

**Social Assessment**

**Date** 22/05/2017

**CEPF Grant** 18,320.99\$

**Grantee:** Vanuatu Environment Advocacy Network

***Project Title:*** Enhance the Ability of VEAN to Deliver Effective Conservation Action through the development of a VEAN Strategic Plan

**Project Location**

Port Vila, Vanuatu

## **Grant Summary**

1. Grantee organization. Vanuatu Environment Advocacy Network  
Grant title. Enhance the Ability of VEAN to Deliver Effective Conservation Action through the development of a VEAN Strategic Plan
2. Grant number:
3. Grant amount (US dollars). 18320.99\$
4. Proposed dates of grant; 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018
5. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken. Vanuatu
6. Date of preparation of this document. 22/05/2017

7. **Indigenous People affected:** This section will describe the Indigenous People in the project area.

The communities of East and West Tanna will be primarily affected by the scope of this project; namely communities within the Tanna mountain range area; inimelen; lamuakapuen; ikirup, white sands; By “affected” we mean that a representative from these communities will attend the workshops. The rep will go back to their respective communities and disseminate outcomes of workshop.

Yenemaha in East Tanna will be the location of the first workshop. In the West the location will be in Etap community. As the proposed project requires logistical support from the village community, including transport, accommodation and catering for intended participants, as well as use of their land to provide the space for training, the residents of Yenemaha and Etap; are thus most affected by this intervention. Any service rendered by the communities to the project must be distributed fairly among the four tribal groups and due consideration must be taken of the needs of the community as a whole. Further, appropriate organizational structures need to be in place within the 2 workshop communities in order to facilitate the level of co-operation required for VEAN’s implementation of the project.

## **Summary of the proposed project:**

There are two main components of this project as follows:

Improved capacity for the two VEAN members on Tanna and especially TauleTaule and Tarepman; to work in partnership with other community-based conservation initiatives around Mt Tokesmera to manage a viable, environment-focused, nationally based CSO on Tanna, Vanuatu, that makes sound conservation action decisions as a result from, and relative to; the capacity building strengthening, undertaken by the two organizations and other CBOs in the target area, these conservation actions will also be shared and worked through, amongst the communities.

Increased ability to provide local community organizations with the technical skills that they require to work closely with the communities and stakeholders on Tanna to undertake conservation actions on Tanna.

1. Develop VEAN’s strategic plan and assist with capacity building of Tanna CSOs. This could set the groundwork for the recruitment of a biodiversity officer in the future.

## **Potential impacts:**

Strengthened technical capacity of VEAN by helping to finalize strategic plan and capacity building for VEAN members on Tanna to focus their program and resources on conservation. This will lead towards active participation of CSOs in environment conservation and protection in Tanna and set an example for the rest of Vanuatu.

Local CSOs on Tanna will have the capacity to deliver conservation of critical and endemic species. Green Hill on Tanna is one of the six biodiversity hotspots in Vanuatu

#### **8. Participatory preparation:**

VEAN staff made a visit to Tanna in 2016 and met up with the two VEAN members TauleTaule and Tarepman and jointly conduct a consultation with communities around collared petrel nesting site near mount Tokesmer. During the visit the village people learned about the endemism of collared petrel and their extinction due to uncontrolled harvesting and other human activities in the area such as clearing the forest for gardening cutting down oif trees for housing needs. After hearing all the information the chiefs and the peoples of Enmilen, Lupangkapiel, Ikurup all stressed their concern about the need for conservation of collared petrel to ensure the sustainability of this birds species.

VEAN staff made a visit to Tanna in 2016 and metup with the two VEAN members organizations TauleTaule and Tarepmanand jointly conducted a consultation with communities around mount Tokesmera where the Collared Petrel are nesting. During the consultation with the local communities the chiefs and the people of Enmilen, Lupangkapiel, Ikuruplrstnrg about the endemism of collared petrel and its extinction from uncontrolled harvesting and expansion offarming activities into their nesting site said they will work closely with VEAN and its members to conserve the nesting site to ensure the sustainability of this birds species.

#### **9. Mitigation strategies:**

Having the two workshops in the East and West of the island, takes into account the localities of where the workshop participants reside, thus choosing locations that are central for the participants is advantageous all participating communities including those from the North and South can benefit from the workshops. Strategically, the CBO's involved are from communities that have more of a bearing on natural resource/biodiversity management aspirations, as their local areas should harbor such natural resources & biodiversity, such as the collared petrel for example.

As the proposed project requires logistical support from the village community, including transport, accommodation and catering for intended participants, as well of use of their land to provide the space for training, the residents of Yenemaha and Etap; are thus most affected by this intervention. Payment to the community for any service rendered by the project must be distributed fairly among the groups and due consideration must be taken of the needs of the community as a whole. Further, appropriate organizational structures need to be in place within the 2 workshop communities in order to facilitate the level of co-operation required for VEAN's implementation of the project.

