



DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Torba Province Small Island Awareness and Climate Change Symposium Scoping Report



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Acknowledgement

Acknowledgment of Support for Climate Change Awareness in Torba Province

The Department of Climate Change (DoCC) extends its sincere appreciation to the Torba Provincial Council, under the leadership of the Torba Secretary General, for granting approval to the DoCC team to conduct the climate change awareness activity in Torba Province. This support has been instrumental in reaching remote communities and enhancing their resilience to climate impacts.

We also acknowledge the invaluable partnership with Respond Global and HELPR-1, whose collaboration has enabled the delivery of this awareness initiative across the remote islands of Torba Province. Their commitment to climate resilience is commendable.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the Area Administrators and Community Liaison Officers in Torba Province for their dedication in mobilizing communities to participate in the awareness sessions. Their efforts have ensured broad community engagement and understanding.

Additionally, we express our gratitude to the Chiefs, School Principals, and Community Leaders for their support and permission to conduct these awareness sessions within their communities. Their leadership and cooperation have been vital in fostering a climate-conscious culture.

Together, these collective efforts have significantly contributed to building a more informed and resilient Torba Province in the face of climate change challenges.

Contents

Acknowledgement	2
Executive Summary	4
ACTIVITY 1 REPORT: Small Island Awareness Campaign in Schools and Communities	5
Objectives:	5
Overview	5
Beneficiaries Reached	5
Activities Conducted	6
Key Highlights.....	7
Challenges Encountered	7
Outcomes and Impact.....	8
Recommendations	9
ACTIVITY 2 REPORT: Vulnerability Assessment Report and Climate Change Symposium Scoping Report	12
Finance Report for SIA	15
Appendices.....	19
Pictures.....	19
Registration Forms	26

Executive Summary

In 2025, the Small Island Awareness Campaign reached its final phase in Torba Province, completing a five-year initiative across all six provinces of Vanuatu. The campaign aimed to enhance climate change awareness among communities and schools in Torba and to conduct a scoping assessment for the upcoming Climate Change Symposium in October 2025. This assessment sought to identify existing climate adaptation projects and develop context-specific activities for schools and communities to address climate impacts.

Vanuatu's remote islands, particularly in Torba Province, face escalating climate change challenges due to their geographical isolation and unique environmental characteristics. Limited access to services exacerbates vulnerability. The Department of Climate Change aimed to reach these areas, raise awareness about climate change causes and impacts, and inform communities about national and international adaptation efforts.

The campaign employed awareness sessions and one-on-one interviews to collect data for vulnerability assessments. Posters were distributed to schools and communities to educate on climate change impacts, government actions, and local adaptation strategies.

Recommendations include collaborating closely with Area Administrators and Community Liaison Officers to tailor activities that address climate impacts on both the environment and livelihoods. Additionally, partnering with the Vanuatu Society for People with Disability is crucial to ensure inclusive climate resilience strategies that consider the needs of vulnerable groups.

The campaign received positive feedback, especially from community leaders and schools, highlighting its success in educating children and communities about climate change impacts and actionable solutions at the local level.

ACTIVITY 1 REPORT: Small Island Awareness Campaign in Schools and Communities

Objectives:

To build the knowledge capacities of communities and schools in the 9 Area Councils of Torba Province on:

- The role of the Department of Climate Change in the International, National and Community Level
- The definition of Climate Change as well as its Causes and Impacts in Vanuatu
- The Adaptation and Mitigation measures of Climate Change in Vanuatu

Overview

The Climate Change Small Island Awareness campaign was held from April 29 to May 12, 2025, covering Loh, Toga, Tegua, Hiu, and Mota Islands. Due to limited staffing and seasickness experienced aboard the HELPR-1 vessel, the team was unable to visit all the islands in the Banks group. Nevertheless, we continued our efforts by conducting vulnerability assessments and preparing for the upcoming symposium scheduled for October.

During our visits, the team conducted awareness sessions in two schools and five communities. Additionally, residents from neighboring villages attended these sessions to access health services provided by the accompanying Health Team. As a result, over 500 participants benefited from the combined awareness and health services offered across the visited locations.

