

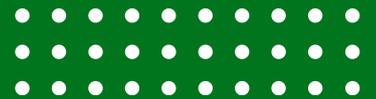


2025

CLIMATE CHANGE SYMPOSIUM TORBA REPORT

Building a Climate Resilient Vanuatu

Prepared By:
Department of Climate Change



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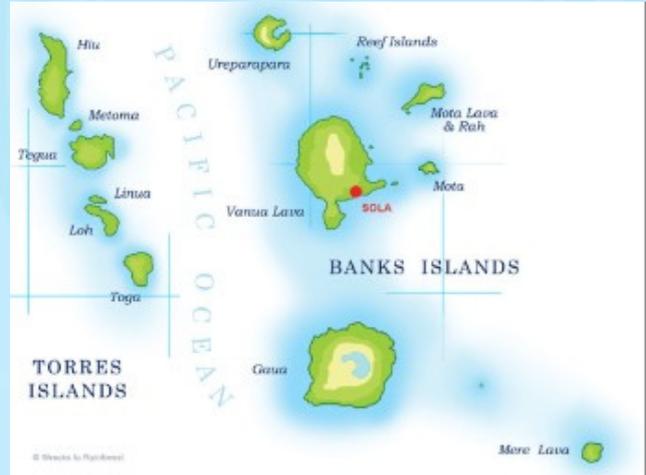
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ABBREVIATION

CC	Climate Change
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
MoCC	Ministry of Climate Change
NAB	National Advisory Board
DoCC	Department of CLimate Change
DARD	Department of Agriculture of rural and development
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
DoE	Department of Education
TPG	Torba Provincial Government
MRV	Monitoring reporting and Verification
LnD	Loss and Damage
NPP	New Project Proposal
ACCO	Area Council Climate Change Officer
CDCCC	Community Disaster Climate Change Committee
OIC	Officer in Charge



"THE DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE STANDS WITH YOU, COMMITTED TO SAFEGUARDING OUR LIVELIHOODS THROUGH INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES THAT ENSURE A RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR ALL."



**"Resilience is not a choice !
It is our mandate - Our responsibility.
Together, we are building a climate-resilient
Vanuatu."**



Acknowledgment



Nelson KALO - Acting Director

The Department of Climate Change (DoCC) extends its deepest appreciation to the President of TORBA Provincial Government Honorable Edgar Howard Woleg and the Torba Provincial Government staffs, dedicated stakeholders for their invaluable collaboration and support.

Through this strong partnership, we successfully brought our climate outreach event to the heart of the province—ensuring that vital information reaches those most affected by climate impacts. Hosting the event at the area councils level, while engaging surrounding communities, amplified our shared commitment to addressing the realities of climate change. Together, our united voices send a powerful message of resilience and collective action for a sustainable future—one that reflects the shared vision of Torba, and beyond.

This year, the outreach was strategically planned to reach each Area Council, taking into account the unique context of this province, where islands are scattered and sea transport remains the primary means of connection. Despite these logistical challenges, the event successfully reached communities across the islands, reinforcing our dedication to ensuring that no one is left behind in the national climate conversation.

Climate change continues to have a profound impact on Vanuatu, including the province of Torba with its effects becoming increasingly visible and threatening each day. Rising sea levels, more intense storms, and unpredictable rainfall patterns are taking a serious toll—eroding coastlines, flooding low-lying areas, and contaminating freshwater sources through saltwater intrusion.

The increasing severity of tropical cyclones continues to destroy homes and infrastructure, displacing families and placing immense pressure on community livelihoods.

Agriculture—our people’s main source of food and income—is also being disrupted by shifting weather patterns, leading to both droughts and floods. Meanwhile, our fragile ecosystems, including coral reefs and mangroves, are under stress, threatening biodiversity, fisheries, and the wellbeing of coastal communities.

This year’s warmer temperatures and irregular rainfall have further intensified these challenges. Communities are under pressure, and the environment is struggling to cope—reminding us of the urgent need for comprehensive adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Throughout this five-day climate change awareness event, the DoCC team worked tirelessly to connect local experiences in Banks / Torres with the broader impacts of climate change.

Through interactive discussions, we highlighted practical adaptation and mitigation measures that communities can adopt to safeguard their environment and livelihoods. By strengthening local understanding, we empower our people to take informed, climate-resilient action in their daily lives.

It is essential that we continue to champion nature-based solutions—such as the tree-planting activities promoted during this event—to address the challenges we face. Together, we can build resilience, protect our natural heritage, and secure a sustainable future for generations to come.

The Department also extends sincere gratitude to all partners and supporting agencies, including the Torba Provincial Government, NDMO, VMGD, NAB, DARD, Department of Forestry, Department of Fisheries, GGGI, NAP, Helper 1, VCAP II, VCCRP, Department of Education, World Vision, Save the Children Vanuatu, and others for their collaboration and commitment toward the successful implementation of this activity.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to every staff members of the Department of Climate Change for their teamwork, dedication, and tireless efforts throughout this event.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N. KALO'.

Nelson Kalo
Acting Director of Climate Change Department

INTRODUCTION

The impacts of climate change across the Pacific region, including Vanuatu, continue to be felt across all sectors – from agriculture and fisheries to water resources, health, and education. As one of the world’s most vulnerable island nations, Vanuatu faces profound challenges brought by rising sea levels, extreme weather events, prolonged droughts, water shortages, and coastal erosion. These environmental changes are not only affecting ecosystems but also threatening the very fabric of traditional livelihoods and sustainable development across our islands.

The effects of climate change are visible and increasingly severe, yet many communities still face limited access to information that connects these physical changes to the underlying science of climate change. According to baseline data, around 40 percent of households in Vanuatu do not have regular access to climate change or disaster-related information. This knowledge gap poses a serious challenge to resilience building, as many communities remain unprepared or ill-equipped to make informed decisions that integrate adaptation and mitigation measures into local planning.

To address this challenge, the Department of Climate Change (DoCC) under the Ministry of Climate Change and Adaptation has taken a proactive approach by implementing nationwide advocacy programs aimed at strengthening local awareness and understanding of climate issues. One of the Department’s flagship initiatives is the Climate Change Symposium, an outreach and education event designed to bring key climate change messages directly to communities through a blend of technical sessions, cultural exchange, exhibitions, and youth engagement activities.

Scientific assessments further emphasize the urgency of these efforts. Findings from the Pacific Climate Change Science Program (PCCSP), led by the Australian Government in collaboration with the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department (VMGD), indicate that:

- Daily minimum and maximum temperatures across Vanuatu are projected to rise by 1.2°C by 2040 and up to 2.3°C by 2070.
- Sea surface temperatures will continue to increase, making coral bleaching events more frequent and threatening marine biodiversity.
- Sea levels are projected to rise by up to 60 cm by 2090, intensifying coastal flooding and erosion.
- Dry periods are expected to lengthen significantly, while extreme rainfall events will become more intense and frequent.
- Ocean acidification could damage up to 80% of coral reefs globally, including those in Vanuatu, by 2040 – impacting food security, tourism, and natural coastal protection.

These findings underscore the critical need for continued education, advocacy, and community engagement to help people understand and respond effectively to climate threats. The DoCC’s climate symposiums are one of the most direct approaches to achieving this – using localized, inclusive, and participatory methods to share scientific information in accessible ways.

The 2025 Torba CCS organized as part of the Department’s New project Proposal (NPP), following successful symposiums held in previous years across other provinces – including Penama, Sanma, Shefa, Tafea, and Malampa. This year’s symposium focused on bringing climate change awareness to Torba Province, a region characterized by its scattered islands and reliance on sea transport and the weather making it both logistically challenging and deeply important to reach.

The event was spread out in area councils. It brought together representatives from national and provincial government departments, community organizations, schools, and partner agencies such as the Provincial Education Office, National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), Department of Forestry, Fisheries Department, Provincial Education Office, World Vision, Vanuatu Red Cross Society and civil society groups.

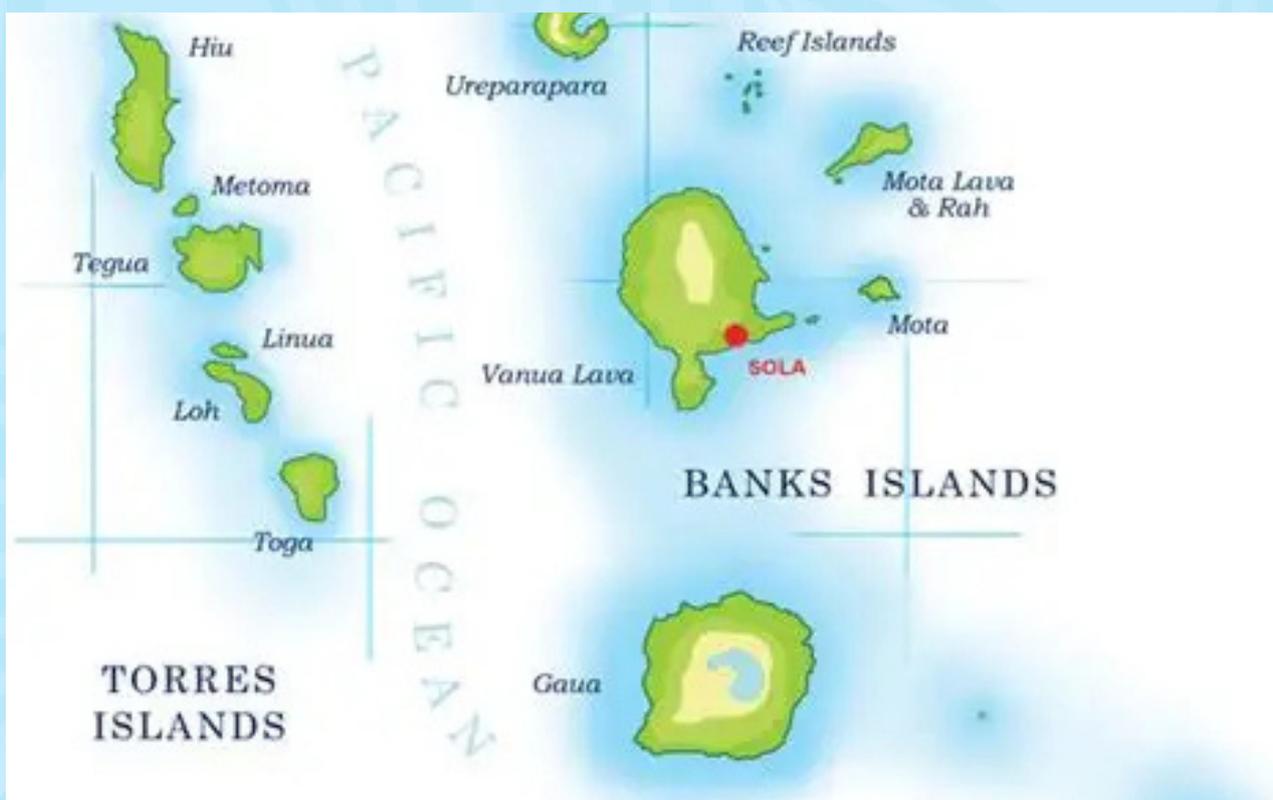
The symposium placed strong emphasis on children’s learning and advocacy, recognizing that the youth are the future custodians of climate action in Vanuatu. Activities included adaptation field demonstrations, school awareness and Quizzes, community awareness programs, booth exhibitions, inclusive sports events, and tree planting activities to promote carbon offsets and ecosystem restoration.

