

COASTAL RESOURCES, VCAP & NORTH ERROMANGO AC

RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Recommendations re Coastal Resources: North Erromango AC

- Support Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Cooks Bay and establish a strong network of MPA's linked together in Tafea Province
- Encourage strengthening of traditionally protected coastal areas in Port Narvin and Ipota
- Crown of Thorns Starfish (COTS) removal in all communities, creating contests for locals to participate in the restoration of local coral reef ecosystems
- Utilize soft measures to control coastal erosion in Port Narvin
- Installation of Fish Aggregating Devices (F.A.D.) for Port Narvin and Ipota in North Erromango AC to alleviate pressures on inshore fisheries, allow for expansion of inshore protected areas and improve food security levels.
- Provide other means of support to inshore fisheries including the development of coastal resource management plans and the provision of solar-powered fish preservation centers
- Support conservation efforts for mangrove ecosystems
- Work with partners such as Wan Smol Bag to increase awareness activities regarding protected species of sea turtles, which are regularly consumed in Port Narvin and Cook's Bay



(Boats along the coastline of Port Narvin)

Environment - Coastal Resources

Ipota and Port Narvin communities have both requested inshore fisheries training and capacity building. They seek technical assistance in determining the best areas to establish potential Marine Protected Areas (MPA's). Both communities expressed interest in the creation of sustainable fisheries plans so that coastal resources can be harvested at appropriate levels to ensure continued resiliency and food security. Currently there are very strict traditional "tabus" placed on a large section of coastline near Ipota and Port Narvin villages and communities felt that there should be a review of the most appropriate areas to conserve coastal resources and development of a **management plan** to better protect these resources.

Cooks Bay community requested continuing support for their already established MPA near the small "station" of Perusia. In addition, locals have requested technical training and awareness workshops on conservation methods to ensure the area's natural resources are being properly protected.

Removal of **Crown of Thorns Starfish (COTS)** in Port Narvin from coral ecosystems as led by Fisheries. This invasive species has only recently been observed by locals as growing in abundance on some parts of the coral reef on North Erromango, leading to concerns about receding reef quality.

Protected Species

The communities of Ipota, Cooks Bay, and Port Narvin all reported **harvesting of sea turtles for consumption**. Cooks Bay has a small population, yet the community there estimated that over 50 sea turtles were harvested each year. Port Narvin estimated that its community members harvest over 20 sea turtles each year. While the community of Ipota estimated perhaps only two sea turtles were caught and consumed annually. Working with partners such as Wan Smol Bag and Fisheries Department to strengthen conservation efforts in Cooks Bay and Port Narvin is recommended.

Mangrove Ecosystems

There are expansive mangrove ecosystems on the coastline between Ipota and Cooks Bay, in particular around the small stations of Norah and Nalvin. Port Narvin also has plentiful mangrove trees located north of the immediate community. These mangrove systems remain relatively untouched..

Coastal Erosion

Port Narvin currently has the **significant coastal erosion** impacting its coastline with dozens of large banyan trees now exposing their roots. Community infrastructure, such as the local school in Port Narvin, is becoming increasingly vulnerable to the coastal storm surge and eroding coastlines. Soft measures should be taken and better community planning to build further away from the coastline should be encouraged. Ipota and Cook's Bay are not as heavily impacted by coastal erosion.

Inshore Fisheries

All three population centers have requested installation of **Fish Aggregating Devices (F.A.D.'s)** to alleviate pressures on inshore fisheries by providing alternative sources for local fishermen, to improve food security, and create sustainable income generation through domestic sale of seafood. Due to the proximity of Cooks Bay and Port Narvin it is likely that these communities could share access to a F.A.D.

Port Narvin and Ipota community members request the provision of **training and awareness activities** relating to sustainable inshore fisheries practices and a **solar ice box** for communal use for preserving



(Aerial photo of Port Narvin after TC Pam, showing proximity to coast)

fish for food security purposes and sustainable income generation.

Site Coordinator

North Erromango has a residing Site Coordinator in addition to voluntary assistance from the Provincial Area Secretary to assist with coordinating logistics and site-based reporting for VCAP implementation.