Beneficiaries Reached

Village/ School	No. Of Students	No. Of Teachers	No. Of Community Members
Robin Primary & Junior Secondary Memorial Centre School	130	9	-
Bakavegug School	128	9	-
Lunghariki Village, Loh	-	-	47+
Litau Village, Toga	-	-	113
Lirak Village, Tegua	-	-	99
Yowia Village, Hiu	-	-	48+
Veverao Village, Mota	-	-	18

Note: Registrations attached in Appendix

We were not able to do registration of all community members who were present during the awareness in the community/ village because they were also there for health checkups with the Health Team that were also in the Helpr-1 Torba Mission.

Additionally, in Mota Village, we capitalised on using the time that VCAP2 Project arranged with a few of the community members from each village (10 Villages) to attend a consultation meeting. We used that opportunity to give a brief overview of the Department of Climate Change as well as complete a CCDRR Project: M&E Field Visit Assessment Form.

Activities Conducted

Engaging Students in Climate Change Awareness Campaigns

The awareness campaigns conducted in schools and communities focused on fostering a deep understanding of climate change and its local impacts. By actively involving students through thought-provoking questions and reflective discussions, the initiative aimed to cultivate critical thinking and personal connections to environmental issues.

Interactive Learning Approaches

Central to the campaign was the use of interactive methods that encouraged students to reflect on the observable effects of climate change in their surroundings. Facilitators posed questions such as:

- "Have you noticed any changes in local weather patterns?"
- "What unusual weather events have you experienced recently?"
- "How do these changes affect your daily life and community?"

These questions prompted students to share personal observations and discuss the broader implications of climate change. Such reflective practices not only enhanced their awareness but also empowered them to recognize their role in addressing environmental challenges.

Community Involvement and Broader Impact

The campaign extended beyond the classroom, engaging community members in discussions about sustainable practices and resilience strategies. By bridging the gap between education and community action, the initiative fostered a collective responsibility towards environmental stewardship. This holistic approach aimed to inspire both students and community members to adopt sustainable behaviors and advocate for policies that mitigate climate change impacts.

In summary, the climate change awareness campaigns effectively utilized interactive and reflective learning techniques to deepen understanding and inspire action among students and communities. By fostering critical thinking and community engagement, the initiative contributed to building a more informed and proactive society in the face of climate challenges.

Key Highlights

The Small Island Awareness campaign in Torba Province, Vanuatu, has emerged as a comprehensive model for integrating climate change education, community engagement, and inclusive resilience strategies. A key highlight of this initiative was the active participation of the Vanuatu Society of People with Disability (VSPD), which emphasized the incorporation of Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) principles into climate resilience efforts. Their involvement underscored the importance of ensuring that climate resilience strategies are inclusive and equitable, addressing the needs of all community members, including those with disabilities.

In schools, students exhibited strong interest and engagement during the awareness sessions, actively participating and demonstrating a clear understanding of the current climate challenges affecting Vanuatu. They were able to relate the information presented to their local environment, recognizing the direct impacts of climate change on their communities. This aligns with national efforts to integrate climate change education into the curriculum, as seen in the Ministry of Education's initiatives to strengthen the foundations of climate change and disaster risk management across various subjects and educational levels.

Similarly, in the community, members showed great interest and were highly engaged during the awareness sessions. They actively participated in discussions and were able to compare the climate conditions of the past with those of the present, noting significant changes and their effects on local livelihoods. This reflection underscores the importance of community-based knowledge in shaping effective climate adaptation strategies.

The establishment of Community Climate Centres (CCCs) in the Provinces of Vanuatu further supports these efforts, serving as hubs for receiving and disseminating Climate Information Services (CIS) and building the adaptive capacity of communities. These centres aim to enhance access to vital climate information, ensuring that no one is left behind in accessing vital weather data, disaster alerts, and adaptation resources.

Overall, the Small Island Awareness campaign in Torba Province exemplifies a successful model of climate change education and community engagement, highlighting the province's proactive approach to addressing climate change challenges.

Challenges Encountered

Organizing climate change awareness sessions in Vanuatu's remote communities presents several challenges that require adaptive strategies and collaborative efforts.

