



The Republic of Vanuatu

**Stock Take and Thematic Assessment Report
for the National Capacity Self Assessment on the
implementation of the United Nations Convention
on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)**

FINAL REPORT

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July 2006



Stock Take and Thematic Assessment on the Convention of Biological Diversity

*A component Activity under the National Capacity Self-Assessment
Project through the Vanuatu Environment Unit*

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1. Table of Contents	
2. Abbreviations.....	3
3. Acknowledgements.....	4
4. Executive Summary.....	5
5. Background information	6
6. Objectives.....	7
7. Scope	8
8. Methodology.....	9
9. Results.....	10
10. Discussions.....	33
11. Recommendations.....	36
12. Conclusions.....	37
13. Bibliography.....	38

2. Abbreviations

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEPA	Communication Education and Public Awareness
CCI	Chamber of commerce and Industry
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DESP	Department of Economic and Sector Planning
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
EMC	Environmental Management and Conservation Act
IWP	International Waters Programme
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
NBCS	National Biodiversity and Conservation Strategy
NBF	National Biosafety Frameworks
NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment
PAA	Priority Action Agenda
VKS	Vanuatu Cultural Centre
VQIS	Vanuatu Quarantine and Inspection Services
WHC	World Heritage Convention

3. Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the following people for their invaluable time and patience to respond to my questions:

- a) Mr. Henry – Principal Human Resource Development Officer, HRD Unit
- b) Mrs. Hilda Taleo – Director, Department of Women’s Affairs
- c) Mrs. Cherol Ala – Director, Department of Provincial Affairs
- d) Mrs. Leisel Masingiow, Acting Principal Education Officer, Curriculum Development Unit
- e) Ms. Jenny whyte, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Local Conservation Initiative Project, Environment Unit
- f) Mrs. Jane Gereva, Drafts Woman, State Law Office
- g) Mr. Mark Kalotap, Trainer for Environment and Culture, Peace Corps
- h) Mr. Joe Masing, Chamber of Commerce
- i) Mr. Selwyn Garu, Secretary, Malvatumauri
- j) Mr. Ralph Reganvanu – Director, Vanuatu Cultural Centre

Members of the NCSA Steeting Committee

Members of the NCSA TAG

Lastly but not least, the office of the Environment for their support in providing an opportunity for capacity building and gaining more indepth knowledge about a new environmental initiative and what it’s intentions are.

5. Back Ground

The National Capacity Self- Assessment Project

The Vanuatu Government, through the Vanuatu Environment Unit and in collaboration with relevant departments, is currently implementing a UNEP/GEF funded project on National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA). The main objective of the NCSA project is to enhance the capacity of Vanuatu in addressing global environment management issues, particular in the areas of Biodiversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation. The above issues are being addressed within their respective international conventions, namely Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Framework on Climate Change and Convention to combat Land Degradation and Desertification.

A main expected output from the NCSA project is to develop a National Capacity Needs Strategy and Action Plan that addresses confirmed national environment management capacity building priorities for Vanuatu. This will be achieved through a participatory process that will assess capacities at the three organizational levels: Systematic, Institutional and Individual. The process shall mainly encompass the following activities:

- Review and confirm national environment priority issues for action, particularly in the thematic areas of Biodiversity, Climate change and land
- Identify what are the capacity needs within and across the above thematic areas
- Link country actions within the above thematic areas into the broader national environmental management and sustainable development priorities and action plans.

The NCSA Project is expected to reach completion in September 2006.

Vanuatu ratified the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1992. This year, 2006, marks 14 years of Vanuatu's commitment to the CBD. The financial assistance provided through the initiative of the NCSA project is an opportunity to assist the Vanuatu Government to assess its various levels of capacities in addressing issues relevant under the CBD as well as looking at possibilities on how existing environmental activities and capacities can be linked into one multi-sectoral strategy.

6. Objectives

The stock-take assessment and thematic assessment forms the second and third stage of the NCSA process, respectively. Due to the limited time available until the NCSA project reaches completion, the stock take assessment and thematic assessment were conducted concurrently.

The following outlines the objectives of the Stock Take and Thematic assessment ensure that:

- Gain a more in-depth understanding of the various capacity assessments and capacity developments that have been undertaken to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other related Multi Environment Agreements (MEAs).
- Lessons learnt from past capacity assessments and capacity development initiatives are incorporated into the National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) process and is built and developed further.
- The NCSA is integrated into the existing national frameworks for capacity development, global and national environmental management
- Develop a clear understanding of the requirements under each of the conventions as well as opportunities available to Vanuatu as a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- To review what has been done by Vanuatu to address its obligations and to take advantage of CBD-related opportunities.
- To assess Vanuatu's performance in terms of strengths and constraints in addressing CBD requirements and benefiting from participation.
- To identify priority capacity needs and opportunities for capacity development for CBD implementation.

Supplementary and in support of the objectives outlined, 4 fundamental questions had to be asked to provide for a long term direction, as follows;

1. **What is the NCSA?**
2. **What is the NCSA trying to achieve at the end?**
3. **How does its goal relate to the goals of National Sustainable Development within Vanuatu context?**
4. **How will the NCSA assist Vanuatu to effectively implement the respective UN environment conventions such as the CBD?**

7. Scope

The Terms of Reference requires the consultant to do the following tasks for the Stock Take Assessment and Thematic Assessment;

1. Review COP report and CBD
 - a. Summarize priorities relevant to Vanuatu
2. Document the key actions (related to policies, institutional enabling environments) required to implement the convention obligations. (Assess the strengths and weaknesses for implementing them).
3. Undertake a national inventory on the following;
 - a. CBD-related activities
 - b. Status of the key environment and natural resources
 - c. Government and Non-Government organizations involved in management of the resources
 - d. To identify activities being undertaken or planned relevant to implementation of the CBD obligations
4. Assess the extent to which the actions identified under (2) above have been implemented. This should take into account the inventory developed under (3)
5. Undertake an assessment of capacity constraints in addressing those actions still requiring implementation using problem tree analysis, SWOT, logical framework etc.
6. Proposed capacity development needs to implement the key remaining obligations and actions, taking into account issues at the systems, organizations and individual level of capacity.

8. Methodology

The stock take and thematic assessment were both conducted in Port Vila. The assessments involved the following;

1. Undertaking a survey (see annexure 2 for sample of survey questionnaire) amongst stakeholders represented in the Non-resource based sectors and private sector. Although, their work plans and programs do not directly concern Biodiversity but their involvement is necessary in terms of capturing lessons learnt from their experience in implementing projects and also their opinions on the whole concept of capacity
2. Information collected from a similar survey conducted with natural resource based sectors during the PDF A phase was reviewed and incorporated into this report where relevant. Follow ups were made to those sectors where an area required further information or clarification.
3. Reviewed the latest COP report and made an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities. Although this report is still in draft, the information presented is still very relevant.
4. Collected policies, reviews, legislations, strategies and conducted an inventory to assess the extent of implementation, taking into account strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities
5. Conducted a stakeholder analysis in order to decide on those peoples or institutions that could be consulted. The National Biodiversity and Conservation Strategy (NBCS) was referred to in order to identify potential stakeholders. Identification of stakeholders took account for focal points or capacity of natural resources sector in Government, Private Sector and NGO.
6. Also reviewed draft report of Stock Take of Research, Monitoring and Assessment of Biodiversity

The site location of the study area, being Port Vila, poses another limitation. The information gathered mainly concern the sectors within the urban center of Port Vila. Further supplementary information is needed from other governing bodies located on other islands such as the provincial head quarters, NGOs, private sector organizations and Government extension offices and which is essential to invite their participation and responsibility in the NCSA process as well as incorporating all issues necessary to develop a national strategy on building capacity.