Through these engagements, the Torba CCS aimed to enhance understanding, build partnerships, and empower communities to take ownership of climate resilience initiatives. This report provides a detailed account of the event’s objectives, activities, outcomes, and lessons learned from 8th – 14th October 2025 highlighting how this collaborative effort contributed to the broader goal of building a sustainable and climate-resilient Vanuatu.

This report details the explanations of specific activity implemented from the 08th to 14th of October 2025.

TORBA CLIMATE CHANGE SYMPOSIUM

The Climate Change Symposium 2025 was held across various Area Councils in Torba Province from 8th to 14th October 2025. The event brought together participants from the islands of Vanua Lava, Mota, Motalava, Ureparapara, Gaua, Metoma, Hiu, and Toga, including chiefs, youth groups, women's associations, and school students. This inclusive participation reflected the collective commitment of communities in Torba Province to strengthen climate resilience through shared learning and collaboration.



Symposium goal and objective

The primary goal was to increase awareness and strengthen climate resilience through community engagement, information dissemination, and demonstration of local adaptation practices.

Objectives of the Activity

- To raise community awareness of climate change impacts and adaptation measures.
- To showcase the ongoing efforts of government and partners in building resilience in the agriculture, fisheries, and water sectors.
- To strengthen the coordination of the Provincial Technical Advisory Committee on CCDRR.
- To support youth and school engagement in climate education and environmental stewardship.
- To promote collaboration between local authorities, traditional leaders, and technical agencies in implementing community-based adaptation initiatives.

Some Key Definitions

CLIMATE CHANGE	Climate Change is the long-term changes of temperature and characteristics of weather patterns in a particular place
ADAPTATION	Adaptation is a process of adjusting to the current situation or expected climate change impacts or effects
MITIGATION	Mitigation is the actions to limit global warming and its related effects. This involves reductions in human emissions of greenhouse gases as well as activities that reduce their concentration in the atmosphere.
RESILIENT	Resilient is the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, stresses, or disturbances related to climate.
DISASTER	Disaster refer to serious disruption to the functioning of a community, which causes human, material, economic and environmental losses beyond a community's ability to cope.
HAZARD	Hazard is a process, phenomenon or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation.
VULNERABILITY	Vulnerability can be a physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes which increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets or systems to the impacts of hazards.
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION	Disaster Risk Reduction is the process of protecting the livelihoods and assets of communities and individuals from the impact of hazards by involving policy objective and strategic planning.
GLOBAL WARMING	Global warming is the ongoing increase in the overall temperature of the earth's atmosphere generally attributed to the greenhouse effect caused by increased levels of carbon dioxide, CFCs, and other pollutants.
RENEWABLE ENERGY	Renewable energy is useful energy that is collected from renewable resources, which are naturally replenished on a human timescale such as solar energy, hydro-power energy, wind energy and many more



KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Hand over of 3 boats



Farm to school



Crafting technique



Distribution of cyclone tracking maps



Coastal replanting



Agriculture demonstration plots



Tree planting to address Soil erosion



Harvesting yams



tree planting 3.9 km road



community climate education



school climate education



COMMUNITY BASED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



School climate Quiz



Youth Coral Replanting



mangrove replanting



Symposium opening parade



field teams on mission



Seeds distribution



Introducing School gardens



Vetiver planting on slope areas



Community preparing multiplication plots



eradication of Big leaves



handing over of rotovator & cash support to BLMS school



NAB Materials hand over to BLMS School

Program overview

The Torba Climate Change Symposium 2025 brought together a dynamic mix of official speeches, community dialogues, technical demonstrations, field-based hands-on activities, and visual awareness programs across both marine and land environments. The symposium served as a key outreach platform to strengthen local understanding of climate change and highlight community-led adaptation initiatives taking place across the province.

The program commenced with brief opening ceremonies at each Area Council, officiated by local leaders, Area Administrators, Area Councils Climate change Officers and witnessed by representatives from the Project Management Unit (PMU), the Department of Climate Change (DoCC), and the Torba Provincial Government. These localized openings symbolized inclusiveness and ownership, ensuring that every area council within the province had direct participation in the event.

The event emphasized community participation and learning by doing, encouraging individuals to share traditional knowledge and align it with modern climate solutions. Through this collaborative and participatory approach, the symposium strengthened the partnership between provincial authorities, national agencies, and local communities, reinforcing the shared goal of building a more resilient and climate-informed Torba Province.

EVENT DETAILS:

Date 08th to 14th October 2025

Location Torres & Banks group

Theme Climate Change & Environment

- *Promotem mo lukaotem gud risos blong yumi*
- *Lukaotem gud graon mo solwota blong yumi*
- *Manejem gud ol risos long taem we klaemet i stap jenis*





VANUALAVA Island

Prepared by: Olivia Finau (DoCC) & Steward Wen Vores (Torba Provincial Coordinator VCCRP)

1. Introduction

From 8th–15th October 2025, the Department of Climate Change (DoCC) team with the support of VCCRP Provincial Coordinator participated in a series of activities in Sola, on the island of Vanualava - Torba Province, to officially launch the 2025 Climate Change Symposium and support a range of community-led climate action initiatives.

These activities were organized in partnership with the Torba Provincial Government, VCCRP Project, BLMS School, and other key stakeholders including World Vision, NDMO, and Save the Children.

The overall objective of the mission was to:

- Strengthen climate awareness and local engagement in Torba Province.
- Support provincial and community-led adaptation initiatives.
- Encourage youth and schools to take part in climate-smart actions.
- Promote collaboration among stakeholders to accelerate resilience efforts in one of Vanuatu's most remote provinces.

2. Activity Overview

Activity 1: Official Opening Parade and Climate Change Symposium Launch

Date: 8th October 2025 **Location: Sola Town to Maraks Park**

The Climate Change Symposium 2025 in Torba was launched with a vibrant parade coordinated by VCCRP Provincial Coordinator Steward Wen Vores and supported by BLMS School Administration. Over 100 students proudly marched through Sola's main street to Marak Park, carrying banners promoting climate awareness and resilience.

The event coincided with the Tafea Provincial Day celebration, creating a powerful moment of unity that highlighted inter-provincial solidarity in the fight against climate change.

Official speeches were delivered by Hon. Edgar Howard, President of Torba Provincial Government, Representative of DoCC Humao Tomat Sele, and chairman of the Committee Members of Tafea Day Mama Sovan



In his remarks, President Howard expressed his gratitude for the Department's inclusive strategy to reach people across all area councils, instead of focusing solely on provincial headquarters. He emphasized that this approach ensures equal access to climate information, empowering even the most isolated communities.

He further stated that "everyone is affected by climate change, and everyone has a role to play in taking action."

The DoCC awareness team also held a brief public engagement session, answering questions from the community about the impacts of climate change and what individuals can do to adapt.

The feedback from participants was positive, showing strong public interest and willingness to act.



Activity 2: Evening Projection in school “Leftemap Resiliens”

 **Date: 8th October 2025**  **Location: BLMS Dining Hall –Sola**

On the evening of the opening date of the Climate Change Symposium 2025 activities in Torba Province, the Department of Climate Change (DoCC) organized a night projection session of climate animation videos for boarding students at Baldwin Lonsdale Memorial School (BLMS).

The session aimed to create an engaging and visual learning experience for students, helping them understand how climate change affects their daily lives and island environment. Through a series of short, locally adapted 3D animation videos produced by the DoCC with the support from VCCRP project, students were able to see the real impacts of climate change—from rising sea levels and coastal erosion to food security challenges and changes in traditional practices.

The interactive setting allowed students to ask questions and share reflections about how these issues relate to what they experience in their communities. This activity demonstrated the importance of visual and participatory learning tools in raising climate awareness among young people, empowering them to become climate advocates within their schools and families.

Video produced in English - French and Bislama - available on DoCC website



Activity 3: Tree Planting for a Greener Torba

Date: 9th October 2025 **Location:** From Sola Airport to BLMS School

As part of the symposium’s environmental action component, a tree-planting activity was held, engaging students from Years 9 and 11, together with the Torba Provincial President, OIC Secretary General John Robert, World Vision, NDMO, and DoCC/VCCRP officers. The initiative, led by DARD, aimed to:

- Promote ecosystem restoration and reduce soil erosion.
- Address the increasing coastal erosion now affecting the eastern coast of Vanualava.
- Serve as a learning activity for youth, encouraging environmental stewardship.
- Contribute to long-term carbon absorption and climate mitigation.

This practical action demonstrated how simple, community-led measures such as reforestation can enhance local resilience against extreme weather, coastal degradation, and the growing impacts of climate change.



The coastal tree planting initiative is a critical response to rapid and severe coastal erosion that is threatening the community's shoreline. Of particular concern is the school building location and the main access road, both of which are at immediate risk of damage or loss. This erosion not only endangers infrastructure but also jeopardizes the safety, education, and future of Torba children. Immediate action and urgent support are urgently needed to stabilize the coast and protect the essential facilities such as school. Donor investment in this initiative will not only safeguard the school and road but also ensure the long-term resilience of the community against the impacts of climate change.



Activity 4: Commemorating IDRR day

 **Date: 9th October 2025**  **Location: BLMS School**

2025 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR) was also commemorated during the Symposium Week in Sola. Under the global theme for 2025, “Fund Resilience, Not Disasters,” it underscores the need for shifting efforts from reactive disaster response to proactive and well-funded investments in disaster risk reduction (DRR). Activities in Torba focused on advocating for two major calls to action:

1. Increase funding for disaster risk reduction at both public and international levels.
2. Ensure all public development and private sector investments are risk-informed and resilient.

