

Aneityum Area Council, Tafea Province



VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT RESULTS - AREA COUNCIL PROFILE

Community-based vulnerability assessments conducted by Matthew Hardwick and Reuben Neriam between 20.11.15 & 25.11.15. Report produced by Matthew Hardwick.



PHOTO: UMEJ VILLAGE, ANEITYUM

ANEITYUM AREA COUNCIL, TAFEA PROVINCE

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

Results elicited from communities during vulnerability assessments conducted in Anelcauhat Village, Umej Village and Anawamet Village in November of 2015.

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1. METHODOLOGY FOR VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS

The term “Vulnerability Assessment” is sometimes used interchangeably with the term “Community Profile” within Vanuatu. Both terms refer to a participatory social engagement tool that elicits information in a group setting about communities in a comprehensive, multi-sector approach. Vulnerability assessments (or community profiles) allow for community members to identify for themselves any relevant vulnerabilities using their contextual knowledge (including those posed by climate change and natural disaster), contribute valuable baseline data about the community as well as define community priorities for development in a fairly short span of time.

There have been multiple methodologies and templates utilized by various stakeholders to conduct vulnerability assessments and community profiles within Vanuatu, however, the Department of Local Authorities (DLA) is attempting to standardize this process. The DLA approved the use of the draft assessment tool and methodology used to collect the data contained within this report (version 2.3 of the “Komuniti Profael Form”). The vulnerability assessment tool utilized was designed using the pidgin language, Bislama, and is intended for use by non-technical Ni-Vanuatu facilitators (a generalist with a secondary level of education should be able to facilitate the assessment process with minimal training). The template for the assessment tool is currently in draft format and will be further refined by the DLA with the support of UNDP and other stakeholders throughout 2016.

The information contained within this report summarizes the results collected from vulnerability assessments conducted on **Aneityum Island in November of 2015**. These vulnerability assessments were conducted in a community meeting format that was open to the general public. Data was collected from community members through the assistance of facilitators, who led several public meetings and encouraged active participation throughout the meetings by asking a series of questions and putting forth discussion points, as detailed in the “Komuniti Profael Form” version 2.3. The facilitators attempted to elicit data without influencing the results provided by the community. At times, the facilitator attempted to help community members arrive at a consensus or agree upon an approximate answer if there happened to be any disagreement or varying answers provided by the group.



Vulnerability assessments conducted in Anelcauhat, Umej & Anawamet

The results from these community vulnerability assessments often consist of estimations, provided by community members to the best of their knowledge. While the results within this report should provide relatively accurate information about a community's vulnerabilities and resources, there may contain within this report inaccuracies as reported by the communities themselves. Data within this report should be considered as approximations made by community members (example - population figures).

The facilitators also utilized focus groups as part of the approach in completing the vulnerability assessments, allowing for further in-depth discussions regarding vulnerabilities and more inclusivity for local youth and women who sometimes face cultural limitations or inhibitions when expressing themselves publicly during community meetings. Focus groups utilized during this initiative included women's groups, youth groups (under the age of 25) and men's groups.

Key respondent interviews were also utilized to engage community leaders, including teachers, health workers, chiefly authorities, NGO representatives and woman's group leaders.

Relevant chiefs and members of chiefly councils were informed of this community vulnerability assessment process and its potential benefits before any data was collected and permission was granted to carry out the assessments in accordance with local governance practices. Chiefly representatives participated in the community profiling initiative at all communities consulted on **Aneityum: Anelcauhat, Umej and Anawamet**. The provincial Area Secretary for the **Aneityum Area Council, Mr. Reuben Neriam**, was engaged throughout the entire community vulnerability assessment process and actively facilitated sessions at each community meeting.

Notice was given to communities prior to each meeting where vulnerability assessments were conducted (public announcements were made and notices were hung on community notice boards) and the entire community was encouraged to attend, including women, youth and disabled persons, etc. Meeting attendance was encouraged regardless of land ownership claims, ethnicity, education, religion or gender. **Meetings took place in Anelcauhat (20.11.15); Umej (21.11.15) and Anawamet (24.11.15)**. Although the entire community was encouraged to attend and participate in the vulnerability assessments, attendance was voluntary and some chose not to participate due to work or personal commitments.

Transect walks through the communities were also conducted by the facilitators before and after vulnerability assessments were completed. Photos were taken by the facilitator at these times.

This report will be shared with **Tafea Provincial Government Council and the Aneityum Area Council**, as well as the nationally implementing stakeholders and partners of "VCAP".

LOCATION & DESCRIPTION OF ASSESSMENTS	Male Participants	Female Participants
<u>Anelcauhat Village</u> - Meeting conducted in Area Council Office on 20.11.15 with representation from a geographic area including outlying "stations" spanning from "Uje" to "Iniplide". Women in low attendance partially due to a large woman's church meeting scheduled on same day. Some women were also busy preparing handicrafts to sell the next day for a visiting cruise ship and resting as a cruise ship had also arrived the day before and they had worked long hours.	27	5
<u>Umej Village</u> - Meeting conducted in Pre-School Building on 21.11.15 with representation from a geographic area including outlying "station" called Anowyac, which is a half hour walk from Umej. Youth unavailable to participate in meeting as they had received a contract to perform maintenance work on Mystery Island for the Aneityum Tourism Project on the date of the assessment.	20	12
<u>Anaowanse, Anawamet & Anaowanje</u> - Two separate meetings conducted in Anawamet Village (Port Patrick area) and the Anaowanse area on 23.11.15. Due to a wedding that was being held on the following day, very limited amount of time available to conduct assessment as full community was involved in wedding preparations, therefore only a partial assessment was conducted and information from key respondent interviews was relied upon heavily.	20	15

2. SUMMARY OF KEY VULNERABILITIES ON ANEITYUM

Summary of key vulnerabilities identified by communities during vulnerability assessments. Please note that further information regarding these key vulnerabilities may require input from technical experts.

