PLAN VIVO PROJECT IDEA NOTE

Life & Land Project

Erromango and Tanna, Vanuatu

Version 2
May 2024

Developed by:

Tearfund New Zealand. https://www.tearfund.org.nz/

Content

Overview

Project Title:	Life & Land Project
Location:	Whitegrass and Middlebush, Tanna Island, and South River, Erromango Island, Vanuatu
Project Coordinator:	Olivia Bird, Programmes Specialist, Tearfund NZ. olivia@tearfund.org.nz
Project Area:	State the extent of the total proposed project area (in hectares) at the start of the project and any plans for expansion. Approximately 360 hectares (319ha Whitegrass, 6.3ha Middlebush, and 35ha South River). There is the possibility of expanding forest enhancement activities such as the removal of smothering vines like big leaf rope (*Merremia peltata*) and replanting in species such as Pacific Kauri (*Agathis macrophylla*) at South River by an additional ~50ha if further funding is secured.
Project Participants:	Provide a summary of the proposed 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 Intervention(s):	List the proposed project interventions and specify whether they are Protection, Restoration or Improved Management. 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. Avoided deforestation through establishment and designation of a Community Conservation Area (CCA) to protect existing mature forest (*Protection*); 7. Cattle grazing incorporating shade trees (*Improved Management*);

	8. Hillside erosion control via tree planting and protection of wild cane resources (*Restoration/Protection*)*;* and 9. Reforestation of fallow gardens within the core CCA (*Restoration*)*.*
Expected Benefits:	Summarise the expected carbon, ecosystem and livelihood benefits of the project. Communities on Tanna and Erromango are highly dependent on climate-vulnerable subsistence agriculture livelihoods. On Tanna, population growth is placing pressure on rural communities that are highly dependent on access to land and natural resources. Intensified land use has already led to 30% of the rural population becoming moderately or severely food insecure; this is further exacerbated by the impacts of climate change, such as increased frequency and intensity of droughts, flooding, and tropical cyclones, which also have a higher impact on remote communities on Erromango that are difficult to access and import resources to. The overall aim of the project is to strengthen the adaptive capacity of these vulnerable communities against the impacts of climate change. This will be achieved by increasing the carbon sink function of cyclone-damaged and degraded forest areas, improving riparian margins, establishing sustainable coffee plantations incorporating shade trees, avoiding on-going deforestation, and enhancing community garden areas (agroforestry). Carbon benefits (emissions reductions and removals) from implementing these activities are conservatively estimated at 5,258 Mg CO_2e ha^{-1} $year^{-1}$. As the carbon sink function is strengthened at project sites, ecosystem resilience will also increase which will improve the provision of ecosystem services. As ecosystems recover and become less vulnerable to climate change impacts, this will act as a mechanism to increase the resilience of local livelihoods and food systems. This will be further enhanced through investment in agroforestry to strengthen the resilience of local food systems to cyclones and flooding. Carbon credits strengthen livelihood security by providing another avenue stream for community members. Restoring native forest will also help regulate ecosystem water cycling (flood management, water filtration, consistency of stream flow), restore soil health, and assist in the suppression of pest species such as invasive vines. Restoring and conserving indigenous forest will increase native tree biodiversity, providing habitat and population recovery opportunities for key species (wild pigeons, bats, etc.) that are highly valued by the community.
Methodology:	State the methodology that will be applied to estimate climate benefits or describe plans for development. For the project interventions listed above, we plan to apply Plan Vivo's '*PM001 Agriculture and Forestry Carbon Benefit Assessment Methodology*' V1.0 (08 Nov 2023). Estimates of climate benefits used in initial project calculations use the carbon stocks and carbon stock change values reported in the

	Vanuatu National Forest Reference Emissions Level Report (2022)[1] e.g. default values reported for 'open forests', 'dense forests', and 'grasslands'. Note these values are considered conservative and an underestimation of potential *emissions reductions* and *removals* (ERR), and further plot-based quantitative fieldwork at the site level will enable more robust, accurate estimates of ERR. Biodiversity and livelihoods benefits will be quantified and measured using a Before-After/Control-Impact (BA/CI) design and submitted as Technical Specifications for approval. The BA/CI monitoring framework is a study design which enables project proponents to assess the overall benefits resulting from the project and to evaluate restoration sites against natural reference sites. The net difference the project makes is calculated by assessing key performance indicators (KPI's) between control (typically healthy, unimpacted reference sites where no restoration activities take place) and intervention sites (where restoration occurs). For example, seedling/sapling density at degraded or cleared sites will be assessed against a reference forest to determine what natural density regimes should be. Using a BA/CI approach, assessments of KPIs are done both before (often called the baseline condition) and after activities have taken place. This enables an evaluation of whether detected changes can be attributed to the intervention (restoration) activities or are due to natural processes that are occurring over the whole landscape. The project approaches for ecological assessments are still being finalised, but will include qualitative assessments, such as Rapid Assessment Forms for ecological health, and quantitative biodiversity surveys (such as 5-minute bird counts). We will also assess whether the Plan Vivo Biodiversity Standard is appropriate for the project.
PIN Version:	3.0
Date Approved:	12/06/2024

[1] Ministry of Forestry, Government of Vanuatu. 2022. Vanuatu National Forest Reference Emissions Level Report (2008-2017). https://redd.unfccc.int/files/national_unfccc_frl_vanuatu_final.pdf .

1 General Information

1.1 Project Interventions

Complete Table 1.1. to describe why each project intervention is expected to provide long-term increases in carbon storage or reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and have positive impacts on local livelihoods and ecosystems. Add a row for each project intervention.

Table 1.1 – Project Interventions

Intervention Type	**Project Intervention**	**Expected Benefits** Provide a summary of the climate, livelihood and ecosystem benefits expected.
Improved land management/ Restoration	1. Sustainable coffee production for (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; and (b) planting the undergrowth of forest with coffee trees. Activity 1a will take place at South River (3ha) and Whitegrass (4ha); activity 1b will take place at Whitegrass (16.6ha).	Intervention 1 (a) could include options to convert some existing gardens 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. 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. Benefits include: ● Increased livelihood security. through shade tree buffer protection of coffee plants against high wind damage and cyclones, as well as increased food security from agroforestry. ● Increased carbon sequestration by clearing vine overgrowth to increase ecosystem productivity and growth, and facilitate the growth of higher-biomass, longer-lived trees.
Restoration	2. Reforestation of riparian margins This will take place at South River (1.6ha) and Middlebush (6.3ha).	This intervention includes restoring riparian margins 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.

		● 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).
Restoration	3. Forest enhancement This will take place at South River (15ha).	This intervention 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. Benefits include: ● 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. ● Increased carbon sequestration by clearing vine overgrowth to increase ecosystem productivity and growth and removing vines to facilitate the growth of higher-biomass, longer-lived trees.
Improved land management	4. Development of sustainable timber and fuelwood plantations within existing gardens and along roadsides	This activity involves the development of sustainable timber and fuelwood plantations through planting fast-growing species for harvest within the periphery margins of established gardens and along roadsides. Benefits include:

	This will take place at South River (4ha) and Whitegrass (8ha).	● Extractive pressure on long-lived native species will be relieved through planting fast-growing timber species (e.g. Whitewood, *Endosperum medullosum,* and Mahogony, *Swietenia macrophylla*). ● Community benefits are derived from a consistent and sustainable supply of timber for construction and fuel.
Improved land management	5. Agroforestry This will take place at South River (11.5ha) and Whitegrass (10.1ha).	Activities include integrating fruit, timber, and/or nut producing trees around or among gardens, and the clearance/on-going maintenance of vine overgrowth to achieve this in agroforestry areas. Benefits include: ● Increased food security from agroforestry.
Protection	6. Avoided deforestation (CCA establishment) This will take place at Whitegrass (246ha).	This involves the protection of existing mature forest from sporadic logging and clearance for garden development by establishing a CCA. Benefits include: ● Avoidance of carbon emissions through halting on-going logging. ● Preservation of biodiverse habitat.
Improved land management	7. Cattle grazing incorporating shade trees This will take place at Whitegrass (23ha).	This activity involves the planting of shade trees on existing pasture lands. Benefits include: ● Provision of shade for cattle; ● Increased livelihood security through protection of area for grazing cattle; and ● Carbon sequestration as trees grow and develop.
Restoration/Protection	8. Hillside erosion control This will take place at Whitegrass (6.7ha).	Activities involve partial hillside reforestation to consolidate erosion prone soils, and this will also stabilise soils to protect a wild cane resource used by communities. Benefits include: ● Hillside erosion control to enhance soil stability and protective wild cane resources.

Restoration	9. Reforestation of fallow gardens within the core CCA This will take place at Whitegrass (5.1ha).	This activity involves restoring fallow gardens cleared within the core CCA area with tree species native to the area. Benefits include: • Increased carbon sequestration by clearing vine overgrowth to increase ecosystem productivity and growth, and the replacement of vines with higher-biomass, longer-lived tree species.

1.2 Project Boundaries

Provide map(s) showing the boundaries of the proposed project region(s), project area(s), and protected areas within or adjacent to the project region(s). Include geospatial data files for project region and project area boundaries in Annex 1 (optional).

Complete Table 1.2 to provide a summary of the location and extent of the proposed project region(s) and project area(s).