8. Introduction to the Convention of Biological Diversity

The enactment of the Convention of Biological Diversity or CBD is solely to address the problems of loss of Biodiversity caused by human activities occurring at indefinite rates.

The CBD was open for signature at the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 and entered into force on 29 December 1993. Vanuatu ratified to the CBD in 9 June 1992.

The CBD has three (3) primary objectives to achieve, namely the following;

- a) Conservation of biological diversity**
- b) Sustainable use of its components of biological diversity e.g. leaves, flowers, seeds, stalk etc.**
- c) Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources**
 - a. Appropriate access to genetic resources
 - b. Appropriate transfer of relevant technologies
 - i. Taking into account all rights over those resources i.e. biological resources/genetic resources
 - ii. Technologies to deploy
 - iii. Appropriate funding

10. Convention-Related obligations for Vanuatu

The table below presents CBD obligations that are relevant for Vanuatu and activities that have been implemented in country that have directly and indirectly responded to meeting the CBD obligations.

Article No.	Convention Obligations	Explanation of the Obligation	Key Actions required to implement obligation	Current/Past Activities relevant to obligation	Organization	Extent of implementation
6	General Measures for Conservation and sustainable use	<p>a) National plans and strategies incorporating general Measures for conservation and sustainable use</p> <p>b) Planning for Biodiversity protection</p>	Development and integration of national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies to ensure their consideration in decision making processes	<p>a) Development of National Biodiversity and Conservation Strategy – Past</p> <p>b) Development of National Conservation Strategy</p> <p>c) National Forest Policy</p> <p>d) Priority Action Agenda – Past but is still in the process to be up-dated</p>	<p>a) and b) – Environment Unit</p> <p>c) Department of forestry</p> <p>d) Dept. of Economic and Sector Planning</p>	<p>a) Completed 1999</p> <p>b) Completed 1992</p> <p>c) Completed 2000</p> <p>d) Completed 2004</p>
7	Identification and monitoring	<p>a) Identification and monitoring of biological diversity for the purposes of conservation, sustainable use, identification of activities/developments posing significant adverse impacts on the conservation and</p>	<p>a) Undertake a national assessment to develop a priority species list consistent with the lists in Annex 1 of the CBD</p> <p>b) Develop legislation for the protection of threatened species and populations, and for regulation of key threats to species and ecosystems</p> <p>c) Development of the</p>	<p>a) The National Herbarium Unit under the Department of Forestry has an on-going program to collect and identify Flora on species on ecosystem level.</p> <p>b) Environment management and conservation Act, Water Resources Management Act and Forestry Act</p>	<p>a) Department of Forestry</p> <p>b) Environment Unit, Geology and Mines, Dept. of forestry</p> <p>c) Environment Unit</p> <p>d) Environment Unit</p> <p>e) Department of Fisheries</p>	<p>a) Continuous 2002, 2002, 2001</p> <p>b) Still to be completed by Environment Australia</p> <p>c) Continuous – still incorporating data since 1997</p> <p>d) Database completed – information</p>

		<p>sustainable use of biodiversity</p> <p>b) Development of Information and Information systems</p>	<p>distribution/habitat of priority of species and ecosystems</p> <p>d) Mechanism to maintain and organize data derived from inventories and monitoring programs</p> <p>e) Undertake risk assessments to identify the major threats to priority species and ecosystems</p> <p>f) Develop strategies for the protection, threat reduction and sustainable use of species and ecosystems</p>	<p>c) & d) An information systems database has been developed to house all the information on flora specimens collected.</p> <p>Environment Unit houses a flora an fauna database with the intention to integrate into a Geographic Information System for map presentation.</p> <p>Vanuatu agencies such as Geology and Mines and Fisheries use indicators, such as biological indicators for monitoring purposes, but particularly within the context of projects that have their own source of funding</p> <p>Fisheries Department has established a database system that maintains data and information from on-going monitoring programs as well as exports of commercial fisheries such as aquarium fisheries</p> <p>e) & f) EMC Act contains provisions for an Environment Impact Assessment to be conducted to assess potential</p>	<p>continuously incorporated.</p>
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8	In-situ Conservation	<p><i>(Article 8a) to e) are mainly based on protected areas)</i></p> <p>a) Protected areas b) Protection of ecosystems, habitats and viable populations c) Buffer zones d) Ecosystem restoration and species recovery plans e) Biosafety f) Alien species or invasive species g) Traditional knowledge, innovations and practices h) Mitigation of threats</p>	<p>a) develop and establish a system of protected areas- special consideration on the need to protect biological diversity b) Development of legislations to support the establishment and management of protected areas including the biological resources within the protected areas c) Develop criteria and guidelines for the selection of protected areas d) Establish mechanisms to regulate, manage and control the risks associated with the introduction, use and release of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology which can impact on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, also considering the impact on human health e) Prevention from the introduction of, control or eradication of alien or invasive species</p>	<p>environment risks, such as risks to biodiversity, prior to any kind of development activities</p>	<p>a),b) and c) – Environment Unit d) Environment Unit and Vanuatu Quarantine Inspection</p>	<p>a), b) and c) – completed 2000 and 2002 d) Completed 2005</p>
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12	Research and Training	Scientific and Technical Education and Training	<p>a) Develop programs of scientific research for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity</p> <p>b) Develop appropriate education and training programs to ensure effective implementation of policies</p>	<p>Plant Protection Act, Animal Importation and Quarantine Act and Environmental management and conservation Act makes provisions for the management, control measures and risk assessment procedures for alien/invasive species</p>	<p>a) Environment Unit</p> <p>b) Department of Forestry</p> <p>c) Vanuatu Cultural Centre</p>	<p>a) This is an in-going activity</p> <p>b) i) Complete ii) On-going iii) complete iv) complete v) on-going</p> <p>c) complete 2005</p> <p>d) complete</p>
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					<p>Altogether promoting TRM practices</p> <p>d) Australian Centre for Agricultural research funded studies into Trochus niloticus and Birgus latro fisheries and stock management</p>		
13	Public Education and Awareness	<p>Promoting and encourage understanding of the importance of sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity</p> <p>Development of education and public awareness programs to promote the importance</p>	<p>Develop and implement education and awareness programs to support the protection of biodiversity</p>				
14	Impact Assessment and Minimizing Adverse Impacts	<p>a) Requirement for Environment Impact Assessment to be undertaken for proposed projects</p> <p>b) Liability and redress for environmental consequences</p> <p>c) Strategic Environment Assessment</p>	<p>Develop legislative/regulatory systems and processes that provide for the assessment of the impact of developments on biological diversity, particularly where impacts are likely to be significant</p> <p>Provide for effective public participation process under the EIA processes</p>				

15	Access to Genetic Resources	National legislations, administrative and policies to regulate access to genetic resources Access to genetic resources, where granted should be based on Mutually Agreed Terms. Conduct scientific research based on genetic resources	Develop policy, administrative measures or legislation to ensure the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources with the contracting party providing access to the genetic resources			
18	Technical and Scientific Cooperation	Promoting scientific and technical cooperation between member parties in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through mutual agreement, legislations, policies, information technology	Establish a Clearing House Mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation			
19	Handling of Biotechnology and Distribution of its benefits	Biosafety and Biotechnology Intellectual Property Rights	Develop appropriate legal and administrative measures to implement obligations under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.			
26	Reports	Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity	Members to the CBD are obliged to submit to the conference of the parties, report on measures taken to implement the CBD	a) 1 st National Report to Countries of the Party- 1999 b) 2 nd National Report to Countries of the Party c) 3 rd National Report to Countries of the Party	Environment Unit, in collaboration with Department of Fisheries, Forestry, DARD	Complete 4 th Draft CBD Report- 2005

9. Results/Findings

The results of the stock take assessment and thematic assessment are presented into separate sections.