Food Security	Anelcauhat's large and growing population is particularly at risk of food shortages and community members report that theft is common in the gardens now as some families become overly reliant on "store-bought" food. Should a cyclone strike or cargo ships (<i>delivering food for stores to re-stock</i>) not arrive as scheduled, many villagers report that their food supply is compromised.
Footpath Maintenance and River Crossings	The footpaths on Aneityum are not regularly maintained nor have they been developed with improved materials. There is no drainage system and many parts of the path have extreme erosion associated with increased rainfall. At times, portions of the footpath become inaccessible in wet or rainy conditions. There are sections of the primary footpath where pedestrians must wade across rivers or streams. There have been several deaths in recent years where pedestrians have drowned attempting to wade across. The largest and most dangerous river is located in Umej and can be difficult to cross at high tide or in rainy conditions because of flooding. Rivers in Anelcauhat, Galilea and Anawamet are also challenging to cross at times. A local man died in 2014 attempting to cross a small stream in Anelcauhat after slipping on a makeshift bridge consisting of a fallen log and knocking himself unconscious, drowning in the shallow water.
Water Security	The most severe shortage of water on Aneityum is experienced in Anawamet and Anaowanse, which both depend primarily on coastal springs for drinking water. As there is a primary school located in Anawamet, villagers indicate that their biggest priority is securing a safe water source for communal use. Anaowanse has a much smaller population but the households here have identified a swamp that could possibly serve as a water source if drilling were to take place. Umej currently has a project to install a new gravity feed system, but has no backup water storage system in place, such as a tank to harvest rain water.
Cyclone / Tsunami Shelters	A majority of all permanent houses and community buildings have been constructed on the immediate coastline in vulnerable areas. There are no appropriate communal disaster shelters on Aneityum, many take shelter in community buildings that could experience storm surge or tsunami activity. Traditional practice of building cyclone shelters using local materials is becoming less common.
Communications / Early Warning Systems	Communities without access to communications networks on Aneityum (Anaowanse, Anawamet & Anaowanje) must walk up to 5 hours to access network coverage, thus they report great concern about their isolation and inability to receive communications including early warnings for cyclones or tsunamis. A majority of households do not own medium wave or long wave radios, previous attempts to operate long wave radios in Anawamet failed due improper maintenance of the radio systems.
Environmental Degradation of Mystery Island	Communities reported that the greatest potential risk to their economic livelihoods is waste pollution produced by thousands of visiting tourists arriving each week on cruise ship and using Mystery Island's "long-drop" toilets. As Aneityum remains a prized tourism destination due its beautiful environment and abundance of marine resources, community members worry that these toilets without septic tanks or filters are accumulating waste that may cause adverse environmental effects. Some locals have reported algae developing for the first time along some parts of the shore on Mystery Island and unhealthy segments of coral reef, which may or may not be associated with waste pollution.
Sanitation	Almost every toilet on Aneityum consists of an uncovered, open pit latrine and many community members are concerned that these toilets cause sickness due to unsanitary conditions. Most households have the financial means to construct an improved toilet but there is little capacity or awareness regarding how to construct them.

3. GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ANEITYUM AREA COUNCIL

3.1 POPULATION

These figures have been provided by community members in consultation with Community Disaster Committees and the Provincial Area Council Secretary. Youth has been defined as under the age of 25 years, household defined by VNSO as per kitchen rather than by individual housing units. Only those currently present on **Aneityum** during time of assessment included in figures.

	Men	Women	Youth	Disability	Total Pop	Households
Aneityum (Total)	604	724	550	36	1328	274
Anelcauhat	394	447	330	22	841	172
Umej	80	120	100	4	200	33
Anaowanse - Anawamet - Anaowanje	130	157	120	10	287	69

Remarks - Anelcauhat's total population is the largest on the island and attracts additional residents from originating from other villages due to a convenient location that allows access to opportunities associated with visiting cruise ships at Mystery Island; as well being a service centers where the airport, police, secondary school, bank and dispensary are located. Locals defined Anelcauhat as covering a large area starting at "Iniplide" at its eastern border and extending eastward to include the village of "Uje" at its western border. Anaowanje, Anejo and Anaowanse's population figures are derived from sparsely populated settlements along the northern coast of the island that are separated by considerable distances. Umej has a population contained within a relatively smaller area but includes one small outlying settlement nearby.

3.2 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES

3.2.1

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT / AREA COUNCIL (AC)

Area Secretary	The Provincial Area Secretary for Aneityum is Reuben Neriam and he was hired by Tafea Provincial Government Council as of early 2015. He has a background in marine conservation having worked closely with Fisheries Dept and the NGO, Wan Smol Bag, on several projects. Utilized by province to undertake many tasks varying greatly in nature.
Area Council (Governance body)	The Aneityum Area Council operates on irregular basis. One of the five AC members has left the island & cannot be replaced following current protocols from national government until AC term closes. Draft AC plan created with assistance of Live & Learn NGO through regional UNDP project called PRRP, but AC members have yet to review this plan (as of 25/11/15). AC members request training in financial reporting & general capacity building. AC members officially met twice in 2015, to discuss impacts from Cyclone Pam and the distribution of relief items such as food. AC members report they participate in few planning or reporting activities and that there is direct provincial influence over AC expenditures / actions, such as requiring the AC to pay for certain travel costs, etc.
Area Council Office / Resources	Functional AC office constructed with permanent materials in Anelcauhat Village. Suggested improvements to the facilities by AC members included providing improved toilets, shower, strengthening a cement wall that may have been damaged by strong winds in TC Pam and providing solar power for the AC office. Area Council members unsure whether the AC Office is appropriate for use by community as a cyclone shelter, as its location is adjacent to the coastline and is considered highly exposed to winds and storm surge. No boats or other means of transport provided to Area Secretary. One laptop computer is available with basic supplies for Area Secretary.

3.2.2

OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

Agriculture	Agriculture officer recently placed on Aneityum in mid 2015 and is currently located in Anelcauhat Village but is planning to relocate to Anawamet Village, where there is housing built by DARD decades ago. Agriculture Officer intends to work closely with local farmers in the Port Patrick area, where there are active farmers cultivating crops such as vanilla, taro and cassava.
Forestry	A Forestry officer was previously stationed on Aneityum in Anelcauhat Village but villagers reported that his post was vacated in early 2015. This Forestry officer was responsible for supporting efforts to initiate a community based nursery for species such as sandalwood and Caribbean pine.
VMGD	There are two officers working for VMGD collecting meteorological information and maintaining an Automated Weather System (AWS) installed on the island.
Police / VMF	There is one member of the Vanuatu Mobile Force and also one member of the Vanuatu Police Department stationed on the island in a newly constructed police station in Anelcauhat. The police have access to a boat and small holding cell for detainees.
Education	Government teachers are located in Anelcauhat Village where there is one primary school (Years 1 - 6) & one secondary school (Years 7 - 10); and in Umej and Anawamet Village where there are smaller primary schools (Years 1 - 6). There are several pre-schools on the island.
Health	Government supported nurse, nurse aid and malaria testing technician stationed in Anelcauhat at Dispensary.

3.2.3

TRADITIONAL CHIEFLY STRUCTURES

Status and Role of Chiefly System	Chiefly council on the island of Aneityum is called “Intas Alep” and is responsible for enforcing customary rules and regulations within communities, maintaining traditional cultural practices and providing general leadership and oversight for the population. Chiefly authorities most often provide discipline and resolution for smaller criminal cases or disputes rather than the police / judicial system. Chiefly status is hereditary, with stronger links associated with the male bloodline, although leadership may be relinquished to a “steward” outside of the appropriate bloodline if approved by the proper chiefly authorities. Chiefly council consists of males only, women are not included. Chiefly consent is required for any development work or activity on this island initiated by any person who not of direct descent from Aneityum. Chiefly bodies are present on a tribal level, community level and island-wide level on Aneityum. The island-wide chiefly council is often the final authority, responsible for settling larger disputes, customary arrangements and preserving important traditional knowledge. Voluntary village development work was previously conducted by entire communities on Aneityum once a week or as instructed by the chiefs, but this practice has been severely constrained by several factors including the increasing participation and commitment of community members in tourism activities. Chiefs call for community meetings as required now. While there have been minor disputes over chiefly authority on Aneityum, mainly occurring in Anelcauhat Village, all disputes over chiefly authority are currently considered resolved and have always been settled peacefully with rulings from the island-wide council of chiefs being accepted by all parties. Most disputes are focused on land ownership claims. Rarely, these claims regarding land ownership have gone through the judicial system and sometimes serious criminal cases are handled by the police.
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3.2.4

