



PV Climate

Project Design Document

Life and Land

Erromango and Tanna, Vanuatu

Project PDD Version 1.4

PDD Template Version 5.3

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Developed by:

Tearfund New Zealand and Nasituan

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Overview

Project Title:	Life & Land Project
Location:	Whitegrass and Middlebush, Tanna Island, and South River, Erromango Island, Vanuatu
Version:	1.4
Project Coordinator:	Olivia Bird, Programmes Specialist, Tearfund NZ. olivia@tearfund.org.nz Jeffrey Lahva, Director, Nasituan. jeffrey@nasituan.org
Validator:	Independent Expert - Catherine Lessa lessa.catherine@gmail.com
Validation Date:	10 th July 2026
Project Intervention(s):	1. Sustainable coffee production through (a) converting previously cleared land into coffee plantations and planting buffer margins in shade trees (Improved Management); and (b) planting the undergrowth of forest with coffee trees (Improved Management); 2. Reforestation of riparian margins (Restoration); 3. Forest enhancement through active restoration (Restoration); 4. Development of sustainable timber and fuelwood plantations within existing gardens and along roadsides (Improved Management); 5. Agroforestry incorporating the planting of fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees around or among gardens (Improved Management); 6. Hillside erosion control via tree planting and protection of wild cane resources (Restoration); 7. Enhancement of cattle grazing/coconut plantation area by planting supplementary shade, fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees (Improved Management); 8. Avoided deforestation through establishment and designation of a Community Conservation Area (CCA) to protect existing mature forest (Protection) and; 9. Reforestation of fallow gardens within the core CCA (Restoration).

Project Participants:	Provide a summary of the project participants including number of individuals/households included initially, and any plans for expansion. 118 Households with a total population of 649 individuals. There are plans to possibly expand to another 142 Households in Middlebush (with an additional population of 718 individuals) if further funding to continue restoration along Imanaka Creek is secured
Project Area:	State the extent of the total project area (in hectares) at the start of the project and any plans for expansion. Approximately 424 hectares (396 ha Whitegrass, 8.5 ha Middlebush, and 19.5 ha South River). There is the possibility of expanding forest enhancement activities such as the removal of smothering vines like Big leaf rope (<i>Merremia peltata</i>) and replanting in species such as Pacific Kauri (<i>Agathis macrophylla</i>) at South River by an additional ~50ha if further funding is secured.
Project Period:	1 January 2025 to 31 December 2054
Methodology:	PM001 Methodology
Expected Carbon Benefit:	180,213 Mg CO ₂ e (total over 30 years). 7,340 Mg CO ₂ e per annum (before risk buffer applied, but including achievement reserve).
Expected Ecosystem Benefit:	Climate change adaptation will improve ecosystem resilience, strengthening ecosystem service provision and improving biodiversity outcomes through a combination of improved land management, restoration, and forest protection mechanisms. By undertaking reforestation/conservation of indigenous forest (outputs 2 & 3), native tree biodiversity will be restored/protected, providing habitat for key species (native pigeons, coconut crabs, etc.) and allowing populations to recover. Restoring native forest will also help regulate ecosystem water cycling (flood management, water filtration, consistency of stream flow), restore soil health, increase resilience against tropical cyclones through a wind buffer effect, and assist in the suppression of pest species such as invasive vines.
Expected Livelihood Benefit:	Improved land management interventions include sustainable coffee farming, enhancement of cattle grazing and coconut plantation areas,

	agroforestry, and sustainable timber and fuelwood plantations. These will increase food and livelihood security, improve sustainable access to natural resources, and strengthen the resilience of local food systems to cyclones and flooding. This allows communities to be more self-sufficient while remaining able to use their land under changing climate conditions. Restoring and protecting forest and riparian areas (outputs 2 and 3) will also provide habitat for locally valued flora and fauna. Strengthening governance systems (output 4) will allow for resources and project benefits to be equitably shared, providing further buffers against climate-related disasters and the long-term impacts of climate change.
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1 General Information

1.1 Project Interventions

For each project intervention, describe why they are expected to provide long-term increases in carbon storage or reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and have positive impacts on local livelihoods and ecosystems; and demonstrate that livelihood benefits to project participants and other local stakeholders exceed direct benefits from the sale of Plan Vivo Certificates or employment in project activities.

The project will utilise improved management, restoration, and protection interventions as follows:

Improved management interventions

- *Intervention 1.* Sustainable coffee production through (a) converting previously cleared land into coffee plantations and planting buffer margins in shade trees; and (b) planting the undergrowth of forest with coffee trees;
- *Intervention 4.* Development of sustainable timber and fuelwood plantations within existing gardens and along roadsides;
- *Intervention 5.* Agroforestry incorporating the planting of fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees around and/or among gardens; and
- *Intervention 8.* Enhancement of cattle grazing/coconut plantation area by planting supplementary shade, fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees

Restoration

- *Intervention 2* Reforestation of riparian margins;
- *Intervention 3.* Forest enhancement through active restoration;
- *Intervention 6.* Reforestation of fallow gardens within the core CCA; and
- *Intervention 7.* Hillside erosion control via tree planting and protection of wild cane resources.

Protection

- *Intervention 9.* Avoided deforestation through establishment and designation of a Community Conservation Area (CCA) to protect existing mature forest.

The rationale for these interventions are explained below.

1. Improved management

Improved management interventions will be achieved through three different approaches: sustainable coffee production, sustainable timber and fuelwood production, and agroforestry. Sustainable coffee production includes (a) converting previously cleared land into coffee plantations while integrating a mix of shade trees, fruit, nut, and long-lived native canopy species along margins, as well as clearing/ongoing maintenance of vine overgrowth; and (b) planting the undergrowth of forest with coffee trees. Under intervention 1(b), the undergrowth of some areas of existing forest will be cleared and converted to coffee plantations, which is assumed to have no net gains or losses of carbon. Livelihood security will be increased through shade tree buffer protection of coffee plants against high wind damage and cyclones, as well as increased food security from agroforestry. Carbon sequestration will be increased by clearing vine overgrowth to increase ecosystem productivity and growth and facilitate the growth of higher-biomass, longer-lived trees.

Intervention 4 is the development of sustainable timber and fuelwood plantations. This involves the development of sustainable timber and fuelwood plantations by planting fast-growing species for harvest within the periphery margins of established gardens and along roadsides. Extractive pressure on long-lived native species will be relieved by planting fast-growing timber species (e.g. Whitewood, *Endospermum medullosum*, and Mahogany, *Swietenia macrophylla*). Community benefits will be derived from a consistent and sustainable supply of timber for construction and fuel. This is also expected to be carbon neutral but will mitigate leakage risks for other project activities.

Intervention 5 is incorporating an agroforestry approach into existing gardens by integrating fruit, timber, and/or nut-producing trees around or among gardens to increase community food security, and the clearance/ongoing maintenance of vine overgrowth to achieve this in agroforestry areas.

2. Ecosystem restoration & rehabilitation

Restoration will be achieved through two different approaches: reforestation of riparian margins and enhancement of degraded forest areas, while rehabilitation will occur through hillside planting for erosion control and restoring fallow garden areas.

Riparian margin restoration will be achieved by planting indigenous canopy species, with integrated planting of species used in food systems by the local community. Planting river margins with indigenous canopy species will increase carbon sequestration, while riparian reforestation will stabilise riverbanks, prevent erosion, and improve water quality. At both South River and

Middlebush, riparian planting will incorporate tree species of use and importance to communities (e.g. coconut).

Forest enhancement includes the restoration of indigenous canopy tree species lost through logging in remnant forest fragments by replanting indigenous tree species, as well as additional plantings to facilitate ecosystem recovery. Clearance and ongoing maintenance of vine overgrowth will also be carried out, and this will contribute to restoration efforts by providing space for indigenous canopy recovery. Restoring forest in headwater catchments will allow for these areas to act as riparian buffers, providing water filtration, drainage, and groundwater recharge services. This will provide flood protection to the local community and increase water quality, while also improving soil conditions for surrounding vegetation to survive. Restoring remnant forest areas and planting indigenous canopy tree species (e.g. Pacific Kauri) will increase habitat for a range of biodiversity. Carbon sequestration will be increased by clearing vine overgrowth to increase ecosystem productivity and growth and removing vines to facilitate the growth of higher-biomass, longer-lived trees

For rehabilitation of cattle grazing land, native shade trees will be planted on existing pasture lands. This facilitates ecosystem recovery, improves livestock farming conditions by providing shade for cattle, increases livelihood security by protecting areas for cattle grazing, and increases carbon sequestration as shade trees grow and mature. Partial hillside reforestation will stabilise erosion-prone soils, which will encourage recruitment and assist in protecting a locally important (but non-native) wild cane resource (*Miscanthus sp*) used by communities. Fallow gardens cleared within the core CCA area will also be restored with tree species native to the area. This will increase carbon sequestration by clearing vine overgrowth to increase ecosystem productivity and growth, and through replacing vines with higher-biomass, longer-lived tree species.

3. Protection

Land will be protected through avoided deforestation by establishing a CCA. This involves protecting existing mature forest from sporadic logging and clearance for garden development by establishing a CCA. This will decrease carbon emissions through halting ongoing logging and preserve biodiverse habitat for important species such as native pigeons, flying foxes, and fruit bats.

Table 1: Overview of project interventions and areas (ha) across all sites.

Intervention		Middlebush	Whitegrass	South River
1a	Sustainable coffee production through (a) conversion of existing gardens;		5.1 ha	
1b	Sustainable coffee production through (b) clearance of undergrowth.		16.6 ha	3 ha
2	Reforestation of riparian margins	8.5 ha		1.6 ha
3	Forest enhancement through active restoration			10 ha
4	Development of sustainable timber and fuelwood plantations within existing gardens and along roadsides		10.7 ha	2 ha
5	Agroforestry incorporating the planting of fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees around or among gardens			2.8 ha
6	Restoration of fallow gardens within the core CCA area.		4.8 ha	
7	Hillside erosion control via tree planting and protection of wild cane resources		5.9 ha	
8	Enhancement of cattle grazing/coconut plantation area by planting supplementary shade, fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees		24.2 ha	
9a	Avoided deforestation of dense forest through establishment and designation of a Community Conservation Area (CCA) to protect existing mature forest		328.7 ha	
9b	Avoided deforestation of open forest through establishment and designation of a Community Conservation Area (CCA) to protect existing mature forest		25.0 ha ¹	

¹ The avoided deforestation intervention 9b is already included within the project total area– there is 10 ha of avoided deforestation that is composed of cattle grazing area and bush around Mount Tangen, as well as 15ha of incremental loss projected with the same general area. These numbers are not included twice to avoid double counting.

Total	8.5 ha	396 ha	19.5 ha
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Table 2: Overview of sites and associated names

Site #	Area name (English)	Name of associations	Names of Nakamals involved	Names of Tribes involved
1	Middlebush	Naptan ne Namiahul	Louahao, Lounahuru, Iwel, Lamnatu	Nawalamanik and Nalione
2	Whitegrass	Napigin	Lounamilo	Kawiapne
3	South River	Omahmurep	South River	South River

For consistency, sites will be referred to by their English area name throughout the PDD.

1.2 Management Rights

1.2.1 Project Boundaries

Provide map(s) showing the boundaries of the project region(s) and initial project area(s). Include geospatial data files for project region and project area boundaries in Annex 1.

Recommended to use Participatory Toolkit Tool 9: Participatory Resource Mapping to define the *Project Area*.

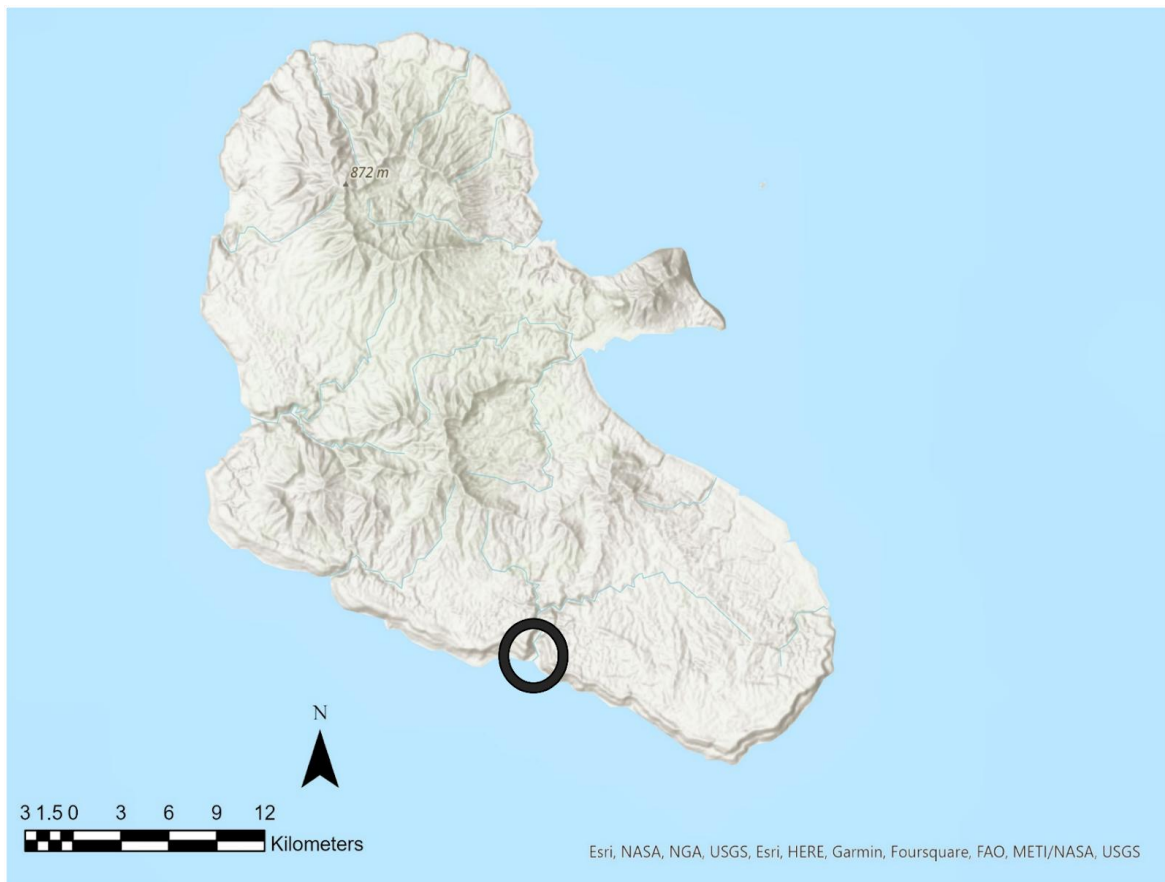


Figure 1. Relative location of South River (black inset circle) on the island of Erromango, Vanuatu.

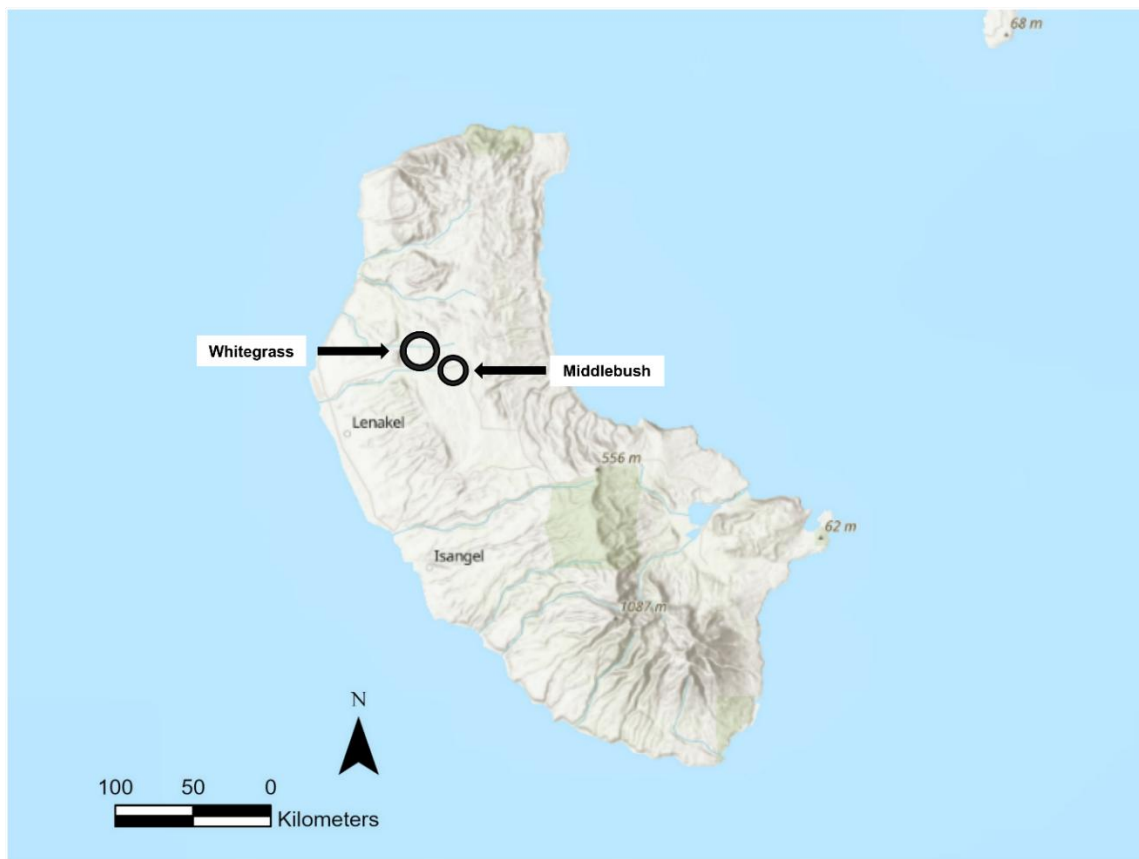


Figure 2. Relative locations of Middlebush and Whitegrass (black inset circles) on the island of Tanna, Vanuatu.



Figure 3. Schematic illustrating a mixed land use project involving sustainable coffee production under shade trees, agroforestry, riparian restoration, timber/fuel wood plantation and forest enhancement activities at South River, Erromango.

Legend of project interventions

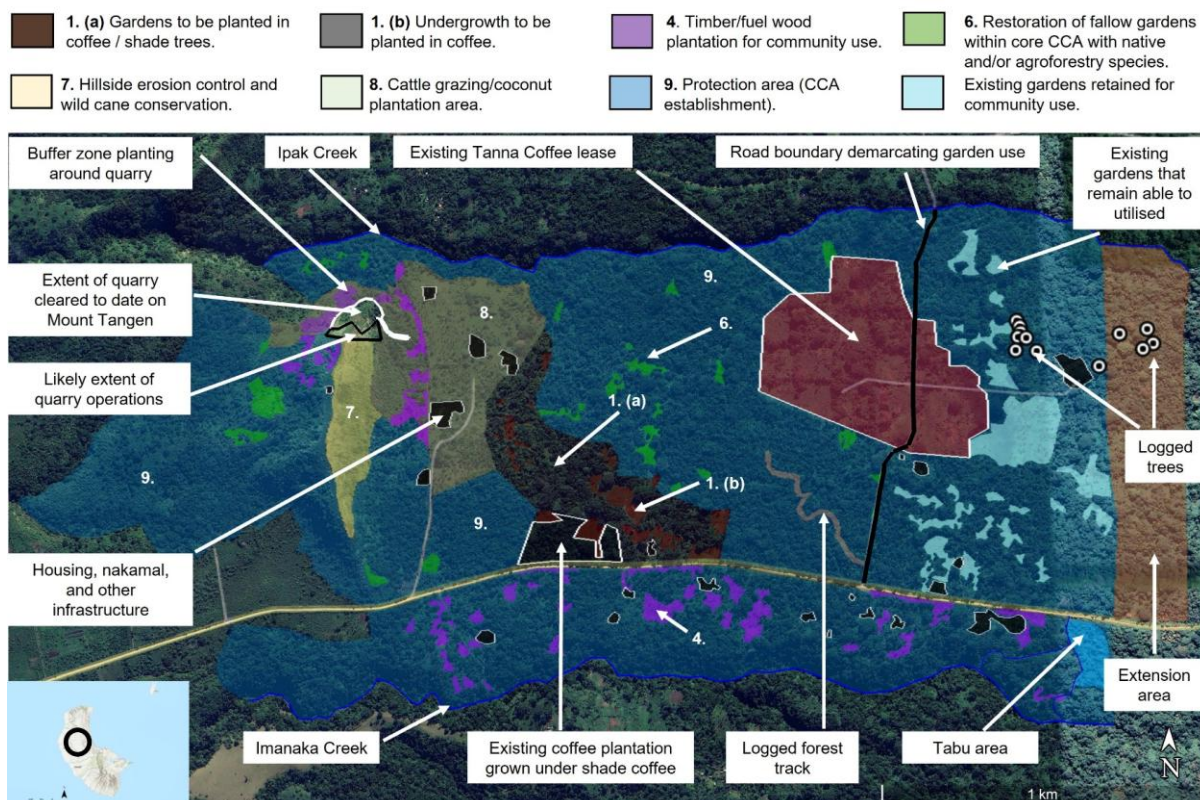


Figure 4. Schematic illustrating a mixed land use project involving avoided deforestation, sustainable coffee production under shade trees, hillside reforestation, agroforestry, and timber/fuel wood plantation activities at Whitegrass, Tanna.

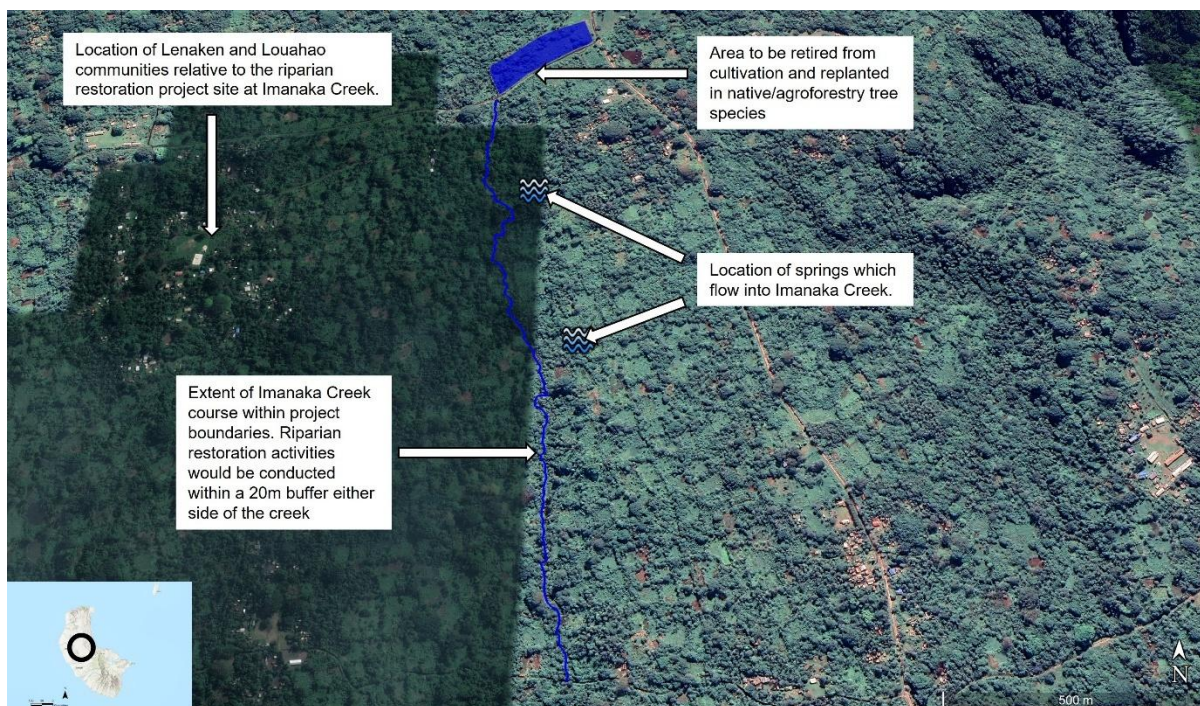


Figure 5. Schematic of Middlebush and location of riparian restoration activities to be conducted along Imanaka Creek relative to the communities of Lenaken and Louahao.



Figure 1. Location of Whitegrass and Middlebush project sites relative to each other.

1.2.2 Land and Carbon Rights

Complete Table 1.2.2 to describe the ownership, tenure, user rights or management rights of the project area(s), and how these relate to the carbon rights of project participants. If the project participants have customary rights to the project area(s) describe the legal basis for this with detail of any procedures necessary to formalise these rights. Add a row for each project area or project area type.

Table 1.2.2 Land and Carbon Rights

Project Area	Ownership and user rights status	Carbon rights	Evidence
Add a row for each project area, or group of project areas with the same type of ownership and user rights.	Describe the ownership, tenure, user rights or management rights held by the project participants or other stakeholders.	Describe the ownership of carbon rights from land/marine use activities in the project area(s).	Describe what evidence is available of ownership, user rights and carbon rights. E.g ownership deeds, or customary title documents.
South River	Land is owned and managed by customary landowners rather than the Vanuatu Government. This means that traditional	The Forestry Rights Registration and Timber Harvest Agreement Act 2000 only covers carbon rights for	Land ownership is managed through custom. The Vanuatu Constitution states in Chapter 12:
Whitegrass			
Middlebush			

	governance mechanisms will be used to navigate carbon and land user rights. Community land use and tenure are usually managed collectively; households have hereditary access to certain parcels of land and disputes are mediated through chiefs on a village-to-village basis.	leased land. In the case of unleased land, as for this project, carbon rights to land are managed alongside ownership and use by custom.	“73. Land belongs to custom owners - All land in the Republic of Vanuatu belongs to the indigenous custom owners and their descendants”, and; “74. Basis of ownership and use - The rules of custom shall form the basis of ownership and use of land in the Republic of Vanuatu.” This is not evidenced by any formal documentation unless the land has been disputed or leased and has had official ownership deeds issued. Custom ownership is identified through oral history and claims to lineage ties. Tearfund and Nasituan have consulted with chiefs in all project areas through community
	Both Nawalmanik and Nalioune tribes are involved at Middlebush. There will be members of Nalioune tribe who will have gardens on the eastern side of the creek. The proposed governance structure involves the two chiefs from both tribes and a subcommittee of community representatives, which will be nominated from both tribes. See Annex C for further information on land ownership and traditional governance mechanisms, and Section 2.5.2 for an overview of how traditional governance structures involve both tribes.		

			workshops and direct meetings, taking a consensus approach to project boundaries, bylaws and activities. Custom ceremonies involving both chiefs and community members have been used to confirm community support for project plans (Chief's workshop in Middlebush, 8 Aug 2024; Kastom ceremony for both Site 1 and 2, 14 March 2024; South River kastom ceremony 3 April 2025. See Annex C, Appendix 6, Fig. 57-60 under 'Chief consultation' for photo evidence).
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2 Stakeholder Engagement

2.1 Stakeholder Analysis

2.1.1 Stakeholder Identification

Complete table 2.1.1 to identify and describe the main stakeholder groups that could influence or be affected by the project. Describe the relationship of each stakeholder group to the project and state whether they are considered local stakeholders or secondary stakeholders (see Plan Vivo Glossary for definitions).

Recommended to use [Participatory Toolkit](#) Tool 1: Stakeholder Analysis.

Table 2.1.1 Stakeholder Analysis

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder Type	Impact	Influence	Engagement
Add a row for each stakeholder group.	Identify whether the stakeholder group is a local stakeholder or secondary stakeholder.	Describe whether the stakeholder group will be positively or negatively impacted by the project and state the expected level of impact (i.e. High, Moderate, or Low)	Describe whether the stakeholder group will positively or negatively influence the project and state the expected level of influence (i.e. High, Moderate, or Low)	Describe if and how the stakeholder group has been and/or will be involved in the project.
Nasituan	Local	High positive impact	High positive influence	Main implementor
Tanna Gardens	Secondary	Low positive impact	Low positive influence	Tanna Gardens owned by Nasituan.
Tanna Coffee	Secondary	Low negative impact	Low negative influence	Tanna Coffee owns lease land in project site. This has been excluded from project activities or

				carbon calculations. However uncertainty around the future land lease use and possible sub leases may put pressure on project areas (e.g. if community members who informally use the lease area shift those activities to the project area due to a change in the status quo. Nasituan continues to consult with Tanna coffee to understand impacts and adapt accordingly.
Community Members (villages/ nakamals involved) Louahao, Lounahuru, Iwel, Lamnatu (Site 1), Lounamilo Laulipang (Site 2), South River (Site 3)	Local	High positive impact	High positive influence	Heavily involved in project implementation
Wider tribes involved Nawalamanik Tribe, Nalione Tribe (Site 1)	Local/ Secondary	High positive impact	High positive influence	Heavily involved in project implementation

Kawaiipne Tribe (Site2)				
Neighbouring tribes e.g. Iaune Tribe (site 1)	Secondary	Low positive impact	Low positive influence	Possibility for future involvement if project expands
Chiefs in each site (Tupunis, Iani Niko, Iani Asul)	Local	High positive impact	High positive influence	Heavily involved in project implementation, involved in project governance structures
Women	Local	High positive impact	Moderate positive influence	Involved with project implementation as community members
Children and youth	Local	High positive impact	Moderate positive influence	Involved with project implementation as community members
People with disabilities	Local	High positive impact	Moderate positive influence	Involved with project implementation as community members
Church leaders	Local	Moderate positive impact	Moderate positive influence	Involved with project implementation as community members
Tearfund NZ	Secondary	High positive impact	High positive influence	Main donor
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT)	Secondary	Moderate positive impact	High positive influence	NZ funding provider
Plan Vivo	Secondary	Moderate positive impact	High positive influence	Certification provider

Department of Forestry	Secondary	Low positive impact	Moderate positive influence	Involved with project implementation and development. Field officers have been consulted, attended field trips, and provided botanical knowledge. Ongoing discussions with Godfrey Bome, Acting Director of the Department of Forestry, who has stated the full support of Department of Forestry
Department of Agriculture	Secondary	Low positive impact	Low positive influence	Contact as necessary with project updates and knowledge/ learning sharing
Department of Environment	Secondary	Low positive impact	Moderate positive influence	Field officers have been consulted, attended field trips, and provided botanical knowledge
Secretary General of Tafea Province	Secondary	Low positive impact	Low positive influence	Contact as necessary with project updates and knowledge/ learning sharing
Central Tanna Area Council	Secondary	Low positive impact	Moderate positive influence	Contact as necessary with project updates and knowledge/ learning sharing
NZ-based ecologists	Secondary	Moderate positive impact	High positive influence	Contact as necessary for

				ecological/botanical knowledge sharing
VU based botanists (linked with dept. Forestry)	Secondary	Low positive impact	Low positive influence	Contact as necessary for ecological/botanical knowledge sharing
University of the South Pacific (USP)	Secondary	Low positive impact	Low positive influence	Contact as necessary with project updates and knowledge/ learning sharing
Live and Learn	Secondary	Low positive impact	Low/medium positive influence	Contact as necessary with project updates and knowledge/ learning sharing
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)	Secondary	Low positive impact	Low positive influence	Contact as necessary with project updates and knowledge/ learning sharing
Women's crisis centre	Secondary	Low positive impact	Low positive influence	Contact as necessary with project updates and knowledge/ learning sharing
Vanuatu Society for Disabled People	Secondary	Low positive impact	Low positive influence	Contact as necessary with project updates and knowledge/ learning sharing

2.1.2 Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Complete Table 2.1.2 to identify any Indigenous Peoples or local communities that have statutory or customary rights to land or resources in the project area(s) and describe their governance structure and decision-making processes, including details of the involvement of women and marginalized or vulnerable groups.

Table 2.1.2: Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Indigenous Peoples or local communities.	Rights to land or resources in the project area(s)	Governance structure	Involvement of women and marginalised groups	Engagement
Add a row for each group of Indigenous Peoples or local communities with statutory or customary rights to land or resources in the project area(s)	Describe the statutory or customary rights to land or resources in the project area(s)	Describe the governance structure of and decision-making processes of the Indigenous Peoples or local communities	Describe the involvement of women and marginalised groups in decision making.	Describe how the project will engage the Indigenous Peoples or local communities, and state whether their representatives have been identified.
Nawalamanik Tribe	Each tribe has full access and ownership of customary land rights within their respective project areas (Middlebush for Nawalamanik Tribe and Nalione Tribe, Whitegrass for	Governance structures are fully described in Section 2.5.2 and Annex C.	Main community consultations to form project interventions and activities have been done with women, youth, and those with disabilities present.	Indigenous peoples identified are the main implementors of the project. Care has been taken to consult with a range of representatives including those included in
Nalione Tribe				
Kawaipne Tribe				
South River tribe				

	Kawiapne Tribe, and South River Tribe for South River). Customary land ownership grants full use rights, and is managed through custom.		Women/ youth/ those with disabilities were in separate or mixed groups during community sessions as appropriate for each community, and space to provide feedback and suggestions to the wider group on decisions was provided. Nasituan staff have made sure to follow up with individuals who may have had difficulty accessing group workshops for 1:1 discussions about workshop material.	traditional governance structures such as chiefs. The historical relationships and networks between neighbouring tribes have also been understood so that correct protocol can be followed in terms of who needs to be consulted and where. This has been important for establishing representative and inclusive sub-committees at each site. Local partner Nasituan employs staff from each project site and these people have been essential for
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				identifying and guiding the consultation process.
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2.1.3 Disputed Land or Resources

Identify and describe any past or ongoing disputes over land or resources in the project area(s) and provide details of how they were or will be resolved

Middlebush

Any possible disputes in Middlebush will be handled through Chief-led traditional governance. The community-elected working committee will help develop traditional laws of nature (Tupunis) that the project will be managed by. No active disputes have been identified.

Whitegrass

Recently in Whitegrass, some land owners have given consent to a Chinese company to develop a quarry at Mount Tagen (near the hillside erosion control intervention). The Department of Geology and Mines and the Department of Environment have provided licences for the quarrying to go ahead. However, this process was agreed to without consultation of the wider community or other landowners in the area, some of which have taken legal action, and so operations have been stalled. The quarry area has been excluded from the project boundary. However, the project area includes land that, while not subject to quarry licences, may experience secondary degradation effects; the project addresses these through existing restoration interventions. All landowners, including those supporting the quarry, have been engaged in project boundary discussions.

Expansion of quarry operations beyond the current (excluded) site is considered highly unlikely, as active works have ceased. Nonetheless, the following contingency measures are in place:

1. The Nasituan Project Manager has established a working relationship with CCECC Management, briefing them on the Life & Land project boundaries and securing verbal agreement that operations will not encroach on project areas. CCECC has also committed to providing Nasituan with prior notice of any nearby operations that could affect the project.
2. The project boundary design accounts for potential quarry expansion beyond the current footprint (Figure 4).

3. The areas most exposed to unforeseen quarry expansion — hillside erosion control and cattle grazing zones — are projected to contribute a negligible share (0.016%) of total project carbon benefit, meaning any impact would be well within the project risk buffer.

The Tanna Coffee estate leaseholder (a private company) is considering plans to subdivide the Tanna Coffee area into 1ha blocks and sign usage rights over to individuals. As some of the members of the Whitegrass community use this area for growing food, there is potential for this to have some impact on the project. Although the full potential impacts are unknown at this stage and there are no definite plans. Any attempts to sub-lease the land would be strongly opposed by the traditional land-owners. The land use plans for Site 2 include contingency garden areas east of the estate area (these have therefore not been allocated for restoration), and community bylaws have been developed to limit fallow garden clearance to trees under 15cm DBH so that mature/regenerating forest is left undisturbed even if the Tanna Coffee Estate is subleased.

South River

Due to the remoteness of this area and the strong family relationships that exist within this community, any possible disputes will be resolved by chiefs and community leaders according to traditional governance mechanisms. No active disputes have been identified.

2.2 Project Coordination and Management

Identify the project coordinator organisation that will take overall responsibility for the project, and any other organisations that will play a role in project coordination and management. Identify the parties responsible for each of the project coordination and management functions listed in Table 2.2.

Provide a summary of relevant experience that demonstrates proficiency in the in the assigned function(s) for the project coordinator and any other organisations listed in Table 2.2. Include details of skills and experience to allow for appropriate engagement with any indigenous vulnerable or disadvantaged peoples in the project region.

Tearfund New Zealand (TFNZ) will take overall responsibility for initiating and supporting the project.

The Nasituan Association (NT) will be responsible for on the ground implementation and long-term management of the project.

TFNZ

TFNZ has a long history of project coordination, particularly in engaging indigenous vulnerable or disadvantaged populations. TFNZ was established in 1975 and currently works in 37 countries through 19 independent partners, many of which are locally run NGO's (non-governmental organisations). Over 223,000 people are currently participating in projects funded by TFNZ. TFNZ divides its work into four sectors; Farming & Enterprise, Disasters & Conflict, Modern Slavery, and Child Development. With a diverse portfolio across multiple regions, TFNZ values partnership and culturally sensitive engagement, built on deep understanding and direct collaboration with local partners and communities. By fostering trust, understanding cultural nuances, and respecting unique perspectives, TFNZ's projects aim to achieve inclusive and community-owned development outcomes.