The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and its partners World Vision joined the Symposium’s tree-planting activity as part of commemorating IDRR Day - Provincial Disaster Officer Ms Betsy Manliwos organized a school awareness day at BLMS School.

The session focused on:

- Understanding natural hazards common to Torba Province
- The importance of preparedness and early action
- Encouraging students to share risk-reduction messages with their families
- Demonstrating simple preparedness measures, such as emergency planning, safe evacuation practices, and household risk reduction

Students actively participated through discussions, quizzes, and practical demonstrations, strengthening school engagement in DRR education.

. Outcomes and Impact

- Increased awareness among students and teachers on disaster preparedness.
- Strengthened collaboration between NDMO, schools, and NGOs such as World Vision.
- Enhanced community commitment to resilience through environmental actions like tree planting.
- Reinforced provincial alignment with national and global DRR priorities.

The 2025 IDRR Day activities in Sola successfully highlighted the significance of funding resilience and promoting proactive risk-informed decision-making at all levels. Through combined efforts from NDMO, provincial authorities, development partners, and schools, Torba Province demonstrated its commitment to building a stronger and more disaster-resilient future.



Activity 5: NAB school awareness

 **Date: 9th October 2025**  **Location: BLMS School**

As part of the Climate Change Symposium held in Sola, East Vanua Lava, the National Advisory Board on Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction (NAB) played an important role in strengthening community understanding of national climate governance. Representing the NAB, Ms. Cinthy Hosea facilitated an engaging awareness session with students of Baldwin Lonsdale Memorial School (BLMS).

The session aimed to familiarise students with the establishment, purpose, and functions of the NAB under the Ministry of Climate Change. Ms. Hosea explained the NAB's mandate as the national policy coordination body for climate change and disaster risk reduction, highlighting how it guides national planning, endorses relevant programs, and ensures alignment of climate actions across government and partners.

A key focus of the discussion was the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) endorsement process, through which the NAB reviews and approves climate-related educational materials before they are distributed to communities. This ensures that all information is accurate, consistent, culturally appropriate, and aligned with national priorities. To support ongoing learning beyond the symposium, Ms. Hosea formally handed over a set of NAB-endorsed IEC materials to the Torba Provincial Council President Edgard Howard and the BLMS School Council Representatives. These materials included posters, brochures, and awareness tools on climate change adaptation, DRR, and community preparedness.

The handover served several purposes:

- To support schools and communities with reliable learning resources, ensuring that students and households have access to verified information.
- To reinforce the NAB's commitment to decentralizing climate services and ensuring remote provinces receive equal access to national knowledge products.
- To encourage continuity of awareness efforts, allowing teachers, community leaders, and students to use the materials for future lessons, workshops, and community meetings.



Activity 6: Climate Change Awareness during Malampa Day

 **Date: 10th October 2025** -  **Location: Vetimboso Village, West Vanualava**

DoCC and VCCRP teams participated in a community climate awareness session held during the Malampa Day celebration in Vetimboso Village. Over 100 community members attended, including chiefs, women's groups, and youth representatives. The event provided an opportunity to share information about:

- Current and projected climate risks in Torba Province.
- The importance of local adaptation planning and nature-based solutions.
- Encouraging households to adopt climate-smart farming and water conservation practices.

Community members shared local observations of changing weather patterns, reduced crop yields, and coastal erosion – confirming that climate change impacts are being felt deeply in daily life.



Activity 5 - Clean-Up at Farm-to-School Project site

 **Date: 11th October 2025** -  **Location: BLMS School Compound**

A clean-up campaign was organized to prepare for the Farm-to-School Project site visit by a government delegation.

DoCC and VCCRP provided VT 250,000 in financial support to help revive the project, which promotes food security and climate-smart agriculture.

The objective is to:

- Encourage local food production and reduce reliance on imports.
- Teach children practical agricultural skills for sustainable livelihoods.
- Integrate climate adaptation measures in school gardens through soil management, composting, and drought-tolerant crops.



Clearance at the backyard



Fill the fish pond with water



Activity 6 : DoCC Delegation courtesy visit at the TPG headquarter

Date: 13th October 2025 📍 **Location: TPG Headquarter**

As part of the CCS activities taking place across the islands of Torba Province, a delegation from the Department of Climate Change (DoCC) arrived in Sola on 13th October 2025, led by Mr. Nelson Kalo, Acting Director of the DoC accompanied by Mr. Francis Wood, Regional Technical Director of Save the Children Pacific , and Mr. Vatu Molisa, VCCRP DLA Technical Lead. Upon arrival at Sola Airport, the team was warmly received by Torba Provincial President, Mr. Edgard Woleg, and Officer-in-Charge Secretary General, Mr. John Robert.

The welcoming party then escorted the delegation to the Torba Provincial Headquarters for a courtesy visit.

During the meeting, President Edgard Woleg expressed his appreciation for the Department's continued collaboration and commended the decision to select Torba Province as one of the key outreach destinations for 2025. He highlighted that this partnership demonstrates a shared commitment to empowering remote island communities through climate change awareness and resilience-building initiatives. In response, Acting Director Nelson Kalo sincerely thanked the President and the provincial team for the warm and unexpected welcome. He noted that Torba is the first province to extend such a heartfelt reception, emphasizing that this gesture reflects a strong and positive partnership between the Department of Climate Change and the Provincial Government. Mr. Kalo further stated that such cooperation is vital in ensuring the successful implementation of climate change programs and strengthening community resilience across the province.



Delegation meeting at the Torba Provincial President's office

Activity 7 : DoCC Delegation visitation to School farm Project

Date: 13th October 2025 - 📍 Location: BLMS compound

One of the school activity conducted in Vanualava during the CCS was the engagement of the school in reviving its farm project - DoCC Acting Director Mr. Nelson Kalo, together with Mr. Francis Wood, Regional Director of Save the Children Pacific, DLA sector Lead on VCCRP Vatu Molisa, accompanied with Honorable President Woleg, OIC SG John Robert and school guests did a joint field visit to Baldwin Lonsdale Memorial School, as one of the activity site supported by VCCRP. The BLMS requested a fund to VCCRP to re launch this project that is initially supported and funded by the UK Government, Ausaid. At this visit, Acting Director Nelson Kalo officially handed over a rotovator machine donated by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) to the school council and administration.

The equipment is intended to support the establishment and maintenance of school gardens, which will serve as a practical learning platform for students to engage in sustainable agriculture, livestock and environmental education. This initiative highlights the importance of integrating climate resilience and food security into the education sector, encouraging students to develop hands-on skills in soil management, composting, and crop production. By linking climate awareness with real-life agricultural practices, the activity also promotes youth involvement in climate adaptation initiatives, empowering the next generation to take an active role in protecting their environment and ensuring community sustainability.



Delegation posing at the BLMS Farm to school site



Project sign board



Chickens in the farm



Fish pond



Mr Woods addressing the guests



VCCRP /SCV Delegation in the poultry



newly constructed staff house



Dard interns and volunteers finishing the poultry fencing ready for farming



Activity 8: Progress Review with PTAC Members

 **Date:** 14th October 2025  **Location:** Esuvah Hall - Sola

A progress overview meeting was held with the Torba Provincial Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) to review ongoing climate change projects in Torba.

Each sector lead presented achievements, challenges, and remaining activities for implementation under VCCRP and other resilience programs.

This coordination mechanism ensures transparency, strengthens multi-sector collaboration, and aligns efforts toward the province's adaptation goals. Presentations by projects Representatives from VCCRP, VCAP2, Loss and Damage, MRV, and NAB.



Activity 9: Community awareness

 **Date:** 14th October 2025  **Location:** School awareness at Quanlap - West Vanualava

On 14th October 2025, a team from the DoCC & VCAP2 conducted a school awareness session at Serevagal Primary School, located in the village of Quanlap, West Vanualava. The village is accessible only by sea, approximately 30 minutes by boat from Sola, making this visit both a meaningful and symbolic effort to ensure that no one is left behind—even in the most remote parts of the province.

The objective of the visit was to engage the young students of Serrvagal Primary School in understanding the basics of climate change, its impacts, and what actions individuals and communities can take to build resilience. Despite the challenges of sea transportation, the team successfully reached the school and was warmly welcomed by the teachers and pupils.

A total of 13 enthusiastic pupils participated in the awareness session. Their faces lit up with excitement upon receiving visitors—something that rarely happens in such isolated locations. The discussions focused on simple, age-appropriate explanations of key concepts on

- What is Climate?
- What changes are happening around us?
- How do these changes affect people and the environment?
- What actions can we take to adapt and protect our communities?

To create a space of trust, interaction, and joy, the team concluded the session with a quiz activity. The children including members of the Community eagerly participated, answering questions and sharing their ideas. The quiz not only reinforced what they learned but also brought many smiles and laughter, strengthening the connection between the DoCC team and the students.

The visit to Quanlap demonstrated the Department's ongoing commitment to bringing climate education and awareness to every corner of Vanuatu, ensuring that even the most remote communities are informed and empowered to take part in the nation's climate resilience journey. The village is located at the project Site of VCAP2 and it is also a Community Conservation area on turtles.



Activity 10: Official Handing Over of Two Boats to Torba Provincial Government

 Date: 15th October 2025  Location: Sola Esuvah Hall

One of the main highlight of the Climate Change symposium was the official handing over of the boats from the Ministry of Climate Change to the Torba Provincial Government -

These boats will be used to:

- Facilitate community outreach and delivery of climate awareness programs across scattered islands.
- Support emergency response and monitoring in remote areas.
- Strengthen the province's capacity for resilience building and climate information sharing.
- This handover symbolizes a step toward decentralized climate action, giving the provincial government and communities the means to lead and sustain their own adaptation initiatives





Outcomes & reflections

Across the series of events, several key outcomes were achieved:

Strengthened community ownership of climate actions

Enhanced student and youth engagement through participatory learning.

Promoted collaboration among government agencies, schools, NGOs, and the private sector.

Demonstrated practical, on-ground climate adaptation and mitigation measures

These initiatives embody the vision of empowering local communities to lead resilience growth – not as passive recipients of information, but as active partners shaping their future in a changing climate.

Secure donor funding for the construction of a protective sea wall at BLMS School and along the Sola coast to strengthen coastal resilience and safeguard essential community infrastructure.