One significant hurdle is mobilizing communities and schools to participate in awareness sessions. Given the geographical dispersion and limited infrastructure in many areas, reaching these populations necessitates careful planning and coordination. For instance, leveraging existing events, such as health checkups conducted by the Health Team, can serve as effective platforms to engage community members who might otherwise be difficult to reach.

Another challenge lies in addressing the diverse age groups and varying literacy levels within the target audience. To ensure the effectiveness of awareness programs, it's crucial to simplify complex climate change concepts and present them in accessible formats. Utilizing visual aids, interactive activities, and culturally relevant examples can enhance understanding and retention among participants.

Additionally, logistical constraints often impede comprehensive data collection during awareness sessions. In instances where large numbers of individuals attend, it may be impractical to register every participant fully. While collecting basic information such as names can provide some insights, obtaining detailed demographic data like age and village affiliation may require follow-up engagements or alternative methods to ensure a more complete understanding of the community's profile.

Addressing these challenges necessitates a flexible, community-centred approach that respects local contexts and fosters collaborative partnerships. By integrating traditional knowledge with scientific information and employing inclusive communication strategies, climate change awareness efforts can be more impactful and sustainable in Vanuatu's diverse communities.

Outcomes and Impact

The climate change awareness sessions conducted across the Torres and East Vanua lava Area Council of Torba Province significantly contributed to enhancing the knowledge capacities of communities and schools on key aspects of climate change. These sessions effectively conveyed the role of the Department of Climate Change (DoCC) at the national and community levels. Participants gained insights into the department's involvement in national policy development and local adaptation initiatives, fostering a deeper understanding of its multifaceted role in addressing climate challenges.

The awareness programs also provided clear definitions of climate change, elucidating its causes and impacts specific to Vanuatu. Through accessible explanations and relatable examples, community members and students recognized the direct effects of climate change on their environment, livelihoods, and daily lives.

Furthermore, the sessions introduced adaptation and mitigation measures tailored to Vanuatu's context. Participants were informed about practical strategies to cope with climate-induced challenges, such as sustainable agricultural practices, coastal protection, and disaster preparedness, empowering them to take proactive steps in building resilience within their communities.

A notable feature of the climate change awareness initiatives in Torba Province was the active involvement of the Vanuatu Society for People with Disability (VSPD). Their participation underscored the integration of Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) principles into climate resilience efforts. This collaboration highlighted the importance of ensuring that climate resilience strategies are inclusive and equitable, addressing the needs of all community members, including those with disabilities.

By engaging with the VSPD, the initiatives emphasized the necessity of inclusive approaches in climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. This partnership not only enhanced the effectiveness of the awareness sessions but also reinforced the commitment to building a resilient and inclusive community in the face of climate challenges.

Overall, the climate change awareness sessions played a pivotal role in equipping the communities and schools of Torba Province with the knowledge and tools necessary to understand and address the pressing issue of climate change. The integration of GEDSI principles further strengthened the inclusivity and effectiveness of these initiatives, ensuring that all members of the community are empowered to participate in climate resilience efforts.

Recommendations

To enhance the effectiveness of climate change awareness initiatives in Torba Province, several strategic recommendations are proposed:

Deploying additional staff members can significantly expand the reach of awareness programs. For instance, assigning four staff members per team would enable simultaneous sessions in multiple villages, thereby covering a broader area within a single day. This approach aligns with the Department of Climate Change's (DoCC) objective to improve climate change awareness among communities by standardizing technical information and tailoring projects to community needs.

Collaborating with the Helpr-1 Torba Mission to set fixed schedules and predetermined travel routes can facilitate better planning and coordination. By providing Area Administrators or Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) with advance notice, communities can be mobilized more effectively, ensuring higher attendance and participation in awareness sessions. This strategy supports the Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy's emphasis on improving communication and coordination mechanisms at the community level.

The Department of Climate Change (DoCC) in Vanuatu should consider scheduling its activities during the Helpr-1 Project Week to effectively achieve its objectives and reach a broader audience. Aligning with the Helpr-1 schedule would facilitate better coordination and maximize the impact of awareness campaigns across the province.

Implementing these recommendations will not only streamline operations but also foster a more collaborative and efficient approach to climate change awareness in Torba Province.

