

Vanuatu Kastom Governance Partnership

Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies,
Malvatumauri Vanuatu National Council of Chiefs
and AusAID

Annual Report to AusAID

Year 1 of Phase 3 including:
June – July 2008 and
Nov 2009- Oct 2010

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Launching of Phase 3 of Vanuatu Kastom Governance Partnership in November 2009

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INTRODUCTION

The Malvatumauri National Council of Chiefs, AusAID and the Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (ACPACS) at University of Queensland work in partnership on activities aimed at increasing understanding of the role of kastom governance and supporting constructive interaction between kastom governance systems and the formal governance systems at national, provincial and community levels. The partnership has four main activities or outputs: 1) research on the contribution of kastom governance systems to community and national governance; 2) *storians* (community workshops promoting dialogue) on topics associated with conflict resolution, governance and community development (attended by chiefs, and other community leaders, including women and youth); 3) follow-up work after storians to build linkages with other organizations to assist participants with implementation of their action plans developed in storians; 4) support for National and Island Councils of Chiefs to strengthen administrative and management capacities.

From 1 November 2009 the partnership entered a third phase after successfully negotiating funding agreements with AusAID to cover a program of activities from November 2009 to March 2013.

This report presents a review of activities conducted as part of Year 1 of Phase 3 of the Vanuatu Kastom Governance Partnership. It looks at Project Implementation and management, monitoring and evaluation, progress made in relation to the overall objectives of the Partnership, lessons learned on what worked well and points requiring changes or improvements, and issues arising and recommendations for going forward into Year 2.

Key points of significance for Phase 3 (and Year 1, in particular) include:

- Recommencement of the project after a prolonged hiatus period of 18 months;
- Significant expansion of personnel engaged at MNCC (including new paid positions for a Project Assistant and 11 MNCC Facilitators), creating a larger project team with a broader range of roles and responsibilities, and accompanying challenges for administrative and organisational management of MNCC Secretariat;
- MNCC Facilitators increasingly taking on responsibility for facilitation of Storians and drawing on local expertise from other Vanuatu agencies, reducing dependence on ACPACS facilitators over time who will be taking on more of a mentoring role in relation to storians, and organisational development;
- Vanualava/Mota/Motalava (Torba province) included as a new additional site for Storians;
- Further development of storian themes and materials, particularly concerning land issues and the new theme of Community Development in addition to the ongoing themes relating to governance and conflict resolution;
- More focus on participation by women in Partnership activities and discussion of gender issues within the Partnership and in storians and research.

- Further co-operative research by ACPACS and MNCC teams building upon research from the previous phase but with greater focus on the Partnership itself, with more integration and input from MNCC through Monitoring Interviews and locally initiated research projects conducted by MNCC Facilitators and the MNCC Research Officer to build knowledge of kastom and kastom governance;
- Public Forums included as an (optional) additional activity for building greater awareness of kastom governance in Vanuatu and strengthening links between MNCC and government agencies and NGOs in Vanuatu.
- Facilitators are increasingly undertaking public or community activities in support of the Partnership goals. These include Daniel Graham initiating a Tongoa week amongst the Tongoa population in Port Vila, Siro Vagaha introducing a day long series of events as a Custom Celebration as part of National Day in Santo. As well as local impacts in the islands, a range of creative ventures have been initiated by local facilitators, in the form of research, cultural awareness, cultural advice and advising on approaches to local community conflicts.

Activities conducted in Year 1 (Phase 3) are summarised in a table in Appendix 1, along with personnel. Principles that have guided the design, implementation and management of Partnership activities are summarised in Appendix 2.

PERIOD COVERED BY THIS REPORT

After the funding for Phase 2 ended in March 2008 (the end of the “bridging phase”), it was anticipated that the new contracts for Phase 3 would commence later that year by October or November 2008. To avoid loss of continuity and momentum the three partners agreed to the proposal for two storian activities to be conducted in Vila and at Mele village in June-July 2008, on the basis that these activities would be considered part of Year 1 activities and expenses could be recouped under budgets for Year 1 of Phase 3. This Annual report for Nov 2009 – Oct 2010 therefore also covers these two activities from June-July 2008.

As events transpired, the hiatus between contracts for Phase 2 and Phase 3 extended to 18 months while AusAID conducted internal quality and approval processes (AusAID, 2010:19). As noted below, this hiatus had serious impacts on MNCC and ACPACS. However, levels of commitment among those involved in Phase 2 of the Partnership remained high and the good working relationships and level of trust that had developed between the ACPACS and MNCC project teams and with AusAID enabled a rapid re-establishment of co-operation. Following a successful launching ceremony in Port Vila on 30 November 2009, Phase 3 activities began with an Organisational Development workshop at MNCC offices. Two further Kastom Governance storians were held (at Port Olry, Santo and at Sola, Vanualava Is., Torba province) with 2-day Refresher Facilitator storians before each.

By the end of Year 1, MNCC had also organised and conducted the first Public Forum on kastom and the Constitution, and conducted a kastom governance storian for MNCC Chiefs. This special storian was requested by the National Council of Chiefs during the Council sitting; it was additional to the planned activities for Year 1 and was sponsored by the Ministry of Justice. This storian

shows the degree to which MNCC and the Storian process has gained local recognition as valuable. Both events were highly successful and were run without any assistance from ACPACS – showing the significant growth of confidence and capacity in the MNCC project team.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Partnership Leaders' Group provides strategic direction, monitoring and oversight of the Partnership activities and progress. This group includes Chief Gratien Alguet (President of MNCC), Chief Selwyn Garu (CEO of MNCC), Anne Brown (ACPACS Project Leader), Dickinson Tevi (Project Co-ordinator for MNCC), Anna Nolan (Project Co-ordinator for ACPACS), and Charles Vatu / Obed Timakata (AusAID Activity Manager). Nick Cumpston (AusAID) or other AusAID officers have also participated when possible.