Continue supporting schools as centres of climate education and community outreach.

Expand the Farm-to-School model to other islands as part of climate-smart food security strategies

Recommendations

Strengthen inter-agency coordination through PTAC for better planning and resource mobilization.

Provide additional logistical support (equipments) to ensure outreach continuity in remote areas.



MOTA Island

Prepared by Zacharia Bani & Jayson Timatua

Executive Summary

On Monday, 13th October 2025, a combined team from the Department of Climate Change (DoCC) and the Vanuatu Climate Change Resilience Project (VCCRP) and Vanuatu Adaptation to the coastal Zone phase 2 VCAP2 successfully conducted a climate change awareness and resilience-building program on Mota Island in the remote Banks Group, Torba Province.

The team included Team 1 : Solomon Jimmy (MRV Officer), Zechariah Bani (ICAT Coordinator), and Kalo Abel (Water Coordinator, VCCRP Project); and Team 2 : Joyce Tari SLM Coordinator, Brian Maltera Jayson Timatua, The visit formed part of the Department's ongoing efforts to strengthen climate education, promote community adaptation planning, and support ecosystem restoration across Vanuatu's outer islands.

The program featured two key components:

A climate awareness session with communities from Garmal, Seaside, and Tasmate villages, focusing on local experiences of climate change and the development of community-led adaptation strategies.

An educational awareness and tree planting activity at Pasalele Primary School, aimed at raising student awareness and promoting environmental stewardship among young people.

Despite facing rough seas during the journey, the team successfully reached the island and delivered all planned activities, which strengthened collaboration between local authorities, schools, and community groups toward building climate resilience at the grassroots level.

Background

Mota Island is one of the smaller islands in the Banks Group, known for its strong community spirit but also for its increasing vulnerability to climate change. The island faces multiple environmental challenges, including coastal erosion, saltwater intrusion, shifting rainfall patterns, and frequent cyclones.

The awareness program was designed to:

- Build local understanding of climate impacts through open dialogues.
- Support community-led adaptation planning based on lived experiences.
- Promote ecosystem restoration through tree planting.
- Encourage youth participation in climate action and environmental protection.

This activity aligns with the Department's broader mandate to ensure that no island is left behind in national climate outreach efforts.

Objectives

- To raise awareness among students, teachers, and community members about the causes and local impacts of climate change.
- To promote environmental stewardship and encourage sustainable practices through education and community involvement.
- To strengthen community capacity to develop and implement adaptation plans.
- To support reforestation and ecosystem restoration efforts on Mota Island through practical tree planting activities.
- To reinforce collaboration between the DoCC, VCCRP, local authorities, and communities.

Observed Climate Impacts and Community Challenges:

During the community dialogues held in Garmal, Seaside, and Tasmate, participants shared first-hand experiences illustrating how climate change is already affecting their livelihoods and security.

- *increased Cyclone Frequency and Intensity:*
- *Community members reported that cyclones are becoming more frequent and destructive. These events cause repeated damage to houses, schools, infrastructure, and particularly food gardens, which take months to recover after saltwater inundation.*
- *Shifting Rainfall Patterns:*
- *traditional planting knowledge is becoming unreliable. Prolonged dry spells are now followed by intense rainfall, leading to erosion, crop loss, and unstable food supply.*
- *Coastal Erosion and Sea-Level Rise:*
- *Villages such as Seaside and Tasmate face severe coastal erosion, forcing families to relocate inland. High tides increasingly inundate gardens and contaminate freshwater sources, threatening both land and water security.*

Adaptation Approaches and Local Solutions Shared

The awareness session encouraged practical, community-driven solutions for building resilience:

- **Resilient Food Systems:** Communities agreed on establishing more resilient food gardens by planting salt-tolerant crops and relocating gardens to higher ground.
- **Nature-Based Coastal Protection:** Mangrove and coastal vegetation restoration was identified as a low-cost, sustainable solution to reduce erosion and buffer wave impacts.
- **Traditional Knowledge Integration:** The discussions highlighted the importance of combining traditional forecasting with modern meteorological information to improve decisions on planting and fishing.
- **Community Network and Collaboration:** The three villages agreed to maintain communication and mutual support for shared adaptation actions and knowledge exchange.

Activities implemented:

1. Climate Change Awareness Session – Pasalele Primary School

- An interactive awareness session was held for students and teachers, focusing on three key areas:
- **Adaptation:** Understanding how communities can adjust to climate impacts, including protecting coastlines and conserving water.
- **Mitigation:** Highlighting actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as tree planting and waste management.
- **Loss and Damage:** Introducing the concept of unavoidable climate impacts and the importance of preparedness and recovery.
- Students showed enthusiasm and a strong willingness to take part in protecting their local environment.

• 2. Tree Planting Activity

Under the supervision of Area Administrator Basil Bob, students, teachers, and DoCC/VCCRP officers carried out a successful tree planting activity. This effort aimed to:

- Promote reforestation and local biodiversity.
- Contribute to long-term carbon absorption.
- Reinforce the lessons from the awareness session through hands-on environmental action.



Challenges

Mota Island's remoteness poses significant logistical barriers. Transportation is primarily by sea, making travel subject to weather conditions. The team faced rough seas en route but managed to complete all activities safely. Such challenges highlight the need for improved logistical support and sustained engagement to reach outer islands effectively.

Conclusion

The Climate Awareness Program on Mota Island successfully strengthened local understanding of climate issues and fostered practical community-led adaptation approaches. The engagement across multiple villages and the inclusion of schools ensured that both youth and adults were empowered to take ownership of local climate actions.

Recommendations:

- Continue follow-up visits to support the development of formal Community Adaptation Plans.
- Provide training for local champions to monitor coastal changes and promote sustainable practices.
- Expand tree planting and mangrove restoration programs across the island.
- Strengthen logistical coordination to improve access to remote communities.





MOTALAVA Island

Prepared by John Warren and George Woleg

Motalava Island was a week-long event (8–14 October 2025) that showcased the strong collaboration between the Department of Climate Change (DoCC) and the Vanuatu Community-based Climate Resilience Project (VCCRP) team - as this is one of the area council selected as a VCCRP project site.

Ground preparations and coordination were effectively led by the Area Council Climate Change Officer (ACCCO), George Woleg, John Antas (ADO) Randy Sawon (Agriculture Intern) , who are based on the island.

Over the five-day program, a series of activities were carried out to enhance community understanding of climate change and to promote community-led climate action. These included:

- *Distribution of Cyclone Tracking Maps to local schools to support early warning and disaster preparedness.*
- *Climate awareness sessions with students, teachers, and community members to increase knowledge on climate impacts and local adaptation strategies.*
- *Coral planting at Qeremagde Conservation Area, demonstrating practical ecosystem restoration methods.*
- *Planting of climate resilient crops*
- *Demonstration of Crafting techniques*
- *Agroforestry*

The event was highly successful, with strong participation and positive feedback from the community. Local leaders, teachers, and students responded enthusiastically to each day's activity, demonstrating a growing sense of ownership and awareness about the importance of protecting their environment and adapting to climate change.

Overall, the Motalava Symposium Week reinforced the significance of community-driven action and local leadership in building resilience against climate change impacts across Vanuatu's islands.

Activities implemented:

Activity 1: School climate and disaster education - school field visit Agro-forestry

Date: 9th October 2025 📍 **Location: Telhei**

The symposium on Motalava Island commenced with an official opening ceremony combined with a community tree-planting activity to symbolize collective action towards climate resilience and environmental protection. The event brought together local leaders, visiting guests, project representatives, and the wider community in a united effort to mark the beginning of the symposium with a meaningful and practical activity.

The official program began at the village stage – the central meeting point traditionally used for all major community gatherings and events. Guests and visitors were formally welcomed by local community leaders, emphasizing the spirit of unity and collaboration.

Following the welcome, the Community Liaison Officer delivered an opening address highlighting the importance of local engagement and sustainable practices in addressing climate change. This was followed by a climate change awareness session, which provided the community key messages about adaptation, mitigation , loss and damage .

Added to the program was the coastline tree planting activity. The planting took place along the coastal stretch from Nerenigman to Queremande, and further to Totolag, focusing on areas vulnerable to erosion and sea level rise. The activity not only promoted reforestation but also demonstrated community-led efforts to strengthen coastal protection.



Activity 2: School climate and disaster education - school field visit Agroforestry

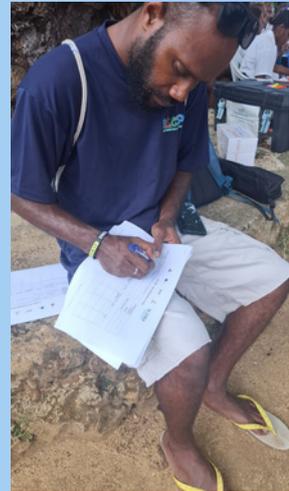
Date: 9th October 2025 📍 Location: Telhei

We are now getting closer to the cyclone season. the Vanuatu Community-based Climate Resilience Project (VCCRP) carried out the distribution of cyclone tracking maps in Motalava, Torba Province.

In partnership with the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD), a total of 100 cyclone tracking maps were distributed by the VCCRP team and CDCCC to Telhei Primary and Secondary Schools.

The cyclone tracking map is an important part of the early warning system, helping communities to monitor and track cyclones that enter Vanuatu. Children were introduced with the role of CDCCC in the community and learn how to read the CTM. In the afternoon, students were given a time out for a school field visit at Avaron Agroforestry.







Distribution of cyclone tracking maps to students

Activity 3: Coral Planting & Resilient crops planting

Date: 10th October 2025 📍 **Location: Qeremangde**

In the morning, a very isignificant participation of the youth and students at the coral planting activity at Qeremagde Village, Motalava. Mr. John Malandan, the Conservation Area Manager, and Area Council Climate Change Officer (ACCCo) Mr. George Woleg spoke about the importance of coral planting and demonstrated how to plant corals properly.

Students from Year 9 and 10 at Telhei Secondary School, along with local youth and community members, divided into 3 groups, participated in the activity – one of the key events during the Torba Climate Symposium Week organized by the Department of Climate Change.

More than 100 corals were planted by students and community members inside the Qeremagde Conservation Area.

In the afternoon, Community, students and youth continued with planting of crops like fijian taros, island cabbage, corn at the Telhei School garden - that included also the replanting of Glyricidia .