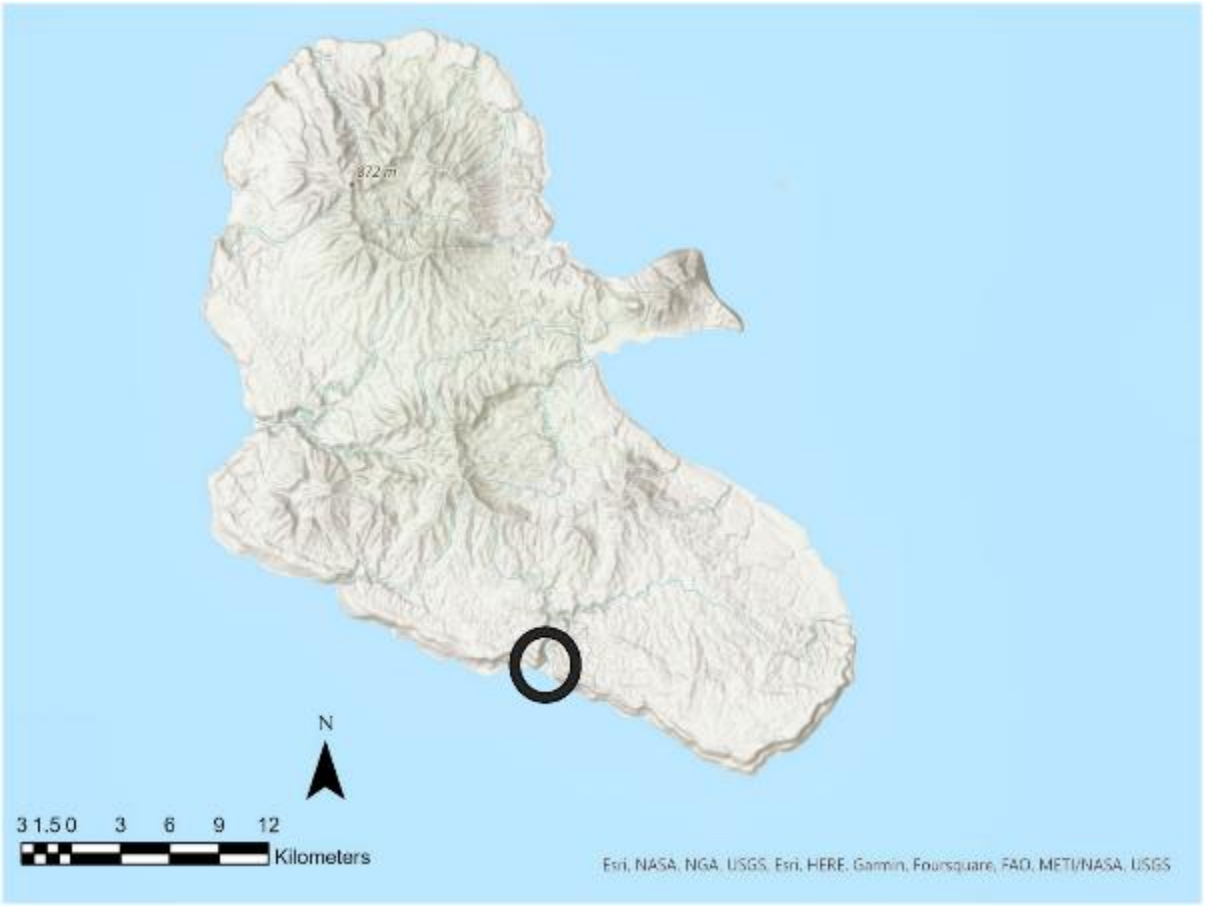

Figure 1. Relative location of South River (black inset circle) on the island of Erromango, Vanuatu.

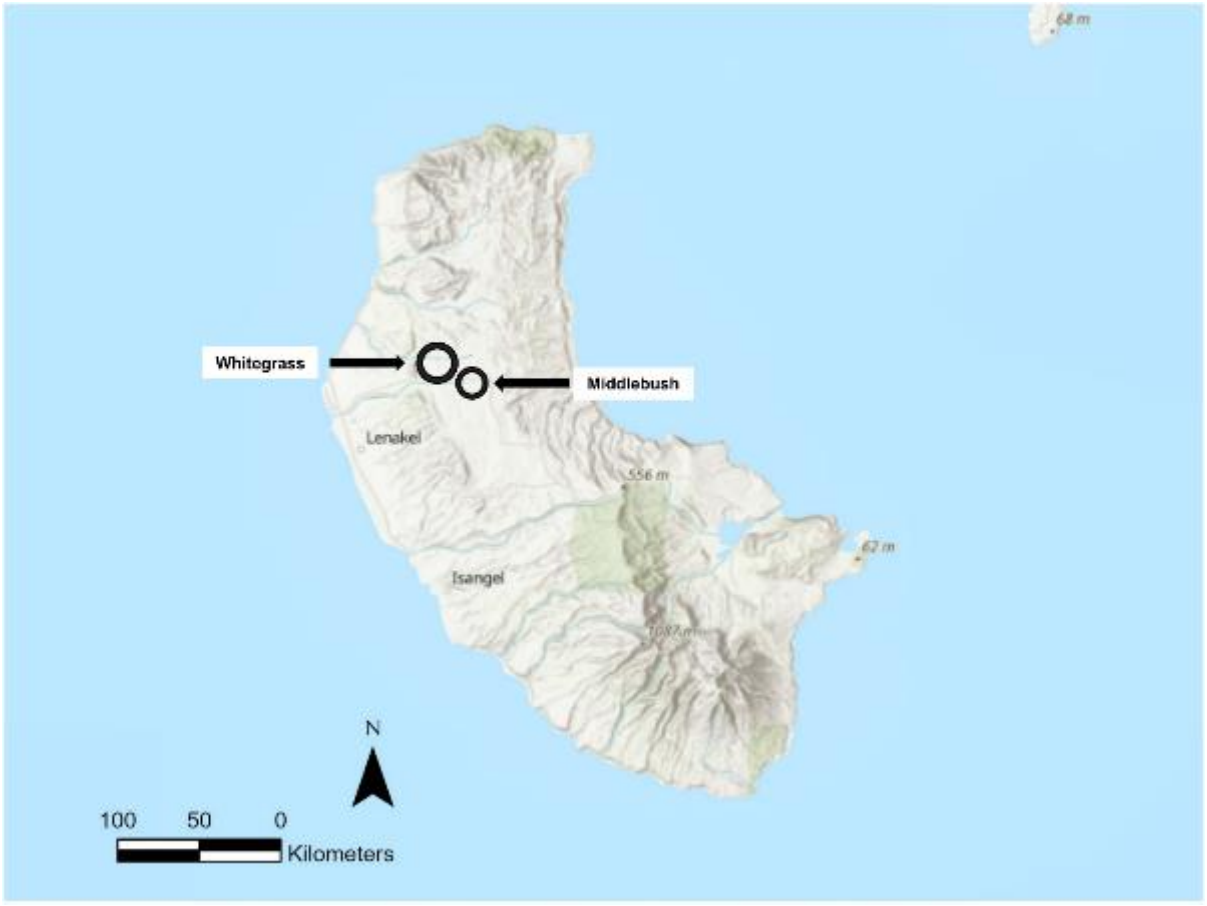

Figure 2. Relative locations of Middlebush and Whitegrass (black inset circles) on the island of Tanna, Vanuatu.

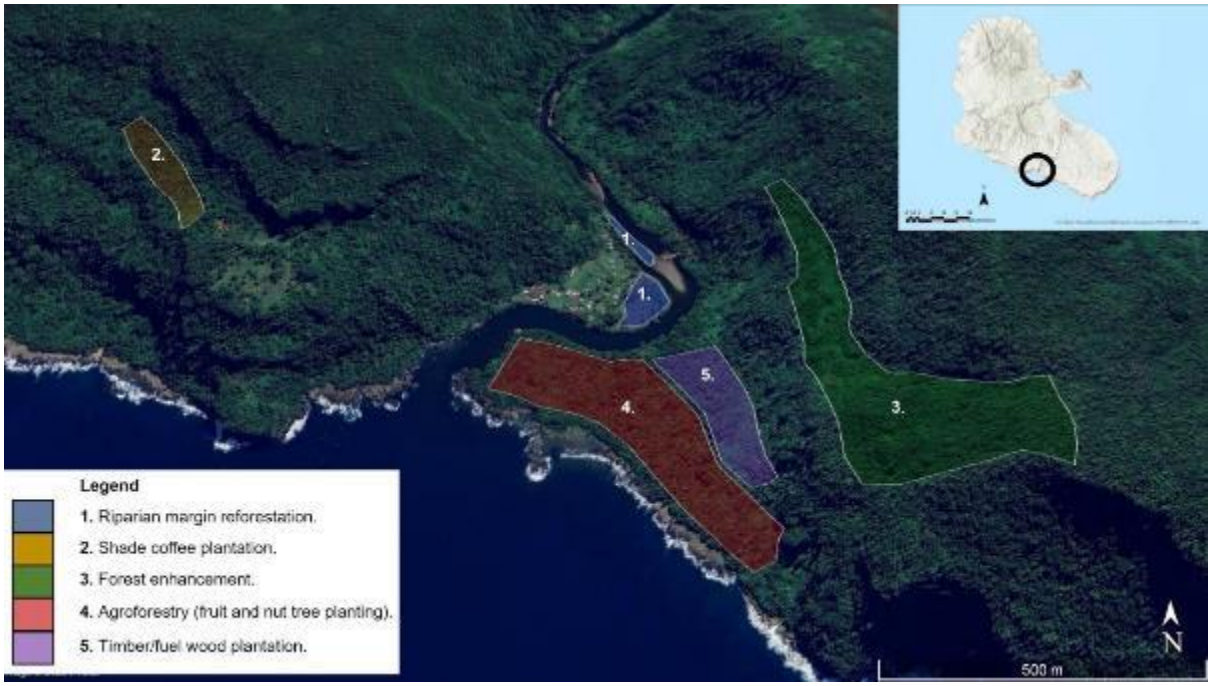

Figure 3. Schematic illustrating a mixed land use project involving sustainable coffee production under shade trees, agroforestry, riparian restoration, timber/fuel wood plantation and forest enhancement activities at South River, Erromango.

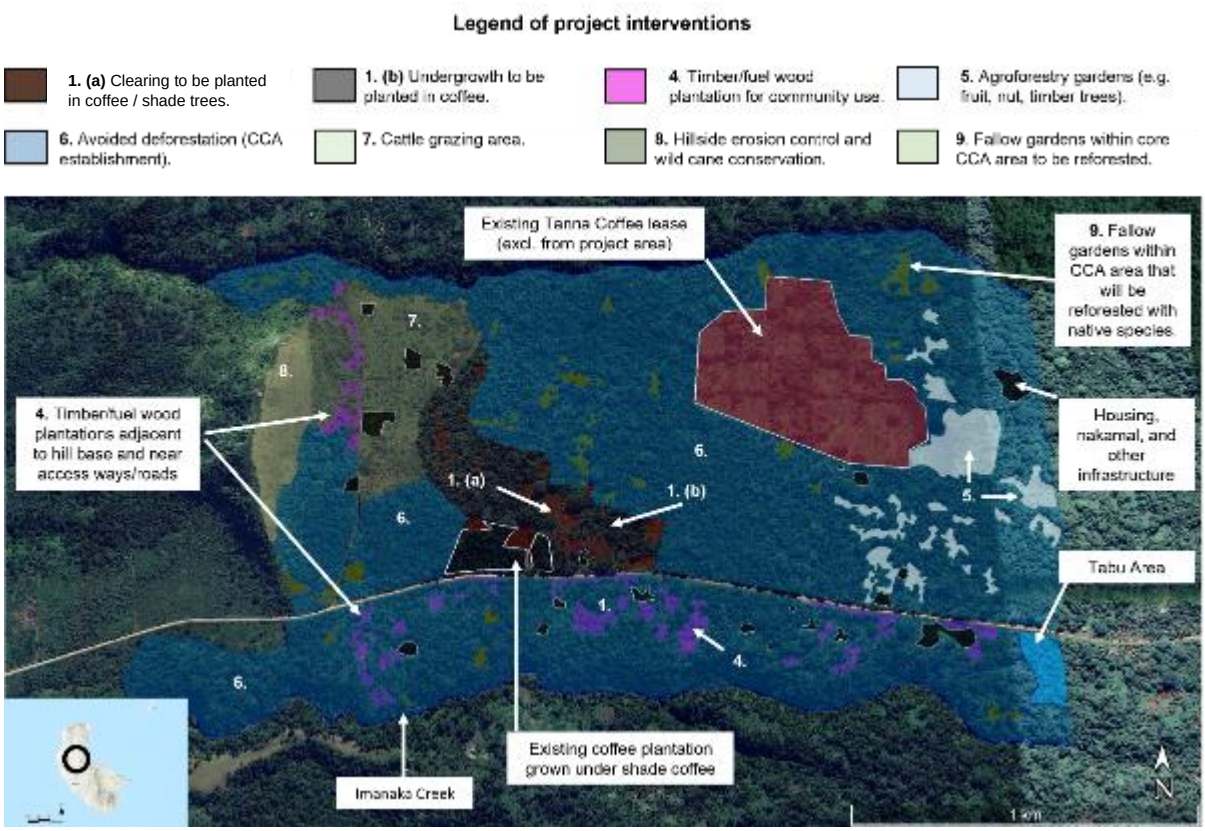

Figure 4. Schematic illustrating a mixed land use project involving avoided deforestation, sustainable coffee production under shade trees, hillside reforestation, agroforestry, and timber/fuel wood plantation activities at Whitegrass, Tanna.