TFNZ has a long history working in Vanuatu and with NT (mentioned below). TFNZ has been working directly with Nasituan since 2011 managing grant funding on behalf of the New Zealand Aid Programme alongside privately funded projects. These projects have focused on sustainable organic agriculture and food security, social enterprise as well as disaster response and recovery. TFNZ has in-house and external expertise to draw on for this project. TFNZ's Grant Manager has 20 years of experience working with local partners in the Pacific, predominantly Vanuatu, but also including the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Tonga and the Philippines. Over his ten years working at TFNZ he has overseen five Vanuatu disaster responses to extreme weather events and the design and management of agricultural value chain projects that have incorporated disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation components. The TFNZ programme specialist assigned to this project has a Master's Degree in Ecological Restoration focusing on the impacts of climate change on native flora [1].

TFNZ has access to a range of external specialists with technical expertise relevant to this project. This includes New Zealand-based ecologist Dr. Tim Martin [2] and conservation scientist Dr. Clint Cameron [3] who have considerable experience in forest carbon projects in South-east Asia and the Pacific.

Although TFNZ is an independent organisation, it is part of the Tearfund Global network. This globally extends programme reach and allows access to education and advocacy resources. This network will be helpful for connecting with values-aligned buyers for carbon credits to the project.

TFNZ's partnership model means that they have close working relationships with implementing partners across the globe with expertise in climate-smart and organic agriculture, traditional and indigenous knowledge and value chain development.

[1] Olivia Bird (Victoria University of Wellington, Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Ecology and Biodiversity and Development Studies, Master of Ecological Restoration (MSc, First Class Honours).

[2] Dr Tim Martin (University of Auckland, Bachelor of Science (BSc), MSc (First Class Honours), PhD, Forest Ecology · (1996 - 2006). Tim Martin was responsible for the environmental impact assessment of coffee growing as part of our Vanuatu project While working for Wildland Consultants Ltd (Environmental Impact Assessment for the Cultivation and Processing of Coffee on Tanna Island, Vanuatu, 2018).

[3] Dr Clint Cameron (Auckland University Master of Science (MSc), Conservation Management · (2008 - 2010) Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods, Charles Darwin University, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). Research interests include mangrove ecosystems, GHG emissions, aquaculture, rehabilitation, carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and ecosystem services. Clint is currently involved with carbon sequestration projects in Fiji and Indonesia and leads an ecosystem service valuation project in New Zealand. He specializes in the technical calculation of carbon stocks and fluxes and appropriate mechanisms for certification.

Nasituan

NT is a community-based NGO registered as a charitable association in Vanuatu. NT was started in 2010 by a group of Ni-Vanuatu from Tanna island - its high degree of local contextual knowledge and strong community relationships allow them to navigate through the complex social systems of Tanna society. The Managing Director has 25 years of experience working in the agricultural sector, particularly in areas of soil fertility and coffee production. NT currently employs 20 local staff who are mostly from Tanna Island, although some are from other areas of Vanuatu as well including Erromango and Futuna Islands in the Tafea Province. NT has strong agricultural expertise and experience in community engagement and facilitation. NT had established a coffee farmers group on Erromango island in the South River area. NT has staff from this region, so they understand the local language, networks and context.

NT is currently working with Tearfund on a livelihoods and enterprise project funded through MFAT. This work has included significant climate change components which overlap with disaster risk

reduction and livelihood development. NT supported agricultural recovery after Tropical Cyclone (TC) Pam in 2015 and the subsequent El-Nino in 2016 and after TC Harold in 2020, TC Dovi in 2022 and has recently responded to TCs Judy and Kevin as well as TC Lola in the North of Vanuatu. The current phase of programming supports over 1,300 direct participants. Components relevant to climate change have included the distribution of improved planting materials and establishing multiplication plots of fast-growing and drought-resistant crop varieties, teaching food preservation, establishing irrigated communal gardens, introducing household drip irrigation to home gardens, teaching erosion control on sloped land, drainage techniques for gardens, and diversifying cash crops for short and medium term options to ensure that incomes are resilient to climate and natural disaster shocks.

Table 2.2 Responsibility for Project Coordination and Management Functions

Project Coordination and Management Function	Responsible Party/Parties
Stakeholder engagement during project development and implementation	NT/TFNZ
Ensuring conformance with the Plan Vivo Standard and compliance with applicable policies, laws and regulations	NT/TFNZ/ Dr. Clint Cameron
Developing technical specifications, land management plans and project agreements with project participants	NT/TFNZ/ Dr. Clint Cameron
Ensuring that the PDD is updated with any changes to the project	NT/TFNZ/ Dr. Clint Cameron
Registration and recording of management plans, project agreements, monitoring results, and sales agreements	NT
Managing project finances and dispersal of income to project participants as described by the benefit sharing mechanism	NT/TFNZ
Managing Plan Vivo Certificates in the Plan Vivo Registry	NT/TFNZ
Preparing annual reports and coordinating validation and verification events	NT/TFNZ
Securing certificate sales and other means of funding the project	TFNZ
Assisting Project Participants to secure any legal or regulatory permissions required to carry out the project	NT
Providing technical assistance and capacity building required for project participants to implement project interventions	NT/TFNZ

Monitoring progress indicators, livelihood indicators and ecosystem indicators and providing ongoing support to project participants	NT/TFNZ/ Dr. Clint Cameron
Measurement, reporting and verification of carbon benefits	NT/TFNZ (measurement and reporting)

2.3 Project Participants

Complete Table 2.3 to identify the initial and potential project participants and describe their location of residence in relation to the project area(s) and project region, their use of land or natural resources within the project region and their typical use of labour for land or natural resource management activities.

Provide maps showing the location of project participants in relation to the project area(s) and project region.

If the project includes any Type II participants (see Table 2.3 for definition), describe what measures are in place to ensure that the project areas they manage: i) Collectively make up less than 30% of the total Project Area at all times; ii) Were not acquired from smallholders or community groups for the purpose of inclusion in the Project; and iii) Have clear benefits to the Project, for example by increasing connectivity or benefits to local communities.

Describe what measures are in place to ensure that there is no discrimination based on gender, age, ethnicity, religion or social status when selecting project participants; and to reduce potential for tensions or disputes within or between communities.

Include a full list of initial project areas in Annex 3.

Table 2.3 identifies the initial and potential project participants and describes their location of residence in relation to the project area(s) and project region, their use of land or natural resources within the project region and their typical use of labour for land or natural resource management activities.

Maps showing the location of project participants in relation to the project area(s) and project region are included in section 1.2.1.

There are no Type II participants included in the project.

To ensure that there is no discrimination and to reduce the potential for tensions or disputes within or between communities, project participants have signed a project agreement. This outlines a grievance mechanism in case disputes do arise. Project boundaries follow tribal boundaries and avoid areas of crossover or dispute. Nasituan also have a Policies and Procedures Manual (Appendix I) that states they will not discriminate based on gender, age, ethnicity, religion or social status when employing staff, and that they will maintain a non-discriminatory approach irrespective of religion or tribal background when working with communities.

The full list of initial project areas is included in Annex 3.

Table 2.3: Project Participants (grouped by village, area or region)

Project Participant	Participant Type*	Location of Residence	Typical Land Holding	Land and Natural Resource Use
Add a row for each project participant or group of project participants with similar characteristics	Indicate whether they are Type I or Type II participants*	Describe the participants' location of residence in relation to the project area(s) and project region	Describe the typical area of land owned or managed by each participant	Describe the participants' typical use of their use of land or natural resources within the project region with details of use of hired labour (if any)
Community of Middlebush	Type I	Community members reside directly within or adjacent to the project area (houses have gardens that back onto stream restoration area)	72ha (in project area which is not the full tribal boundary)/30HH currently using land = 2.4ha/household, primary open agricultural land with garden plots both active and fallow +	Subsistence agriculture, small holder coffee plots Water collection - Bathing/washing clothes Collection of resources - Materials for traditional

			small buffer zones of trees and wild cane. A typical household would manage 3-4 garden plots per year which would be an estimated average of 20x15m each	housing (leaf/wild cane, vines) - Limited wild foods (birds/bats/tree nuts) - Traditional Medicine Refer also to section 3.3.1
Community of Whitegrass	Type I	Community members reside within or adjacent to the project area	367ha/29HH=13.5.6 ha per HH (mostly flat agricultural/forest land used for annual cropping, cattle grazing, timber, coffee cultivation, access to traditional resources as well as settlement and common areas (such as church, sports fields, homes, meeting areas/nakamals) A typical household would manage 3-4	Refer to section 3.3.1

			garden plots per year which would be an estimated average of 20x20m each	
Community of South River	Type I	Community members reside within the project area	19.5ha/16HH=1.2 ha/HH (project area only makes up a very small portion of tribal land), land is a mix of garden areas, cattle grazing, mature and regenerating forest areas. A typical household would manage 3-4 garden plots per year which would be an estimated average of 20x20m each	Refer to section 3.3.1

* Type I = Project participants that do not meet the Type II definition; Type II = Project participants that are not resident within the project area, do not manage land or natural resources within the project area for small-scale production, or are structurally dependent on year-round hired labour for their land or natural resource management activities.

2.4 Participatory Design

Describe the participatory process followed to develop project interventions and define the project logic involving representatives of potential project participants and other local stakeholders. Include details of any measures to ensure the inclusion of those that may normally be excluded or marginalized because of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, or social status and to ensure that their concerns and aspirations were consistently understood and considered.

Provide evidence of stakeholder involvement in the participatory design process, such as attendance lists, photographs, and videos in Annex 4.

To date, six major site visits have been conducted to consult with communities and collect data. These have taken place in May 2023 (scoping), September 2023 (concept development), March 2024 (design), August 2024 (design), September 2024 (design), and March 2025 (design) (design visits are covered in section 2.5.1). The analysis was conducted by staff of Nasituan and Tearfund New Zealand.

To identify which interventions and focus areas would be best suited to achieving the project outputs, field-based community discussion groups were undertaken during the scoping and concept development phase to inform the activities and decisions that comprise the project. The specific needs of men, women, youth, and those with disabilities in relation to its activities were also considered. The results of the community assessments have been used to assess context baselines, identify issues, opportunities, and project interventions, and establish a project work plan.

Objectives

The community consultation workshops had the following objectives:

- determine community interest in pursuing the project
- Assess land use, livelihood, and ecosystem baselines.
- Establish local land and carbon ownership, management, and rights.
- Produce land management plans
- Identify problems and opportunities, including possible project interventions.
- Establish project bylaws
- Assess environmental and social risks
- Establish a project work plan:

- Discuss traditional governance structures and mechanisms for project management.
- Determine activities, outputs, and outcomes

Methodology

The discussion group questions and exercises used were collaboratively designed to fit the context and purpose by local Nasituan staff and Tearfund, who both assisted in facilitating sessions in the local languages. The analysis was conducted in three phases: facilitation of community discussion sessions, preliminary discussions of data and findings with Nasituan staff, and further analysis of data and findings by Tearfund.

Participatory discussion sessions in September 2023 involved three communities selected to be initially involved in the Project in Vanuatu. Two of the communities were based on Tanna Island, Middle Bush (16 men, 15 women) and Whitegrass (9 men, 9 women). One was based on Erromango Island in South River (15 men, 15 women). Each community had its own discussion sessions held over 2 days, facilitated by Nasituan staff and Tearfund staff who used a mixture of the local indigenous languages and the national language Bislama.

Questions and exercises covered a variety of elements related to the project: land use and drivers of environmental change, community roles, governance, daily and seasonal calendars, and mapping of local boundaries. While the general structure of discussion sessions as described above was used, questions and exercises differed slightly based on the unique context of each community. For example, in South River, questions around the presence of vines, which species were invasive, and which species were used by the community were needed for the vine control element of the project. In Middlebush (Site 1) where activities focus on stream restoration, it was necessary to have a specific question on the drivers of environmental change and degradation after asking about observed changes. In contrast, these elements came out more naturally in discussion sessions at Whitegrass (Site 2) for activities such as avoided deforestation, so questions went from 1) observed changes to 2) hopes for the future. Each community also had a role in directing sessions based on their questions and interests. For example, in Whitegrass there was a high focus on questions on the carbon credit process, benefits, activities related to women, and timeframes. The community in South River also had similar questions but had further questions about the role of Nasituan in the project and what would happen to the project in the case of a high-impact cyclone.

Focus groups of men, women, and youth were formed within the wider community session. Focus groups were asked to map their village area, including landmarks, boundaries, current land use, and

important resources. Groups were then asked to list changes that they had noticed in their communities and environment, and the reasons for those changes. Finally, groups were asked what future changes they would like to see and how they would like them to be implemented. Focus groups of men and women also created a daily and seasonal calendar detailing the way that they spent their time and key activities within the year, to help align project activities and determine their impact on gendered roles, responsibilities and time commitments. Each group presented back to the wider group after each exercise, where there was time for questions, comments, and open discussion. The themes and insights that were identified in participatory design sessions formed the basis for project interventions.

2.5 Stakeholder Consultation

2.5.1 Design Phase Consultation

Describe the stakeholder consultations have taken place during the design phase of the project, including details of: i) how and when the each of the stakeholder groups listed in Section 2.1.1 was informed of the project and given the opportunity to provide feedback on the project interventions and project logic; and ii) any feedback received from stakeholders on the project interventions and project logic.

Further community consultation was undertaken at Site 1 (Middlebush) and Site 2 (Whitegrass) in March 2024. A one-day workshop was conducted in each community by TFNZ and NT staff. Both workshops began with a review of the project, a summary of the September 2023 consultation, an overview of how feedback and outcomes had been incorporated into the project so far, a Q&A session, and workshop activities.

There were 38 community members (28 men and 10 women) that attended the Middlebush community workshop. Questions from the Q&A session centred around the size of riparian buffer margins, dispute mechanisms, and provisions for those with disabilities. Workshop attendees were split into 4 groups (3 men's groups and 1 woman's group) and asked to brainstorm species lists that they would like to see used in restoration, as well as how far from the stream it would be good for them to be planted. A total of 70 plant species were identified, ranging from common garden crops to long-lived forest trees. A land use mapping exercise was also undertaken, where workshop members created a map to identify land users along the stream in the project area. Of 27 land users along the river within the project area, 12 of them attended the workshop (44%).

At the Whitegrass community workshop, there were 25 attendees: 11 men, 8 women, and 6 children (>18 years old; 2 boys and 4 girls). Questions from the Q&A session were focused around management of water sources in proposed timber harvest area, use of the Tanna coffee lease land, and the collection of cyclone-damaged trees. The workshop attendees were split into 3 mixed groups to undertake a mapping exercise, which was used to provide feedback on each of the proposed activities and areas as developed after the September 2023 consultation. These comments, particularly those that requested a more integrated approach for placement of gardens/timber harvest areas, are what formed the basis for updates to Figure 4 in Section 1.2.

After the activities in each workshop, groups provided feedback and were given the opportunity to ask any further questions and voice ideas or concerns. Reports on the two workshops have since been written up and presented back to the communities (Appendix 4 in Annex C).

In August 2024, further consultation was done with Middlebush and Whitegrass communities to gather feedback on specific planting plans and intervention areas. The first workshop was attended by 13 male chiefs and local leaders from both Middlebush and Whitegrass areas. To refine restoration approaches for the Middlebush stream, questions were asked on the history of the stream and its different flow states. Issues around aging coconut trees in the cattle grazing area, balancing short term and long-term benefits regarding immediate cash needs and future restoration goals, and the need for employment opportunities were raised. The need for further governance and bylaw discussions was affirmed, and well as getting the details of a planting plan, work plan, and project agreement finalised. Another consultation with the same group was held to discuss land disputes and process for establishing boundaries. It was decided that boundaries would be established by going on a walk about with community members with local leaders present, and marking boundaries out with tape/GPS points.

In September 2024, NT staff travelled to Erromango to gather feedback (trip report attached as Appendix 6 in Annex C). The South River community expressed strong enthusiasm for the project. NT held a workshop to discuss roles and responsibilities and the project agreement, which received feedback and revision before being signed along with a memorandum of understanding.

In March 2025, TFNZ and NT held workshops with all 3 communities. These workshops established project bylaws (drafted from previous consultations), discussed environmental and social risks and mitigation measures, and discussed the traffic light system and benefit sharing mechanisms in depth. In Middlebush, the workshop was attended by 18 men and 3 women, in Whitegrass 13 women and 6 men. In South River workshops were split; the first workshop to discuss project interventions

and the traffic light system was attended by 22 men and 4 women, the bylaws workshop was attended by 19 men and 9 women, the ESA workshop was attended by 17 men and 4 women, and for the benefit sharing workshop, 15 men and 11 women attended. A full summary of ESA workshops is attached in Annex 8.

Secondary stakeholders consultation so far includes regular 6-monthly updates to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade New Zealand, semi-regular contact from the Nasituan director with Vanuatu government departments, Central Tanna Area Council, and the secretary general of Tafea. Nasituan have worked with the Women's Crisis Centre to include them in referral mechanisms, and are planning to meet with the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People. The pre-existing relationship with Tanna Gardens means there is the ongoing option to sell them coffee, vanilla, and peanuts. Nasituan and Tearfund's technical consultant, Dr Clint Cameron, reached out to the University of the South Pacific with opportunities for an MSc student to create a thesis topic focusing on the project, though no suitable options have been found at present. Contact with NZ-based ecologists and Vanuatu-based botanists has helped identify tree species for carbon calculations. Tearfund NZ has also had periodic meetings with Live and Learn multiple times, as well as the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme to exchange knowledge and learnings, particularly around invasive species management.

2.5.2 Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Describe how stakeholders will be consulted throughout the project period, including details of: i) how and when all local stakeholder groups identified in Section 2.1.1 will be consulted; ii) the information that will be provided and consultation approaches that will be used; and iii) opportunities for stakeholders to provide feedback and raise issues or concerns about the project.

Local stakeholders include members of the communities present across the three sites, including local and church leaders, women, children, those with disabilities, tribes in the wider project areas, and implementing partner Nasituan. These stakeholders will be engaged and consulted throughout the project period, from the initial project concept and design to the final implementation.

In the initial project design phases, each community had multiple engagement and consultation sessions that were co-designed and facilitated with Nasituan in order to understand stakeholder perspectives on the primary issues facing their community, changes that had resulted from climate change, the changes they would like to see in the future, and possible mechanisms or solutions to address these. Each community also received information and Q&A sessions on carbon credits.

These sessions included local and church leaders, women, children, and those with disabilities, and informed the activities and approaches included in the final project design. More information about these sessions is available in Sections 2.4 and 2.5.1, and information discussed in community workshops is included in Annex D (Carbon Credit Briefing Documents) and Annex G (Carbon 101 booklet). All workshops were held over 6, 8, and 12 of Sept 2023 for Site 2, 1, and 3 respectively, as well as 14, 21, and 22 March for Site 1 and 2.

Meetings were also held to establish project working committees; this process is further outlined in section 5.1. Following these meetings, Nasituan has continued to schedule further workshops and training sessions to build community capacity and provide more detailed information on project components, including carbon credit generation and benefit sharing, planting and work plans, governance and grievance mechanisms, and gender and social inclusion.

General ongoing community awareness and engagement will also take place through usage of public billboards and annual (at minimum) community meetings. Billboards will display the project boundary areas, interventions, and community bylaws, as well as have an area for posting updates as needed. Year 1-2 will utilise draft billboards on corrugated plastic (currently in print) to allow for community feedback on bylaws, and will be upgraded to permanent wooden versions after this period. This will help keep project participants up-to-date with the latest information and inform and engage tribes in the wider project area. Communities will be able to bring any feedback or concerns to the working committee in between annual meetings.

Secondary stakeholders will be engaged with as necessary throughout the project period. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade New Zealand receives 6-monthly reports on the project as part of their funding agreement with TFNZ. The director of Nasituan has semi-regular contact with Vanuatu government departments, Central Tanna Area Council, and the secretary general of Tafea, and email/meeting contact has been facilitated as needed by the project. Nasituan have established referral mechanisms so that any cases of gender-based violence can be referred to the Women's Crisis Centre, awareness has also increased as part of general project engagement and monitoring, and are planning to meet with the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People. There is the option to sell coffee, vanilla, and peanuts to Tanna Gardens, and an opportunity for an MSc student was presented to the University of the South Pacific, though no suitable options have been found at present. NZ-based ecologists and VU based botanists are contacted when technical input is needed (e.g. for identification of tree species for carbon calculation). Tearfund NZ has periodic meetings with Live and Learn (annually) and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (as needed) to exchange knowledge and learnings.

2.6 Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

2.6.1 FPIC Legislation

Complete Table 2.6.1 to identify any national legislation or legal obligations under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)², International Labour Organization Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention 169 (ILO 169)³, or other FPIC legislation applicable to the project region and describe any measures in place to ensure that the project follows these.

Table 2.6.1: National Legislation and International Standards on FPIC

Legislation/Standard	Relevance to Project	Compliance Measures
Add additional rows for other relevant legislation	Describe the relevance of the legislation/standard to the project.	Describe any measures in place to ensure the project is carried out in compliance with relevant FPIC legislation and standards.
Constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu 1980	The Vanuatu Constitution states in Chapter 12: 73. Land belongs to custom owners - All land in the Republic of Vanuatu belongs to the indigenous custom owners and their descendants, and; 74. Basis of ownership and use - The rules of custom shall form the basis of ownership and use of land in the Republic of Vanuatu.	The Life & Land project recognises that communities have full rights over the land, territories, and resources that they have traditionally owned, occupied, acquired, or used according to custom. Communities have the right to own, use, develop, and control their land and any associated carbon, livelihood, or ecosystem benefits as agreed upon in the project agreement.
UNDRIP	Article 8.2. One shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for: [...] (b) Any action which	

² <https://undocs.org/A/RES/61/295>

³ [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312314:](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312314:NO)

	has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources; (c) Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights	
ILO 169	Article 6.1. In applying the provisions of this Convention, one shall: (a) consult the peoples concerned, through appropriate procedures and in particular through their representative institutions, whenever consideration is being given to legislative or administrative measures which may affect them directly; (b) establish means by which these peoples can freely participate, to at least the same extent as other sectors of the population, at all levels of decision-making in elective institutions and administrative and other bodies responsible for policies and programmes which concern them; (c) establish means for the full development of these peoples' own institutions and initiatives, and in appropriate cases provide the resources necessary for this purpose.	The Life & Land project recognises that communities have full rights over the land, territories, and resources that they have traditionally owned, occupied, acquired, or used according to custom. Communities have the right to own, use, develop, and control their land and any associated carbon, livelihood, or ecosystem benefits as agreed upon in the project agreement. Consultations with the community will be undertaken in good faith and in a manner appropriate to the unique context of each community worked in. The objective of consultations is to 1) understand the wants, needs, issues, and opportunities present within the community that can form the basis for project design, and 2) to achieve a full understanding of the project

		within the community, in order to reach informed consensus and agreement to the project. Communities can participate in and provide input, feedback, and direction to decision making and institutional processes through community-established working committees.
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2.6.2 FPIC Process

Describe the FPIC process to enable a collective decision by Indigenous Peoples and local communities with statutory or customary rights to land or resources in the initial project area(s) to negotiate the conditions under which the project is designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated and grant or withhold consent to: i) consider the proposed project; ii) engage in the project design process; and iii) implement the project.

Include details of: i) the information provided prior to making any decision; ii) the decision-making process and timeline defined by the rights holders; iii) the stakeholder representatives involved and how they were chosen; and iv) any measures to ensure the involvement of women and marginalised vulnerable and/or disadvantaged people.

In order to enable collective decision-making by indigenous peoples and local communities the following steps were followed (initial scoping visit was carried out in May 2023, as evidenced by Annex A, and all other workshop dates are outlined in section 2.6.3 below);

1. Initial scoping and site visits to have informal conversations and assess the potential viability of the potential project;
2. Identification of customary landowners and key stakeholders;
3. Follow up with formal scoping that involved pre-emptive sharing of information and questions so that communities could discuss and come up with questions prior to workshops;

4. Group discussions/workshops that canvased ideas from different segments of the community and were shared collectively; and
5. Meetings with chiefs where questions and concerns could be raised.

In order to enable communities to negotiate the conditions under which the project is designed, implemented, monitored, and evaluated, Tearfund and Nasituan have documented discussions and outcomes of consultation workshops and presented these back to communities for further refinement. From these discussions and sharing of information about the Plan Vivo process, bylaws and project agreements have been drafted and shared with communities for any refinement and eventual ratification (refer to Annexes 7 and 10). Work plans have been developed by Nasituan in consultation with the community project committees, and a manual has been drafted to capture the agreed implementation activities, and how they will be resourced, monitored and reported against. Community committees, overseen by chiefs, will ensure equitable distribution of labour opportunities to community members and the grievance mechanism (Section 3.17) will ensure that complaints or any issues during implementation can be resolved by committees or Nasituan.

2.6.3 Initial FPIC

Describe the FPIC process that has been followed for the initial project areas

Provide evidence of key decisions (e.g. signed meeting minutes and attendance lists), and copies of information provided prior to key decisions being made in Annex 5.

This project involves working with the Nawalalmanik and Nalioune tribes at Middlebush, the Kawiapne tribe at Whitegrass, and the South River Council of Chiefs at South River. The process for carbon credit consultation has been conducted by Nasituan. A Carbon Credit Consultation document (Annex D) has been developed for Nasituan, and the contents have been discussed at community workshops. The purpose and steps of project consultations have been designed by Nasituan and are as follows:

(i) Initial consultations to consider the proposed project:

- Two scoping trips involving Tearfund representatives and Nasituan staff to discuss, communicate and develop a provisional project design have already been conducted in May 2023 (evidenced as Annex A – Scoping Trip Report) and September 2023. A further trip to all three sites was undertaken in March 2024 as the project moved into the detailed design phase.

ii) Engagement of communities in the project design process:

- Communities at all three sites have been actively engaged in initial project design consultations during the first three initial trips. A series of workshops were held where communities were asked to develop current land-use/resource maps, outline the environmental issues and pressures faced, and develop a suite of responses that they would like to see enacted (held at Site 1 on 8 Sept 2023 and 21 March 2024, Site 2 6 Sept 2023 and 22 March 2024, and Site 3 12 Sept 2023). Tearfund and Nasituan have developed the suite of project activities (see Table 1.1) presented in this Design Document based on the desired responses of communities. The project design and all activities included within it are based off community feedback. For example, in Middlebush (Site 1) community members identified that they were no longer able to harvest crayfish and eels from the stream, the stream was drying up, and that mature native forest was being deforested. They also identified Imanaka Creek as a good place to establish a reserve area. This led to plans for riparian buffer restoration for Imanaka Creek, where planting native trees and establishing a reserve area would allow for ecosystem recovery and the return of valued native species. Another example can be found in South River (Site 3), where community members reported seeing increases in invasive vine cover after cyclone damage. This prevents the recovery of the native forest, increasing landslide risk and leading to habitat loss for valued native species such as native pigeons. This led to a project activity focused on vine clearance and management.
- Awareness of the carbon element of the project with the Area Council Administrator. The purpose of this consultation is to ensure the Tafea Provincial Government will be aware of the project for future endorsement.
- Consult with and conduct awareness training with the Chiefs of tribes involved (8 August 2024)
- After the consultation with the Chiefs of the tribes (which involved open discussion and reaching consensus with their respective community participants), kastom ceremonies have been conducted as a symbol of unity towards the implementation of the carbon credit project. Photo evidence of these ceremonies can be found in Appendix 4 in Annex C (14 March 2024, 3 April 2025).
- Conduct governance training with both the tribes and establish a Work Committee (including chiefs, women, youth, and people with disabilities) at each project site to oversee the project implementation, including the sharing of benefits. (November 2024)

iii) Implementation of the project

Community members are actively employed in project implementation, including activities such as planting of trees (e.g. native canopy species and agroforestry trees), the removal and maintenance of encroaching vines and smothering vegetation, project monitoring, and overall governance.

3 Project Design

Baselines

3.1 Baseline Scenario

Describe the expected future land use and land management of the project areas(s) in the absence of project intervention(s) and provide evidence that this is most likely baseline scenario by applying the procedures in an approved methodology.

There are a number of land use types occurring in project intervention areas across Tanna and Erromango Islands, as described below. Annex 7, Table 7.3 provides a detailed description of the baseline scenario with respect to specific project interventions for which carbon benefits are calculated.

Garden areas (Whitegrass, Middlebush, South River): In all three project sites, garden areas are expected to continue to be used under shifting cultivation practices. Where new gardens are created, established trees are often felled and undergrowth cleared. This practice can undo valuable ecosystem services that mature trees provide, such as shade and protection from extreme weather events and slowing volcanic ash deposition on crops. In Middlebush, garden areas occur adjacent to Imanaka Creek. Some gardens expand right up to the stream margin and are often subsequently lost through flooding events. Gardens require constant maintenance to prevent the spread of creepers and vines such as Big leaf rope which has proliferated along the stream margins, smothering seedlings and saplings and preventing the establishment of a riparian forest.

Coffee plantations (Whitegrass, South River): Coffee plantations are primarily planted as monocultures with unmanaged plot margins lacking established tree cover, which creates margins susceptible to vine overgrowth. These practices are expected to continue without intervention.

Forest areas (Whitegrass, South River): In Whitegrass there is a ~250 ha tract of mature, old growth forest which is subject to ad-hoc logging. This driver of deforestation is expected to continue without further intervention (see Annex 7 for more information). In South River, cyclone damage has led to the proliferation of vines which smother damaged forest areas. Without intervention vine smothering will continue, inhibiting productivity and preventing seedling establishment and ecosystem recovery. While negatively impacting biodiversity, carbon storage, and ecosystem services, vine overgrowth also presents an accessibility barrier to local communities using the land.

High liana loading and vine/creeper overgrowth is also present in the riparian margins of Middlebush areas and some coffee plantations at Whitegrass.

Cattle grazing (Whitegrass, South River): Cattle grazing areas in Whitegrass are not intensively managed, with livestock able to roam on hillsides and grasslands. This causes some land degradation through trampling and grazing, as well as hillside destabilisation through erosion. Cattle grazing also suppress the emergence and establishment of young trees necessary to replace mature trees, such as coconut, that are lost through tropical cyclone windthrow. In South River, cattle can graze freely along riparian margins, causing damage to stream banks while also suppressing the growth and establishment of new trees. Damage from cattle grazing is expected to continue without intervention.

Current land use activities have a detrimental effect on ecological health. This makes the local environment more vulnerable to cyclone damage and other extreme weather events through, for example, heightened erosion damage from extreme wind/rainfall on soils weakened from cattle grazing. This in turn exacerbates the ecological consequences of unsustainable agricultural practices and degradation.

Please see Annex 7 for a full overview of baseline conditions under each project intervention.

3.2 Carbon Baseline

Complete Table 3.2 to provide a summary of net-greenhouse gas emissions from all initial project areas under the baseline scenario for each year of the first crediting period. Add rows if necessary.

Provide details of the calculations for each intervention in Section 3.8 and Annex 6.

Table 3.2 Total net-greenhouse gas emissions under the baseline scenario for the Protection intervention

Baseline emissions: Protection*
1,489 Mg CO ₂ e ha ⁻¹ year ⁻¹

* Equates to net baseline emissions resultant from on-going deforestation and forest degradation. When extrapolated to the area lost (3.88 ha per annum), baseline emissions are estimated at 5,776 Mg CO₂e year⁻¹. Note we do not provide an estimate of 'baseline emissions' (c.f. removals) for Restoration or Improved Management interventions as this would require an estimate of current Net Primary Productivity (change in current biomass sequestration per unit area per unit time, Mg C ha year). Section 7.5.2 of Annex 7 provides further clarification and justification for conservatively excluding baseline emission reductions for Restoration and Improved Management interventions.

Removals under the project are calculated as the estimated difference, or carbon stock change, between 'baseline' and 'with project' scenarios. Section 3.8 and Annex's 6 and 7 provide full details of the materials and methods used to estimate emissions reductions and removals, including the carbon baseline (existing carbon stocks of land managed under project interventions). The Carbon Baseline for the Protection intervention will be reassessed at crediting period renewal, which is planned for every 5 years.

3.3 Livelihood Baseline

3.3.1 Initial Livelihood Status

For each of the local stakeholder groups identified in Section 2.1.1, provide descriptions of livelihood status immediately prior to the start of the project, disaggregated by gender where appropriate. Include details of access to and main uses of land and natural resources, typical assets, income levels and sources, livelihood activities, and other factors important in the context of the project region. Include data sources.

Recommended to use [Participatory Toolkit](#) Tool 5: Well-being Assessment to establish Livelihood Baseline.

Vanuatu is a Melanesian Small Island Developing State, with a population of approximately 330,000 people that inhabit 65 of its ~80 islands. Approximately 75% of the population lives rurally. There are three communities that will be included in the project region, two on Tanna Island (Middlebush and Whitegrass), and one on Erromango Island (South River). Populations on Tanna and Erromango are rural, and South River is extremely isolated and challenging to access. Middlebush has 73 households (including 9 vulnerable households (households including people with disabilities) that will be involved in the project, with a total population of 402 individuals. Whitegrass has 29 households (including 4 vulnerable) with a total population of 160, and South River has 20 households (including 2 vulnerable) with a total population of 121. Overall, there is a fairly even gender split; within the project area, there is an approximate population of 332 males and 317 females. The average household size is 5.5, higher than the national average of 4.7. A community profile undertaken by Nasituan in September 2024 (comprised of all households in South River) revealed that ~40% of household members were under 18, 50% were between 18 and 49, and 10% were over 50.

A baseline survey has also been undertaken as part of the project. Slovin's formula, where n = sample size, N = total population size, and e = margin of error, was used to calculate necessary

sample sizes by using a standard margin of error (5%) as the target. Once sites had been sampled, this formula was then used to calculate the actual margin of error incurred by the resulting sample size.

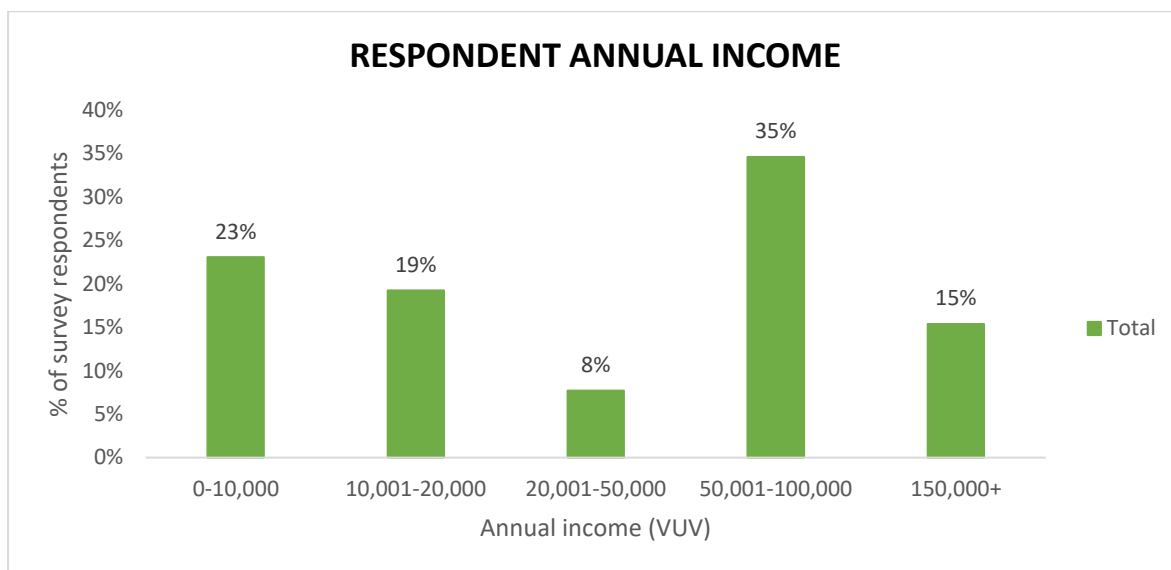
$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

In total, 24 households were surveyed on Tanna, 16 from Middlebush and 8 from Whitegrass (14 female household representatives and 10 male), and 5 on Erromango in South River, for a total of 29 household surveys completed. This was fewer households than initially aimed for due to time and staffing constraints. Attempts to continue with surveying are ongoing.