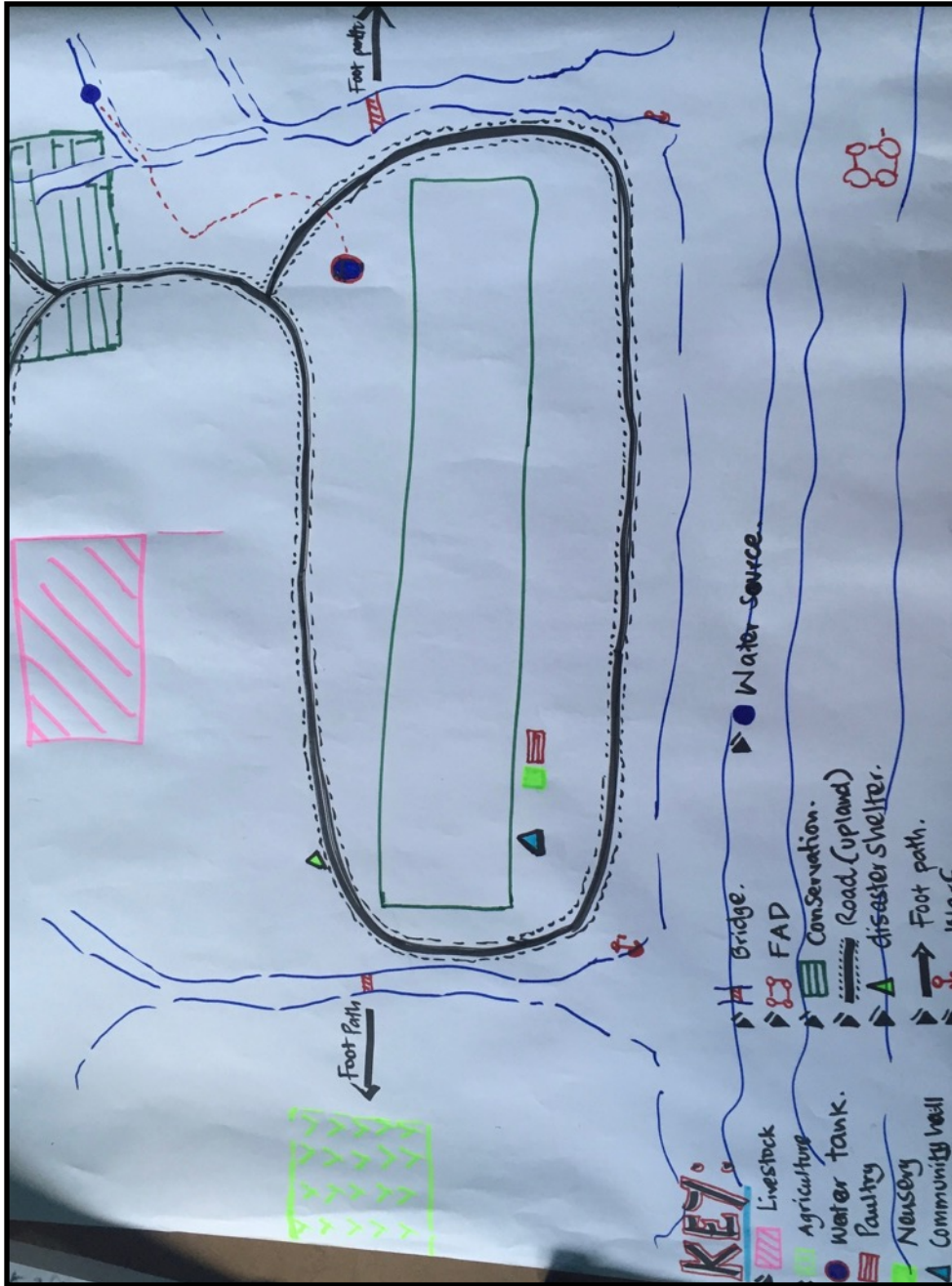
Data for Coastal Resources

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



(Communities of North Erromango AC)

