

**INTERNATIONAL WATERS PROGRAMME
(IWP)**

**PROFILE OF GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENTS AND NGOS IWP-RELATED
PLANS AND ACTIVITIES**

VANUATU

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ACRONYMS

IWP: International Waters Programme
 NGOs: Non Government Organizations
 GEF: Global Environment Fund
 UNEP: United Nations Environment Fund
 CIDA: Canada International Development Agency
 ACIAR: Australian Center for International Agriculture Research
 USP: University of the South Pacific
 FSP: Foundation for the peoples of the South Pacific
 RTCs: Rural Training Centres
 VNCW: Vanuatu National Council of Women
 VKS: Vanuatu Kaljaro Senta
 VANGO: Vanuatu Association of Non Government Organization
 NKDT: National Komiuniti Development Trust
 RSTP: Rural Skills Training Programme
 VRDTCA: Vanuatu Rural Development Training Centers Association
 WSB: Wan Smol Bag
 REDI: Rural Economic Development Initiative
 CRP: Comprehensive Reform Programme
 FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization
 GTZ: German Government Funding
 DESD: Department of Economic and Social Development
 TEM: Traditional Environment Management
 TMT: Traditional Marine Tenure
 WTMT: Women's Traditional Marine Tenure
 LINKS: Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems
 VANPID: Vanuatu Partners In Development
 MRM: Marine Resource Management
 LUPO: Land Use Planning Office
 NTDO: National Tourism Development Office
 PRDTCA: Provincial Rural Development Training Centers
 VNTC: Vanuatu National Training Council
 NFE: Non – Formal Education
 UNESCO: United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is the product of a short term consultancy to review the draft Vanuatu Country report for the Implementation of International Waters Programme (IWP) to ensure that the information in the report are well represented of the views and experiences of the government and NGOs described. The draft country report was put together following a visit by SPREP employees to Vanuatu in 2001. This report attempts to provide information where there is yet gaps in the 2001 report on activities related to IWP focal areas; sectors administrative responsibilities; their past, current and planned activities; and their environmental related communication that are related to the IWP interests. The 4 principal areas identified in IWP are: marine protected areas, sustainable fisheries, protection and conservation of freshwater and the management of community-based waste.

Experiences shared through interviews and documents accessed indicate that many Government departments and NGOs carry out activities that do relate to the majority (if not all) of the 4 principal areas identified in the IWP, particularly *Marine Protected Areas, and Sustainable Fisheries*. There is therefore a clear indication for an integrated approach, where lead agencies (rather than just one implementing agency) are identified to carry out specific tasks. Immediate, Medium, and Long-term goals may have to be set to address each of the 4 identified principal areas. Awareness raising, implementation, documentation, training, and evaluation may form some of the core components of future activities.

Civil Society networks within Vanuatu, Provincial and Local Council sectors have immense experiences working with rural communities in all sectors of development. Many of these networks will continue to play a very important role in the planning, implementation, evaluation and follow-up of the IWP initiative, particularly in rural areas.

During the 2-week assignment, seventeen (17) heads of Government departments and eleven (11) leaders of Civil Society organizations were consulted. Most of the information gathered came from personal interviews and supported through secondary sources. This report begins by summarizing information particularly focusing on the experiences, activities and interests of various Government departments and NGOs, particularly focusing on past, current and future planned activities. Figures 1 & 2 that follow are summaries of organizations and their activities that relate to the 4 principal areas identified in the IWP initiative. Figure 3 contains a list of the overall Government agencies roles in IWP-related focus areas. Figure 4 contains a list of people consulted in this process. A reference list is last on this report.

It is clear from interviews and documentation accessed that the majority of Government Departments and NGOs have and can still play important roles in IWP-related activities. Overall, the success of an integrated IWP approach will depend largely on cooperation, commitment, political will, and goodwill of everyone involved.

1.0 ENVIRONMENT UNIT

The BILL FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION ACT NO. OF 2002 strengthens the Environment Unit's Policy Development and Advisory Role. The Bill includes among other issues:

- Provision for the function and powers of the Director, and for certain instruments – an Environmental Registry for centralizing and making publicly available all relevant environmental information; the preparation of a National State of the Environment Report; and for the development of national environmental policies and plans...
- Provision for the establishment of a mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment process for all projects, proposals and development activities that affect or may affect the environment...
- Provision for the establishment of a Biodiversity Advisory Council to assist the Minister and Director with matters arising from the International Convention on Biological Diversity and to make decisions on bio-prospecting applications – for which procedures are established. It also provides a mechanism (community/land owners' conservation areas) for the identification and registration of sites of national biodiversity significance held in custom ownership
- Provisions taking care of offences and penalties

1.1 Existing Projects and Programs:

- National Biodiversity Strategy – 3 year program funded by the Global Environment Fund (GEF) through the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). One of the 4 thematic areas of the National Biodiversity Strategy is the Use and Management of Biodiversity, particularly Water Management. A large component of the National Biodiversity Strategy concerns addressing Capacity Building needs for good resource management.
- Climate Change: this SPREP funded project is part of the wider Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Program. This program is now located at the Meteorological department and funded by the Canada International Development Agency (CIDA) for the next 5 years.
- International Waters Project: A 5-year program funded through SPREP until 2006.
- MONTREAL PROTOCOL: A SPREP funded project to begin Mid 2003. This 3-year project will deal mainly with training and awareness raising on International legislations relating to the emissions of gases into the atmosphere.

The Environment Unit has acted as host agency for the IWP National Coordinating Unit since 2002 and will continue to play a crucial role in the implementation of the International Water's project.

2.0 GEOLOGY, MINES AND WATER RESOURCES

With the newly passed Water Resource Management Act (2002), the department of Geology, Mines and Rural Water Supply is now charged with the responsibility of better conserving, protecting and managing the minerals and ground water resources of Vanuatu.