Activity 4: Crafting Demonstration techniques

Date: 10th October 2025 📍 Location: Motalava



In partnership with the Department of Agriculture, the Agriculture Development Officer (ADO) led a hands-on demonstration on fruit tree crafting techniques for youth, students, and community members. The session focused on practical skills such as grafting and budding—methods used to improve plant resilience, increase yield, and preserve local fruit varieties. Participants observed and practiced the techniques, gaining valuable knowledge on how to reproduce and maintain strong, healthy fruit trees in their own communities.

Crafting fruit trees also helps adapt to shifting weather patterns, as improved varieties are more tolerant to drought, pests, and diseases.

This initiative supports long-term food security and climate resilience, empowering communities to take proactive steps toward sustainable agricultural practices.

Activity 5: Community Resilient crops planting

Date: 11th October 2025 📍 Location: Rah island

This initiative to establish Multiplication plots in area councils empower communities to take proactive steps toward sustainable agricultural practices.



Activity 6: School climate education

Date: 13th October 2025 📍 Location: Wongyeskei school

A school awareness session was conducted to educate students about the impacts of climate change and the importance of disaster risk reduction (DRR). The session aimed to strengthen students' understanding of how climate-related hazards such as cyclones, flooding, and drought affect their communities and everyday lives.

During the awareness session, students were informed about the existence of the Community Disaster and Climate Change Committee (CDCCC) – a local body responsible for coordinating preparedness and response actions during natural disasters, as well as promoting resilience activities during normal times. This helped students understand that disaster preparedness is a continuous process, not only something that happens when a disaster strikes.

Students also learned how to read a cyclone tracking map, gaining basic knowledge on interpreting weather updates and early warning information. This practical skill empowers them to respond appropriately and share information with their families and community. Overall, the activity increased students' awareness and readiness to face climate-related challenges, encouraging them to become active participants in community resilience and disaster preparedness efforts.



Activity 7: Climate change Day & visit of the SCV Pacific Representative

Date: 14th October 2025 📍 Location: Wongyeskei school

The community of Motalava warmly welcomed Mr. Francis Wood, Technical Manager for Save the Children Pacific, during his official visit to the island. Traditional leaders, school representatives, and community members gathered to receive him, reflecting the strong partnership and appreciation for Save the Children's ongoing support in building climate resilience and food security in the area.

Mr. Wood's visit began with a tour of the Telhei School Garden, where students and teachers showcased their efforts in integrating climate-smart agriculture practices into school activities. He then continued to the Area Council multiplication plots located on Rah Island and Demsas, where resilient crops such as taro, kumala, and island cabbage are being cultivated to strengthen local food security.

The visit provided an opportunity to observe project progress, engage directly with community members, and discuss ways to enhance ongoing initiatives. It also reaffirmed the shared commitment between Save the Children, local authorities, and the Department of Climate Change to support sustainable livelihoods and community resilience in Motalava.



Activity 8: Closing of the Climate Change Symposium along with Rural women's day

Date: 14th October 2025 📍 Location: Demsas community

This day was dedicated for the community celebration after being involved in Climate actions for the past 6 active days - the day coincides with International Women's day that was also commemorated in the community. The celebration was led with official speech of Climate change Symposium led by the Honorable President of the Torba Provincial Government, Edgar Woleg Howard.





UREPARAPARA Island

Prepared by Nicole Lengson VCCRP ACCO

1. Brief Summary of the Mission

The Climate Change Symposium in Ureparapara aimed to enhance community and student understanding of climate resilience. Awareness sessions focused on preventing coastal erosion, protecting marine resources, and promoting climate-resilient agriculture. Practical activities, including mangrove and pandanus planting, strengthened community engagement and supported long-term environmental protection.

Climate Symposium activities

- Mangrove planting
- Pandanus planting along coastal areas
- Awareness
- Climate change awareness
- Fisheries Awareness
- Coastal erosion awareness
- First aid kit awareness'
- Soil erosion plot planting

Activity 1: Opening of the Climate Change Symposium

Date: 08th October 2025 📍 Location: Lesereplag community

The climate symposium in Ureparapara commenced on the afternoon of 8th October with a warm and culturally rich opening ceremony. The program began with a prayer led by Fr. Japheth, setting a reflective tone for the gathering. Chief Barnabas then officially declared the Nasara as the venue for the week's events, symbolizing community unity and respect.

The Lesereplag CDCCC committees and youth welcomed invited guests through the traditional salusalu ceremony, followed by an official welcome speech delivered by Chief Ansley Silver. Hon. Councilor Lency formally opened the symposium, highlighting the importance of strengthening climate awareness and resilience in the communities of Ureparapara. ACCO Nicole Lengson offered words of thanks before participants shared light refreshments.

The program continued with two key awareness sessions. ACCO Nicole delivered an informative session on climate change, focusing on coastal protection, environmental stewardship, and the role of communities in adaptation. This was followed by a First Aid Kit awareness session led by the Lesereplag CDCCC committee, emphasizing preparedness and safety. Day 1 concluded with announcements for the next day's activities and a closing prayer.



Activity 2: Coastal Erosion Awareness & Replanting Activities

Date: 09th October 2025 **Location:** Lesereplag community

The day began with an opening prayer and moved straight into an important awareness session focusing on coastal erosion. Facilitators from Lehali, Tano, and Lesereplag CDCCC committees, together with ACCO Nicole, explained the causes of erosion and highlighted protective measures communities can adopt. The team then proceeded to identify suitable areas for replanting along the coastal zone. Once the sites were confirmed, a tree planting management plan was developed to guide the activities. Community members, youth, and the CDCCC committees worked together to plant mangroves—one of the most effective natural barriers against erosion. This was followed by the planting of pandanus, supported by students and teachers from Shem Rolley School, reinforcing the link between environmental education and hands-on learning.

After the planting activities, ACCO Nicole and the Lesereplag CDCCC committee conducted another coastal erosion awareness session specifically tailored for the Shem Rolley students and teachers. The day ended with lunch, announcements for Day 3, and a closing prayer.



Activity 3: Community awareness

Date: 10th October 2025 📍 Location: Lesereplag community

Day 3 opened with a prayer before communities mobilized to collect planting materials for the week's remaining activities. A public refreshment and lunch were shared, creating a relaxed environment that encouraged community bonding.

A vibrant series of quiz competitions followed—first for youths, then parents, and finally students. The quizzes heightened engagement and reinforced key messages from the awareness sessions on climate change, agriculture, and marine conservation. Prizes were presented to winners, helping to motivate learning and participation.

The Fisheries team then conducted a mapping exercise of the tabu (protected) areas. This activity was essential for improving community understanding of marine resource management and ensuring that traditional practices align with modern conservation strategies. The day concluded with the announcement of Day 4 activities and a closing prayer.

Activity 4: Community awareness

Date: 13th October 2025 📍 Location: Lesereplag community

The fourth day of the mission began with an opening prayer before the arrival of the Fisheries and DARD teams. Their presence signaled a shift to agriculture-focused activities. The Fisheries team delivered an awareness session on sustainable marine practices, after which the community moved to Multiplication Plot No. 2.

The DARD team led the squaring of the plot, followed by practical demonstrations. Community members planted vetiver grass—an effective plant for soil stabilization—and a range of climate-resilient crops such as Fijian taro, kumala, cabbage, manioc, and corn. Seasonal crop calendars were distributed to guide communities in planning their farming activities throughout the year.

The afternoon transitioned into the official closing ceremony. Fr. Japheth Wonau opened with a prayer, followed by welcoming remarks and messages of appreciation from ACCO and the community chief. Salusalu and gifts were presented to the DARD and Fisheries teams in recognition of their support. Fisheries officers also led consultations on tabu areas to strengthen local marine management. Chief representatives delivered closing remarks, and Douglas Koran gave the official closing speech. The day ended with a final prayer and a public dinner to celebrate the week's achievements.

Activity 5: Final Planting & Nursery Establishment

Date: 14th October 2025 📍 Location: Lesereplag community

The final day of the symposium focused on completing agricultural activities. After gathering at 8:00 AM, the team worked on squaring the wild yam and navia plots. Vetiver grass was planted along the plot boundaries to prevent soil erosion and improve long-term sustainability.

Participants also assisted in collecting planting materials and establishing a wild yam nursery, ensuring a continuous supply of seedlings for future planting seasons. The day concluded with the planting of navia, marking the completion of all planned field activities for the week.



Lessons Learned

- *Challenges in Community Mobilization*
 1. Mobilizing community members proved difficult, particularly when activities they were most interested in were not implemented as planned. This led to reduced attendance and limited participation in some sessions.
- *Decline in Participation Due to Activity Cancellations*
 2. Community engagement dropped when participants realized that certain planned activities had been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. This affected overall turnout and consistency across the program.
- *Deviation from the Activity Plan*
 3. Several scheduled activities were not carried out as initially planned, which impacted the structure, expected outcomes, and momentum of the mission.
- *Delayed Shipment of activities tools /equipments/ merchandizes*
 4. Items , which were intended to be distributed during the symposium, arrived late. This delay prevented the timely handover of essential materials to the committees.
- *Short Notice for Collection of Planting Materials*
 5. Communities were given very limited time to gather planting materials due to delays in receiving supplies from VARTC. This affected the readiness and smooth flow of agricultural activities.
- *Insufficient Tools for Planting Activities*
 6. The absence of project-provided planting tools forced communities to use personal equipment. Some tools, such as yam spades and tape measures, were damaged during the activities, resulting in frustration and complaints.
- *Delayed Funding for Participant Transport*
 7. Funds intended to support transportation for participants from other communities were delayed. As a result, fewer participants were able to travel to the host community, limiting cross-community engagement.



Recommendations

- Provision of Planting Tools
- VCCRP should supply appropriate planting tools to ensure activities are conducted efficiently and to avoid damage to personal community equipment.
- Timely Shipment of Materials
- All planting materials, CDCCC kits, and related equipment should be shipped and received ahead of activity commencement to avoid delays and disruptions.
- Consistent and Timely Communication to Communities
- Notices and activity schedules should be communicated in advance and followed as planned. Maintaining consistency will strengthen trust, improve mobilization, and enhance community confidence in the project.





Galaxy A04s



Galaxy A04s



Galaxy A04s



Galaxy A04s



Galaxy A04s



Galaxy A04s



Galaxy A04s



West Gaua

Prepared by Luke Weul & Howard Harris

The Climate Symposium conducted in the West Gaua Area Council from 08 to 15 October 2025 brought together community members, students, and partners to strengthen local understanding of climate change impacts and promote practical adaptation solutions.

