

Community Based Coastal Resource Management (CBCRM) plan for Aneityum



The community of Aneityum

October 2014

Project for Promotion of Grace of Seas in Coastal Villages, Phase 2

Vanuatu Fisheries Department
Japan International Cooperation Agency
IC Net Limited



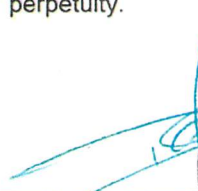
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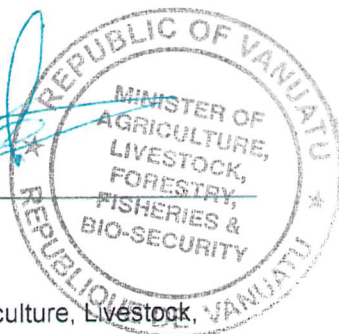
Coastal Marine resources have long played an important role as a daily source of protein for the inhabitants of coastal Vanuatu. In addition, marine resources have developed markedly in recent years, such that nowadays they contribute not only to income generation, but also provide a resource for the burgeoning tourist industry. Coastal resources provision the growing population of Vanuatu; they also provide entertainment for thousands of tourists. Therefore, the sustainable use of coastal resource is now of crucial important to both the food security and tourist sectors of the economy. As a consequence, the need for coastal resource management continues to increase significantly in our nation.

The Vanuatu Fisheries Department has supported people to elaborate their own management plans in coastal communities like the Crab Bay Area of Malakula Island, North West Area of Efate Island, and Aneityum Island. At the same time, the Department has encouraged community members to improve their own capacity for coastal resources management by collaborating with the " Project of Grace of the Seas for the Coastal Villages in Vanuatu", which is financed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The Government of Vanuatu is convinced that sound coastal resource management will be achieved through the efforts of these communities, and that the results will serve as a model of resource management and thereby be extended to other coastal communities.

We wish to request that all stakeholders put their hands and heads to work alongside the members coastal communities, to realize the sustainable use of our natural resource in perpetuity.


David Tosul
Minister
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock,
Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity




William Naviti
Acting Director
Fisheries Department



Community-Based Coastal Resource Management (CBCRM) plan for Aneityum

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

CBCRM (Community-Based Coastal Resource Management) consists of resource management measures and supporting measures. It is based on four different perspectives:

1. The resource and environment perspective, which includes both scientific resource survey and awareness raising on the importance of resource management;
2. The economy and production perspective, which is mainly the introduction of alternative sources of income to reduce dependence on coastal resources;
3. The social and culture perspective, which establishes a solid organization based on the traditional experience and knowledge for the implementation of CBCRM; and
4. The institutional and governance perspective for government and NGOs to support the first three perspectives.

