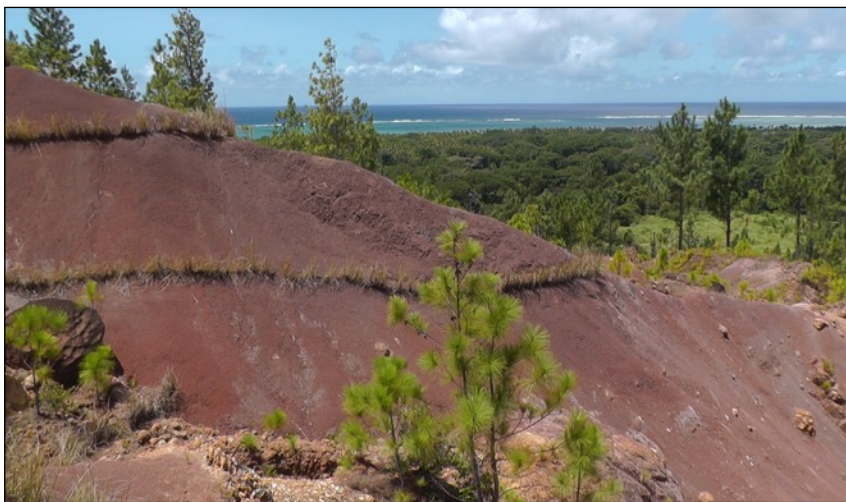


UPLAND RESOURCES, VCAP & ANEITYUM AC

RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Recommendations for Upland Resources: Aneityum AC

- As there is no Site Coordinator based on Aneityum, focus on priority upland actions only for Aneityum:
 - 1.) Explore potential to support Anawamet Village with gravity feed water supply system and additional water security options in Anaowanse
 - 2.) Provide backup storage tanks for rain harvesting in Umej Village. Small improvements to source in Anelcauhat to stop sedimentation
 - 3.) Empower DARD field officer, Mr. Mike Jimmy stationed on Aneityum to lead food security efforts such as workshops, establishment of Agro-Forestry nursery.
 - 4.) Revive vetiver grass nurseries on Aneityum and utilize locals experienced in working with vetiver and soil erosion control. Export and share materials / local knowledge to with other VCAP sites with erosion issues
- Work in partnership with PWD to compliment hard measures for footpath strengthening with soft measures to control erosion. Scoping mission by erosion specialist to be planned in conjunction with PWD engineer
- Water supply specialist to perform scoping mission to Aneityum in Q2 2016 and deliver list possible interventions.



(Above: Severe upland erosion nearby Anawamet Village, where vetiver grass and pine was planted for control)

Water Security

Villagers in Anawamet seek a functional water supply system, which will supply the primary school and Aid Post in addition to their households. 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 are critically affected by a lack of fresh water sources and many resort to collecting water from springs on the coral reef during low tide events, which may experience salt water intrusion and contamination. Locals here have identified a swamp that could possibly serve as a water source or suggest that maybe drilling may take place to identify a better source. As there is such a small population in Anaowanse, it is recommended that proposed interventions be scaled appropriately but at least a scoping mission by a water specialist could take place here and a list of possible actions could be considered by VCAP PIU.

The Anelcauhat area has two functional gravity feed water supply systems. One services the majority of the population in Anelcauhat Village and the other is based in Uje Village and was recently installed in 2014 through the support of JICA. Review water source in Anelcauhat Village as community members request small improvements to be made to the cement catchment box located at the source and perhaps attempting to install a filter to reduce sedimentation cause by frequent rainfall.

In November of 2015, the **gravity feed system in Umej** was **not functional** and the community reports that it due to maintenance issues it was 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.



(Above: Garden in Anaowanjé)

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 (*delivering food for stores to re-stock*) not arrive as scheduled, many villagers report that their food supply is compromised. Coastal erosion in Anelcauhat is threatening to affect a fresh water swamp in one location also where reserves of water taro are planted.

Umej Village traditionally supplies Anelcauhat with agricultural produce, as its gardens receive plentiful rainfall and contains extremely fertile soil.

There is a taro garden here that the Aneityum Tourism Project pays local farmers to maintain and taro is then sold directly from the farm in order to support local in Anelcauhat that do not take part in as much agricultural activities. Locals in Anaowanse, Anawamet and Anaowanjé also have better levels of food security than those depending on a majority of store-bought food in Anelcauhat.