Part 4 of the Water Resource Management Act (2002) establishes the option and purposes of a National Water Resource Management Policy and a National Water Resource Management Plan where the Minister considers these instruments appropriate for the more efficient and effective planning and development of the nation's water resources. It also requires the Director to develop a National Water Resources Inventory of the nation's water resources and their present state. Finally it provides for the declaration of Water Protection Zones - both rural and urban - where action is necessary to prevent or restrict development and expansion into areas from which water supply is drawn.

As an on-going activity, the department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources is working with other Government departments to monitor the bay and lagoons around Port Vila on a quarterly basis. The department also carries out two monitoring per year of the Luganville harbour.

The department intends to carry out bivalves and gastropod testing, particularly for heavy metals. The reason being that these are bio-accumulators and are frequently harvested and sold in our domestic markets. The department of geology, mines and rural water supply currently does not have the necessary equipment to carry out the required tests.

2.1 Catchments and Communities Project: This on-going initiative funded by UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization) started in 2002. The Communities of Epule (Efate), Fanafo (Santo) and Talise (Maewo) have agreed to work with the Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources, to develop water resource and land-use monitoring activities. These communities have had previous working relations with the Department of Geology, Mines, and Water Resources. Talise has an existing monitoring station for a micro-hydro feasibility project, and, Fanafo was chosen because there is interest to conduct further studies on the existing Hydropower scheme on the Sarakata River, Santo – there is a possibility of expanding this scheme.

Activities for 2003 will include the procurement and installation of water monitoring equipment at Epule and Fanafo.

2.2 Current and planned activities do fit into the focus areas of IWP, particularly regular assessment of pollution levels in Port Vila harbor, the two lagoons, and the department's involvement in protecting the Port Vila fresh water source at Tagabe.

3.0 FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

Current projects:

Trocas: This ACIAR (Australia Center for International Agriculture Research)–funded project was introduced in 1996 and is to run until 2006. The whole group of islands is targeted for this initiative.

Coral Monitoring: This project is funded through the University of the South Pacific and is concentrated mainly around the island of Efate. Implementation of the project is to run from 2000 to 2004.

Sea weed project: Implementation of this project started in 2000 and is to end in 2003. The Forum Fisheries funded sea weed project concentrates mainly on Malekula, Santo, and Efate.

2004 is Vanuatu Year of Marine Resources: There is already Fisheries Department plans underway to utilize this Government's declaration for further awareness and promotion of proper management of the nation's marine resources.

Other on-going areas of Development include:

- Reviewing and revising the fisheries legislation that was started in 2000 – this is to be completed by the end of 2003
- Seeking technical assistance to provide capacity building and institutional strengthening to the provincial administration to increase its managerial and administrative capacity for coastal fisheries. The role of the local coastal communities in the co-management of the in-shore fishery will be supported along with strengthened linkages
- Encourage communities to assume responsibility for the management of their coastal and reef fishery resources and to increase the contribution to nutrition, rural incomes, and self reliance in the rural communities
- With other Government departments, facilitate the marketing of reef fish in conjunction with the private sector, by developing appropriate fish marketing centers in provincial locations and by improving the flow of marketing information between sellers and buyers.

3.1 Fisheries Department has established good relations with other departments, donors, NGOs, etc. Fisheries in the past has assisted FSP in stock assessment and aquarium development. RTC's and the women's network assisted in the Fisheries Department clam shell development, such as has been the case in Pelong in the Maskylenes. There is also currently restocking of clam shells around Efate.

3.2 Past and current initiatives implemented through Fisheries Department should continue to be supported. Fisheries Department should continue to work collaboratively with other government department, rural communities, NGOs (such as Wan Smol Bag, VRDTCA, Cultural Center, National Council of Women, etc).

4.0 AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Current emphasis focuses on increasing productivity and development of efficient domestic and export marketing systems for traditional food crops, livestock, and high value specialty crops.

While the Agriculture department may not have been involved directly in the IWP process, it has played an important role in discussions concerning protection of the Tagabe River Water Catchment, an initiative that has brought together, representatives from Government Departments, NGOs, private sector and private individuals. The Tagabe Water Catchment provides Port Vila's main water source.

Agricultural practices around the country have and will continue to impact on the 4 focus areas identified in the International Waters Programme. It is therefore important that the department continues to be involved, particularly through its rural extension network which has a long history involving itself in the development of the rural sector.

5.0 INTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

Supports integrated approach to development where partnerships are developed to ensure effective outreach programs and that limited resources are maximized. The Ministry through the Department of Provincial Affairs is focusing on strengthening the 6 provinces to carry out their roles effectively. The Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) is being developed in most of the provinces to strengthen each province's economic viability – REDI also focuses on strengthening the mechanism for service delivery to rural areas and encourages greater involvement of rural communities in the national decision making process. The TAFEA REDI, for example, involves the development of a "Partnership Board" to ensure that the major partners within the Provinces are involved in all stages of development. Members of the Tafea "Partnership Board" include Tafea Province, members of NGOs, Business community, Chiefs, and National Provincial office.

At the CRP Summit of November 2002, the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Honorable Edward Nipake Natapei announced as some of the priorities for Vanuatu, the following:

- ... Improve the lives of the people in rural areas by improving service delivery, expanding market access to rural produce, lowering costs of credit and transportation, and ensuring sustainable use of natural resources;
- enabling greater stakeholder of participation in policy formulation by institutionalizing the role of chiefs, non-government organizations and civil society in decision-making at all levels of government...

The Ministry of Internal Affairs through the Provincial Department and Provincial authorities are formal Government avenues that will continue to play an important role in implementation and follow-up of the IWP initiatives.

6.0 RURAL SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM (RSTP)

The Rural Skills Training Program (RSTP) was established in 1992 and now under the Umbrella of the Department of Provincial Affairs Department. The main goal of the organization is to increase the quality of life in rural areas of Vanuatu through short term, village-based training.