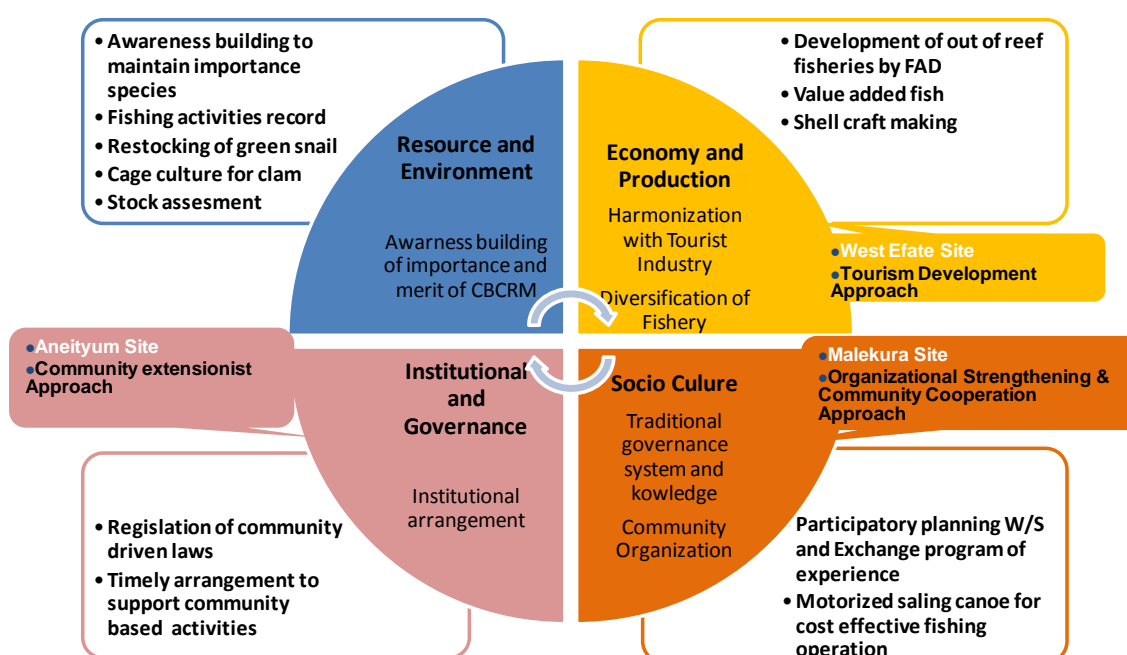


Fig1. Main approaches in different perspective

VALEMA is the name of CBCRM approaches created in the three target sites of the JICA Project for “Promotion of Grace of Seas in Coastal Villages in Vanuatu, Phase 2”. The name of the approaches came from Vanuatu, Lelema, Malakula, and Aneityum.

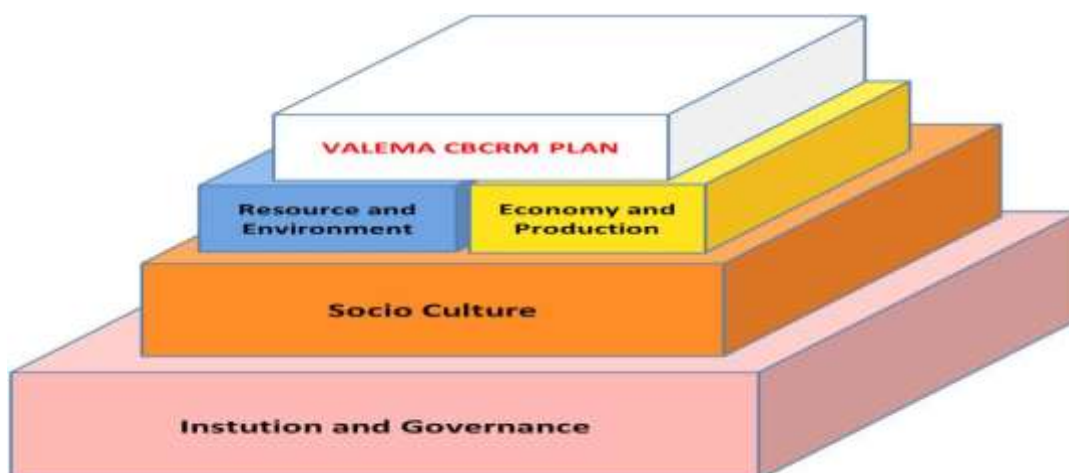


Fig2. Structure of VALEMA CBCRM Plan

One accomplishment of the Project is that community members formulated the CBCRM Plan. The Plan consists of two main parts. The first is regulation to promote resource management, and the second is the action plan to support the promotion of resource management.

One of the most important lessons learned during implementation of the pilot projects is that resource management can be promoted effectively only when combined with supporting measures. Bearing this in mind, community members made a three-five year Action Plan.

1.2. CBCRM and Related Issues

There follows a brief description of some general issues on CBCRM observed in Vanuatu.

Fragility of Traditional Social Systems

The recent shift to a market-based economy has increased the movement and relocation of people to Port Vila, the capital city, to earn cash incomes. This trend appears to have led to a devaluation of traditional social systems, one result of which is the reduced importance of the traditional management of fisheries and resources.

Limited Alternative Means of Improving Livelihoods

To enable residents to carry out CBCRM on a voluntary basis when the need for cash income is increasing, it is essential to provide them with other means to make a living when resources are unavailable owing to conservation activities or other constraints. However, that is difficult to do within the community alone.

Efficacy of Traditional Resource-Management Zones

The effectiveness of these zones is unclear because no baseline surveys or similar activities have been conducted. Many zones are small, at just a few hundred square meters. Further, many have been established based a community's own notions, rather than on scientific grounds.

In the case of Aneityum the following three issues are also observed.

The Pressure on Resources Owing to the Sale of Lobsters to Tourists

The sale of lobsters to tourists, which began in recent years, has proven quite successful. Despite the application of resource management measures, such as size limitation and catch data collection, they appear not enough to maintain the lobster resource. If the pressure on the resource continues, then depletion is likely. It is imperative to manage the lobster resource effectively because this would be a good management model for application to other species not yet regulated according to the Fisheries Law.