9.1 STOCK TAKE ASSESSMENT OF THE CONVENTION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY.

9.1.1 Summary and Evaluation of Past and On-going Capacity Assessment and Capacity Development Initiatives in country

Name of Department/ Organization	Capacity Assessments		Capacity Development Initiatives		Strengths/benefits	Weaknesses	Capacity Needs
	Name	Status (on-going, past)	Name	Status (on-going, past)			
Fisheries Department	Stock assessment of Fisheries resources. E.g. Giant Clam, Green snail, Trochus Coral Reef Monitoring	On-going	Village Fisheries Development program	Past	<p>-Stock assessment has not been conducted for about 10 years. Started in 2004, therefore, formal data collection process established</p> <p>- Department is always ready to make available and share information</p>	<p>Amount of time required to conduct stock assessments is quite prolonged due to limited staff personnel.</p> <p>- Lack of manpower and expertise, especially to do field work</p> <p>- Lack of plans for the management and development of fisheries in Vanuatu. The only approved plan is the</p>	<p>Need training in the form of long-term training for fishermen, communities, and government officers to do the following:</p> <p>-Stock assessment</p> <p>-Data collection</p> <p>-Database</p> <p>-Aquaculture-Mariculture-Giant clam and corals, need training to culture giant clam</p> <p>-Need training for fisheries observers-assessment blong activity blong ol boat-SPC and FFA-train local people</p>
	Reporting on the following:	On-going					
	-Status of coral monitoring	On-going					
	-Giant clam fishery						
	-CITES report						

Resource Based Sectors, Government Departments

Environment Unit	<p>-Central database-department has a statistician who manages the database-data analysis, management storage-reports prepared and submit to Statistics office</p> <p>-Supply information on fishing activities</p> <p>-Rural extension officers-log sheets</p>	<p>Past – 2002</p> <p>Past-2004</p>	<p>National Waste Management Project</p> <p>South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Project – Establishment of Vathe Conservation area</p> <p>PICCAP Project</p>	<p>Past – 2000</p> <p>Past – 1996</p> <p>Past - 1998</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>Tuna Management Plan. Plans are underway to develop a management plan for Aquarium trade.</p>	<p>- Conservation of resources</p> <p>- Collaboration, cooperation- promote work partnerships</p> <p>- Recruitment of an economist to do assessment on operations</p> <p>- Rural communities to receive benefits from the services provided by the department</p>
	<p>Trial Capacity Assessment for the Environment Unit to implement the National Biodiversity and Conservation Strategy (Undocumented)</p> <p>Stock Take of Research, Assessment and Monitoring of Biodiversity in-country (Undocumented)</p>	<p>Past – 2002</p> <p>Past-2004</p>	<p>National Waste Management Project</p> <p>South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Project – Establishment of Vathe Conservation area</p> <p>PICCAP Project</p>	<p>Past – 2000</p> <p>Past – 1996</p> <p>Past - 1998</p>	<p>Dedicated office to deliver service with critically limited staff capacity</p> <p>National Conservation Strategy</p> <p>National Biodiversity and Conservation Strategy</p>	<p>Limited staff capacity is a Constraint</p> <p>Staff handling plenty issues at the same time</p> <p>The current system of recruitment of Government personnel by the Public Service Commission is a huge hindrance and which affects service delivery, proper allocation of time and resources</p>	<p>Recruitment of more staff</p> <p>Public Service to carefully assess the current administration protocol in recruiting new staff personnel into all government departments, units and or divisions.</p> <p>-Build on existing laws/develop guidelines, procedures for Bioprospecting, Environmental Impact Assessment, Registration of Conservation Area</p> <p>-Work with other respective authorities who</p>

	<p>have a responsibility in enforcing the Environment Act- Municipalities, Provinces</p> <p>-Establish a research system-information management</p> <p>-Establish and maintain partnerships</p> <p>-Move from paper to practical application</p>			<p>Past – 1998 to 2000</p> <p>Past – 2001 to 2004</p> <p>On-going 2003</p> <p>On-going 2005</p> <p>On-going 2005</p>	<p>National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan Project – Phase 1</p> <p>National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan Project – Phase 2</p> <p>International Waters Programme</p> <p>Strengthening Land Owners Initiative to do Biodiversity and Conservation</p> <p>National Capacity Self Assessment Project</p>	<p>Department of Agriculture</p>
	<p>-All departments under Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to work together</p> <p>- Up-grade Agriculture Library and build an Information Center in order to strengthen relationships of personnels working under MAFF. This would further enhance cooperation.</p>	<p>Department operating on low budget- large proportion is allocated to meet the costs of building and establishing an agriculture college.</p> <p>Existing structural policies and working relationships amongst members of staff has affected the sustainable</p>	<p>Projects are financially sustaining the service delivery of the department</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>Past - 2002</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p>	<p>Producer Organization Project</p> <p>Farming Systems Project</p> <p>Development of a sustainable Agriculture Project (DSAP)</p> <p>Taro Research Project (TANSAO)</p> <p>South Pacific Yam Network Project (SPYN)</p>	

Department of Forestry	Production of Annual Reports – identifies strengths and weaknesses relating to work operations	On-going	Soil Erosion Project Vanuatu Sustainable Utilisation Project LEARN Project SPRIG Phase 1 SPRIG Phase 2 Forest Health (in partnership with VQIS)	Past – 1997 Past On-going Past On-going On-going	Projects allow cross-sectoral participation of Stakeholders Development and enforcement of legal guidelines through project initiatives – Code of logging practice, Reduce Impact Logging guidelines, Operating license scheme (to name a few) Biodiversity issues are consciously mainstreamed into the work of the department – Conservation Unit works closely with the Environment Unit	approach of “working together” and “sharing common resources” -no policies yet established to govern the work of Agriculture	Need to see consistency amongst environmental legislations and guidelines. These are being developed and introduced through project initiatives. There is a need to see the compatibility between them Department personnel need to be more involved in environmental work which should act as an incentive to be accepted for scholarship. Warrant needs to be released on a time basis that is convenient to the Department of Forestry as most of their target work activities are conducted on a seasonal basis. This affects service delivery of the department.
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Vanuatu Quarantine Inspection Services	Vanuatu Agriculture Project initiated an assessment of staffing capacity for the Quarantine Division	Past -2001	<p>-Vanuatu Agriculture Security project-NZ\$ 2.5 million, ended in 2001-under the department of Agriculture-then, Quarantine Division under the dept of Agriculture.</p> <p>-Pasture Improvement project-under the dept of Livestock</p> <p>-Biosafety</p> <p>-Taro beetle project</p> <p>-POPs</p> <p>-BVC-bacteria related project-animals</p> <p>-Fruit fly project</p> <p>-Fruit piercing moth</p> <p>-Dairy project</p>	Past	<p>The department places a lot of emphasis in building capacity of members of staff.</p> <p>The Department has a policy governing its nature of work</p> <p>Funds from projects assist enormously in financially sustaining the delivery of services provided by the Department</p>	<p>High demand for service delivery has constantly delayed the department to provide in-house training for specific areas of work</p> <p>The department is excessively loaded with day to day work programs</p> <p>The department receives little recognition from the public on the weight and demand service provided</p> <p>Sustainability of project activities</p>	<p>Staff training in necessary technical areas</p> <p>Need appropriate equipments</p>
Non-Resource Based Sectors, Government Departments							
Department of women's Affairs	Institutional strengthening Project- VSA volunteer who should be conducting an institutional capacity assessment for the department.	On-going since 2001				<p>Despite high demand of service delivery, the department is under-resourced</p> <p>A statement of intent or the equivalent of corporate plan</p>	<p>Need to establish a database of resource people in order to have ease of access to resource people. The department would prefer to seek assistance locally instead of abroad.</p> <p>Need further training but on potential areas of capacity</p>