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.

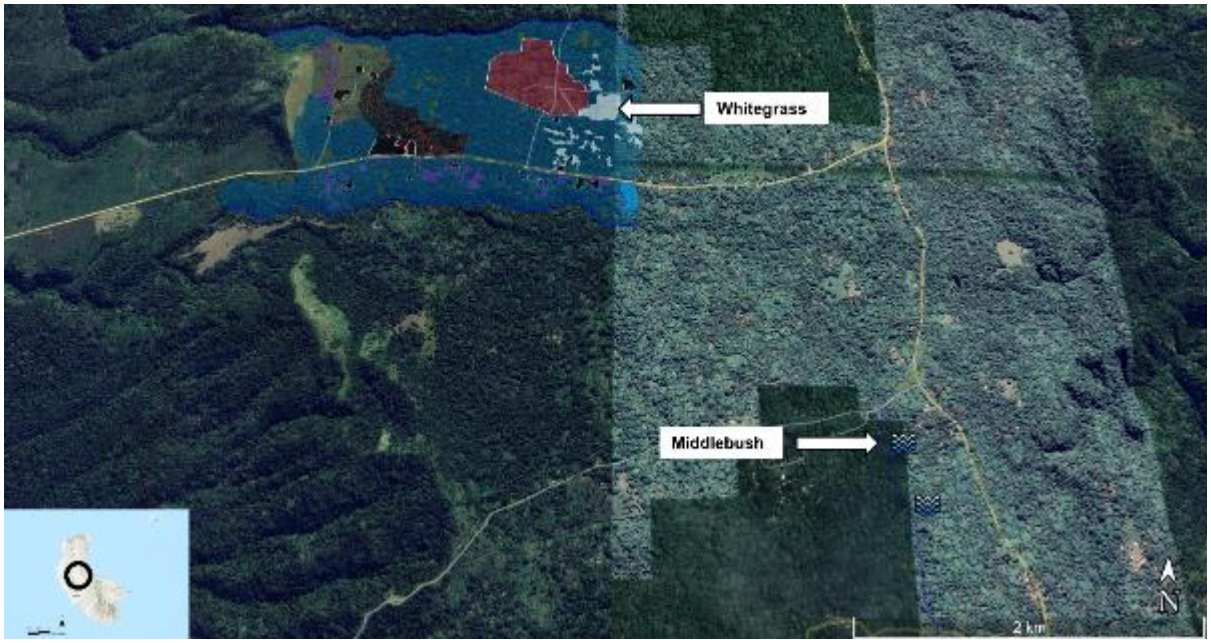

Figure 6. Location of Whitegrass and Middlebush project sites relative to each other.

Table 1.2 Project Boundaries

Location:	Whitegrass and Middle Bush (Tanna Island), South River (Erromango), Vanuatu.
Project Region(s):	Tanna is 550 km^2, Erromango is 891.9 km^2.
Project Area(s):	360ha total (Whitegrass: 319ha, Middle Bush: 6.3ha, South River: 35.4ha).
Protected Areas:	N/A

Table 1.3 Project interventions and estimated area (ha).

Intervention	**Site and extent (ha)**		
	South River, Erromango	**Whitegrass, Tanna**	**Middlebush, Tanna**
1. (a) Sustainable coffee production through converting cleared land into coffee plantations and planting buffer margins in shade trees (*Improved Management*).	3	4	N/A
1. (b) Sustainable coffee production through planting the undergrowth of forest with coffee trees (*Improved Management*).	N/A	16.6	N/A
2. Reforestation of riparian margins (*Restoration*).	1.6	N/A	6.3
3. Forest enhancement through active restoration (*Restoration*).	15	N/A	N/A

4. Development of sustainable timber and fuelwood plantations within existing gardens and along roadsides (*Improved Management*);	4	8	N/A
5. Agroforestry incorporating the planting of fruit and/or nut producing trees around or among gardens (*Improved Management*).	11.5	10.1	N/A
6. Avoided deforestation through establishment and designation of a Community Conservation Area to protect existing mature forest (*Protection*).	N/A	246	N/A
7. Cattle grazing incorporating shade trees (*Improved Management*).	N/A	23	N/A
8. Hillside erosion control via tree planting and protection of wild cane resources (*Restoration/protection*).	N/A	6.7	N/A
9. Reforestation of fallow gardens within the core CCA (*Restoration*).	N/A	5.1	N/A
Total	**35.1**	**319**	**6.3**

1.3 Land and Carbon Rights

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.

Land is owned and managed by customary landowners rather than the Vanuatu Government. This means that traditional governance mechanisms will be used to navigate carbon and land user rights. Community land use and tenure are usually managed collectively, households will have hereditary access to certain parcels of land and disputes are mediated through chiefs on a village-to-village basis; carbon benefit sharing plans are currently being undertaken by stakeholders in each project area and will involve the establishment of governance groups of participating landowners.

In the case of Site 1, where both Nawalmanik and Nalioune tribes are involved, 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.

2 Stakeholder Engagement

2.1 Stakeholder Identification

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).

A full detailed stakeholder analysis is attached in Annex B. Key stakeholders identified include;

- Nasituan (Local), local implementing partner.
- Tanna Gardens/Tanna Coffee (Secondary). Tanna-based enterprises that purchase coffee and produce from farmers in project areas.
- Talao Cooperative (Local). Farmer producer group based in Middlebush
- People living in each site (Local). Land and project owners and implementers of activities.
- Wider tribes overlapping project sites (Local). May or may not be directly involved in project.
- Neighbouring tribes (secondary). Those near project sites who will take an interest in the success/failure of the project.
- Chiefs in each site (Local). Responsible for land allocation and mediating with communities.
- People with disabilities (Local). Community members with specific needs/vulnerabilities.
- Church leaders (Local). Community members with a specific leadership role.
- Tearfund NZ (Secondary). Main donor organisation, also responsible for some capacity building and technical expertise. Holds contract with MFAT.
- MFAT (Secondary). Secondary Donor.
- Plan Vivo (Secondary). 3rd party certifier of carbon credits.
- Department of Forestry (Secondary). Source of local expertise, relevant strategy, technical advice/planting materials.
- Department of Agriculture (Secondary). Planting materials and relevant strategy.
- Department of Environment (Secondary). Registration of community conservation areas, national standards and laws regarding conservation.
- Secretary general of Tafea Province (Secondary). Endorsement from provincial government.
- Central Tanna Area Council (Local). Endorsement from local government.
- NZ-based ecologists (Secondary). Source of technical expertise.
- VU-based botanists (linked with Dept. Forestry) (Secondary). Advice on species identification.
- USP/VNU (Universities) (Secondary). Potential link to masters students, involvement in project.
- Live and Learn (Secondary). Sharing of lessons learnt.
- SPERP (Secondary). Possible crossover with invasive species management.
- Women's crisis centre (Secondary). Part of referral mechanism, advice on gender inclusion.
- Vanuatu Society for Disabled People (Secondary). Advice on disability inclusion.

Identify any Indigenous Peoples or local communities that have statutory or customary rights to land or resources in the project area(s).

As outlined above, the local community members and leaders have full customary rights to the land areas included within the project. Tribal boundaries have been identified with communities, and households who have land within the project areas have been consulted.

Villages/nakamals directly involved: Louahao, Lounahuru, Iwel, Lamnatu (Site 1), Lounamilo (Site 2), South River (Site 3).

Tribes directly Involved: Nawalamanik Tribe and Nalione Tribe (Site 1), Kawaipne Tribe (Site 2), South River tribe (name to be confirmed) (Site 3).

Tribal boundaries have been identified by communities and with Nasituan who have intimate knowledge of tribal areas. In site one (Middlebush) the Imanaka creek forms the boundary between the Nawalmanik and Nalione tribes. In Whitegrass, the creek that runs from Fetukai down to Whitegrass forms the northern boundary and Imanaka Creek forms the southern boundary. The eastern boundary is marked by a tabu area (area of forest that cannot be entered) and extends down into Whitegrass in the west beyond where project interventions are taking place. Tribal boundaries have not yet been documented in South River; however local partner Nasituan has good understanding of these. Erromango is sparsely populated, and tribal domains are much larger than on Tanna. The project inventions here are all located within close proximity to South River community and do not come close to any other tribal boundaries.

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.

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

Provide a summary of relevant experience that demonstrates proficiency 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.

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. 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 Nasituan (mentioned below). TFNZ has been working directly with Nasituan since 2011 managing grant funding on behalf of the New Zealand Aid Programme as well as 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' experience working with local partners in the Pacific, predominantly Vanuatu but also including the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Tonga and 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 DRR and climate change adaptation components. The TFNZ programme specialist assigned to this project is currently completing her Masters 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 carbon credit schemes in Asia and the Pacific.

Although TFNZ is an independent organisation we are part of the Tearfund Global network extending our programme reach across the world as well as allowing access to education and advocacy resources. This network will be helpful in linking values-aligned-buyers for carbon credits to the project.

TFNZ's partnership model means that we 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.

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[1] Olivia Bird (Victoria University of Wellington Masters of Ecological Restoration (ongoing). Victoria University of Wellington Bachelor of Science, Ecology and Biodiversity and Development Studies.
[2] Dr Tim Martin (University of Auckland, Bachelor of Science (BSc), MSc (First Class Honours), PhD, ForestEcology · (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 offset credits and appropriate mechanisms for certification.

