

DLA, VCAP & NORTH ERROMANGO AC

RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Recommendations for DLA: North Erromango Area Council

- Provide budget for communications so Site Coordinator is able to communicate with PIU and report about progress with project activities.
- Consider the procurement of a boat, to be placed under supervision of Area Secretary of N Erro AC & Site Coordinator, to be used for VCAP implementation by line agencies as a cost-saving measure, as travel expenses on the island are substantial for boat hire and the geographic size of the island requires boat travel to efficiently implement. Will facilitate the work of the Area Secretary as well.
- Consider the procurement of fuel for boat travel; VCAP mission to field occurred when fuel reserves had been exhausted on the island, and led to walking over 10+ hours to conduct assessments. This may not always be possible. Must have reporting system for fuel, where use of boat is tied to specific project outputs / activities.
- Review selection process for Area Council members and propose changes if necessary for the next formation of Area Council.
- Support strengthening of Area Council Office where it may also function as a disaster shelter- there is no improved toilet, window shutters, solar power system or water storage tanks at the AC Office.
- Provide technical training for AC members regarding the roles and responsibilities of the AC, financial management, accounting, project design and planning.



(Above: North Erromango AC members with VDC representatives at VCAP meeting)

North Erromango Area Council (AC) Members

The North Erromango Area Council members held two official meetings in 2015, largely focusing on the adverse effects of Tropical Cyclone Pam and the distribution of relief items such as food and WASH supplies. Representation for the AC includes those for chiefly councils, women's groups, Community Disaster Committees, local businesses, water committees and church committees.

AC members identified priorities for assistance within the context of climate change adaptation and possible VCAP interventions, requesting technical training led by the DLA on AC roles and responsibilities, local governance and financial management.

The Area Council Chairman, John Atvi, reported that chronic budget shortages inhibited the AC's ability to properly meet their mandate. AC members request training in financial reporting & general capacity building so that they feel comfortable deciding how to conduct planning sessions, spend and report back on the allocation provided to them.

Area Secretary

The Provincial Area Secretary for North Erromango Area Council is Mr. Remi Nembil and he has been with the Tafea Provincial Government Council for over a decade and is currently the longest serving Area Secretary in the province. The Area Secretary undertakes many tasks varying in nature including voter registration, issuing birth certificates, collecting local taxes and supporting development initiatives. Mr. Nembil resides in Port Narvin.

Area Council Office / Resources

Functional AC office constructed with permanent materials in Port Narvin Village. Suggested improvements to the facilities by AC members included providing a VIP or water seal toilet, rain tank larger than 25 L, strengthening the metal roof that may have been damaged by strong winds in TC Pam and constructing a sea wall immediately in front of the 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 or Area Council.

Technical Advisory Group

There is one Technical Advisory Group for both North and South Erromango Area Councils - The “Erromango Technical Advisory Committee (ETAC)”.

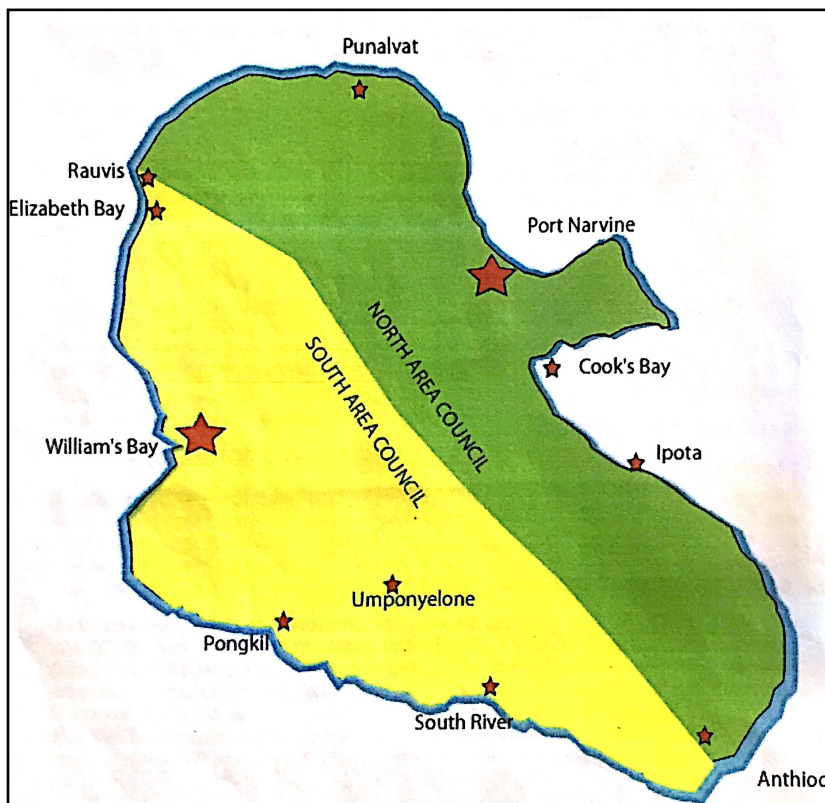
Village Development Committees (VDC's)

Three VDC's have been established on North Erromango (see Vulnerability Assessment Report for listing of community committees, NGO's and FBO's that are included among VDC's:

1. Ipota VDC (includes Ifo, Norah, and Nalvin)
2. Cooks Bay VDC (includes Ilvuwalam, Potwai, Towit, and Perusia)
3. Port Narvin VDC

Community Profile / Vulnerability Assessment

Community profiling initiative conducted by VCAP in October of 2015 and results shared with DLA in February of 2016.



(Above: Map of North and South Erromango Area Councils)

Area Council Plans

Both the North and South Area Councils adhere to the island's five-year development plan, *Erromango Strategic Development Plan : 2014-2018*, developed through support of the US Peace Corps and NZ volunteers. The 5-year development plan articulates development objectives relating to commercial businesses, public conveyance infrastructure, climate change adaptation, educational management, environmental conservation, promotion of local handicrafts, as well as improved healthcare services for small “stations” not included major population centers (such as Ifo, Norah, and Nalvin villages in Cooks Bay).

Banking / Finance

Area Council has access to banking services on North Erromango, utilizing branches of both the National Bank of Vanuatu and Western Union in Ipota Village.

Sign-In Sheet for VDC / Area Council VCAP Meeting (12.10.15)

<u>N. ERRO AREA COUNCIL & VDC CHAIRMEN MTG</u>		
<u>NAME</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
BEN MEKUN	BUSINESS	PORT NARVIN
JOE YAKTE	CHAIRMAN (VDC)	" "
CHARLIE UMPA	CHAIRMAN (VDC)	COOKS BAY
NANCY NAMBI	WOMEN'S REP (N.E. AC)	PORT NARVIN
SONIA KUNGU	Secretary of ^{UNTP} protect.	PORT NARVIN
PETER NOWAI	Committee	PORT NARVIN
ROSITA JAMES	Secretary	COOKS BAY
TAROLI NENTU	Chairman	IPOTA
KULTON-NATUBON	Finance Chairman	IPOTA
THOMAS NENTU	Chairman W. Supply	IPOTA

(Above: Sign-in Sheet from North Erromango AC & VDC meeting regarding VCAP on October 12, 2015)