The mission commenced on 08 October with an official opening ceremony facilitated by the Climate Change Office and the Community Liaison Office. After the opening, the team delivered a comprehensive climate change awareness session for the communities of Dolap, Ontar, Levouvou, Qetegaveg, as well as students of Silver Memorial School. The following days were dedicated to hands-on activities designed to enhance community resilience.

Activity 1: Coastal tree planting

Date: 10th October 2025 📍 **Location: Ontar Community**

On 09th October, students and community groups participated in coastal tree-planting initiatives across Ontar Village, Silver Memorial School, and the Levouvou coastal zone. These activities aimed to address shoreline erosion and promote long-term coastal protection.



Activity 2: planting of resilient crops at the Multiplication plot

Date: 10th October 2025 📍 **Location: Ontar**

The focus shifted to agriculture, with the team facilitating the planting of 200 resilient crop seedlings across a multiplication plot and a newly established farming site. This practical session supported efforts to improve food security and introduce climate-resilient farming techniques.



Activity 2: Field visit to Conservation area

Date: 11th October 2025 📍 Location: Dolav community

It was a field day visit for students, community members to a local conservation area, providing them an opportunity to engage with biodiversity initiatives. A highlight of the day was the interaction with the National Geographic team aboard their research vessel, offering valuable insights into scientific research on climate and environment.



Activity 3: Community climate Quizzes

Date: 12th & 13th October 2025 📍 Location: Ontar Community

On Sunday, a community church service was held as part of the weekend program for the entire community which later included an engaging climate quiz for schools and surrounding communities. This interactive approach helped reinforce key messages delivered throughout the week.

On 13th October, the symposium formally concluded with a wrap-up session and an official closing ceremony.

Following the event, the team travelled to Sola on 14th October to prepare for the official handover of the VCCRP boat, which took place on 15th October 2025, marking the final milestone of the mission.





TORRES Group

The Climate Change Symposium in the Torres Group was successfully conducted with the active deployment of the VCAP2 Project team, as this area council is a key project site.

The event highlighted the strong collaboration between the project, the communities and the provincial government to advance climate resilience and service delivery in remote island communities.

A key highlight of the symposium was the official opening of the new Area Council building. This milestone underscores the support provided by the project in strengthening the Government's decentralization program, enabling local authorities to deliver essential services to even the most remote parts of the island. The building serves not only as an administrative hub but also as a symbol of sustainable development and good governance.

During the event, emphasis was placed on the importance of providing climate-resilient infrastructure.

Ensuring that Area Council facilities are climate-proof reflects the national government's commitment to address the ongoing and future impacts of climate change while enhancing the community's capacity to respond effectively to environmental challenges.

Through this symposium, the project reaffirmed its dedication to supporting local communities, empowering authorities, and building resilient infrastructure that meets the dual objectives of service delivery and climate adaptation.



1. Mr Tarry Johnie Nimau - Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer -Department of Climate Change
2. Ms. Mahina Sherryl - UNDP Area Manager Vanuatu
3. Mr Jackson Tambe Vire - Project Manager VCAP2/ MOCC
4. Mr Daniel Omodo McMondo - Chief Technical Advisor, VCAP2/ MOCC
5. Mr. Thomas Putunleta Advisor to the Area Member of Parliament for Torres
6. Mr Nehemiah Ben - Torba Province Planner



Activity: Handing over of Area Council Boat

Date: October 2025 📍 Location: Loh island

The Ministry of Climate Change, through the VCAP II Project funded by UNDP and GEF, officially handed over a new boat to the Torba Provincial Government during a ceremony held at the Loh Area Council in Torres . Transportation across the Torres Group remains one of the most significant challenges for this province, with communities widely scattered across remote islands. This new vessel will greatly enhance government service delivery by improving accessibility and ensuring timely support to these hard-to-reach areas.

This asset adds significant value to the National Government’s efforts and reflects its strong commitment to the Decentralization Policy and the principle of “Bringing the service to the people.”

Thank you to the donors of this activity—GEF through the UNDP/VCAP II Project—and to the Government of Vanuatu through the Ministry of Climate Change and the Ministry of Internal Affairs for their continued support.





LESSONS LEARNED

SUMMARY:

1. Strengthen Climate Education and Community Outreach

- Schools continue to play a vital role as centres of climate education and community engagement and should receive ongoing support.
- The Farm-to-School model has proven effective and can be expanded to other islands to strengthen climate-smart food security.
- Follow-up visits are essential to support communities in developing formal Community Adaptation Plans.

2. Improve Coordination and Resource Mobilization

- Stronger inter-agency coordination through PTAC is needed to ensure better planning, alignment of activities, and efficient resource mobilization.
- Logistical support—including necessary equipment—should be improved to maintain outreach activities in remote areas.
- Local champions require additional training to monitor coastal changes and encourage sustainable practices.

3. Enhance Environmental Restoration Efforts

- Tree planting and mangrove restoration programs should be expanded across the island to bolster ecosystem resilience.

4. Address Community Mobilization Challenges

- Mobilizing communities remains challenging, particularly when activities of interest are not conducted as expected, leading to reduced attendance and participation.
- Cancellations and changes to planned activities contributed to a decline in community engagement and disrupted program momentum.
- Overlapping activities, such as the Climate Symposium and CBFM training happening simultaneously, overstretched communities and reduced participation in both.

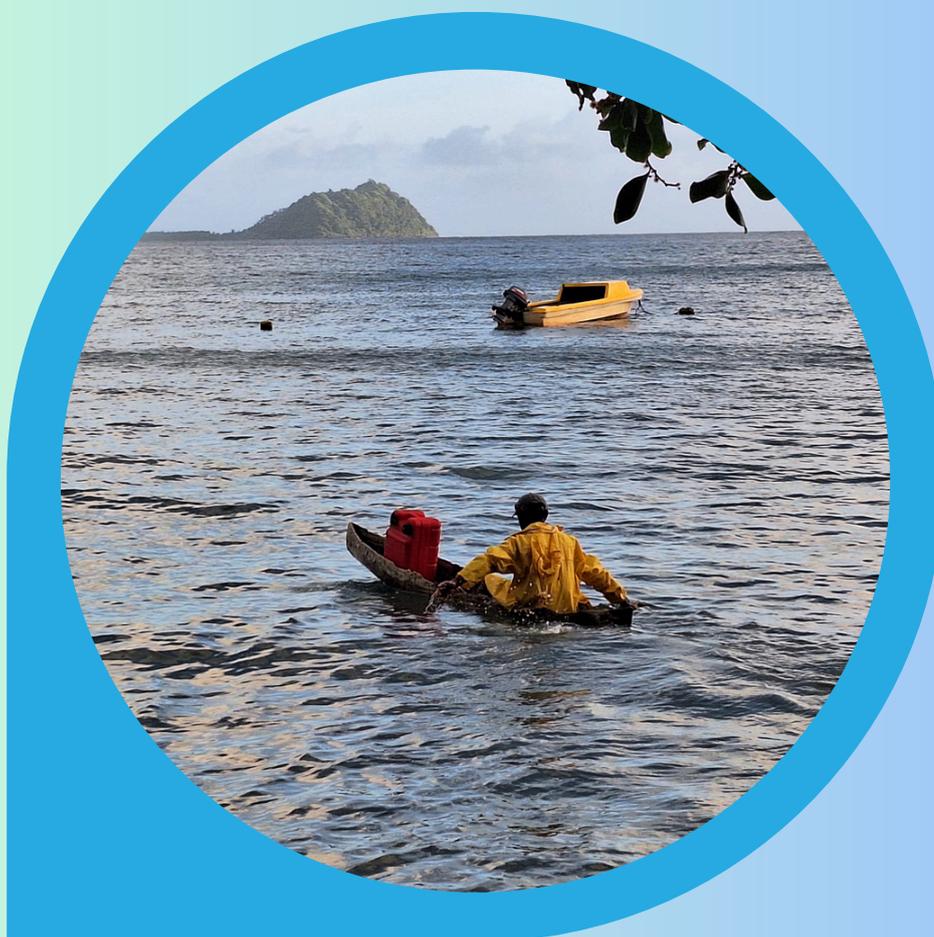
5. Improve Planning and Logistics for Field Activities

- Delays in the shipment of CDCCC kits prevented timely distribution of key materials.
- Limited time for communities to collect planting materials—caused by supply delays—affected preparedness and the smooth flow of agricultural activities.
- Insufficient planting tools forced communities to use personal equipment, some of which were damaged, leading to dissatisfaction.
- Delayed funding for participant transport hindered attendance from other communities and reduced wider participation.
- Overall logistical coordination needs to be strengthened to improve access and service delivery in remote locations.

CONCLUSION

The mission provided valuable insights into both the strengths and challenges of implementing climate change outreach and adaptation activities across the island. While strong engagement from schools, the success of climate-smart agriculture initiatives, and the commitment of local champions demonstrated the community's willingness to build resilience, several logistical and coordination challenges limited the full effectiveness of the program. Delays in materials, overlapping activities, and difficulties in mobilizing communities highlighted the need for improved planning, timely resource delivery, and strengthened inter-agency collaboration.

Despite these challenges, the mission reaffirmed the importance of continued capacity building, enhanced environmental restoration efforts, and sustained community support. By addressing the identified gaps and building on the positive outcomes, future missions can achieve greater impact and ensure that communities are better equipped to adapt to climate change. The lessons learned will guide improvements in planning, coordination, and implementation, ultimately contributing to stronger, more resilient communities across the islands.



FINANCE

SYMPOSIUM PAYMENT CONSOLIDATED FOR TORBA PROVINCE

The table below shows the symposium payment made to each island per smart stream accounting codes.

	SYMPOSIUM PAYMENT ISSUED						
		Jayson	Humao	Nettie	Zechariah	LPO	Total
Subsistence Allowance	8CAB	42,000		315,000	49,000	476,000	882,000
Other Incidental Cost	8COI		65,577	7,630	20,000		93,207
Communication	8CKT	12,200	24,000	15,000	41,100	97,694	189,994
Fuel	8CFV	48,100		38,750	48,000	30,000	164,850
Transportation (Land, Sea, Airfair)	8CTL	249,450		239,690	357,760	21,470	868,370
Accomodation	8CBL	127,700	518,976	29,800	127,500		803,976
Freight	8CGR	22,590	42,000	1,780	93,120		159,490
Hire Facility	8CIF	5,000					5,000
Hire Equipment	8CIE			15,000			15,000
General Material	8CGM	2,000				206,931	208,931
Official Intertainment	8COP	61,080	30,000	164,210	63,520		318,810
Stationaries	8CKS					72,375	72,375
Advertising	8CKD					143,750	143,750
Printing	8CKR					230,200	230,200
Equipment Additional General	8EEA					190,490	190,490
Total		570,120	680,553	826,860	800,000	1,468,910	4,346,443
							-
Cashier Receiptps		31,880	219,447	73,140			324,467
TOTAL		602,000	900,000	900,000	800,000		4,670,910

The table above shows that the total payment made through NPP to carry out the Symposium activity in TORBA Province was **VUV 4,346,443**.