RSTP provides the following training:

- Quality of life assessments in rural Vanuatu
- Designing training programs to meet community needs
- Evaluating training and re-designing if necessary

Most of RSTPs program are focused in rural areas – 4 paid staff are located in Paama, Epi, and Sanma. The rural staff also assist in other initiatives such as supporting community tree planting, and marine preservation. RSTP has a total of 8 paid staff.

RSTP's rural network in Epi and Paama have been involved in the restocking and distribution of clam shells around these two islands.

This NZAID supported network could be an avenue for the implementation of the IWP initiative.

7.0 FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

The department is currently seeking funding from FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) and / or GTZ (for a Forest Sector Plan Project that would involve forests zoning, identification of Protectable Sites, plantations and forests production zones.

Projects currently being implemented and being developed include:

- A management plan for Big Bay Water Catchment Area
- the Maskelyn Mangrove Management Plan (funded through normal department budget)
- Mangrove Survey/awareness/legislation project (funded through normal department budget)
- Forest Biodiversity Survey (funded through normal department budget)
- Soil Erosion Control Project (funded by NZAID)

The Department is planning on producing a Forest Inventory and Sector Plan by the end of 2004. This initiative will provide the basic framework for determining the type of forestry operations that can be carried out throughout the country.

In addition, the Forestry Department is also involved in discussions concerning rehabilitation of 20 hectares surrounding Port Vila's main water source. This is part of on-going discussions on the protection of Port Vila's main water supply. Costs related to this project would include: seedlings; nursery costs; site preparations; planting, maintenance, and purchase of equipment. Other organizations involved in this initiative include Environment Unit, Municipal Council, Cultural Center, lands department, survey

department, geology and mines, environmental health, Agriculture Department, and SHEFA province.

The department of forestry's conservation unit formulates and coordinates certain environmental projects that are compatible to the interests of the International Waters Project. Examples include the on-going forests biodiversity survey, and soil erosion control project.

Forestry Department has continued to consult with other departments, NGOs and communities in developing and implementing its plans. There has been a significant amount of written material that has been used in training and awareness raising of forestry issues.

8.0 DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (DESD)

DESD has the primary responsibility for national development and sectoral planning. This involves national policy development, macroeconomic, sectoral policy program and project development, annual preparation of the three year rolling Government Investment Program (GIP) and a significant input into preparation of the national budget. The department is also responsible for aid coordination and management. These activities are carried out with 13 professional staff, 4 support staff and 4 full time Technical Assistances with a current budget of VT23,952,000. The department housed at the Government Building, Second Floor, Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, has the following four divisions: Management and Support; Sectoral ; Aid Management, and; Economic.

DESD should continue to play an important role in the NTF to ensure that implementation of the IWP continues to be compatible to National Government priorities and practices.

9.0 VANUATU KALJAROL SENTA

Traditional Environmental Management (TEM) projects that the Vanuatu Kaljarol Senta has implemented include:

9.1 Capacity Building for Environmental Management in the Pacific: this was a regional initiative funded through SPREP. Activities included collecting existing data on TEM from all relevant Government departments and NGOs. This information has been stored in a computerized data base, and in a booklet.

9.2 Traditional Marine Tenure project (TMT): This is a 6 years research focusing on TMT management aspects such as: how it works, why it works, cultural and socio-economic prerequisites for success, etc. The project also focuses on the local technologies and practices involved – tangible outcomes include production of a video, documentation and posters.

9.3 Womens Traditional Marine Tenure project (WTMT): This is a 4 years research into TMT, particularly through the experiences of women. Activities include focusing on TMT management aspects such as: how it works, why it works, cultural and socio-economic prerequisites for success, etc.

Vanuatu Kaljarol Senta currently has the largest collection of raw data on TMT within Vanuatu.

9.4 Trainings on Traditional Environment Management and Traditional Marine Tenure: Videos and posters produced were utilized in this process, particularly around Efate and Port Vila. Plans to take these trainings to other parts of the country did not materialize as due to the termination of the project. The project was funded through ADB and SPREP

9.5 There is a strong possibility to use the data collected from the TEM and TMT projects to develop training materials and at the same time explore possibilities of accommodating these strands of training into the formal and the non – formal sector.

Future Plan: The Vanuatu Kaljarol Senta is in the process of developing a plan to accommodate the data collected in the Traditional Environment Management and Traditional Marine Tenure initiatives, into the formal national education curriculum. Funding is being sought through the LINKS (Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems) organisation in UNESCO.

Cultural Center staff and field workers may play a leading role in the implementation of the IWP initiative.

10.0 VANUATU NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

The VNCW was established on the 15th of May 1980 with the aim of:

- promoting women to participate fully in all areas of development
- encouraging income generating schemes for women
- promoting women's activities in the rural and less developed areas
- assisting and promoting women in all economic, social, political, cultural and religious activities.

127 Area Council of Women are spread throughout the country and they form into 13 Island Councils of Women. Presidents of the 13 Island Councils of Women, the national president and the Executive Director, form the National Executive which is the administrative body of the Vanuatu National Council of Women. The network currently employs 5 staff at the main office in Vila and another 6 based in each of the six provinces of Vanuatu.

Future program: A program proposal called the Provincial Outreach program has been sent to and approved by the Government Department of Economic and Social Development. The main aim of this program is to

- improve the status of ni-Vanuatu women and their families through enhanced skills and knowledge in the areas of decision making, education, health and involvement in the cash economy
- increase the ability of the VNCW and the Provincial Councils of Women to share information and expertise to the islands
- provide training, workshops and services to women in the rural areas through a 'train the trainer' model, as well as through direct programming
- improve the flow of information by employing community outreach methods and improving networks to decrease isolation
- increase the participation of women, youth and groups in community activities and programs
- consult with women in the rural areas to identify their issues, problems and needs and how best to assist them
- facilitate collective resolution of problems at a community level with a view to creating sustainable economically – viable solutions
- develop a knowledge and skills base, at the Provincial Council level, to increase capacity and strengthen these organizations
- have an improved network of Technical Assistants at the provincial level to assist with capacity-building and strengthening these organizations and to work towards their sustainability; and
- increase the awareness of social justice issues amongst young women.