Human Resource Development Unit,	Work planning session of the department held twice in a year in order to assess staff skills	On-going	Mindset Project – advice Government on how to build human resources in all levels of capacity Scholarships Project – working together with PSC and Scholarships Unit	On-going – 1998 On-going- 2005	Financial issues are not meant to be constraints	incorporates provisions for environment management which is a new initiative which has just been introduced	Executive officers in Government need to receive management trainings in order to fit or adapt to the existing 'modernized' type of working environment There is a need to build capacity of the most experienced personnel in government There needs to be a program on cadetship and which is another mechanism of building capacity of human resources Need to be business orientated to market idea in order to access funds to execute project Build on Leadership skills with a view to have a long vision and apply
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Department of Provincial Affairs	Quarterly reports to assist Directors in assessing performance of human resources	On-going	The department through the REDI Unit is facilitating logistics for implementation of REDI projects for communities throughout the country.	Ongoing	Encourages further training, provided the personnel has worked for the department for 2 years. Qualified staff personnel working at the department	Lack of personal/professional networking amongst human resource personnel. Provincial planners are a politicized position therefore providing an instable working environment for the provincial authority as well as interrupting flow of work. The same situation applies for the position of Town Clark Dissemination of information from the Province to the communities is slow, therefore, communities are informed very late on potential projects they request to implement Government finance system is not favorable in terms of releasing warrant in time for service delivery.	Corporate and Business Plan of the department needs to be up-dated There needs to be constant exchange of information amongst peers for the continuous function of the department, especially in times of staff absences Need a legal officer Capacity needs to be transferred if a Technical Advisor is working with a local counterpart.
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Curriculum Development Unit		<p>The CDU is working closely with the POPs project to provide awareness workshop on POPs for teachers throughout Vanuatu</p> <p>The CDU is currently trialling the initiative of introducing Vernacular Education to schools. The sites of this project are Santo, Malekula and Tanna. This is an opportunity of integrating traditional knowledge of natural resources both physical and biological.</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p>	<p>Published text books on respective elements of the environment including Air, Water, Sea and trees. Text book on Island and Environment has been revised, published and sent to schools.</p> <p>Currently in the process of developing a policy for CDU</p> <p>There are opportunities to integrate Biodiversity into the curriculum.</p>	<p>Lack of human resources or specialized people to write textbooks. The CDU does not have a full-time coordinator or writer to write books for secondary schools- this assistance is currently sourced from a panel of teachers but who already have full-time responsibilities as teachers.</p> <p>Low printing capacity- only one printer is currently utilized to print 6000 textbooks!</p> <p>There is little recognition of the service CDU is delivering, hence, very little assistance received from Government.</p>	<p>Need to recruit a full-time coordinator for Secondary level education as well as writer for textbooks.</p> <p>Need to conduct assessments at schools to see how well the textbooks are being utilized.</p>
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State Law Office		Not implementing projects				Lack of human resources and high demand to draft regulations and legislations. Drafters need to attend trainings or workshops to be more familiar with scientific/technical terms and issues in order to draft environmental laws and legislations/regulations	Need to recruit more drafters into the Drafting section Drafters need to attend trainings or workshops to be more familiar with scientific/technical terms and issues in order to draft environmental laws and legislations/regulations
Peace Corps, Vanuatu	Reef Check	On-going	Agro-Forestry Rechargeable battery project Composting toilet Tourism Marine Protected Areas	On-going 2004 On-going On-going On-going	Building community capacity in areas such as environment, forestry, agriculture, waste management Dedicated and committed staff and volunteers	Lack of support from Government Limited access to information – need to have access in order to avoid duplication of effort	Need to do awareness on the work of the Peace Corps- as an organization, work plan, work of the volunteers. Organizations/departments to access Peace Corps volunteer network of passing on information
Chamber of commerce			Implementing Agriculture projects that incorporate environment issues Reforestation program – community based	On-going On-going program under the CCI work program	Implementing the Business Forum Matrix – coordinating private sector led growth through the implementation of the Business Forum Matrix There are opportunities to integrate Biodiversity into the work program of CCI	Lack of Government support- Government not implementing tasks identified in the Business forum matrix	Provide training to Business License holders in the areas of management, accounting etc. Need to consult with Vanuatu National Training council to up-date courses

<p>(Chamber of commerce, cont'd)</p>							<p>Limited budget to execute programs Need to recruit more technical staff</p>
<p>Malvatumauri</p>	<p>Development of Database system – information on chiefs, councils through out Vanuatu</p>		<p>Chiefs Skills Training Project Traditional money bank</p>	<p>On-going On-going</p>		<p>Insufficient budget to recruit more people Legislative enforcement of the Malvatumauri Status of the Malvatumauri – PSC and Malvatumauri as a constitutional body is quite conflicting in terms of decision-making Perception of a chief b the general public</p>	<p>Need training for chiefs to solve institutional conflicts</p>

Vanuatu Cultural centre	<p>Women's' marine tenure Project – Part of the TRM program below</p> <p>Traditional Resources Management – this involves documentation of vernacular names of plants and animals, food preservation, Disaster preparedness. Altogether promoting TRM practices</p>	<p>Past</p> <p>On-going</p>	<p>Establishment of Marine Protected Areas through project initiation.</p> <p>WHC: Capacity building of human resources</p> <p>Access to funding made it possible to establish a database of sites for Vanuatu.</p>	<p>Marine Tenure Project: lack of knowledge on reproductive cycle of certain marine life identified within the project.</p> <p>Lack of man power</p> <p>Too much up-take of western concepts of TRM, which are introduced by Government, and which further leads to reducing community capacity.</p> <p>Lack of regulatory framework to protect TRM or traditional knowledge</p> <p>Operational focal point of WHC: Preservation of sites and Artifacts</p> <p>Act needs to be updated to enforce protection of heritage.</p> <p>Lack of awareness on preservation of sites, hence, development proceeds without prior consideration</p>	<p>Need more human resources; better capacities and of quality.</p>
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9.1.2 Lessons Learnt for the NCSA Process

The above capacity assessments and Capacity development initiatives including implementation approaches of policies, plans and strategies provide lessons learnt for the NCSA process in the following manner;

- Building capacity on local and national level for environmental management or biodiversity conservation is more effective and “moves quickly”.
- Documentation of experiences or lessons learnt from programs or projects that can be utilized by potential users in departments and or organizations in order to better improve project design or implementation but also to avoid preconceived challenges.
- Building and fostering networking in the systems level of capacity ensures cross-sectoral implementation of programs or projects. This further encourages mainstreaming into various sectoral plans and programs.
- Up-take of projects ensures continuity or sustainability beyond the life of the project but should not be heavily dependent on money.
- Capacity building is more concentrated on the individual and institutional level than on the systems level of capacity.
- Utilize existing networks to disseminate information.
- Working cross-sectorally ensures that duplication of effort is reduced.
- A decrease on department budget directly reduces human resource capacity. Skills utilization becomes dormant and not actively deployed or sustained to meet demand of from the public.
- Information must be exchanged or shared to a department and or organization who needs it. Either have to know what information to exchange and why. This encourages creativity and innovation.
- When rural or urban communities are structurally well organized, they feel more obliged and responsible to accept and up-take information and work cooperatively with the provincial and national government.