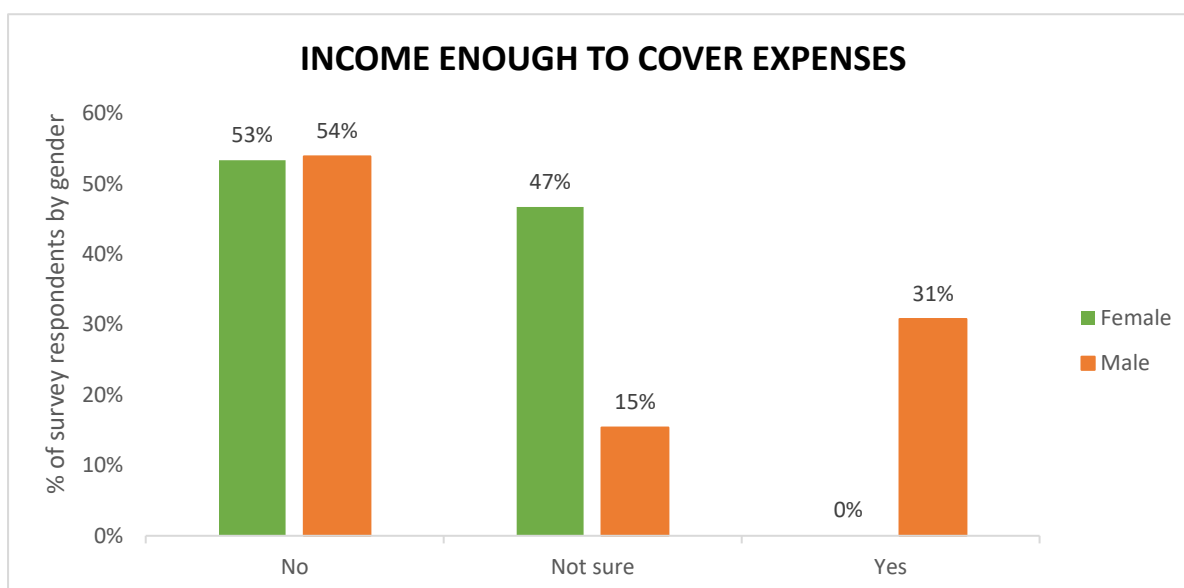
Site	Households	Required Sample Size	Actual Sample Size	Margin of Error
Middlebush	73	62	16	22%
Whitegrass	29	27	8	30%
South River	20	19	5	39%
Total	122	93	29	16%

Any results should be understood with the limitations of the survey in mind. Results have been grouped together overall to retain as much statistical validity as possible; even so, there is still an 16% margin of error (11% higher than the usual standard of 5%).

Land is historically freely available and distributed amongst families according to custom. The vast majority of rural communities in Vanuatu depend on their land as their source of livelihood, using it for subsistence agriculture. This was also the case for communities within the project area; 71% of respondents indicated that growing produce for sale was their main form of income (the primary income sources for the remaining 29% were a combination of casual labour (11%), seasonal work (7%), and other opportunities (11%) like part time employment fishing, boat captain, or kava bars).



Average annual income of 435,000 VUV (3.6k USD)⁴. However, 23% of respondents earned 10,000 VUV or less annually (84 USD), with 85% earning less than 100,000 VUV (840 USD). This is significantly less than the national average, which is likely skewed by higher incomes in urban areas such as the capital of Vanuatu, Port Villa.



Only 14% of total respondents said that their income was enough to cover expenses, with 54% certain it was insufficient and 32% being unsure. Men were more likely to know whether income was sufficient to cover expenses or not (15% of men were unsure compared to 47% of women).

⁴ WorldData.Info: "With an [average annual income](https://worlddata.info/country/vanuatutotalincome) of 3,660 USD it is one of the lower middle-income countries. Even taking purchasing power parity into account, Vanuatu is still one of the [poorest countries](https://worlddata.info/country/vanuatupoor) in the world." [Vanuatu: country data and statistics \(worlddata.info\)](https://worlddata.info/country/vanuatutotalincome)

Households in Vanuatu are traditionally headed by men (as was the case for 100% of survey respondents) although financial management varies between men and women. When asked about their ability to afford priority items, 54% of respondents said their income was not enough to provide permanent building materials for their houses (e.g. iron, timber, cement), while more than 25% said they couldn't afford non-fresh store food (rice, sugar, flour, etc) or transportation to and from work or school. Most households do not own assets such as vehicles or television and do not have internet access, though this has recently changed in South River with the addition of Starlink⁵.

Most of the local population has access to family/customary land. Access to and usage rights of this land are determined by custom by local leaders. On Tanna, occupied land is primarily flat, hand-tilled land for agricultural use. Most households also had trees on their land that were utilised for a variety of activities, such as timber or fuel wood, sources of fruit or nuts, or to provide ecosystem services as a nature reserve to regulate water, improve soil, and provide native habitat. All respondents grew crops of some kind, with over 70% growing kumara and taro, and over ~ 25% growing banana, cassava, corn, Chinese cabbage, and Island cabbage. Despite this, processed food was common in respondent diets, with 79% having consumed a processed grain such as wheat, bread, cereal, or rice, and 24% having consumed processed sugar or oils and fats. Overall, Vanuatu struggles with malnutrition (particularly in children), leading to both under-nutrition and obesity and an increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases. Nation-wide, over 60% of Ni-Vanuatu adults do not consume the recommended amount of fruits and vegetables⁶. Part of the survey addressed food consumption of participants over the last 24 hours. Diets in Vanuatu are commonly lacking in iron, micronutrients, protein, and vitamins. This was reflected in a low consumption of leafy greens (38% consumption), and a distinct lack of vitamin-rich roots, such as kumara and pumpkin (7% consumption), and fruits, such as mango or papaya (0% consumption), meat (21%

⁵ Tafea Province Mini Census 2016; Vanuatu National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

⁶ Vanuatu National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan 2016-2020. "Consumption of fruit and vegetables is a key indicator of diet quality. Fruit and vegetables are not consumed on a daily basis by the majority of Ni-Vanuatu adults, with approximately 62% of not consuming the recommended 5 serves of fruit & vegetables a day... A significant barrier to accessing health food is its cost. Nutrition analysis of the 2010 HIES found that for a household to meet their minimum food and nutrition needs it would cost 261VT, which is higher than the 13 Vanuatu food poverty line of 168vt (Martin, Yi & Fiti, 2015). Another study found that it is largely unaffordable for people to achieve recommended intake of non-starchy fruit and vegetables (Jones & Charlton, 2015)."

consumption), eggs (0% consumption), or legumes (0% consumption) by respondents. The primary barrier to meeting nutritional needs has been identified as the high cost of food.

3.3.2 Expected Livelihood Change

For each of the local stakeholder groups identified in Section 2.1.1, provide a description supported by evidence of how livelihood status is expected to change under the baseline scenario.

Community members and wider tribes

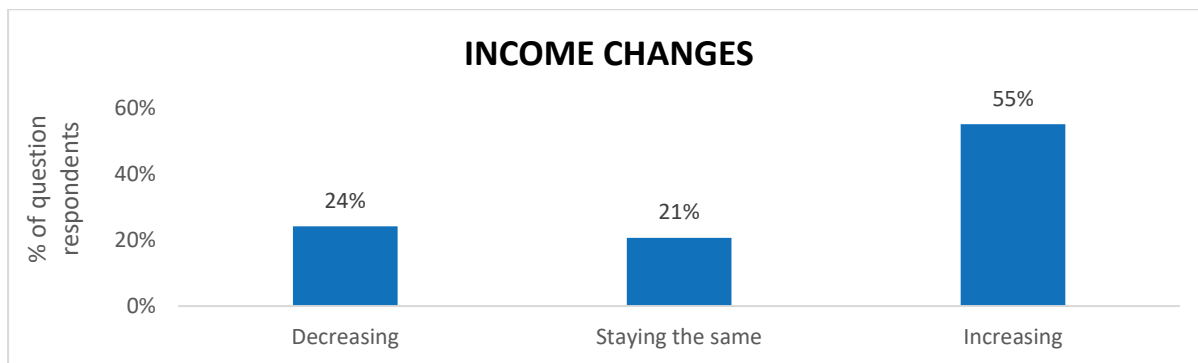
In Vanuatu, communities are highly dependent on subsistence agriculture for livelihood security, yet this lifestyle is becoming increasingly vulnerable. Populations are experiencing significant growth; in Tafea, 44% of the total population is under 15 years old, and on Tanna the population grew by an annual rate of 6% between 2016-2020.⁷ This places pressure on communities in Tanna that are already densely populated (over 27.8 people per km²)⁸ and reducing access to available land for household gardens. Population growth and reduced respect for customary approaches to resource use have also led to overharvesting of several important natural resources, including timber, bats, native pigeons, crayfish, and coconut crabs. Current land use attitudes are also eroding the weight that traditional governance mechanisms and chiefly roles carry within communities.⁹

Survey data from project communities reflects these pressures directly. Most respondents said their income was not enough to cover their basic needs. While 55% reported increasing income, 24% said it was decreasing and 21% said it was staying the same. A significant 85% of respondents said their income had been negatively affected by cyclones, flooding, or other weather-related events in the last two years, with impacts including damaged crops and gardens. As 71% of respondents rely on growing crops for sale as their primary income source, this highlights the acute risks of climate-driven disruption to subsistence livelihoods. Future projections indicate these pressures will intensify, as extreme weather events and unpredictable rainfall are expected to increase under climate change. Under the baseline scenario, community members across all three sites face high risk of worsening food, income, and livelihood insecurity.

⁷ Vanuatu 2020 national population and housing census: analytical report - volume 2 / Ralph Hakkert and Scott Pontifex

⁸ <https://www.britannica.com/place/Tanna-island-Vanuatu>

⁹ Field observations and consultations on Tanna and Erromango Islands by TFNZ, 2023-2025.



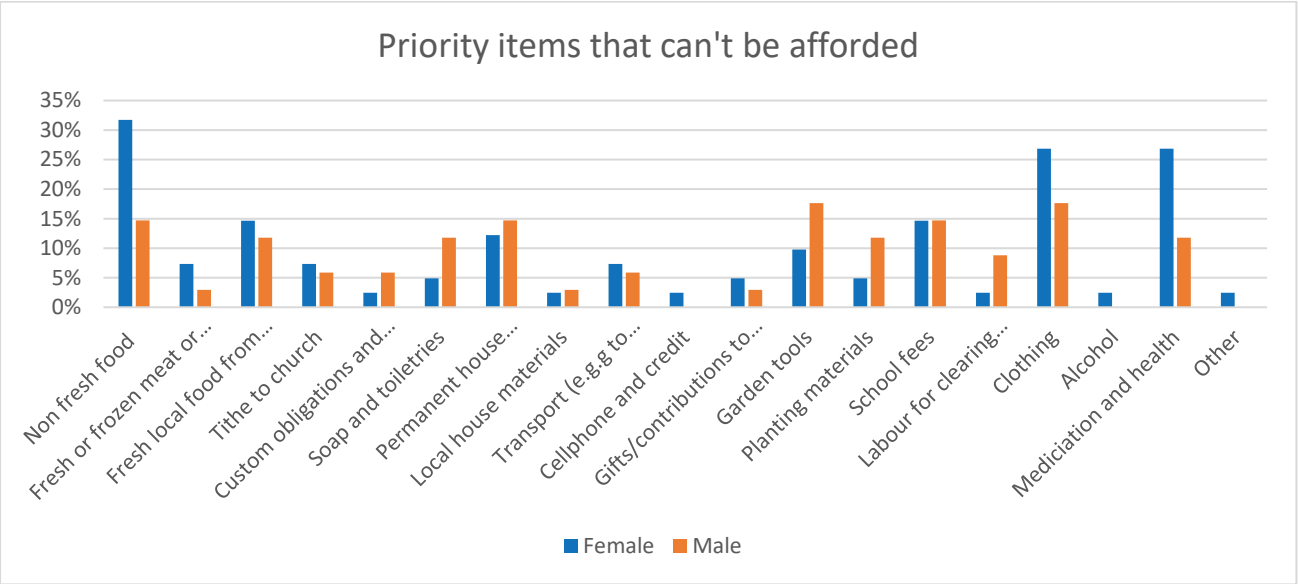
Chiefs (Tupunis, Iani Niko, Iani Asul) and Church Leaders

Chiefs play a central role in governing land access, resource use, and community decision-making. Under the baseline scenario, the erosion of customary governance and chiefly authority reduces their capacity to enforce sustainable land use practices. These changes are driven by population pressure and changing attitudes toward resource management, as evidenced through community consultations [Appendix 1, Annex C]. This weakens a key safeguard against resource overextraction, with direct livelihood consequences for all community members who depend on those resources. Church leaders in Vanuatu communities also hold significant social influence and often play a role in community cohesion, conflict resolution, and the dissemination of information. While their livelihood vulnerability broadly mirrors that of other community members, their capacity to support community-level adaptation is at risk under baseline conditions if financial pressures and climate impacts erode the broader community fabric on which their role depends.

Women

Women in project communities face compounded livelihood vulnerability under baseline conditions. Disaggregated KAP survey data reveals notable gender disparities across multiple dimensions of hardship. A total of 87% of female respondents reported their income had been negatively affected by climate events in the last two years, compared to 69% of male respondents, indicating women bear a disproportionate share of climate-driven income risk. Affordability gaps further reflect this: 32% of women reported being unable to afford non-fresh food compared to 15% of men, 27% could not afford medication and healthcare compared to 12% of men, and 27% could not afford clothing compared to 18% of men. Nationally, women in Vanuatu are underrepresented in formal employment and face significant barriers to economic participation, with women remaining underrepresented in vocational, technical, and tertiary education despite improvements in school enrolment. Women perform a greater share of food growing, in-shore fishing, and unpaid care work, and dominate small-scale market operations, yet are frequently excluded from market governance

and decision-making.¹⁰ In isolated communities such as South River, these barriers are further entrenched by limited transport connectivity and restricted access to markets and services. Under baseline conditions, women in project communities are therefore at heightened risk of income and livelihood insecurity relative to men, with reduced capacity to adapt independently to climate-driven change.



Children and youth

Young people in project communities face a particularly constrained livelihood outlook under the baseline scenario. KAP survey data shows that respondents aged 20-29 had the lowest rate of negative climate impact on income (50%), compared to 83% or higher for respondents aged 30 and over. While this may suggest lower immediate exposure, it likely reflects that younger community members carry less primary livelihood responsibility at this stage rather than greater resilience; a distinction that becomes significant as this cohort ages into greater economic dependence on climate-sensitive subsistence agriculture without intervention. The first Vanuatu Labour Force Survey found that 44% of young ni-Vanuatu are not in education, employment, or training, with opportunities heavily concentrated in urban centres while rural areas continue to rely on subsistence and informal work.¹¹ Only 11.9% of young people remain in school through Grade 13, with many leaving early due to the cost of tuition, limiting their access to further opportunities.¹² In

¹⁰ Vanuatu case study in women's economic empowerment (2015). Australian Aid Programme.

¹¹ Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force Survey 2025 (LFS 2025), Version 1 of the licensed dataset (January 2026), provided by the Pacific Data Hub-Microdata Library.
<https://microdata.pacificdata.org/index.php/home>

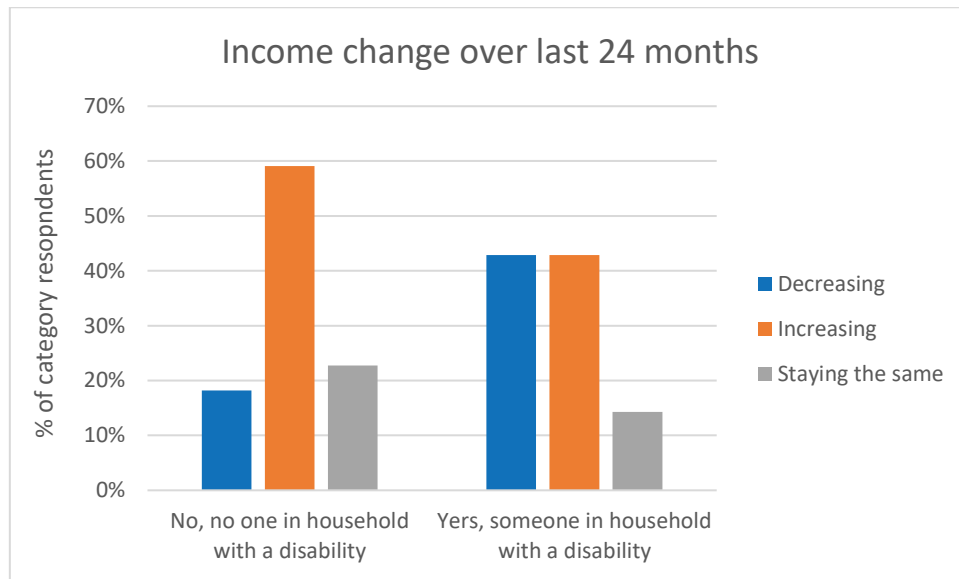
¹² Vanuatu Country Overview (2024). Oxfam Aotearoa. [Vanuatu - Oxfam Aotearoa](#)

remote communities like South River, the combination of poor connectivity, high transport costs, and limited formal employment creates a particularly narrow set of pathways for young people. Employment choices for young people are often limited to domestic chores or small family farms, and waning interest in farming as a livelihood is driving rural-urban migration and increasing youth unemployment. Under baseline conditions, youth in project communities face growing risk of long-term livelihood insecurity and limited capacity to adapt to climate pressures.

People with disabilities

People with disabilities in project communities face the most acute livelihood vulnerability of any stakeholder group under baseline conditions. KAP survey data shows that 100% of participants with disability that responded reported their income had been negatively affected by climate events in the last two years, compared to 75% of participants without disability. At the household level, 43% of households with a disabled member reported decreasing income compared to 18% of households without, a substantial gap that reflects the compounding effect of disability on economic resilience. These findings are consistent with broader evidence from the Pacific. People with disabilities experience significant employment discrimination and marginalisation, reflected in higher unemployment rates, exclusion from labour markets, lower wages, and greater susceptibility to poverty, with women with disabilities facing multiple forms of discrimination due to gender, disability, and poverty intersecting.¹³ Physical remoteness makes Pacific communities, and people with disabilities living in them, particularly vulnerable, a dynamic directly relevant to the isolated nature of all three project sites, and South River in particular. Under baseline conditions, people with disabilities in project communities are at elevated risk of exclusion from livelihood opportunities and disproportionate impact from climate-related shocks.

¹³ Warrick, O. (2010). Climate change and social change: vulnerability and adaptation in rural Vanuatu. The University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand.



3.4 Ecosystem Baseline

3.4.1 Initial Ecological Conditions

For each project region, describe the ecological conditions immediately prior to the start of the project. Include details of the main ecosystems and habitat types present, and any species of conservation concern known or thought to be present.

Tanna has a tropical maritime climate characterised by temperatures that range from lows of 14°C in August to highs of 27°C in February, high humidity, and variable rainfall. The dry season extends from May to October, and the wet season, when cyclones can occur, from November to April.¹⁴ Temperatures on Erromango, which is situated closer to the equator, are slightly higher, with lows of 18°C in August to highs of 31°C in February, while humidity remains high and rainfall is also variable.¹⁵ The southeastern, windward sides of the islands receive higher rainfall. Both islands are prone to flooding, droughts, and severe wind damage from cyclones.¹⁶

¹⁴ Wildlands (2018). Environmental Impact Assessment for the cultivation and processing on Tanna Island, Vanuatu.

¹⁵ TimeAndDate (2023). Climate and Weather Averages in Erromango Island, Vanuatu. [Climate & Weather Averages in Erromango Island, Vanuatu](#)

¹⁶ Wildlands (2018). Environmental Impact Assessment for the cultivation and processing on Tanna Island, Vanuatu.

Tanna is a volcanic island with a raised coral fringe.¹⁷ The soils here are eutric-vertic cambisols or saturated fersiallitic soils which are mature, reasonably fertile, with a high clay component. In Middlebush, the soils are saturated andosols: these are derived from volcanic ash deposited during the Pleistocene, and are mature and very fertile. Mt Yasur is an active volcano that emits high amounts of ash on the southernmost part of the island; the surrounding land is largely unvegetated¹⁸. Erromango is also volcanic in origin, formed of an ancient underwater volcano raised 100-300m above sea level by tectonic uplift. This has created a plateau with three sets of eroded volcanic cones in the centre, north and east of the island.¹⁹

Vanuatu is home to a wide range of biodiversity, with endemic species including 130 vascular plants (39% of these being orchids), 57 land snails, 12 bats, 4 lizards, 2 bird genera, and 5 other endemic species. 65 endemic species have been assessed for their conservation status by the IUCN Red List, with 18 of these identified as having conservation concerns.²⁰ Conservation species thought to be present in project areas include the Vanuatu scrubfowl (*Megapodius layardi*, vulnerable), Vanuatu kingfisher (*Todiramphus farquhari*, near threatened), Royal Parrotfinch (*Erythrura regia*, vulnerable), the Vanuatu Flying Fox (*Pteropus anetianus*, vulnerable), an endemic palm (*Carposylon macrospermum*, critically endangered), and Pacific Kauri (*Agathis macrophylla*, vulnerable).²¹ Many species are also culturally significant: coconut crab (*Birgus latro*, vulnerable- only present on Erromango), freshwater crayfish and eels, a variety of native pigeon species, bats, and tree species such as Tamanu, Natavoa, Mangrove, Namamba, Nakatambol, and Napil. At least seven different bird species have already been recorded in the project areas in Whitegrass, including the near-threatened Vanuatu kingfisher, white eye, and imperial pigeon.²²

Forest areas (Whitegrass, South River): Tanna is mostly covered in lowland rainforest up to 500m above sea level, characterised by Banyan trees (*Ficus* spp.) and a diversity of other evergreen species. Above 500m lies montane forest, which gradually shifts to cloud forest as elevation

¹⁷ UNEP 1988: UN System-Wide Earthwatch Website, Island Directory, Islands of Vanuatu. United Nations Environment Programme. <http://islands.unep.ch/ILT.htm#1079>. Retrieved 28/09/2018

¹⁸ Wildlands (2018). Environmental Impact Assessment for the cultivation and processing on Tanna Island, Vanuatu.

¹⁹ Wikipedia (2023). Erromango. [Erromango - Wikipedia](#)

²⁰ Techera, E. J. (2005). Protected area management in Vanuatu. *Macquarie Journal of International and Comparative Environmental Law*, 2(2), 107-119.

²¹ IUCN (2023). IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. [IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#)

²² Field observations and consultations on Tanna and Erromango Islands by TFNZ, 2023-2025.

increases. The highest summits are covered by grasslands and herb fields. Damage from agricultural use and cyclones is present throughout the island.²³ Approximately 75% of Erromango is covered by dense evergreen forests to the eastern (windward) side, with a mixture of grass and woodland covering the northwest and cloud forests at higher elevations. The island has been heavily logged due to its populations of sandalwood, kauri, and tamanu trees.²⁴ Open forest at project locations in Whitegrass (Tanna) and South River (Erromango) are effectively composed of dense, overgrown thickets of vines and creepers, smothering an assemblage of mostly sub-canopy lowland rainforest tree species. Common species include Nangalate (*Dendroside latifolia*), Nikiapin (*Cryptocariaspp.*), Naula (*Macarangespp.*), Kaulaul (*Melicope latifolia*), Nitaan (*Myristica inutilis*), and Nianen (*Ficus*spp.).²⁵

Garden areas (Whitegrass, Middlebush, South River): In Vanuatu, agricultural areas consist of small-scale garden plots interspersed between open/degraded forest or along stream margins. The traditional style of agriculture is ‘slash and burn shifting cultivation’, where land is cleared and vegetation typically burnt to make space for crops. Crops are grown for a short time until soil fertility declines (usually only one year) before land is left as fallow. Ash from Mt Yasur can have a smothering effect on unshaded crops. Commonly grown crops and food trees include taro, kumara, kava, yam, banana, cassava, island cabbage, coconut, island lychee, breadfruit, and papaya.²⁶

Coffee plantations (Whitegrass, South River): In Vanuatu, coffee tends to be grown by smallholder farmers in plantations less than 1 ha in size. These are often near the edges of villages, either in existing gardens, fallow areas, or thinned/felled forest.²⁷ Shade plants such as *Erythrina variegata*, leucaena (*Leucaena* sp.), glyricidia (madre de cacao; *Glyricidia sepium*), acacia (*Acacia* sp), and fruit trees such as mango (*Mangifera indica*) and breadfruit (*Artocarpus artilis*) are commonly found on plantations. Existing coffee plantations within the project area vary by site. At the Middlebush site, coffee growth takes the form of small-scale plots grown amongst community gardens.²⁸ At the Whitegrass site, there are currently 4.2 hectares of overgrown coffee plantation grown under

²³ Wildlands (2018). Environmental Impact Assessment for the cultivation and processing on Tanna Island, Vanuatu.

²⁴ Alluring World (2023). Erromango. <https://www.alluringworld.com/erromango/>

²⁵ Field observations and consultations on Tanna and Erromango Islands by TFNZ, 2023-2025.

²⁶ Wildlands (2018). Environmental Impact Assessment for the cultivation and processing on Tanna Island, Vanuatu.

²⁷ Internal baseline survey done as part of the Nemiteian te Kofen Kofa project between TFNZ and Nasiutan.

²⁸ Wildlands (2018). Environmental Impact Assessment for the cultivation and processing on Tanna Island, Vanuatu.

shade trees, with an additional 3 hectares at the South River site. Both the Whitegrass and South River sites face smothering from vine overgrowth in cyclone-damaged areas.

Grasslands (Whitegrass): Whitegrass has approximately 38 ha of erosion-prone hillside grasslands, currently used for cattle grazing. The area at the base of the hill is sparsely vegetated and contains a coconut plantation interspersed with small numbers of wild citrus trees.²⁹

3.4.2 Expected Ecosystem Change

For each project region, provide a description supported by evidence of how ecological conditions are expected to change under the baseline scenario.

Site 1: Middlebush (Tanna)

The primary ecological baseline concern at Middlebush is the condition of riparian margins and associated garden areas. Agricultural areas at Middlebush experienced significant flooding in 2023, causing widespread waterlogging to food gardens.³⁰ Under the baseline scenario, riparian vegetation along stream margins is expected to remain degraded, reducing the buffering capacity of these areas against flood events and leaving garden areas increasingly exposed. The traditional slash and burn cultivation system, combined with shortened fallow periods and intensifying rainfall under climate change, is expected to accelerate soil erosion and reduce fertility along these margins. Without riparian vegetation to stabilise stream banks and moderate water flow, flood risk and associated crop damage are expected to worsen. Coffee plots grown amongst community gardens at Middlebush also sustained major flood damage in 2023 and face similar ongoing risk under the baseline scenario.³¹

Site 2: Whitegrass (Tanna)

Under the baseline scenario, ecological conditions across all land types at Whitegrass are expected to continue deteriorating in the absence of intervention.

Forest and open forest areas at Whitegrass are currently characterised by dense vine and creeper overgrowth smothering sub-canopy rainforest species. Without intervention, this degradation trajectory is expected to continue. Sporadic and ad-hoc logging of the remaining mature forest stand at Whitegrass leaves trees increasingly exposed and vulnerable to cyclone damage, and the

²⁹ Field observations and consultations on Tanna and Erromango Islands by TFNZ, 2023–2025.

³⁰ Field observations and consultations on Tanna and Erromango Islands by TFNZ, 2023–2025.

³¹ Field observations and consultations on Tanna and Erromango Islands by TFNZ, 2023–2025.

ability of forest to recover post-disturbance is severely limited by invasive vine species that choke seedling establishment in canopy gaps. Small patches of tree cover are particularly vulnerable, as severe wind events can fell areas of several hectares. Inked tracking tunnel surveys have confirmed the presence of mammalian pests including rats and mice in forest and reserve areas, posing an ongoing threat to seedling survival and native fauna. Habitat for species of conservation concern, including the near-threatened Vanuatu kingfisher, Vanuatu flying fox, and critically endangered endemic palm, is expected to continue declining under these pressures.³²

Garden areas at Whitegrass are expected to face worsening agricultural conditions under the baseline scenario. Shortening fallow periods, now as little as five years compared to the traditional 10 or more, are preventing soil fertility recovery and the re-establishment of woody vegetation.³³ Volcanic ash from Mt Yasur continues to smother unshaded crops. Cleared land is increasingly vulnerable to destructive winds, cyclones, and flooding, and the removal of mature shade trees is accelerating vine and creeper encroachment into garden areas. These pressures interact with broader climate-driven changes including unreliable growing seasons, erosion from heavy rainfall, and increased pest and disease susceptibility.³⁴

The 38 hectares of hillside grassland currently used for cattle grazing are expected to continue degrading under baseline conditions. Cattle are destabilising slopes and causing ongoing erosion. Approximately 25% of coconut trees at the base of the hillside have already been felled by cyclone damage, and coconut seedling regeneration is being suppressed by grazing cattle, meaning the plantation is not recovering. Without intervention, continued erosion and loss of vegetation cover are expected.³⁵

The existing 4.2 hectares of overgrown coffee plantation at Whitegrass face ongoing vine smothering in cyclone-damaged areas. Without shade restoration and vine management, productivity is expected to continue declining.³⁶

³² Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (2023). Biodiversity. [Department of Environmental Protection & Conservation – Biodiversity](#)

³³ Muller, S., Lebot, V., & Walter, A. (2011). Man Santo in his environment. In P. Bouchet, H. Le Guyader, & O. Pascal (Eds.), *The natural history of Santo* (pp. 508–514). MNHN, IRD, Pro-Natura International.

³⁴ Reti, M. J. (2008). An assessment of the impact of climate change on agriculture and food security in the Pacific. *A Case Study in the Cook Islands. Mission Report Prepared for the Government of Cook Islands. FAO Sub-regional Office for the Pacific Islands, Apia*

³⁵ Field observations and consultations on Tanna and Erromango Islands by TFNZ, 2023–2025.

³⁶ Field observations and consultations on Tanna and Erromango Islands by TFNZ, 2023–2025.

Site 3: South River (Erromango)

Erromango has a well-documented history of commercial logging, particularly of sandalwood, kauri, and tamanu species, which has disrupted natural forest systems and introduced invasive plants across the island.³⁷ Under the baseline scenario, these legacy pressures are expected to continue interacting with climate-driven disturbance to produce ongoing forest degradation at South River.

Open forest areas at South River currently exhibit dense vine and creeper overgrowth smothering sub-canopy species, consistent with conditions observed at Whitegrass. The removal of old-growth forest through prior logging has left remaining trees exposed to cyclone damage, and the proliferation of invasive vines in canopy gaps is severely limiting natural regeneration. Mature forest and healthy stream habitats, which are critical resources for community survival following severe cyclone events, providing famine food and building materials, are in decline due to the compounding pressures of historical deforestation, invasive species, climate change, and land-use change. Under the baseline scenario, this decline is expected to continue and potentially accelerate as climate-driven cyclone intensity increases.

The three hectares of coffee plantation at South River face the same vine smothering pressures as Whitegrass, exacerbated by cyclone-related canopy damage. Fallow garden areas are subject to ongoing vine encroachment that prevents natural recovery. The isolated nature of South River limits the capacity of the community to access external support for ecological management, meaning degradation pressures are unlikely to be addressed without structured intervention.

Coconut crab (*Birgus latro*, vulnerable) is present only on Erromango among the project sites, making the South River site of particular conservation significance. Continued forest degradation under the baseline scenario poses a direct threat to this species and its habitat.³⁸

³⁷ Forestry on Erromango Island, Vanuatu. (1987). NZ Forestry.

³⁸ Field observations and consultations on Tanna and Erromango Islands by TFNZ, 2023-2025.



Figure 2: Field observations of logged area in Whitegrass. Top right: drone footage of degraded fallow garden area with vine overgrowth in Whitegrass. Middle: drone footage of coconut tree plantation in Whitegrass with felled trees from cyclone damage (approximately 1 in 4 trees felled, no regrowth due to cattle grazing). Bottom: recently cleared area for gardening in Whitegrass, with Nasituan staff member Joseph Ioakaim (left) and Dr. Clint Cameron (right).

Theory of Change

3.5 Project Logic

Complete table 3.5 to provide a summary of the causal links between project activities and expected outcomes and identify key assumptions. Add rows for additional outputs and activities as required. Activities must include all activities needed to implement project interventions and risk mitigation measures.

Add additional text or figures below if needed to demonstrate how project interventions will generate carbon, livelihood and ecosystem benefits relative to the baseline scenario, and how risks will be mitigated. If the project interventions include harvesting of trees, include details of replanting or regeneration after harvest.

Recommended to use [Participatory Toolkit](#) Tool 2: Problem Analysis and Tool 3: Visioning to develop the *Project Logic*.