NGO's & INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

US Peace Corps	As of November, 2015 there were three Peace Corps volunteers stationed on Aneityum, two supporting health programs and one supporting an English literacy program.
CARE International	CARE International distributed agricultural tools & seeds in a food security in mid-2015. Tools were distributed via "tool banks", where they are available for communal use and accessible to local women on Aneityum. CARE International has employed a local woman from Aneityum who resides back and forth between Anaowanse and Anelcauhat. CARE International plans to strengthen its community based committees that will address gender, food security and disaster risk resilience issues.
UNFPA	The United Nations Population Fund has a project on Aneityum aimed at increasing access to sexual reproductive health services and creating livelihoods opportunities for youth. There is a clinic with "youth-friendly services" in Anelcauhat and resources have been provided to youth to generate income. Project funding should phase out in 2017.
UNDP	PRRP project working through Live & Learn to support provincial Area Council planning initiatives. VCAP project just starting to support adaptation to climate change by communities, specifically regarding infrastructure strengthening and resource management.
JICA	The Japanese government through its JICA program has supported marine conservation training and activities regularly on Aneityum, as well as water security measures. In late 2014, JICA supported the provision of a water supply system to the small village of Uje. No JICA volunteers or committees are present on Aneityum now.
Live and Learn	Occasional visits by Live & Learn staff were supported by a regional UNDP project called "Pacific Risk Resilience Program" in 2014 & 2105, which resulted in the development of a "Community Profile" and a "Knowledge Hub" which consisted of a small nursery where seedlings could be provided to community members.
Save the Children	Supports Village Health Workers and Aid Post establishments in Anaowanse & Umej with training and equipment.
Red Cross	Basic safety and health support / capacity building offered occasionally through Red Cross on Aneityum. Red Cross has recruited locals to serve as volunteers in Anelcauhat.

3.2.5

FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS (FBO's)

Anelcauhat	The largest denomination in the Anelcauhat area is the Presbyterian Church with approximately 250 members and three church buildings made from permanent materials. This is followed closely by the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) church that has around 200 members and 1 permanent church house. Smaller FBO's here include the "Self-Support SDA" church with around 100 members and a permanent building and the Catholic church with around 30 members and a very small church house. These church networks have organized associations for women & youth members (the only formally organized woman's groups on the island are through FBO's). Other faiths without a permanent church building in Anelcauhat include Jehovah's Witnesses, "Sabbath Salom", Bahai and Salvation Army (each of which has around 5 members only).
Umej	A majority of this village attends the Catholic Church (around 140 members). There is a Presbyterian Church here with around 50 members. Both of these churches have permanent buildings and organized women's and youth groups. There are around 10 members of the SDA faith here but no church building.
Anaowanje - Anejo - Anaowanse	There are 4 small church buildings in this area - Presbyterian, AOG, SDA & Self-Support SDA. There are very small women's and youth's groups at these churches.

3.2.6

COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS (CBO's) & COMMITTEES

Anelcauhat	Active committees and organized groups in Anelcauhat include a chiefly committee, women's groups affiliated with individual churches, youth groups affiliated with individual churches, Mystery Island Tourism Association, Aneityum Tourism Project, Aneityum Forest Timber Community Project, a fisheries committee, a recently formed Community Disaster Committee, a cooperative committee, a water supply committee, school committees and a health committee.
Umej	Active committees and organized groups in Umej include a chiefly committee, women's groups affiliated with Catholic and Presbyterian churches, youth groups affiliated with Catholic and Presbyterian churches, a water supply committee, school committees and an Aid Post committee.
Anaowanje - Anejo - Anaowanse	Due to the smaller population and scattered communities there are very small committees such as a chiefly committee, a school committee, an Aid Post committee, women's and youth groups affiliated with individual churches.

**Only CBO's & committees considered functional and active by community members are listed in this report (example, if a village committee was formed for water security purposes but it does not hold regular meetings or perform any recent tasks, it is not cited).*

3.2.7

VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES (VDC's)

VDC's	No functional VDC's as recognized by DLA as present on Aneityum. Closest committee resembling a development committee is that of the Community Disaster Committees comprised of sectoral representatives such as village youth, chiefs, women, health workers & teachers. These CDC's were recently set up through the work of Director of the Prime Minister's Office, Benjamin Shing, during an El Niño assessment mission in October of 2015, however their scope of work is concentrated on disaster resilience, relief coordination and climate change adaptation and does not address a full spectrum of development issues. A VCAP (<i>UNDP project</i>) scoping mission performed in November 2015 introduced the concept of forming VDC's during community meetings in Anelcauhat, Umej, Anaowanse as well as during a consultation with the Aneityum Area Council. There was general consent and approval of the approach among those consulted but the VDC's have not been established yet, although the provincial Area Secretary has expressed his intention in establishing these working groups.
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**VDC's are voluntary technical working groups comprised entirely of locally-based membership that addresses community oriented, multi-sector development issues and attempts to utilize representation from all existing organizational structures present within a community- such as chiefly systems / NGO's / FBO's / CBO's / Committees, such as those listed in previous tables above. VDC's are often used for planning or monitoring and evaluation purposes.*

VDC's are flexible, voluntary working groups whose membership comes from EXISTING organizational structures. VDC's should not be viewed as an additional organization within a community but rather as a collection of representatives from a community's existing structures, providing a wide-range of skill sets and the knowledge base necessary to create an informed technical working group familiar with local context and conditions.

3.3 LIVELIHOODS

3.3.1

INCOME GENERATION

Main Sources of Income

By far, the largest source of income generation for communities on Aneityum is derived from tourism related to visiting cruise ships arriving at Mystery Island, which is a small island located around 500 meters offshore from the centre of Anelcauhat Village. In 2015, there were over 150+ visiting ships that visited Mystery Island and in 2016 there are over 200 scheduled trips. The Aneityum Tourism Project (ATP) is paid an “anchorage fee” of approximately \$5,000 USD by the cruise line operator every time a tourist ship arrives. This money accumulates and is controlled by a collective of four families who claim land ownership rights to Mystery Island. Land ownership rights to Mystery Island and its associated tourism revenues remain highly disputed today, although this has not resulted in conflict or violence. Chiefly authorities continue to explore land ownership claims to Mystery Island using traditional governance systems.

The ATP uses its tourism revenues to pay community members for a range of services related to catering for the thousands of tourists arriving each week to Aneityum including hiring locals to serve as security guards, janitors, groundskeepers, etc. These wages are paid to locals each time a cruise ship arrives and the ATP attempts to fairly distribute these employment opportunities by altering contracts between communities and individuals. Proceeds from tourism revenues are also used by ATP to fund its full-time staff, Board of Directors, issue royalty payments to the families claiming land ownership of Mystery Island, to operate a wholesale store, provide maintenance to buildings used by ATP for operations, and to fund a farming initiative near Umej that farms taro crops.

Community members are also allowed to operate private businesses on Mystery Island when tourists arrive and many earn a relatively large income by selling souvenirs, giving massages, braiding hair, hiring gear such as kayaks, selling food & drinks and by leading tour groups that take part in activities such as snorkeling, fishing or cultural tours. Other major sources of income generation include the sale of sandalwood in Anelcauhat, Anaowanse, Anawamet & Anaowanje and the sale of kava from Umej Village (although the reserve of kava in the gardens is rapidly declining in Umej). The sale of sandalwood on Aneityum is seasonal as regulated by the Department of Forests. Compared to other rural islands in Vanuatu, the population of Aneityum has many economic opportunities.