Next steps

Actions recommended for the future programme implementation

Island	Area Council	Hazard	Impacts	Programme development
LOH	Torres	Sea Level Rise	Coastal Erosion	Rehabilitation (Tree Planting)
		TC		CDCCC Training
TOGA	Torres	Drought	Shortage of Water	Water Management (DWSSP Training)
		Tropical Cyclone & droughts	Food security	Climate Smart Agriculture best practices
		Tropical Cyclone	Crop production decline	Food Preservation Program
		Tropical cyclone	CCDRR Preparedness	CDCCC Training
TEGUA	Torres	Sea Level Rise	Saltwater intrusion	Community and School-Awareness on best practices
			Coastal Erosion	Tree Planting and Conservation
		Tropical Cyclone	CCDRR Preparedness	CDCCC Training
HIU	Torres	Sea Level Rise	Coastal Erosion	Coastal Rehabilitation
		Tropical cyclone	Reduction of resources	Awareness on Resource management and conservation
		Drought	Agriculture	Climate Smart Agriculture awareness
VANUALAVA (SOLA)	East Area Council	Extreme Rainfall	Landslides	Tree Planting and Awareness
		Extreme rainfall	Flash floods	Tree planting and awareness
		Sea Level Rise	Coastal erosion	Coastal Rehabilitation
		TC	Early warming	Awareness on Early warming
		TC	Capacity building	CDCCC
MOTA		Extreme events	Shortage of water/ contaminated water	Water Management Awareness
		TC	Capacity building	CDCCC Training

Department of Agriculture/ Livestock/ Forestry, Torba Province

Recommended Activities by the respective Departments in Torba Province

Activity	Description	Who to Engage	Location
Climate Smart Agriculture Practices	Demonstration Crafting and Farming Technics and Traditional Knowledge (Seasonal Planting Calendar)	Farmers/ Community Members/ Schools	Sola
Multiplication Plots	Harvesting and Analysis of Root Crops/ Vegetables from the Multiplication Plots	Farmers/ Student/ Community Members	Sola/ Motalava/ West Vanualava
Farm to School Program	Field to School Activity	Students	Baldwin Lonsdale Memorial School
Planting of Cattle Pastures	➤ Site visit and/ or engage in planting activities	Students/ Farmers	East Vanualava
Milking Program	➤ Visit Site and engage in Milking Program activities	Students/ Farmers	West Vanualava
Small Poultry Farms	➤ Visit Site	Students/ Farmers	East Vanualava
Replanting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Visit Forestry Plots ➤ Replanting of tree species specified by Torba DoF (Mahogany, Sandalwood, Red Wood, Nakatambol etc..) 	Student/ Community Members/ Farmers	

ACTIVITY 2 REPORT: Vulnerability Assessment Report and Climate Change Symposium Scoping Report

Full details will be in a separate report

Link: [Torba Vulnerability Impact Assessment](#)

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TORBA CCDRR Monitoring-Evaluation & Vulnerability impact Assessment

