

THE BUBU SHELL

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Management Plan Support (MPS) Workshop & AGM



2006 Management Planning Workshop Participants

From the 24th to the 28th of April 2006, Wantok Environment Centre (WTEC) united all its community based conservation areas for a management planning workshop.

The workshop was designed to help local conservation managers develop management plans to assist with management of their protected or conservation areas. Skills and knowledge learnt included land resource management techniques, data gathering, mapping & zoning, sustainable development & income generating activities, community facilitation, enforcement and monitoring processes. These topics were covered to help all members to establish their own management plan for their areas.

The facilitators for the workshop were Kennery Alvea

(Land holders Conservation Initiatives) Tarere Karae (Forestry Department) and WTEC Staff including Roy Hills (Director), Marie Kalsei (Project Officer) and Jennifer Pickering (Environmental Biologist). Members who attended the workshop were from Libanseisei, Jinarong, Nivnal, Nial, Jigonmaire, Wakon, Malhambae, Vatthe, Loru, Elian, Para, Leviamp, Jirinbo, Wiawi, Nawow, Uripiv Environmental association and Erromango. The workshop lasted for five days. Upon the completion of the MPS workshop WTEC's Second Annual General Meeting was held. The AGM focused on endorsement of new members, membership fees, activity report, key challenges and future projects for WTEC..

WTEC is looking forward to a similar workshop next year. The conservation area who will be hosting this event is Wiawi Conservation Area North West of Malekula.

WTEC is also grateful to NZ Aid

for providing the assistance so that we can unite all our members. We would also like to thank Narbul theatre for their participation and also the Host families for their generous support during their time with WTEC members.

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WTEC Background and Objectives

The plan to form a locally-based NGO to look after the needs and interests of rural conservation projects was first formulated during a workshop for community-based conservation areas organized by VPAI in 1999.

As enshrined in its constitution, its mission is the care and protection of Vanuatu's natural environment, recognising the importance for all forms of life, for present and future generations and in the sustainable development of the country.

WTEC's approach is people centred. Its main focal area is delivering technical support and other services needed by rural communities, families and individuals directly involved in the

conservation or protection of Vanuatu's wildlife and ecosystems and/or the sustainable management of natural resources. WTEC also has an education programme in schools, is engaged in promoting sustainable income generation (particularly from low-impact tourism) and is involved in species specific conservation and research that is in line with national and provincial conservation priorities.

The primary objectives of the WTEC as can be found in its Constitution are:

1. To facilitate mutual support and co-operation between environmental initiatives and projects through the membership of the Wantok Environment Centre.

2. To encourage and support environmental initiatives and projects consistent with the goal of the organisation, especially those being undertaken by individuals and communities in rural areas.
3. To facilitate better co-ordination and improved co-operation between government and non-government organisations involved in environmental matters, particularly in delivering environmental awareness and support at the community level.
4. To work with schools and other learning institutions to stimulate interest in Vanuatu's environment and increase practical skills and experience in environmental subjects.
5. To facilitate the use of appropriate

technologies that reduces human impact on the environment.

6. To encourage and support income-generating activities that are sustainable and have a low social and environmental impact.
7. To encourage and support the application of traditional knowledge and practices in the management and conservation of natural resources in Vanuatu.
8. To raise awareness of environment issues of importance to ni-Vanuatu and provide follow-up and support as and when appropriate.

In March 2004 Wantok Environment Centre (WTEC) was incorporated in Vanuatu as a charitable association.

Reef Check Workshop

A three day Reef Check Workshop was held at Magaliliu Village, North of Efate from the 15th to the 19th of May 2006. Two WTEC staff attended the workshop.

The course involved practical and theory sessions on how to carry out Reef Check survey's in field. These skills will be transferred to our members through Reef Check workshops to be held throughout 2006.

The workshop facilitators included Jessica Carla, Mike, Robertson & Glenis. WTEC is grateful to Reef Check Vanuatu for providing the training and also the materials that will be used for reef monitoring. We are looking forward to carrying out similar training to educate our members and involving them in a monitoring program so that they can manage their reef resources effectively.



WTEC logo. Bubu shell symbolizes custom and tradition, instrument of calling people together. Bird symbolizes carrier of environmental message out to public.