Alternative Sources of Income

Not only does tourism relating to the cruise ships support the local economy but a small number of visiting tourists arrive by yacht and Air Vanuatu to Aneityum as well. These visitors often support the two local guest houses, stores and boat owners who provide transport. Frequently, government officers and NGO staff also visit the island.

The sale of agricultural produce is very limited on Aneityum, although the demand for fresh produce is high. The profits from agricultural activity are perceived by locals as minimal when compared with potential profits to be gained from tourism activity. Kava from Umej is sold in Anelcauhat but due to the limited quantity, the sale of kava from Aneityum is seasonal. Kava from the island of Tanna is imported to Aneityum and sold for 6 months out of the year while locals from Umej, Anaowanse, Anawamet & Anaowanje are permitted by the chiefly council to sell kava in Anelcauhat anytime they have available supply. There is no active fishing project selling or exporting fish on Aneityum although there is a plentiful supply. Lobster is sold on a regular basis to tourists and the chiefly council tries to manage its stock due to increasing demand for seafood by tourists. Trocha shellfish are harvested every few years in some areas on Aneityum and sold to buyers in Port Vila for their shells. Very limited sale of livestock on Aneityum. Sale from timber takes place mainly in Anelcauhat, where there are two sawmills operating.

Regular salaries are paid to government & NGO officers, temporary employees of local schools, and staff of the Aneityum Timber Forestry Community Project, Aneityum Tourism Project, National Bank of Vanuatu, Western Union & Air Vanuatu.

LIVELIHOODS INVENTORY

3.3.2	Anelcauhāt	Umej	Anaowanse, Anawamet & Anaowanje	TOTAL
Stores (selling basic commodities)	17	8	4	29
Cooperatives	1	0	0	1
Guest Houses / Bungalows	2	0	0	2
Fuel Sales	10	1	1	12
Boat Transport	12	1	5	18
Ready-Made Kava Bars	7	0	0	7
Markets (fresh produce, fish, etc)	0	0	0	0
Seamstress / Tailor	0	0	0	0
Baker (either local bread or "gato")	17	0	1	18

**Sale of souvenirs to visiting cruise ship passengers or cruise ship related activity is not defined as "store" or "market" nor is this activity reflected in this inventory.*

3.3.3	MISCELLANEOUS - LIVELIHOODS
Outside Investors	The chiefly council on Aneityum strictly prohibits the sale or leasing of ground on Aneityum so there is a limited presence of outside investors. A private company called "Adventures in Paradise", which is a charter tour company, has provided funding and equipment to a local man who manages tourism operations on Aneityum targeted towards arriving cruise ship passengers. P&O Cruises (owned by Carnival Corporation) has invested considerable expenses to support tourism on Mystery Island, but has also supported the community in general on occasion. For example, in 2015 the Anelcauhāt Dispensary building was opened with support and funding from P&O.
Employment Abroad	There is only 1 reported community member that is currently working abroad in either New Zealand or Australia to seek seasonal employment. There are no locals currently working abroad on fishing boats or cruise ships. Communities report that with plentiful tourism opportunities on the island, there is little need to seek employment overseas.
Cooperatives	A cooperative was launched in November of 2015 on the island. There have been a series of attempts operate cooperatives on the island in past decades, most failing due to mismanagement.
Markets	There are no locally based markets on Aneityum with the exception of a tourism market where handicrafts and souvenirs are sold to tourists on Mystery Island. Occasionally, fruits and other food are sold between locals as well at this venue.
Value Added / Exports	There is extremely limited income derived from value-added processing of resources on Aneityum. Some mothers on the island polish shells to sell to tourists as souvenirs. Regular exports from the island include sandalwood and trocha shells. Timber sales are typically local and there has been limited export of timber from Aneityum in past years.

3.4 SERVICES 3.4.1

HEALTH

Health Facilities	The Anelcauhat Dispensary had an additional building constructed in 2015 (funded by P&O Cruises) and employs a Nurse, Nurse Aid, Technician attached to a anti-malaria screening program and a US Peace Corps volunteer. The Anelcauhat Dispensary staff are able to assist mothers with child birth, remove infected teeth, provide medicines including antibiotics, share family planning methods and provide general treatment for mild to moderate medical conditions. The Dispensary has a boat to transport sick patients and to perform health related work on the island. Serious medical cases are referred from the Anelcauhat Dispensary to the hospital on Lenekel, Tanna or even directly to the hospital in Port Vila. Umej and Anawamet each have an Aid Post serviced by a voluntary Aid Post Worker along with their assistants. The Aid Posts are very small buildings and can provide basic assistance such as cleaning and dressing wounds or sores, sharing basic non-prescription medicines, distributing condoms and leading health awareness initiatives. Serious cases are referred from the Aid Posts to the Anelcauhat Dispensary.
Health Concerns / Common Illnesses	NCD's such as heart disease, hypertension and diabetes are reportedly growing in incidence among community members and are a common cause of death on Aneityum. Health workers believe this is related to a shift away from traditional diets, lifestyles and heavy tobacco use especially by males on Aneityum. There is reported concern by community members over health and sanitation issues relating to the "bush toilets" used by 99% of the population on Aneityum. There is general interest expressed regarding the construction of improved toilets. There have been no reported cases of malaria on the island for many years and the Japanese government funds an ongoing initiative that performs blood tests to check for malaria for every passenger arriving to Aneityum by plane or ship.

3.4.2

EDUCATION

Pre-Schools	There are three pre-schools in Anelcauhat, one in Umej and one located in Anawamet. These schools are funded entirely by school fees paid by parents each term.
Primary Schools	Anelcauhat Primary School is anglophone, has 120 students ranging from Year 1 - 6, and is staffed by four government teachers and two unregistered teachers from the community. The buildings on the compound are in very good condition with the exception of a poorly constructed classroom that was destroyed by Cyclone Pam. Ecole St. Joseph is a francophone school in Umej has 62 students ranging from Year 1 - 6, staffed by two government teachers. The condition of the school buildings is moderate to good. Port Patrick Primary School is anglophone, located in Anawamet and has 40 students ranging from Year 1 - 6 and is staffed by one government teacher and one unregistered teacher from the community. The building is in poor condition and received flooding from storm surge during Severe Tropical Cyclone Pam that struck on March 14, 2015.
Secondary Schools	Teruja Secondary School in Anelcauhat is anglophone, has 75 students (60 sleeping in school dormitories) ranging from Year 7 - 10 and is staffed by four government teachers, an administrative assistant and a handy man. The school buildings are in moderate to poor condition, improvements to the school have been proposed by community members but there is a pending plan to relocate the school entirely due to proximity to coast.
Technical Schools	There are no rural training centers or technical training schools on Aneityum. Occasionally community members travel to Port Vila to enroll in technical programs.
Continued Education	Anglophone and francophone students wishing to further their education and who have passed their exams often leave Aneityum to study at secondary schools on Tanna or Efate islands. Currently there are around eight locals attending university at USP and two studying at a university in Noumea, New Caledonia.