Absence of Fisheries Department staff

Owing to geographical remoteness combined with the limited financial and human resource of the Fisheries Department, no FD staff member is based in Aneityum.

Declining awareness of the importance of resource management among community members

Community members have been complying with resource management measures. However, pressure for the temporal opening of the MPA area is increasing, such that prospects for continued compliance are now uncertain.

2. CBCRM plan

2.1 Target Species

Species controlled closely according to the Fisheries Law and the possible introduction of a TAC system

The target species described below are of major importance to coastal communities throughout Vanuatu. Three resources have gone through the normal boom and bust cycle. As a result the Fisheries Department is considering implementation of the following strategy:

- i) The species currently open for harvesting, such as Sea cucumber and Trochus, will be managed under a rotational strategy to control harvesting in different provinces and reduce the risk of overharvesting. The total harvest per area at a given time will be determined using Total Allowable Catch (TAC);
- ii) Once stock assessment has determined that resources have recovered, the rotational system will be replaced by the TAC alone.

In the case of Mystery Island and the Aneityum area the following target species are managed using local rules established by the CBCRM Committee and aimed at enabling stocks to recover: The three species are:

- Green snail. Commercial harvesting of this resource is banned nationwide until 2019. (See the attached report from the EFTAV Project for more information on the status of Green snail in the Lelema area.) Aneityum Island is the only location in Vanuatu with a good stock of Green snail, and the Fisheries Department is progressing with stock assessment surveys to determine the stock condition before a decision can be made regarding a management regime.
- Trochus. This resource shows some evidence of stock recovery. However, stocks are low at present in the open areas and high in taboo areas. Therefore it is recommended that prior to any harvest the Fisheries Department provides a TAC to the community to avoid overharvesting of this resource. (See the EFITAV Project report for more information.)
- Sea cucumber. The TAC for the Aneityum Sea cucumber harvestable stock will be made available by the Fisheries Department, based on rotational harvesting. Sea cucumber companies cannot purchase the TAC without the permission of the CBCRM Committee and the Aneityum Council of Chiefs. This approach is currently enforced by the Fisheries Department. under the *Fisheries Law*.

Species controlled by community regulation (See Fig 3.).

2.2 Objectives of resource management in Aneityum

The main objective in Aneityum is to improve the management of lobster and other main species.











Prior to this Project, there was voluntary resource management of lobsters. A taboo area had been established around Mystery Island, there was a 25 cm minimum size limit for lobster that could be sold to tourists visiting Mystery Island, and data was collected on the size and quantity of lobsters sold to tourists

Further, community members decided to take additional steps to strengthen the management measures. They established a new taboo area in four zones in Analcauhat (Fig 3. and Table 1.), and additional data was collected on lobsters sold to tourists in order to divide the catch area into the four sections of east, west, south and north (Fig 4.).



Fig3. Map and regulation of new taboo areas in Analcauhat, including target species

Table 1. Zones and Taboo Area

| ZONE | BOUNDRY | Location | TABOO AREA (LANDMARK) | MANAGEMENT MESURE (Gear or species) | Landmark starting point | Landmark ending point |
|--------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| ZONE 1 | Aniplithei to Analvinec | S 020°14'15,97" E169°48'54.97" | Aniplithei (river mouth) to Anijethuros (Rocks) | Trochus and Green snail |  |  |
| | | S 020°14'06,72" E169°47'36.62" | | | | |
| ZONE 2 | Analvinec to Anijijiau | S 020°14'06,72" E169°47'36.62" | Anijanumu (Reggea beach) to Blue water SDA (Tall coconut) | Small hooks and cast net, gill net (4') – Seagrass area |  |  |
| | | S 020°14'04,05" E169°46'07.96" | | | | |
| ZONE 3 | Anijijiau (SDA tall coconut) to Anithwunamaukuri | S 020°14'04,05" E169°46'07.96" | Anijijao (2 pine trees) to Uje bay (black stone) | Green snail and trochus |  |  |
| | | S 020°12'55,88" E169°45'28.55" | | | | |
| ZONE 4 | Anithwunamaukuri to Anthwunabunmop (Coconut) | S 020°12'55,88" E169°45'28.55" | Ivahak to Anwaj bay | No take for all species Lobster by night diving |  |  |
| | | S 020°10'19,00" E169°44'31.04" | Anabras to Anthwunabunmop | Anabras to Anthwunabunmop |  |  |
| ZONE 5 | Mystery Island | S 020°14'37,04" E169°45'49.07" | Mystery and stone | No take for all species | | |
| Special zone | | S 020°12'58,98" E169°44'38.90" | 3 mile reef | No take for all species | | |