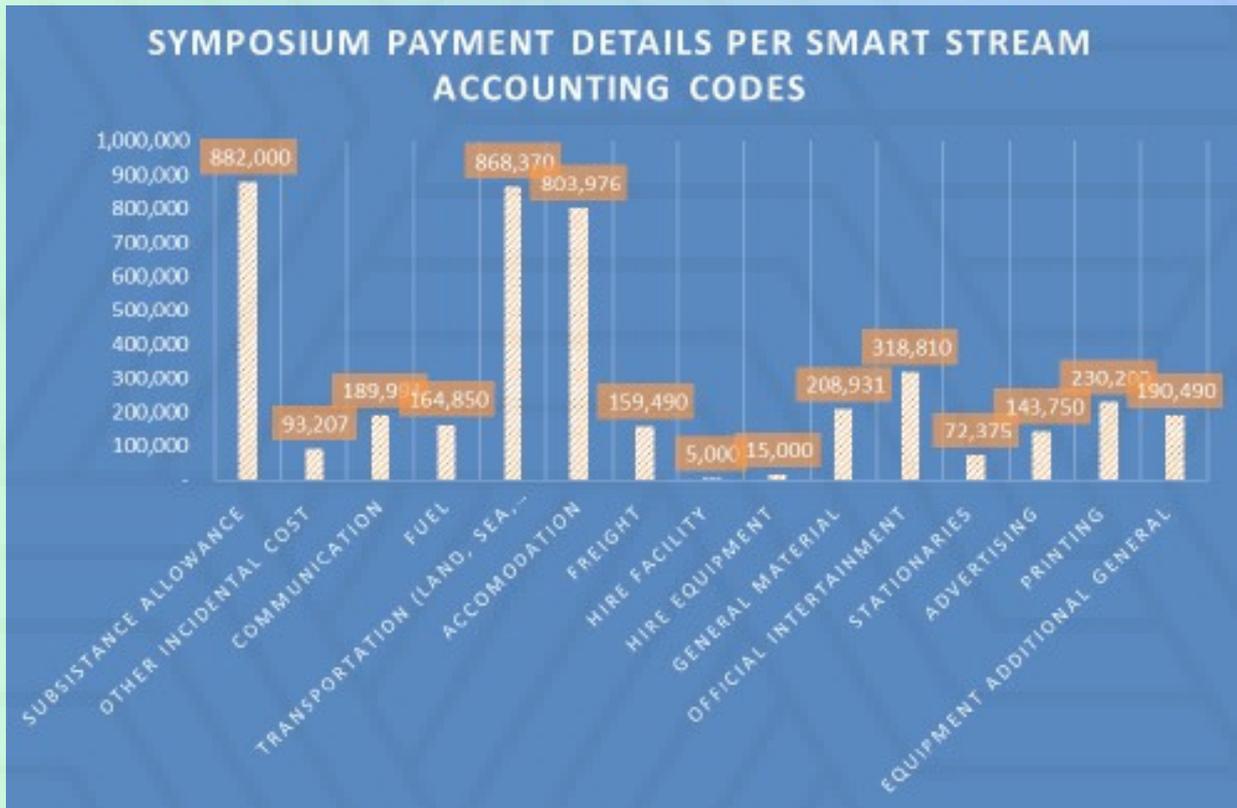
The 3 highest cost this year were:

- Allowances 882,000 VT
- Transportation 868,370 VT

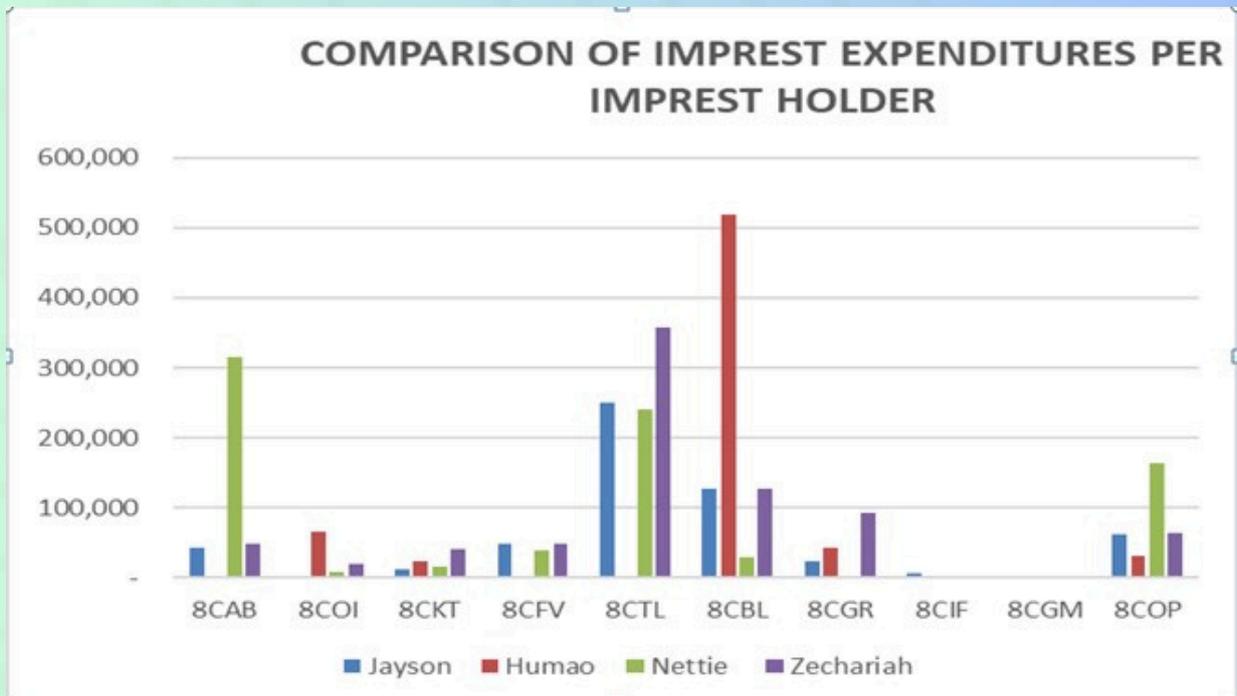
This explains that with current situation from air Vanuatu, team needs to be travel out earlier by ships that's why and increase from allowance budget per above table. Transportation cost was also increase because this year the Dpt of Climate change change the approach to run the activity in each Area councils in TORBA. An increase also in accomodation because left over funds under this program was used to secure the accomodation of few Vanuatu participants to COP 30 in Brazil.

The imprest for this international trip was delay by Finance Dpt that is why this NPP Funds was send to secure their accomodation. A total amount of 400,000 vt was used to this international trip.

FINANCE



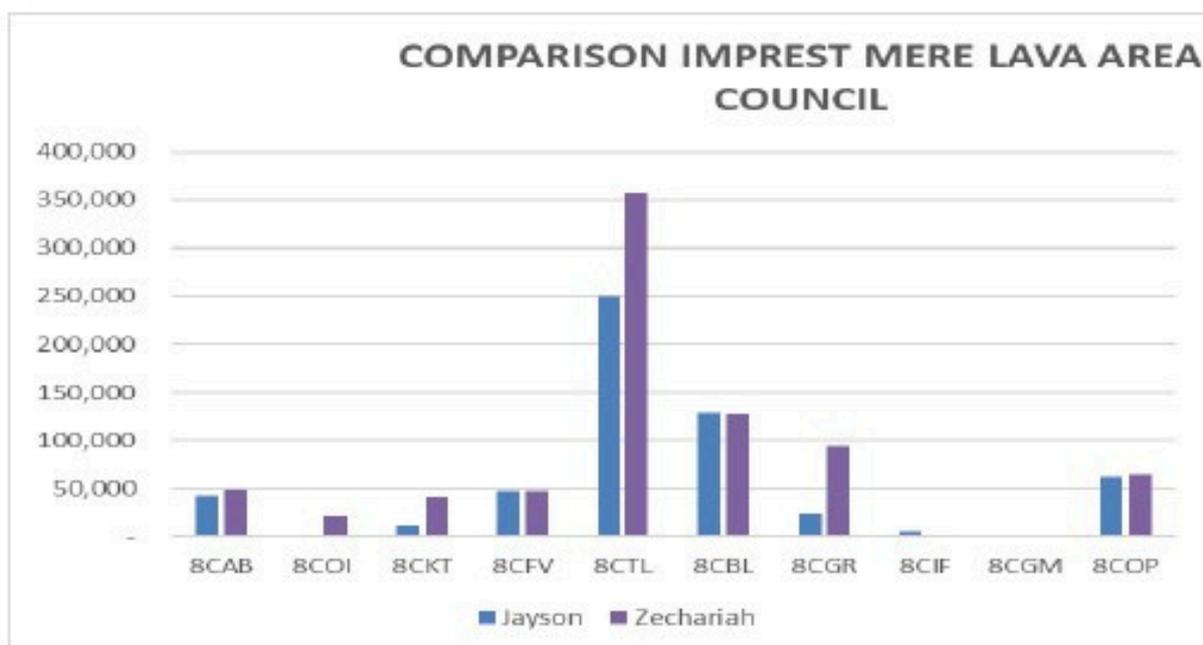
Comparison of Imprest per impress holder



FINANCE

Imprest Jayson TIMATUA and Zechariah BANI – MERE LAVA area council

MERE LAVA AREA COUNCIL IMPREST				
		Jayson	Zechariah	TOTAL
Subsistance Allowance	8CAB	42,000	49,000	91,000
Other Incidental Cost	8COI		20,000	20,000
Communication	8CKT	12,200	41,100	53,300
Fuel	8CFV	48,100	48,000	96,100
Transportation (Land, Sea, Airfair)	8CTL	249,450	357,760	607,210
Accomodation	8CBL	127,700	127,500	255,200
Freight	8CGR	22,590	93,120	115,710
Hire Facility	8CIF	5,000		5,000
General Material	8CGM	2,000		2,000
Official Intertainment	8COP	61,080	63,520	124,600
Total		570,120	800,000	1,370,120



Under Original plan, Department planned to spend 1,370,120 VT in Mere Lava area council but due to bad weather, officers could not reach Mere Lava area council but funds were used to support activities around Vanua Lava area council, Mota Island, and others.