Airport	The national airline, Air Vanuatu, operates flights on the tiny Mystery Island twice a week currently. This is the primary way of transporting light cargo and passengers to and from Aneityum due to the infrequent nature of ships servicing the island with its extreme southerly location in Vanuatu. Aviation Vanuatu Limited has partnered with the Public Works Department to select a local man responsible for providing regular maintenance to the airstrip to ensure safety of arriving planes.
Shipping	A government supported subsidized shipping program is of enormous benefit to the people of Aneityum. Without this support, locals would likely receive a ship every 5 or 6 months, but currently with the subsidized shipping, a contracted shipping agent provides service to Aneityum every 1 to 2 months. Ships are essential to transport heavy cargo such as building materials and store supplies. There are access points for ships to provide service and unload cargo near every community on Aneityum, although Anelcauhat is typically the primary village that is serviced.
Financial	The National Bank of Vanuatu has a satellite branch based in Anelcauhat that is open several days a week. Western Union also employs a representative to arrange for money transfers in and out of Aneityum. There is a high demand for these services due to the influx of money arriving to Aneityum because of tourism operations.
Communications	Digicel and TVL companies provide network coverage to the Anelcauhat Area. TVL network was provided in 2010 and Digicel was recently installed in late 2014. TVL network coverage was unreliable and often down due to technical problems throughout 2014 and 2015. Network access in Umej is not reliable and locals must walk to a distant location in search of network reception. There is no network services provided to the northern half of the island where Anaowanse, Anawamet and Anaowanje are located. There are no FM radio stations available, but medium wave radios can pick up Radio Australia and French programs from Noumea. Radio Vanuatu is frequently not accessible on Aneityum. Very few households own medium wave radios and tend to rely primarily on mobile phone communications to receive information. There is one HF radio located at the Automated Weather System in Anelcauhat, utilized by the VMGD field staff. A basic internet connection is only available through the mobile phone carriers, with locals reporting improved performance by the Digicel network in Anelcauhat. Some communities without access to communications networks on Aneityum must walk up to 5 hours to access to network coverage, thus they report great concern about their isolation and inability to receive important updates including early warnings for cyclones or tsunamis.
Security	The police officer and Vanuatu Mobile Force member stationed on Aneityum report occasional incidents concerning theft, marijuana use and domestic violence cases. Police sometimes send accused suspects to Tanna or Efate to await trial or they may be released to their homes to await a traveling judicial team depending on the severity of the case.
Community Halls or Meeting Venues	There are no community halls or community buildings designed to house public meetings on Aneityum with the exception of the Aneityum Area Council Office in Anelcauhat, which has a small meeting room. Otherwise, public meetings are held in classrooms, at community schools, church buildings or underneath the shade of banyan trees.

4. CONVEYANCE INFRASTRUCTURE ON ANEITYUM

Roads / Vehicles	There are currently no operational roads on Aneityum outside of the immediate Anelcauhat village area. However, roads were previously constructed from Anelcauhat leading towards the interior of the island, connecting to Uje and Umej villages before independence in 1980. These older roads were built and used by foreign logging companies operating heavy machinery. Abandoned after 1980, the roads have deteriorated in condition and are now obstructed by trees and dense vegetation. There are two vehicles based in Anelcauhat that are utilized to transport timber and supplies by the Aneityum Forestry Timber Community Project over very short distances within the Anelcauhat area only. These vehicles are not used to transport passengers and they frequently experience mechanical problems. Community members report that the Public Works Department has surveyed former logging roads on more than one occasion in the past decade to study the feasibility of building a vehicular road between Anelcauhat and Umej, but community leaders are uncertain of the outcome of these missions.
Footpaths	Walking along the many footpaths on Aneityum is the primary means of transportation on the island. Every week, hundreds of villagers utilize the footpaths to travel between communities. As Anelcauhat is a main service center on the island, locals from other villages routinely walk up to five hours to access this location. Considering the rugged and mountainous terrain of Aneityum, there are often times due to climatic activity when these footpaths become inaccessible. The most frequently used footpath on Aneityum is located along the coastline and circles the island completely. The terrain and accessibility of the footpath varies greatly from place to place. At times the footpath follows lengthy sand beaches at sea level but at other times it traverses rivers, scrambles over heaps of loose volcanic stones, narrowly clings to the edge of sheer cliffs or climbs steadily uphill several hundred meters in elevation before descending once again. These footpaths are natural walking trails and have not been maintained or developed with improved materials, drainage, etc. At times, portions of the footpath become inaccessible in wet or rainy conditions. Villagers report that there have been discussions with PWD about providing community based contracts for villagers to maintain footpaths, but they are unsure as to the status of this proposed initiative.
Bridges / Water Crossings	There are sections of the primary footpath where pedestrians must wade across rivers or streams on Aneityum. There have been several deaths in recent years where pedestrians have drowned attempting to wade across. The largest and most dangerous river is located in Umej and can be difficult to cross at high tide or in rainy conditions because of flooding. Rivers in Anelcauhat, Galilea and Anawamet are also challenging to cross at times. There are no bridges for any of the four rivers on Aneityum along the primary footpath. There are a few makeshift bridges (fallen trees or timber nailed together) used to cross smaller streams in some locations. A young man in Anelcauhat slipped on a makeshift bridge at night during a rainstorm in Anelcauhat and was knocked unconscious and drowned to death in a shallow stream as recently as 2013.
Wharfs	The Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utility is implementing a construction project now to build a new wharf at Mystery Island to improve the accessibility of this tourist destination to arriving cruise liners. Construction began in November of 2015.
Boats	Travel by boat is often a preferred means of transportation between communities on Aneityum, but it is entirely dependent upon having the financial ability to pay for a charter trip / fuel and also having accommodating weather. There are 18 boats currently providing transport services on Aneityum. Most communities have access to a nearby location where boats can be pulled ashore and stored safely.

5. UPLAND RESOURCES ON ANEITYUM

5.1 WASH (WATER AND SANITATION, HYGIENE)

5.1.1 Inventory of Drinking Water Sources by Community *(counting functional sources only, not those in need of repair)*

	Anelcauhat	Umej	Anaowanse, Anawamet & Anowanje
1) Gravity Supply System	2	1	0
2) Poly / Fiber-Glass Rain Tanks	13	0	5
3) Above Ground, Cement Rain Tanks	0	0	0
4) Enclosed Ground Wells <i>(Cement bottom)</i>	0	0	0
5) Open Ground Wells <i>(No cement)</i>	2	0	0
6) Powered Pumps <i>(Generator / Solar)</i>	0	0	0
7) Hand Pumps	0	0	0
8) Coastal springs <i>(water directly accessed from a spring located on the immediate coastline)</i>	2	1	5
9) River / spring <i>(water directly accessed and used at a river or spring, no use of pipes)</i>	0	1	1

5.1.2

WASH

Brief Summary of Water Resources by Community

The Anelcauhat area has two functional gravity feed water supply systems. One services the majority of the population in Anelcauhat and the other is based in Uje and was recently installed in 2014 through the support of JICA. Water consumed from the gravity feed systems is typically of good quality and reliable, however, sedimentation is visible for small periods of time after moderate rainfall. There are 13 rain catchment tanks in Anelcauhat and two large rivers that are frequently used for washing clothes and bathing.

In November of 2015, the gravity feed system in Umej was not functional and the community reports that it due to maintenance issues it is no longer reliable. Having no rain catchment tanks in Umej, villagers were forced to walk considerable distances to retrieve water from springs and rivers. However, the US Peace Corps volunteer stationed in this village reports that she has secured funding to repair the gravity feed system in early 2016 and that parts have already been purchased.

The most severe shortage of water on Aneityum is experienced in Anawamet and Anaowanse, which both depend primarily on coastal springs for drinking water. As there is a primary school located in Anawamet, villagers indicate that their biggest priority is securing a safe water source for communal use. Anaowanse has a much smaller population but the households here have identified a swamp that could possibly serve as a water source if drilling were to take place. There is less regular rainfall in the these areas in the north-west side of the island as compared to other locations.

