

COASTAL RESOURCES, VCAP & ANEITYUM AC

RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Recommendations re Coastal Resources: Aneityum AC

- As there is no Site Coordinator based on Aneityum to help coordinate activities, focus on priority coastal actions only for Aneityum:
 - 1.) Facilitate EIA regarding impact from human waste and open pit latrines used by thousands of visiting tourists arriving by cruise ship each week on the tiny Mystery Island & coral reef ecosystem
 - 2.) Utilize successful Marine Protected Area, successful projects with Fisheries & local knowledge to share with other VCAP sites and stakeholders, and create network of MPA's for Tafea Outer Islands
 - 3.) Provide basic support to inshore fisheries including supporting a management plan for households in Anaowanse, COT removal, support for preservation in Anawamet
 - 4.) Re-installation of Fish Aggregating Devices (F.A.D.'s) for communities on Aneityum to alleviate pressures on inshore fisheries
- Review of materials used / approach to installing F.A.D.'s as communities on Aneityum and Futuna report that 100% of F.A.D.'s installed in 2014 at these sites were lost within 12 months, before TC Pam occurred



(Above: P&O cruise ship carrying thousands of visiting tourists to spend the day on Mystery Island, Aneityum)

Environment - Coastal Resources

Communities report that a **big potential risk** to their economic livelihoods is **waste pollution produced by thousands of visiting tourists** arriving each week by cruise ship and using Mystery Island's "**long-drop**" toilets. As Mystery Island or "Inyeug" located just offshore from Anelcauhat Village 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 now developing along some parts of the shore on Mystery Island and there are some unhealthy segments of coral reef, which may or may not be associated with waste pollution.

It is recommended that VCAP facilitate an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regarding the effect from the toilets to be led by the DEPC, Fisheries and / or any any required technical specialists, as the Marine Protected Area for Anelcauhat surrounds Mystery Island and its resources may be affected.

P&O cruise lines may have conducted a private EIA previously, as they installed in 2013 an advanced toilet area on Mystery Island, where toilet waste is reportedly filtered using advanced technology. Local community members report that while this improved toilet is a positive development, it is not sufficient enough to cater to the thousands of tourists arriving by cruise ship each week and there are around 15 additional long drop toilets that are in constant use by tourists, with no filters or septic tanks.

It is possible that if results from an EIA indicate that toilet waste associated with visiting cruise ships threatens the coastal ecosystem, P&O may agree to support building additional improved toilets on Mystery Island.



(Sea turtle killed on Aneityum in 2008, turtle harvest greatly reduced now)

Protected Species

The consumption of turtle has been reduced drastically over the past decade but the local population still reports the occasional harvest of sea turtle for consumption, although there is general awareness that harvesting is prohibited by law. Recommend continuing awareness work with communities relating to protection of turtle population.

There are no reported dugongs present on Aneityum.

Mangrove Ecosystems

There are pockets of mangroves around Aneityum, primarily located near the mouths of rivers or coastal springs, which reportedly remain unharmed and in good condition.

Coastal Erosion

The most frequently cited reports of coastal erosion by communities on Aneityum are located in the central area of Anelcauhat and contributing factors for this coastal erosion include continuous sand mining and the destruction of vegetation along the coastline. A dormitory building constructed in a very poor location adjacent to the coastline at Teruja Secondary school collapsed into the sea several years ago.

There are no organized replanting efforts to stabilize coastlines with vegetation in Anelcauhat.

Inshore Fisheries

Recommended that prioritized assistance to inshore fisheries be provided by VCAP in the following areas:

Community members in Anaowanse report that there are very strict traditional “tabus” placed on a majority of the coastline, which has resulted in the local population often breaking the “tabus” in order to acquire seafood to feed their families. They urgently requested guidance from Fisheries to **establish a management plan** for their marine resources that will balance conservation efforts with the need to provide food for their families.

Re-installation of **Fish Aggregating Devices (F.A.D.’s)** for communities on Aneityum to alleviate pressures on inshore fisheries by providing alternative source for local fishermen, to improve food security and create sustainable income generation through domestic sale of fish.

Removal of **Crown of Thorns Starfish (COTS)** from coral ecosystems as led by Fisheries, especially for Marine Protected Areas. This invasive species has only recently (in the last five years) been observed by locals as growing in abundance on some parts of the coral reef on Aneityum.



(Visible coastal erosion in Anelcauhat)

Anawamet community members request the provision of **training, awareness activities** relating to sustainable inshore fisheries practices and a **solar ice box** for communal use for preserving fish for food security purposes and sustainable income generation.

Lack of Site Coordinator

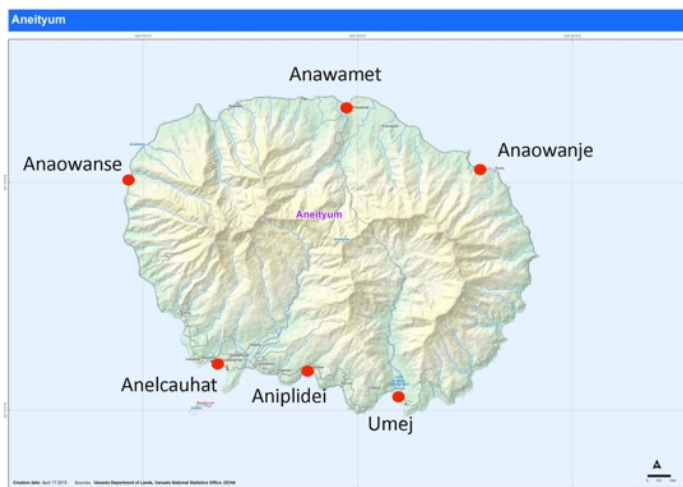
Due to the unique arrangement for the Tafea Outer Islands VCAP site, where there are four islands and five Area Councils contained within the one site- the Aneityum Island sub-site does not have a residing Site Coordinator and will instead rely upon voluntary assistance from the Provincial Area Secretary 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*).



(Local woman while fishing on shelf reef in Anelcaubat at low tide)

Data for Coastal Resources

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



(Map of Aneityum Island)