It is hoped that, through this project, the VNCW will become a 'HUB' of information, administrative and technical assistance to fan out to the Provincial Councils of Women. They, in turn will carry out workshops and outreach to women at the island Council and Area Council levels, as the spokes in the wheel. The aim is that, after an initial two-year period of technical assistance supported by Volunteer Agencies, many skills will have

been transferred to women at the Provincial levels. In addition, VNCW staff will have acquired the knowledge of how to gain technical assistance ‘online’ via internet. The concept of the ‘HUB’ will enable the National office to transfer information to the provinces via the ‘OUTREACH’ community program.

Women play a critical role in management of all resources within Vanuatu and could play a critical role in the implementation of IWP.

10.2 Communications profile: The VNCW has a very good network throughout Vanuatu. There is regular contact with its members, particularly through phone, radio, personal contacts, and through other forms of communications. Relations with other NGOs, Government departments, and donors has been generally good. There is however emphasis on better collaboration and sharing of information, particularly where resources are concerned.

11.0 FSP VANUATU

The following are some past projects of FSP Vanuatu:

- Production of Coconut timber
- Disaster management project
- Accounting service
- Community vulnerability reduction training
- Wild Yam cultivation
- Community Environment and Forestry project
- Community eco-forestry project: training communities with small sawmill capacity in cutting to certifiable eco-timber standards and ecological forest management practices
- Participatory natural resource management
- Village resource planning (PLA/PRA)
- Profitable Environment Protection Project

New projects currently introduced include:

- Non-communicable disease project
- Youth Drop-in Center, focusing mainly on skills training
- Provincial institutional Strengthening
- Voices and Choices: Gardening Good Governance

Other projects in the pipeline include:

- Non-Timber Forest Products

In addition, FSP operates a registered business arm, the ‘Island Consulting Initiative’ (ICI) which has been involved in carrying out various researches mandated through Government and other entities. Currently ICI’s main activity is natangura seeds carvings.

11.1 Communications Profile: FSP has a Youth Drop In Center in Luganville, Santo and has projects through the years that have been implemented in many areas throughout

Vanuatu. Main form of contact is through phone, annual reports, and personal contacts (through workshops, etc). Board has diverse members and meets monthly.

11.2 FSP Vanuatu has a long history of carrying out resource management activities and training in rural communities throughout Vanuatu, and could be a potential avenue for IWP activities.

12.0 VANUATU RURAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING CENTERS ASSOCIATION (VRDTCA)

The Vanuatu Rural Development Training Centers was established in 1989 and became an NGO in 1992. VRDTCA provides support for Rural Training Centers (RTCs) which are members of VRDTCA. At present there are 42 full members, 10 Associate members, and 5 probationary members. RTCs aim to provide vocational training appropriate to the needs of rural youth in order that they can make a useful contribution to their communities. VRDTCA remains the major resource base for the RTCs in Vanuatu and continues to provide an invaluable focal point for them. VRDTCA is recognized by government, civil society and the RTCs themselves as the key focal point for any NFE related activity.

One of VRDTCA's main role is to develop modules and short courses on various subjects such as carpentry, sewing, mechanics, agriculture, welding, cooking, gardening, etc. - these are usually developed with the assistance of trainers from the RTCs. There are potentially a number of stakeholders that could contribute to the development of curriculum modules for short or long courses in both life skills and vocational subjects. In the past there have been some ad-hoc links with government departments such as Forestry, Agriculture and Vanuatu Quarantine and Inspection Service. Development of modules have been a good way of ensuring that specific technical knowledge are documented and continued to be used by Training Centers from year to year.

In the Mid Term Review of VRDTCA (October, 2001), it was reported that all representatives of government, non-government and donor organizations that were consulted spoke of their support for the work of both VRDTCA and the RTCs. VRDTCA has been recognized by Government as the leader in Non Formal Education, and has taken significant role in the development of Vanuatu Education policies.

12.1 Additional projects: In addition to service delivery to RTC, VRDTCA also houses the RRRT Family Law Project covering legal rights. VRDTCA is also the Vanuatu focal point for United Kingdom's volunteers.

12.2 Communications profile: The VRDTCA quarterly newsletter is widely distributed and read. To enable VRDTCA carry out its outreach functions, its AGM in 2001 agreed that VRDTCA should also look at setting up Provincial Rural Development Training Centers Association (PRDTCA). The setting up of PRDTCA should enable the RTCs to benefit from local alliances both with each other and with provincial governments, and will also potentially make easier for VRDTCA to deliver services.

VRDTCA participates in the Vanuatu National Training Council (VNTC) and is a member of the National Task Force for Non Formal Education (NFE).

12.3 VRDTCA has an extensive network through the Rural Training Centers. This network can be an avenue for awareness raising and training. VRDTCA can also assist in developing modules to be added to the RTC's curriculum.

13.0 VATTHE

The initial VATTHE initiative was mainly focused on land based Environment protection. It has been 8 years since VATTHE was created and has become a national asset. Its status throughout the Pacific is quite high. VATTHE was supported through the Marine Protected Areas Grant, administered through SPREP.

Charles Vatu, previous coordinator of the project argued for more research in the area focusing on better management of marine resources, particularly on its usage, control, harvest, and life cycles of the various species. Mangrove replanting should also be considered.

Communities within the VATTHE area have recently requested restarting of the fishing project, once Luganville's main fish supplier. A boat is being sought and a deep freezer has been requested from the Fisheries Department.

The following people can be contacted for further consultation:

Nelson Timothy, Coordinator, VATTHE Community, Tel: 36153
 Bunny Mahl, facilitator (Peace Corps Volunteer), Conservation Area
 Coordinating Committee
 Glen and Alcen Philip: Fisheries (Santo), Tel: 36153

14.0 VANUATU ASSOCIATION OF NGOS (VANGO)

VANGO was established in 1994 as the Umbrella association of non-government organizations (NGOs) active in Vanuatu. This includes local NGOs registered in Vanuatu as well as those international organizations engaged in services and activities in countries or territories outside of Vanuatu. VANGO promotes and supports NGO efforts to achieve equitable and sustainable human development within the country.