9.1.3 Linkages of the NCSA into Priority National Sustainable Development and Environment Capacity Goals

The primary goal of NCSA is “to identify priorities and needs for capacity building to protect the global environment” (GEF, 2001). This would have to involve integrating across policies, sectoral plans and strategies, which address environmental priorities and capacity issues.

The Comprehensive Reform Program, Priority Action Agenda, Rural Economic Development Initiative, and Business Form Matrix commonly share similar approach to the NCSA process and incorporate strategies for resource and non-resource based sectors to address environmental issues.

9.1.4 Bibliography of relevant Documents and Websites

The following can be considered as existing opportunities to support or compliment Vanuatu's commitment to meeting the requirements of the CBD:

National Laws and Legislations

1. Constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu
2. Environmental Management and Conservation Act No.12 2002
3. Convention on Biological Diversity (Ratification) Act
4. International Trade (Flora and Fauna) Act 1991
5. Wild Bird Protection Act 1998
6. Forestry Act No.26 of 2001
7. Forestry Rights Registration and Timber Harvest Guarantee Act 2000
8. Code of Logging Practice, Forestry Order No. 26 of 1998
9. Fisheries Act (1982)
10. Plant Protection Act No. 14 of 1997
11. Animal Importation and Quarantine Regulations No. 14 of 1994
12. Water Resources and Management Act. No.9 2002
13. Mines and Minerals Act No. 11 of 1986
14. Vanuatu Agriculture Research and Training Center Act
15. Pesticides Act
16. Vanuatu Maritime Authority Act
17. The Maritime (Conventions) Act Cap 155
18. Shipping Act
19. Land Leases Act
20. Ports Act
21. Foreshore Development Act
22. Preservation of sites and Artifacts

National Policies and Strategies

1. National Forest Policy
2. National Conservation Strategy
3. National Biodiversity and Conservation Strategy
4. National Biosafety Framework
5. Draft National Waste Policy
6. Revised Fisheries Management Policy and Regulations

National Cross-cutting Policies

1. National Business Forum Matrix
2. Comprehensive Reform Matrix
3. Priority Action Agenda
4. Rural Economic Development Initiative

Relevant Websites

1. www.biodiversity.com.vu
2. (Vanuatu Cultural Centre)
3. (Vanuatu Tourism Office)
4. Vanuatu Investment Promotion Authority

10. THEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF THE CONVENTION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY.

10.1 Awareness and Understanding of Biodiversity, CBD and Issues Addressed within CBD

Interviewees were assessed on their general level of awareness and understanding of the term Biodiversity and the CBD, including the issues addressed herein. Figure 1, 2 and 3 illustrates this assessment.