Table 3.5 Project Logic

Aim		
The overall goal of the project is to strengthen the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities against the impacts of climate change.		
	Description	Assumptions/Risks
Outcomes		
Carbon Benefit	<i>The carbon sink function of cyclone-damaged and deforested forest areas, riparian margins, coffee plots, and community garden areas is improved (outputs 1, 2, & 3).</i>	Key assumptions and risks include: - Communities will be interested in maintaining project activities beyond the funding period. - PVC generation is sustained over the project's crediting period and is sufficient to ensure enough resourcing through reinvestment in

		project management to maintain activities (e.g. ongoing maintenance of replanted trees/ suppression of vine overgrowth). ● Suitable buyers will be found for carbon credits generated through the project. ● The price of forest carbon credits purchased on voluntary markets will increase from an average of ~USD \$8/ton to USD \$40/ton by the end of the decade to improve long-term financial viability. While plausible, there is high uncertainty around this assumption.
Livelihood Benefit	<i>Livelihoods and food systems are resilient to the impacts of climate change.</i> Carbon credits will provide another avenue stream for community members, strengthening livelihood security. Investing in agroforestry (output 1) by integrating food trees into existing garden systems strengthens the resilience of local food systems to cyclones and flooding. Coffee planting will diversify income streams for increased resilience. This allows communities to be more self-sufficient while remaining able to use their land under changing climate conditions. Strengthening governance systems (output 4) will allow for resources and project benefits to be equitably shared, providing further buffers against climate-related disasters and the long-term impacts of climate change. By building in mechanisms to represent and consider the most vulnerable,	Key assumptions and risks are that improved forest management, restoration, and forest protection through implementing project activities will tangibly benefit communities via: ● Improving the quality and volume of natural resources and products derived from forests; ● Buffering communities from the effects of extreme weather events; and ● Improving soil fertility and crop health. Another key assumption is that there will be ongoing community commitment for a minimum of

	access to resources such as food, land, materials for making houses, and climate-resilient decision-making power will strengthen livelihoods.		30 years (project crediting period) and ideally for the next 100 years.
Ecosystem Benefit	<i>Climate change adaptation improves ecosystem resilience, strengthening ecosystem service provision and improving biodiversity outcomes through habitat security.</i> Climate change adaptation will improve ecosystem resilience, strengthening ecosystem service provision and improving biodiversity outcomes through a combination of improved land management, restoration, and forest protection mechanisms. By undertaking reforestation/conservation of indigenous forest (outputs 2 & 3), native tree biodiversity will be restored/protected, providing habitat for key species (native pigeons, bats, etc.) and allowing populations to recover. Restoring native forest will also help regulate ecosystem water cycling (flood management, water filtration, consistency of stream flow), restore soil health, increase resilience against tropical cyclones through a wind buffer effect, and assist in the suppression of pest species such as invasive vines.		A key risk is the potential for setbacks from recurring natural disasters (e.g. tropical cyclones). The project will work with work committees to establish a contingency buffer reserve, factoring in the potential for a natural disaster event every five years by setting aside financial resources for activities such as additional nursery propagation, replanting, vine clearance, and labour costs.
Outputs and activities			
Output 1: Implementation of activities under an Improved Forest Management Plan for producing and planting coffee,	All	Activity 1.1: Develop an <i>Improved Forest Management Plan</i> for coffee, shade, timber, fuelwood, and food producing trees in conjunction with Activities 4.1 and 4.2. (One each for Whitegrass and South River.)	Assumptions - Communities will be able to access, understand, and utilise a management plan Risks - Management plan is not accessible/ easily usable (not easy to find, not written in non-technical terms)

shade, timber, fuelwood, and food producing trees.		Activity 1.2: Establish nurseries for coffee, shade, timber, fuelwood, and food producing trees (one at each project site).	Assumptions - Nurseries will be a useful central point for raising project seedlings - Nurseries will be durable enough to protect seedlings and withstand extreme weather events Risks - Nurseries are built in a location not easily accessible by project participants
		Activity 1.3: Ongoing, regular maintenance of planted areas to prevent vine overgrowth/ensure tree survival.	Assumptions - Removing vine overgrowth will facilitate ecosystem recovery - Community buy-in will be sufficient enough to meet labour needs - Carbon credits will generate enough funding to cover ongoing labour for maintenance once initial project funding period ends Risks - New/existing trees may be vulnerable to cyclone damage in recently cleared/planted areas

			Communities do not undertake regular maintenance and survival rate of saplings decreases
	1. Sustainable coffee production through (a) conversion go existing gardens; (b) clearance of undergrowth.	Activity 1.4: Clearing vine overgrowth from existing gardens/preparation for coffee tree planting (intervention 1 [a]).	Assumptions - Clearing vine overgrowth will provide seedlings with the necessary space to grow and establish - Vine overgrowth has a negative effect on ecosystem health overall Risks - Clearance of potentially useful (either ecologically or culturally) plant growth
		Activity 1.5: Clearing undergrowth within forest areas and preparation for coffee tree planting (intervention 1 [b]).	
		Activity 1.6: Planting coffee tree seedlings (interventions 1 [a] and [b]).	Assumptions - Coffee seedlings grown under shade will be more resilient to extreme weather events Risks - Growing coffee under shade will unsustainably reduce yields - Insufficient ongoing labour or community interest to maintain and harvest coffee plants - Coffee price does not remain competitive to other livelihood options
		Activity 1.7: Planting shade trees in existing gardens that will be converted to coffee plantations	

	4. Development of sustainable timber and fuelwood plantations within existing gardens and along roadsides	Activity 1.8: Develop sustainable harvesting plan/by-laws for timber/fuelwood extraction upon maturity (~10-15 years).	Assumptions - Community needs and available timber will balance to allow for sustainable timber harvest - Community-created by-laws will encourage buy-in Risks - Community needs will outweigh available timber - Local by-laws will not be adhered to
		Activity 1.9: Identify/delineate suitable alternative areas for timber and fuelwood.	Assumptions - Community consultation will allow for the identification of interim timber harvest areas with minimal environmental impact Risks - Suitable interim timber harvest areas are unable to be identified by community members
		Activity 1.10: Clearing undergrowth/site preparation for timber/fuelwood tree planting.	Assumptions - Clearing vine overgrowth will provide seedlings with the necessary space to grow and establish - Vine overgrowth has a negative effect on ecosystem health overall Risks

			• Clearance of potentially useful (either ecologically or culturally) plant growth
		Activity 1.11: Plant timber and fuelwood trees.	Assumptions • Selected timber species (e.g. fast-growing white pin & mahogany species) will be useful to communities as a timber and fuelwood source Risks • Species selected are not fit for purpose • Seedlings do not establish due to extreme weather events • Non-native species planted become invasive • Ownership or location/usage rights are not clearly defined by communities
	5. Agroforestry incorporating the planting of fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees around or among gardens	Activity 1.12: Identify specific gardens for planting fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees.	Assumptions • Community consultation will allow for the identification of suitable agroforestry areas Risks • Gardens planted with agroforestry trees through the project are not managed in a way that allows communal/appropriate access to resources / creates resource disputes
		Activity 1.13: Clearing undergrowth/site preparation for planting fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees.	Assumptions

			• Clearing vine overgrowth will provide seedlings with the necessary space to grow and establish • Vine overgrowth has a negative effect on ecosystem health overall Risks • Clearance of potentially useful (either ecologically or culturally) plant growth
		Activity 1.14: Plant fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees.	Assumptions • Selected agroforestry species will be useful to communities to improve food/livelihood security Risks • Species selected are not fit for purpose • Seedlings do not establish due to extreme weather events • Non-native species planted become invasive
	8. Enhancement of cattle grazing/coconut plantation area by planting supplementary shade, fruit, timber	Activity 1.15: Identify/delineate specific sites within the cattle grazing area for planting shade, fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees.	Assumptions • Community consultation will allow for the identification of suitable agroforestry areas Risks • Agroforestry areas are not managed in a way that allows communal access to resources / creates resource disputes

	and/or nut producing trees.	Activity 1.16: Site preparation for planting shade, fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees	Assumptions - Clearing vine overgrowth will provide seedlings with the necessary space to grow and establish - Vine overgrowth has a negative effect on ecosystem health overall Risks - Clearance of potentially useful (either ecologically or culturally) plant growth
		Activity 1.17: Plant shade, fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees.	Assumptions - Selected agroforestry species will be useful to communities to improve food/livelihood security Risks - Seedlings are damaged/killed by cattle grazing or extreme weather events
Output 2: Forest restoration.	All	Activity 2.1: Develop a <i>Restoration Plan</i> in conjunction with Activities 4.1 and 4.2.	Assumptions - Communities will be able to access, understand, and utilise a management plan Risks - Management plan is not accessible/ easily usable (not easy to find, not written in non-technical terms)

		Activity 2.2: Establish nurseries for raising native and agroforestry trees to be planted in restoration areas (one at each project site).	Assumptions - Nurseries will be a useful central point for raising project seedlings - Nurseries will be durable enough to protect seedlings and withstand extreme weather events Risks - Nurseries are built in a location not easily accessible by project participants
		Activity 2.3: Ongoing, regular maintenance of planted areas to prevent vine overgrowth/ensure native tree survival.	Assumptions - Removing vine overgrowth will facilitate ecosystem recovery - Community buy-in will be sufficient enough to meet labour needs - Carbon credits will generate enough funding to cover ongoing labour for maintenance once initial project funding period ends Risks - New/existing trees may be vulnerable to cyclone damage in recently cleared/planted areas

			Communities do not undertake regular maintenance and survival rate of saplings decreases
	2. Reforestation of riparian margins	Activity 2.4: Identify/delineate gardens and ownership rights along Middlebush stream, secure community agreement for restoration.	Assumptions - Community consultation will allow for the identification of suitable restoration areas and ownership rights along stream Risks - Unforeseen land ownership disputes in project area prevent restoration areas being identified/agreed upon
		Activity 2.5: Clearing undergrowth (Middlebush)/site preparation (Middlebush, South River) for planting native and agroforestry trees.	Assumptions - Clearing vine overgrowth will provide seedlings with the necessary space to grow and establish - Vine overgrowth has a negative effect on ecosystem health overall Risks - Clearance of potentially useful (either ecologically or culturally) plant growth
		Activity 2.6: Plant native and agroforestry trees along riparian margins.	Assumptions Native species will facilitate ecosystem recovery and provide habitat for priority native fauna species

			- Selected agroforestry species will be useful to communities to improve food/livelihood security Risks - Species selected are not fit for purpose - Seedlings do not establish - Non-native species planted become invasive
	3. Forest enhancement through active restoration	Activity 2.7: Clearing undergrowth/site preparation for planting native and trees.	Assumptions - Clearing vine overgrowth will provide seedlings with the necessary space to grow and establish - Vine overgrowth has a negative effect on ecosystem health overall Risks - Clearance of potentially useful (either ecologically or culturally) plant growth
		Activity 2.8: Plant native trees within forest enhancement area at a preliminary density of one tree per 100m ² (one tree within 10m * 10m grids).	Assumptions - The planned planting density will be sufficient to facilitate forest enhancement Risks - The planned planting density is insufficient to improve ecosystem health - Seedlings do not establish

	7. Hillside erosion control via tree planting and protection of wild cane resources	Activity 2.9: Clearing undergrowth/site preparation for planting native, erosion stabilizing trees.	Assumptions • Clearing vine overgrowth will provide seedlings with the necessary space to grow and establish • Vine overgrowth has a negative effect on ecosystem health overall Risks • Clearance of potentially useful (either ecologically or culturally) plant growth
		Activity 2.10: Adequately fence site as and where required to exclude cattle.	Assumptions • Fencing hillside will prevent erosion from cattle damage through trampling/browsing of hillside vegetation • Cattle are not acting as bio-control for any invasive species on hillside Risks • Fencing is unable to exclude cattle from hillside area • Protection from cattle grazing allows invasive species to populate hillside
		Activity 2.11: Plant native trees within hillside erosion control area at a preliminary density of one tree per 225m ² (one tree every 15m).	Assumptions • The planned planting density will be sufficient to facilitate hillside erosion control Risks

			• The planned planting density is insufficient to improve erosion control • Seedlings do not establish
	6. Restoration of fallow gardens within the core CCA area.	Activity 2.12: Clearing undergrowth/site preparation within fallow gardens for planting native trees.	Assumptions • Clearing vine overgrowth will provide seedlings with the necessary space to grow and establish • Vine overgrowth has a negative effect on ecosystem health overall Risks • Clearance of potentially useful (either ecologically or culturally) plant growth
		Activity 2.13: Plant native trees within fallow gardens.	Assumptions • Planting native trees within fallow gardens will help restore ecosystem health Risks • Restored fallow garden areas are later returned to garden use
Output 3: Forest protection	9. Avoided deforestation through establishment and designation of a	Activity 3.1: Develop and implement a <i>Conservation Management Plan</i> in conjunction with Activities 4.1 and 4.2, ensuring by-laws for management of the Community Conservation Area (CCA) are endorsed and supported by the community.	Assumptions • Communities will be able to access, understand, and utilise a management plan Risks

	Community Conservation Area (CCA) to protect existing mature forest		Management plan is not accessible/ easily usable (not easy to find, not written in non-technical terms)
		Activity 3.2: Community bylaws developed and endorsed by community and awareness activities held (e.g. community consensus session)	Assumptions - Community-created bylaws will carry enough authority to regulate CCA protection/land use. Risks - Insufficient community buy-in to make CCA bylaws meaningful
		Activity 3.3: Development/installation of signage showing agreed CCA by-laws and/or regulations.	Assumptions - Community awareness sessions will engage local participants and encourage buy-in for CCA by-laws Risks - Community engagement is not equally accessible for vulnerable groups (women, girls, those with disabilities) - Community engagement is insufficient to generate buy-in needed for CCA by-laws to be followed - Signage is not appropriately placed in an easily accessible place

Output 4: Project management, reporting, and community engagement	N/A – all interventions	Activity 4.1: Develop a management plan and framework for the implementation of project interventions at all communities (Middlebush, Whitegrass, South River). This includes close liaison and consultation with community members and ground truthing to: • Map existing gardens and clarify with individual community members what species they would like to see planted and where; • Develop a register of the number and species of nursery seedlings raised; • Spatially identify and record the location/species/number of trees subsequently planted; • Delineate the extent of areas cleared/maintained of overgrowth (bad rope) for forest enhancement/restoration activities; • Develop and maintain a register of community members employed to implement work, hourly wages paid, and the hours associated with delivery each activity; and • Development by-laws for managing the Community Conservation Area in Whitegrass.	Assumptions • Communities will be able to access, understand, and utilise a management plan (assumptions for elements contained within management plan described in activities above) Risks • Management plan is not accessible/ easily usable (not easy to find, not written in non-technical terms) (risks for elements contained within management plan described in activities above)
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		Activity 4.2: Spatially delineate project boundaries using GIS platforms (e.g. Arc GIS linked to drone mapping imagery) and create shapefile overlays to show the extent, in hectares, of project activities at all project sites. This will also require ground truthing and liaison to ensure project boundaries are endorsed and supported by communities.	Assumptions - Spatially delineating project boundaries will allow for accurate carbon stock takes for each project activity to be calculated Risks - Maps generated to not accurately reflect geographic scope of activities/ are not endorsed by communities
		Activity 4.3: Project working committees established and quarterly meetings (4 times per year) held.	Assumptions - Working committees will meet to oversee the activity work plan, and identify any challenges/areas that need adjusting Risks - Committee members have competing priorities that prevent them from meeting at the necessary frequency
		Activity 4.4: Community bylaws established for project interventions	Assumptions Community awareness sessions will engage local participants and encourage buy-in for CCA by-laws Risks

			- Community engagement is not equally accessible for vulnerable groups (women, girls, those with disabilities) - Community engagement is insufficient to generate buy-in needed for CCA by-laws to be followed
		Activity 4.5: Regular community engagement events held to showcase project activities	Assumptions - Community awareness sessions will engage local participants and keep them informed and involved with project activities Risks - Community engagement is not equally accessible for vulnerable groups (women, girls, those with disabilities)
		Activity 4.6: Print and display community noticeboards with maps, bylaws, grievance mechanism, and traffic light system	Assumptions - Noticeboards will provide a centralised place for key project information and contribute to awareness and community ownership of project Risks - Signage is not appropriately placed in an easily accessible place

Technical Specification

For each project intervention, complete the technical specification template in Annex 7. A single technical specification may include potential for some variation, but substantially different management interventions should be presented in separate technical specifications.

Annex 7 has been completed for each project intervention that will generate PVCs and is attached separately.

3.6 Project Activities

Complete Table 3.6 to provide a summary of the project activities and inputs for each project intervention. Add additional rows as required. Full details must be provided in a separate technical specification for each project intervention in Annex 7.

Table 3.6 Project Activity Summary

Approach	Outputs	Intervention	Activities required to deliver outputs	Project location	Inputs to Resource Activities
Improved Forest Management	Output 1: Implementation of activities under an Improved Forest Management Plan for producing and planting	All	Activity 1.1: Develop management plan that addresses <i>Improved Land Management</i> interventions in conjunction with Activities 4.1 and 4.2.	Whitegrass, South River	Community consultations
			Activity 1.2: Establish nurseries for coffee, shade, timber, fuelwood, and food producing trees (one at each project site).		Nursery materials, construction labour, seedling source, ongoing labour for nursery care
			Activity 1.3: Ongoing, regular maintenance of planted areas to prevent vine overgrowth/ensure tree survival.		Ongoing labour

	coffee, shade, timber, fuelwood, and food producing trees.	1. Sustainable coffee production through (a) conversion go existing gardens; (b) clearance of undergrowth.	Activity 1.4: Clearing vine overgrowth from existing gardens/preparation for coffee tree planting (intervention 1 [a]).	Whitegrass, South River	Ongoing labour
			Activity 1.5: Clearing undergrowth within forest areas and preparation for coffee tree planting (intervention 1 [b]).		Labour
			Activity 1.6: Planting coffee trees (interventions 1 [a] and [b]).		Labour, coffee seedlings
			Activity 1.7: Planting native shade trees in existing gardens that will be converted to coffee plantations.		Labour, shade tree seedlings
		4. Development of sustainable timber and fuelwood plantations within existing gardens and along roadsides	Activity 1.8: Develop sustainable harvesting plan/by-laws for timber/fuelwood extraction upon maturity (~10-15 years).	Whitegrass, South River	Community consultations
			Activity 1.9: Identify/delineate suitable alternative areas for timber and fuelwood.		Community consultations, participatory mapping, GPS walkabout + mapping
			Activity 1.10: Clearing undergrowth/site preparation for timber/fuelwood tree planting.		Labour

			Activity 1.11: Plant timber and fuelwood trees.		Labour, timber and fuelwood seedlings
		5. Agroforestry incorporating the planting of fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees around or among gardens	Activity 1.12: Identify specific gardens for planting fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees.	South River	Community consultations, participatory mapping, GPS walkabout + mapping
			Activity 1.13: Clearing undergrowth/site preparation for planting fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees.		Labour
			Activity 1.14: Plant fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees.		Labour, fruit, timber, and/or nut-producing tree seedlings
		8. Enhancement of cattle grazing/coconut plantation area by planting supplementary shade, fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees.	Activity 1.15: Identify/delineate specific sites within the cattle grazing area for planting supplementary shade, fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees.	Whitegrass	Community consultations, participatory mapping, GPS walkabout + mapping
			Activity 1.16: Site preparation for planting shade, fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees.		Labour, shade, fruit, timber, and/or nut-producing tree seedlings
			Activity 1.17: Plant shade, fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees.		

Restoration	Output 2: Forest restoration.	All	Activity 2.1: Develop management plan that addresses <i>Restoration</i> interventions in conjunction with Activities 4.1 and 4.2.	Middlebush, South River, Whitegrass	Community consultations
			Activity 2.2: Establish nurseries for raising native and agroforestry trees to be planted in restoration areas (one at each project site).		Nursery materials, construction labour, seedling source, ongoing labour for nursery care
			Activity 2.3: Ongoing, regular maintenance of planted areas to prevent vine overgrowth/ensure native tree survival.		Ongoing labour
		2. Reforestation of riparian margins	Activity 2.4: Identify/delineate gardens and ownership rights along Middlebush stream, secure community agreement for restoration.	Middlebush, South River,	Community consultations, participatory mapping, GPS walkabout + mapping
			Activity 2.5: Clearing undergrowth (Middlebush)/site preparation (Middlebush, South River) for planting native and agroforestry trees.		Labour
			Activity 2.6: Plant native and agroforestry trees along riparian margins.		Labour, native and agroforestry tree seedlings

		3. Forest enhancement through active restoration	Activity 2.7: Clearing undergrowth/site preparation for planting native and trees.	South River	Labour
			Activity 2.8: Plant native trees within forest enhancement area at a preliminary density of one tree per 100m ² (one tree within 10m * 10m grids).		Labour, native tree seedlings
		7. Hillside erosion control via tree planting and protection of wild cane resources	Activity 2.9: Clearing undergrowth/site preparation (where needed) for planting native, erosion stabilizing trees.	Whitegrass	Labour
			Activity 2.10: Adequately fence site as and where required to exclude cattle.		Fencing materials, labour
			Activity 2.11: Plant native trees within hillside erosion control area at a preliminary density of one tree per 225m ² (one tree every 15m).		Labour, native tree seedlings
		9. Restoration of fallow gardens within the core CCA area.	Activity 2.12: Clearing undergrowth/site preparation within fallow gardens for planting native trees.	Whitegrass	Labour
			Activity 2.13: Plant native trees within fallow gardens.		Labour, native tree seedlings

Protection	Output 3: Forest protection	6. Avoided deforestation through establishment and designation of a Community Conservation Area (CCA) to protect existing mature forest	Activity 3.1: Develop management plan that addresses <i>Protection</i> interventions in conjunction with Activities 4.1 and 4.2.	Whitegrass	Community consultations
			Activity 3.2: Community bylaws developed and endorsed by community and awareness activities held (e.g. community consensus session)		Consultations with community
			Activity 3.3: Development/installation of signage showing agreed CCA by-laws and/or regulations.		Community consultations
All interventions	Output 4: Project management, reporting, and community engagement	All interventions	Activity 4.1: Develop a management plan and framework for the implementation of project interventions at all communities (Middlebush, Whitegrass, South River). This includes close liaison and consultation with community members and ground truthing to: Map existing gardens and clarify with individual community members what species they would like to see planted and where;	All sites	Community consultations, participatory mapping, GPS walkabout + mapping, registry for tree species and labour, by-laws

			• Develop a register of the number and species of nursery seedlings raised; • Spatially identify and record the location/species/number of trees subsequently planted; • Delineate the extent of areas cleared/maintained of overgrowth (bad rope) for forest enhancement/restoration activities; • Develop and maintain a register of community members employed to implement work, hourly wages paid, and hours associated with activity delivery; • Development of by-laws for managing the Community Conservation Area in Whitegrass.		
			Activity 4.2: Spatially delineate project boundaries using GIS platforms (e.g. Arc GIS linked to drone mapping imagery) and		Community consultations, participatory mapping, GPS walkabout + mapping

			create shapefile overlays to show the extent, in hectares, of project activities at all project sites. This will also require ground truthing and liaison to ensure project boundaries are endorsed and supported by communities.		
			Activity 4.3: Project working committees established and >2 meetings per year held.		Committee meetings
			Activity 4.4: Community bylaws established for project interventions		Community consultations
			Activity 4.5: Regular community engagement events held to showcase project activities		Community consultations
			Activity 4.6: Print and display community noticeboards with maps, bylaws, grievance mechanism, and traffic light system		Printed noticeboards

3.7 Additionality

Complete Table 3.7 to provide a summary of the main barriers to project implementation and how they will be overcome for each project intervention. Add additional rows as required. Full details of the additionality assessment, following an approved methodology must be provided in a separate technical specification for each project intervention in Annex 7.

Table 3.7a Additionality Assessment Summary

Project Intervention		Main Barriers	Activities to Overcome Barriers
Enter the name of the project intervention. This must correspond to the title of a technical specification included in Annex 7.		Enter a summary of the main barriers project participants face to implementing the project intervention in the absence of the project.	Describe how the project will enable project participants to overcome the barriers identified.
Improved Management	(a) Sustainable coffee production through increased native canopy cover in new plantations and planting buffer margins with native trees and (b) Sustainable coffee production through planting the undergrowth of forest with coffee trees.	Technical: Technical expertise needed for integrated coffee/forest/food systems in the context of climate change. Financial/economic: Need for resources used in reforestation (seedlings, nursery materials, equipment, labour, etc.).	The project design encourages collaboration with communities, combining external technical knowledge of integrated forest systems in the context of climate change with local knowledge of tree species and land responses to climate conditions. The project will provide funding for training, seedlings, nursery materials, any equipment needed, and labour.
	Development of sustainable timber and fuelwood plantations within existing gardens and along roadsides.	Social/cultural: Need to formally designate which gardens and road margins will be planted in timber and fuelwood and develop sustainable harvesting regimes to minimise environmental impacts.	Areas targeted for this intervention will be agreed upon by communities during the detailed project design phase. The project will also bring together community members for a unified

			approach to ensure timber harvest minimises impacts.
	Agroforestry incorporating the planting of fruit and/or nut producing trees around or among gardens.	Financial/economic: Need for resources used in agroforestry (seedlings, nursery materials, equipment, labour, etc.).	The project will provide funding for seedlings, nursery materials, any equipment needed, and labour.
Restoration	Reforestation of riparian margins.	Technical: Technical expertise is needed for riparian margin restoration. Financial/economic: Need for resources used in reforestation (seedlings, nursery materials, equipment, labour, etc.).	The project will bring in external technical knowledge through environmental consultants who will collaboratively work with community members to establish a riparian restoration plan. The project will provide funding for seedlings, nursery materials, any equipment needed, and labour.
	Forest enhancement through active restoration.	Social/cultural: Creation of community by-laws to ensure 'permeance' of restored forests. While restoration will contribute to enhancing carbon, community and biodiversity benefits, there is a risk of benefit reversal through activities such as garden creation. Financial/economic: Need for resources used in reforestation (seedlings, nursery materials, equipment, labour, etc.).	The project will provide ongoing financial incentives to ensure restored forests remain in perpetuity whilst facilitating sustainable resource use through establishing a carbon credit scheme. The project will provide funding for seedlings, nursery materials, any equipment needed, and labour.

	Cattle grazing incorporating shade trees.	Financial/economic: Need for resources used in reforestation (seedlings, fencing, equipment, labour, etc.).	The project will provide funding for seedlings, nursery materials, any equipment needed, and labour. There is also the potential for fencing to be included, though this may have to be considered for phase 2 due to budget constraints.
	Hillside erosion control via tree planting and protection of wild cane resources.	Financial/economic: Need for resources used in reforestation (seedlings, nursery materials, equipment, labour, etc.).	The project will provide funding for seedlings, nursery materials, any equipment needed, and labour.
	Reforestation of fallow gardens within the core CCA.	Social/ cultural: Need to specifically delineate which gardens within the core CCA area will be restored back to native forest (non-extractive use), and those that would be planted for resource use (e.g. fruit and nut trees).	The current mixed-use schematic shown in Figure 4 reflects outputs from community consultation to date (i.e. general consensus of what activities will be conducted in which areas). This will be further refined to delineate specific activities for individual gardens during the detailed design phase. The project will provide ongoing financial incentive to restore fallow gardens within forest areas through establishing a carbon credit scheme.
Protection	Avoided deforestation through establishment and designation of a Community Conservation	Social/ cultural and Institutional: There is a risk that formal CCA designation and adoption of by-laws (e.g. enabling sustainable resource use) may not carry the necessary weight for enforcement to	Project consultation to date with communities at Whitegrass has identified the core forest area that they want to protect. Ongoing consultative process will provide the opportunity for concerns

	Area to protect existing mature forest.	secure 'permeance' for protected forests. Traditional governance mechanisms that would usually assist in establishing and enforcing CCA areas are being eroded.	and questions to be voiced, leading to project area adjustments and the creation of by-laws as and where necessary. For example, one of the suggested by-laws raised by the community was to ban the creation of new gardens within the core CCA area. The project is designed to support and strengthen traditional governance mechanisms, reinforcing traditional governance roles while incorporating inclusive representation.
Overall project		Technical and Financial/Economic barriers for carbon, ecosystem, and livelihoods follow-up monitoring: monitoring of these parameters using a Before-After/Control-Intervention (BA/CI) framework will require ongoing support beyond the timeframe of current funding ³⁹ , particularly for 'after' surveys which will determine the degree to which the test of additionality has been passed. Ongoing technical assistance and expertise may be required.	We will progress securing financial support to undertake follow-up 'after' monitoring from the primary sponsor, MFAT. A portion of any proceeds from the sale of Plan Vivo Certificates will also be reinvested into project management, which includes provision for monitoring activities. Enabling strong traditional governance for communities involved in the project has been identified as a key priority by project partners NT. They have developed a governance framework

³⁹ The project's current funding end date from MFAT is March 2026.

	Social/Cultural barriers to implementation e.g. lack of buy and support from communities through erosion of traditional governance frameworks.	which will be applied at all project's intervention sites.
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Table 3.7b Regulatory surplus assessment

Project Intervention	Relevant laws, statutes or other regulatory frameworks that could arguably promote intervention	How the interventions fall outside the scope of laws or how laws or not effectively enforced
Enter the name of the project intervention. This must correspond to the title of a technical specification included in Annex 7.	Describe the relevance of the policy, law or regulation	Describe why it would not result in the project interventions occurring in the absence of the project due to a difference in scope or lack of enforcement.
Improved Management	Forestry Act (Consolidated) — Forestry Act No. 26 of 2001 (and later consolidations/updates). Scope: planning for the forestry sector; the requirements for carrying out commercial forestry operations on any land; protection of the forest environment; reforestation; and export of timber.	The Forestry Act regulates commercial harvesting and protected species but does not require community-level active replanting, agroforestry, or long-term management of smallholder gardens to produce sustainable coffee, shade and food trees. Improved Forest Management activities (systematic nurseries, planting schedules, survival monitoring, and detailed plantation management through community bylaws to ensure no net loss and sustainable yield) are proactive, technical and resourced interventions that would not routinely occur under the Act in the absence of project funding and technical support.

		Limited enforcement capacity and the Act's emphasis on commercial forestry mean these small-scale landscape-level management actions are additional to legal requirements.
Restoration	Environmental Protection and Conservation Act (Cap 283) (EPC) - provides for conservation, protected areas, and sustainable use; enables declaration of conservation/CCA and sets regulatory framework for environmental protection.	The Act allows designation of protected or conservation areas, but it does not proactively fund, implement, or provide the support necessary to enact these interventions. Restoration activities, such as tree planting to stabilise hillsides and riparian areas, systematic erosion control plantations, seedling production, long-term survival monitoring) exceed the passive or regulatory obligations in the Act and provide the resources to enact them. In practice, local government has limited capacity to enforce or resource on-the-ground restoration in remote islands, so the project's active restoration interventions are additional and would not occur without project support.
Protection	Environment Management & Conservation Act (Cap 283) - procedures for registering community conservation areas (CCAs).	While the law provides for CCAs and forest protection declarations, the process requires formal designation, administrative support and ongoing enforcement. Communities often rely on customary systems rather than national enforcement. The project facilitates

		formalised CCA processes where relevant, community by-laws, mapping, and support to long-term local governance structures through work committee formation, which go beyond the legal baseline and compensate for limited state enforcement resources. Once the project is registered and can generate income, this will provide a financially sustainable alternative to logging trees.
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3.8 Carbon benefits

Complete Tables 3.8a and 3.8b to provide a summary of the expected carbon benefits from each project intervention over the first crediting period. Add additional rows as required. Full details of procedures for estimating carbon benefits, following an approved methodology must be provided in a separate technical specification for each project intervention in Annex 7.

Table 3.8a Expected Carbon Benefits Summary

Intervention	<i>Improved Management</i>				<i>Restoration</i>					<i>Protection</i>	
Site/Location	1 (a)	5.	7. Hillside	8.	2.	2.	3. (a)	3. (b)	6.	9. (a)	9. (b)
	Fallow	Agroforest	erosion	Enhancem	Reforestat	Reforestat	Forest	Forest	Reforestat	Avoided	Avoided
	garde	ry	control/wil	ent of	ion of	ion of	enhancem	enhancem	ion of	deforestat	deforestat
	ns →	(planting	d cane	cattle	riparian	riparian	ent	ent (fallow	fallow	ion	ion
	shade	of fruit	conservati	grazing/co	margins,	margins,	(degraded	gardens),	gardens	(logging	(quarry),
	coffee	and nut	on,	conut	Middlebus	South	forest),	South	within the	and	Whitegras
	,	producing	Whitegrass	plantation	h	River		River			s

	White grass	trees), South River		area, Whitegrass			South River		core CCA, Whitegrass	gardens), Whitegrass	
Extent (ha)	5.1	2.8	5.9	24.2	8.5	1.6	5	5	4.8	328.7 ^{&}	25 ^{^^}
Rate of loss per annum (ha)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.01	0.83
Biomass emissions <i>removals</i>, Mg C ha⁻¹	182.5	377.7	43.1	43.1	384	473	377.7	498.1	482.9	N/A	N/A
Biomass emissions <i>reductions</i>, Mg C ha⁻¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	419.1	293.7
NPP, Mg C ha⁻¹ year⁻¹	2.8	5.7	0.65	0.65	5.8	7.2	5.7	7.5	7.3	N/A	N/A
Soil C emissions <i>removals/reductions</i>[*], Mg C ha⁻¹ year⁻¹	1.04	0.5	0.22	0.22	1.04	0.4	0.5	0.5	1.04	N/A	63.2

(a) Total C gain/avoided loss, Mg C ha⁻¹ year⁻¹	3.8	6.2	0.9	0.9	6.9	7.6	6.2	8	8.4	419.1	356.9
(b) Total C gain/avoided loss, Mg CO₂e ha⁻¹ year⁻¹**	14	22.7	3.2	3.2	25.2	27.9	22.7	29.3	30.7	6,165	1,092
(c) Mg CO₂e ha⁻¹ year⁻¹ total***	71	64	19	78	213	45	113	147	148.7	4,165	1,092

Notes:

*Soil organic carbon (SOC) burial rates (Mg C ha⁻¹ year⁻¹) are sourced from Table 1, Don *et al.* (2011) where SOC is divided by time after land use change as follows:

- Grassland to secondary forest: 0.4 Mg C ha⁻¹ year⁻¹;
- Cropland to secondary forest: 1.04 Mg C ha⁻¹ year⁻¹;
- Primary forest to cropland: 0.7 Mg C ha⁻¹ year⁻¹; and
- Primary forest to secondary forest: 0.5 Mg C ha⁻¹ year⁻¹.

For 'Primary forest' to 'Cropland' and 'Secondary Forest', we assume the reverse applies whereby 'Cropland' and 'Secondary' to 'Primary Forest' enhances soil carbon burial by 0.7 and 0.5 Mg C ha⁻¹ year⁻¹ respectively.

** (b) Conversion of Mg C to Mg CO₂e = 12/44 (or *3.670).

*** (c) *Improved Management and Restoration* = Extent (ha) * Total C gain. (c) *Protection* = annual rate of loss (ha) * Total C gain.

^ Conservatively assumes soil carbon burial is half the rate of 'grassland to secondary forests'.

^^ Extent of avoided loss/area surrounding quarry subject to impacts in the absence of the project.

§ Area of Whitegrass subject to protection under a CCA.

Table 3.8b Plan Vivo Certificate Potential

Project intervention	Area (ha)*	Baseline emission reductions	Project emission removals (Mg CO ₂ e per year)	Carbon benefit (Mg CO ₂ e), total 30 years	Leakage Emissions	Achievement reserve (10%)	Estimated PVC's total**	Estimated PVC's per year
Restoration	24.9	N/A	667	19,998	N/A	1,999	17,998	600
Improved Management	38.1	N/A	232	6,960	N/A	696	6,264	209
Protection	328.7	7,257	N/A	217,704	N/A	21,770	195,934	6,531
Total	391.7	8,155	899	244,662	N/A	24,466	220,196	7,340

Notes:

* Ha for which carbon benefits are calculated per intervention (total project area is 424 ha).

** PVC's = Carbon benefit - risk buffer.

Risk Management

3.9 Environmental and Social Safeguards

3.9.1 Exclusion List

Indicate whether the project includes any activities listed in the Plan Vivo Exclusion List (see Annex 8), describe any changes made to the project design to exclude activities listed in the Exclusion List, and provide evidence for any activities that are not obviously excluded.

Include a copy of the Exclusion List in Annex 8.

The project does not include any activities listed in the Plan Vivo Exclusion List. A copy of the Exclusion List is included as Annex 8.

3.9.2 Environmental and Social Screening

Copy results from environmental and social screening completed at PIN stage into Table 3.9.1 to provide a summary of the potential risks and impacts identified in the environmental and social risk screening, and the scores for likelihood, magnitude and significance as per Plan Vivo's review.

Describe the type of environmental and social assessment required and the focal areas identified in the environmental and social risk screening,

Indicate whether an environmental and social management plan, or any other safeguard plans, are required.

Table 3.9.1 Environmental and Social Risks

Risk Area	Likelihood (1-5)	Magnitude (1-5)	Significance (low, moderate, severe, high)
Vulnerable Groups	1	3	Low
Gender Equality	3	3	Moderate
Human Rights	1	3	Low
Community, Health, Safety & Security	1	3	Low
Labour and Working Conditions	1	2	Low

Resource Efficiency, Pollution, Wastes, Chemicals and GHG emissions	1	1	Low
Access Restrictions and Livelihoods	1	3	Low
Cultural Heritage	1	2	Low
Indigenous Peoples	3	3	Moderate
Biodiversity and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources	1	1	Low
Land Tenure Conflicts	3	2	Moderate
Risk of Not Accounting for Climate Change	2	3	Moderate
Other – e.g. Cumulative Impacts	1	1	Low
Overall Project Risk			Low

E&S assessment required	The project developers should conduct a field-based E&S risk assessment alongside the development of the PDD and overall project design. Focus should be on the risks assigned as ‘moderate’ in the above table. Primary focus on: - Gender equality – remaining aware of power structures which could develop which could negatively impact women in the project area and being aware of negative effects like elite capture and access to grievance mechanisms etc. - Any land or access conflicts which could emerge as land-use changes as a result of project activities, including updates on ongoing consultations regarding potential conflict. - Maintaining and upholding the rights of all the different indigenous groups in the project and ensuring their access to community consultation and engagement sessions to impact on project design and access the project’s feedback mechanisms. - Managing the risk to project activities and interventions brought about by climate change from increased likelihood of drought and floods as well as cyclone activity in the project region.
Likely safeguard plans required	The following safeguard measures should be included in the PDD: - Grievance redressal mechanism - Results of ongoing community consultations on gender equality and local governance through stakeholder engagement and analysis

	An environmental and social risk assessment, resulting in the production of an environmental and social risk management plan (ESMP), focussing on the mitigation and management of the risks assigned as ‘moderate’ above.
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3.9.3 Environmental and Social Assessment

Describe the scope of the assessment of environmental and social risks and impacts, including the geographical scope of the project, the project activities and potential risks and impacts assessed (and criteria for this), national legislation and international Environmental and Social Standards used as point of reference, and the safeguard plans developed.

Describe the methods used to and assesses the significance of potential environmental and social risks and impacts, and develop measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate these impacts – including descriptions of consultations with affected communities, local stakeholders, and vulnerable and/or disadvantaged people; clear assessment criteria; and sampling strategy and methods.

Identify the project staff or other experts that conducted the environmental and social assessment and provide a summary of their relevant skills and experience, including details of understanding of the local context and socioeconomic conditions and familiarity with international Environmental and Social Standards, impact assessment, and the development associated safeguard plans.

Please see the Environmental and Social Assessment Guidance document, available at the [E&S Safeguards section](#) of the Plan Vivo website, for more guidance on this process.

Include a full environmental and social assessment report in Annex 10. A template for this report can also be found in Annex 10.

The project spans three communities across two islands: Middlebush and Whitegrass on Tanna Island, and South River on Erromango Island. The project area in Middlebush covers a 8.5 ha stream transect in various states of degradation, lined by community housing areas and gardens. In Whitegrass, the project area is much larger (367.0 ha) and covers a variety of land types, including garden areas, cattle grazing areas, an erosion-prone hillside, and cyclone-damaged and logged forest. South River is a smaller project area (19.5 ha), and also covers a variety of land types and

uses, including a riparian area bordering a large river, steep forested hillsides overgrown with lianas after cyclone damage, cattle grazing areas, and garden areas. Considering the unique land types, uses, and planned activities has helped to form the following environmental and social risk considerations. Table 3.9.3 outlines the environmental and social risks identified for the project.

Risks have been identified through a variety of methods: taking note of any risk areas mentioned during community consultations, noting potential areas of risk identified by Nasituan staff, information gathered through literature reviews, and in-country experience of risks and vulnerabilities during scoping and project design.

This evaluation has been undertaken by Tearfund staff that have experience travelling in-country, including the Tearfund NZ Grants Manager, who has over 20 years of in-country experience living in and travelling to Vanuatu, and has experience evaluating the environmental and social risks and creating safeguarding plans for projects as part of his role in the Tearfund team over the past 10 years, as specified in Section 2.2. Environmental and social risks and management steps have also been adapted and revised based on input from Nasituan staff.

See Annex 8 for a full environmental and social assessment report.

3.9.4 Environmental and Social Management Plan

Complete Table 3.9.3 to describe the mitigation measures in place to address environmental and social risks and impacts. Add a row for each environmental and social risk and impact identified in Sections 3.9.1 and 3.9.2. Mitigation measures will either be plans, protocols, or specific project activities. Where a mitigation measure is a plan (e.g. a community engagement plan), the activities for this plan need to be included in the project design and budgeted for. If a standalone plan, such as a stakeholder engagement plan, or livelihoods restoration plan, or protocol (e.g. H&S protocol) is the mitigation measure, simply list this plan or protocol and ensure that it is annexed to the PDD.

Mitigation measures should include compensation measures (including for example livelihood restoration) if Local Stakeholders are negatively affected by Project Interventions and negative impacts cannot be fully mitigated.