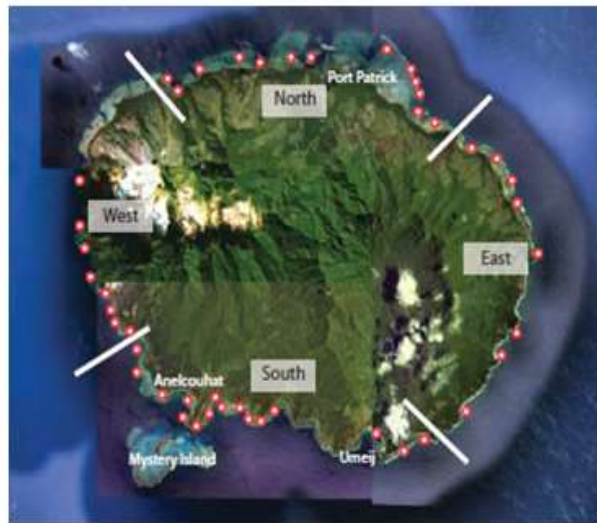


Fig4. Map of Lobster fishing ground

2.3. Strategies

Utilization of community extension officer

In a site like Aneityum, where no FD staff member is assigned and governmental service limited, promotion of the active involvement of community members is indispensable. According to the *Fisheries Law*, the FD is empowered to appoint and authorize Community Extension Officers. Aneityum is the first instance of a Community Extension Officer having been appointed through in such a way.

Capacity-building of assistants for Community Extension Officers

The role of a Community Extension Officer is to supervise the promotion of CBCRM and its supporting activities. Since a Community Extension Officer might lack specialized skills and knowledge, enhancing the capacity of his/her assistants is indispensable. Through the implementation of a pilot project, community members organized sub-groups, each of which is specialized in a specific activity like FAD, fish café, and shell polishing, among others. The leader of each group is the Assistant to the Community Extension Officer.

2.4 Action Plan to support CBCRM

As explained in the Introduction, one of the most important lessons learned during the implementation of the pilot projects is that resource management needs effective supporting measures. Bearing this in mind, community members made an Action Plan based on the

four perspectives of the VALEMA approach (see 1.1 Introduction).

2.5 Linkage between management and supporting measures

Without proper supervision, measures to generate alternative income could have an adverse effect on the promotion of CBCRM. Community members discussed this point and set up the management accordingly..

FAD and fish café

The Resource Management Committee supervises the FAD and fish café Committee to ensure that the fishing pressure on the alternative resources to lobster (mainly bottom fish and pelagic fish) is controlled.