Toilets

Almost every toilet on Aneityum consists of an uncovered, open pit latrine and many community members are concerned that these toilets cause sickness due to unsanitary conditions. Most households have the financial means to construct an improved toilet but there is little capacity or awareness regarding how to construct them.

Water Committees	Anelcauhat has a water committee that collects 200 VT per month for maintenance expenses from households with access to the gravity feed system. Umej has a water committee that collects 100 VT per month for maintenance expenses from households with access to the gravity feed system but is currently inactive due to problems with the gravity feed system. Anawamet has formed a water committee but it no longer holds meetings or is taking any action regarding water security. Anaowanse's and Anaowanje's populations are too small and scattered to make forming a water committee practical.
Hand-washing Access (Access to Water + Soap)	Most households on Aneityum have access to water source and soap to utilize for hand-washing that is located nearby toilets and kitchens.
Waste Disposal	It is common for households to dig large holes in order to dispose of their waste, burn garbage including plastics or to throw waste in a heap pile. No recycling service for used materials is available on Aneityum.
Access to Community Rain Catchment Tanks	Anelcauhat has several rain tanks that can be accessed by the entire community should the gravity feed supply temporarily stop working or experience sedimentation after rainfall. They are located at community buildings such as schools, churches and the Anelcauhat Dispensary. Umej has zero access to any rain catchment tanks and locals report this is a critical issue for them, considering the problems experienced with their gravity feed system. Anaowanse, Anawamet and Anaowanje have some private rain tanks located with individual households but no access to communal tanks.

5.1.3 Improved Toilet Inventory	Anelcauhat	Umej	Anaowanse, Anawamet & Anaowanje
Flush Toilet	8	0	0
Water-Seal Toilet	2	2	0
Compost Toilet	0	0	0
Ventilated Improved Pit Toilet (VIP Toilet)	1	0	2

**Majority of improved toilets located at community buildings such as schools, church housing or guest houses.*

5.2 AGRICULTURE

5.2.1

AGRICULTURE

Primary Crops	Cassava (“manioc”) is the most frequently planted root crop on Aneityum and it reportedly grows well in areas of the island that have a red clay like soil consistency. Water taro is planted in swampy areas around the island, such as the large swamp located in the center of Anelcauhat and “Fijian taro” and plantains are also commonly planted. There is very little cultivation of yam. Kava is a major crop of cultural and economic significance, especially for the people of Umej. Oranges and mandarines are abundant near Anawamet and Anaowanse.
Garden Space	Community members indicate that they believe there is sufficient space for gardening activities on the island over the next ten years.
Agricultural Sales	Very limited sale of agricultural produce on Aneityum, despite a high demand for fresh produce. The profit from agricultural activity is perceived by locals as minimal when compared with potential profits to be gained from tourism activity. Kava from Umej is sold in Anelcauhat but due to the limited quantity. The Aneityum Tourism Project has started a taro farming initiative near Umej where locals can pay for bundles of taro.
Food Security	Food security is a major issue on Aneityum. Unlike many places in rural Vanuatu, tourism activities are more of a priority than agricultural activities for some villagers in Anelcauhat. Subsistence level gardening still takes place on the island but there is an increasing appeal towards western diets including rice and tinned fish. Anelcauhat’s large and growing population is particularly at risk of food shortages and community members report that theft is common in the gardens now as some families become overly reliant on “store-bought” food. Should a cyclone strike or cargo ships (delivering food for stores to re-stock) not arrive as scheduled, many villagers report that their food supply is compromised. Communities in Umej, Anaowanse, Anawamet and Anaowanje engage in more agricultural activity than communities in Anelcauhat and have a relatively higher level of food security.
Pests	Community members reported agriculture being affected by many pests including beetles that spoil corn crops, butterflies that harm tomatoes, worms that damage watercress and island cabbage and diseases harming “laplap” leaves and water taro leaves.
Impact from Invasive Species	Wild pigs and wild chickens reportedly cause much damage to local gardens.
Diet (Use of Store-Bought Foods)	Anelcauhat area especially has a large dependence on store-bought foods due to their limited engagement with agricultural activities.

5.2.2 Agriculture Inventory

	None Available	Some Available	Plentiful
Coconuts			✓
Kava		✓	
Coffee		✓	
Vanilla		✓	
Pepper (black or white)		✓	

	None Available	Some Available	Plentiful
Cacao	✓		
Fruits			✓
Vegetables		✓	

5.3

FORESTRY

Summary of Forestry Activities	A forestry initiative was started on Aneityum with support from NZ Aid and the Department of Forests in the 1960's and 1970's, which encouraged the local population to create nurseries and plant Caribbean Pine in areas where there was sparse vegetation. A community project operated and managed by local villagers called Aneityum Forestry Timber Community Project (AFT) sporadically harvests the pine timber as it is dependent on the condition of the machinery (sawmills, tractors, etc) it uses to harvest. Demand for pine timber in Tafea Province is high, although sometimes it is difficult to arrange for shipment on Aneityum. Caribbean Pine naturally regenerates and the original pine plantation has expanded further by many hectares even though there are no replanting initiatives. Most AFT operations take place in Anelcauhat. A private sawmill also operates in Anelcauhat, where a family harvest primarily native species of hardwood timbers for export and sale.
Primary Species	Caribbean pine and sandalwood.
Nurseries	Locals report that a Forestry officer was stationed on Aneityum for over two years and he established a nursery before he left the island in 2015. Locals report that they are now they unsure of the status of the forestry nursery today, no one at meeting reports using it.
Timber Sales	Pine timber is sold domestically and to Futuna, Aniwa, Tanna and Efate islands. Hardwood from private sawmill exported and sold in Port Vila.
Erosion Control	The planting of vetiver grass and Caribbean pine in strategic areas where erosion was a serious issue took place in the 1970's on Aneityum. By the 1980's, locals indicate that negative effects from erosion were seriously alleviated by the forestry and vetiver grass plantings. Today, most of the coastline is in pristine condition and soil erosion has been seriously reduced. However, there are some areas in Anelcauhat and Port Patrick which have extreme erosion issues to this day and where vetiver grass has had limited impacts due to the complete loss of top soil and acidic quality of soil present at these sites

5.4 LIVESTOCK

5.4.1 Livestock

Inventory	Chickens	Ducks	Goats	Pigs	Cattle
Anelcauhat	200	2	50	50	5
Umej	200	20	15	50	20
Anaowanse, Anwamet & Anaowanje	350	0	20	50	100
TOTAL: ANEITYUM	750	22	85	150	125

5.4.2 Livestock Summary

Summary of Livestock Activities	Aneityum has an abundance of coastal resources and therefore the population does not maintain a large number of livestock to consume. The plentiful income generating opportunities associated with the cruise ships has resulted in limited livestock development on the island for financial purposes as well.
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5.5