Nasituan

The NT Association is a community-based NGO registered as a charitable association in Vanuatu. The Association 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. Nasituan currently employs 20 local staff who are mostly from Tanna Island, although some are from other areas of Vanuatu as well. Nasituan has strong agricultural expertise and experience in community engagement and facilitation. Nasituan had established a coffee farmer group on Erromango island in the South River area. Nasituan has staff from this region, so they understand the local language, networks and context.

Nasituan 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 DRR and livelihood development. Nasituan 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 is currently responding to TC Judy and Kevin. 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 and 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 shocks.

Provide a copy of the project coordinator's registration certificate in Annex 2.

If the applicant organisation identifies another organisation to act as the project coordinator, include a statement signed by the project coordinator acknowledging that the PIN was submitted with their full consent in Annex 2.

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 land 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

2.3 Project Participants

For each project intervention, identify the potential project participants and describe their location in relation to the project area(s) and project region.

Households			Total Population		
Site	HH Benefitting	Vulnerable HH	Total Pop.	Male	Female
Site 1	73	9	402	205	196
Site 2	29	4	160	82	78
Site 3	16	2	88	45	43
Total	118	15	649	332	317

Table 2.3: Overview of households (HH) across all sites. Breakdown includes households that are benefitting from project activities, with a further breakdown showing which of these are vulnerable households (classed as those that include single mothers, widows or widowers, or someone with a disability). All people benefitting from the project in the total population count are expected to have some level of involvement in applying project interventions (planting, observing agreements around community conservation areas, agroforestry, etc.).

Project interventions[2][3]

Site 1 (Middlebush): Restoration of riparian margins. This will involve planting river margins with indigenous canopy species, as well as those that are of use/importance to the community (e.g. food trees such as coconut or banana).

Site 2 (Whitegrass): Sustainable coffee production, sustainable timber production, protection, erosion control and shaded cattle grazing, agroforestry.

Site 3 (South River): Sustainable coffee production, sustainable timber production, restoration, agroforestry.

Participatory resource mapping was undertaken in each of the three communities to form the basis of planning project activities. Discussion sessions were focused through questions and exercises that 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. Where possible, 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 (photos are attached in Annex C). In Middlebush (Site 1), maps were using for establishing number of garden areas (there are 27 landowners in the project area), as well as placement of nakamals[4] along the stream (there were 8 identified), and springs (3 identified). In Whitegrass (Site 2), maps focused around showing which areas of land were used for different activities, including Tanna coffee lease land, the hill site identified for erosion and cattle grazing control, and

[2] Villages/nakamals directly involved: Louahao, Lounahuru, Iwel, Lamnatu (Site 1), Lounamilo (Site 2), South River (Site 3)

[3] Tribes directly Involved: Nawalamanik Tribe, Nalione Tribe (Site 1) Kawaipne Tribe (Site2). Name of Tribe in South River TBC (Site 3)

[4] Village centres, generally a cleared area where kava drinking, discussions, conflict resolution and traditional ceremonies take place.

nalepopo[5] areas in gardens that agroforestry will help enhance. In South River (Site 3), maps were used also used to identify good areas for future activities, such as areas in need of planting or vine control. Overall, maps were useful for identifying potential project boundaries, activities, and participants.

Groups were asked to list changes that they had noticed in their communities and environment, and the reasons for those changes. Across all three communities, there were some common themes that emerged when discussing changes in lifestyle and environment. The loss of mature forest, wild animal species (pigeons, fruit bats, pigs, and other birds), river species (eels, crayfish, fish), traditional crop varieties and large, healthy crops, timber resources, water sources, and the unpredictability of cyclone seasons were significant environmental changes. Socially and culturally, many communities highlighted the lack of respect for elders and kastom, loss of tabu places, and different ways of dressing. Some issues were particularly important to specific communities. In Middle Bush (Site 1), lack of space for making gardens and damage from volcanic ash were particularly challenging problems, whereas lack of mature forest and the drying up of water sources was raised as a large issue in White Grass (Site 2). In South River (Site 3), invasive vines are a prominent problem as well as increased landslide risk from destabilised hill sides.

Finally, groups were asked what future changes they would like to see and how they would like them to be implemented. The main changes that communities wanted to see in the future revolved around restoration of land and kastom. Environmentally, communities wanted to restore native forest, natural resources and wild animals, and protect these areas to prevent deforestation and help the bush reach maturity. However, on Tanna in particular (Sites 1 and 2), these desires were balanced with the need to have spaces for gardens, leading to the preference for integrated systems where possible. Communities wanted to see local crop varieties return, alongside the health of soils, to ensure the growth of healthier crops that meet nutritional needs. Restoration of water quality in rivers and streams was also important, both as a drinking source and for the return of eels, fish, and crayfish species. In South River (Site 3), removal of invasive vine species was an important goal. Communities identified traditional governance mechanisms as needing to be restored, with an emphasis on teaching young people kastom and respect for the environment and traditional resource management practices and tabus.

Each group presented back to the wider group after each exercise, where there was time for questions, comments, and open discussion.

All supporting evidence of community consultation is included in Annex C.

For each of these interventions, the following groups are involved:

Tearfund New Zealand: New Zealand-based organisation tasked with project oversight/coordination with local partner. In-country support provided at least twice a year.

Nasituan: Local field and management staff on Tanna Island, with representatives travelling to South River. Involved with implementation and management of all activities with each of the three communities.

Communities of Middlebush, Whitegrass, and South River: Local stakeholders involved in project implementation e.g., vine clearance, planting, and monitoring of native seedling regrowth and local biodiversity. Both community members and leaders are involved, including

[5] Nalepopo is the buffer zone between garden plots, this normally consists of raised earth due to the heaping up of organic material from plot clearance as well as more permanent trees for fruit, nuts or timber.

Iani Niko/Iaramara Asul and Asuas, Tupunis Asul and Asuas, and Council of Chiefs. A committee will be formed in each community to oversee project interventions, as shown in Figure 7.

Site 1 (Middlebush)

For site 1, the Nawalalmanik tribe (Western side of the creek) and the Nalione tribe (Eastern side of the creek) will be directly involved in restoration activities (planting, pest species management, etc). Tribal involvement will be managed through traditional governance structures; while these differ between communities, there are some common roles. These include:

- The Iani Niiko/Iaramara Asul and Asuas
  - Ensure everyone in the tribe has access to resources such as land, food, water, etc.
  - Ensure no conflict emerges within the tribe
  - Relationship building with other chiefs
  - Help enforce respect Tupunis laws of respecting nature
- Tupunis Asul and Asuas
  - Maintain the laws of nature and ecosystems
  - Advise households of taboo and norms around crop planting, and wild-harvest restrictions.

A committee will also be formed in collaboration between the Ivel/Lowehao communities and Nasituan to oversee the carbon credit project. The committee will set up bank accounts, ensure fair distribution of casual labour, ensure consideration of views of vulnerable peoples (including women, youth, and those with disabilities, and to provide a financial report to the Iani Niko/ Iaramara Asul and Asuas for accountability and transparency. The committee will include representation for women, youth, those with disabilities, and Tupunis, Iani Niiko/Iaramara.

Site 2 (Whitegrass)

Site 2 directly involves the Lonamilo community (Kawiapne Tribe). 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.

Site 3 (South River)

Site 3 directly involves the South River community, as well as neighbouring villages including Unonompi, Rampunmougo, Portrausa and Punpier. The traditional governance system at South River is strong, and the Council of Chiefs has similar role to the Iani Niko on Tanna Island. A committee will be established with representatives from church, those with disabilities, women, and farmers. The aim of the committee will be to reinforce Tupunis law around natural resource management, documentation of traditional taboos and norms around seasonal harvest and resource use/protection and ensuring equality of resource distribution and benefits.

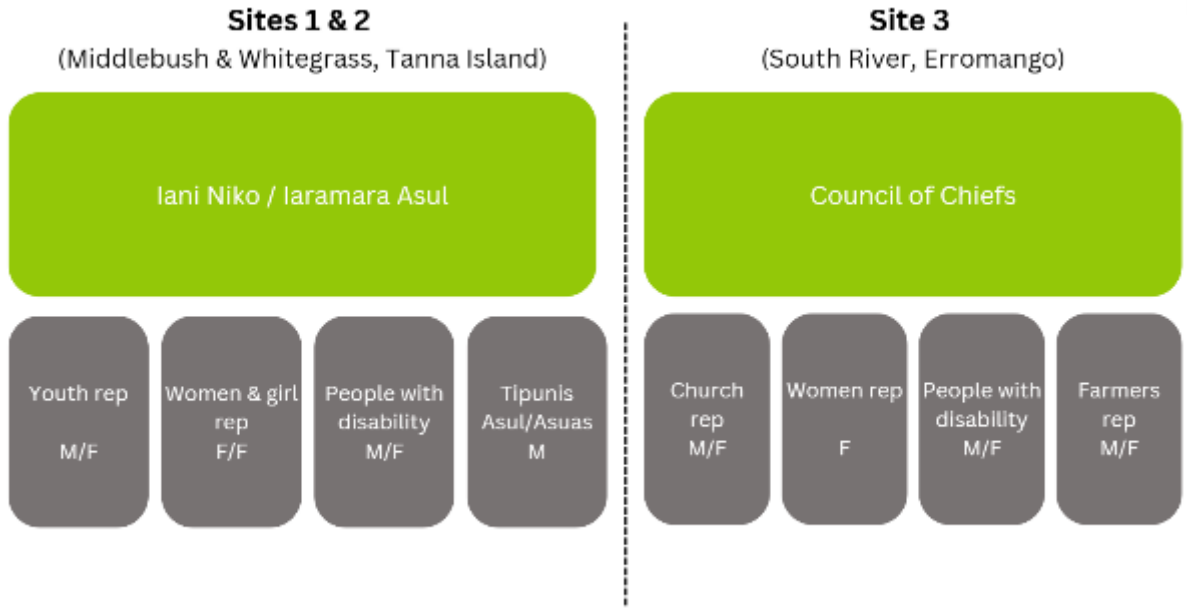

Figure 7: Proposed carbon credit committee structure based on traditional governance amongst communities. M = male committee member, F = female committee member.

Identify any potential project participants that are not resident within the project area, who do not manage land or natural resources within the project area for small-scale production, or who are structurally dependent on year-round hired labour for their land or natural resource management activities; and 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.

N/A – it is expected that participants who reside in and around the project location will be from the three communities. There are no participants that do not have land within the project area for any of the three sites.

2.4 Participatory Design

Describe the participatory process that will be 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.