The goal of VANGO is to build a vital NGO sector which accurately represents the interests of indigenous people and disadvantaged groups and promotes important local development issues, particularly through:

- Increasing the public profile of NGOs in Vanuatu
- Increasing the skills and effectiveness of NGO workers in Vanuatu
- Increasing the level of cooperation among NGOs in Vanuatu
- Strengthening relations between NGOs and Government
- Strengthening relations between NGOs and donors

- Increasing the capacity of VANGO to effectively govern and manage its operations

VANGO was dormant for 2 years following the ceasing of support to the network from Community Aid Abroad (Australia). Prior to closing office for a few years, VANGO was offering the following services to NGOs:

- Networking opportunities
- Lobbying
- Forums to discuss important matters of social and economic development in Vanuatu
- Training workshop for NGO staff
- Resource library
- NGO Directory
- Information generation and dissemination
- Office support services such as photocopying, word processing, email, etc.
- Wantok Communication Services: computer training and trouble-shooting, Web Page design, efficient and competitive email system
- Disaster Management Project

VANGO has been revived through the European Union – funded Vanuatu Partners In Development (VANPID) project. Current program activities revolve around the issue of Capacity Building, particularly training in areas such as:

- Financial management
- Computing
- Project proposal writing
- Fundraising

A grant of 3 million Vatu was given by the French Embassy in Vanuatu to VANGO to coordinate emergency relief in recent disasters in Tafea and TORBA provinces. In Tanna, various NGOs, Tafea province staff, Government departments, donor agencies, and private individuals worked together towards bringing normalcy back to the South and South East of Tanna.

In TORBA province, part of the assistance was used to aid victims of the latest earthquake on the island of Mere Lava in the Banks Group.

14.1 Communications Profile: VANGO is the national Umbrella body for NGOs in Vanuatu and plays a critical role in information sharing and coordinating actions on various issues affecting the country. VANGO is a member and currently hosts the Pacific Islands Association of Non Government Organizations (PIANGO). VANGO and the Government are currently working on an MOU to formalize the nature of their relationships.

VANGO is the Umbrella body for NGOs within Vanuatu and is an important link to maintain for the implementation of the IWP initiative.

15.0 NATIONAL KOMIUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

The National Komunity Development Trust is an indigenous non-governmental organization established in 1979. It is a national organization which helps the people of rural communities and urban settlements of Vanuatu to improve their social, economic and moral well being by providing technical aid and training service. NKDT is a member of the Vanuatu Association of Non Government Organizations (VANGO) and also has relationships with other NGOs such as PNG Trust, Solomon Islands Development Trust, the South Pacific Consumer Protection Programme and Mel Trust.

NKDT's objectives are to:

- Promote ni-Vanuatu self-determination
- Promote a peaceful and just society
- Have equal participation in the development process
- Maintain and promote tradaitional knowledge, customs and practices for the benefit of present and future generations

NKDT carries out the following programs:

- Environment awareness programme by mobile teams on resource use and sustainable development
- Consumer protection programme to inform consumers of their rights and responsibilities,
- Local language literacy programs o promote literacy for children and adults and empower people to take part in their communities.

NKDT staff and rural network can be part of the planning, implementation and follow up of the IWP initiative.

16.0 CONSULTANCY REPORT ON TRADITIONAL MARINE TENURE IN VANUATU (published in 2001)

An assessment in 2001 titled, “Recent evolution of village-based marine resource management in Vanuatu” by Francis Hickey and Bob Joannes looked at the effectiveness of village-based marine resource management, particularly the period between 1993 and 2001. In 1993 a study of coastal villages in Vanuatu revealed that within the previous three years there had been a rapid increase in marine resource management (MRM) activities. The initial impetus for these events was the Vanuatu Fisheries Department’s promotion of a voluntary, village-based trochus management programme. Initially the programme involved only a few fishing villages out of a total of several hundred. The Department surveyed their community trochus stocks, advised the people that regular several-year closures of their trochus fishery, followed by brief openings, would generate far more profit than the usual practice of harvesting continually.

The 2001 assessment revealed that village-based MRM measures had more than doubled between 1993 and 2001. There were a total of 40 MRM measures in the 21 villages in 1993. By 2001 five of these had lapsed but 51 new ones had been implemented.

The assessment also revealed that while the Fisheries Department continued its seminal extension work in the villages, and broadened its scope, another potent source of motivation for village-based MRM that emerged in 1995 was the locally renowned traveling theatre group, Wan Smol Bag (WSB). WSB brought to many villages a play on the plight of sea turtles. WSB’s efforts were catalytic as 11 of the 21 villages surveyed banned or restricted harvesting of turtles within the next several years. WSB also encouraged many villages to select ‘turtle monitors’ to tag turtles and to help oversee the conservation of turtles and turtle eggs in their villages.

Several lessons emerged from the 2001 assessment:

- When properly targeted, village education on marine conservation can be a very powerful tool. In addition to the proliferation of village-based MRM initiatives, the observance of national marine conservation laws was enhanced. An important reason for villagers disobeying these regulations in the past was found to be their widespread ignorance of them or of their rationale. Once informed of these laws and their justifications, villagers’ observance of these regulations was reportedly much improved.
- The initial focus of both the Fisheries Department and WSB on single important animals seems to have been more effective in enhancing village conservation awareness than if the more complex goal of total coastal resource management had been targeted right away.
- The Fisheries Department emphasizes that customary marine tenure (CMT) – the traditional right of villagers to control activities on their traditional fishing grounds and to exclude outsiders – provides the essential foundation for nearshore MRM in Vanuatu...
- One way of encouraging the resolution of CMT disputes is the withholding of outside MRM assistance from Villages where such disputes are active

- Government personnel and aid donors need to be aware of the fact that subsistence fishing in nearshore waters is worth more in almost all Pacific Island economies (including Vanuatu's) than nearshore commercial fishing. The distribution of government fisheries management resources often suggests government personnel and aid donors believe the opposite. Fisheries extension work targeting village-based MRM deserves greater support.

