

## COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

Nguna and Pele Islands are located in the central part of SHEFA province off the northern coast of Efate. The combined population of Nguna and Pele is just over eleven hundred people, spread unevenly among sixteen communities and villages, ten of which are located directly on the coast. Villages range in population size from under 100 to over 500 people. All villages have strong customary autonomies, presided over by a hereditary paramount chief.

Nguna and Pele are surrounded by fringing reefs, which are fished by the local people. However, the basis of islanders' diet and livelihood comes from subsistence farming. Income on Nguna and Pele is largely generated by supplying root crops, fish and handicrafts to the national market in the capital of Port Vila.

The image contains two photographs. The top photograph shows three people sitting on a grassy field. One person is wearing a red shirt with 'TOD' on it, another is in a blue shirt, and a third is in a dark shirt. They are all looking at a document on the ground. The bottom photograph shows two people standing outdoors. One person is wearing a white shirt with 'TOD' on it and is holding a large white sheet of paper. The other person is wearing a dark shirt. They appear to be in a wooded or park-like area.

RAPID VULNERABILITY  
ASSESSMENT METHODS

To assess the climate change vulnerability of Nguna and Pele islands, a quantitative survey was developed to appraise marine, coastal, forest, land, and community vulnerabilities. A three person team including SHEFA Province and SPC-GIZ climate experts and the local Area Secretary rapidly assessed key vulnerabilities from 4 villages on Pele and 11 villages on Nguna within two days.



## KEY VULNERABILITIES

### Nguna Island



Communities on Nguna identified the coastal region as their most vulnerable area, with the most prevalent issues being coastal erosion, increased storm surge and sea pollution. Nguna villagers identified marine vulnerabilities in their community as their second highest concern. Declined coral health, increased human population pressure, declining fish and shellfish, invasive species and increase in sea temperature were commonly cited issues.

### Pele Island



On Pele community leaders identified land and forest as their most vulnerable area. Villagers named reduced crop yields, slash and burn agriculture, and increased agricultural damage due to pests and disease as their top concerns. Additionally, Pele islanders cited coastal vulnerabilities including coastal and beach erosion and salt water intrusion as the most pressing coastal weaknesses to address.

### SHEFA: Provincial Cooperation

The Nguna-Pele vulnerability assessment was led by SHEFA Province and their climate change officer. SHEFA is taking the initiative to understand climate vulnerabilities in its communities by rapidly mapping risks. SHEFA will use the vulnerability assessments to prioritize action and support for its communities. Communities in turn can adapt to the changing environment—before extreme loss of livelihood or ecosystem occurs. Data gleaned from this rapid vulnerability assessment will be used to find resources and coordinate support for more comprehensive assessments and action.

**ADAPTATION STRATEGIES  
ALREADY BEING UNDERTAKEN ON  
NGUNA & PELE IN COLLABORATION  
WITH SPC-GIZ**

**NGUNA- PELE MARINE AND LAND  
PROTECTED AREA NETWORK**



Protecting fragile species and habitats

**CLIMATE RESILIENT  
FOREST NURSERY**



Cultivating native coastal species to combat coastal erosion

**SOLAR FOOD DRYER**



Enhanced food security in the face of decreasing agricultural yields, preserved fruit, nuts, fish, meat and vegetables

**HONEY BEE HUSBANDRY**



Increasing agricultural productivity with bee pollination and training farmers in bee culture and honey production

**FISH AGGREGATING  
DEVICE**



Attracts deep water fish to coastal villages and reduces pressure on vulnerable coral reefs

**LIVESTOCK  
HUSBANDRY**



Breeding climate resilient pigs, climate-proof housing and feeding practices

**SLOPE STABILIZATION**



Rehabilitating plots on degraded hillsides using resilient tree and grass species

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## CLIMATE CHANGE RAPID VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

SHEFA PROVINCE  
NGUNA & PELE ISLANDS