Table 3.9.3 Environmental and Social Risk and Impact Mitigation Measures

Risk/Impact	Mitigation Measures	Project Activity
Add type and brief description of risk/impact.	Add numbered list of measures to avoid, minimise or mitigate the identified risk or impact.	For each mitigation measure, cross reference the relevant project activity number from Section 3.5. (e.g. Activity 1.1.1)
Management plans are not accessible/ easily usable (not easy to find, not written in non-technical terms)	1. Management plans will be made publicly available, with components (such as project agreements and community bylaws) in Bislama. Technical components will have a simple summary where necessary.	Activities 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 4.1
Nurseries are built in a location not easily accessible by project participants, or are	2. Nurseries will be built in a location identified as accessible by communities	Activity 1.2, 2.2

unable to withstand extreme weather events and protect seedlings, leading to project delays	3. Nurseries will be constructed with local materials/knowledge and to designs known to be resilient to extreme weather	
Clearance of potentially useful (either ecologically or culturally) plant growth. New/existing trees may be vulnerable to cyclone damage in recently cleared/planted areas Communities do not undertake regular maintenance and survival rate of saplings decreases	4. Land will be surveyed to identify culturally significant/useful vine species 5. New seedlings will be protected by regular maintenance until established 6. Community members will be paid for project labour	Activities 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.10, 1.13, 1.16, 2.3, 2.5, 2.7, 2.14
Growing coffee under shade will unsustainably reduce yields Insufficient ongoing labour or community interest to maintain and harvest coffee plants Coffee price does not remain competitive to other livelihood options	7. Participating coffee farmers will be surveyed about the net benefits of shade planting as the project continues, allowing for evaluation and adjustment of project activities as needed	Activities 1.6, 1.7
Community needs will outweigh available timber	8. Community wood needs will be surveyed and compared with available resources in suggested interim areas. If locally available timber cannot meet demands, alternative	Activity 1.8

	sustainable sources of timber that project funds can cover will be explored.	
Local by-laws will not be adhered to	9. By-laws will be designed and agreed upon by communities through a workshopping process with key local leaders and representation from different groups (men, women, youth, those with disabilities) present	Activity 1.8
Suitable project activity areas are unable to be identified by community members	10. Project activities have been designed by community members with their land and resources in mind. Funding from carbon credit sales will help to cover costs of any additional resource purchases required.	Activities 1.9, 1.12, 1.15
Selected species are not fit for purpose, do not establish (are damaged/killed), or become invasive (in the case of non-native plantings)	11. Communities have been consulted on suitable species to grow for each activity, with particular attention to their uses and location they should be planted. Any non-native species being planted are already locally common (e.g. staple fruit trees such as banana and mango). Planted areas will have ongoing maintenance to assist with tree survival.	Activities 1.11, 1.14. 1.17, 2.6, 2.8, 2.9, 2.13
Natural resources enhanced/provided by the project (e.g. timber, agroforestry) are not	12. Custom governance structures around natural resource management are clearly defined and agreed upon by community members before planting occurs	Activities 1.9, 1.12, 1.15

managed in a way that allows communal access / creates disputes		
Land ownership disputes in project area prevent restoration areas being identified/agreed upon. Maps generated to not accurately reflect geographic scope of activities/ are not endorsed by communities	13. Community consultation will involve identification of landowners and other key stakeholders, mapping project intervention areas, and a physical walk around with a GPS to mark points with local leaders present. Results feedback to communities for verification and revised as needed.	Activities 2.4, 4.2
Planting densities are not sufficient to achieve desired effects	14. Preliminary research has been undertaken to identify the most likely suitable planting density. The success of planting in restoring ecosystem health etc will be evaluated as part of annual/5-year monitoring and will be adjusted as necessary	Activities 2.9, 2.13
Fencing is damaged/ unable to exclude cattle from hillside area	15. Fence maintenance/searching for evidence of cattle incursions. Alternative exclusion methods may need to be explored	Activity 2.10
Protection from cattle grazing allows invasive species to populate hillside	16. Monitoring of pest species in cattle exclusion area will be undertaken, and additional pest species control methods will be assessed and added as necessary	Activity 2.10

Restored fallow garden areas in the CCA are later returned to garden use	17. Community consultations will form consensus agreements on land use in the CCA. Alternative areas for sustainable gardening activities will be identified	Activity 2.13
Insufficient community buy-in to make CCA/CCA bylaws meaningful. CCA signage not appropriately placed.	18. CCA establishment is something requested by the community. By-laws will be created and agreed upon by community members, as will locations for their display	Activities 3.2, 3.3
Community engagement is not equally accessible for vulnerable groups (women, girls, those with disabilities)	19. Community engagement sessions will involve specific groups for women/girls as appropriate. Nasituan to utilise existing relationships with communities to figure out if there are those with disabilities that have been unable to attend workshops, and seek them out for consultation.	Activities 3.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6
Committee members have competing priorities that prevent them from meeting at the necessary frequency	20. Working committee members discuss with communities how committee members are compensated for their time. Standardised payment per activity completion to be clearly defined in work plans	Activity 4.3
Gender equality	21. Equal access to the grievance mechanism will be ensured by spreading awareness on the grievance process and strengthening communication channels, including establishing signage and noticeboards within the	Activities 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4. 4.5, 4.6

	communities with the grievance mechanism, key contacts, project activities, and any updates on them. 22. The working committee structure ensures representation from women and that their interests and views are captured in decision making. The committee will provide specific jobs for women and girls within the project.	
Indigenous people	23. Signage boards and access to the working committee members/project manager are making sure that indigenous people have access to project information. Starlink will also help increase communication between South River (Site 3) and Nasituan. 24. Alternative labour opportunities will be provided where possible to provide inclusive opportunities under the project for the whole community 25. Working committee structure supports and strengthens local indigenous governance	Activities 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6
Land tenure conflicts	26. Communities have agreed upon the overall goal of bringing life back to the forest 27. Signed project agreements will help formalise land use arrangements and prevent future disputes	Activities 1.1, 2.1, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6

Risk of not accounting for climate change	28. Large trees will be planted to use as cyclone windbreaks in vulnerable areas 29. Planting will be done strategically to stabilise slopes and riverbanks against flooding and erosion 30. Flood-resistant crops will be used where appropriate 31. Nurseries will be built/strengthened to be cyclone resilient 32. Fire break trenches will be dug if necessary for dry season in Site 2 33. Drainage trenches will be dug where necessary to mitigate flooding risks in Site 1	Activities 1.2, 1.14, 2.2, 2.6, 2.11
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3.9.5 Native Species

Project Intervention	Non-Native Species Planted/ Introduced	Justification	Risk Assessment and Management
Enter the name of the project intervention that involves planting or	Add a row for each non-native species planted or introduced as part of the project intervention	Describe the livelihood or ecosystem benefits that justify including the non-native species in lieu of alternative native species	Provide evidence that the species poses no environmental risk or threat and/or describe measures in place to mitigate risks.

introduction of non-native species			
All species listed in Table 3.9.4 have been screened against national invasive species frameworks, including the Vanuatu National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan⁴⁰ and Biosecurity Vanuatu priority species lists⁴¹. None of the species proposed under this project are listed as priority invasive species, environmental weeds, or prohibited plants in Vanuatu. These species are long-established, widely cultivated within managed agroforestry and garden systems, and have no documented history of causing environmental harm to native ecosystems under managed conditions. Risk management measures focus on maintaining all plantings within existing or restored agricultural land-use systems (agroforestry, plantations, riparian buffers) and excluding known invasive species identified by the Department of Environment and Biosecurity Vanuatu.			
Improved land management (1a, 1b: Sustainable coffee plantation)	Coffee, <i>Coffea arabica</i>	There are no native coffee species to Vanuatu, this species is a key part of livelihood and food security for coffee farmers	Coffee was introduced by European colonists by at least the 1880's, with Arabica coffee grown primarily on Tanna due to the low temperatures. (Adams, R. (1986). Indentured labour and the development of plantations in Vanuatu: 1867-1922. Journal de la Société des Océanistes, 42(82), 41-63;Walter, A., & Lebot, V. (2007). Gardens of

⁴⁰ Government of the Republic of Vanuatu (2015). Vanuatu National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) 2014-2020. Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation

⁴¹ <https://environment.gov.vu/index.php/biodiversity-conservation/invasive-species>

			Oceania. IRD Editions.) Coffee is not listed as an invasive or priority species under Vanuatu's National Invasive Species Strategy or by Biosecurity Vanuatu. Planting is confined to existing and rehabilitated coffee agroforestry systems, with no spread into unmanaged native forest areas. No environmental risks have been identified under these managed conditions.
Restoration (2. Reforestation of Riparian Margins)	Bamboo, <i>Bambusa spp.</i>	Bamboo forms a key part of many local cultural practices as a building and construction material and cooking aid	Bamboo has a long history of cultivation in Vanuatu; while this is poorly documented, it is captured in the 1989-1991 National Inventory Survey of Vanuatu species. (FAO. (2020). Global Forest Resources.). Bamboo is not listed as an invasive or priority species under Vanuatu's National Invasive Species Strategy or by Biosecurity Vanuatu. Planting occurs within home gardens and restorative riparian planting, with routine harvesting. The species pose no documented threat to native ecosystems under managed cultivation.

Improved land management (5. Agroforestry, 8. Enhancement of Cattle Grazing Area), Restoration (2. Reforestation of Riparian Margins)	Banana, <i>Musa spp.</i>	These food-producing trees have a long history of cultivation and form a staple part of local diet alongside other native fruit trees	Dr. Monica Tromp, a University of Otago scientist, has discovered that humans began transporting and growing bananas in Vanuatu at least 3000 years ago by studying calcified microparticles from calcified dental remains. Tromp, M., Matisoo-Smith, E., Kinaston, R., Bedford, S., Spriggs, M., & Buckley, H. (2020). Exploitation and utilization of tropical rainforests indicated in dental calculus of ancient Oceanic Lapita culture colonists. <i>Nature human behaviour</i>, 4(5), 489-495. Banana is not listed as an invasive or priority species under Vanuatu's National Invasive Species Strategy or by Biosecurity Vanuatu. Planting occurs within home gardens and restorative agroforestry systems, with routine harvesting. The species pose no documented threat to native ecosystems under managed cultivation.
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Improved land management (5. Agroforestry, 8. Enhancement of Cattle Grazing Area)	Breadfruit, <i>Artocarpus altilis</i>		While jackfruit is an introduced tree that is very rare in Vanuatu, breadfruit is one of the most important local plants in Melanesian arboriculture. Its diversity is very great, the number of cultivars with seeds is greater than those without, and it is likely that Vanuatu played a key role in the process of diversification of this species. (Walter, A., & Lebot, V. (2007). Gardens of Oceania. IRD Editions.) Breadfruit is not listed as an invasive or priority species under Vanuatu's National Invasive Species Strategy or by Biosecurity Vanuatu. Planting occurs within home gardens and restorative agroforestry systems, with routine harvesting. The species pose no documented threat to native ecosystems under managed cultivation.
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Improved land management (5. Agroforestry, 8. Enhancement of Cattle Grazing Area), Restoration (2. Reforestation of Riparian Margins, 6. Reforestation of Fallow Gardens)	Coconut, <i>Cocos nucifera</i>		Carbon-14 dating has shown that coconuts existed in Vanuatu well before the arrival of the first humans, and would have contributed to the settlement of people in these islands (Walter, A., & Lebot, V. (2007). <i>Gardens of Oceania</i> . IRD Editions.) Planting occurs within home gardens and restorative agroforestry systems, with routine harvesting. The species pose no documented threat to native ecosystems under managed cultivation.
Improved land management (5. Agroforestry)	Lemon, <i>Citrus limon</i>		<i>Citrus</i> species were introduced to Vanuatu at the end of the 19 th century, are widely cultivated, and are an integral part of cultural systems. Lemon also has economic value. (Walter, A., & Lebot, V. (2007). <i>Gardens of Oceania</i> . IRD Editions.) Lemon is not listed as an invasive or priority species

			under Vanuatu's National Invasive Species Strategy or by Biosecurity Vanuatu. Planting occurs within home gardens and restorative agroforestry systems, with routine harvesting. The species pose no documented threat to native ecosystems under managed cultivation.
Improved land management (Agroforestry)	Papaya, <i>Carica papaya</i>		Papaya has been heavily spread throughout the tropical world has been rapid because it is easy to propagate from seed. In the 19th century it was already well established in Oceania, and it is now a common plant in Vanuatu. (Walter, A., & Lebot, V. (2007). Gardens of Oceania. IRD Editions.) Papaya is not listed as an invasive or priority species under Vanuatu's National Invasive Species Strategy or by Biosecurity Vanuatu. Planting occurs within home gardens and restorative agroforestry systems, with routine harvesting. The species pose no documented threat to native ecosystems under managed cultivation.

Improved land management (5. Agroforestry), Restoration (2. Reforestation of Riparian Margins)	Mango, <i>Mangifera indica</i>		Mango, introduced early into the archipelago, has been widely adopted by the local people. Nowadays it is a common tree that grows abundantly in all the islands, near the sea, within the villages, along tracks, around gardens and in plantations. Mango was introduced to Vanuatu from the island of Réunion and New Caledonia, and then reintroduced several times by missionaries, by people returning from working in plantations, and by seafarers. The most important populations of mangoes are found in Tanna, Malekula and on the west coast of Santo. (Walter, A., & Lebot, V. (2007). Gardens of Oceania. IRD Editions.) Mango is not listed as an invasive or priority species under Vanuatu's National Invasive Species Strategy or by
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			Biosecurity Vanuatu. Planting occurs within home gardens and restorative agroforestry systems, with routine harvesting. The species pose no documented threat to native ecosystems under managed cultivation.
Improved land management (5. Agroforestry, 8. Enhancement of Cattle Grazing Area), Restoration (2. Reforestation of Riparian Margins, 6. Reforestation of Fallow Gardens)	Orange, <i>Citrus sinensis</i>		<i>Citrus</i> species were introduced to Vanuatu at the end of the 19 th century, are widely cultivated, and are an integral part of cultural systems. Orange also has economic value. (Walter, A., & Lebot, V. (2007). Gardens of Oceania. IRD Editions.) Orange is not listed as an invasive or priority species under Vanuatu's National Invasive Species Strategy or by Biosecurity Vanuatu. Planting occurs within home gardens and restorative agroforestry systems, with routine harvesting. The species pose no documented threat to native ecosystems under managed cultivation.
Improved land management (5.	Passionfruit, <i>Passiflora foetida</i>		Of all the passionfruits introduced to Vanuatu, only <i>P. edulis</i> has any real food importance. It is

Agroforestry), Restoration (2. Reforestation of Riparian Margins, 6. Restoration of Fallow Gardens)			mainly a plant of villages and home gardens, though it is also sold in the markets. It is abundantly cultivated (Walter, A., & Lebot, V. (2007). Gardens of Oceania. IRD Editions.) Passionfruit is not listed as an invasive or priority species under Vanuatu's National Invasive Species Strategy or by Biosecurity Vanuatu. Planting occurs within home gardens and restorative agroforestry systems, with routine harvesting. The species pose no documented threat to native ecosystems under managed cultivation.
Improved land management (5. Agroforestry, 8. Hillside erosion control), Restoration (2. Reforestation of Riparian Margins)	Avocado, <i>Persea americana</i>		Introduced to Vanuatu at the beginning of the last century, avocado remains concentrated around towns, most often in the gardens with the local populations are now cultivating it increasingly for sale in the markets. (Walter, A., & Lebot, V. (2007). Gardens of Oceania. IRD

			Editions.) Avocado is not listed as an invasive or priority species under Vanuatu's National Invasive Species Strategy or by Biosecurity Vanuatu. Planting occurs within home gardens and restorative agroforestry systems, with routine harvesting. The species pose no documented threat to native ecosystems under managed cultivation.
Improved land management (4. Sustainable timber plantation)	Mahogany, <i>Switenia macrophylla</i>		Introduced in the 20th century, this is identified as one of 5 priority species by the Vanuatu Government (Forestry Department) for their economic value (FAO. (2012) Country Report Vanuatu for The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources) Mahogany is not listed as an invasive or priority species under Vanuatu's National Invasive Species Strategy or by Biosecurity Vanuatu. Planting is restricted to designated plantation sites and managed timber systems, with no establishment in native forest restoration areas.

3.10 Achievement of Carbon Benefits

If the project will generate fPVCs or rPVCs, state the proportion of carbon benefits that will be held as insurance against non-achievement of carbon benefits (minimum is 10%). If the project will not claim fPVCs or rPVCs, this section can be left blank.

The project will hold the minimum 10% proportion of carbon benefits as insurance against non-achievement of carbon benefits in the achievement reserve.

3.11 Reversal of Carbon Benefits

Complete Table 3.11 to describe and provide supporting evidence for the impact and likelihood of risks to the long-term maintenance of Carbon Benefits from the project.

In the Impact column enter a score of 0, 1, 2, or 3 where 0 = none, 1 = low, 2 = moderate and 3 = high, and provide a description supported by evidence of the potential impact of the risk factor on the Carbon Benefits achieved by the project, If the stated mitigation measures are in place.

In the Likelihood column enter a score of 0, 1, 2, or 3 where 0 = none, 1 = low, 2 = moderate and 3 = high, and provide a description supported by evidence of the likelihood the risk factor will lead to reversal of the Carbon Benefits achieved by the project, If the stated mitigation measures are in place.

In the Mitigation Measures column describe any mitigation measures that will be implemented to reduce the impact or likelihood of the risk factor, cross reference activities from Section 3.5 (e.g. Activity 1.1.1).

In the Score column, multiply Impact and Likelihood scores to give a total score between 0 and 9. If the score is greater than 4 for any risk factor additional mitigation measures will be required to reduce the risk to an acceptable level.

This table assesses the risks of reversals as risks to the long-term maintenance of project carbon benefits, including risks that could lead to loss of tree biomass, degradation of restored ecosystems, or the inability to issue or maintain verified emission reductions.

Table 3.11 Risk of Reversals

Risk Factor	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigation Measures*	Score
Social				

Land tenure and/or rights to climate benefits are disputed	2: Climate benefits for the affected project area could not be issued or maintained where tenure disputes prevent verification of long-term land access and management, potentially leading to delayed or cancelled credit issuance for that area. The geographically dispersed nature of interventions reduces project-wide carbon reversal risk.	2: Land tenure and rights to carbon benefits have been verified through community consultation processes in each project area. Vanuatu has clear customary land rights as evidenced by the Vanuatu Constitution (1980). ⁴² Documented consensus over customary ownership is supported by signed project agreements [Annex 12] and community meeting records [Annex C].	Community consultations and consensus reach on project areas, project agreements agreed upon and signed by relevant stakeholders. (Activities 1.1, 2.1, & 3.1-4.6)	4
Political or social instability	1: Vanuatu's political system has a well-documented history of instability, characterised by frequent changes in government and coalition volatility. ⁴³ If instability increased, this could results in disruptions	3: High levels of disruption and corruption have been persistent within Vanuatu's political system, ⁴⁴ so it is highly likely that these will continue.	As high levels of political instability are the norm, usual levels of disruption associated with this are already accounted for within work plans.	3

⁴² The Vanuatu Constitution states in Chapter 12:

"73. Land belongs to custom owners - All land in the Republic of Vanuatu belongs to the indigenous custom owners and their descendants", and;

"74. Basis of ownership and use - The rules of custom shall form the basis of ownership and use of land in the Republic of Vanuatu."

⁴³ Lavender Forsyth, G. A., & Atkinson, Q. D. (2024). A Brief History of Political Instability in Vanuatu. *Anthropological Forum*, 34(3), 253–278. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00664677.2024.2346190>

⁴⁴ Lavender Forsyth, G. A., & Atkinson, Q. D. (2024). A Brief History of Political Instability in Vanuatu. *Anthropological Forum*, 34(3), 253–278. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00664677.2024.2346190>

	or delays to project activities and therefore carbon benefits, though this is highly unlikely as this instability is chronic and largely contained to parliamentary processes. As a result, it has been factored into project planning as a baseline operating condition rather than an acute risk.			
Community support for the project is not maintained	3: If community support for the project ceased, the activities would no longer be implemented and that could lead to loss of tree biomass, degradation of restored ecosystems, so this would be very high impact.	1: Community support has been demonstrated through participatory project design processes, as outlined in Section 2.5.1 and 2.6.2 and evidenced through Annex C, project agreement signings [Annex 12], and community launching celebrations documented in Annex C. Feedback mechanisms are built into activity cycles [Activities 4.3-4.6], and to date no community has indicated withdrawal from the project.	Communities have agreed upon project activity plans, drafted project agreements, and have held launching celebrations in each project area (Activities 1.1, 2.1, & 3.1-4.6).	3
Economic				

Insufficient finance secured to support project activities	3: If there were not the necessary funds to implement activities, the project would not be able to access the necessary resources/labour inputs for implementation, as shown in Annex 16, and so would be unable to achieve carbon benefits	1: Funding for the first five years of project implementation has been secured through a signed MFAT contract. A financial plan [Annex 16] outlines how carbon credit revenue will supplement and eventually replace donor funding over the project lifetime	MFAT contract signed, financial plan developed.	3
Alternative land uses become more attractive to the local community	2: The project relies upon having land available to implement activities on, however, due to the geographic spread of the project, as evidenced by section 1.2.1, the impact of alternative land uses in one area would have minimal impact on overall project biomass, ecosystem integrity, and carbon benefits.	2: Project activities have been designed by community members based on their desired land use, and communities have expressed their commitment to the project. Community land use preferences were documented through participatory mapping and consultation processes as outlined in Section 2.5.1 and 2.6.2 and evidenced through Annex C. However, some project areas do have competing priorities present that may pose future challenges.	Conversations with communities to identify competing priorities are ongoing. In South River, the need to establish a road between communities means that the original forest enhancement area may need to be revised; an overall ha goal will be established for this activity to provide flexibility	4
External parties carry out activities	2: The project relies upon having land available to	2: Project agreements [Annex 12] establish community ownership	Conversations with communities are ongoing and	4

that reverse climate benefits	implement activities on, however, due to the geographic spread of the project, , as evidenced by section 1.2.1, the impact of alternative land uses in one area would have minimal impact on overall project biomass, ecosystem integrity, and carbon benefits.	and control over project areas. External interference through CCECC, who is doing quarry operations adjacent to the project area, is possible, though this is being offset through consultation with CCECC to ensure they are aware of project boundaries.	working committees are in place to report back any external interest in the project areas. Project areas are also monitored, which would pick up any unauthorised external interference (Activities 1.1, 2.1, & 3.1-4.6, monitoring plan)	
Environmental				
Fire	1: Any fires started are unlikely to get out of control due to very low fire risk rating ⁴⁵ , and would unlikely be large enough to impact biomass and ecosystem integrity within the project area in a significant or meaningful way.	1: Vanuatu's climate and topography present low fire risk conditions. Consistently high humidity, limited dry season duration, and flat terrain reduce fire spread potential, resulting in a very low fire risk rating by Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. ⁴⁶	Fires will not be started within project areas or utilised within project interventions. Fire break trenches will be dug if necessary for dry season in Site 2 (Activities 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 4.1)	1
Pest and disease attacks	2: If a pest or disease were to break out, this could impact planted tree survival	1: The project uses exclusively native/naturalised species selected for	Project interventions will utilise a diverse mix on native trees to	2

⁴⁵ [Think Hazard - Vanuatu - Wildfire](#)

⁴⁶ [Think Hazard - Vanuatu - Wildfire](#)

	rates and ecosystem health, reducing overall carbon benefits.	ecosystem compatibility, reducing the risk of introducing novel pest or disease vectors. Species selection is documented in the project planting plan [Annex J and Table 3.9.4]. Not introducing new flora or fauna through the project will contribute to mitigating risk and lowering the likelihood of pest and disease outbreaks.	encourage high ecosystem health and resilience against pests and disease, and biodiversity will be monitored. The unusual presence of any pests or diseases will be reported and an action plan to address the outbreak will be formed (Activities 1.1, 1.2, 1.6-1.8, 1.11, 1.15, 1.17, 2.1, 2.6, 2.8, 2.11, 2.13 & 3.1-4.6).	
Extreme weather or geological events	2: Tropical cyclones or tsunamis could cause damage to biomass and cause ecosystem degradation within project areas, delaying the work plan or causing the reversal of carbon benefits.	3: Vanuatu consistently ranks among the world's most disaster-exposed nations. ⁴⁷ Historical cyclone frequency, tsunami risk, and community exposure are documented in previous World Risk Reports. ⁴⁸ Despite this, communities have demonstrated adaptive capacity through prior disaster response experience.	The project aims to increase ecosystem resilience to extreme weather events by planting tree species that will be able to provide a buffer effect against high winds and stabilise soils (Activities 1.1, 1.2, 1.6-1.8, 1.11, 1.15, 1.17, 2.1, 2.6, 2.8, 2.11, 2.13 & 3.1-4.6).	6
Administrative				

⁴⁷ [How Vanuatu is facing up to rising climate risks – Adaptation Fund](#)

⁴⁸ [WorldRiskReport](#)

Capacity of the project coordinator to support the project is not maintained	2: If the project coordinator was no longer able to support the project, this would cause significant delays in activities while an appropriate replacement was formed, meaning that there may be in inability to issue or maintain verified emission reductions. However, communities are heavily involved in the project design and implementation and would be able to carry some elements of the project forward, mitigating some of the impact to the project overall. The project management was also restructured in 2025 so that the project manager is supported by a dedicated field officer in each site, further mitigating risk.	1: The project coordinator is well established and has a track record of being able to coordinate and support multiple projects reliably through both their current and prior roles.	Financial plan is developed to ensure the long-term sustainability of project coordination, capacity building of project coordinator is an ongoing focus.	3
Technical capacity to	3: If the technical capacity was no	1: The technical support being provided to the	Financial plan is developed to	3

implement project activities is not maintained	longer able to be maintained, this would cause significant delays while an appropriate replacement was formed. However, communities are heavily involved in the project design and implementation and would be able to carry some elements of the project forward, mitigating some of the impact to the project overall.	project is from well-established individuals/organisations that have a strong track record of being able to coordinate and support multiple projects reliably.	ensure the long-term sustainability of project technical support	
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* Where activities are unspecified, mitigation measures are generally applicable across the project approach. While this is also the case for mitigation measures that do have activities listed, the specified activities have a more direct link.

3.12 Leakage

Complete Table 3.12 to describe the risk of leakage and leakage mitigation measures for each project intervention. Add additional rows as required.

Include procedures to estimate and monitor leakage for each project intervention following and approved methodology in Annex 7.

Table 3.12 Leakage Risk Mitigation

Project Intervention	Leakage Risk	Mitigation Measures*
Enter the name of the project intervention. This must correspond	Describe risks of leakage from the project intervention and their	Describe measures that will be implemented to

to the title of a technical specification included in Annex 7.		potential impact on emissions outside the project area(s).	mitigate the risk of leakage.
Improved management	(a) Sustainable coffee production through increased native canopy cover in new plantations and planting buffer margins with native trees and (b) Sustainable coffee production through planting the undergrowth of forest with coffee trees.	Displacement of existing native forest	A) Coffee will be planted on previously cleared land where vine overgrowth has smothered forest areas and prevented any meaningful ecosystem recovery, meaning that planting coffee and agroforestry species will increase net carbon stored. B) While some areas of forest undergrowth will be cleared, through planting coffee and maintaining vine clearance, no net carbon loss is thought to occur. (Activities 1.1-1.7)
	Development of sustainable timber and fuelwood plantations within existing gardens and along roadsides.	Displacement of garden areas	Trees for timber and fuelwood planted as part of the project in garden areas will be incorporated into gardens rather than replacing gardening areas entirely. This will allow for sustainable timber and

			fuelwood harvest that does not interfere with food production, avoiding the need for additional land clearance to make new gardens. Agroforestry activities will also provide an additional food source. (Activities 1.8-1.14)
	Agroforestry incorporating the planting of fruit and/or nut producing trees around or among gardens.	Displacement of garden areas	Gardens are often bordered by unproductive 'nalepopo' areas. These areas will be utilised for agroforestry plantings which ensures that the need to clear additional land to expand garden areas is unlikely. In areas where agroforestry species are planted where food crops would have been grown, the net impact to food production and resilience is thought to be positive overall. (1.12-1.14)
Ecosystem restoration	Reforestation of riparian margins.	Displacement of garden areas (Middlebush)	In Middlebush, consultation with communities on riparian activities has been taken at the household level,

		Displacement of cattle grazing area (South River)	with community members providing feedback when the proposed standard 20m riparian buffer area will not be feasible for them due to the need for food production. This has allowed for a highly personalised reforestation plan that will maintain an average 20m buffer, but increase and decrease along the length of the river dependent on household needs. Reforestation will also include food crops and fruit and nut-producing trees, avoiding the need for additional land clearance to make new gardens. In South River, there is already an alternative, cleared area where it is planned to move cattle (Activities 2.4-2.6).
	Forest enhancement	Displaced timber harvesting	Development of sustainable timber and

	through active restoration.		fuelwood plantation is part of other project activities (Activities 1.8-1.11).
	Cattle grazing incorporating shade trees.	Displacement of cattle grazing area	Shade trees will not prevent cattle from grazing in the area, and so displacement of cattle grazing is unlikely for this activity (Activities 1.15-1.17).
	Hillside erosion control via tree planting and protection of wild cane resources.	Displacement of cattle grazing	Current cattle grazing areas are of sufficient size and will not need to be expanded, even with hillside area excluded. (Activities 2.9-2.11)
	Reforestation of fallow gardens within the core CCA.	Displacement of garden areas	Fallow garden areas are not currently in use, and so fruit and nut trees planted in alternative areas as part of the project interventions have time to become productive and compensate for the lost gardening area before gardens in the CCA would have been returned to use, avoiding the need for additional land clearance to make new gardens (Activities 2.12-2.13, 3.1-3.3).

Protection	Avoided deforestation through establishment and designation of a Community Conservation Area to protect existing mature forest.	Displaced timber harvesting	Development of sustainable timber and fuelwood plantation is part of other project activities (Activities 1.8-1.11, 3.1-3.3).
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* Cross reference activities from Section 3.5 (e.g. Activity 1.1.1)

3.13 Double Counting

Complete Table 3.13 to identify any greenhouse gas emission reduction and removal projects, programmes or initiatives that overlap with the project region(s) and explain why there is no potential for generating transferable emission reduction or removal credits from carbon pools or emission sources included in the project. Include any national, jurisdictional, or sub-national program or project that emission reductions or removals achieved by the project will contribute to (including Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement) and provide evidence that carbon benefits achieved by the project will not be included in any other form of greenhouse gas emissions trading.

Describe what measures are in place to ensure that the project remains in compliance with emerging regulations that relate to trading carbon credits in the host-country.

Table 3.13 GHG Emission Reduction and Removal Projects and Programmes in the Project Region

Project, Programme or Initiative	Scope	Carbon Credit Generation	Risk Mitigation
Add a row for each GHG emission reduction/removal project programme or initiative that overlaps with the project region	Add a description of the project, programme or initiative and identify any overlap with carbon pools and emission sources	Describe whether the project, programme or initiative generates transferable carbon credits and the registry they are listed on (if any).	Describe any measures in place to prevent double counting with the project.

	included in project accounting.		
NA - No GHG emission reduction/removal project programme or initiative that overlaps with the project regions.	NA	Carbon benefits achieved by the project will not be included in any other form of greenhouse gas emissions trading.	Signed project agreements state that no other types of carbon benefit will be generated from the same project interventions within the project area (Annex 12)

Agreements

3.14 Land Management Plans

Describe the process through which land management plans are developed with project participants, and measures in place to ensure they: i) identify the location and extent of each project area; ii) include all details needed to estimate carbon benefits using the appropriate technical specification; iii) are fully understood and agreed to by the project participants; iv) have potential to enhance the livelihood of the project participant; and v) do not risk undermining the food and/or income security of the project participants.

Provide example land management plans in Annex 11.

Recommended to use [Participatory Toolkit Tool 9: Participatory Resource Mapping](#) when developing *Land Management Plan*. For tree-planting projects, Tool 11a: Assessment and Utilisation of forest and tree products is also recommended, and for blue carbon projects Tool 11b: Assessment and Utilisation of blue carbon ecosystem products and areas is also recommended.

During community consultation meetings, Google Map screen grabs were used to provide an aerial view of the general community area for each site to provide context for mapping and land management plan discussions. Community members were then divided into focus groups as outlined in Section 2.4 and given butcher paper and permanent markers to draw their own site maps, which provided general boundaries for project/activity areas (these have/are in the process

of being validated by an in-person walk-about with local leaders and a GPS). Each focus group presented their maps for feedback and revision to the wider group.

During mapping, there were also discussions around different community landmarks (e.g. water sources, nakamals (community meeting places), tribal boundaries, schools, hills, and roads, as well as gardens and houses). Participants also discussed how the project would affect areas used for food/income generation, natural resources, and habitats for notable species (such as freshwater crayfish, eels, and birds). This was either noted down on the maps or recorded by note-takers during focus group presentations and discussions.

Information from community consultation sessions was then collated into a digital map in ArcGIS, which can be easily edited to adjust boundaries as required by further consultation and boundary validation, and 5-year project reviews. The digitally calculated area within the proposed boundaries was then collated with plot data from each project intervention area to provide estimations of carbon benefits. Several further iterations of feedback on the digitally reconstructed maps have been done to ensure that project interventions have the correct boundaries, are appropriate for the proposed areas, and are fully understood by the participating communities. Example land management plans are included in Annex 11, while the latest versions of the digitally produced maps with project interventions for each site are provided in Section 1.2.1.

3.15 Crediting Period

State the initial crediting period and any plans for extension.

The initial crediting period will run from 1 Jan 2025 to 31 Dec 2054 (30 years total), which may be extended if necessary and/or for project areas that are added to the project after 2025.

3.16 Benefit Sharing Mechanism

Describe the process through which an agreed benefit sharing mechanism was developed with project participants.

Provide a summary of the agreed benefit sharing mechanism with details of: i) the percentage allocation of income from the sale of Plan Vivo Certificates to different stakeholders; ii) measures in place to ensure that at least 60% of income from the sale of Plan Vivo Certificates (after payment of any charges, taxes or similar fees levied by the host country) will directly benefit project participants and other local stakeholders; iii) how and when benefits to project participants will be received; iv) the mechanism and any

dependencies for dispersal of funds and/or other benefits to project participants including monitoring responsibilities, targets and corrective actions.

The current benefit-sharing formula is provided below. This was developed between Nasituan, who have an understanding on what is culturally/contextually appropriate, and TFNZ, and was presented to communities for initial feedback and review. Note this is subject to refinement as the project continues to evolve and further community consultation is undertaken. 40% of the total funds will go to Nasituan, while the remaining 60% will be distributed to communities. Of this amount, 60% will be distributed evenly between the project sites (20% each to Middlebush, South River and Whitegrass) and the remaining 40% will be allocated proportionally based on the PVCs each community site generates. This way, communities with less land will still get a substantial amount of income, while those managing more land will be recognised and rewarded.

Here, n = number of communities, F = 60% of funds generated from the sale of carbon certificates, $CPRO$ = the project interventions of the given community, and tCO_2e = tonnes of CO_2 or equivalent greenhouse gas sequestered or avoided.

Benefits per community = $1/n * 60\%F + CPROtCO_2e / * 40\%F$

Each community will use funding generated by PVCs to provide paid labour for project activities to community members, including a salary for a part-time position of local project coordinator. Working committees will discuss the reinvestment of benefits with their respective communities to decide how any remaining community funds will be allocated. Each working committee for the three sites has its own bank account set up to assist with any labour or resource payments required. Payments for PVCs are directly linked to performance indicators, as outlined in the project agreement (Annex 12).

3.17 Grievance Mechanism

Describe the mechanism through which grievances raised by all stakeholders are reported and resolved in a transparent, fair, and timely manner. Include details of an independent arbitrator that will be responsible for mediating resolution of any grievances that cannot otherwise be resolved.

Participating community members will have the opportunity to raise complaints and suggestions with the nominated working committee member for each community. There will also be the opportunity to raise complaints or suggestions at each annual meeting. All complaints and suggestions will be recorded by the nominated representatives, which will then be uploaded to the

shared drive after each annual meeting. Where possible, remediating actions to address the complaints or suggestions will be implemented. When community noticeboards are installed in an appropriate, centrally accessible area, an anonymous submission box will also be installed at the noticeboard site for each community to capture any feedback, questions, or issues community members want to raise anonymously.

The process for addressing grievances is also included in the project agreement as below (contact details differ for each site, and are included in the project agreement section in the Project Management Booklets in Annex L):

In case of a grievance, the following procedure should be followed. All contact details should be made publicly available on community noticeboards before the official project start date.