It is recommended that more resources are committed to continuing with the Fisheries extension work targeting village-based MRM. This would of course include training and awareness raising on MRM.

17.0 LAND USE PLANNING OFFICE

Information on terrain, vegetation, etc. can be obtained from the Lands Department, particularly the Land Use Planning section. The Land Use Planning Office may be consulted in the Implementing the International Waters Programme initiative.

18.0 WAN SMOL BAG THEATRE

18.1 Current programs related to IWP focus areas:

- **Waste Management Awareness:** In 2002, Wan Smol Bag developed various plays and presented in schools throughout Efate, particularly in Port Vila. Following these presentations schools have taken an interest in developing further these plays. School committees made up mainly of children are now involved in developing more plays with Wan Smol Bag. It is hoped that this initiative in future will develop into being part of the formal education system. Funding is now being sought for the continuation of this initiative
- **River Management:** In 2002, Wan Smol Bag Theatre also developed a play with the Department of Geology and Mines about management of river systems, particular awareness on effects of bad management on the river ecosystem. 8 performances were staged by Wan Smol Bag particularly around Efate.
- **Turtle Monitoring:** Wan Smol Bag has been involved in this activity since 1995. There is a network of turtle monitors around Vanuatu. In places like the Maskylenes on Malekula, the number of ritual turtle killings every year has dropped from around 150 to 30. Annual meetings are held where information are shared amongst the monitors and also with Fisheries department, etc.

18.2 Wan Smol Bag future plans involves continuing to develop Plays based on needs and concerns raised by communities, government, etc.

19.0 OBSERVATIONS

- The majority of Government Departments and Non Government Organizations consulted appear to have had more on *Marine Protected Areas, and Sustainable Fisheries* related activities than focusing on *Protection and Conservation of Freshwater, and Management of Community-Based Waste*.
- The Fisheries Department, Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources, Environment Unit, and the Vanuatu Kaljarol Senta currently appear to be in positions to play lead roles in the implementation of IWP
- Civil Society networks have had long histories in working with rural communities. These networks provide very useful mechanisms for the implementation of IWP
- An integrated approach is needed for implementation of IWP.

20.0 MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES RAISED

- There was concern that 80% of resources allocated for IWP work is used up mainly to maintain the operations of SPREP staff associated with the Project.
- Call for quick decision and implementation of the IWP initiative.
- More flexibility is required from the relevant agencies to ensure that there is minimal delay in implementation of IWP
- There exist a perception that SPREP is doing too much dictating rather than responding to the special circumstances and needs of the recipient countries.
- There is a growing perception that many departments and NGOs are increasingly becoming “distribution points” for International initiatives. These local entities should ensure that programs carried out are derived from proper assessments of local needs and concerns.

21.0 REFUTED INFORMATION

Page Number	Issue	Status
6	Hydrocarbon Spill Management and Remediation project proposal	Geology and Mines currently have no such project
6	Women and Forestry	No such project at the Forestry Department and Environment Unit
6	Vanuatu Environment Organization (VEO)	No longer exist
6	Appropriate Technology for Sanitation	Does not exist at the Vanuatu National Council of Women
17	Department of Minerals and Water Resources	Actual name is Department of Geology, Mines and Rural Water Supply
26 and 31	International Marine Alliance	No longer exist

Figure 1: SUMMURY OF ORGANIZATIONAL IWP-RELATED ACTIVITIES

AGENCY	PAST ACTIVITIES	CURRENT ACTIVITIES (On-going activities)	FUTURE PLANS (implementation depends on Funding availability)	COMMUNICATIONS PROFILE
Environment Unit		<p>a) International Waters Project: A 5-year program funded through SPREP until 2006.</p> <p>b) National Biodiversity Strategy – 3 year program funded by the Global Environment Fund (GEF) through the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)</p> <p>c) Climate Change: this SPREP funded project is part of the wider Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Program. This program is now located at the Meteorological department and funded by the Canada International Development Agency (CIDA) for the next 5 years.</p>	<p>a) Bio-diversity assessment phase 2</p> <p>b) Development of National Biodiversity Framework</p> <p>c) Facilitating Community and Landholder initiated Conservation</p> <p>d) Boufa Landfill and sludge Treatment Development and Management Plan</p> <p>e) Vanuatu Solid Waste Action Work</p> <p>f) Strengthening Capacity for conservation of coastal resources</p> <p>g) School Environmental Newsletter</p> <p>h) National Climate Change Capacity Building Project</p> <p>i) MONTREAL PROTOCOL: A SPREP funded project to begin Mid 2003. This 3-year project will deal mainly with training and awareness raising on International legislations relating to the emissions of gases into the atmosphere.</p>	<p>Long history forging and maintaining links with other government departments, rural communities, NGOs, donor agencies, International agencies, etc.</p>
Department of Geology and Mines		<p>a) As an on-going activity, the department of Geology, Mines and Rural Water Supply is working with other Government departments to monitor the bay and lagoons around Port Vila on a quarterly basis. The department is considering expanding this service to Luganville.</p> <p>b) The department intends to carry out bivalves and gastropod testing, particularly for heavy metals. The reason being that these are bio-accumulators and are frequently harvested and sold in our domestic markets. The department of geology, mines and rural water supply currently does not have the necessary equipment to carry out the required tests.</p>	<p>a) Hand Pump replacement project (East Epi)</p> <p>b) Rural Drilling and Hand Pump installation Project (West Epi)</p> <p>c) Eton Water Supply assessment</p> <p>d) Expanding Capacity of Water Resource Assessment Program</p> <p>e) Groundwater monitoring programme – Bouffa landfill facility</p> <p>f) Buloa/Aligu Water Supply, Pentecost</p> <p>g) Catchment and Communities project</p>	

