks identified which will have some impact on the project:

- Late submission of reports from Coordinators will delay the advance request for the following quarter. This will affect the implementation of the project to meet the project time frame.

Communication and Advocacy

The Communication Officer for the project has signed a contract with the project and will join the team in the next quarter after serving her one month of notice. The officer will be implementing the project's communication advocacy in the upcoming quarters of this year. The outreach programs which the officer will be engaging with are: Radio programs through the national radio stations, national television programs, Face Book Page, Twitter, Link in, Communities awareness at the project sites, involve in national events for promoting the project's activities and preparing merchandize materials for the project to advocate the project activities. These communication materials advocacies will be pushed out widely as a target to reach as much of the population of the country; as a capacity building to promote the importance of the natural resources management both for terrestrial and marine in order to improve the livelihoods of the people in this nation.

Gender Marker

The international Gender and Social Inclusion specialist came to Vanuatu and did the following:

- Had a series of crucial meetings with stakeholders from both governmental and private sectors, to gain GESI perspectives from different stakeholders, and utilize the information to understand the concept of GESI and to guide the development of GESI tools that the project will utilize to mainstream gender equality and social inclusion in all project activities.
- Attended one-day workshop conducted by Ministry of Climate Change and the Department of Women's Affairs to discuss Vanuatu's policy commitments, report on progress, share success stories and discuss recommendations to strengthen gender responsive climate and disaster resilience in Vanuatu and globally. She presented Gender Action Plan (GAP) planning and reporting.

Figure 12: showing two images of the Gender Action Plan reporting workshop, in which the V-CAP 2 International GESI Specialist was a participant, who contributed to the report. Link: https://www.undp.org/pacific/press-releases/vanuatu-advances-gender-responsive-climate-resilience-progress-and-commitments-highlighted-ahead-un-reporting-deadline



Michela Lugiai, Gender Equality Consultant for VCAP 2 project, provides an overview of UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (GAP) reporting.

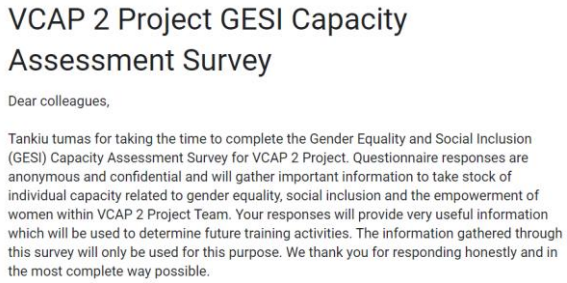
- Developed a Gender mainstreaming poster
- Created a Gender tool: Trello Board, containing a collection of gender tools, clear models and operating procedures to support gender mainstreaming in project implementation.

Innovation & Digital Marker

Figure 13: shows the 1st project board meeting of 2024 had BREJ Pacific General Distribution Limited, an innovative multimedia production company, to provide equipment and set up virtual video conferencing so that the Fiji team could also join the meeting.



Figure 14: shows a survey that was conducted by the Gender and Social Inclusion specialist, for the V-CAP 2 team members, to see their individual capacity with regards to gender equality, social inclusion and women empowerment.



VCAP 2 Project GESI Capacity Assessment Survey

Dear colleagues,

Tankiu tumas for taking the time to complete the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Capacity Assessment Survey for VCAP 2 Project. Questionnaire responses are anonymous and confidential and will gather important information to take stock of individual capacity related to gender equality, social inclusion and the empowerment of women within VCAP 2 Project Team. Your responses will provide very useful information which will be used to determine future training activities. The information gathered through this survey will only be used for this purpose. We thank you for responding honestly and in the most complete way possible.

Management Responses and Recommendations

The project implementation has just started and few recommendations to be made which includes the following:

i. Procurement process through the National Tenders Board needs to be fast track for not delaying the project's deliverables.
ii. Procurement process through the request for quotations needs to be fast track as well for not delaying the project deliverables.
iii. Project Management Unit needs to complete the recruitment of the local Project Coordinators of the project soon, so output activities of the project at the project sites must start.

Annexes

Annex 1: *PA & Environment Component Quarter 1 Progress Report*
Annex 2: *Climate Smart Agriculture Component Quarter 1 Progress Report*
Annex 3: *Department of Local Authorities Component Quarter 1 Progress Report*
Annex 4: *Meteorology Component Quarter 1 Progress Report*

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