This project is one half of a larger Climate Resilience Programme being implemented in both Vanuatu (Life and Land Vanuatu, partnering with Nasituan) and Fiji (Life and Land Fiji, partnering with Homes of Hope Fiji). The programme seeks to strengthen the adaptive

capacity of vulnerable communities against the impacts of climate change. This will be achieved through two primary outputs in Vanuatu[6]:

- **Output 1 -** Carbon credit programme integrated into climate-resilient agriculture.
- **Output 2** - Climate-smart agricultural programme delivered focusing on food security, livelihoods and supporting infrastructure.

To identify what focus areas would be best suited to achieving the project outputs in Vanuatu, field-based community discussion groups were undertaken during the design phase to better inform the activities and decisions that form the basis of 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 and opportunities, and establish a project workplan.

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.
- Identify problems and opportunities.
- Establish a project workplan:
    - o Discuss traditional governance structures and mechanisms for project management.
    - o Determine activities, outputs, and outcomes

Methodology

To date, three site visits have been conducted to consult with communities and collect data during May 2023, September 2023, and March 2024. The analysis was conducted by staff of Nasituan and Tearfund New Zealand.

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, including conducting the 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 Climate Finance 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,

[6] The project is funded by Tearfund NZ with funds from the New Zealand Government Ministry of Foreign affairs and Trade (MFAT). Funds have been secured to cover the cost of establishing the project, supporting the local partner, paying for consultants, funding initial planting materials and labour costs for project interventions as well as certification and compliance costs. Funding is secured until February 2026 although a second phase is likely. Total funding for Vanuatu for the two years is NZD 1,293,071 this includes NZD 317,554 for agri-infrastructure upgrades, the remaining is focused on delivery of the carbon components of the programme.

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 around 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 around 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 impact on 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.

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 Tearfund and Nasituan 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 ownership mapping exercise was also undertaken, where workshop members created a map to identify landowners along the stream in the project area. Of 27 landowners 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 boy 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 will be presented back to the communities (Appendix 4 in Annex C).

2.5 FPIC Process

Describe the FPIC process that will be followed 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.

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 will be conducted by Nasituan. A Carbon Credit Consultation document has been developed, translated to Bislama, and dispersed at all three communities (Annex D). 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 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. Tearfund and Nasituan have developed the suite of project activities (see Table 1.1) presented in this PIN 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 wild pigeons. This led to a project activity focused on vine clearance and management.

- Conduct 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.
- After the consultation with the Chiefs of the tribes (which involved open discussion and reaching consensus with their respective community participants), a peace ceremony was conducted as a symbol of unity towards the implementation of the carbon credit project. Photo evidence of this ceremony can be found in Appendix 4 in Annex C.
- Conduct governance training with both the tribes and establish a Carbon Credit Committee (including chiefs, women, youth, and people with disabilities) to oversee the project implementation, including the sharing of benefits.
- Conduct consultation with households who own gardening sites/land within the boundary of project activities.

iii) Implementation of the project

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

3 Project Design

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).

There are several land use types occurring in the project intervention areas across both Tanna and Erromango Islands.

Garden areas (Whitegrass, Middlebush, South River): In all three project sites, garden areas are expected to continue to be used agriculturally, with activity continuing to expand to garden margins. This removes space for shade trees that provide protection from extreme weather events and volcanic ash to crops. In Middlebush, garden areas occur alongside a stream: these expand right up to the stream margin, removing a healthy riparian buffer and detrimentally impacting stream health and surrounding biodiversity.

Coffee plantation (Whitegrass, South River): While also struggling with vine overgrowth, coffee plantations are primarily planted as monocultures with unmanaged plot margins; these practices are expected to continue without intervention.

Reserve/ forest area (Whitegrass, South River): In Whitegrass and Middlebush there are reserve areas in which logging is currently occurring; this is expected to continue without further intervention. In South River, cyclone damage has presented an opportunity for vines to smother damaged forest areas. Without intervention this vine smothering will continue, choking out the existing canopy and preventing seedling establishment and ecosystem recovery. While negatively impacting biodiversity, carbon storage, and ecosystem services, this also presents an accessibility barrier to local communities using the land. High liana loading is also present in some areas of Middlebush and Whitegrass, in reserve areas and coffee plantations.

Cattle grazing (Whitegrass, South River): Cattle grazing areas in Whitegrass are not intensively managed, with livestock able to freely roam on hillsides. This causes degradation to the land through trampling and grazing, as well as hillside destabilisation through erosion.

In South River, cattle can graze freely along riparian margins, causing damage to stream banks. Cattle damage 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 (for example, heightened erosion damage from extreme wind/rainfall on soils weakened from cattle grazing), exacerbating the ecological consequences of unsustainable agricultural practices and degradation.

3.2 Livelihood Baseline

For each of the local stakeholder groups identified in Section 2.1, provide descriptions of livelihood status prior to the start of the project and how livelihood status is expected to change under the baseline scenario. 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.

In Vanuatu, communities are highly dependent on subsistence agriculture for livelihood security, yet this lifestyle is becoming increasingly vulnerable. Populations on Tanna and Erromango are primarily rural, with land historically being freely available and distributed amongst families according to custom. However, populations are experiencing significant growth, placing pressure on communities in Tanna that are already densely populated (>90 people per km^2) and reducing access to available land for creating household gardens. Population growth and lack of respect for customary approaches to resource use has also led to overharvesting of many important natural resources, including timber, bats, wild pigeons, crayfish, and coconut crabs. Current attitudes around land use and management are also eroding the weight that traditional governance mechanisms and chieftain roles have within communities.

30% of the rural population are moderately or severely food insecure due to intensified land use, leading to reduced soil health and increases in pests. This is further exacerbated by climate impacts, including droughts, flooding, and tropical cyclones, all of which are predicted to increase in frequency and intensity under climate change. A growing demographic of young people also increases the need for income opportunities, contributing to rural-urban emigration. Reliance on imported goods, often a less nutritious source of food, is also increasing with food insecurity. This can be particularly challenging in remote areas like Erromango, which are difficult to access.

There is also a pressing need for livelihood security. Lines between subsistence farming and cash cropping are often blurred; crops are primarily grown for household consumption and sold when excess is available. This can leave communities sensitive to external market and import fluctuations, as well as climate disasters.

3.3 Ecosystem Baseline

For each project region, describe the ecological conditions prior to the start of the project and how ecological conditions are expected to change under the baseline scenario. Include details of the main ecosystems and habitat types present, and any species of conservation concern known or thought to be present.

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, and 2 bird genera and

5 other endemic species. Many species are also culturally significant: coconut crab, freshwater crayfish (nawra) and eels (namari), fruit bats and flying foxes, wild pigeon species, and tree species such as Tamanu, Natavoa, Mangrove, Namamba, Nakatambol, and Napiil. Mature forest and healthy stream habitats for these species are in decline due to pressures such as deforestation, the introduction of invasive species, climate change, disasters, shifting agricultural practices, and land-use changes.

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. Agricultural production in these areas is particularly sensitive to climate warming through the exacerbation of effects such as unreliable growing seasons, changing growing conditions as temperatures increase, erosion through heavy rainfall, and greater susceptibility to pests and disease. This interacts with existing agricultural issues, such as reduced soil fertility through land use intensification, and the smothering of crops from volcanic ash on Tanna. Clearing land for cultivation also leaves garden areas more vulnerable to extreme weather events (such as destructive winds, cyclones, and flooding) by removing buffer zones of mature shade trees. It also opens the ecosystem up to vine and creeper growth, which can choke out existing plant life and prevent seedling establishment. In Middlebush, communities experienced significant flooding in 2023 that caused widespread waterlogging to food gardens.

Coffee plantation (Whitegrass, South River): Existing coffee plantations within the project area are in a range of states. At the Middlebush site, coffee growth takes the form of small-scale plots grown amongst community gardens, at the Whitegrass site there is currently 4.2 hectares of overgrown coffee plantation grown under shade trees, with an additional 3 hectares at the South River site. Similarly to community gardens, coffee plantations are also vulnerable to extreme weather events from the loss of buffer zones in these areas. They also sustained major flood damage in 2023.

Reserve/ forest area (Whitegrass, South River): In Vanuatu, and particularly on the islands of Erromango and Tanna, forests (natural, managed, and agroforests) are a critical resource for people's survival post- severe cyclone events as a source of 'famine food' and building materials, but they are also typically adversely affected by such events (e.g. through the damage or loss of trees and the proliferation of invasive vines as canopy gaps emerge). Open forest at project locations in South River (Erromango) and Middlebush (Tanna) are effectively composed of dense, overgrown thickets of vines and creepers smothering an assemblage of mostly sub-canopy tree species. There is a stand of dense, mature forest currently subjected to sporadic or ad-hoc logging in Middle Bush. The removal of old growth forest through logging leaves remaining trees exposed and therefore vulnerable to cyclone damage. Furthermore, the ability of forests to repair and regrow post-logging and cyclone damage can be severely limited due to the presence of invasive species of vines that choke or prevent any new trees growing in the place of old ones, while the productivity and growth of remaining (un-logged or un-damaged) trees is stifled by the spread of vines and creepers. Small patches of tree cover are more vulnerable to total loss during severe wind events, as winds often fell areas of forest up to several hectares in size. Erromango has had a history of commercial logging which has disrupted natural forest systems and introduced invasive plants, which leaves it vulnerable to further degradation from the effects of climate change. Here, forest has been lost through prior logging at a preliminary density of one tree per $100m^2$ (one tree within 10m * 10m grids).

Cattle grazing (Whitegrass): The Middle Bush area has approximately 38 ha of erosion-prone hillside grasslands. Cattle grazing in this area is destabilising slopes and causing erosion, this is expected to continue under the baseline scenario.

3.4 Project Logic

Complete table 3.4 to provide an initial summary of the expected project outputs and outcomes and identify key assumptions and risks. Add rows for additional outputs as required.