- a. In the first instance, project participants should contact the nominated carbon committee contact person.
 - i. Male rep:
 - ii. Female rep:
- b. If further action is required, the project participant should then contact Nasituan.
 - i. Email: info@nasituan.org
 - ii. Phone / namba blong telefon: 88971
- c. If further action is required, the project participant should then contact the nominated Tearfund New Zealand staff member.
 - i. Email: programmesadmin@tearfund.org.nz

The following independent arbitrators have also been identified for the communities:

- a. Erromango – Joe Nare Mete: Erromango Area Administrator
- b. Tanna - Simon Naupa: Department of Forestry, Johnny Tyio: Department of Environment, Wieng Mass: Chairman, Central Tanna Council of Chiefs

3.18 Project Agreements

Describe the process for entering into project agreements between project participants and the project coordinator following FPIC principles, including any measures in place to ensure that project agreements do not remove, diminish or threaten project participant's rights to land and/or resources.

State the agreement period and provide justification for why this represents a period over which the project participants are able to make a meaningful commitment to implement and monitor the project interventions with support from the project coordinator.

In Annex 12, include example project agreements that includes: i) the crediting period; ii) an agreement period that covers the entire crediting period, or that is extendable to cover the entire crediting period; iii) estimates of the expected annual carbon benefit from the project area(s) for each year of the crediting period; iv) clauses that give the project coordinator the right to sell plan vivo certificates on behalf of the project participant, and that prevent the project participant from generating any other type of carbon credit from the same project interventions; iv) a summary of the benefit sharing mechanism with details of the minimum amount the project participant is eligible to receive if monitoring targets and other dependencies are met, and consequences if targets are not met; and v) a description of the grievance mechanism and how it can be accessed by the project participant.

Prior to communities entering into a project agreement, several rounds of consultation were undertaken to form a design and implementation plan for the proposed project activities. A project agreement has been drafted and translated into Bislama, and presented to first Nasituan and then participating communities for feedback and revision. The project agreement does not remove, diminish or threaten project participants' rights to land and/or resources; the only constraint outlined within the agreement on participants rights to resources is that communities that sign the agreement will not generate any other type of carbon credit from the same project interventions within the project area. Project agreements are valid for 30 years, which aligns with the crediting period.

An example project agreement is included in Annex 12; final project agreements are included in the project agreement section in the Project Management Booklets in Annex L.

Communities have had workshops to form their own site-specific bylaws. These are also included in Annex L, and are being printed on public noticeboards at each site. Community project agreements will be signed when noticeboards are installed in a public ceremony.

4 Monitoring and Reporting

Indicators

4.1 Progress Indicators

Complete Table 4.1 by adding a row for each output and activity in Table 3.5. Indicators should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound (SMART).

Table 4.1 Progress Indicators⁴⁹

Intervention /Approach	Output/Activity	Indicator	Sources / Means of verification
Improved Forest Management	Output 1: Implementation of activities under an <i>Improved Forest Management Plan</i> for producing and planting coffee, shade, timber, fuelwood, and food producing trees.	P1: # ha of sustainably managed resources developed. Target: 64.47 ha (24.7 ha of coffee plantations, 12.74 ha of timber and fuelwood plantations, 2.83 ha of agroforestry, and supplementary tree plantings within the 24.2 ha cattle grazing/coconut plantation area). (Baseline: 0 ha).	- Reporting of improved forest management activities, photographic evidence, register of person hours worked, nursery establishment, # seedlings raised, and map of areas in Annual Report; <i>Improved Forest Management Plan</i> published.
	Activity 1.1: Develop management plan that addresses <i>Improved Land Management</i> interventions in	P2: Management plan that addresses <i>Improved Land Management</i> interventions developed and kept current Target: 1 published per community. (Baseline: 0).	

⁴⁹ Please note that planting targets listed in Progress Indicators are based on current estimates of appropriate planting densities required to achieve carbon benefits. These targets will be reviewed during annual reporting to ensure they are appropriate for achieving the specified carbon benefits.

	conjunction with Activities 4.1 and 4.2.		
	Activity 1.2: Establish nurseries for coffee, shade, timber, fuelwood, and food producing trees (one at each project site).	P3: Nursery establishment - Target: 1 nursery established (South River).⁵⁰ (Baseline: 0) - Nursery is the same as that specified for activity 2.2	
		P4: # of seedlings raised for each intervention. Target: 49,169 seedlings raised, 12,500 for coffee, 637 for sustainable fuelwood and timber, 9,680 within the cattle grazing/coconut plantation area, and 1,132 for agroforestry (Baseline: 0).	
	Activity 1.3: Ongoing, regular maintenance of planted areas to prevent vine overgrowth/ensure tree survival.	P5: # ha of forest maintained from vine overgrowth. Target: 19 ha based on Improved Forest Management Plan. (Baseline: 0).	

⁵⁰ Nurseries will involve a mix of native and agroforestry species for both Improved Forest Management and Restoration interventions.

1. Sustainable coffee production through (a) converting existing gardens into coffee plantations and planting buffer margins in shade trees (<i>Improved Management</i>); and (b) planting the undergrowth of forest with coffee trees (<i>Improved Management</i>).	Activity 1.4: Clearing vine overgrowth from existing gardens/preparation for coffee tree planting (intervention 1 [a]).	P6: Extent (ha) of gardens cleared from overgrowth and prepared for coffee tree planting. Target: 5.1 ha, Whitegrass. (Baseline: 0 ha).	Annual report documenting <i>inter alia</i> . # and extent (ha) of gardens cleared and planted in coffee seedlings; - Extent (ha) of undergrowth cleared and prepped for coffee planting; # planted and survival rates of coffee seedlings; - Volume of coffee produced under shade trees; and - Photographic evidence using photo points - Map of areas using
	Activity 1.5: Clearing undergrowth within forest areas and preparation for coffee tree planting (intervention 1 [b]).	P7: Extent (ha) of undergrowth cleared and prepared for coffee tree planting. Target: 16.6 ha, Whitegrass; 3 ha, South River. (Baseline: 0 ha at Whitegrass, 0 ha at South River).	
	Activity 1.6: Planting coffee trees (interventions 1 [a] and [b]).	P8: % of coffee tree saplings planted that survive at 24 months. Target: 70%. (Baseline: 0).	
	Activity 1.7: Planting native shade trees in existing gardens that will be converted to coffee plantations.	P9: % of native shade saplings planted that survive at 24 months. Target: 70%. (Baseline: 0).	

			satellite/ drone imagery where possible in Year 5.
4. Development of sustainable timber and fuelwood plantations within existing gardens and along roadsides.	Activity 1.8: Develop sustainable harvesting plan/by- laws for timber/fuelwood extraction upon maturity (~10-15 years).	P10: Sustainable timber/fuelwood harvesting plan developed and implemented e.g. community by- laws for extraction upon maturity agreed to (no. trees/species/ annual removal frequency). Target: 1 sustainable timber/fuelwood plan published. (Baseline: 0).	Annual report documenting <i>inter alia</i> . - Participatory maps/commu nity agreements of timber and fuelwood designated areas - Sustainable timber/fuelw ood harvesting plan developed and implemented; - Aerial drone imagery to map extent (ha) and boundaries
		P11: 'No net loss' in overall standing volume of timber/fuelwood trees within plantations through implementation of sustainable harvesting plan (e.g. 5 trees planted for every tree removed). Target: No net loss in timber/fuelwood tree standing volume. (Baseline: net loss).	
		P12: % reduction in no. trees extracted for timber/fuelwood within core CCA area after 10 years.	

		- Target: 3.88 ha avoided deforestation/degradation per year, 1.12% reduction in rate of forest degradation (total CCA is 299.7ha). (Baseline: deforestation is currently occurring at a rate of 1 ha⁻¹ per year⁻¹) - Repeated indicator, links to P40 & E6	where possible; and # planted and survival rates of timber and fuelwood trees.
	Activity 1.9: Identify/delineate suitable alternative areas for timber and fuelwood.	P13: # ha identified as suitable for timber and fuelwood plantations. Target: 12.7 based on <i>Improved Forest Management Plan</i>. (Baseline: 0).	
	Activity 1.10: Clearing undergrowth/site preparation for timber/fuelwood tree planting.	P14: # ha prepared for timber and fuelwood tree planting. Target: 10.7 ha, Whitegrass. 2.04 ha, South River. (Baseline: 0 ha at Whitegrass, 0 ha at South River).	
	Activity 1.11: Plant timber and fuelwood trees.	P15: % of timber and fuelwood saplings planted that survive at 24 months. Target: 70%. (Baseline: 0).	

5. Agroforestry incorporating the planting of fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees around or among gardens.	Activity 1.12: Identify specific gardens for planting fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees.	P16: # of ha identified as suitable for planting fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees. Target: 2.83 ha in South River based on <i>Improved Forest Management Plan</i>. (Baseline: 0).	Annual report documenting <i>inter alia</i>. - Participatory maps/community agreements of agroforestry designated areas; - Aerial drone imagery to map extent (ha) and boundaries where possible; # planted and survival rates of fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees; and - Community survey of project derived food security/livelihood benefits.
	Activity 1.13: Clearing undergrowth/site preparation for planting fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees.	P17: # ha of undergrowth cleared and utilized for fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees. Target: 2.83 ha, South River. (Baseline: 0 ha).	
	Activity 1.14: Plant fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees.	P18: % of saplings planted that survive at 24 months. Target: 70%. (Baseline: 0%).	
8. Enhancement	Activity 1.15: Identify/delineate	P19: # of ha identified as suitable for planting supplementary shade,	

of cattle grazing/coco nut plantation area by planting supplementary shade, fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees.	specific sites within the cattle grazing area for planting supplementary shade, fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees.	fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees within cattle grazing area. Target: 24.2 ha, Whitegrass based on <i>Improved Forest Management Plan</i>. (Baseline: 0).	Annual report documenting <i>inter alia</i> . - Participatory maps/community agreements of area; - Aerial drone imagery to map extent (ha) and boundaries where possible; and # planted and survival rates of shade, fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees.
	Activity 1.16: Site preparation for planting shade, fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees.	P20: # ha prepped for supplementary shade, fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees. Target: 24.2 ha, Whitegrass, based on <i>Improved Forest Management Plan</i>. (Baseline: 0).	
	Activity 1.17: Plant shade, fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees.	P21: % of saplings planted that survive at 24 months. Target: 70%. (Baseline: 0).	
Restoration	Output 2: Forest restoration.	P22: # ha of land undergoing restoration. Target: 34.6 ha (10.1 ha riparian restoration at Middlebush and South River, 10 ha forest enhancement at South River, 5.9 ha of hillside erosion control at Whitegrass, 4.8 ha	Reporting of forest restoration activities, photographic evidence, register of hours worked, nursery establishment

		restoration of fallow gardens at Whitegrass). (Baseline: 0 ha).	, # seedlings raised, and map of areas in Annual Report, • <i>Forest Restoration Management Plan</i> published.
	Activity 2.1: Develop management plan that addresses <i>Restoration</i> interventions in conjunction with Activities 4.1 and 4.2.	P23: Management plan that addresses <i>Restoration</i> interventions developed and kept current • Target: 1 published per community. (Baseline: 0).	
	Activity 2.2: Establish nurseries for raising native and agroforestry trees to be planted in restoration areas (one at each project site).	P24: Nursery establishment for forest restoration activities • 2 nurseries established (one each at Middlebush and South River).⁵¹ ○ At South River this is the same nursery as specified in Activity 1.2	
		P25: # and type of saplings raised for each intervention. • Target: 55,860 native seedlings (20,000 for riparian restoration at Middlebush and 1,600 for South River, 12,500 for forest enhancement at South River, 260 for	

⁵¹ Nurseries will involve a mix of native and agroforestry species for both Improved Forest Management and Restoration interventions.

		hillside erosion control at Whitegrass, 6,000 for restoration of fallow gardens at Whitegrass), based on <i>Forest Restoration Management Plan</i> (Baseline: 0).	
	Activity 2.3: Ongoing, regular maintenance of planted areas to prevent vine overgrowth/ensure native tree survival.	P26: # ha of forest maintained from vine overgrowth. Target: 24.9, based on <i>Forest Restoration Management Plan</i> (Baseline: 0).	
2. Reforestation of riparian margins.	Activity 2.4: Identify/delineate gardens and ownership rights along Middlebush stream, secure community agreement for restoration.	P27: Identify area secured for restoration of Middlebush stream margins (40m wide reserve) that is agreed upon/endorsed by all community members. Target: Evidence of endorsement for identified areas along Middlebush stream. (Baseline: no evidence)	Annual report documenting <i>inter alia</i>. - Participatory maps/community agreements for creation of 40m wide stream reserve; - Aerial drone imagery to map extent (ha) and boundaries where possible;
	Activity 2.5: Clearing undergrowth (Middlebush)/site preparation (Middlebush, South River) for planting native and agroforestry trees.	P28: # of ha prepared for planting native and agroforestry trees (Middlebush) and/or # ha site preparation (e.g. removal of cattle at South River). Target: 1.6 ha, South River. 8.5 ha, Middlebush.	

		(Baseline: 0 ha South River, 0 ha Middlebush)	# planted and survival rates of native trees; - Stream margin extent stabilized through tree planting and verified using erosion pins/drone imagery where possible through comparison to non-planted (open/grassland) stream margin reaches; and % increase in <i>rC</i>/and/or Shannon Diversity Index of restoration sites in comparison to reference sites.
	Activity 2.6: Plant native and agroforestry trees along riparian margins.	P29: % of saplings planted that survive at 24 months (Middlebush and South River). Target: 70%, based on <i>Forest Restoration Management Plan</i>. (Baseline: 0%).	
		P30: South River: Stream stabilization/erosion prevention, # m ² established by planted trees Target: 20% reduction in m² stream bank lost to erosion. (Baseline: 0%).	
	Activity 2.7: Adequately fence site as and where required to exclude cattle.	P31: # m of fencing improved and maintained to exclude cattle Target: 0. (Baseline: 0)	

3. Forest enhancement through active restoration.	Activity 2.8: Clearing undergrowth/site preparation for planting native and trees.	P32: # ha cleared from vine overgrowth/site preparation. Target: 10ha, South River. (Baseline: 0 ha)	Annual report documenting <i>inter alia</i>. - Aerial drone imagery to map extent (ha) and boundaries where possible; # planted and survival rates of native trees; and % increase in <i>rCI</i>, Shannon Diversity Index, and Rapid Assessment Forms of restoration sites in comparison to reference sites.
	Activity 2.9: Plant native trees within forest enhancement area at a preliminary density of one tree per 100m ² (one tree within 10m * 10m grids).	P33: % of native saplings planted that survive at 24 months. Target: 70%, based on <i>Forest Restoration Management Plan</i> (Baseline: 0).	
7. Hillside erosion control via tree planting and protection of	Activity 2.10: Clearing undergrowth/site preparation (where needed) for planting native, erosion stabilizing trees.	P34: # ha cleared from vine overgrowth/site preparation (as and where needed). Target: 5.9 ha, Whitegrass. (Baseline: 0%)	Annual report documenting <i>inter alia</i>. Aerial drone imagery to

wild cane resources (Restoration/Protection).			map extent (ha) and boundaries where possible; # planted and survival rates of native trees; and % increase in <i>rCI</i>, Shannon Diversity Index, and Rapid Assessment Forms of restoration sites in comparison to reference sites.
	Activity 2.11: Plant native trees within hillside erosion control area at a preliminary density of one tree per 225m ² (one tree every 15m).	P35: % of native saplings planted that survive at 24 months. Target: 70%, based on <i>Forest Restoration Management Plan</i>. (Baseline: 0%)	
6. Restoration of fallow gardens within the core CCA area.	Activity 2.12: Clearing undergrowth/site preparation within fallow gardens for planting native trees.	P36: # ha fallow gardens cleared from vine overgrowth/site preparation. Target: 4.8 ha, Whitegrass. (Baseline: 0 ha).	Annual report documenting <i>inter alia</i> . Aerial drone imagery to map extent (ha) and boundaries where possible;
	Activity 2.13: Plant native trees within fallow gardens.	P37: % of native saplings planted that survive at 24 months. Target: 70%, based on <i>Forest Restoration</i>	

		<i>Management Plan.</i> (Baseline: 0).	# planted and survival rates of native trees; and % increase in <i>rCI</i>, Shannon Diversity Index, and Rapid Assessment Forms of restoration sites in comparison to reference sites.
Protection	Output 3: Forest protection	P38: # ha of land protected as part of CCA. Target: 328.7ha protected as a CCA (Baseline: 0ha).	
9. Avoided deforestation through establishment and designation of a Community Conservation Area (CCA) to protect existing	Activity 3.1: Develop management plan that addresses <i>Protection</i> interventions in conjunction with Activities 4.1 and 4.2	P39: Management plan that addresses <i>Protection</i> interventions developed and kept current Target: 1 published per community. (Baseline: 0). P40: % reduction in deforestation (e.g. logging) and forest degradation (e.g. clearance of forest for gardens) rates/extent (ha) within CCA area	<i>Conservation Management Plan</i> published, including by-laws for governance. - CCA documentation lodged with Ministry of

mature forest.		- Target: 3.88 ha avoided deforestation/degradation per year, 1.12% reduction in rate of forest degradation (total CCA is 299.7 ha). (Baseline: deforestation is currently occurring at a rate of 1 ha⁻¹ per year⁻¹) - Repeated indicator, links to P12 & E6	Environmental Protection and Conservation and formal written approval received. - Drone aerial surveys/footage to confirm compliance with by-laws where possible and new gardens opened and/or trees logged. - Public notice board installed.
	Activity 3.2: Community bylaws developed and endorsed by community and awareness activities held (e.g. community consensus session)	P41: Community consensus for by-laws. Target: Evidence of endorsement by local governance committee through bylaws workshops and signing of project agreements. (Baseline: no evidence).	
	Activity 3.3: Development/installation of signage showing agreed CCA by-laws and/or regulations.	P42: Public notice board/s installed. Target: at least one notice board (with bylaws) installed in appropriate location adjacent to the CCA. (Baseline: 0).	
All interventions/Project management	Output 4: Project management, reporting, and		

	community engagement		
	Activity 4.1: Develop a management plan and framework for the implementation of project interventions at all communities (Middlebush, Whitegrass, South River). This includes close liaison and consultation with community members and ground truthing to: • Map existing gardens and clarify with individual community members what species they would like to see planted and where; • Develop a register of the number and species of nursery	P43: Management Plans developed, implemented, and kept current for <i>Improved Forest Management, Restoration, and Protection</i> interventions. • Target: 3 management plans developed, one for each project site (Baseline: 0) ○ Indicator corresponds to Activities 1.1, 2.1, and 3.1	Annual report documenting <i>inter alia</i>: • Publication of Improved Forest Management, Restoration, and Protection plans; • Breakdown of labor payments to community members included in financial report; • Community survey results on whether improved management, restoration, and protection activities have resulted in

	seedlings raised; • Spatially identify and record the location/species/number of trees subsequently planted; • Delineate the extent of areas cleared/maintained of overgrowth (bad rope) for forest enhancement /restoration activities; • Develop and maintain a register of community members employed to implement work, hourly wages paid, and hours associated		positive benefits.
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	with delivery each activity; • Development of by-laws for managing the Community Conservation Area in Whitegrass.		
	Activity 4.2: Spatially delineate project boundaries using GIS platforms (e.g. Arc GIS linked to drone mapping imagery) and create shapefile overlays to show the extent, in hectares, of project activities at all project sites. This will also require ground truthing and liaison to ensure project boundaries are endorsed and supported by communities.	P44: Maps produced with shapefiles of extent (ha) of all project interventions. • Target: 3 maps for each site (South River, Middlebush, and Whitegrass) delineating each specific intervention. (Baseline: 0).	Maps/shapefiles published.
	Activity 4.3: Project working committees established and >2 meetings per year held.	P45: Project working committees established • Target: 3 working committees (one for each site). (Baseline: 0).	Registration of project working committees and member details recorded.

		P46: # of project working committee meetings held per year Target: >2 per community (minimum 6 total). (Baseline: 0).	Record of meeting minutes published.
	Activity 4.4: Community bylaws established for project interventions	P47: Community bylaws established for project interventions Target: 1 set of bylaws per community. (Baseline: 0).	Record of bylaws, noticeboards, workshop photos, project agreement
	Activity 4.5: Regular community engagement events held to showcase project activities	P48: # of community engagement events held per year Target: 1 per community. (Baseline: 0).	Annual community engagement reports published, photographic evidence included in Annual Report.
	Activity 4.6: Print and display community noticeboards with maps, bylaws, grievance mechanism, and traffic light system	P49: # of community noticeboards established Target: 1 in each of the three project sites. (Baseline: 0). This is a repeated indicator for Site 2 noticeboard, links to P42.	Noticeboards printed and displayed, photos of noticeboard in communities

^[1] The extent of logging and damage to adjacent forest within the CCA observed in field surveys equated to 1 ha in one year. There were also new gardens (~.5 ha) opened which were observed during the August 2024 field trip, and we assume that there are ~1.5ha opened annually.

^[2] An emissions '*reduction*' equates to a reduction in atmospheric GHG emissions. It is typically used for avoided deforestation projects where projected emissions that would have occurred in the baseline (or business as usual) scenario are reduced as a result of project interventions. An emissions '*removal*' is synonymous with sequestration and represent the removal of GHG from the atmosphere as a result of

activities like tree planting and the removal of smothering vine overgrowth to enhance productivity (restoration, improved forest management).

4.2 Carbon Indicators

Complete Table 4.2 to provide a summary of the carbon indicators that will be monitored for each project intervention. Include full details of each carbon indicator in Annex 7.

Table 4.2 Carbon Indicators

Intervention/Approach	Output/Activity	Indicator	Sources / Means of verification
Improved Forest Management	1. Sustainable coffee production through (a) converting existing gardens into coffee plantations and planting buffer margins in shade trees (Whitegrass).	C1: Projected net emissions <i>removals</i> due to project interventions ^[2] , Mg CO ₂ e year ⁻¹ , 5.1 ha. Target: 71 Mg CO₂e year⁻¹ (total project intervention area per year). (Baseline: 0).	Systematic field assessment of tree growth in a representative # of plots to characterize intervention area → data processed using internationally approved allometric equations (e.g. Chave <i>et al.</i> 2005) → results published in annual reporting and independently verified.
	4. Development of sustainable timber and fuelwood plantations within existing gardens and along roadsides.	N/A	
	5. Agroforestry incorporating the planting of fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees around or among gardens.	C2: Projected net emissions <i>removals</i> due to project interventions, Mg CO ₂ e year ⁻¹ , 2.8 ha. Target: 64 CO₂e year⁻¹ (total project intervention area per year). (Baseline: 0).	

	8. Enhancement of cattle grazing/coconut plantation area by planting supplementary shade, fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees.	C3: Projected net emissions <i>removals</i> due to project interventions, Mg CO₂e year⁻¹, 24.2 ha. Target: 78 CO₂e year⁻¹ (total project intervention area per year). (Baseline: 0)	
Restoration	2. Reforestation of riparian margins (Middlebush and South River).	C4: Projected net emissions <i>removals</i> due to project interventions, Mg CO₂e year⁻¹, 10.1 ha. Target: 258 CO₂e year⁻¹ (total project intervention area per year). (Baseline: 0).	Systematic field assessment of tree growth in a representative # of plots to characterize intervention area → data processed using internationally approved allometric equations (e.g. Chave <i>et al.</i> 2005) → results published in annual reporting and independently verified.
	3. Forest enhancement through active restoration.	C5: Projected net emissions <i>removals</i> due to project interventions, Mg CO₂e year⁻¹, 10 ha. Target: 260 CO₂e year⁻¹ (total project intervention area per year). (Baseline: 0).	
	7. Hillside erosion control via tree planting and	C6: Projected net emissions <i>removals</i> due to project	

	protection of wild cane resources (Restoration/Protection).	interventions, Mg CO ₂ e year ⁻¹ , 5.9 ha. Target: 19 CO₂e year⁻¹ (total project intervention area per year). (Baseline: 0).	
	6. Restoration of fallow gardens within the core CCA area.	C7: Projected net emissions <i>removals</i> due to project interventions, Mg CO ₂ e year ⁻¹ , 4.8 ha. Target: 148.7 CO₂e year⁻¹ (total project intervention area per year). (Baseline: 0).	
Protection	9. a) + b) Avoided deforestation through establishment and designation of a Community Conservation Area (CCA) to protect existing mature forest.	C8: Projected net emissions <i>reductions</i> due to project interventions, Mg CO ₂ e year ⁻¹ , 3.88 ha avoided loss per year. Target: 7,257 CO₂e year⁻¹ (total project intervention area per year). (Baseline: 0).	Systematic field assessment of tree growth/carbon stocks in a representative # of plots to characterize intervention area → data processed using internationally approved allometric equations (e.g. Chave <i>et al.</i> 2005) → results published in annual reporting and independently verified.

4.3 Livelihood Indicators

Complete Table 4.3 to describe the indicators that will be used to monitor the livelihood status of project participants and other local stakeholders, and risks of negative social impacts.

Recommended to use Participatory Toolkit Tool 5: Well-being Assessment to develop Livelihood Indicators.

Table 4.3. Livelihood Indicators

Intervention/ Approach	Output/Activity	Indicator	Sources / Means of verification
Improved Forest Management	Output 1: Implementation of activities under an <i>Improved Forest Management Plan</i> for producing and planting coffee, shade, timber, fuelwood, and food producing trees.	L1: Coffee: % of project participants involved in coffee production reporting an increase in income. - Target: 80% reporting increase every 5 years (Baseline: 0%). L2: % of project participants reporting greater benefits of growing coffee under shade vs open-farmed coffee - Target: 80%. (Baseline: 0%). L3: Coffee: Volume (kg) and value (\$) of coffee bean produced from project areas. - Target: 12,350kg of parchment coffee produced in project areas, valued at 3,334,500 vatu. (Baseline: 0).	Community surveys every 5 years (before and after project implementation). Evidence of the presence of high-value native priority species used as NTFP in forest restoration areas.

		L4: Timber and fuelwood: % of project participants reporting an increase in natural resource security/livelihood benefits due to timber and fuelwood plantations as they reach maturity and are available for extraction. - Target: 80% reporting increase every 5 years. (Baseline: 0%). L5: Agroforestry: % of project participants reporting an increase in food security/livelihood benefits due to agroforestry activities. - Target: 80% reporting increase every 5 years. (Baseline: 0%). L6: Cattle grazing/coconut plantation enhancement: % of project participants reporting an increase in food security/livelihood benefits due to agroforestry activities within cattle grazing area/coconut plantation. - Target: 80% reporting increase every 5 years. (Baseline: 0%).	
Restoration	Output 2: Forest restoration.	L7: % of project participants reporting an increase in food	

		security/livelihood benefits due to planting of agroforestry trees along riparian margins. - Target: 80% reporting increase every 5 years. (Baseline: 0%). L8: % of project participants reporting an improvement in forest health, the abundance of high-value native species, and the ability to source non-timber forest products (NTFP)/resources within forest enhancement area. - Target: 80% for forest health, 80% for abundance of high-value native species, and 80% for access to NTFP every 5 years. (Baseline: 0%).	
Protection	Output 3: Forest protection	L9: % of project participants reporting an improvement in forest health and greater ability to source non-timber forest products/resources within the CCA as a result of protection activities. Target: 80% reporting increase every 5 years. (Baseline: 0%).	
All interventions	Output 4: Project management, reporting,	L10: \$ value of carbon payments to communities.	

/project management	and community engagement	- Target: USD 20,000 (Baseline: 0) L11: \$ value and # of community members paid for project labour. - Target: Targets will be determined after Y2, once baseline data for implementing project activities has been completed.	
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4.4 Ecosystem Indicators

Complete Table 4.4 to describe the indicators that will be used to monitor ecological conditions risks of negative environmental impacts in the project region.

Table 4.4 Ecosystem Indicators

Intervention/Approach	Output/Activity	Indicator	Sources / Means of verification
Improved Forest Management	Output 1: Implementation of activities under an Improved Forest Management Plan for producing and planting coffee, shade, timber, fuelwood, and food producing trees.	N/A	Annual reporting using the following methods: - Rapid assessment forms; - Biodiversity monitoring methodology (refer to Annex 13); - Systematic field assessment of forests in a representative # of plots;

			• Drone aerial surveys/footage to confirm compliance with by-laws where possible and new gardens opened and/or trees logged; and • 5 minute bird counts, camera traps, tracking tunnels etc.
Restoration	Output 2: Forest restoration.	E1: Evidence of improved Imanaka Stream health using e.g. RAF, Macroinvertebrate Community Index (MCI). • Target: 20% increase relative to baseline. (Baseline: 0%) E2: Improvement in stream (Middlebush) and forest (all sites) RAF scores in comparison to reference stream and forests. • Target: 20% increase relative to baseline. (Baseline: 0%). E3: Improvement in forest structural complexity (species composition, diversity) relative to reference forest at 5 years	

		using revised Index of Structural Complexity (rCI) and/or Shannon Diversity Index (H'). - Target: Based on rCI/H' results from reference forests: - Middlebush: 20% increase in riparian restoration area rCI/H' compared to Imanaka Stream tributary at Whitegrass. (Baseline: rCI 56.2, H' 3.38) - Whitegrass: 20% increase in CCA rCI/H' compared to Kauri Reserve. (Baseline: rCI 37.1, H' 3.14) - South River: 20% increase in	
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		forest enhancemen t area rCI/H' compared to Kauri Reserve. (Baseline: rCI 37.1, H' 3.14) E4: Decrease in invasive vine/ weed abundance/coverage (Middlebush and South River). Target: 50% decrease. (Baseline: 72% canopy coverage in forested areas and 75% ground coverage in fallow gardens in South River, 50% ground coverage in Middlebush.) E5: Evidence of increased abundance and diversity of native priority birds and other fauna (as defined in Monitoring Methodology booklet).	
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		Target: 15% increase compared to baseline. (Baseline: Preliminary average is 3.1 birds seen or heard per 5-minute bird count survey, but ongoing baseline monitoring will continue)	
Protection	Output 3: Forest protection	E6: #ha reduction in deforestation (e.g. logging) and forest degradation (e.g. clearance of forest for gardens) rates/extent (ha) within CCA area - Target: Prevent 3.88ha of deforestation occurring in CCA area per year (Baseline: 0 ha). - Repeated indicator, links to P12 & P38.	

Monitoring

4.5 Monitoring Plan

Provide a brief description of the plans to monitor the progress, carbon, livelihood, and ecosystem indicators described in Section 4.1 to 4.4 with details of monitoring approaches, sample selection, frequency of assessment, groups or individuals responsible for monitoring, and resource and capacity requirements.

Include a detailed monitoring plan with details of specific monitoring and verification activities in Annex 13.

Annual monitoring will occur for performance indicators as specified in section 4.6. Every 5 years, carbon monitoring activities will be undertaken to reassess carbon benefit calculations, and a survey of participating community members will be done to assess livelihood benefits.

A full monitoring plan with details of specific monitoring and verification activities is included in Annex 13.

4.6 Progress Monitoring

For each of the progress indicators listed in Section 4.1, identify a milestone for each year of the crediting period, and describe corrective actions that will be implemented if milestones are not met.

The milestones or targets of the progress monitoring indicators are listed below (Table 4.6.1). The targets are subdivided in three categories: full, partial and missed target.

There are the following consequences for certificate issuance and corrective actions that will be implemented if the performance targets are not met (mitigation actions):

- (i) If the values for all indicators meet or exceed their performance target, the full issuance is received;
- (ii) If one or more of the indicator values are below its performance target for one monitoring period, the full issuance is received but corrective actions must be implemented by the next year;
- (iii) If one or more of the indicator values are partially achieved for two consecutive monitoring periods, the full issuance is received but corrective actions must be implemented.

- (iv) If one or more of the indicator values are missed for two consecutive monitoring periods, or partially achieved for three consecutive monitoring periods, certificate issuance of the project area concerned is withheld until corrective actions have been implemented and the performance target(s) have been reached.

Table 4.6.1 Progress Monitoring

Output/Activity	Annual Milestones for Indicators	Performance Targets		
		Full Target Achievement (100% of target)	Partial Target Achievement (80% of full target)	Missed Target (<80% of full target)
Middlebush				
Activities: 2. Reforestation of riparian margins	Ha of land undergoing project activities	8.5 ha for riparian restoration	6.8 ha for riparian restoration	<6.8 ha for riparian restoration
	Activity management documentation developed and kept up-to-date	Forest Restoration Management Plan developed	-	-
	Number of saplings raised in nursery (Year 1 only)	20,000 saplings raised	16,000 saplings raised	< 16,000 saplings raised
	Planted sapling survival rate	70% of total planted saplings survive	50% of total planted saplings survive	< 50% of total planted saplings survive

	Bylaws developed and displayed	>1 noticeboard with bylaws displayed	1 noticeboard with bylaws displayed	<1 noticeboard with bylaws displayed
	Number of community engagement events	1 per year	-	<1 per year
	Number of working committee meetings	2 per year	1 per year	<1 per year
Whitegrass				
Activities: 1. Sustainable coffee production through (a) conversion go existing gardens; (b) clearance of undergrowth. 4. Development of sustainable timber and fuelwood plantations within existing gardens and along roadsides	Ha of land undergoing project activities	21.7ha for sustainable coffee, 10.7ha for sustainable wood plantations, 24.2ha for enhancement of cattle grazing area, 5.9ha for erosion control, 4.8ha for fallow garden restoration, 328.7ha for CCA establishment	17.3ha for sustainable coffee, 8.5ha for sustainable wood plantations, 19.3ha for enhancement of cattle grazing area, 4.7ha for erosion control, 3ha for fallow garden restoration, 263ha for CCA establishment	<17.3ha for sustainable coffee, <8.5ha for sustainable wood plantations, <19.3ha for enhancement of cattle grazing area <4.7ha for erosion control, <3ha for fallow garden restoration, <263ha for CCA establishment
	Activity management documentation	Forest Restoration Management Plan developed	-	-

5. Agroforestry incorporating the planting of fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees around or among gardens	developed and kept up-to-date			
	Number of saplings raised in nursery (Year 1 only)	34,720 coffee tree saplings raised, 535 timber and fuelwood tree saplings raised, 260 hillside erosion control saplings raised, 9,680 cattle grazing agroforestry saplings raised, 6,000 native tree saplings raised	27,776 coffee tree saplings raised, 428 timber and fuelwood tree saplings raised, 208 hillside erosion control saplings raised, 7,744 cattle grazing agroforestry saplings raised, 4,800 native tree saplings raised	<27,776 coffee tree saplings raised, <428 timber and fuelwood tree saplings raised, <208 hillside erosion control saplings raised, <7,744 cattle grazing agroforestry saplings raised, <4,800 native tree saplings raised
8. Enhancement of cattle grazing/coconut plantation area by planting supplementary shade, fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees.				
7. Hillside erosion control via tree planting and protection of wild cane resources	Planted sapling survival rate	70% of total planted saplings survive	50% of total planted saplings survive	< 50% of total planted saplings survive
	No net loss of timber in sustainable wood plantations	5 trees planted for every 1 cut down	4 trees planted for every 1 cut down	<4 trees planted for every 1 cut down
9. Restoration of fallow gardens within the core CCA area.				
6. Avoided deforestation	Reduction of deforestation in CCA area	Establish and maintain additional 3ha of avoided deforestation in core CCA compared to baseline	Establish and maintain additional 2.4ha of avoided deforestation in core CCA	Establish and maintain additional <2.4ha of avoided deforestation in core CCA

through establishment and designation of a Community Conservation Area (CCA) to protect existing mature forest			compared to baseline	compared to baseline
	Fenced areas to exclude cattle are established and maintained	900m of fencing is improved and maintained	720m of fencing is improved and maintained	< 720m of fencing is improved and maintained
	Bylaws developed and displayed	>1 noticeboard with bylaws displayed	1 noticeboard with bylaws displayed	<1 noticeboard with bylaws displayed
	Number of community engagement events	1 per year	-	<1 per year
	Number of working committee meetings	2 per year	1 per year	<1 per year
South River				
Activities: 1. Sustainable coffee production through (a) conversion go existing gardens; (b) clearance of undergrowth.	Ha of land undergoing project activities	3ha for sustainable coffee, 2ha for sustainable wood plantations, 2.8ha for agroforestry, 1.6ha for riparian reforestation, 10ha for forest enhancement	2.4ha for sustainable coffee, 1.6ha for sustainable wood plantations, 2.8ha for agroforestry, 1.3ha for riparian reforestation, 8ha for forest enhancement	<2.4ha for sustainable coffee, <1.6ha for sustainable wood plantations, <2.8ha for agroforestry, <1.3ha for riparian reforestation, <8ha for forest enhancement

4. Development of sustainable timber and fuelwood plantations within existing gardens and along roadsides	Activity management documentation developed and kept up-to-date	Forest Restoration Management Plan developed	-	-
	Number of saplings raised in nursery (Year 1 only)	3,000 coffee tree saplings raised, 100 timber and fuelwood tree saplings raised, 12,500 native tree saplings raised, 1,120 agroforestry tree saplings raised	2,400 coffee tree saplings raised, 80 timber and fuelwood tree saplings raised, 10,000 native tree saplings raised, 890 agroforestry tree saplings raised	<2,400 coffee tree saplings raised, <80 timber and fuelwood tree saplings raised, <10,000 native tree saplings raised, <890 agroforestry tree saplings raised
5. Agroforestry incorporating the planting of fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees around or among gardens				
2. Reforestation of riparian margins	Planted sapling survival rate	70% of total planted saplings survive	50% of total planted saplings survive	< 50% of total planted saplings survive
3. Forest enhancement through active restoration	No net loss of timber in sustainable wood plantations	5 trees planted for every 1 cut down	4 trees planted for every 1 cut down	<4 trees planted for every 1 cut down
	Bylaws developed and displayed	>1 noticeboard with bylaws displayed	1 noticeboard with bylaws displayed	<1 noticeboard with bylaws displayed
	Number of community engagement events	1 per year	-	<1 per year

	Number of working committee meetings	2 per year	1 per year	<1 per year
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4.7 Carbon Monitoring

Describe the planned verification schedule for the project and confirm that the carbon indicators described in Annex 7 will be monitored throughout the crediting period.