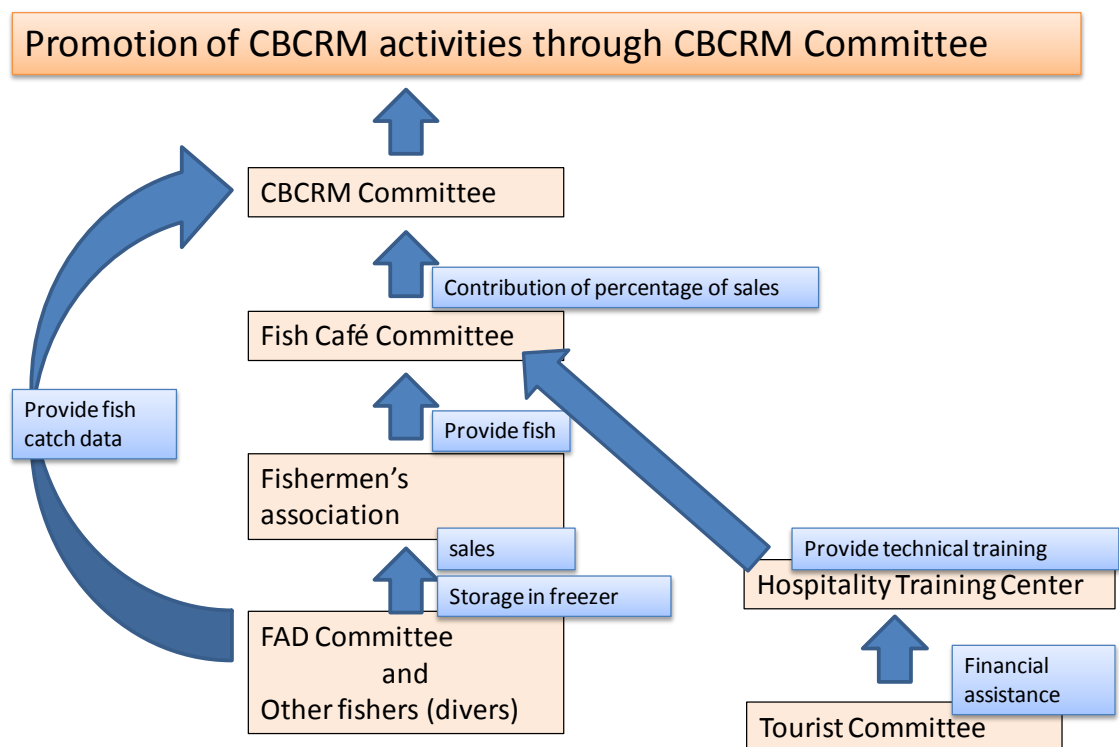


Fig 5. Structure of CBCRM Committee (1)

Shell-polishing

The Resource Management Committee supervises the shell-polishing group to ensure that the activity does not result in increased pressure on living shellfish resources.

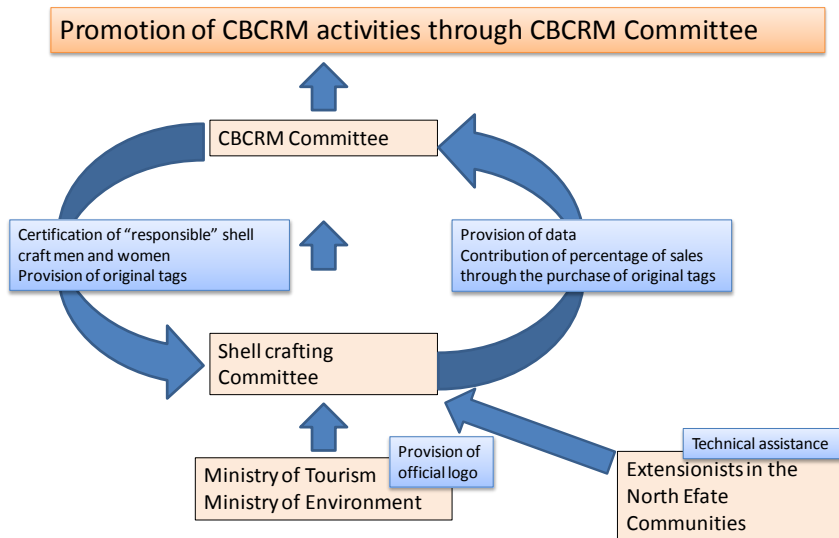


Fig 6. Structure of CBCRM Committee (2)