Table 3.4 Initial Project Logic

Aim The overall goal of the project is to strengthen the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities against the impacts of climate change.		
Benefit Type	**Description and Expected Benefits**	**Assumptions/Risks**
Outcomes – Intended overall project aim		
Carbon Benefit	Carbon sink function of cyclone-damaged and deforested forest areas, riparian margins, coffee plots, and community garden areas is improved (outputs 1.1 and 1.2.).	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. on-going 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.
Livelihood Benefit	Livelihoods and food systems are resilient to the impacts of climate change.	Key assumptions and risks are that improved forest management, restoration, and forest protection through implementing project

	Carbon credits (outputs 1.1 & 1.2) will provide another avenue stream for community members, strengthening livelihood security. Investing in agroforestry (outputs 1.1, 1.2, 2.2) by integrating food trees into existing garden systems strengthens 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. Strengthening governance systems (output 2.3) 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, access to resources such as food, land, materials for making houses, and climate-resilient decision-making power will strengthen livelihoods.	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 on-going community commitment for a minimum of 30 years (project crediting period) and ideally for the next 100 years.
Ecosystem Benefit	Climate change adaptation improves ecosystem resilience, strengthening ecosystem service provision and improving biodiversity outcomes through habitat security. By undertaking reforestation/conservation of indigenous forest (output 1.2, 2.1, 2.2), native tree biodiversity will be restored/protected, providing habitat for key species (wild 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, and assist in the suppression of pest species such as invasive vines.	A key risk is the potential for setbacks from recuring natural disasters (e.g. tropical cyclones). The project's business plan will provide budget contingency to factor 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		
Output	Description	Risks
Output 1: Carbon credit programme integrated into climate-resilient agriculture	• **1.1:** Incentives (including carbon credits) to retain agroforestry systems, where these are already well established. • **1.2:** Incentives (including carbon credits) to restore diverse indigenous forests and agroforestry systems where these have been lost through clearance and currently comprise monocultures of non-tree crops (target areas could again include catchment headwaters and areas where distances between villages and forest remnants are now the greatest (for accessibility to forest products).	• The two-year implementation timeframe for planting is short in terms of the time needed for trees to reach maturity. This will be mitigated the following ways: 1) Consultation required for implementation has already begun (i.e. FPIC has been conducted with communities); 2) Nasituan is already working on the community governance required for implementation; 3) Nursery construction and seed collection will take place through Nasituan and the Whitegrass community as part of a different cyclone recovery project; and 4) Carbon sequestration will initially be calculated and then averaged over a 100-year period through reference to intact, mature forests to maximise creditable emission reductions and removals (e.g. large Pacific Kauri take ~100 years to reach maturity). Adjustments to marketed PVC will then be made during each monitoring period, with adequate buffers built in (e.g. 30% of PVC held as buffer in accordance with concepts such as permanence). By utilising advance purchase PVC, it allows communities to start
Output 2: Climate-smart agricultural programme delivered focusing on food security, livelihoods and supporting infrastructure.	• **2.1:** Protection of existing forest remnants, targeting areas located in catchment headwaters that provide riparian buffering and flood protection. Where streams are a water supply, improved forest cover also provides better moderation of water flow (including higher “low flow” levels).[30] • **2.2**: Expansion of and/or restoring connections between areas of indigenous forest and agroforestry. • **2.3**: The role of traditional governance is affirmed and plays an active role protecting and managing	

	community-based natural resources.	receiving carbon income at the end of the two year period. • Cyclones and extreme weather events also pose a significant risk to the project given the tight timeframes. Front loading activities as much as possible will increase potential recovery buffers.

3.5 Additionality

Complete Table 3.5 providing a description of the current barriers to implementing the proposed project (e.g. lack of finances, lack of technical expertise) and an explanation of how the project will overcome these barriers. Include Financial/Economic, Technical, Institutional, Social/Cultural, and Other barriers where relevant. Add a row for each project intervention.

Table 3.5 Initial Barrier Analysis

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 to be included in the PDD.	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.
1. (a) Sustainable coffee production through increased native canopy cover in new plantations and planting buffer margins with native trees (*Improved Management*) and (b) Sustainable coffee production through planting the undergrowth of forest with coffee trees (*Improved Management*).	**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.

2. Reforestation of riparian margins (*Restoration*).	**Technical:** Technical expertise 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 that 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.
3. Forest enhancement through active restoration (*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.
4. Development of sustainable timber and fuelwood plantations within existing gardens and along roadsides (*Improved Management*).	**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.
5. Agroforestry incorporating the planting of fruit and/or nut producing trees around or among gardens (*Improved Management*).	**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.
6. Avoided deforestation through establishment	**Social/ cultural and Institutional:** There is a risk	Project consultation to date with communities at

and designation of a Community Conservation Area to protect existing mature forest (*Protection*).	that formal CCA designation and adoption of by-laws (e.g. enabling sustainable resource use) may not carry the necessary weight for enforcement to secure 'permeance' for protected forests. Traditional governance mechanisms that would usually assist in establishing and enforcing CCA areas are being eroded.	Whitegrass has identified the core forest area that they want to protect. On-going consultative process will provide the opportunity for concerns 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.
7. Cattle grazing incorporating shade trees (*Improved Management*).	**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.
8. Hillside erosion control via tree planting and protection of wild cane resources (*Restoration/ protection*).	**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.
9. Reforestation of fallow gardens within the core CCA (*Restoration*).	**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.
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 on-going support beyond the timeframe of current funding[7], particularly for 'after' surveys which will determine the degree to which the test of additionality has been passed. On-going technical assistance and expertise may be required. **Social/Cultural** barriers to implementation e.g. lack of buy and support from communities through erosion of traditional governance frameworks.	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 Nasituan. They have developed a governance framework which will be applied at all project's intervention sites.

3.6 Exclusion List

Indicate whether the project could include any activities listed in the Plan Vivo Exclusion List (see Annex 3). Provide a complete Exclusion List in Annex 3.

There are no project activities that apply to the Exclusion List provided in Annex 3.

3.7 Environmental and Social Screening

Add project coordinator responses to the social screening report in Annex 4.

Complete Table 3.7 to provide a summary of potential environmental and social risks. For each risk area, add a brief summary of potential risks, or explain why there are no risks.

Table 3.7 Environmental and Social Risks

[7] The project's current funding end date from MFAT is March 2026.

Risk Area	Potential Risks
Vulnerable Groups	Women, youth, and those with disabilities are considered disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of climate change in this context. An inclusive approach targeted towards equitable gender and ability participation in the project has been specifically designed and accounted for in the consultation/implementation phase.
Gender Equality	An inclusive approach targeted towards equitable gender participation in the project has been specifically designed and accounted for in the consultation/implementation phase (See Annex E)
Human Rights	N/A
Community, Health, Safety & Security	Chainsaws will be needed in some cases for cutting large pieces of dead and downed wood, as well as machetes for vine clearance; the work will be physically demanding.
Labour and Working Conditions	The working conditions (hours etc) will be determined by communities, these will meet legal standards.
Resource Efficiency, Pollution, Wastes, Chemicals and GHG emissions	There will be GHG emissions result from project activities such as the use of vehicles, boats, and international flights. These emissions, however, will be minimal in comparison to carbon sequestration from the project. GHG emissions from any flights will be offset upon purchase.
Access Restrictions and Livelihoods	No risks have been identified in relation to access to project locations, or any impacts on livelihoods.
Cultural Heritage	Communities are identifying culturally sensitive tapu (sacred) areas in the project regions, no risks have been identified to date with regards to working in these areas.
Indigenous Peoples	Indigenous people are involved in the project.
Biodiversity and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources	Biodiversity values and the sustainable use of natural resources will be enhanced as a result of the project.

Land Tenure Conflicts	None have been identified.
Risk of Not Accounting for Climate Change	The risk of 'reversal' through potential future tropical cyclone damage will be addressed through establishing appropriate buffer margins for any carbon credits generated.
Other – e.g. Cumulative Impacts	N/A

3.8 Double Counting

Identify any greenhouse gas emission reduction projects, programmes or initiatives that overlap with the proposed 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 explain why carbon benefits achieved by the project will not be included in any other form of greenhouse gas emissions trading.

There are no GHG emission reduction programs or initiatives that overlap with the project area. Project activities will contribute to government climate strategies, and we will converse with governmental authorities to ensure double counting of carbon benefits does not occur.

Complete Table 3.8 to describe the status of relevant legislation policies and instruments in the host country. Provide details of how these could affect the project.

Table 3.8 National Level Legislation, Policies and Instruments

	Yes/No/Unsure	**Details**
Is there a national registry for land-based carbon projects?	Yes	This is in development and is being managed by the Department of Climate Change, Government of Vanuatu. As the project progresses, we will notify the Department of Climate Change as necessary and notify them of the project as required by any guidelines that may be developed.
Are carbon rights defined in national legislation?	Yes	Carbon rights for planted forests are outlined in the Planted Forest Act No. 7 of 2015 (PFA). The L&L project deals exclusively with custom land owners; the PFA states that custom owners of land have forestry rights, which in turn enables them to "claim a carbon sequestration right in respect of trees in a planted forest". Planted forest is defined as "a forest established by planting or seeding in the process of afforestation or reforestation". Currently, carbon rights to non-planted land do not appear to be

		defined. These were previously covered in the Forestry Rights Registration and Timber harvest Act 2000, which recognised the land carbon rights of custom landowners, however, this has since been repealed and replaced by the PFA.
Are there any carbon pricing regulations existing or in development (e.g. emissions trading scheme or carbon tax)	No	Currently being explored[8]
Does the country receive or plan to receive results-based climate finance through bilateral or multilateral programs?	Yes	Many existing bilateral and unilateral forms of climate finance. Since 2014, Australia is Vanuatu's largest bilateral donor for climate change followed by Japan, China, and then New Zealand. The World Bank is the largest multilateral source of funding for Vanuatu [9]. As financing for the first phase of the project is provided by the MFAT, this project will contribute to strengthening the relationship between New Zealand and Vanuatu.
Are there any other relevant regulations, policies or instruments?	Yes	Currently, there are several national strategic plans in action that involve the Vanuatu Government, NGOs, or civil society groups: for example, the Pacific Partnership Programme, National Adaption Programme for Action (NAPA) 2007, Vanuatu National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), Republic of Vanuatu Voluntary National Review, and the Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2016-2030.[23, 24, 25, 26, 27] These focus on areas in alignment with proposed project outcomes, including the use of nature-based solutions to improve the climate resilience of local resources, livelihood development, reforestation, restoration of local and traditional food crops, invasive species management, sustainable ecosystem use, and community-based disaster adaptation. Further detail is provided in Section 4.2, but policies of particular relevance the Vanuatu agriculture sector policy, which

[8] Government of Vanuatu, 'Vanuatu's Revised and Enhanced 1st Nationally Determined Contribution', 2021.

[9] Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, *Vanuatu Climate Change Finance Review*, 2018.

		requires that community development involving agriculture should have elements directly related to climate change issues and risk reduction. These requirements are fulfilled by incorporating agroforestry, strengthening food security and livelihoods, and implementing climate and disaster-resilient agricultural techniques. New conservation areas will be registered with the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation as outlined in the Environmental Protection and Conservation Act CAP 283 (2011) (EPC)[10], and any timber harvest shall be approved as necessary through the Forestry Board will be followed as outlined by Section 2.14.4 of the EPC.

4 Governance and Administration

4.1 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 will be selected. Where possible, provide an organigram to demonstrate how the project coordinator, project participants and other stakeholders will be involved in the project.

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 as well as report to the donor (MFAT). Nasituan will be the on-the-ground implementer responsible for day-to-day management of the project and working closely with the participating communities. Each community will have a governance group established 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).