TORBA CCDRR Monitoring-Evaluation & Vulnerability impact Assessment

LOH ISLAND

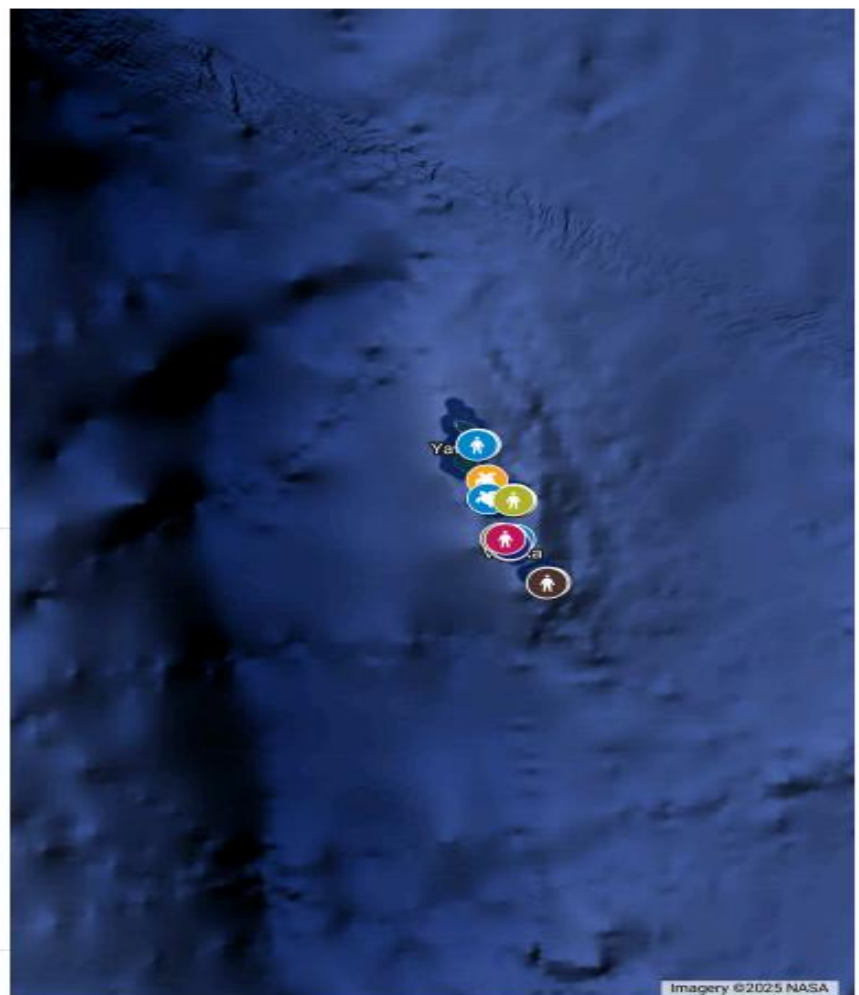
- Loh island anchorage
- Community Awareness
- School Awareness
- Vulnerability & CC impact Assessment
- Monitoring and Evaluation of CCDRR Projects & Activities
- Joseph Pele's Guest-House
- LOH DISPENSARY
- Disability
- VCAP II Project Site- AC/EC
- Conservation Area
- Coastal Erosion Impacts
- Population Reach 200+

TOGA ISLAND

- Community Awareness
- Vulnerability & CC Impact Assessment
- Monitoring and Evaluation of CCDRR Projects activities +Programs
- School Awareness
- HELPR1- Jacks Sparrow Boat
- Disability
- Population reach- 600+

TEGUA ISLAND

- Lirack Village



<https://www.google.com/maps/d/print?mid=1Hprq72k0gN1a-SRx43np6T-wiq5Gdy6&pagew=612&pageh=792&llsw=-13.457347%2C166.070981&...>

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Vulnerability and CC Impact
Assessment



Community Awareness



Monitoring and Evaluation of
AWS



HELPR1



Wharf



School



Population



Household



Disability



Coconut Conservation Area



Turtles (MBA)



Conservation Area (MBA)



Population Reach-50+

HIU Island



Ugavigamena Village



Population



Disability



Monitoring and Vulnerability
Assessment



CC Awareness Talk



Anchorage



VCAP II/ Fisheries



Conservation Area



Guest House



Church House



Conservation Area (MBA)



Population Reach-100+

VANUALAVA (SOLA) ISLAND



NDMO Office Building



Anchorage















Crocodile River

CCDRR PROJECT SITES



VCAP II Conservation Area

-  Metoma Conservation Area
 -  Area Council Building
 -  MBA
 -  Marine Conservation
 -  Quanlap Conservation-Green
 -  Turtle
 -  Green Turtle Conservation
 -  VCAP Flying Fox Conservation
 -  Area
 -  FlyingFox
 -  VCAPII Conservation Area
 -  VCAP II Conservation Area
-