2.6 Implementation structure

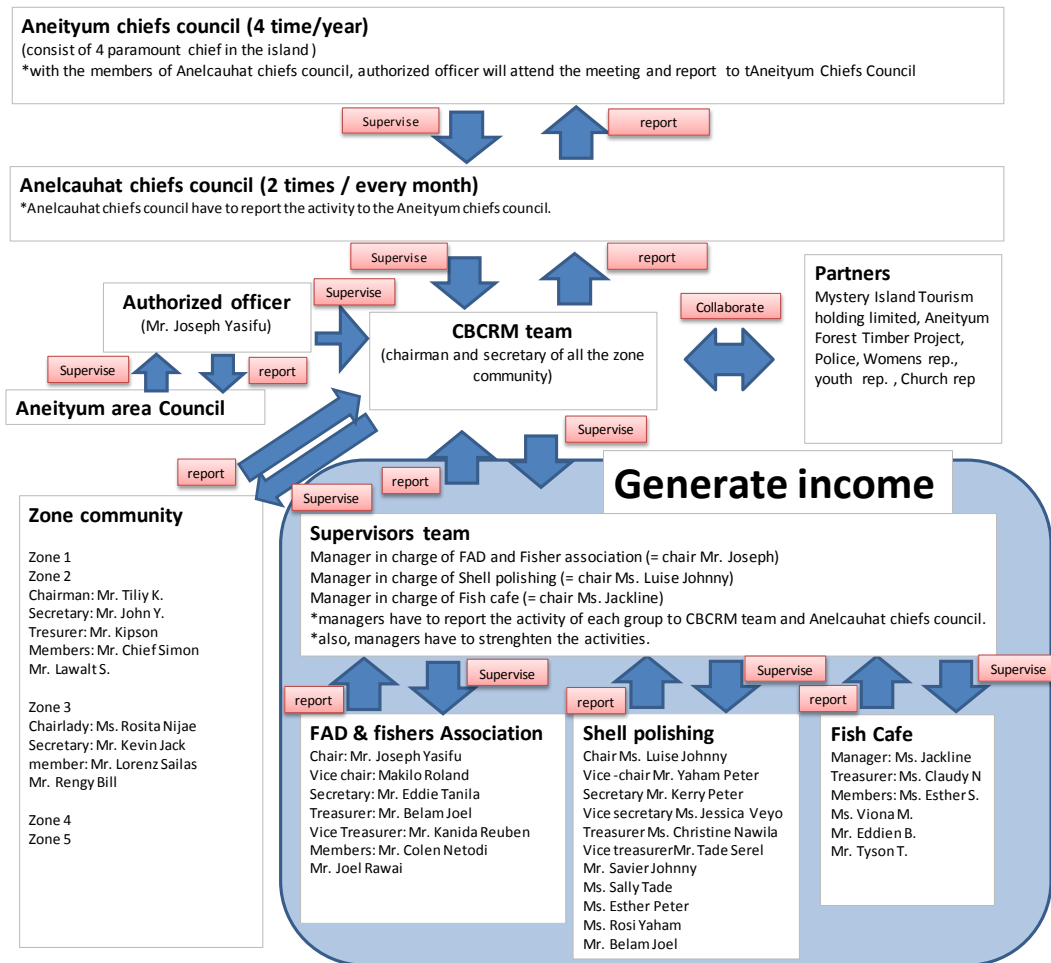


Fig 7. Implementation structure (as of July 2014)

2.7 Monitoring and reviewing process

As shown in the organizational structure, the Aneityum Council of Chiefs and the Analcauhat Council of Chiefs are the supervising bodies. They hold regular meetings; four times per year and twice a month, respectively. The CBCRM team reports the status of CBCRM and progress on the Action Plan. Should issues arise, the Councils of Chiefs would monitor the situation and issue an instruction for a review. This is the traditional process of governance. In parallel, the authorized officer will also monitor and participate in the monitoring and review. An authorized officer communicates closely with the FD staff assigned to Tana and Port Vila, to report on the situation and discuss problems and solutions that arise.

2.8 Dispute resolution

This section of the Plan deals with dispute resolution arising from area access and resources use. Offences within the jurisdiction of the Aneityum Council of Chiefs are dealt with at the community level. Offences against national legislation and regulations will be dealt with by the relevant Government agency, in close collaboration with the CBCRM Committee and the and Aneityum Council of Chiefs.

The relevant community enforcement groups, committees and working groups will be responsible for implementing and enforcing the Plan at the community level.

Acknowledgements;

The Aneityum CBCRM Management Plan Formulation Committee wishes to thank those members of the community who participated in all meetings and consultations in Aneityum, and who shared views that contributed to the completion of this Plan. The community of Aneityum is grateful to JICA for funding the “Grace of the Sea Project”. The community is grateful to the ICNET Team of Seko-san, Inuma-san, Nishiyama-san, Fuji-san, and Takayama-san for their immeasurable assistance and perseverance in completing this Plan and the associated Action Plans. The assistance of FAI Company, especially that of Sone-san and Kiku-san, is also greatly appreciated. The community wishes to thank the Government of Vanuatu, especially the Fisheries Department officers, Director William Naviti, Graham Nimoho and George Amos, for their tireless efforts in organizing and mobilizing the community consultation process that ensured completion of this Plan.

The community of Aneityum is ever grateful for the unstinting support it received from the Chairman of the Aneityum Council of Chiefs and the Chiefs of each area for their strong leadership of the community CBCRM Plan Formulation Team to successfully complete and launch this Plan. To the team members, Chairman of Aneityum Council of Chiefs, Chiefs of each area, Mr. Reuben Neriam and Mr. Joseph Yasifu, the Aneityum community is thankful for your dedication and time devoted on its behalf to complete this Plan successfully. The efforts and assistance of those not specifically mentioned is nevertheless much appreciated, To the ancestors of the Aneityum people;

"Lumu anjap et numu uja.