The affected communities will be informed about the objectives of the grant and the existence of a grievance mechanism. Chiefs and local/provincial authorities will also be alerted about the project prior to commencement, during the project term and near the end of the project, thus local mitigation measures and grievance mechanisms will also be applied in that context. Documents produced for the CSOs capacity building training and the strategic plan will have CEPF and VEAN's logo and contact details.

#### **10. Monitoring and evaluation:**

Monitoring and evaluation of safeguard policy will be done on a quarterly basis. At the end of each quarter particularly with regard to the workshops held in Tanna, participants of the workshops will undertake a survey to evaluate their level of satisfaction with the progress of the CEPF project, and specify any positive or negative impacts they have experienced in that quarter. The survey will be prepared for them to complete in Bislama, translated by the consultant and VEAN CEO, and sent with a scan of the original survey to the Regional Implementation Team.

Questions included on the survey will include:

- How would you rate your satisfaction with the project in the last three months?
- How often were you in contact with VEAN to discuss for this project in the last three months?
- How often had VEAN discussed with members of the community to discuss this project?
- How often had the CSO's been in contact with members VEAN to discuss this project?
- In the last three months, how difficult was it to manage this project?
- In what ways has this project benefited the community in the last three months?
- In what ways has this project impacted negatively on the community in the last three months?

Responses to the first 5 questions will be on a scale of 1 to 5. For the last two questions, which look specifically at positive and negative impacts of the project, respondents will be asked to give specific details about the impacts of the project.

Evaluating by a quarterly survey will enable VEAN in partnership with the community to look at ways to ensure that a line of communication and co-operation remains open throughout the project. The survey format, written in clear language easy for the respondents to understand, is a good way to monitor the level of information exchange at all levels of the project implementation. Further, it offers a coherent way to mitigate risks or grievances that may come up for Tanna communities at any stage of the project. As the communities are primarily involved in a hosting/facilitatory capacity, their input during monitoring will help us to formulate ways to properly manage the training sessions in the two designated workshop communities (Yenemeha and Etap).

Over the project term, the quarterly monitoring process will also enable us to create a progressive, evolving account of any issues that arise and 'how do we solve it.' All negative impacts, and the strategies involved to mitigate them over the course of the year, will be included in a report and submitted with analysis as a final evaluation of VEAN's Social Safeguard compliance in conclusion of the project in 2018.

This will also contribute to the training manual, to be replicated to other islands in the future and also to the Strategic Plan. The strategic plan document will cover a period of five years and will be reviewed at the end of the first five years. Other conservation NGOs will have access to the strategic plan document which will be documented in a booklet and handed to all VEAN members and soft copy dissemination on email.

VEAN has provided support to a number of CSOs who apply for funding to the GEF small grants program. This has been the primary form of funding for VEAN prior to this CEPF engagement.

#### **11. Grievance mechanism:**

All projects that trigger a safeguard are required to provide local communities and other interested stakeholders with means by which they may raise a grievance with the grantee, the relevant Regional Implementation Team, and the CEPF Secretariat. Affected local communities will be informed about the objectives of the grant and the existence of a grievance mechanism. All grievances will therefore have to come through VEAN and the grievance mechanism will be activated. VEAN has developed conflict resolution exercise through its community development program in rural areas. The main contact person at VEAN responsible for dealing with grievances is Lai Sakita. Any claimant wishing to raise a grievance about the intended project will be asked to share their grievance with him, either verbally or in writing. Verbal grievances will be recorded and written down in Bislama, signed and dated by the claimant. The written record of a grievance will be scanned and sent to the Regional Implementation Team,

accompanied by an English translation and the proposed response from VEAN. If the response is not met with satisfaction by the claimant, then VEAN agrees to take up the matter further on their behalf by contacting the CEPF Executive Director via email. Contact information of the grantee, the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director will be made publicly available, through posters, signboards, public notices or other appropriate means in local language(s). Any grievance raised concerning VEAN shall be communicated to the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days, together with a proposed response. The Regional Implementation Team can be contacted via phone on +679-331-9084 or email on [cepfeastmelanesia@iucn.org](mailto:cepfeastmelanesia@iucn.org) or via post on c/- CEPF Regional Implementation Team, PMB 5 Ma'afu St, Suva, Fiji. The Grant Director can be contacted via email on [mzador@cepf.net](mailto:mzador@cepf.net).

**12. Budget:** All dedicated costs related to compliance with the safeguard policy are included in the 'in-kind support' offered by VEAN in the proposed budget of this project. The only foreseeable cost of implementing this policy is time taken to arrange meetings with the participants and targeted members of 2 workshop communities, and processing survey results. This will all be done on a voluntary basis by VEAN coordinator and consultant.

**13. Map:** Please insert a map (indicate boundary if possible) of the area where the project will be implemented.