[10] Environmental Protection and Conservation Act CAP 283 (Vanuatu)

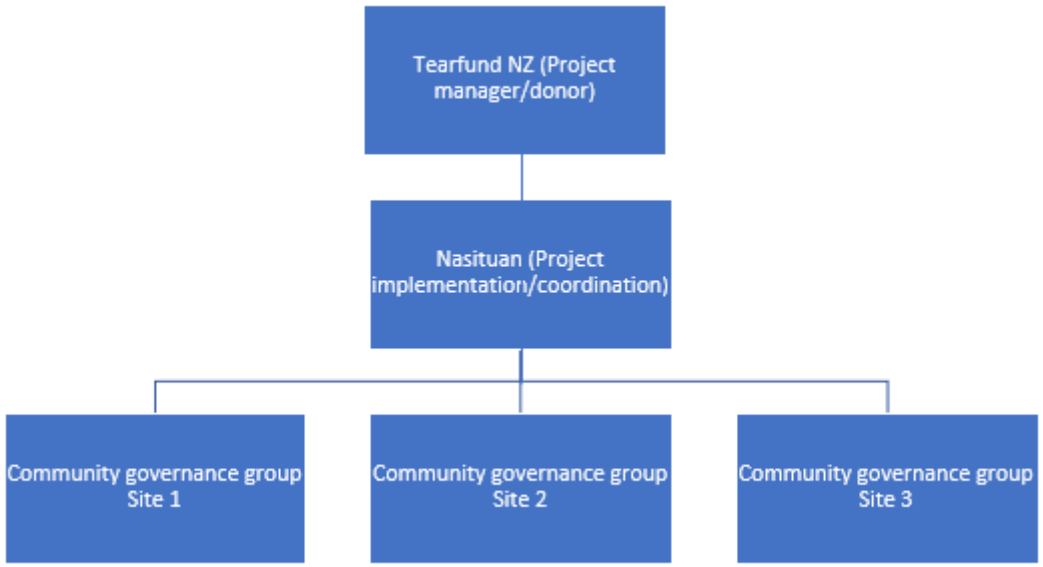

Figure 8: Overall project management structure

The committee make up has been determined by the communities and aims to align traditional governance[11] and inclusive representation (See Figure 7 in Section 2.3). This means including traditional leadership roles, Iani Niko and Iani 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 management of natural resources and agriculture. The Tupunis can play a key role in the development and awareness of local bylaws and practices with regards 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 may be formalised into locally registered associations 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).

4.2 Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Identify the authorities with overall responsibility for land management and greenhouse gas emissions assessment within the project region. Include evidence that they have been

[11] 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

informed of the project in Annex 5, and explain how they will be engaged during project development.

Provide a statement that the project will operate in full compliance with all national and international policies, laws and regulations.

The project will operate in full compliance with all national and international policies, laws, and regulations. The project aligns with several existing Vanuatu government policies. These include the Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2016-2030; Life and Land Vanuatu 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 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 (objective 8.2), increasing the sustainability of food security (objectives 10.1-10.4), and strengthening disaster and climate resilient agriculture (objective 12.1). Any new community conservation areas created through the project will be registered with the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation as outlined in the Environmental Protection and Conservation Act CAP 283 (2011) (EPC)[12]. Section 2.14.4 of the 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 may impact the project, which is planning to establish new timber harvest areas. If these go ahead in areas where timber is not already being harvested, then the approval process through the Forestry Board will be followed. Within communities, Tupunis play a key role in developing and raising awareness of local practices and community bylaws in regard to the management of natural resources and agriculture, particularly for planting, harvesting, and conservation.

Nasituan will engage with the Tafea Provincial Government. Meetings with key national level government departments (e.g. Department of Forestry/Environment) are currently being arranged for an upcoming trip in March 2024.

4.3 Financial Plan

Describe how the finance required to fund project development will be obtained.

The project is fully funded by the New Zealand Government's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). Funds have been secured to cover the cost of establishing the project, supporting the local partner, paying for consultants, funding initial planting materials and labour costs for project interventions, as well as certification and compliance costs. Funding is secured until February 2026 although a second five-year phase is highly likely. Total funding for Vanuatu for the two years is NZD $1,293,071.

[12] Environmental Protection and Conservation Act CAP 283 (Vanuatu)

Annexes

List of Annexes

- Included within PIN
  - Annex 1 – Project Boundaries
  - Annex 2 – Registration Certificate
  - Annex 3 – Exclusion List
  - Annex 4 – Environmental and Social Screening
  - Annex 5 – Notification of Relevant Authorities
- Attached as separate documents
  - Annex A - Erromango & Tanna Scoping Trip Report V5
  - Annex B - Stakeholder Mapping L&L
  - Annex C – Evidence of Community Consultation
    - Appendix 1: Summary of Community Consultation 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
  - Annex D – Carbon Credit Consultation Document
  - Annex E - Free Prior Informed Consent Framework

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

Annex 2 –Registration Certificate

Provide a copy of the project coordinator registration certificate.

VANUATU FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

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

REGISTRAR OF CHARITABLE ASSOCIATIONS
VANUATU FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Branan Karae
Registrar of Charitable Associations

Certificate generated 8th day of February 2024

CATBR-70718039

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charities commission
Komihana Kaupapa Atawhai

Certificate of Registration

The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund

Registration number: CC21725

This is to certify that The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund was registered as a charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005 on 12 March 2008

Chair
Charities Commission

Chief Executive
Charities Commission

○ Annex 3 – 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')**
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.	No
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).	No
Trade in animals, plants or any natural products not complying with the provisions of the CITES/Washington convention [3].	No
Destructive fishing methods or drift net fishing with a net more than 2.5 km in length, explosives and/or poison.	No
Large-scale commercial logging operations for use in primary tropical moist forest.	No
Production or trade in wood or other forestry products other than from sustainably managed forests [4].	No

Exploitation of diamond mines and marketing of diamonds where the host country has not adhered to the Kimberley Process.	No
Activities involving harmful or exploitative forms of forced labour [5] or harmful child labour [6].	No
Projects that include involuntary physical displacement and/or forced eviction.	No
Production or activities that encroach on lands owned, or claimed or occupied by Indigenous Peoples, without full documented consent of such peoples.	No
Production, use, sale or trade of pharmaceuticals, pesticides/herbicides, ozone layer depleting substances [7], and other toxic [8] or dangerous materials such as asbestos or products containing PCB's [9], wildlife or products regulated under CITES, including all products that are banned or are being progressively phased out internationally	No
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).	No
Procurement and use of firearms.	No
Provision of finances to military institutions involved in conservation or security activities.	No
Production or trade of strong alcohol intended for human consumption or other alcoholic beverages (excluding beer and wine).	No
Production or trade of tobacco and other drugs	No
Gambling, gaming establishments, casinos or any equivalent enterprises and undertaking [10].	No
Any trade related to pornography or prostitution.	No
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	No
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%.	No
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.	No
Transboundary trade in wastes, except for those accepted by the Basel Convention and its underlying regulations [11].	No

Any activity leading to an irreversible modification or significant displacement of an element of culturally critical heritage [12].	No
Production and distribution, or investment in, media that are racist, antidemocratic or that advocate discrimination against a part of the population.	No
Projects involving the planting or introduction of invasive species	No
Projects that increase the dependency of primary participants and other stakeholders on fossil fuels.	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 4 - Environmental and Social Screening

Complete the table below by answering each risk question. Where relevant include details of any activities that will be carried out to better understand or mitigate potential risks.

Topic	Risk Questions	Project Coordinator Response
Environmental and Social Risks		
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 area, and are their livelihood conditions well understood by the project?	No landless farmers have been identified. Within the custom system land is not 'owned' as such, but rather the chief 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 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. 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.
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.
	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.
	Is there a risk that project activities could cause or contribute to gender-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.	No. The local partner (Nasituan) has also hired a gender specialist to work with 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.
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, health, work, water and adequate standard of living?	No, the project is designed to enhance these rights.
	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.

	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.
Community, Health, Safety & Security	Is there a risk of exacerbating existing social and stakeholder conflicts through the implementation of project activities? Consider for example existing conflicts over land or natural resources, between communities and the state.	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 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.
	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.
Labour and working conditions	Is there a risk that the project, including project partners, would lead to working conditions for project workers[13] 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

[13] Project workers include project coordinator staff, staff of other project partners, third party groups fulfilling core functions of the project, and community volunteers or contracted workers.

	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.
	Is there a risk that the project support or be 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.
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.
	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.
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 projects that introduce new access restrictions (eg. creation of a community forest), reinforce existing access restrictions (eg. improve management effectiveness and patrolling of a community forest) , or alter the way that land and natural resource access restrictions are decided (eg. through introducing formal management such as co-management).	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 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.
	Is there a risk that the access restrictions introduced /reinforced/altered 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 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.
Cultural heritage	Is the Project Area officially designated or proposed as a cultural site, including international and national designations?	No.
	Does the project site potentially include important physical cultural resources, including burial sites and monuments, or natural features or resources of cultural significance (eg. sacred sites and species, ceremonial areas) and is there risk that the project will negatively impact this cultural heritage?	To be determined. Community consultations will identify any cultural sites and communities will be involved in developing any land management plans so the risk of unintentionally negatively impacting any important sites or species is low.
	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.
Indigenous Peoples	Are there Indigenous Peoples[14] living within the Project Area, using the land or natural resources within	Yes, the communities of South River, Whitegrass and Middlebush all utilise resources within the project's area.

As per the IUCN Environmental and Social Management System, Indigenous Peoples include: "(i) peoples who identify themselves as "indigenous" in strict sense; (ii) tribal peoples whose social, cultural, and economic conditions distinguish them from other sections of the national community, and whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions or by special laws or regulations;

	the project area, or with claims to land or territory within the Project Area?	
	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'.
	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.
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 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.
	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.
	Is there a risk that the project will lead to the unsustainable use of	No. The project is focusing on how restoration activities can sustainably

and (iii) traditional peoples not necessarily called indigenous or tribal but who share the same characteristics of social, cultural, and economic conditions that distinguish them from other sections of the national community, whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions, and whose livelihoods are closely connected to ecosystems and their goods and services" (IUCN 2016).

	natural resources? Consider for example projects promoting value chains and natural resource-based livelihoods.	enhance areas already being used for cultivation of cash and food crops.
Land tenure and 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.
	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.
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 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 groups been assessed and understood?	Yes, initial consultation on this has been undertaken. Communities mentioned climate change as a driver of changing 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 (eg. 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.
Other – eg. 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.
	Are there any other environmental and social risks worthy of note that are not covered by the topics and questions above?	No.
Safeguard Provisions		
Stakeholder engagement	Has a stakeholder analysis been conducted that has identified all stakeholders that could influence or be affected by the project, or is this	Yes, full list provided in Annex B. Stakeholders are in various stages of engagement, for examples, community feedback and participatory exercise are ongoing.

	still to be completed? Please describe.	Formation, public notification, and finalisation of a formal agreement will be undertaken by Nasituan with the communities but is not yet complete.
	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.
	Are local governance structures and decision-making processes described and understood (including details of the involvement of women and marginalized or vulnerable groups), or is further assessment required? Please describe.	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.
	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.
Stakeholder consultation	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.
	Has the Project Coordinator informed all stakeholders of the project, through providing relevant project information in an accessible format, or does this still need to be completed? Please describe.	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 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	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.