ENVIRONMENT - UPLAND

Geography / Description of Environment	The mountainous island of Aneityum had much of its environmental resources exploited by traders in the 1800's, who clear-cut large portions of its forests in order to harvest valuable timber. Soil erosion occurred along much of Aneityum's steep hillsides due to the over-harvest of local timber, which led to the serious degradation of soil quality further resulting in barren hill sides with sparse vegetation along much of the coastline. Today the interior of the island is rich with resources once again and it is claimed there are over 80 varieties of orchid species that grow here.
Pollution	Minimum pollution on Aneityum in upland areas, aside from household waste that may be improperly disposed of.
Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP's)	There is no reported use or presence of POP's.
Water Catchment Areas	No logging or development in water catchment areas, drinking water quality on Aneityum is typically quite good. No formal recognition or protection of water catchment area by community.
Conservation Areas	No upland resource / conservation area present on Aneityum.
Access to Traditional Building Materials	Community reports that due to the growing population in Anelcauh, it is increasingly difficult to access some traditional building materials used to construct houses such as a particular species of vine and wild cane used for roofing.
Access to Firewood	There is sufficient access to firewood in all communities on Aneityum.
Erosion Related to Logging, Buildings	Historically the pine plantation and vetiver grass was planted in the 1960's & 70's on Aneityum to control erosion produced by extensive logging that took place decades before. There are still areas with severe erosion on Aneityum.
Invasive Species	Wild pigs regularly consume produce from local gardens and locals report that there is a need to organize more hunting parties to reduce the population of wild pigs affecting food security. There is no "American Rope", the invasive vine species, on Aneityum.
Protected Species	Coconut crabs are rarely encountered on Aneityum.
Mining	There are no reported mining activities on Aneityum.
Management Plan	There is no reported management plan for upland resources but communities expressed interest in establishing one.

5.5.1 Environmental Resource Inventory

**While resources differ by community- results indicated below are inclusive of results from every community in Aneityum AC.*

	None	Some	Many
Coconut Crabs		✓	
"Nawempa"		✓	
Flying Fox			✓

	None	Some	Many
Fresh Water Prawns		✓	
Fresh Water Fish		✓	

6. COASTAL RESOURCES ON ANEITYUM

6.1	FISHERIES
Inshore Fisheries Summary	Aneityum is well-known for being rich in marine resources and local fishermen typically use their catch for personal consumption rather than selling. Some fish is sold locally and there is a very small organized fishing association on the island that owns an icebox that may be hired by local fishermen.
Offshore fishing (Trolling or deep sea fishing)	Locals report that they frequently engage in trolling activities on a seasonal basis where they are able to catch wahoo, tuna and marlin which is then sold by the kilo in Anelcauhat. A very small amount of fishermen engage in deep sea fishing, but most do not have equipment such as GPS to assist them in this activity.
Inshore Fishing Methods	Traditionally the people of Aneityum used spears for fishing purposes but today women fish on the reef with fishing line and tiny hooks, while men commonly use spearguns and nets for their catch. Use of nets is prohibited in certain locations.
Fisheries Exports / Sales	Fish is typically not exported or sold due to expenses involved in sending freight by plane and limited availability of ice boxes for fish preservation.
Preservation	Anelcauhat Village has a few ice boxes available that utilize solar power, however, community members report that they commonly malfunction or experience difficulty in maintaining a charge.
Fish Aggregating Devices (F.A.D.'s)	Two F.A.D.'s were placed outside of the reef in southern Aneityum with the assistance of a JICA fisheries project, however, both of these F.A.D.'s drifted away and could no longer be used sometime in 2014. Communities state that they believe the materials used decayed in the salt water and drifted away from their anchorage points. The F.A.D.'s were not destroyed by a cyclone or tropical storm but disappeared in normal conditions.
Resource Monitors	There is at least one "resource monitor" as recognized by the Fisheries Department as having the authority to enforce fishing regulations and standards on Aneityum. The provincial Area Secretary is a former "resource" monitor who received training in marine resource management from Fisheries and Wan Smol Bag.
Coral Reef	The second largest reef system in all of Vanuatu, there is a large fringing reef that encircles Aneityum, which extends outwards hundreds of meters from the shore at certain places and is home to an abundance of marine life. While the coral reef appears to be in excellent condition for the most part, locals reported that infestation of crown of thorns starfish and some coral bleaching has recently begun in the past few years.
Crown of Thorns Starfish (COT's)	Locals reported that infestation of crown of thorns starfish has recently begun in the past few years in Anelcauhat.
Ciguatera	Low incidence of ciguatera poisoning reported and locals are familiar with the species of fish typically affected by the condition.
Sea Cucumber	There is an abundance of sea cucumber. No sale or processing of sea cucumber.
Traditional Conservation Methods	Chiefly authorities and traditional land owners often use a "tabu" system to block a certain portion of the coastline from fishing or the collection of marine resources. For the most part, locals respect existing "tabus" but there are cases where some trespass and continue to harvest marine resources regardless of the "tabu".
Marine Protected Areas (MPA's)	There are two registered Marine Protected Areas here that the Vanuatu Fisheries Department regularly uses to support its stock of trocha, green snails and giant clams to distribute out to other islands. One MPA encircles Mystery Island and is reportedly very successful as the visiting cruise ship passengers enjoy snorkeling and viewing the marine life.

6.2

ENVIRONMENT - COASTAL RESOURCES

Marine Pollution	Communities report that the greatest potential risk to their economic livelihoods is waste pollution produced by thousands of visiting tourists arriving each week on cruise ship and using Mystery Island's "long-drop" toilets. As Aneityum remains a prized tourism destination due its beautiful environment and an abundance of marine resources, community members worry that these toilets without septic tanks or filters are accumulating waste that may cause adverse environmental effects. Some locals have reported that algae is developing for the first time along some parts of the shore on Mystery Island and there are now unhealthy segments of coral reef, which may or may not be associated with waste pollution.
Coastal Erosion	There is coastal erosion in certain areas on Aneityum. Particularly affected areas include Anelcauhat and Mystery Island, where classrooms, the airport, churches and homes may potentially be affected. Coastal erosion has also damaged small portions of coconut plantations. A new wharf is being constructed on Mystery Island to receive tourists from visiting cruise liners due to concerns that the previous wharf was causing coastal erosion.
Sedimentation	Locals report the erosion previously had hugely adverse effect on marine resources in some areas, preventing fishing and the collection of shellfish due to excess sediment deposits. There is still some considerable sedimentation taking place in Anawamet but locals report that the erosion has declined due to pine and vetiver plantings over the past few decades.
Dugongs	There are no reported dugong sightings on Aneityum.
Sea Turtles	Traditionally sea turtle is a part of the Aneityum diet but due to increased awareness from Fisheries, there has been a big decrease in consumption levels. Communities estimate that approximately 5 turtles are consumed in Anelcauhat each year, 10 turtles are consumed per year Umej and an unknown quantity are killed in Anaowanse, Anawamet & Anaowanje.
Mangrove Ecosystems	There are pockets of mangroves around Aneityum, primarily located near the mouths of rivers or coastal springs.
Sand Mining	Sand-mining in Anelcauhat may contribute towards coastal erosion. As Anelcauhat is the population center on Aneityum and sand from the beach along the main harbor is used to make cement for classrooms, church buildings, private homes, etc - there is constant small-scale sand mining activities taking place here. Other communities on Aneityum report not being affected by sand-mining.