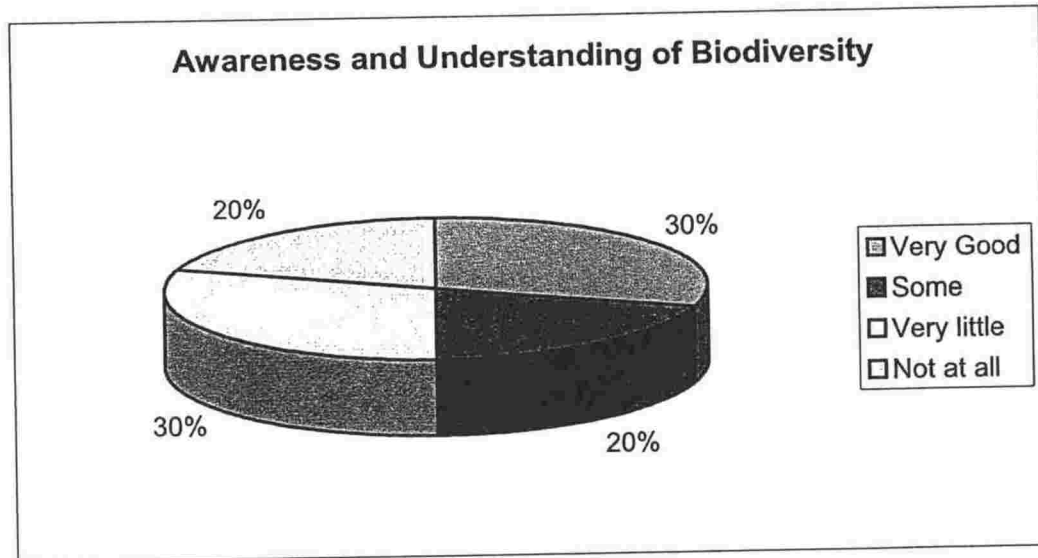


Fig 1: Awareness and Understanding of Biodiversity

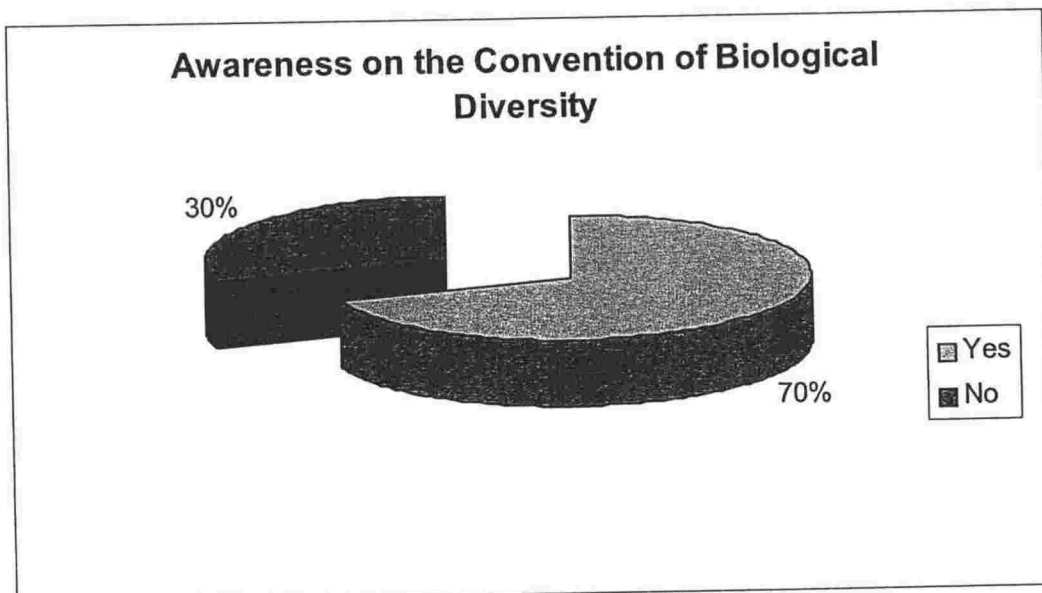


Fig 2: Awareness of CBD

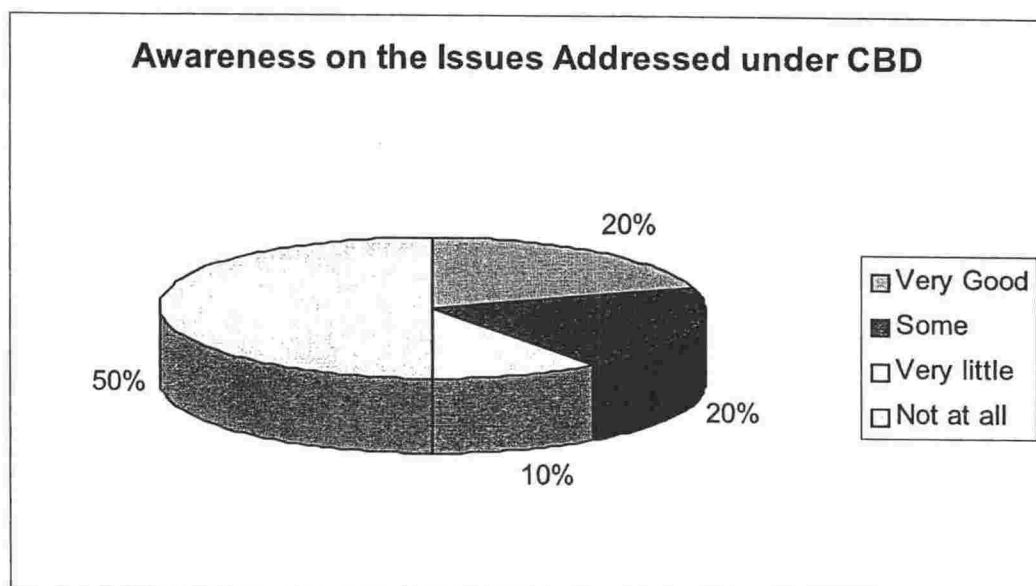


Fig 2: Awareness of Issues addressed within the CBD

Generally, participants interviewed have heard of the word “Biodiversity” and “Convention on Biological Diversity” but are not very familiar with what kinds of issues are being addressed and which is essential in appreciating the importance or significance of conserving and managing use of Biodiversity in a sustainable manner. They were interested to know more and from first instance gain realization of the importance of Biodiversity.

10.2 Summary of Convention Requirements and Country Obligations – Capacity Constraints, Opportunities and Benefits, Current Progress

The CBD has 42 Articles all together. There are currently 66 countries around the globe who are parties to the convention through submission of ratification/submission instrument. Vanuatu is also a member and who submitted the instrument for ratification in 1992. This has shown the Vanuatu Government’s commitment to the CBD for the last 14 years.

The table below presents a summary of CBD requirements and obligations for member countries and self-explanatory notes briefly describing the nature of each article

Article No.	Issue	Capacity Constraints preventing better compliance			Possible Opportunities and Benefits	National Initiatives to address (Plans, strategies and activities)
		Individual	Organizational	Systems		
6	National plans and strategies incorporating general Measures for conservation and sustainable use	Limited Staff with the appropriate technical skills, however, short in number	More sectoral enforcement, than cross-sectoral Establishing information data banks Conducting monitoring and protecting areas of conservation priority	Lack of monitoring on the effective implementation of policies in a cross-sectoral manner Access financial resources to allow continuity of work Conducting monitoring and protecting areas of conservation priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High involvement of private sector and NGO Strong commitment to sustainably use and manage natural resources Significant progress in implementing the NBCS 	<p>NBCS – addresses strategies for use, conservation and management of Biodiversity</p> <p>PAA – “ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources”</p> <p>National Forest Policy- sustainable management and use of Vanuatu’s forest resources</p> <p>Fisheries Act – sustainable management of country’s fisheries resources, establishment of marine protected areas.</p> <p>Fisheries department conducts monitoring of trochus, Green snail, Giant Clam and Coral reef. The Peace Corps are actively involved in conducting Reef checks.</p> <p>A Tuna Fish Management Plan has been established. Plans are underway to develop a management plan for Aquarium fish</p>
7	Identification and Monitoring	Lack of human resource capacity	Lack of technical and financial resources to allow continuity of work	Low up-take of work involved, particularly after funds are exhausted	<p>Environment Unit is currently organizing and facilitating visit for a French research Expedition which will conduct a comprehensive study on components of Biodiversity through out islands of Vanuatu</p>	<p>The National Herbarium Unit under the Department of Forestry have an on-going program to collect and identify Flora on species and ecosystem level.</p> <p>An information systems database has been developed to house all the information on flora specimens collected.</p>

7 (d)	Data Collection	Lack of technical capacity	Lack of capacity to monitor and continually up-date base data set within the existing GIS system and which is housed under Vanuatu Natural Resource Information System (VANRIS)	Lack of capacity to integrate and or translate environmental data and or information collection and management at the national level. For that reason, policies remain more sectoral		<p>Environment Unit houses a flora and fauna database with the intention to integrate into a Geographic Information System.</p> <p>Fisheries Department has established a database system that maintains data and information from on-going monitoring programs as well as exports of commercial fisheries such as aquarium fisheries</p>
8	Establishment of Protected areas	Lack of staffing capacity	Lack of financial capacity to manage protected areas. There is no one specifically recruited to focus more on this area of work	Traditional Land Tenure system of Vanuatu only gives right to Landholders on whether to agree on protecting potential areas.	A MSP project, implemented under the Environment Unit will adequately bring about better understanding of how small scale or temporal mosaic of protected areas achieve biodiversity conservation.	<p>Formal establishment of Vathe Conservation Area</p> <p>Vanuatu also has a large number of terrestrial and marine protected areas through out the Archipelago</p>
8 (k)	Legislation to protect threatened species and populations		Lack of enforcement			<p>Environment Management and Conservation Act</p> <p>Animal Importation</p> <p>Plant Protection Act</p>