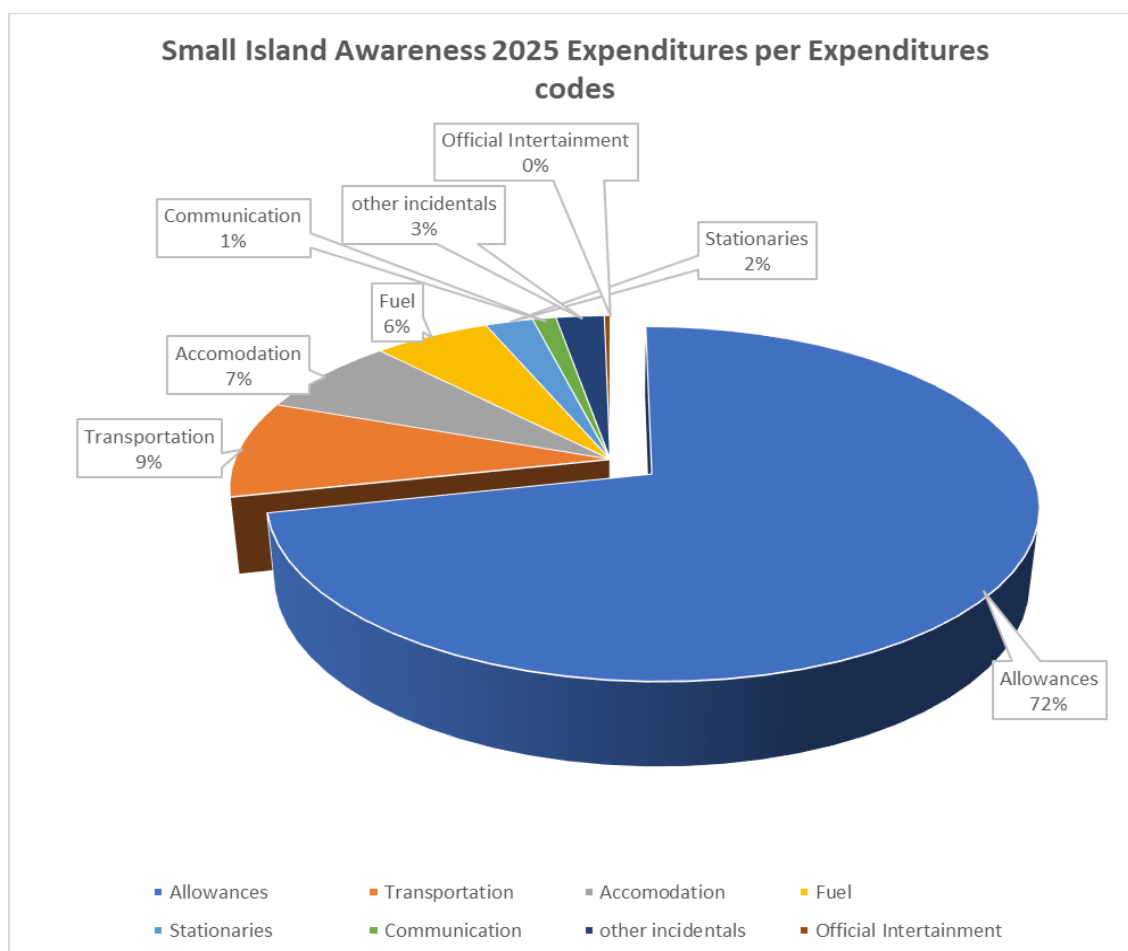
Finance Report for SIA

The small island awareness budget come from Dpt ongoing NPP secured back in 2020 and this year was the last year for the GVT to fund this activity as the Dpt had reached out to all 6 Provinces.

The Detail expenditures for this Torba Province small Island awareness program is detail below per Smart stream expenditures codes.

Small island Expenditures per smart stream expenditures codes

862,000	109,390	88,500	70,300	28,680	14,000	28,980	3,500	1,205,350
Allowances	Transportation	Accomodation	Fuel	Stationaries	Communication	other incidentals	Official Intertainment	Total



An amount of VUV 100,000 + of DSA was refunded because officers were not fully complete all days that they are entitle to it. This amount was already deducted from the above table.

The Transportation cost was not to hire because of the MOU signed with HELPER ONE to support the Dpt to carry out this activity. Helper, one did not charge any amount to the Dpt.

Detail expenditure for Paama Youth Competition

Transportation	72,000
Competition Prize (shared between Football and Volley Ball	100,000
seedlings	28,000
Total	200,000

Climate Change activity conducted is to engage all the football and volley ball teams participating in the competition to plan trees following coastline from North to South Paama. Pictures will be shared once received from ACCCO for Paama.