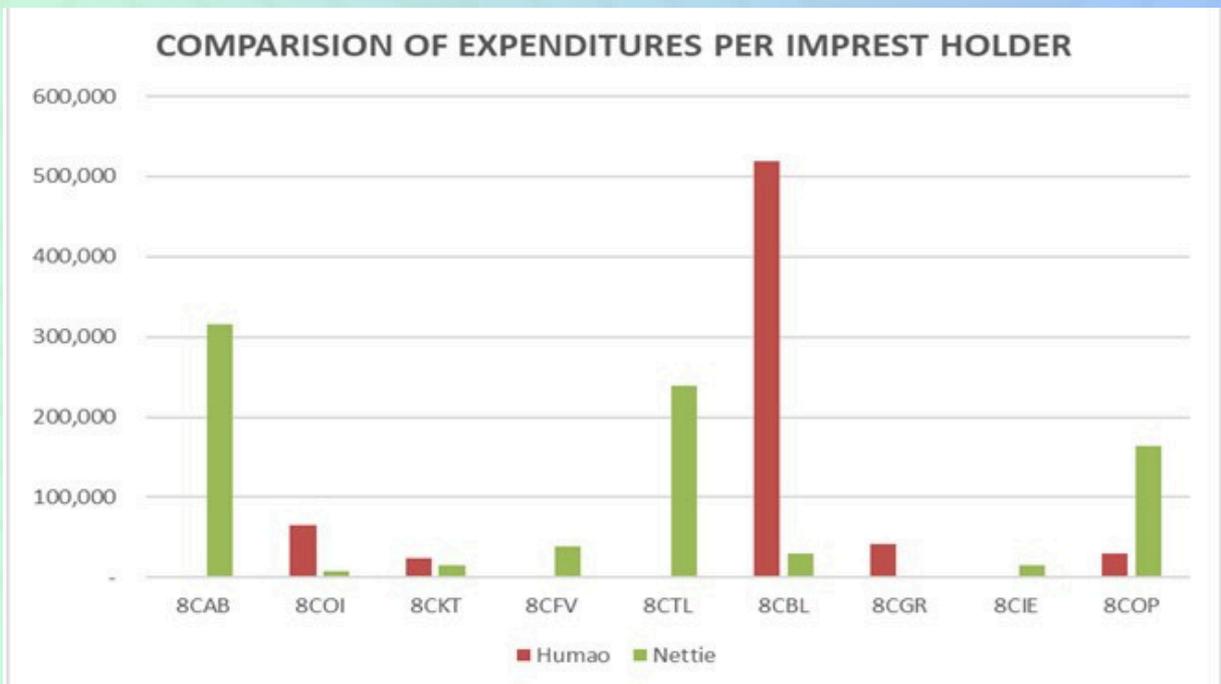
The big payments for these 2 imprests were transportation and this was justified by the payment of sea fairs and charter flight from Lugainville santo to Sola Vanua Lava.

The second biggest payment is accomodation is justified by a week and half accomodation in Luganville before travelling out to Sola.

Imprest Nettie Joseph and Humao TOMAT SELE – Vanua Lava Area council

FINANCE

		Humao	Nettie	Total
Subsistance Allowance	8CAB		315,000	315,000
Other Incidental Cost	8COI	65,577	7,630	73,207
Communication	8CKT	24,000	15,000	39,000
Fuel	8CFV		38,750	38,750
Transportation (Land, Sea, Airfair)	8CTL		239,690	239,690
Accomodation	8CBL	518,976	29,800	548,776
Freight	8CGR	42,000	1,780	43,780
Hire Equipment	8CIE		15,000	15,000
Official Intertainment	8COP	30,000	164,210	194,210
Total		680,553	826,860	1,507,413
				-
Cashier Receiptps		219,447	73,140	292,587
TOTAL		900,000	900,000	1,800,000



As previously mentioned, the accommodation here was for COP 30 participants. Few participants they accountable imprest was delay at the Dpt of Finance and to make sure that we secure their accommodation in Brazil, we transferred 400,000 vt from symposium imprest to secure their accommodation.

All the receipts were attached with the retirement of imprest

Financial Challenges

- Final symposium planning was endorsed only one week before the first team's departure.
- Tight timelines placed significant pressure on the admin team to prepare resources promptly.
- Admin team worked closely with the Department of Finance and suppliers to secure all materials on time.
- Extensive follow-ups were required to ensure all imprest commitments were processed and paid without delay.
- Flight disruptions caused by Air Vanuatu's limited operations affected travel arrangements.
- Symposium teams were required to travel from Port Vila by ship due to the absence of flights to some islands.

Acknowledgement

- CBIT Project contributed 319,000 VT in financial support.
- Loss and Damage Project provided 500,000 VT in financial support.
- STRENGTH Project supported with 200,000 VT in financial assistance.
- VCAP II Project funded the printing of merchandise for climate change awareness.
- VCCRP supported with billboard printing and a charter flight (Vila – Sola – Vila).
- GGGI provided support through a charter flight (Vila – Banks – Vila).

No	Name	Gender	Age	Height	Weight	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes
1	Alisa Daryani	F	16	160					
2	Angela Daryani	F	15	160					
3	Jessica Daryani	F	15	160					
4	Jessica Daryani	F	15	160					
5	Jessica Daryani	F	15	160					
6	Jessica Daryani	F	15	160					
7	Jessica Daryani	F	15	160					
8	Jessica Daryani	F	15	160					
9	Jessica Daryani	F	15	160					
10	Jessica Daryani	F	15	160					

No	Name	Gender	Age	Height	Weight	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes
1	Selma Sula	F	16	160					
2	Eny	F	15	160					
3	Ruby Sula	F	16	160					
4	Diana Gungu	F	16	160					
5	Blenny Sula	F	16	160					
6	Diana Sula	F	16	160					
7	Fredy Sula	M	16	160					
8	Arad Sula	M	16	160					

No	Name	Gender	Age	Height	Weight	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes
1	Eny	F	15	160					
2	Ruby Sula	F	16	160					
3	Diana Gungu	F	16	160					
4	Blenny Sula	F	16	160					
5	Diana Sula	F	16	160					
6	Fredy Sula	M	16	160					
7	Arad Sula	M	16	160					

No	Name	Gender	Age	Height	Weight	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes
1	Kocher Kati	F	18	160					
2	Eny	F	15	160					
3	Diana Gungu	F	16	160					
4	Blenny Sula	F	16	160					
5	Diana Sula	F	16	160					
6	Fredy Sula	M	16	160					
7	Arad Sula	M	16	160					

No	Name	Gender	Age	Height	Weight	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes
1	Eny	F	15	160					
2	Diana Gungu	F	16	160					
3	Blenny Sula	F	16	160					
4	Diana Sula	F	16	160					
5	Fredy Sula	M	16	160					
6	Arad Sula	M	16	160					

No	Name	Gender	Age	Height	Weight	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes
1	Eny	F	15	160					
2	Diana Gungu	F	16	160					
3	Blenny Sula	F	16	160					
4	Diana Sula	F	16	160					
5	Fredy Sula	M	16	160					
6	Arad Sula	M	16	160					

No	Name	Gender	Age	Height	Weight	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes
1	Diana Dini	F	16	160					
2	Diana Dini	F	16	160					
3	Diana Dini	F	16	160					
4	Diana Dini	F	16	160					
5	Diana Dini	F	16	160					
6	Diana Dini	F	16	160					
7	Diana Dini	F	16	160					
8	Diana Dini	F	16	160					
9	Diana Dini	F	16	160					
10	Diana Dini	F	16	160					

No	Name	Gender	Age	Height	Weight	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes
1	Diana Dini	F	16	160					
2	Diana Dini	F	16	160					
3	Diana Dini	F	16	160					
4	Diana Dini	F	16	160					
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9	Diana Dini	F	16	160					
10	Diana Dini	F	16	160					

No	Name	Gender	Age	Height	Weight	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes	Handwritten notes
1	Diana Dini	F	16	160					
2	Diana Dini	F	16	160					
3	Diana Dini	F	16	160					
4	Diana Dini	F	16	160					
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6	Diana Dini	F	16	160					
7	Diana Dini	F	16	160					
8	Diana Dini	F	16	160					
9	Diana Dini	F	16	160					
10	Diana Dini	F	16	160					



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Department of Climate Change wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to the Torba Provincial Government for the remarkable collaboration and support throughout the planning and implementation of this outreach activity. Your leadership and commitment were instrumental in ensuring the success of this event.

We also acknowledged the participation of the National Advisory Board on Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction (NAB) and the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Right to Information (RTI). Your technical insights, presence, and continuous guidance strengthened the quality and impact of the program. A special note of appreciation goes to GGGI for providing transportation support, enabling our teams to reach communities across the islands. We further thank the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Local Authorities, and the Education Department for your strong inter-agency cooperation and contributions in delivering key messages on climate resilience, food security, governance, and community empowerment.

The Department also conveys heartfelt gratitude to Helper 1 – Respond Global for joining the mission and enhancing the outreach with vital health and humanitarian services.

We make special mention of the Provincial Coordinator, Area Administrators, Community Liaison Officers and the Area Council Climate Change Officers stationed across the VCCRP project sites. Your tireless coordination, mobilization support, and dedication at the community level ensured smooth implementation of all planned activities.

To the management and staff of the Department of Climate Change, including team members under VCCRP, VCAP II, Loss and Damage, Climate Flexible Financing, CBIT, we acknowledge your efforts, time, and technical inputs. Your teamwork, passion, and professionalism were key factors in making this one of the most successful outreach events delivered in the province.

We also thank the schools, community leaders, chiefs, women's groups, and youth who welcomed the teams and actively participated in the various sessions. Your engagement shows a strong commitment to building a climate-resilient future for TORBA.

Finally, we recognize all partners, volunteers, and supporters who contributed in ways both big and small. Your collective efforts made this outreach meaningful, impactful, and truly collaborative.

Together, we continue to strengthen resilience, empower communities, and build a safer future for all.