12 (a)	Scientific Research, Scientific and Technical Education and Training	Lack of local expertise to conduct scientific research	Lack of financial capacity to conduct scientific researches. These are more conducted by visiting researchers instead.	Limited facilities to provide formal scientific and Technical education and training beyond University level	-Focused technical areas relating to Environment management and conservation are not well advised and promoted by the Scholarship Unit e.g. Terrestrial Ecologist. This is an opportunity for the Scholarship Unit can look into	<p>-Scholarship Opportunities offered to successful candidates who study in areas relating to Environment management and conservation as well as Environmental science</p> <p>-Informal capacity building through collaborating with visiting researchers and experts.</p> <p>- Studies have been undertaken to advise on the establishment of a National Scientific Research Council</p> <p>- Data/information collected from researchers have well informed development projects on the management of species of conservation significance</p>
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Public Education and Awareness	Limited personnel capacity to deliver adequately information on communication, education public awareness (CEPA)	Financial capacity to produce awareness materials	Sustainable up-take of information, particularly after completion of projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NBCS highlights strategies environmental, awareness and information sharing -The CDU has already incorporated Vernacular studies in 3 schools in Vanuatu, on trial basis - Sectoral policies including strategies for forest conservation and other - Theme of each national year can be on Biodiversity or related to Biodiversity - Working collaboratively with other departments and organizations such as Quarantine and Fisheries fosters awareness on Biodiversity concepts and issues - Fortnightly environmental program that can be used to promote awareness on Environmental Agreements and related concepts and issues - Fisheries integrating biodiversity issues and concepts into the work program of the CEPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Primary and Junior Secondary School curriculum incorporates focused topics of elements of the environment including sea, trees, water and air. -Established a Clearing House Mechanism by way of communicating information on Vanuatu's Biodiversity and Biodiversity work progress in Vanuatu - Work of the Biosafety project introduced Biodiversity concepts and issues such as Genetically modified organisms through its awareness activities - Natural resource based govt. sectors produced awareness materials aimed at community level through the mediums of radio, newspaper, pamphlets and workshops - Environment Unit promoting and mainstreaming of the work of Biodiversity; it's use, management and sustainable development - Fisheries has just been restructured and includes a management, policy and information division which is primarily devoted to providing CEPA -Recognition of natural resource based sectors and other key players to work collaboratively to extend awareness of important issues, including Biodiversity e.g. Environment Unit and VKS
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<p>Procedures for Risk Assessments (EIA) and Mitigation strategies</p>	<p>Adequate human resources to administer the EIA legislation.</p>	<p>Lack of Finance to recruit personnel to facilitate the EIA process</p>	<p>Government, Private Sector and NGO recognition and positive response towards the introduction and enforcement of the EIA legislation.</p>	<p>-Collaborative efforts between Government and other NGOs and Private sector to build capacity to protect Biodiversity</p>	<p>- Environment Management and Conservation Act includes mandatory provisions for Environment Impact Assessment -Mechanism to protect marine biodiversity through an international maritime register which is maintained by the Vanuatu Maritime Authority -Vanuatu Quarantine Inspection Services has mechanisms to manage introduction of living organisms that pose an environmental risk or risk to biodiversity of the recipient country. - Plant Protection Act includes a provision for liability, which states that the importer of an introduced organism is responsible for the cost of eradicating the organism if it is found to pose a threat or risk to Biodiversity of the recipient country. - Peace Corps Volunteers disseminating and delivering information in areas such as Agriculture, Environment and Marine down to the communities</p>
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16 & 18	Technical transfer and technological and scientific cooperation	Lack of appropriate local expertise	Lack of appropriate facilities for technical and scientific work. This is needed in order to maximize and sustain capacity that is built through such initiatives. Lack of financial resources to establish the above as well as expanding the scope of the current CHM and its frequent up-date Lack of necessary information available	Technology and scientific transfer happening in a fragmented basis	-NBCS highlights priority areas for transfer of technology to improve capacity in-country that still remain un-met -Request for collaborative scientific research undertakings, which would assist towards building local capacity.	Regional and bilateral agreement have been instrumental in transferring technical capacity to departments (for example) to conserve and sustainably manage use of Biodiversity. E.g JICA funded a 3 year project on coastal resource management -Interim mechanism established to facilitate technical and scientific transfer
17	Exchange of information	Lack of human resource to organize, store and manage data.	Limited information on Biodiversity held in-country Difficulty in accessing repatriate collections of information held overseas Generally, biodiversity related information and data not well stored and managed- No duplicates available in preparation of any likely hazardous events	Information fragmented and held by sectors – no effective sharing of information in order to properly inform planning of sectors of concern and also avoiding duplication of effort.	Opportunities to up-date information on the website by natural resource based sectors	Establishment of Clearing House Mechanism – Vanuatu Biodiversity website
26	Reporting by Parties to the CBD					Collaborative effort by government personnels to compile CBD reports

10.3 A Preliminary List of Cross-Cutting Capacity Issues

The following outlines a set of cross-cutting capacity issues that should be investigated further in the cross-cutting analysis:

1. Awareness and exchange of information
2. Individual skills and motivation
3. Information management, monitoring and observation
4. Institutional management and performance
5. Institutional mandates, coordination and processes for interaction and co-operation between all stakeholders
6. Financial resources and technology and scientific transfer
7. Monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation – Strengths and weaknesses in the implementation of national plans and strategies

11. DISCUSSIONS

11. 1. STOCK TAKE ASSESSMENT OF CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

11.1.1 Summary and Evaluation of Past and On-going Capacity Assessment and Capacity Development Initiatives in country

- a) Generally, work to address use, management and conservation of Biodiversity in country is mainly implemented by the natural resource based sectors. The work of the non-resource based sector and Private sector also support this initiative. However, low human resource capacity and financial resources hinder this support, and which is more apparent amongst the natural resource based sector
- b) The NBCS directly addresses priority work areas for Biodiversity. It is evident that past or on-going programs and projects implemented by the natural resource base sectors are not relative to priority work areas for Biodiversity as highlighted in the NBCS. A possible explanation could be due to the lack of monitoring and evaluating how effective the NBCS is being implemented by other natural resource based sectors and also the traditional norm of working in a sectoral manner rather than cross-sectoral.
- c) The Environment Unit could be perceived as appropriate in playing the role of mainstreaming Biodiversity into the work plans and programs of the natural resource based sectors. An example of this achievement is VQIS role as chairman of the National Coordinating Committee and Implementing Agency of the National Biosafety Framework and POPs project. This further contributes in building capacity of the VQIS as a competent authority in managing Biosafety and POPs issues on behalf of the Vanuatu Government.
- d) Information access, sharing and management is clearly another issue of importance. This is also another factor to determine how well the public at large or specifically the target audiences of Biodiversity information such as rural communities have well received and understood the whole concept of Biodiversity. Different departments or organization have institutionalized their own method of disseminating information or particularly to the rural communities, for example, the REDI information dissemination process. Malvatumauri are currently addressing this issue through an institutional strengthening project.
- e) The private sector face common capacity constraints. This particularly includes government not providing adequate support in terms of collaborative work and accessing necessary information. Collaborative work relates to implementing cross-sectoral policies as in the case of the Business Forum Matrix. Government is either lacks funds or is not well-organized and prepared with resources to effectively implement plans or policies collaboratively despite initial commitment.

- f) The curriculum development unit is dedicated and is performing in the midst of very limited resources in terms of required expertise and financial means. Primary and secondary level curriculum is fairly equipped with information relating to the Environment. There is high potential in integrating Biodiversity into the national curriculum, particularly for senior high school level. However, this would definitely require recruiting a scriptwriter, yet lack of financial resources will most likely slow down progress.
- g) Generally, capacity assessment amongst the natural resource based sector is more concentrated on the individual and institutional level. The systems level of capacity is quite excluded. Sectors are more concerned with how to improve service delivery and concentrate capacity improvement in the organizational level.

11.1.2 Linkages of the NCSA into Priority National Sustainable Development and Environment Capacity Goals

There are opportunities to integrate the NCSA process into the national and sectoral planning process. Consultations with stakeholders showed a high degree of interest and involvement to incorporate Biodiversity issues into existing work programs and plans.

The PAA undergoes a time period for up-dating national priorities. This serve as opportune times to advise the implementing agency to integrate priority capacity needs.