WTEC Welcomes New Volunteers

In late March this year, WTEC welcomed a new Australian Volunteer, Jennifer Pickering. Jen's role will be to support staff in strengthening WTEC's current projects through development of workshop materials, posters and newsletters for one year. She will also be assisting staff to carry out research, answer queries and requests and develop new projects. Jen hopes to share her knowledge gained from her studies in a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology and a Bachelor of Science (Honours) with WTEC staff. She also anticipates that skills gained working as a technical officer and research assistant for various organisations and scientists in the marine and freshwater fields will help her to make a contribution to the Centre.



Jennifer Pickering
(Conservation Support Officer)

WTEC would also like to welcome Jessica Feehely. Jess has just arrived in Vanuatu and is also an Australian Volunteer. She will be assisting WTEC with legal advice until June 2007. Before coming to Vanuatu, Jess worked for the Environmental Defender's Office in Tasmania.

World Environment Week Celebration 2006

**ENVIRONMENT
NEWS**



Saturday, June 3, three primary schools and the general public of Luganville celebrated the start of World Environment Week with a voluntary town and underwater clean-up. Throughout the morning Santo East, Rohwahni and Sarakata schools and some members of the Luganville community gave their time to collect rubbish throughout Luganville including the main street, Le Lablas and the Market Place. Over 90 students and members of the public who were involved collected kilos of rubbish from the town that consisted mostly of plastic wrappers, bottles, batteries, cans and phone cards. Students and teachers then participated in an environmental quiz, receiving prizes for correct answers.

Luganville's first underwater cleanup then took place at three sites along the Segond Chanel. The three sites included Unity Park, BP Wharf and Rotary Park. Ten local and visiting scuba divers took part collecting several bags of rubbish. Students also assisted with the cleanup by collecting rubbish from the shoreline and by snorkelling. The majority of the waste consisted of car parts, scrap metal, nappies, bottles and tin cans.

Aquamarine Dive Centre donated free gear hire and logistical support for scuba divers who took part in the underwater cleanup. All rubbish was collected by the Luganville with clean-up and awareness activities.

World Environment Week 2006 began on Sunday June 4 and ended on Saturday June 10. The international theme for this year's World Environment Day (Tuesday June 6) was Deserts and Desertification.

Saturday June 10 at Unity Park, Luganville celebrated the end of World Environment Week.

Activities that took place included a school and community parade, school poster competition, cricket and volleyball tournaments, and Vanua Tai Total Monitor DVD screening. The day finished with a string band competition with a first prize of 25,000 Vatu that was donated by ANZ and David Cross, second prize of 10,000VT and third prize of 5,000VT. A dive with Santo Island Diving and Fishing was given to the band with the best dancing and a bag of rice donated by New Look was given to the band with the best costume.

WTEC is grateful to ANZ, Aquamarine, Santo Island Diving and Fishing, David Cross, Hotel Santo, Coral Quays Resort, Aore Resort, LCM Store, LCC Store, LYC Store, Unity Store, Natangora Café, New Look, Vanuatu Luganville Handicraft, Luganville Stationery, Santo Butchery, Forestry Department, Virgin Coconut Oil, Vanuatu Cricket, Vanuatu Beverages and Ausaid for their generous donations of prizes, Daily Post and Halo FM for providing free advertisement for World Environment Week. We are looking forward to a similar event next year 2007.

VANUATU "Daily Post"

Emao declares conservation area

Monday 29th June 2006 was a turning point for the island Emao on North of Efate. On that day a historical custom event took place which will greatly benefit the villagers of the entire island for many generations.

Chef Gelbert Maritu a paramount chief of Wiana village officially declared the birth of the Ngusunpofa Conservation area, an area covering 25 hectares of prime coral reef habitat and fish nursery areas. The declaration, made in custom dress include speeches and placement of two namele leaves mark the area. Wiana ville should be proud that they have now join every other village on Emao creating and maintaining marine protected areas. The first conservation areas on Emao were declared by the chiefs of ngurua, Mapua and Managoro villages many years ago and the villages are reaping the fruits of their planning. The fisheries resources of these villages reported at record levels. Emao becomes the first island in the Republic of Vanuatu where each village has a permanent marine protected area. This is an achievement which should be emulated by other islands, especially as today we are seeing the effect of over fishing and environmental damage on a daily basis. The declaration ceremony at Wiana was culmination of the outreach program by Nguna Pele marine protected area in which several awareness and information sessions were provided. The Nguna Pele marine protected area is a community based organization open to each village on the island of Nguna and Pele.