96 Seedlings all varieties purchased from the Forestry Dpt in Vila to give out to each player at the end of the competition as part of the mitigation activity during the event.

Others expenditures:

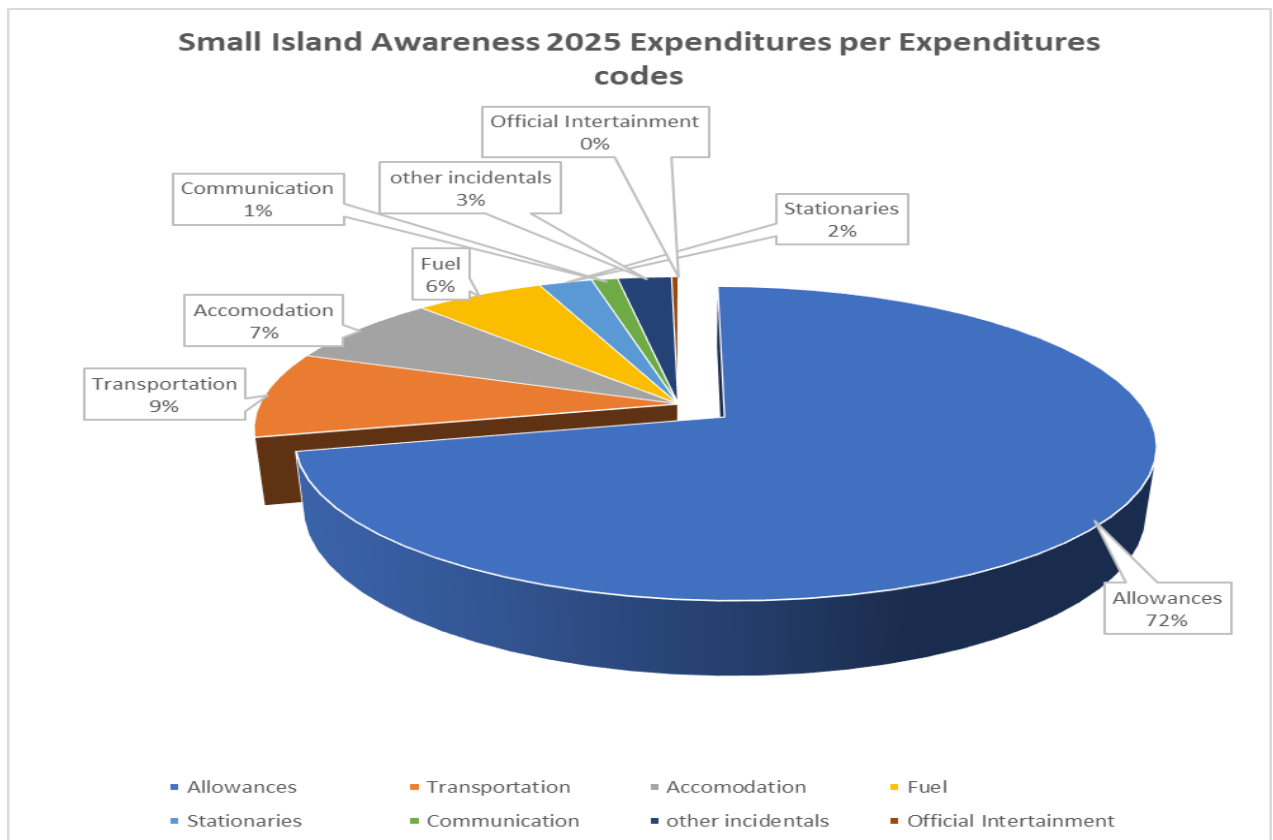
Comm's recurrent budget is very limited therefore as part of its awareness program decide to purchase a new screen that will be place in front at the reception to entertain visitors will Climate key messages when entering the office.