Carbon indicators are based on increases in the projected net removed or reduced carbon emissions covered by each approach (C1-C7). These projections are based on field measurements of plots that will be taken every 5 years as and when the project is verified. To ensure that the project is on track to reach projected emission reductions or removals, monitoring for activities that contribute to the process of carbon reduction and removal (e.g. tree planting, vine overgrowth maintenance) is covered by the progress monitoring plan above.

4.8 Livelihood and Ecosystem Monitoring

4.8.1 Livelihood Monitoring

For each of the livelihood indicators listed in Section 4.3, identify targets for each period of 5-years (or less) throughout the crediting period. E.g. if the project has a 10-year crediting period, as a minimum targets should be provided for years 5 and 10 of the crediting period. Different targets should be provided for different stakeholder groups where appropriate. If initial indicator values have not been collected, targets should be relative to the initial value (e.g. a percentage increase or decrease).

Livelihood indicators L1-L2 and L4-L9 focus on participants perceptions of benefits to them based on the activities, with a target of 80% of project participants reporting an increase in coffee income (in the case of coffee farmers), food/resource/livelihood security, and improvements in forest health and abundance of native priority species. These will be measured through a survey every 5 years when the project is verified, while L3 and L10-11 will be monitored on an annual basis.

Indicators have been designed to evaluate the project's effectiveness in improving income and food security, and natural resource access for participants. These focus on tracking income generation from coffee production, sustainable resource access from timber and fuelwood plantations, and

the contribution of agroforestry interventions to food security. Community values around healthy ecosystems and native flora and fauna populations are captured in qualitative assessments of forest health and the availability of non-timber forest products within forest enhancement and conservation areas. The financial impact of employment opportunities provided by the project will also be monitored. A full description of livelihood indicators and targets is provided in section 4.3.

4.8.2 Ecosystem Monitoring

For each of the ecosystem indicators listed in Section 4.4, identify targets for each period of 5-years (or less) throughout the crediting period. E.g. if the project has a 10-year crediting period, as a minimum targets should be provided for years 5 and 10 of the crediting period. Different targets should be provided for different stakeholder groups where appropriate. If initial indicator values have not been collected, targets should be relative to the initial value (e.g. a percentage increase or decrease).

Ecosystem indicators E1-E6 rely on field measurements, and will be measured on a 5-year basis. Targets have been established as increases from baseline conditions. The ecosystem indicators for this project are designed to enhance water quality, biodiversity, and forest structure, ultimately strengthening the resilience and health of natural habitats. Key objectives include improving stream health and forest complexity, as tracked by ecological indices like the Macroinvertebrate Community Index and Shannon Diversity Index. Other targets focus on reducing invasive vine cover, increasing the abundance of native species, and protecting forests from deforestation and degradation, particularly within designated conservation areas. Combined, these indicators provide a comprehensive picture of the project's impact on ecosystem restoration, species recovery, and forest preservation, ensuring sustainable, climate-resilient landscapes.

A full description of ecosystem indicators and targets is provided in Section 4.4.

4.8.3 Sharing Monitoring Results

Describe plans for sharing livelihood and ecosystem monitoring results with all stakeholders, receiving feedback on the likely causes of any trends identified and their relationship to project activities, and adjusting project activities to address any issues identified.

Key monitoring results from the annual report will be made available to participating communities (through summary reports, leaflet, poster, or equivalent form of communication). There will be a community engagement event for community members to review and provide feedback on

monitoring results and the project overall. Key monitoring results will also be circulated to paramount chiefs from neighbouring villages for their interest.

Annual monitoring reports will also be circulated by Nasituan with area-level councils, and relevant government departments (Forestry, Agriculture, Environment and Conservation). Other stakeholder groups as listed in Section 2.1 will have the opportunity to sign up for annual email updates. Each of these groups will also have the opportunity to provide feedback to Nasituan.

Once stakeholders have been given the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the annual report, the Working committee will meet to discuss and review monitoring results and any feedback or comments received, identify any challenges or trends that need addressing, and form a plan to adjust project activities as needed.

In addition, monitoring results will be shared alongside the 5-year verification reporting, transparently published on the website of Plan Vivo. Summaries of the 5-year verification reports will also be lodged with the relevant government departments at the district, province and national levels.

Reporting

4.9 Annual Report

Describe the planned annual reporting schedule for the project, with details of the start and end date of the first reporting period and planned annual report submission date.

The project cycle runs from 1 January – 31 December each year. Annual reports will be submitted to Tearfund NZ by Nasituan by 1 February each year, which will be reviewed and submitted to Plan Vivo by 1 March each year.

4.10 Record Keeping

Describe how details of project agreements, land management plans, geographic locations of project areas, monitoring results, and Plan Vivo Certificates issued will be recorded and stored.

Provide a copy of the project database in Annex 14.

The project has a limited-access shared Google Drive between Tearfund and Nasituan; this is kept up-to-date with project data (technical, community, monitoring, financial, etc) as activities

progress. An overview of the general database architecture is included below, though this is subject to change over time.

1. Tearfund & Plan Vivo documentation
2. Project photos
3. Meeting notes
4. Project management
5. Monitoring data
6. Budget
7. Community data
8. Mapping
9. Reporting
10. Noticeboards

5 Governance and Administration

5.1 Governance Structure

Describe the project's governance structure and decision-making process with details of how input from project participants is managed and how project participant and other local stakeholder representatives are selected.

Recommended to use [Participatory Toolkit](#) Tool 4: Local Institution Mapping to determine roles of the *Participants* and *Project Coordinator*, and to assist in designing an appropriate project governance structure.

Tearfund will provide high-level project management. Tearfund's role will be to provide funding to the project implementer (Nasituan), along with technical support and capacity building. Tearfund will submit Plan Vivo documentation on behalf of Nasituan. Nasituan will be the on-the-ground implementer responsible for the day-to-day management of the project and working closely with the participating communities. Each community has also established a governance group (project working committee) that will be responsible for the coordination of their specific project interventions and ensuring that all community stakeholders are fairly represented and their needs are considered (Figure 8).

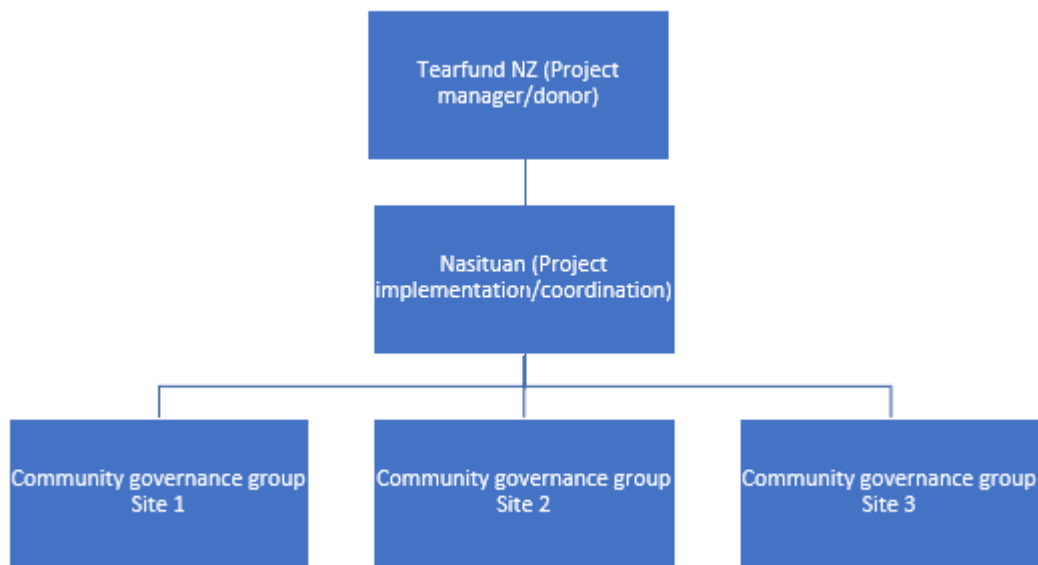


Figure 8: Overall project management structure

Project working committees

Each community has formed a working committee that is responsible for overseeing the project in their area and engaging with community members in project activities throughout the implementation period. In each project site, a community-led work committee was formally established through a structured and participatory process facilitated by Nasituan. Prior to the community visit, awareness-raising was carried out by Nasituan to present the purpose of the visit, introduce the Life and Land project, and invite community members to participate in the consultation process.

Meetings to establish working committees consisted of community members, local chiefs, and the Nasituan team. Nasituan provided an overview of the project's objectives, the anticipated benefits for the community, and the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved. The team also introduced the carbon-related components of the project, which encouraged community members to see their involvement as part of a broader effort to address climate change.

Following this, the community presented nominations for working committee members and then voted on these to elect a project working committee to oversee project implementation and serve as the liaison with Nasituan. Elections were conducted through open nominations followed by a community vote. Once the elected individuals confirmed their willingness to take on these roles, the community agreed on a name for the committee that reflected the identity and aspirations of the group. For example, the Middlebush committee chose the name *Naptan ne Namhiuan*.

Association (the local translation of “Life and Land”). Time was set aside at the end of each meeting for questions and further clarification. Once all questions were addressed and no further comments were raised, the meeting was formally closed.

The committee make-up has been determined by the communities and aims to align traditional governance⁵² and inclusive representation (See Figures 7, 8, and 9). This means including traditional leadership roles, *lani Niko* and *lani Asul*, which are the spokesperson and paramount chief positions responsible for mediating disputes and allocating resources and coordinating custom ceremonies. The *Tupunis* is a chiefly position that is responsible for the management of natural resources and agriculture. The *Tupunis* can play a key role in the development and awareness of local bylaws and practices with regard to planting, harvesting and conservation. To ensure fair representation of the community, representatives from youth, women, and other groups, such as farmers or those with disabilities, will be given a role on the governance committees. These groups have been formalised into locally registered associations with Vanuatu Financial Services Commission so they can operate a bank account and coordinate the distribution of any benefits derived through the project, as well as coordinating paid labour for the implementation of project interventions (such as nurseries, planting, and vine/invasive species management).

Each committee also includes a chairman, treasurer, secretary, as well as vice-roles and general committee members/signatories depending on the community. They are responsible for representing the voice of the community, incorporating participant views into decision-making, and raising any feedback or concerns between annual project meetings, and providing an annual financial update at an annual general meeting, where annual elections for committee positions will also be held. The roles and responsibilities of the working committee members are detailed in the project agreement (Annex 12), along with the meeting minutes (Annex 13) for committee establishment.

⁵² Traditional governance refers to the role of chiefs and the *tubunis* in the management of the affairs concerning each ‘*nakamal*’ or village. Their role is primarily focused on the continuation of cultural traditions, norms and ceremonies, peace-making, resolving internal and external disputes and land and resource management. The overwhelming majority of ni-Vanuatu are subsistence agriculturalists (>80%), living in small rural villages where activities revolve around the land. The constitution guarantees that land cannot be alienated from its “indigenous custom owners,” or traditional owners, and their descendants. More than an economic resource, land is the physical embodiment of the metaphysical link with the past, and identification with a particular tract of land (expressed by the Bislama phrase *man ples*) remains one of the fundamental concepts governing ni-Vanuatu culture

The details and names of each of the working committees are below:

Site 1 (Middlebush) – Naptan ne Namhiuan

A committee has been formed with representatives from the Naliaune and Nawalalmanik tribes to oversee the carbon credit project. The committee is made up of members nominated by each of the four nakamal within the area (2 representatives from each Lamnatu, Iwel, Loweihau, and Lounahuru). This also includes representation for women (of 8 committee members, 4 are women), youth, those with disabilities (1 disability representative), and Tupunis, Iani Niiko/Iaramara.

Site 1 - Middlebush - Naptan ne Namhiuan

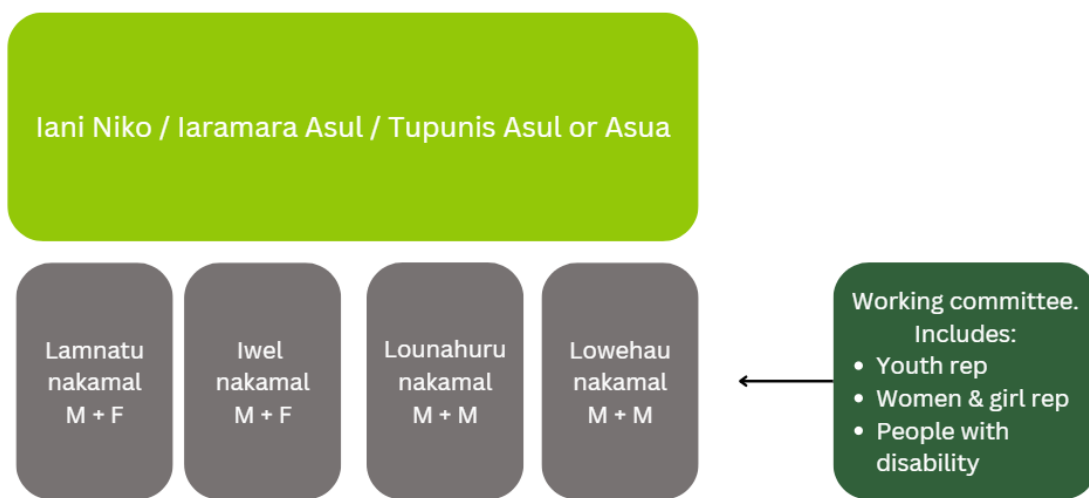


Figure 3: Governance structure at Site 1. M = male committee member, F = female committee member.

Site 2 (Whitegrass) – Napigin

Site 2 directly involves the Lonamilo community (Kawiapne Tribe and Loulipang nakamal). They will participate in activities by changing land use and re-establishing protected areas, planting for restoration and erosion control, and integrating shade and food trees into agricultural land use. The project in this area does not overlap borders with other tribes; the committee that will be formed to manage the project will only include members from the Lonamilo community. 2 of the 6 representatives for the working committee are female.

Site 2 - Whitegrass - Napigin

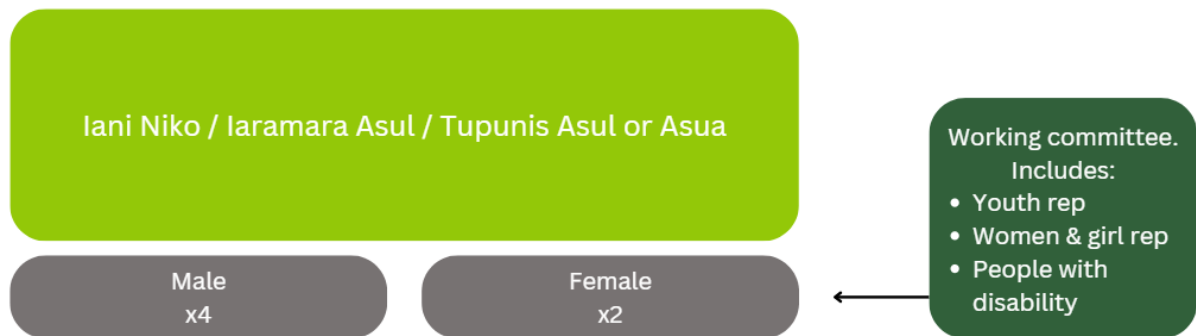


Figure 4: Governance structure at Site 2.

Site 3 (South River) – Omahmurep

Site 3 directly involves the South River community, as well as neighbouring villages including Antiok, UnonOMPI, Rampunmougo, Portrausa and Punpier. The traditional governance system at South River is strong, and the Council of Chiefs has a similar role to the Iani Niko on Tanna Island. A meeting was held with the South River community where the proposed governance structure was presented for feedback and agreed upon. Representatives were then nominated and agreed upon (3 males and 3 females, including those with disabilities, farmers, and church representatives). The aim of the committee is to reinforce Tupunis law around natural resource management, documentation of traditional taboos and norms around seasonal harvest and resource use/protection, and ensure equality of resource distribution and benefits.

Site 3 - South River - Omahmurep

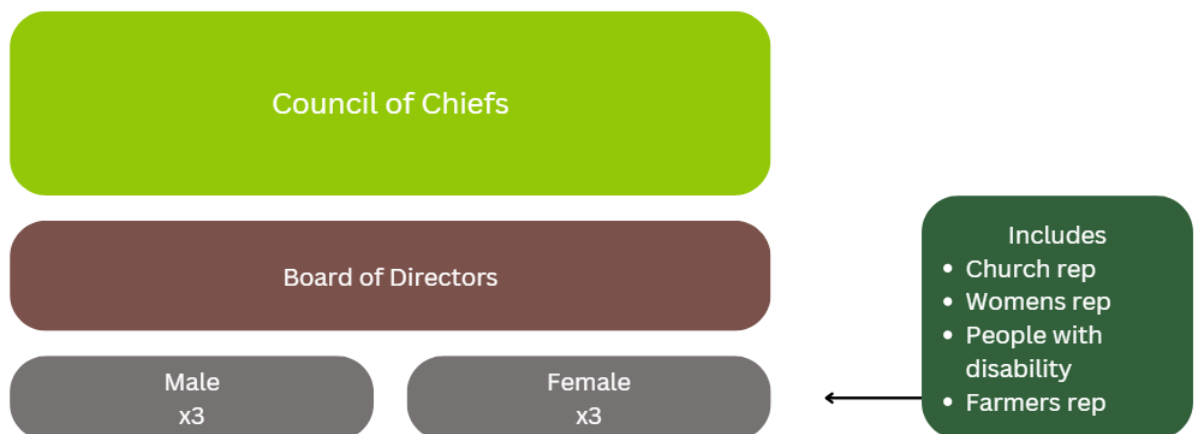


Figure 5. Working committee structure based on traditional governance amongst communities. M = male committee member, F = female committee member.

5.2 Equal Opportunities

Describe the project's procedures and employment policies with details of how unfair discrimination is avoided, potential for elite capture of project benefits is minimised, and opportunities for local people are created.

Nasituan is the implementing partner; they have a Policies and Procedures manual (Appendix I) that states that will not discriminate based on gender, age, ethnicity, religion or social status when employing staff, and that they will maintain a non-discriminatory approach irrespective of religion or tribal background when working with communities. They have also all signed a code of conduct (Appendix H) that outlines expectations to respect the rights and dignity of the families and communities that they work with, fairly empower communities to mobilise their own strategies to end poverty and hardship, and not pursue personal or family gain or advantage in their work.

Local people will also be provided opportunities in the form of paid labour for preparing, planting, and maintaining their land. The opportunity to retain or expand current livelihood activities (e.g. agriculture, livestock, or coffee growing) will be created in increasing the resilience of these activities to tropical cyclones and other impacts of climate change and changing land use.

In each project area, a working committee comprised of community members that represent different groups (e.g. men, women, youth, those with disabilities, and farmers) have been established. As part of their role, they are responsible for representing their communities, including vulnerable groups, and making sure that carbon benefits and job opportunities are equitably shared. A grievance mechanism involving the working committees as the first point of contact has been established, with escalation to Nasituan and Tearfund NZ staff as necessary. This will contribute to the prevention of elite benefit capture, and ensure that project interventions and processes are undertaken in a non-discriminatory manner, and do not unfairly advantage or disadvantage any community members or households.

5.3 Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Complete Table 5.3 to identify all national and international policies, laws and regulations that affect the project, and demonstrate that the project will operate in full compliance with these.

In Annex 15, Include a letter of approval from the authorities with overall responsibility for land management and greenhouse gas emissions assessment within the project region, which states that the project does not violate any national or regional laws or regulations.

Table 5.3: Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Policy, Law or Regulation	Relevance	Compliance Measures
Add a row for each relevant policy, law or regulation that applies to the project	Describe the relevance of the policy, law or regulation	Describe any measures in place to ensure the project is carried out in compliance with relevant polices laws and regulations
Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2016-2030	Aligns with strategic priorities of traditional knowledge (7.3.2), community-based adaptation and disaster risk management (7.4.3), and ecosystem-based approaches (7.4.5)	The project aligns itself with these priorities through activities based on community-designed interventions for climate resilience that leverage the natural environment for solutions (such as riparian planting for stream bank stabilisation, tree planting in garden areas for shade and wind buffering, and a hillside plantings for erosion control). Traditional knowledge around historical land use, ecosystem types, and interactions between land, people, and flora and fauna, has helped

		form specific details around interventions, for example, which areas to do each intervention in (e.g. retaining wild grass species on hillside in Whitegrass rather than reforesting with natural trees, as this is a longstanding natural resource used by communities in house building) or in forming planting plans (e.g. including Namiahul in planting plans due to its key role in providing food for Nawimba, a locally valued native pigeon species).
Vanuatu Agriculture Sector Policy	States “That any NGOs and other civil society groups doing work to assist communities improve their livelihood through agriculture and horticulture will do so to fulfil the policy objectives of this Policy, the Overarching Productive Sector Policy and all other relevant productive sector policies promoting agriculture”	This impacts the project by requiring that “any national, provincial or community project and program envisaged for agriculture and rural development shall have in it components directly related to issues of climate change and risk reduction”. The project fulfils these requirements by incorporating agroforestry, increasing the sustainability of food security, livelihoods, and natural resources, and strengthening disaster and

		climate-resilient agriculture (Activities 1.4-1.17).
Environmental Protection and Conservation Act CAP 283 (2011) (EPC)	States that “Any persons wishing to harvest logs from a forest must enter into a Timber Rights Agreement (TRA) with the landowners and must obtain approval from the Forestry board of Vanuatu (FBV)”	This will not impact the project. Although project interventions will establish new timber harvest areas, these are very small scale and occurring on land with customary ownership rights (not in forest areas). Timber harvest will be regulated through Tupunis, who play a key role in developing and raising awareness of local practices, and community bylaws that dictate the management of natural resources and agriculture, particularly for planting, harvesting, and conservation. Communities have had consultation sessions to form community bylaws, including determining timber use and replanting, and also have a physical walk around the proposed timber harvest areas to agree on boundaries with landowners and local leaders.

5.4 Financial Plan

Describe how the finance required to fund all project operating and management costs will be obtained.

In Annex 16, provide a detailed financial plan with full costing of all project activities listed in Table 3.5, benefit sharing commitments in Section 3.16 and monitoring and verification activities in Annex 13 for the first crediting period; and details of expected revenues from sale of Plan Vivo Certificates and other sources. Detailed financial plans will be reviewed by Plan Vivo and the validator but will not be made publicly available.

This information has been submitted to Plan Vivo and is available upon request.

5.5 Financial Management

Describe the financial procedures in place for managing income and expenditure of finance generated from the sale of Plan Vivo Certificates. Include details of planned audits of project finances by an independent financial auditor certified by a nationally recognised regulatory body.

Recommended to use [Participatory Toolkit](#) Tool 16: Public Audit annually, preferably before the annual project reports are compiled, to improve transparency of project's financial management.

The prioritised spending item for income generated by PVC sales is payment for community labour for project activities. Within each working committee, it is the treasurer's role to acquit the cash that had been used for the activities and provide those acquittals along with a financial report and any receipts obtained over the period of usage to Nasituan. Community committees will have two signatories for bank accounts.

Any additional funding left over from payment to community members for labour will be discussed at annual project meetings, facilitated by the working committee at each site, for a decision on social/environmental reinvestment into the community.

Nasituan has an accountant on staff as well as an independent financial management contractor that will be responsible for assessing and compiling financial reports based on working committee and Nasituan spending. These will be reviewed by the Nasituan Director. Within the financial plan there is provision for an annual independent special purpose audit (in addition to Nasituan's annual audit), which will be shared with Tearfund NZ.

Annexes

Annex	Description	File type	Status
1	Project Boundaries	Folder, attached separately as Annex 1	Live
2	Registration Certificate and Partner Agreements	Included in PDD (registration certificate) and attached separately as Annex 2 (agreement)	Static
3	Initial Project areas	Included in PDD	Live
4	Participatory Design	Word file, attached separately as Appendix 4 in Annex C	Live
5	Initial FPIC	Word file, attached separately as Annex F	Live
6	Carbon Calculations Spreadsheet	Excel file, attached separately as Annex 6	Live
7	Technical Specifications	Word file, attached separately as Annex 7	Live
8	Exclusion List	Word file, attached separately as Annex 8	Static
9	Environmental and Social Screening Report	Included within Annex 8	Static
10	Environmental and Social Assessment Report	Included within Annex 8	Static
11	Land management plans	Included in PDD	Static
12	Project agreements	Included in Annex L	Live
13	Monitoring plan	Word file, attached separately as Annex 13	Live
14	Project database	Included in PDD	Static
15	Letter of Approval	Included in PDD	Static
16	Financial plan	Excel file, attached separately as Annex 16	Live
A	Erromango & Tanna Scoping Trip Report	Word file, attached separately as Annex A	Static

B	Stakeholder Mapping L&L	Word file, attached separately as Annex B	Live
C	Evidence of Community Consultation	Word file, attached separately as Annex C. Includes: Appendix 1 – Summary of Community Consultation Sessions September 2023, Appendix 2 – Summary of Traditional Governance Sessions, Appendix 3 – Workshop Report for Communities March 2024, Appendix 4 – Participatory Design, Appendix 5 – Detailed GPS mapping of project interventions, Appendix 6 – Nasituan Erromango Trip Report September	Live
D	Carbon Credit Briefing Documents	Word file, attached separately as Annex D	Static
E	Gender Analysis	Word file, attached separately as Annex E	Static
F	Free Prior Informed Consent Framework	Word file, attached separately as Annex F	Live
G	Carbon 101 booklet	PDF file, attached separately as Annex G	Static
H	Nasituan Code of Conduct	PDF file, attached separately as Annex H	Static
I	Nasituan HR Policies and Procedures	PDF file, attached separately as Annex I	Static

J	Work plans	Folder, attached separately as Annex J	Live
K	Working committees	Folder, attached separately as Annex K	Static
L	Project Management Booklets	Folder, attached separately as Annex L	Live

Annex 1 - Project Boundaries

Provide geospatial data files for project region and project area boundaries.

South River: 18°56'21.17"S, 169°10'27.42"E

Whitegrass: 19°26'31.15"S, 169°16'48.09"E

Middlebush: 19°27'58.98"S, 169°18'24.89"E

High-resolution geospatial data files have been attached separately and are available on request.

Annex 2 – Registration

Provide a copy of the project coordinator's registration certificate and signed agreements with all partner organisations identified in Section 2.2



CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

THE NASITUAN CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE (INC.)
500264

I hereby certify that THE NASITUAN CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE (INC.) has this day been incorporated under the Charitable Associations (Incorporation) Act [CAP. 140] on the 4th day of May 2017

Registered Office Address:
Lowehau, Lenakel, Tanna, Tafea, Vanuatu

Given under my hand and seal at Port Vila on 8th day of February 2024



Branan Karae
Registrar of Charitable Associations

Certificate generated 8th day of February 2024

CATBR-70718039





Annex 3 - Initial Project Areas

Include a table or spreadsheet that includes (as a minimum) the following information for each project are: i) Name of project participant; ii) Location; iii) Project Intervention(s); iv) Extent of project area; v) Project agreement reference; vi) Start date; vii) Whether or not they meet Project Requirement 2.3.1 and/or 2.3.2.

Name of project area	Middlebush	Whitegrass	South River
Site #	1	2	3
Name of project area	Middlebush	Whitegrass	South River
Island	Tanna	Tanna	Whitegrass
Name of project participant	Middlebush community	Whitegrass community	South River community
Name of Nakamals involved	Louahao, Lounahuru, Iwel, Lamnatu	Lounamilo	South River
Name of Tribes involves	Nawalamanik and Nalione	Kawiapne	South River

Location	Imanaka Stream (see Annex 1)	Whitegrass community (see Annex 1)	South River community (see Annex 1)
Project interventions	2. Reforestation of riparian margins	1a. Sustainable coffee production through (a) conversion of existing gardens; 1b. Sustainable coffee production through (b) clearance of undergrowth. 4. Development of sustainable timber and fuelwood plantations within existing gardens and along roadsides 5. Agroforestry incorporating the planting of fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees around or among gardens 6. Restoration of fallow gardens within the core CCA area. 7. Hillside erosion control via tree planting and protection of wild cane resources 8. Enhancement of cattle grazing/coconut	1b. Sustainable coffee production through (b) clearance of undergrowth. 2. Reforestation of riparian margins 3. Forest enhancement through active restoration 4. Development of sustainable timber and fuelwood plantations within existing gardens and along roadsides 5. Agroforestry incorporating the planting of fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees around or among gardens

		plantation area by planting supplementary shade, fruit, timber and/or nut producing trees 9. Avoided deforestation through establishment and designation of a Community Conservation Area (CCA) to protect existing mature forest	
Extent of project area	8.5ha	367ha	19.5ha
Project agreement reference	1	2	3
Start date	1 Jan 2025	1 Jan 2025	1 Jan 2025
Project requirements met	Yes, both 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 are met	Yes, both 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 are met	Yes, both 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 are met

Annex 4 - Participatory Design

Provide evidence of stakeholder involvement in the participatory design process, such as attendance lists, photographs, and videos.

See Appendix 4 in Annex C (Attached as separate document). This includes Appendix 1 – Summary of Community Consultation Sessions September 2023, Appendix 2 – Summary of Traditional Governance Sessions, Appendix 3 – Workshop Report for Communities March 2024, Appendix 4 – Photo Evidence of Community Consultation To-Date, Appendix 5 – Detailed GPS mapping of project interventions, Appendix 6 – Nasituan Erromango Trip Report September

Annex 5 - Initial FPIC

Provide evidence of key decisions in the initial FPIC process (e.g. signed meeting minutes and attendance lists), and copies of information provided prior to key decisions being made.

See Annex F – Free Prior Informed Consent Framework and also Appendix 5 in Annex C. This includes Appendix 1 – Summary of Community Consultation Sessions September 2023, Appendix 2 – Summary of Traditional Governance Sessions, Appendix 3 – Workshop Report for Communities March 2024, Appendix 4 – Participatory Design, Appendix 5 – Detailed GPS mapping of project interventions, Appendix 6 – Nasituan Erromango Trip Report September

Annex 6 - Carbon Calculations Spreadsheet

Provide details of the calculations for the Carbon Baseline summary and other tables summarising carbon benefits.

Annex 6 is attached separately.

Annex 7 - Technical Specifications

Annex 7 is attached separately.

Annex 8 – Exclusion List

Complete the exclusion list by responding ‘Yes’ if the activity is included in the project and ‘No’ if the project does not include the activity.

Activities	Included in Project (‘Yes’ or ‘No’)
1. Any project activities leading to or requiring the destruction [1] of critical habitat [2] or any forestry project which does not implement a plan for improvement and/or sustainable management.	☐ Yes ☒ No
2. Any activity which could be associated with the significant impairment of areas particularly worthy of protection of cultural heritage (without adequate compensation in accordance with international standards).	☐ Yes ☒ No

3. Trade in animals, plants or any natural products not complying with the provisions of the CITES/Washington convention [3].	☐ Yes ☒ No
4. Destructive fishing methods or drift net fishing with a net more than 2.5 km in length, explosives and/or poison.	☐ Yes ☒ No
5. Large-scale commercial logging operations for use in primary tropical moist forest.	☐ Yes ☒ No
6. Production or trade in wood or other forestry products other than from sustainably managed forests [4].	☐ Yes ☒ No
7. Exploitation of diamond mines and marketing of diamonds where the host country has not adhered to the Kimberley Process.	☐ Yes ☒ No
8. Activities involving harmful or exploitative forms of forced labour [5] or harmful child labour [6].	☐ Yes ☒ No
9. Projects that include involuntary physical displacement, forced eviction and/or economic displacement.	☐ Yes ☒ No
10. Production or activities that encroach on lands owned, or claimed or occupied by Indigenous Peoples, without full documented consent of such peoples.	☐ Yes ☒ No
11. Harmful and unsafe production, use, sale or trade of pharmaceuticals, ozone layer depleting substances [10], and other toxic [11] or dangerous materials such as asbestos or products containing PCB's [12], wildlife or products regulated under CITES, including all products that are banned or are being progressively phased out internationally	☐ Yes ☒ No
12. Production or trade of arms, ammunition, weaponry, controversial weapons, or components thereof (e.g., nuclear weapons and radioactive ammunition, biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction, cluster bombs, anti - personnel mines, enriched uranium).	☐ Yes ☒ No
13. Procurement and use of firearms.	☐ Yes ☒ No
14. Provision of finances to military institutions involved in conservation or security activities.	☐ Yes ☒ No
15. Production or trade of strong alcohol intended for human consumption or other alcoholic beverages (excluding beer and wine).	☐ Yes ☒ No

16. Production or trade of tobacco and other drugs	☐ Yes ☒ No
17. Gambling, gaming establishments, casinos or any equivalent enterprises and undertaking [10].	☐ Yes ☒ No
18. Any trade related to pornography or prostitution.	☐ Yes ☒ No
19. Production or trade in radioactive material. This does not apply to the procurement of medical equipment, quality control equipment or other application for which the radioactive source is insignificant and/or adequately shielded	☐ Yes ☒ No
20. Production or trade in unbound asbestos. This does not apply to the purchase or use of cement linings with bound asbestos and an asbestos content of less than 20%.	☐ Yes ☒ No
21. Production, trade, storage, or transport of significant volumes of hazardous chemicals, or commercial scale usage of hazardous chemicals. Hazardous chemicals include gasoline, kerosene, and other petroleum products.	☐ Yes ☒ No
22. Transboundary trade in wastes, except for those accepted by the Basel Convention and its underlying regulations [11].	☐ Yes ☒ No
23. Any activity leading to an irreversible modification or significant displacement of an element of culturally critical heritage [12].	☐ Yes ☒ No
24. Production and distribution, or investment in, media that are racist, antidemocratic or that advocate discrimination against a part of the population.	☐ Yes ☒ No
25. Projects involving the planting or introduction of invasive species	☐ Yes ☒ No
26. Projects that increase the dependency of primary participants and other stakeholders on fossil fuels.	☐ Yes ☒ No

Notes:

[1] Destruction means (1) the elimination or severe reduction in the integrity of a habitat/area caused by a major and long-term/prolonged change in land-use or water resources or (2) the modification of a habitat such that this habitat's ability to fulfil its function/ role is lost.

[2] The term critical habitat encompasses natural and modified habitats that deserve particular attention. This term includes (1) spaces with high biodiversity value as defined in the IUCN's

classification criteria, including, in particular, habitats required for the survival of endangered species as defined by the IUCN's red list of threatened species or by any national legislation; (2) spaces with a particular importance for endemic species or whose geographical range is limited; (3) critical sites for the survival of migratory species; (4) spaces welcoming a significant number of individuals from congregatory species; (5) spaces presenting unique assemblages of species or containing species which are associated according to key evolution processes or which fulfil key ecosystem services; (6) and territories with socially, economically or culturally significant biodiversity for local communities. Primary forests or high conservation value forests must also be considered as critical habitats

[3] <https://cites.org/eng/disc/text.php>

[4] Sustainably managed forests are forests managed in a way that balances ecological, economic and socio-cultural needs.

[5] Forced labour means all work or service, not voluntarily performed, that is extracted from an individual under threat of force or penalty.

[6] Harmful child labour means the employment of children that is economically exploitive, or is likely to be hazardous to, or to interfere with, the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health, or physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development. Employees must be at least 14 years of age, as defined in the ILO's Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (C138 – Minimum Age Convention, Article 2), unless local laws require compulsory school attendance or a minimum working age. In such circumstances, the highest age requirement must be used.

[7] Any chemical component which reacts with, and destroys, the stratospheric ozone layer leading to the formation of holes in this layer. The Montreal Protocol lists Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), their reduction targets and deadlines for phasing them out

[8] Including substances included under the Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention and WHO "Pharmaceuticals: Restrictions in Use and Availability".

[9] PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) are a group of highly toxic chemical products that may be found in oil-filled electrical transformers, capacitors and switchgear dating from 1950 to 1985.

[10] Any direct financing of these projects or activities involving them (for example, a hotel including a casino). Urban improvement plans which could subsequently incorporate such projects are not affected.

[11] Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their disposal (1989).

[12] "Critical cultural heritage" is considered as any heritage element recognised internationally or nationally as being of historical, social and/or cultural interest.

Annex 9 – Environmental and Social Screening

Complete the template below/copy in from approved PIN with details of the environmental and social screening:

See PIN template for context of the assessment and instructions on filling it out.