International News

"BBC"

Deep Sea fish Stocks 'plundered'

Fish stocks in international waters are being plundered to the point of extinction, a leading conservationist group has said.

Illegal fishing and bottom trawling in deep water are to blame, according to a report from WWF. It says the current system of regional fishing regulation is failing to tackle the problem, with not enough being done to enforce quotas or replenish stock

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**ENVIRONMENT NEWS
CONTINUED**

**Deep - sea fish stock
'Plundered'**

It says species under severe threat include tuna and the orange roughy .The orange roughy is targeted by the bottom –trawlers, which drag heavy rollers over the ocean floor, destroying coral and other ecosystems. Given the perilous overall state of the marine fisheries resources and the continuing threats posed to the marine environment by over fishing and damaging fishing activity. illegal fishing “by highly mobile fleets under the control of multinational companies” was identified as one of the worst threats to the marine life. The regulations of fishing in these international waters is the responsibility of regional fishing management organizations – made up of countries with vested interest in the area. According to WWF, most are failing to manage fish stock in a sustainable way. Decision-making is poor, it says, the regional organization are powerless to control the activities of countries who ignore regulations. This back-up the analysis last year from conservation group Bird life International, which conclude the majority of the regional fisheries organization are failing to take their responsibilities seriously. The authors are calling on the United Nations to review fishing on the high seas and strengthen the resolve of the regional authorities to deal with states that flout agreements. “ There is hope if we can get management put in place” director of WWF's Marine Programme Mr Cripps said.

Events

- Malao Vatthe and CI Support Awareness tour
- Jen & Marie attend Reef Check Workshop
- Jen attended World Heritage 2006 Proposal meeting
- War attend the National Training Board Meeting
- World Environment Week
- WTEC welcomes legal volunteer

Up Coming

- MPS follow Up
- Vatthe & CI awareness tour and meeting with communities .
- VCA Management Plan Review

**THE BUBU SHELL
CONTRIBUTIONS**

The Bubu Shell is a publication for WTEC members and friends. It provides a chance to share your information, experience and conservation stories with the rest of us. WTEC intends to publish the newsletter on a quarterly basis (i.e. end of the months of January, April, July and October). Therefore, we would very much like some contributions or writing from our members and friends. Please forward your contribution for The Bubu Shell to us by post, fax or email - to arrive on or around the 1st day of the month of publication.

*Guest article (Land holders conservation Initiatives)
by Kennery Alvea Extension officer*

The aim of the Environmental Unit's 'Land Holders Conservation Initiatives Project' is to facilitate and strengthen traditional approaches to conservation to enable locally governed and managed protected areas to be more effective conservation tools. The project contributes to the GEF strategic priority 1 for biodiversity “ catalyzing sustainability of protected areas” specifically objective (c) catalyzing community indigenous initiatives. The project will establish mosaic community conservation areas through the strategy extensively focusing on the promotion of local community participation in design, implementation, management and monitoring biodiversity conservation out come. The intended outcome is greater and more effective application of locally and culturally appropriate mechanism to conserve Vanuatu's nationally significant biodiversity. The project rationale and objective are (1) Facilitate, adapt and strengthen traditional mechanism to conserve biodiversity on Gaua, Tanna & Santo. (2) Provide an enabling environment and strengthen government and non - government capacity to support community based conservation initiatives and replicate success in other areas of Vanuatu. (3) Monitor the impact and the effectiveness of the landholder based conservation areas (to inform or direct work to adapt and strengthen traditional conservation approaches. The islands in which the project is implemented are ; Gaua island (1 Field officer) Santo (1 Extension officer) Tanna (1Community development officer & 1 Conservation officer.)

The project was developed following recommendations for the conservation of significant species of flora & fauna and their sites under the national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NSAP). In general for all islands the project will be focussing to work with landholders and communities of the targeted island to conserve some international and national significant species of flora and fauna. If you are interested to know more about this project please contact :

LCIP Extension Officer on (678) 36906 or email: conservation.santo@vanuatu.com.vu Or you can also contact the Department of Environment Unit in Port Vila on Telephone/ Fax (678) 26565 or email:local.conservation@vanuatu.com.vu

Thank you !



*Kennery Alvea
Extension officer*