The total cost of this screen was: **Vuv 39,990**

Consolidated Small Island NPP Expenditures

The NPP Small Island expenditures is consolidated as follows:

Allowances	1,926,000
Transportation	223,390
Accomodation	402,300
Fuel	70,300
Stationaries	39,261
Communication	14,000
other incidentals	128,980
Official Intertainment	3,500
Venue Hire	654,000
Facilitator cost	28,000
New IT Equipment	39,990
Seedlings	28,000
Total	3,557,721



Please note that the difference from total NPP budget approved was:

- **VUV 1,000,000** uncommitted for Tree Planting
- **VUV 442,279** is the unspent Funds from the Imprest issued.

From the above table Allowances is more than half of the expenditures made from this NPP and this is justified through Grant Writing allowances for AA's and 3 Weeks DSA's for officers travelling to Torba Province.

An amount of VUV 100,000 + of DSA was refunded to the Dpt from travelling officers because they return early and some are not capable to join the team because of bad weather and flights were cancelled.

Admin challenges faced this year is that final planning reached us late to mobilise resources before the event.

Bad Weather during that time is another challenge and with Helper One not having enough space to accommodate team on board makes it very difficult.

The Activity was successfully implemented with the support of Van Kirap project team, VCAP2 project team and Torba provincial Government officers.

Appendices

Pictures

Loh Island

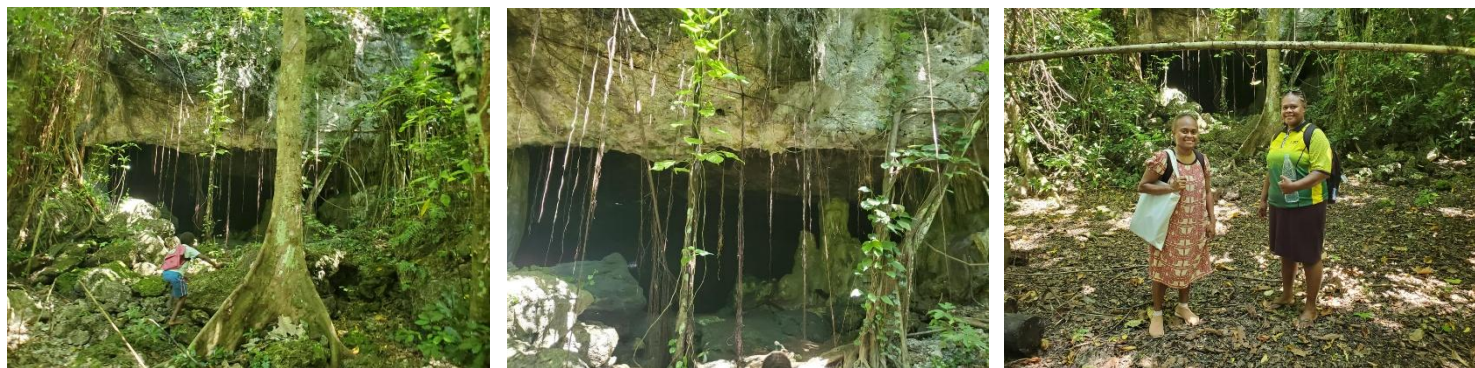
Group Photo with Robin Primary & Junior Secondary Memorial Centre School Teachers & Students, Loh Island



Awareness at Lunghariki Village, Loh Island



Photo of Cave, used by the people of Loh Island to hide in during Cyclone Events



Tegua Island

Community Members of Lirak Village, Tegua





Only Kindy on the Island of Tegua

Coastal Areas of Tegua Island prone to sea level rise and coastal erosion



Hiu Island

Joint Community Awareness Yowia Village, Hiu Island



Coastal Areas of Yowia Village, Hiu Island



Toga Island

Joint Awareness at Bakavegug School, Toga Island



Group Photo after Awareness at Litau Village, Toga Island



Storian with the Children on the impacts of climate change they see...



Community Consultations



Senior M&E Officer, Consultation on the Island of Hiu



Admin Officer, Consultation on the Island of Mota



Snr M&E Officer, Consultation on Toga Island



Community Consultations on Toga Island

Registration Forms

Registration forms for all awareness programs can be viewed on this link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ht6qrlpmTQZ_ZTAzjrN2Pk8iDSDIQg7D?usp=sharing