It would be beneficial to support DARD field officer based on Aneityum (*stationed in Anawamet*) in creating training modules, providing materials and tools for a nursery and providing support to hold agriculture workshops with communities. Potential partnership with CARE International on Aneityum to create household garden program to encourage improved gardening techniques and improved food security levels.

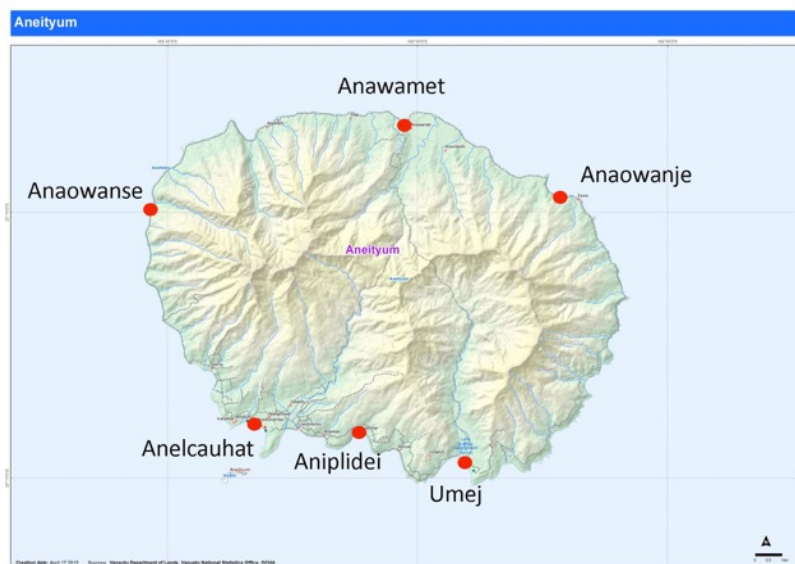
As potential profits from agricultural activity is perceived by locals as minimal when compared with potential profits to be gained from tourism activity- it may be challenging to engage some community members.

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 with the support of the New Zealand Government and the Department of Forests. 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 that have moderate to 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.

Reviving the vetiver grass nurseries in order to perform complimentary work with PWD to control soil erosion is essential to ensuring sustainable outputs on Aneityum and it could also help to provide initial stock and training opportunities for other VCAP sites as well. Reviving these vetiver grass nurseries will involve creating a budget to employ perhaps 2 locals (who previously worked to establish the nurseries through a project with funding support from NZ High Commission) to begin work and revive the nurseries in preparation of supporting PWD to lead communities in taking soft measures and compliment road / footpath improvements.

It would be best if an erosion specialist could visit Aneityum in Q2 2016 to assess the vetiver nurseries and create a technical plan to revive the nurseries and coordinate with PWD engineer to propose technical outputs to compliment infrastructure plans.



(Above: Map of Aneityum AC)

Environment - Upland

While it may be beneficial to support the creation of Upland Conservation Areas to encourage management and sustainability of upland resources, suggesting that VCAP undertake this activity at other VCAP sub-sites first as locals have shown relatively little interest in this activity. Much of the interior of the island is uninhabited and current livestock and logging activities are not currently threatening water catchment areas.

Livestock

Currently with minimal livestock activities taking place on Aneityum due to economic activities relating to tourism and an abundance of coastal resources for consumption, there are minimal threats to the

environment posed by livestock. Recommending that no immediate support of livestock activities be planned for Aneityum as this is not a priority action and livestock activities should be prioritized at other VCAP sites.

Lack of Site Coordinator

Due to the unique arrangement for the Tafea Outer Islands VCAP site, where there are four islands and five Area Councils contained within the one site- the Aneityum Island sub-site does not have a residing Site Coordinator and will instead rely upon voluntary assistance from the Provincial Area Secretary to assist with coordinating logistics and site-based reporting for VCAP implementation. If a full-time Site Coordinator cannot be provided by VCAP for the Aneityum sub-site, it is recommended that priority actions only take place at this site, in accordance with the VCAP Project Board's decision (see *Minutes from first VCAP Project Board Meeting from June 18, 2015 page 5*).

Data for Upland Resources

Refer to the Vulnerability Assessment Report for Aneityum from February 2016 to review data relating to upland resources.



(Above: Uninhabited interior of Aneityum Island as viewed from hillside atop Anawamet Village)