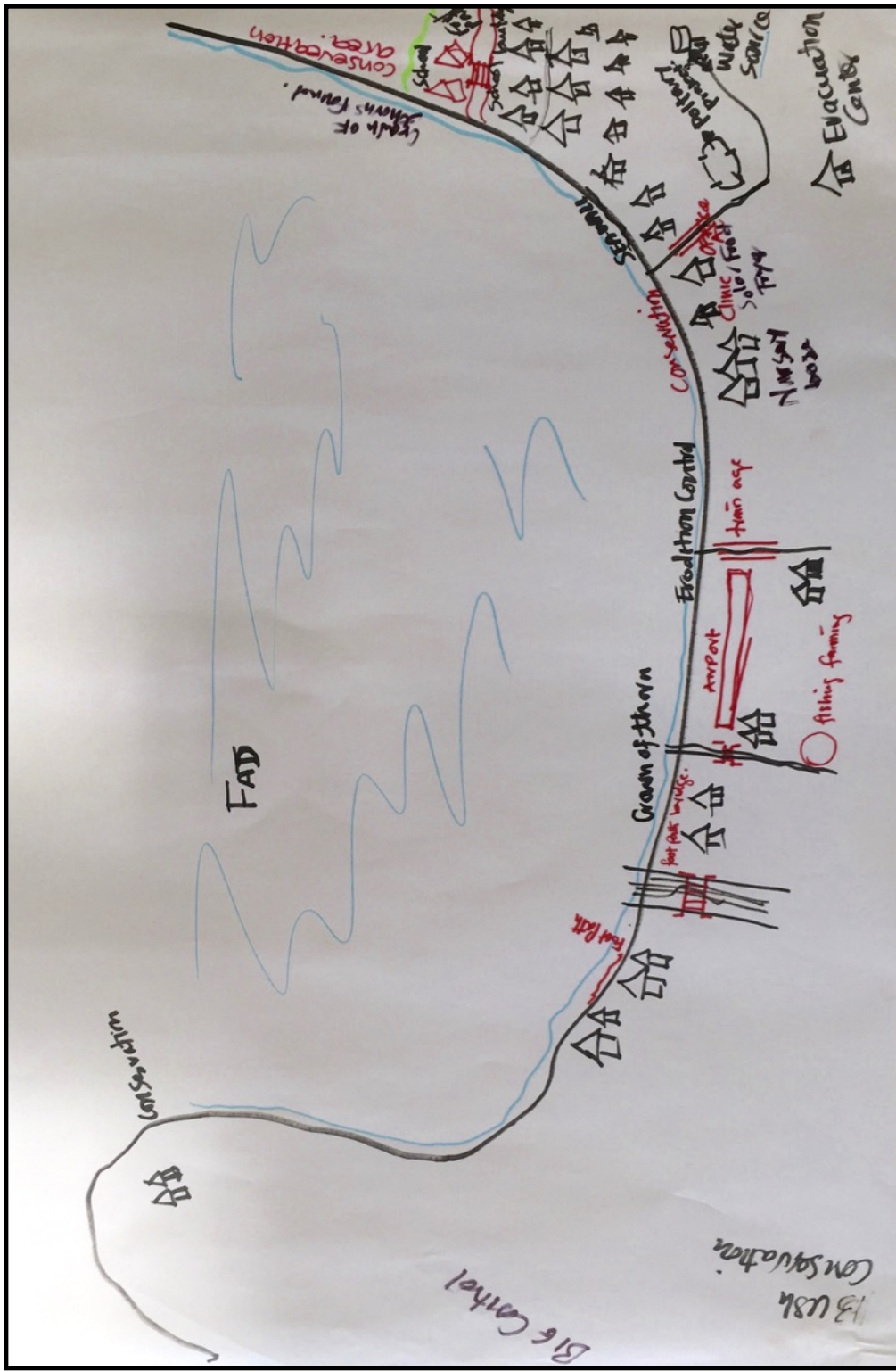
Ipota; Community Mapping



Community mapping exercise showing some coastal resources such as the location of potential F.A.D. and conservation area as indicated by community members in Ipota Village. Dotted black lines denote upland vehicular road, solid red lines indicate proposed pedestrian bridge locations over rivers, and black arrows indicate direction of coastal footpaths connecting to Ifo and Cooks Bay.

Port Narvin; Community Mapping

Port Narvin; Community Mapping



Community mapping exercise showing location of coastal resources such as the location for a potential Crown of Thorn starfish removal site, conservation areas and possible F.A.D. placement in Port Narvin.

Cooks Bay Community Mapping