11. 1.3 Bibliography of relevant Documents and Websites

Generally, the current framework for legislations and policies provide support in implementing the requirements of the CBD, in particular the EMC Act and NBCS. One of the main capacity constraints is that there are too many and makes enforcement quite difficult. There is lack of consistency across the laws and policies. There needs to be a review on the possibility of exploring the compatibility and ways to harmonize requirements as addressed

12. 2. THEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

12.2.1 Awareness and Understanding of Biodiversity, CBD and Issues Addressed within CBD

There is still not enough awareness and understanding on the term “Biodiversity” and which is an indication of some barrier to effectively implementing priority work areas for Biodiversity. Little is known on the kinds of Issues addressed under the CBD and which is still essential for commitment to and implementation. If further awareness is to be pursued, it should focus on issues addressed under the CBD and target the population with the “some”, “very little” and “not at all” category. Fair knowledge and understanding on the issues will foster mainstreaming into respective sectoral plans and

12.2. 2 Summary of Convention Requirements and Country Obligations – Capacity Constraints, Opportunities and Benefits, Current Progress

Despite numerous activities, programs and projects being implemented to compliment the requirements of the CBD, Vanuatu still lacks capacity, particularly in terms of finance, required expertise, access to and management of necessary information. The most critical area of capacity constraint would have to be lack of financial resources which affects recruitment of human resources, sustainability of project activities and also access to necessary equipments such as computers. All levels of capacity are affected.

Vanuatu benefits from responding to CBD requirements such as capacity building of human resources, equipments and access to financial resources. However, if domestic legislations are not being effectively implemented capacity will then remain inactive and thus convention requirements will not be fully met.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Communication, Education and Public Awareness

- There needs to be more awareness on the concept of Biodiversity, in particular the issues addressed under the CBD
- Pre-school and Primary level education need to be strengthened in terms of knowledge on environmental issues. Building capacity at this basic level of education is crucial in well founding recognition of the importance of the environment and which can also inspire potential human resources to get more involved in environmental work as a career choice.
- Representatives from Natural resource base sectors to work closely with the CDU to incorporate Biodiversity into the senior high school curriculum

2. Legislations and Policy Frameworks

- Environmental Acts, legislations and policies need to be assessed in terms of their consistency and compatibility.
- Implementation of national policies and strategies need to be monitored to find out how effectively sectors concerned have mainstreamed priority areas identified into their normal department or organizational work program.

3. Effective enforcement of the EMC Act

- the EMC Act must be implemented to effectively implemented or meet the requirements of the CBD as adequately as possible

4. Information Exchange

- There should be constant exchange of information amongst sectors of concern. Realization should be built amongst sectors dealing with a certain issue on what kinds of information to share, what kinds of information to expect from the recipient and vice versa. This encourages innovation and creation of new products

5. Mainstreaming and Integration of Biodiversity Priority Areas

- Environment Unit is the appropriate authority to perform the role in coordinating mainstreaming and integration of Biodiversity priority work areas into sectoral work plans. This would not only involve vertical integration but horizontal or in a cross-sectoral manner.

6. Capacity Building at all Levels of Capacity

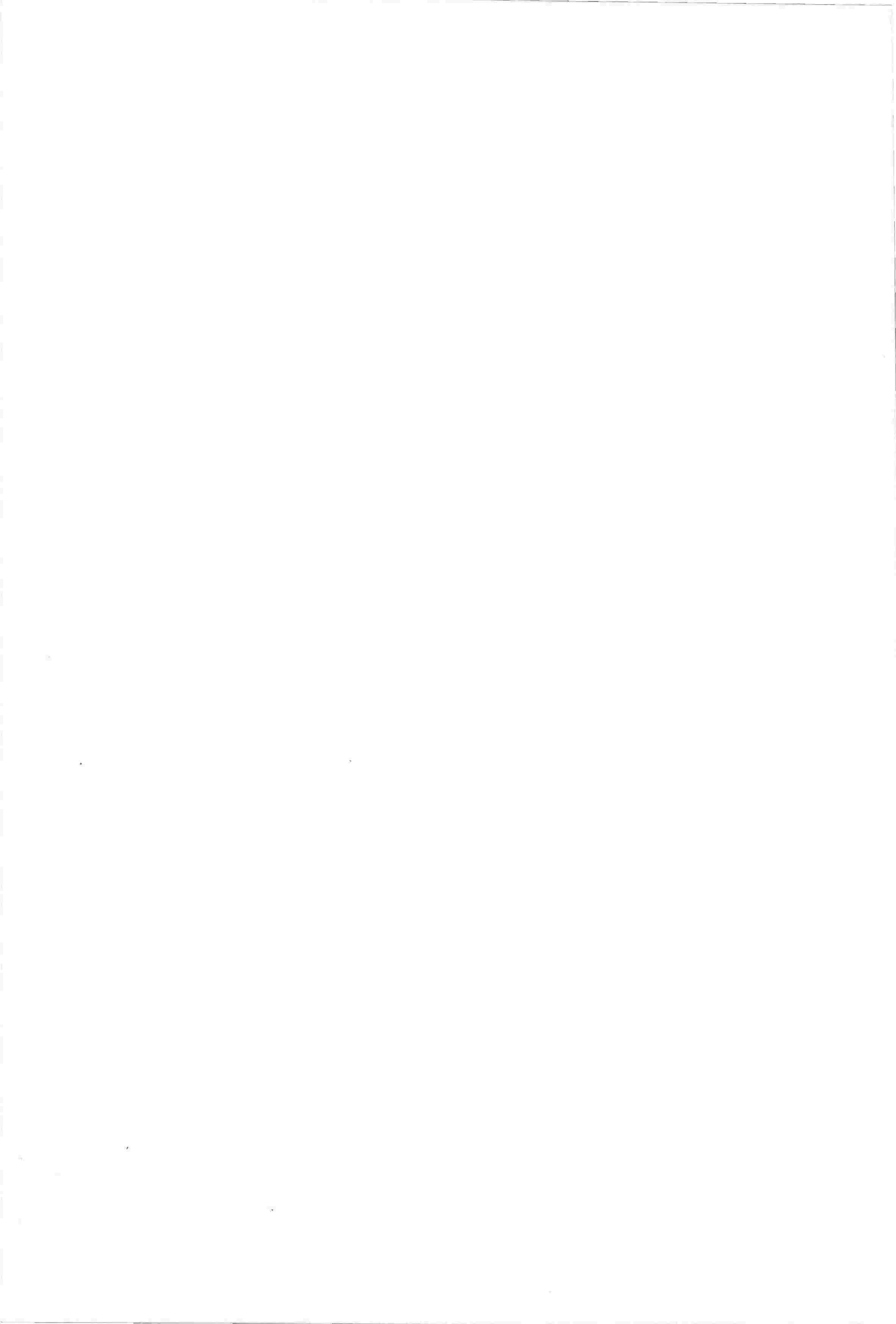
- Capacity needs to be assessed not only at individual and organizational level but also in the Systems level. To be able to see how well, stakeholders are collaborating or implementing Biodiversity priority work areas involves assessing that systems level of capacity.

12. CONCLUSION

To conclude, the Vanuatu Government through the Environment Unit and collaborating sectors, still lack capacity in terms of finance, human resources, information and necessary equipments to fully meet the requirements of the CBD. Capacity still needs to be assessed in the systems level of capacity to be able to see the extent of collaboration and support received or resources available to enable stakeholders to implement priority work areas for Biodiversity.

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