Nauwurin'in' Alpas".

None of this achievement of hard work and success would have been achieved without the divine blessing of the Creator, God the Father.

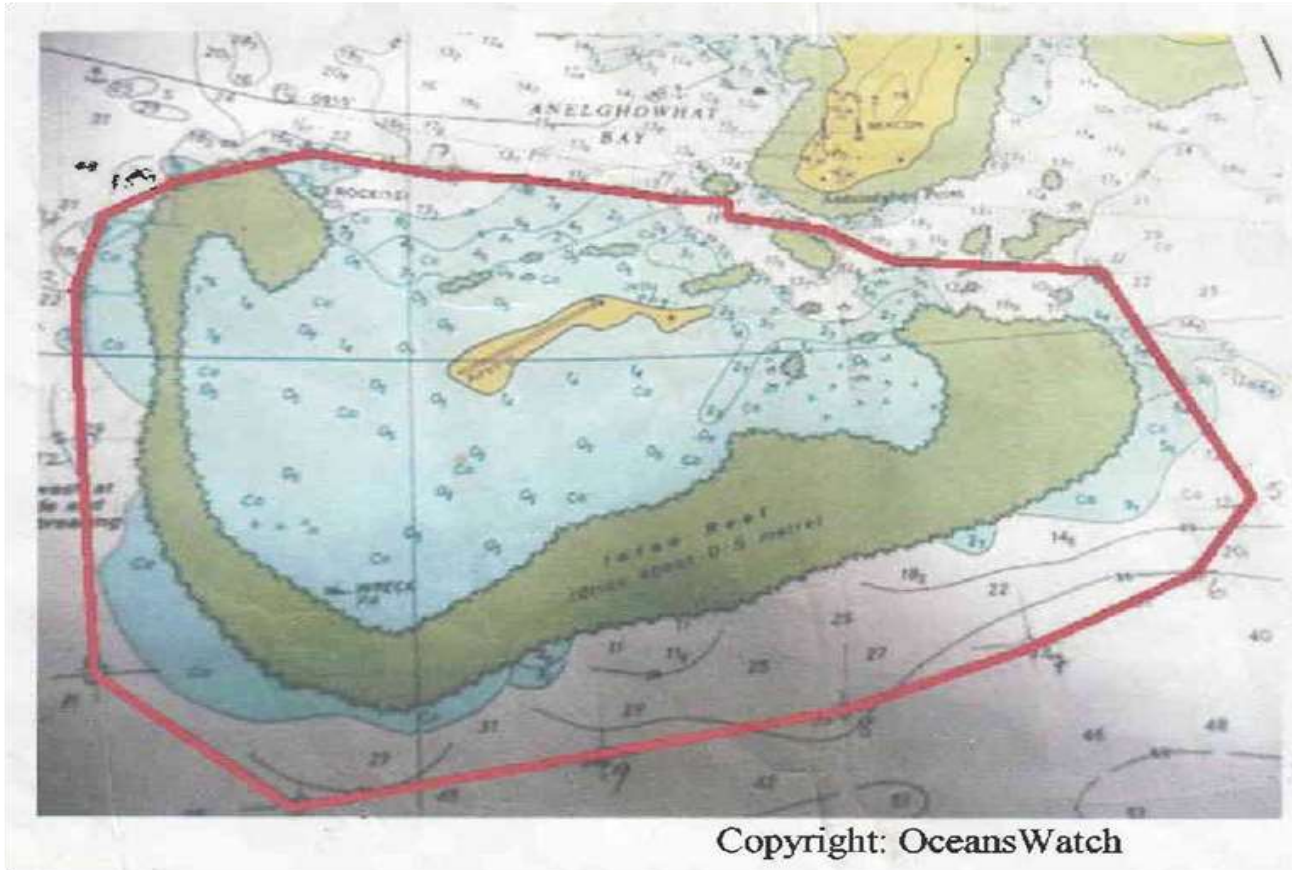
Attachment: Action plan to support CBCRM