Rural Water Supply Section			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Navota School Water Supply project b) Santa Maria Water Supply project c) Lukila Water Supply Project d) Irevarov Water Supply Project e) MALAMPA Small Water Supply Project f) Faralou Water Supply Project g) Ndui Ndui Water Supply project h) Nematautu Water Supply Project 	
Energy Unit			Talise Mini Hydro Power Project	
Forestry Department			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Development of the national sector development plan b) Landowner extension and awareness-reforestation c) Maskelynes Mangrove Management Plan d) Restocking of Vanuatu National Forest Areas 	Good links with other government departments, communities, donors, NGOs, private businesses, etc. Has developed over the years through its extension workers, good working relationships, particularly with rural communities.
Agriculture Department			Tafea Agriculture Rural Fisheries and Marketing Accessibility	Extensive network of field workers
Lands Department				VANRIS is a very useful tool that can be utilized to identify areas for development.
Fisheries Department		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Community – Based Fishing Development Project (on-going) b) Seaweed (Eucheuma Cottonii) farming project (on-going) c) Coral monitoring 		Good relations with other departments, donors, NGOs, etc. Fisheries in the past has assisted FSP in stock assessment and aquarium development. RTC's and the women's network assisted in the Fisheries Department clamp shell development.
National Tourism Development Office (NTDO)		Back up support to Tourism Development in Vanuatu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Port Vila Yacht Sewerage Plant, and b) World Heritage Scoping Study 	
Kaljoral Center		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Capacity Building for environmental Management in the Pacific b) Traditional Marine Tenure project c) Women's Traditional Marine Tenure project d) Training on Traditional Environmental Management and Traditional Marine Tenure 		Large and extensive network of field workers throughout Vanuatu. Good communications links, locally, regionally and internationally.

Vanuatu Rural Development Training Centers Association (VRDTCA)		On-going Modules development	Seeking Core Support for next phase of its development	The VRDTCA quarterly newsletter is widely distributed and read. To enable VRDTCA carry out its outreach functions, its AGM in 2001 agreed that VRDTCA should also look at setting up Provincial Rural Development Training Centers Association (PRDTCA). The setting up of PRDTCA should enable the RTCs to benefit from local alliances both with each other and with provincial governments, and will also potentially make easier for VRDTCA to deliver services. VRDTCA participates in the Vanuatu National Training Council (VNTC) and is a member of the National Task Force for Non Formal Education (NFE).
National Komiuniti Development Trust (NKDT)		a) Environment awareness programme by mobile teams on resource use and sustainable development b) Consumer protection programme to inform consumers of their rights and responsibilities, c) Local language literacy programs o promote literacy for children and adults and empower people to take part in their communities.		NKDT has an extensive network of field workers throughout Vanuatu.
Rural Skills Training Program (RSTP)		a) Quality of life assessments in rural Vanuatu b) Designing training programs to meet community needs c) Evaluating training and re-designing if necessary		RSTP has an extensive network of field workers throughout Vanuatu
Vanuatu Association of NGOs (VANGO)	Disaster Management Project	a) Disaster Management Project (Tafea and Torba) b) Vanuatu Partners In Development (VANPID) Project	Continue to strengthen itself	VANGO is the national Umbrella body for NGOs in Vanuatu and plays a critical role in information sharing and coordinating actions on various issues affecting the country. VANGO is a member and currently hosts the Pacific Islands Association of Non Government Organizations (PIANGO). VANGO and the Government are currently working on an MOU to formalize the nature of their relationships.

FSP Vanuatu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Disaster Management b) Coconut timber c) accounting service d) community vulnerability reduction training e) Wild yam cultivation f) community environment and forestry project g) community eco-forestry project h) Participatory natural resource management i) Village resource planning j) Profitable Environment Protection Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Non Communicable disease b) Youth Drop-in Centers (Vila and Luganville) c) Provincial Institutional Strengthening project d) Voices and Choices: Gardening Good Governance e) Non-Timber Forest Products 	Depends on outcomes of assessments of community needs and concerns – and of course, funding availability	FSP has a Youth Drop In Center in Luganville, Santo and has projects through the years that have been implemented in many areas throughout Vanuatu. Main form of contact is through phone, annual reports, and personal contacts (through workshops, etc).
REDI		The Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) is being developed in most of the provinces to strengthen each province's economic viability – REDI also focuses on strengthening the mechanism for service delivery to rural areas and encourages greater involvement of rural communities in the national decision making process.	REDI to be implemented in all provinces throughout the country.	An integral part of the Provincial and local councils' network.
Vanuatu National Council of Women		Provincial Outreach program	Provincial Outreach program	The VNCW has a very good network throughout Vanuatu. There is regular contact with its members, particularly through phone, radio, personal contacts, and through other forms of communications. Relations with other NGOs, Government departments, and donors has been generally good. There is however emphasis on better collaboration and sharing of information, particularly where resources are concerned.
Wan Smol Bag Theatre		a) <i>Waste Management Awareness</i> : In 2002, Wan Smol Bag developed various plays and presented in schools throughout Efate, particularly in Port Vila. Following these presentations schools have taken an interest in developing further these plays. School committees made up mainly	Continue to develop Plays based on needs and concerns raised by communities, government, etc. Wan Smol Bag has in the past developed materials, and staged plays that address some of the issue now taken up in the International Waters Project	

		<p>of children are now involved in developing more plays with Wan Smol Bag. It is hoped that this initiative in future will develop into being part of the formal education system. Funding is now being sought for the continuation of this initiative</p> <p>b) <i>River Management:</i> In 2002, Wan Smol Bag Theatre also developed a play with the Department of Geology and Mines about management of river systems, particular awareness on effects of bad management on the river ecosystem. 8 performances were staged by Wan Smol Bag particularly around Efate.</p> <p>c) <i>Turtle Monitoring:</i> Wan Smol Bag has been involved in this activity since 1995. There is a network of turtle monitors around Vanuatu. In places like the Maskylenes on Malekula, the number of ritual turtle killings every year has dropped from around 150 to 30. Annual meetings are held where information are shared amongst the monitors and also with Fisheries department, etc.</p>		
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Figure 2: SUMMARY OF ORGANIZATIONS WITH INTERESTS IN IWP FOCUS AREAS