SECTION A: PROJECT INFORMATION	
Project title:	Life & Land Project
Project coordinator:	Tearfund New Zealand
Country:	Vanuatu
Geography/ landscape:	Erromango and Tanna, Vanuatu
Project summary:	<i><Provide a short summary of the project, including aim and objectives, expected outcomes, activities, the main project sites, and project partners></i> The project involves improved land management, protection, and restoration of 360 hectares in Whitegrass (319 hectares) and Middlebush (6.3 hectares) on Tanna Island and South River (35 hectares) on Erromango Island in Vanuatu. This will involve 118 households with a total population of 649, with possible expansion to include 142 households of 718 individuals in Middlebush if more funding is secured. Communities in the project area are subsistence farmers whose livelihoods are vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The project will strengthen their capacity to adapt to these changes through the project interventions as well as through the benefits from the carbon project.

Name and role of project coordinator staff member filling this questionnaire:	The questionnaire was filled in by the Tearfund New Zealand (TFNZ) team and the main contacts for this project are: • Olivia Bird – TFNZ programme specialist • Dr Clint Cameroon – TFNZ technical consultant • Dr Tim Martin – TFNZ technical consultant • Andrew Finlay – TFNZ grants manager
Confirm that the Plan Vivo Exclusion List is appended to this E&S questionnaire:	<Yes/no/to be completed> YES

SECTION B: POTENTIAL E&S RISKS AND IMPACTS				
Topic	Question	Project coordinator response	E&S reviewer comments	Project coordinator response to E&S review – updates for PDD
E&S Risks and Impacts				
Vulnerable Groups	Are there vulnerable or disadvantaged groups or individuals, including people with disabilities (consider also landless groups, lower income groups less able to cope with livelihood shocks/ stresses) in the	<Project coordinator includes responses here> No landless farmers have been identified. Within the custom system land is not 'owned' as such, but rather the chief	<E&S reviewer includes comments here> OK - thank you for this explanation, we look forward to reviewing the	Working committees have been established with reps for PWDs. The costed work plan has accounted for benefit sharing to alternative, inclusive forms for labour for PWD/women that are

	project area, and are their livelihood conditions well understood by the project?	will allocate land use rights which are largely kept within families. Even if there was a farmer living within a community that did not have customary rights, their welfare would still fall under the chief in accordance with the traditional system – so they would be allocated land for growing crops and any benefit through carbon sales would be distributed by the governance committees under the same ethos. Benefits are most likely to be in the form of paid labour for maintenance activities and support or in investing in community projects that will have a communal benefit. However exact benefit sharing mechanisms are still to be finalised in further consultations with communities. People with disabilities have been identified within the project sites. Individual consultation will be undertaken to understand particular needs and challenges for example in Middlebush	subsequent management plan for these identified risks at PDD stage.	not clearing land/planting, e.g. cooking or filling polybags (See Workplans in Annex J). Nasituan staff have individually met with landowners in the Imanaka project area to map appropriate project boundaries household-by-household (included in Annex C)
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		where gardens may need to be moved for riparian planting - flexibility may be needed on the planting boundary or alternative gardening sites that maintain accessibility. Committees will have a persons with disabilities (PWD) rep within the structure. Care will be taken to ensure there are opportunities for PWDs. For example, while some physical disabilities/age may exclude some people from physical labour such as vine clearance, they may be part of support crews (such as those cooking) and this contribution should be recognised too within the paid labour benefit.		
	Is there a risk that project activities disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, due to their vulnerability status?	There is some risk but this can be mitigated through consultation. As mentioned above changes to land use and bylaws need to be considered carefully so that vulnerable groups such as PWDs do not have their access to resources made more difficult.	OK – thank you, as above.	NA

		Vulnerable groups and individuals continue to be identified (where appropriate) and their needs considered in project design and implementation.		
	Is there a risk that the project discriminates against vulnerable groups, for example regarding access to project services or benefits and decision-making?	Risk is low and will be managed through robust community consultation, ongoing monitoring and representation on governance groups. Historically women and young people have less of a voice in decision making, however, disaggregated focus groups and focus on women and youth representation are intended to help mitigate this risk.	OK – a description of this consultation is included in the PIN. Any findings from continued consultation should be included in the PDD including the results from discussions with the disaggregated focus groups and how their input is included in the project.	Refer to Table 1, Appendix 1, Annex C: gender/age disaggregated focus group responses for desired changes within the community that informed project activities, as well as supporting figures from community workshops that show different responses by gendered focus group (e.g. Figures 3-11 that show different maps and question responses)
E&S reviewer conclusions <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 1, the overall design of the project and the ongoing consultations with the participants and vulnerable groups mean this risk is unlikely to occur.</i> <i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 3, if this risk were to occur it would affect a significant amount of people, but project design shows extensive awareness of risk and impacts making it avoidable.</i> <i>Risk significance: Low</i>				

Gender equality	Is there a risk of adverse gender impacts due to the project/ project activities, including, for example, discrimination or creation/exacerbation or perpetuation of gender-related inequalities?	No, this project is taking steps to increase gender equality through the creation of leadership positions. This needs to be dealt with sensitively to ensure that there is buy-in from the whole community including from traditional leaders. Gender analysis has been conducted as part of the funding application to MFAT for this project.	OK – an update on the progress of conversations with the community and traditional leaders on gender inclusion should be included at PDD stage.	All working committee members have completed an orientation that included a gender and social inclusion training element. Gender and social inclusion training for local leaders and community members has also been included in the workplans for the three sites (included in Annex J).
	Is there a risk that project activities will result in adverse impacts on the situation of women or girls, including their rights and livelihoods? Consider for example where access restrictions disproportionately affect women and girls due to their roles and positions in accessing environmental goods and services?	No. The specific needs and views of women and girls has been incorporated into project design. This has included existing land and resource use, proposed changes and what species/resources women would specifically like to access.	OK – thanks for including this description in the PIN, a detailed description of this specific project design and the project's plans for managing this risk should be included at PDD stage.	Please refer to the E&S Management Plan table below
	Is there a risk that project activities could cause or contribute to gender-	No. The local partner (Nasituan) has also hired a gender specialist to work with	OK	NA

	based violence, including risks of sexual exploitation, sexual abuse or sexual harassment (SEAH)? Consider partner and collaborating partner organizations and policies they have in place. Please describe.	governance committees on ensuring women's views are captured in design and implementation and that women are girls are benefiting equally as well as strengthening male advocacy for gender equality. The role also links with other partner organisations such as INGO's and the women's crisis centre so that referral pathways are created should issues arise. Nasituan has safeguarding and protection policies in place which cover child protection and PSEAH.		
<i>E&S reviewer conclusions</i> <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 3, the project is aware of the risk from the ongoing consultations and the hiring of a gender specialist by the Nasituan team for the project is encouraging. However, due to the context of the project area/region this risk will always be present and will require constant monitoring and managing.</i> <i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 3, if this risk were to occur it would affect a significant amount of people.</i> <i>Risk significance: Moderate</i>				
Human Rights	Is there a risk that the project prevents peoples from fulfilling their economic or social rights, such as the right to life, the right to self-determination, cultural survival,	No, the project is designed to enhance these rights.	OK	NA

	health, work, water and adequate standard of living?			
	Is there a risk that the project prevents peoples from enjoying their procedural rights, for example through exclusion of individuals or groups from participating in decisions affecting them?	No, the small scale of the project makes individual consultation both possible and necessary. There is some risk that the community governance committees and cultural emphasis on consensus may not represent everybody's views. Ongoing consultation, awareness and disputes mechanisms will help mitigate this.	OK	NA
	Are you aware of any severe human rights violations linked to project partners in the last 5 years?	No, Tearfund has been working with local partner Nasituan since 2011 and is not aware of any violations.	OK	NA
<i>E&S reviewer conclusions</i> <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 1, given the project context and design of mitigation provisions, this risk is very unlikely to occur.</i> <i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 3, if this risk were to occur it would affect a significant amount of people, but impact is predictable and can be avoided.</i> <i>Risk significance: Low</i>				
Community, Health, Safety & Security	Is there a risk of exacerbating existing social and stakeholder conflicts through the implementation of project activities? Consider for example	No, care has been taken to choose project sites that do not have disputes or overlapping claims. Where tribes are working together there is a strong	OK	NA

	existing conflicts over land or natural resources, between communities and the state.	history of cooperation and strong inter-tribal connections.		
	Does the project provide support (technical, material, financial) to law enforcement activities? Consider support to government agencies and to Community Rangers or members conducting monitoring and patrolling. If so, is there a risk that these activities will harm communities or personnel involved in monitoring and patrolling?	No, the project does not provide direct support to any of these groups. There may be opportunities for knowledge sharing with some rangers or government departments (e.g. Department of Forestry), but these groups have positive relationships with the communities that the project is expected to strengthen.	OK	NA
	Are there any other activities that could adversely affect community health and safety? Consider, for example, exacerbating human-wildlife conflict, affecting provisioning ecosystem services, and transmission of diseases.	Low risk: vine removal, replanting, and monitoring activities will be moderately physically demanding work. This risk will be mitigated by establishing adequate breaks and meeting legal standards around labour.	OK	NA
E&S reviewer conclusions <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 1, given the project context and design of mitigation provisions, this risk is very unlikely to occur.</i>				

Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 3, if this risk were to occur it would affect a significant amount of people, but impact is predictable and can be avoided.

Risk significance: Low

Labour and working conditions	Is there a risk that the project, including project partners, would lead to working conditions for project workers that are not aligned with national labour laws or the International Labor Organization's (ILO) Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (discriminatory working conditions, lack of equal opportunity, lack of clear employment terms, failure to prevent harassment or exploitation, failure to ensure freedom of association etc.)?	Low risk of downstream labour issues. E.g. casual labour being paid for by community governance groups not meeting legal standards. Training will be provided to governance groups on obligations under Vanuatu law as well as being inclusive in labour/benefit sharing	OK - a description of this training should be included at PDD stage.	The Project Management documents (attached as Annex L) includes a labour protocol as follows: To address labour risks, the following guidelines will apply when engaging community members as casual labourers for project activities to support a fair, safe, and inclusive work environment for all community members: Community members will be hired on a casual, project-specific, and temporary basis and will not be considered formal employees. As such, employee benefits dictated by Vanuatu Employment Law, such as annual, maternity, or
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				sick leave, do not apply. Wages will not be below the minimum wage and working hours will not exceed 8 hours a day or 44 hours a week or 6 days a week (excluding breaks). Casual labour opportunities will be fair and equitable hiring practices, and not discrimination based on gender, age, ethnicity, disability, or religion. Casual labour opportunities for youth will not occur during normal school hours, or in a way that otherwise interferes with their education or wellbeing. Additionally, Nasituan and working committees will take measures to ensure safe and suitable working conditions. Casual labourers will have access to clear channels for reporting
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				any concerns or grievances related to their engagement. Annex J (workplan) also includes provisions for alternate forms of labour, such as cooking, that will help provide equitable opportunities for women and people with disabilities.
	Is there an occupational health and safety risk to project workers while completing project activities?	Low risk: vine removal, replanting, and monitoring activities will be moderately physically demanding work. This risk will be mitigated by establishing adequate breaks and meeting legal standards around labour.	OK	NA
	Is there a risk that the project supports or is linked to forced labour, harmful child labour, or any other damaging forms of labour?	Low risk. Health and safety of those undertaking labour roles will need to be considered/supported as needed.	OK	NA
E&S reviewer conclusions <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 1, given the project context and design, this risk is very unlikely to occur.</i>				

Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 2, if this risk were to occur it would affect a small amount of people and can be easily avoided and mitigated.

Risk significance: Low

Resource efficiency, pollution, wastes, chemicals and GHG emissions	Is there a risk that project activities might lead to releasing pollutants to the environment, cause significant amounts of waste or hazardous waste or materials?	There is a small risk of hydrocarbon contamination from the use of boats.	OK	NA
	Is there a risk that the project will lead to significant consumption of energy, water, or other resources, or lead to significant increases of greenhouse gases?	No – project related GHG emissions are considered to be de minimis in relation to GHG emissions reductions and removals resultant from restoration activities. This risk will also be mitigated by offsetting GHG emissions from any flights upon purchase.	OK	NA

E&S reviewer conclusions

Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 1, given the project context and design, this risk is very unlikely to occur.

Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 1, if this risk were to occur it would affect a very small number of people.

Risk significance: Low

Access restrictions and livelihoods	Will the project include activities that could restrict peoples' access to land or natural resources where they have recognised rights (customary, and legal)? Consider	A key requirement will be to develop a sustainable management plan under the project which enables communities to access and utilise resources, including fuelwood and timber, from restored	OK – thank you for this explanation at PIN stage. Further details, potential management plans, and participatory maps	Project interventions include a sustainable timber and fuelwood plantation in Site 2 and 3 where sustainable access to wood for housing and fuel is an
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	projects that introduce new access restrictions (e.g. creation of a community forest), reinforce existing access restrictions (e.g. improve management effectiveness and patrolling of a community forest), or alter the way that land and natural resource access restrictions are decided (e.g. through introducing formal management such as co-management).	areas whilst ensuring ‘permanence’ for carbon accounting purposes. Small amounts of land in Site 1 (Middlebush) will be converted from open garden for riparian planting. This will be managed at a community and individual level so that stakeholders have alternate spaces for gardens and food security is not affected (individual gardens are generally <0.25ha). The riparian planting boundary will be defined and agreed by communities and individual stakeholders so that specific circumstances can be taken into account. While 20m either side of the creek is being proposed, this will be wider or narrower at different points to account for individual circumstances.	should be included at PDD stage.	important part of meeting project outcomes. Project riparian areas in site 1 have been individually mapped with consultation from each household as appropriate to their individual circumstances (see Annex C)
	Is there a risk that the access restrictions introduced /reinforced/alterd by the project will negatively affect peoples’ livelihoods?	No, any livelihood activities (such as logging) will be offset where these need to be moved (e.g. through the creation of timber plantations. The project is expected to increase livelihoods through	OK – thank you for this explanation.	NA

		coffee cultivation and more sustainable land use. A growing demographic of young people also increases the need for income opportunities, which the project will help provide.		
	Have strategies to avoid, minimise and compensate for these negative impacts been identified and planned?	Yes, see above. While specific sites for timber harvest are still being finalised, the need to mitigate potential negative impacts has been recognised and are being accounted for.	OK	NA
<i>E&S reviewer conclusions</i> <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 1, given the project context and design of mitigation provisions, this risk is very unlikely to occur.</i> <i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 3, if this risk were to occur it would affect a significant amount of people, but impact is predictable and can be avoided as can be seen in the project design.</i> <i>Risk significance: Low</i>				
Cultural heritage	Is the Project Area officially designated or proposed as a cultural site, including international and national designations?	No.	OK	NA
	Does the project site potentially include important physical cultural resources, including burial sites and	To be determined. Community consultations will identify any cultural sites and communities will be involved in	OK - findings from these consultations should be included at PDD stage.	A Tabu area (a culturally significant and sacred community site) has been identified through

	monuments, or natural features or resources of cultural significance (e.g. sacred sites and species, ceremonial areas) and is there risk that the project will negatively impact this cultural heritage?	developing any land management plans so the risk of unintentionally negatively impacting any important sites or species is low.		community consultation, and can be seen in the Site 2 project area map (Figure 4) in section 1.2.1 in the Project Boundaries section.
	Is there a risk that the project will negatively impact intangible cultural heritage? Consider for example cultural practices, social and cultural norms in relation to land and natural resources.	No, the project is intended to enhance traditional resource management practices and customary governance.	OK	NA
<i>E&S reviewer conclusions</i> <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 1, the project design and ongoing consultations with participants means this risk is negligible.</i> <i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 2, if this risk were to occur it would affect a fair amount of people, but impact is predictable and can be avoided based on ongoing consultations.</i> <i>Risk significance: Low</i>				
Indigenous Peoples	Are there Indigenous Peoples living within the Project Area, using the land or natural resources within the project area, or with claims to land or territory within the Project Area?	Yes, the communities of South River, Whitegrass and Middlebush all utilise resources within the project's area.	OK	NA

	Is there a risk that the project negatively affects Indigenous Peoples through economic displacement, negatively affects their rights (including right to FPIC), their self- determination, or any other social or cultural impacts?	Low risk of negative social impacts. The chief in South River has suggested involving neighbouring communities in some activities such as providing paid labour, this will help to maintain positive relationships between communities and avoid neighbouring communities feeling 'left out'.	OK	NA
	Is there a risk that there is inadequate consultation of Indigenous Peoples, and/or that the project does not seek the FPIC of Indigenous Peoples, for example leading to lack of benefits or inappropriate activities?	Consultation is ongoing and care is being taken to ensure that information is communicated transparently, and all stakeholders are identified and talked to (both in community workshops and follow up meetings/surveys). Completion of the FPIC Framework (Annex F) is in progress and will continue to be developed as consultation continues.	OK – final findings of the FPIC Framework should be included in the PDD.	Please refer to the updated FPIC in Annex 5
<i>E&S reviewer conclusions</i> <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 3, where project consultations and design processes mitigate this risk, the presence of indigenous peoples in the project area means that this risk remains within the project and will require management.</i> <i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 3, if this risk should occur it would affect a significant number of people.</i> <i>Risk significance: Moderate</i>				

Biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources	Is there a risk that project activities will cause adverse impacts on biodiversity (both in areas of high biodiversity value, and outside of these areas) or the functioning of ecosystems? Consider issues such as the use of pesticides, construction, fencing, disturbance, etc.	No, focus is on enhancing biodiversity and restoring function to ecosystems. The project will cause disturbance in areas where vine removal needs to be undertaken, but this will be done mechanically (without use of pesticides). This is expected to encourage ecosystem function and enhance biodiversity outcomes. Fencing to protect forest areas/ areas where reforestation is taking place from livestock damage will also enhance ecosystem function.	OK	NA
	Is there a risk that the project will introduce non-native species or invasive species?	No. Non-native species such as coffee are already present at the project sites, and reforestation planting will focus on indigenous tree species and those already used in local food systems	OK	NA
	Is there a risk that the project will lead to the unsustainable use of natural resources? Consider for example projects promoting value chains and natural resource-based livelihoods.	No. The project is focusing on how restoration activities can sustainably enhance areas already being used for cultivation of cash and food crops.	OK	NA

E&S reviewer conclusions

Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 1, given the project context and design, this risk is negligible

Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 1, the project context means this risk is negligible.

Risk significance: Low

Land tenure conflicts	Has the land tenure and use rights in the project area been assessed and understood?	Yes. Land ownership and use rights are managed through customary land ownership.	OK	NA
	Is there a risk that project activities will exacerbate any existing land tenure conflicts, or lead to land tenure or use right conflicts?	Low risk. There is low potential for conflict in Middlebush where the proposed riparian buffer area occasionally intersects with a portion of a particular household's land. This will be mitigated by taking a highly nuanced approach, individual households will be consulted tailoring the project area accordingly in response.	OK – updates on this potential conflict need to be included in the PDD.	There is no longer a concern of potential disputes here. During the visit by TFNZ to Tanna in August 2024, TFNZ and NT staff met with the local leaders of the 5 nakamals in this project area to clarify boundaries and project governance mechanisms. Since, a working committee with representatives from each of the 5 nakamals has been established, and individual land owners have been consulted. Nasituan staff have met with each landowner and mapped the project boundaries with a GPS household

				by household (included in Annex C). However, there are new potentials for land disputes in the Whitegrass area, which are detailed in section 2.1.3
<i>E&S reviewer conclusions</i> <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 3, project consultations and design processes mitigate this risk, the presence of these households in the buffer area means that this risk remains within the project and will require management.</i> <i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 2, if this risk were to occur it would affect a small amount of people.</i> <i>Risk significance: Moderate</i>				
Risk of not accounting for climate change	Have trends in climate variability in the project areas been assessed and understood?	Yes. Particular consideration has been given to the increased likelihood of drought and floods, temperature increases, sea level rise, and increasing intensity and frequency of cyclones. In Vanuatu, temperatures are predicted to increase; while temperatures are likely to increase a rate slightly lower than the global average, the impact of warmer temperatures is still significant due to the high sensitivity to warming in the tropics. Rainfall projections are variable depending on the direction that the	OK – thank you for this high level of consideration and detail. An E&S assessment and Management Plan will be required at PDD stage, as well as consistent monitoring throughout the project's lifetime.	Please find the E&S Assessment and Management Plan table below.

		South Pacific Convergence Zone goes. If it moves south, the climate will be much drier, with much wetter conditions being predicted if it moves north. Communities are noticing variations in rainfall already; in Whitegrass, coffee crops beginning to rot in some places due to waterlogging/flooding from heavy rainfall. Sea level rise is another climate issue that is predicted to have a high impact on Vanuatu, this may have a larger impact on the coastal South River community (salinification of soils, flooding, etc.), though further consultation on the impacts of sea level rise specifically needs to be undertaken. Cyclones are increasing in intensity, this will have an impact in all of the project areas such as damaging crops, flooding, landslides, and damaging infrastructure.		
	Has the climate vulnerability of communities and particular social	Yes, initial consultation on this has been undertaken. Communities mentioned climate change as a driver of changing	OK	NA

	groups been assessed and understood?	seasonality and crop planting times. For example, in South River, the community members in the women's discussion group reported soils being wetter than they used to be due to climate change.		
	Is there a risk that climate variability and changes might influence the effectiveness of project activities (e.g. undermine project-supported livelihood activities) or increase community exposure to climate variation and hazards? Consider floods, droughts, wildfires, landslides, cyclones, etc.	Yes, Vanuatu has high exposure to natural hazards and increasing seasonal variability. The project will assume a major cyclone within the next 5 years which could cause setbacks to forest restoration timber and cash crops. In the medium to long-term project interventions are designed to help mitigate the risks of exposure to extreme weather events and associated exposure to landslides droughts, erosion and wind damage. The project is not expected to increase exposure in any way.	OK	NA
<i>E&S reviewer conclusions</i> <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 2, given the project context this risk could occur, but appropriate preparations and mitigation measures are in place and project interventions have been designed to prepare for this.</i>				

Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 3, if this risk were to occur it would likely affect the project area and participants and will have a significant negative impact on ongoing project activities.

Risk significance: Low

Other – e.g. cumulative impacts	Is there a risk that the project will contribute cumulatively to existing environmental or social risks or impacts, for example through introducing new access restrictions in a landscape with existing restrictions and limited land availability?	Low risk in Middlebush where the population is high compared to land availability. As mentioned above, food security will be considered in riparian planting boundaries and any adjustments will be made to ensure that there are no negative impacts on food security	OK	NA
	Are there any other environmental and social risks worthy of note that are not covered by the topics and questions above?	No.	OK	NA

E&S reviewer conclusions

Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 1, no cumulative impact risk

Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 1, no cumulative impact risk

Risk significance: Low

SECTION C: SAFEGUARD PROVISIONS				
Stakeholder engagement: requirements 2.1.1-2.1.3	Has a stakeholder analysis been conducted that has identified all stakeholders that could influence or be affected by the project, or is this still to be completed? Please describe.	Yes, full list provided in Annex B. Stakeholders are in various stages of engagement, for examples, community feedback and participatory exercise are ongoing. Formation, public notification, and finalisation of a formal agreement will be undertaken by Nasituan with the communities but is not yet complete.	OK – as these consultations are completed, the final findings should be included in the PDD.	Multiple rounds of community consultation have taken place since PIN submission; the findings of these are detailed in PDD section 2.5 and 2.6.3.
	Are the local community and Indigenous Peoples statutory or customary rights to land or resources within the project area already clear and documented, or is further assessment required? Please describe.	Yes, the resources that the project deals with (land and forests) are already clearly outlined as coming under customary land ownership by the Planted Forest Act No. 7 of 2015. No further assessment is required.	OK	NA
	Are local governance structures and decision-making processes described and understood (including details of the involvement of women and marginalised or vulnerable	Yes, local governance structures are understood. Proposed structures that incorporate traditional governance and inclusion have been developed in consultation sessions. These are yet to be formalised.	OK – a description of this governance structure is required in the PDD.	Please refer to Section 2.5.2 in the PDD. Each site has established its own inclusive working committee (including representatives for women, youth, and those

	groups), or is further assessment required? Please describe.			with disabilities) to manage the project within local governance structures in collaboration with local leaders and community members.
	Are past or ongoing disputes over land or resources in the project area known and documented, or is there need for further assessment? Please describe.	Yes, the local partner Nasituan has a good understanding of past disputes. There is no need for further assessment at this stage.	OK	NA
Stakeholder consultation: requirements 2.5.1 and 2.5.2	Does the project have a Stakeholder Engagement Plan with clear measures to engage Vulnerable Groups, or is this plan still to be developed? Please describe.	Yes, see Annex B, which outlines relevant stakeholders (including provisions for those with disabilities), the engagement process, and follow up measures.	OK	NA
	Has the Project Coordinator informed all stakeholders of the project, through providing relevant project information in an accessible format, or does this still	Yes, all key stakeholders have been informed. Some secondary stakeholders will be engaged in the next stage of the project (e.g. before submission of the PDD). Scoping report and draft versions	OK	NA

	need to be completed? Please describe.	of the PIN have been sent to relevant stakeholders. Face to face and zoom meetings have also been conducted as needed.		
Free, Prior and Informed Consent: requirements 2.6.1-2.6.4	Has the project analysed and understood national and international requirements for Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)? Please describe.	In progress. A summary framework has been compiled in Annex E.	OK	NA
	Has the project identified potential FPIC rightsholders and potential representatives in local communities and among Indigenous Peoples, or is this still to be completed? Please describe.	The project is working with indigenous people in the local communities. There are no secondary rights holders within the project areas.	OK	NA
	Has the project worked with rightsholders and representatives of local communities and Indigenous Peoples to understand the local decision-making process and timeline (ensuring involvement of women and	Yes, this has been started. There has been a preliminary scoping visit with two follow up site visits where community workshops were held. Some of the areas covered in these workshops have been timelines and governance structures and how the creation of bylaws will work (being community driven). Governance	OK	NA

	vulnerable groups), or is this still to be completed? Please describe.	structures and benefit sharing mechanisms are yet to be formalised although these have been discussed and information given on the roles, possible benefits to inform these decisions. Focus groups have been broken up into men and women where possible in order for equal opportunity to express ideas. People with disabilities have also been present in these discussions although specific follow is needed with both PWD societies and individuals as these people are often less represented in group discussions.		
	Has the project sought consent from communities to 'consider the proposed project', and if so, where is this in principle consent documented? Please describe.	Communities have been asked at consultation workshops if they are interested and willing to proceed. Consensus has been expressed verbally through community leaders after group discussions. The Middlebush site performed a custom ceremony to confirm involvement in the activity.	OK	Refer to PDD section 3.17. Working committees will play a key role in managing grievances and feedback at each site, and an escalation framework has been established. Representatives for each step of

		Photos were taken at this event (Annex C).		the grievance escalation process (at working committee, Nasituan, and Tearfund NZ levels) will be identified before the project start date in 2025.
Grievance Redress Mechanism: requirements 3.16.1	Does the project already have a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), or is this still to be established? Please describe.	Still to be established.	OK – a description of this mechanism is required in the PDD.	NA
<i>E&S reviewer conclusions for safeguard provisions</i> <i>Are the project Safeguard Provisions adequately addressed, or to be adequately addressed during the project design phase?</i> YES <i>What additional actions need to be conducted during the project design phase?</i> • Grievance redress mechanism • Information on formalisation of local governance structures • Final results from any outstanding community consultation including details on final FPIC Framework, potential land tenure conflict and results on female leadership as discussed with the traditional leadership. <i>Any other comments?</i> The updated E&S screening was very thorough and had enough information to assess the risk of the project at this stage.				

SECTION D: SCREENING REPORT (NOT TO BE COMPLETED BY PROJECT: FOR USE OF PV E&S REVIEWER)																												
Name of E&S reviewer	Charlegne Rambanapasi																											
Date of E&S screening:	07/06/2024																											
Project risk rating:	<i>Low – project is well-equipped to manage the risks identified.</i>																											
Principle risks and impacts	<i>Key risk areas in this project are social risks including gender equality, risks to indigenous peoples, land tenure conflicts and environmental risks due to the effects of climate change (increased likelihood of drought and floods as well as predicted cyclone activity during the project period).</i> <i>The project PIN has sufficient evidence of previous and ongoing community consultations, and how the identified risks are being managed. The project will need to include a grievance redressal mechanism as well as a full description of the local governance structure at PDD stage for a full assessment of the social risks especially pertaining to gender equality.</i> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>E&S topic/ risk area</th> <th>Likelihood (1-5)</th> <th>Magnitude (1-5)</th> <th>Significance (low, moderate, severe, high)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Vulnerable Groups</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>Low</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gender equality</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>Moderate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Human Rights</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>Low</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community, Health, Safety & Security</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>Low</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Labour and working conditions</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>Low</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				E&S topic/ risk area	Likelihood (1-5)	Magnitude (1-5)	Significance (low, moderate, severe, high)	Vulnerable Groups	1	3	Low	Gender equality	3	3	Moderate	Human Rights	1	3	Low	Community, Health, Safety & Security	1	3	Low	Labour and working conditions	1	2	Low
E&S topic/ risk area	Likelihood (1-5)	Magnitude (1-5)	Significance (low, moderate, severe, high)																									
Vulnerable Groups	1	3	Low																									
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Human Rights	1	3	Low																									
Community, Health, Safety & Security	1	3	Low																									
Labour and working conditions	1	2	Low																									

	Resource efficiency, pollution, wastes, chemicals and GHG emissions	1	1	Low
	Access restrictions and livelihoods	1	3	Low
	Cultural heritage	1	2	Low
	Indigenous Peoples	3	3	Moderate
	Biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources	1	1	Low
	Land tenure conflicts	3	2	Moderate
	Risk of not accounting for climate change	2	3	Moderate
	Risk of digital tool use	1	1	Low
	Other – e.g. cumulative impacts	1	3	Low
<i>E&S assessment required</i>	<i>The project developers should conduct a field-based E&S risk assessment alongside the development of the PDD and overall project design. Focus should be on the risks assigned as ‘moderate’ in the above table. Primary focus on:</i> <i>Gender equality – remaining aware of power structures which could develop which could negatively impact women in the project area and being aware of negative effects like elite capture and access to grievance mechanisms etc.</i> <i>Any land or access conflicts which could emerge as land-use changes as a result of project activities, including updates on ongoing consultations regarding potential conflict.</i> <i>Maintaining and upholding the rights of all the different indigenous groups in the project and ensuring their access to community consultation and engagement sessions to impact on project design and access the project’s feedback mechanisms.</i>			

	Managing the risk to project activities and interventions brought about by climate change from increased likelihood of drought and floods as well as cyclone activity in the project region.
Likely safeguard plans required	The following safeguard measures should be included in the PDD: - Grievance redressal mechanism - Results of ongoing community consultations on gender equality and local governance through stakeholder engagement and analysis An environmental and social risk assessment, resulting in the production of an environmental and social risk management plan (ESMP), focussing on the mitigation and management of the risks assigned as 'moderate' above.

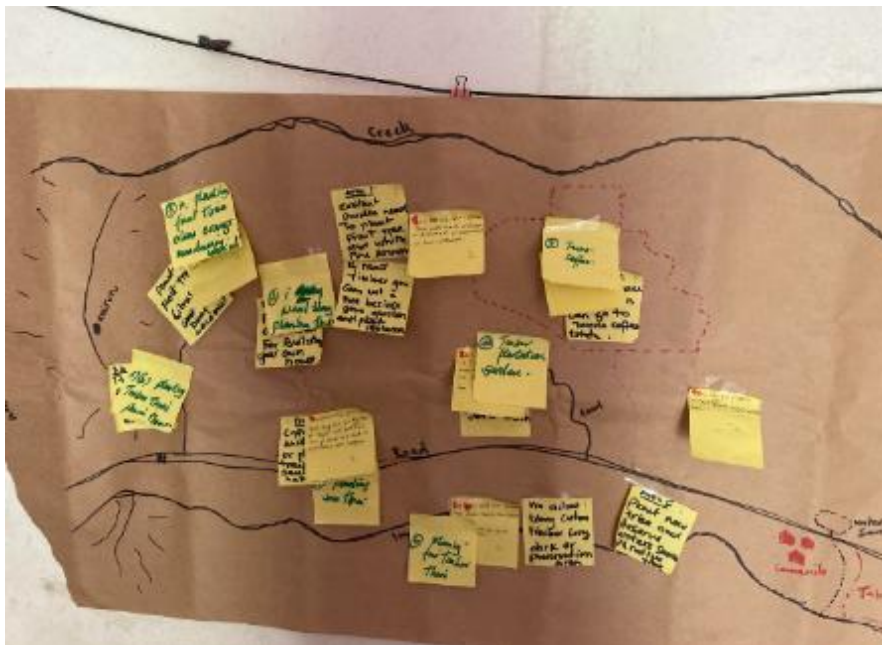
Annex 10 – Environmental and Social Assessment Report

Annex 10 is attached separately and available upon request.

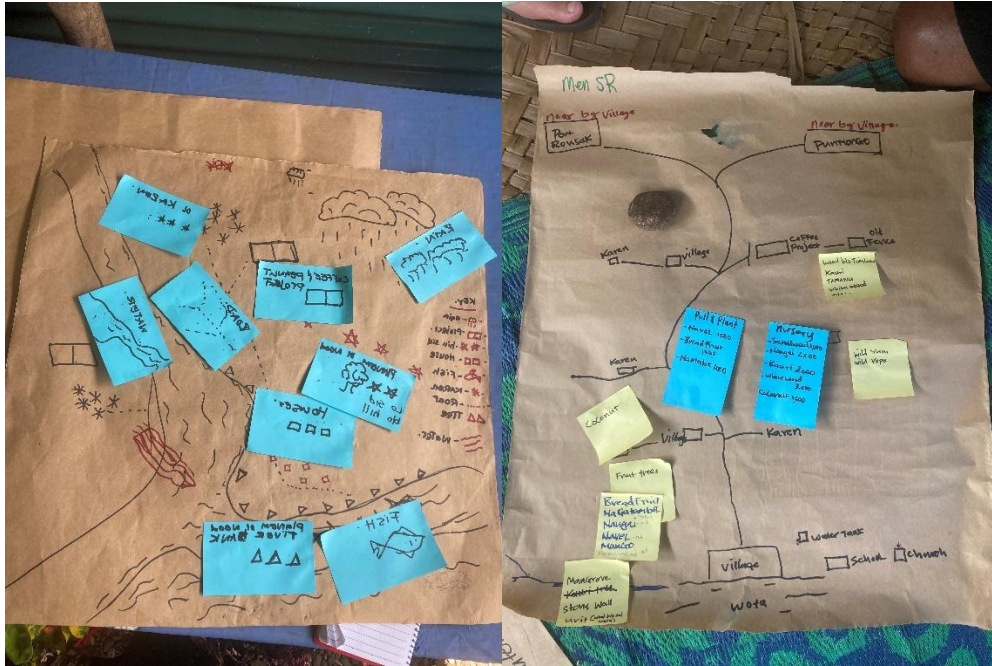
Annex 11 – Land Management Plan



Participatory map: Middlebush community



Participatory map: Whitegrass community



Participatory map: South River community

Annex 12 – Project Agreements

Attached separately.

Annex 13 – Monitoring Plan

Attached separately.

Annex 14 – Project Database

 Tearfund & Plan Vivo documentation

 Project photos

 Meeting notes

 Project management

 Monitoring data

 Budget

 Community data

 Mapping

 Reporting

 Noticeboards

Annex 15 – Letter of Approval



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK,
FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND BIOSECURITY
Private Mail Bag 9039, PORT VILA, Vanuatu
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Sac Postal Privé 9039, PORT VILA, Vanuatu
Tel: 23406/33220



08th May 2025

NASITUAN

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: Letter of Endorsement for Life and Land, Vanuatu

I am writing on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Biosecurity - Department of Forestry to formally express our endorsement of the project titled Life and Land, to be implemented by Nasituan and Tearfund New Zealand on Tanna and Erromango islands in Vanuatu.

We understand that this project aims to strengthen the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities against the impacts of Climate Change, and will contribute significantly to the resilience of, and outcomes for, community livelihoods, food systems, biodiversity ecological services, and natural resources.

The objectives of this initiative align with the Government of Vanuatu's development goals and national strategies, which target several aspects of the social, environment and economic policies, some highlighted policies would revolve around SOC.4, ENV.2, ENV.5 and ECO.2 of the National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030.

We appreciate the consultative approach that has been taken by Nasituan and Tearfund New Zealand and recognise the potential of this project to deliver meaningful, locally driven outcomes. We are confident in the capacity of the implementing team to carry out the proposed work effectively and with accountability. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Biosecurity – Department of Forestry fully supports this initiative and looks forward to ongoing engagement and collaboration as the project progresses.

If Nasituan and Tearfund require assistance from the Department of Forestry, we encourage either parties to reach and whenever convenient via email or telephone.

Yours Sincerely,

Tourau Kalsakau
Acting Director
Department of Forestry



Annex 16 – Financial Plan

Attached separately.