| Activities | Period | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | In charge of Activity | | Remarks |
|--|--------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|-----------------------|---|--|
| | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | | 2017 | | | | Gov. | Community | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | |
| Output 1: Promotion of Income Generation Activities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Output 1.1: Increase fish catch | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1: Deploy more FADs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | FAD Committee | Deployment Umeji 2014 Deployment Port Patrik 2014 Deployment Anelcauhut 2015 |
| 1.1.2 : Test fishing by new fishing methods | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Fishermen's Association and FAD Committee | |
| 1.1.3: Apply for duty exemption of fuel for fishing | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Fishermen's Association | |
| 1.1.4: Establish the supply system of fishing gears | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Fishermen's Association | |
| 1.1.5: Hold annual training on engine maintenance and repair | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | FD VMC | Fishermen's Association | |
| 1.1.6: Sail canoe project using traditional canoe | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Fishermen's Association | Zone 1: Canoe Project |
| 1.1.7: Encourage canoe fishing | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Fishermen's Association | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|----|--|-------------------|
| Output 1.2: Add-value of Local Fish | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.1: Establishment of Fishermen's Center | | | | | | | | FD supplies cable |
| 1.2.2: Produce fish fillet | | | | | | | Fishermen's Association | |
| 1.2.3: Sell fish to Tana and cruise ship | | | | | | | Fishermen's Association | |
| 1.2.4: Operate more fish cafés for the sale of local fish | | | | | | | Mystery Island MPA, Fish café manager, Tourism Committee | |
| Output 1.3: Other Alternative Income Sources | | | | | | | | |
| 1.3.1: Make and sell shell-polishing products (sell craft tags) | | | | | | | Shell polishing Committee | |
| Output 2: Strengthening of Local Government System | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1: More awareness to community in Analcauhat (e.g. Church, nakamal) | | | | | | | Aneityum area secretary | 3 times per year |
| 2.2: Promote new CBCRM management plan (Awareness to Analcauhat communities 2014) | | | | | | | Reuben, Joseph, Joel | |
| 2.3: Set up MPAs inside Umeji (Management Plan) | | | | | | FD | Environmental Unit | |
| 2.4: Set up MPAs inside Port Patrick (Management Plan) | | | | | | FD | Environmental Unit | |
| 2.5: Make sure all the local laws and fisheries regulations are followed strictly | | | | | | | Aneityum area secretary | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| Output 3: Establishment and Management of Fishermen Association | | | | | | | | |
| 3.1: Establishment of Fishermen's Association | | | | | | | Reuben, Joseph, Joel | |
| Output 4: Improvement of Resource Management Measures | | | | | | | | |
| 4.1: Carry out monitoring activities for lobsters and fish | | | | | | | Reuben and Joseph | |
| 4.2: Manage lobster data by area | | | | | | | Reuben and Joseph | |
| 4.3: Manage commercial fisheries resources by area | | | | | | | Reuben and Joseph | |
| 4.4: Review Mystery Island Adaptive Management Plan | | | | | | | Analcauhat council of Chiefs, | |
| 4.5: Set up MPA inside Analcauhat | | | | | | | Tourism Project, MPA Committee | |
| 4.6: Reporting system inside MPA and Tourism Board of Management | | | | | | | MPA Committee, Council of Chiefs | |
| 4.7: Others: Analcauhat zone's area report to Council of Chiefs (Analcauhat MPA) | | | | | | | MPA Committee, Council of Chiefs | |
| 4.8: Gear restriction (hooks, line, net etc) 3 times/year | | | | | | | Area secretary, Joseph, Reuben, Joel | Community restriction, based on each area |

Taboo Area at Mystery Island

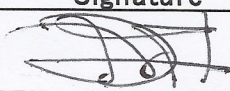

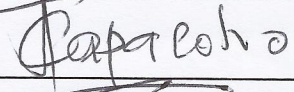
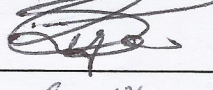
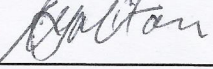


Long dei ia, 1 / October / 2014

Mifala we i saenem community- Based Coastal Resource Management (CBCRM) manejimen plan ia stap deklarem se;

Oi man we oli sign nao oli luk save (kim raet) blong ol aria we i stap long plan blong kam manejmen eria.

Evri man o pipol we oli gat raet mo interest long Komuniti Manejmen Eria ia oli akri mo sapotem long CBCRM.

| Location | Name | Signature |
|----------------|---------------------|--|
| Anawonse | Chief Frank Inhap |  |
| Anelcauhat | Chief Simon Nijina |  |
| Umeij | Chief Cleman George |  |
| Anivap-Awonjei | Chief Nichola Leye |  |
| Anejo | Chief Katawi Saliva |  |