	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.
	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 vulnerable groups) or is this still to be completed? Please describe.	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 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. Photos were taken at this event (Annex C).
Grievance Mechanism	Does the project already have a Grievance Mechanism, or is this still to be established? Please describe.	Still to be established.

	For projects with a GRM, is this accessible to project affected people? Please describe.	N/A

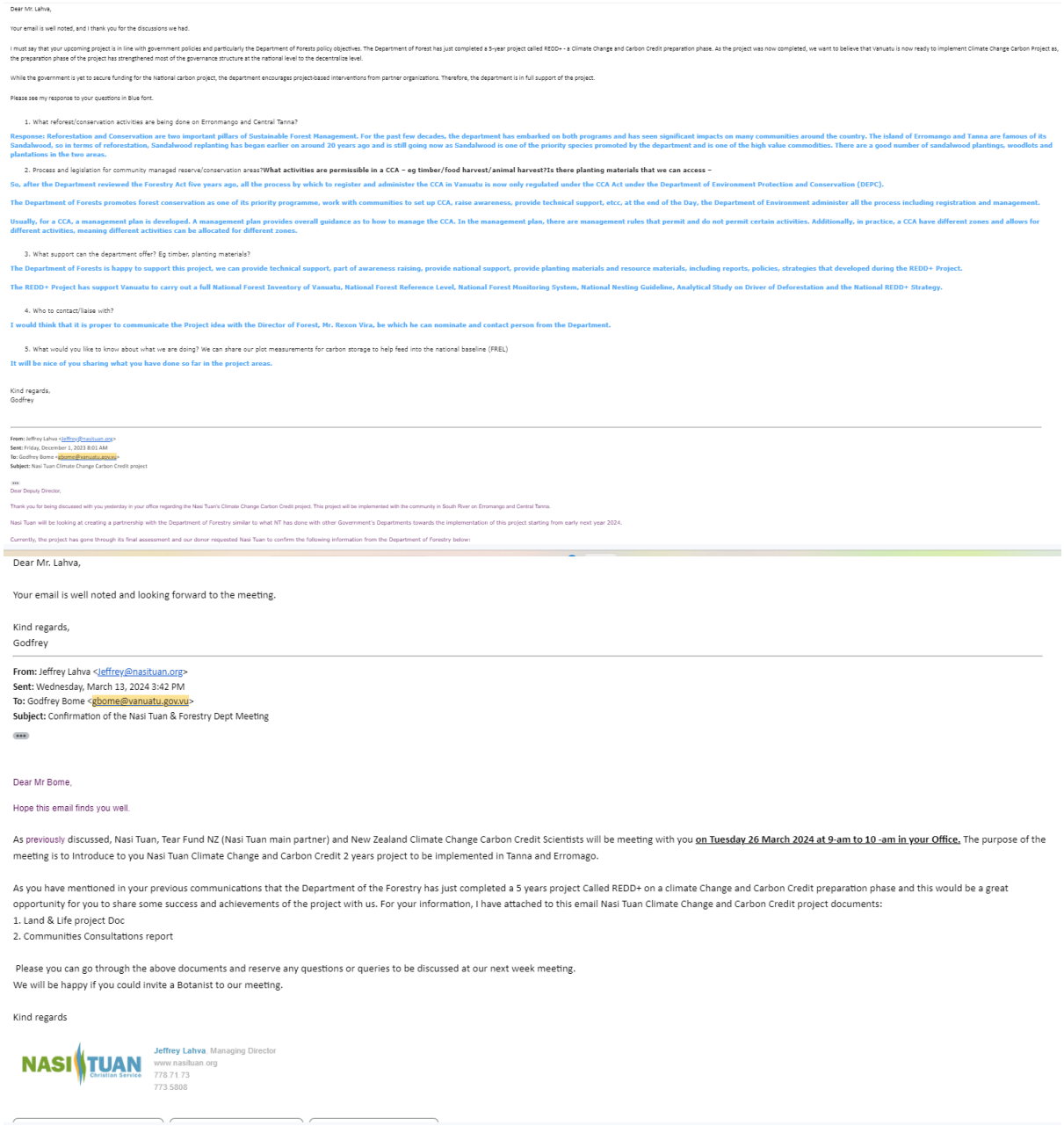
○ Annex 5 – Notification of Relevant Authorities

Provide a copy of any correspondence addressed to the authorities with overall responsibility for land management and greenhouse gas emissions assessment within the project region informing them of the project.

The project proponents notified various government departments of the project including the department of agriculture, environment and forestry.

Below is the schedule arranged by local partner Nasituan for meeting of various government and university stakeholders.

Dates	**time**	**Organization and Persons**	**Venue of the meeting**
Monday 25 /03/24	10 am – 11 h am	USP (University of the South Pacific) Mr Ruben Bakeo Markward. Director USP Campus, Vanuatu Dr Krisma Kumar Kotra Senior Lecturer in Chemistry	Emalus Campus, Director Office. Port Vila
	1-30 pm- 2-30 pm	Department of Environment Director (to be confirmed)	Environment Office Number 2 Port Vila
Tuesday 26/03/24	10 am- 11 am	Department of Forestry Mr Godfrey Bome Deputy Director Mr Bresely Botanist	Forestry Office. Tagabe, Port Vila
	11 am – 12 am	National University Dr Robson Tigona Senior Lecturer Environment science	National Univsity Office, INTV, Port Vila



Dear Mr. Lahva,

Your email is well noted, and I thank you for the discussions we had.

I must say that your upcoming project is in line with government policies and particularly the Department of Forests policy objectives. The Department of Forest has just completed a 5-year project called REDD+ - a Climate Change and Carbon Credit preparation phase. As the project was now completed, we want to believe that Vanuatu is now ready to implement Climate Change Carbon Project as, the preparation phase of the project has strengthened most of the governance structure at the national level to the decentralize level.

While the government is yet to secure funding for the National carbon project, the department encourages project-based interventions from partner organizations. Therefore, the department is in full support of the project.

Please see my response to your questions in Blue font.

1. What reforest/conservation activities are being done on Erronmango and Central Tanna?

Response: Reforestation and Conservation are two important pillars of Sustainable Forest Management. For the past few decades, the department has embarked on both programs and has seen significant impacts on many communities around the country. The island of Erromango and Tanna are famous of its Sandalwood, so in terms of reforestation, Sandalwood replanting has began earlier on around 20 years ago and is still going now as Sandalwood is one of the priority species promoted by the department and is one of the high value commodities. There are a good number of sandalwood plantings, woodlots and plantations in the two areas.

2. Process and legislation for community managed reserve/conservation areas?**What activities are permissible in a CCA – eg timber/food harvest/animal harvest?Is there planting materials that we can access –**

So, after the Department reviewed the Forestry Act five years ago, all the process by which to register and administer the CCA in Vanuatu is now only regulated under the CCA Act under the Department of Environment Protection and Conservation (DEPC).

The Department of Forests promotes forest conservation as one of its priority programme, work with communities to set up CCA, raise awareness, provide technical support, etcc, at the end of the Day, the Department of Environment administer all the process including registration and management.

Usually, for a CCA, a management plan is developed. A management plan provides overall guidance as to how to manage the CCA. In the management plan, there are management rules that permit and do not permit certain activities. Additionally, in practice, a CCA have different zones and allows for different activities, meaning different activities can be allocated for different zones.

3. What support can the department offer? Eg timber, planting materials?

The Department of Forests is happy to support this project, we can provide technical support, part of awareness raising, provide national support, provide planting materials and resource materials, including reports, policies, strategies that developed during the REDD+ Project.

The REDD+ Project has support Vanuatu to carry out a full National Forest Inventory of Vanuatu, National Forest Reference Level, National Forest Monitoring System, National Nesting Guideline, Analytical Study on Driver of Deforestation and the National REDD+ Strategy.

4. Who to contact/liaise with?

I would think that it is proper to communicate the Project idea with the Director of Forest, Mr. Rexon Vira, be which he can nominate and contact person from the Department.

5. What would you like to know about what we are doing? We can share our plot measurements for carbon storage to help feed into the national baseline (FREL)

It will be nice of you sharing what you have done so far in the project areas.

Kind regards,
Godfrey

From: Jeffrey Lahva <Jeffrey@nasituan.org>
Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 8:01 AM
To: Godfrey Bome <gbome@vanuatu.gov.vu>
Subject: Nasi Tuan Climate Change Carbon Credit project

Dear Deputy Director,

Thank you for being discussed with you yesterday in your office regarding the Nasi Tuan's Climate Change Carbon Credit project. This project will be implemented with the community in South River on Erromango and Central Tanna.

Nasi Tuan will be looking at creating a partnership with the Department of Forestry similar to what NT has done with other Government's Departments towards the implementation of this project starting from early next year 2024.

Currently, the project has gone through its final assessment and our donor requested Nasi Tuan to confirm the following information from the Department of Forestry below:

Dear Mr. Lahva,

Your email is well noted and looking forward to the meeting.

Kind regards,
Godfrey

From: Jeffrey Lahva <Jeffrey@nasituan.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 3:42 PM
To: Godfrey Bome <gbome@vanuatu.gov.vu>
Subject: Confirmation of the Nasi Tuan & Forestry Dept Meeting

Dear Mr Bome,

Hope this email finds you well.

As previously discussed, Nasi Tuan, Tear Fund NZ (Nasi Tuan main partner) and New Zealand Climate Change Carbon Credit Scientists will be meeting with you **on Tuesday 26 March 2024 at 9-am to 10 -am in your Office.** The purpose of the meeting is to Introduce to you Nasi Tuan Climate Change and Carbon Credit 2 years project to be implemented in Tanna and Erromago.

As you have mentioned in your previous communications that the Department of the Forestry has just completed a 5 years project Called REDD+ on a climate Change and Carbon Credit preparation phase and this would be a great opportunity for you to share some success and achievements of the project with us. For your information, I have attached to this email Nasi Tuan Climate Change and Carbon Credit project documents:
1. Land & Life project Doc
2. Communities Consultations report

Please you can go through the above documents and reserve any questions or queries to be discussed at our next week meeting.
We will be happy if you could invite a Botanist to our meeting.

Kind regards

NASI TUAN Christian Service
Jeffrey Lahva, Managing Director
www.nasituan.org
778 71 73
773 5808