IWP FOCUS AREAS	Marine Protected Areas	Sustainable Fisheries	Protection and Conservation of Freshwater	Management of Community-Based Waste
ORGANIZATIONS	Environment Unit, Fisheries Department, Forestry Department, Lands Department, Geology and Mines, National Tourism Development Office, Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta, Wan Smol Bag Theatre, Rural Skills Training Program,	Fisheries, Agriculture Department, Vanuatu Kaljarol Senta, Wan Smol Bag, Rural Skills Training Program	Environment Unit, Geology and Mines and Water resources, Energy Unit, Forestry Department, Lands Department, Wan Smol Bag	Environment Unit, Geology and Mines, Lands Department, Wan Smol Bag

Figure 3: OVERALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ROLES IN IWP-RELATED FOCUS AREAS

GOVERNMENT AGENCY	INTERESTS IN RELATION TO IWP
Department of Foreign Affairs	Overall coordination of Internationally linked activities, including being SPRP official focal point
Ministry of Lands, Energy, Environment, Geology, Mines and Water Resources	Overall administration of environment affairs and land management, mining and rural water supply
Environment Unit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBSAP • PICCAP 	SPREP Operational Focal Point. Environment issues and concerns nationally and internationally. Environment protection and biodiversity conservation Climate Change Coordinating Unit
Ministry of Agriculture and Quarantine, Forestry, Fisheries, Department of Fisheries and Rural Fisheries Extension Office Department of Agriculture Vanuatu Quarantine Inspection Services Department of Forests	Overall administration of natural resources. Administer local, national and regional development of Fisheries activities for Vanuatu. Oversees marine protected areas activities in Vanuatu Sustainable agricultural activities. Scientific technical resource institute for sustainable agriculture Monitors introduced evasive species Sustainable Forest Management
Ministry and Department of Health	Waste disposal, rural water supply plus healthy environment and people
Ministry of Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Economic and Social Development (DESD) • Department of Finance 	Integrated national planning and foreign aid management Administering IWP Vanuatu project fund
Vanuatu Cultural Centre	Traditional coastal marine tenure
Department of Provincial Affairs, Culture and Women's Affairs Women's Affairs Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI)	Provincial, local and Community level government Women's participation in local, national and regional development Provincial Community Development Program

Education Department	National Education and awareness
Vanuatu Investment Promotion Authority (VIPA)	Investment promotion and local participation
Department of Infrastructure and Public Works	Urban sewage disposal
Municipalities (Luganville and Port Vila)	Urban general waste disposal, landfills
State Law Office	Promotes and safeguard the rights of resource owners; provide legislation to ensure sustainable use of resources in the country
National Tourism Office	Tourism promotion
UNELCO	Urban Water Supply
Vanuatu Maritime Authority (VMA)	Technical Advisory Authority to marine waste disposal (salvage of vessels, oil spills, etc.)
Chamber of Commerce	Promoting private sector interest in the country; including Fisheries, mining, agriculture, Forestry.
FSP Vanuatu	Local Community participation in environment conservation, education awareness, etc
National Council of Churches	Participation at the local community and National level in decision making
Wan Smol Bag	Education and awareness
Vanuatu National Council of Women	Participation of Women at the local and national level in decision making
Vanuatu Rural Development Training Centers Association	Education and Awareness
Loru Protected Area	Local Community participation in resource management
Vathe Conservation Area	Local Community participation in resource management
Rotary Club	Local participation in Urban Waste Management
Kiwanis	Local participation in Urban Waste Management
National Councils of Youth	Local Community participation
Eco-tourism	Local Community participation
Mystery Island Marine Conservation Area	Local Community participation
USP	Technical Resource Support
AusAid, British High Commission, New Zealand High Commission, Asian Development Bank	Providing funding for projects aimed at improving community life

Figure 4: PEOPLE CONSULTED

NAME	POSITION	ORGANIZATION
Johnson Wabaiat	Director General	Ministry of Internal Affairs
Bob Loughman	Director	Department of Provincial Affairs
James Selwyn	National Coordinator	Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) office
Peter Kolmas	Coordinator	Internal Affairs Cultural Project
Doresthy Kenneth	Director	Agriculture Department
Moses Amos	Director	Fisheries Department
David Hopa	Planner	Department of Economic and Social Development
James Toa	Senior Planner	Department of Economic and Social Development
Mariane Kaun	Trainer	Rural Skills Training Program
Ralph Regenvanu	Director	Vanuatu Kaljarol Center
Francis Hickey	Consultant	Vanuatu Kaljarol Center
Rexon Moli	Senior Officer	Forestry Department
Philemon Ala	Senior Officer	Forestry Department
Kathy Solomon	Care taker	Vanuatu Rural Development Training Centers Association (VRDTCA)
Carol Aru	Staff	VRDTCA
Lai Sakita	Director	National Komuniti Development Trust (NKDT)
Jenny Ligo	Director	Vanuatu National Council of Women
Alicta Vuti	Lands Officer	Department of Lands
Ernest Bani	Principle Environment Officer	Environment Unit
Russel Nari	Senior Officer	Environment Unit
Donna Kalfatak	Project Coordinator	NBSAP
Leah Nimoho	National Coordinator	National IWP Coordinating Unit
Avio Roberts	Development Officer	National Tourism Development Office
Ioan Christopher	Director	Department of Geology, Mines and Rural Water Supply
Jenny Whyte	Consultant	FSPI
Abel Tabisiwei	Consultant	FSP Vanuatu
Charles Vatu	Consultant	FSP Vanuatu
Dickinson Tevi	Management	Vanuatu Association of NGOs (VANGO)
Jo Dorras	Team Leader	Wan Smol Bag Theatre

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