6.3 COASTAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

**While resources differ by community- results indicated below are inclusive of results from every community in Aneityum AC.*

	None Available	Some Available	Plentiful
Reef Fish			✓
Bottom-Fish (Pule, etc)			✓
Sea Cucumber			✓
Trocha shellfish			✓
Lobster			✓

7. NATURAL DISASTER & CLIMATE CHANGE - ANEITYUM

7.1

NATURAL DISASTER

Tsunami / Storm Surge / Cyclone	Communities on Aneityum are particularly vulnerable to cyclone and tsunami events as a majority of all private homes and community buildings are situated along the immediate coastline at low elevations.
Volcanic Activity	There is no active volcanic activity affecting the population of Aneityum.
Flooding	Flooding of homes and gardens is reportedly not a common problem affecting households on Aneityum. However, during heavy rains the rivers on the island flood and prevent access for some villagers to key services as they must wait for flood levels to subside.
Erosion to Infrastructure	Upland erosion is a particular problem affecting local footpaths, which are relied upon by communities to travel around the island and access key services. Coastal erosion has reportedly damaged a dormitory at Teruja Secondary School, that admittedly was constructed in a poor location along the coastline.
Landslides	There are no reported landslides that have affected people or resources on Aneityum.
Drought	While drought period have occurred on Aneityum, especially during 2015 as an El Nino cycle affects Vanuatu, the island typically is rich in rainfall with its steep mountain geography (800+ meters in elevation) attracting & producing rainfall for communities. Even during drought periods, water security is generally not affected (except for Anawamet and Anaowanse)
Recent Disasters of Note	Cyclone Pam did not hit Aneityum directly in 2015, but the gale force winds experienced were strong enough to damage local gardens, impacting food security for the next year.
Community Disaster Committees (CDC's)	The recently formed CDC's consist of membership selected by Director of PMO, Benjamin Shing, during a visit to Aneityum in late 2015. No further training or awareness activities have taken place yet with community CDC's.
Disaster Plan	Communities have no formalized disaster plans on Aneityum and often are slow to prepare for impending disasters such as cyclones.

7.2

DISASTER WARNING

Radio	Few households own radios, with poor and unreliable radio reception available so disaster warnings are not received often via radio broadcast. Radio Vanuatu not received clearly as of November, 2015.
CDC's	As CDC's were recently established on Aneityum and have yet to receive any training or additional support, they have yet to play a role in passing disaster warnings. Primary function of CDC after Cyclone Pam was to distribute relief goods.
TVL / Digicel SMS Warnings	Locals report that before Cyclone Pam in March of 2015, warnings issued by SMS played a large part in preparing the local population for the impending cyclone.
Family or friends from Port Vila	Family and friends calling by mobile phones of an impending disaster such as a cyclone are reportedly the primary way that villagers first receive warning on Aneityum. These warnings are only received in Anelcauhat where there is network coverage.
Traditional Knowledge	Traditional knowledge is no longer relied upon to predict disasters or issue warnings.
No warning	Villagers in Anawamet, Anaowanse and Anaowanje sometimes have no warning whatsoever of an impending disaster, therefore they are not able to take in precaution.

7.3

DISASTER SHELTER

Status of Disaster Shelter by Community	A majority of all permanent houses and community buildings have been constructed on the immediate coastline, and there are no communal disaster shelters on Aneityum. Traditional practice of households building cyclone shelters using local materials is becoming less common.
Additional Community Buildings Used as Shelter	In Anelcauhat, the primary school and the Area Council office were used by some as cyclone shelters even though both are located adjacent to the coastline. The Area Council office received damages to its wall due to the destructive winds of Cyclone Pam. In Umej, some community members took shelter in the Catholic Church during Cyclone Pam, but as it is a large open building with many windows close to the coastline, many villagers preferred to stay in their homes. The primary schools in Umej & Anawamet are considered to be too close to the coastline to use as a shelter. The primary school in Anawamet received significant storm surge flooding during Cyclone Pam in 2015. There are zero available shelters available during tsunami warnings. Often villagers simply go to their gardens during these tsunami warning periods.
Typical Building Materials Used / Condition - Housing	Houses on Aneityum are a combination of semi-permanent buildings constructed with local timber and copper roofing as well as more traditional homes made with grass or thatch roofing. There are very few houses made of cement and considered by the community to be sturdy in high winds.

7.4

CLIMATE CHANGE

Sea Level Rise Observed?	Yes sea level rise considered a challenge especially in Anelcauhat where a dormitory at the secondary school was damaged by coastal erosion and coconut plantation has been affected as well.
Sea Level Rise Affecting Infrastructure?	Villagers report concerns that sea level rise may affect Mystery Island Airport and landing strip as well as school buildings and churches in Anelcauhat.
Water Security - Impacted by Climatic Effects?	Sedimentation commonly occurs to gravity feed water systems in Anelcauhat and Umej after moderate rainfall. Drought periods greatly impact water security in Anawamet and Anaowanse, where some households rely on rain harvesting as a means of water security.
Food Security - Impacted by Climatic Effects?	Food security severely threatened by increased likelihood for severe disasters and extreme weather events., increased temperatures and seasonal fluctuations.

7.5 OBSERVED CLIMATIC CHANGES BY COMMUNITY (OVER LAST 20+ YEARS)

	Yes	No
Increased Rainfall (total amount per year)?	✓	
Increased Occurrence of Drought?	✓	
Increased Temperature?	✓	
Seasonal Changes? (timing of rainy / dry season)	✓	
Bleaching of Coral Reef?	✓	
Salt water intrusion of drinking water?		✓

8. COMMUNITY SELF-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT - ANEITYUM

*At the conclusion of each Vulnerability Assessment, communities were asked to divide into focus groups and identify two leading priorities for development for their entire community, not necessarily for the membership of their focus group alone. This activity allowed for group discussion of vulnerabilities and for the prioritization of needs. Communities were encouraged to identify actions that could be taken themselves instead of being wholly dependent on external donors.

8.1	No of Participants	ANELCAUHAT
Women's Focus Group	4	1) <u>Agriculture</u> - more training and awareness offered to local to improve food security. 2) <u>Shell polishing</u> - training on shell-polishing and provision of equipment for women to earn money selling to tourists
Men's Focus Group	15	1) <u>River crossings</u> - create safe pedestrian bridge crossings for rivers and streams on Aneityum 2) <u>Disaster Shelter</u> - Need for a safe location where community members can evacuate during a cyclone or tsunami warning. Can have a function as a community hall building as well.
Youth Focus Group	10	1) <u>Inclusion of Youth</u> - participation of youth in decision making process and more opportunities / youth activities 2) <u>Sports</u> - revival of sports program on Aneityum

8.2	No of Participants	UMEJ
Women's Focus Group	15	1) <u>Improve Communications</u> - install hardware necessary to provide reliable mobile phone reception to Umej 2) <u>Poultry project</u> - as there is little livestock development on Aneityum, create a small poultry project that local women can attend to and earn money from
Men's Focus Group	17	1) <u>Improve footpath</u> - leading from Umej to Anelcauhat so population, including vulnerable people, have safe access to services 2) <u>Improve Aid Post building</u> - re-build Umej Aid Post using sturdier materials to construct a permanent building.
Youth Focus Group	N/A	N/A. (Youth received contract to perform work associated with tourism so they were not present at community meeting.)

8.3	No of Participants	ANAOWANSE, ANAWAMET, ANAOWANJE
Key Respondent Interviews	12	1) <u>Improve Water Security</u> - by far the most urgently stated need for population of Anaowanse and Anawamet is installed water systems that may provide clean, reliable water access 2) <u>Improve footpath</u> - leading from Anawamet to Anelcauhat so population, including vulnerable people, have safe access to services