The first PLG Meeting for Phase 3 was held in Brisbane on 22 April 2010, and discussed the Project Implementation Plan from 2010- 2013, agreeing on major activities that need to be implemented before the partnership closes. A draft Annual Plan covering the remainder of Year 1 was agreed upon. The meeting discussed the outcomes of the activities already held (the Organisational development workshop and the Port Olry storian.) Regarding the overall goals, the meeting considered that the Partnership was genuinely contributing to increased understanding and awareness of kastom governance and the formal governance systems in Vanuatu among the Project personnel and the storian participants.

Participant evaluations of storian have been sought at the conclusion of each storian. The first storian of this phase was the Kastom Governance storian in Port Olry. The general feeling about the Storian was positive; participants enjoyed and valued the storian and found it very interesting and accepting as 'kastom' is a very important aspect in their daily rural lives. The same evaluation holds for the Vanualava/Mota/Motalava Storian in Sola. However participants felt that time was a limiting factor, as they wanted to have more discussions on the topics.

The involvement of MNCC Office staff, particularly Oriette David, through her experience of the Port Olry Storian, was considered as having a very positive impact on the partnership relationships within MNCC Office and with communications about partnership work with the island councils. Additionally, facilitation skills were evaluated as improved and that the local Facilitators seemed more relaxed and confident in themselves.

This Phase has an emphasis on more systematic and ongoing monitoring to pick up the impact of the project on communities and storian participants (including MNCC Facilitators) over time.

The plan is for MNCC local Facilitators to return about 3 to 6 months after a storian has been held in their local region, and conduct Follow-up and Monitoring Interviews with participants and other community members. The Follow-up will track Action Plans arising from the storian, and if necessary help with partnering or implementation of Action Plans. The Monitoring Interviews, based on the Most Significant Change method, will gather perspectives and accounts on the impacts of storian from the local region. These will be compiled by MNCC Research Officer

Roselyn Tor and the process will be led by MNCC Facilitator Daniel Lukai who is familiar with the methodology).

So far, the local facilitators and the Partnership administration are finding gathering the monitoring and evaluation stories challenging – partly due to the practical demands of travel but also reflecting levels of confidence. The Partnership can address this in a number of ways. More frequent discussion of monitoring and evaluation (at skills refreshers etc) has improved understanding of its value among local facilitators. Local facilitators who are more confident in this work (often the Vila-based facilitators) can support the others, including by travelling with them on some occasions; the Australian facilitators can regularly include skills refreshers and discussion of the stories already collected and continue to make sure that the value of the monitoring and evaluation is well understood. The Australian researchers could also accompany and support local facilitators on a monitoring and evaluation task.

PROGRESS AND LESSONS LEARNED

A summary of progress made against the 4 main Outputs of the Partnership:

1. RESEARCH

The research component of the Partnership aims to assist the ongoing development of constructive relationships between state governance systems, customary governance and community governance in Vanuatu.

Our aim is to further explore and illuminate a number of key themes:

- The contribution of customary governance to peace, security and social well-being at the community level and at the national level.
- The interaction between customary governance mechanisms, values and expectations and ‘introduced’ or ‘liberal’ governance mechanisms and values. There is fusion and overlap between customary and introduced approaches to social order, as well as areas of tension and friction. Tension is particularly evident around questions of land, management of justice and law, electoral practices, the place of young people, and gender roles.
- How can the international community support constructive interaction among customary, community and national governance in Vanuatu?

Research topics on the above themes were discussed and agreed upon by the three partners during design consultations for Phase 3. They are an extension of research conducted during the previous phase of this Partnership, and are set out in further detail in the Annual Plan for Year 2.

ACPACS research activities in Year 1 have included preparation of new Research Approval Applications to the Vanuatu National Cultural Council and the University of Queensland Behavioural & Social Sciences Ethical Review Committee. This has been a lengthy but essential process. A Report to the Vanuatu Cultural Council on Phase 2 research outcomes was written by Anna Nolan and submitted to the VCC, along with copies of all research papers and short summaries. Dr Peter Westoby carried out Scoping research to prepare for the Community Development theme in May 2009, and has written two journal articles and a Conference paper since the previous phase. These include:

- ‘Dialogue and Disentanglement: Navigating tensions for sustainable community economic development within Vanuatu’ in *International Journal of Environmental, Cultural & Social Sustainability*, 2010, vol.6 (1);
- ‘Community-based training for conflict prevention in Vanuatu: reflections of a practitioner-researcher’ in *Social Alternatives*, 2010 First Quarter.
- Presentation to Vanuatu Roundtable at the International Association for Community Development and Community Development QLD Conference in Brisbane in May 2009.

In 2009, the University of Queensland restructured several research centres, including ACPACS, to become research programs within a new Institute for Social Science Research. As a consequence of this re-structure, staff reductions at ACPACS meant that Anne Brown and Anna Nolan were not able to conduct field research independent of storians this first year of Phase 3. This situation will be redressed in Year 2.

The storians have continued to contribute in fundamental ways to field observation and research, so making possible ongoing work on sources and management of social order, the management of land, gender, the interaction of customary and liberal institutional governance, and the emergence of new, hybrid forms of governance. By the end of Year 1 Anne Brown will have participated in four academic or public fora in Australia drawing specifically on this work. These include a presentation on “Working with Local Strengths in Vanuatu”, addressing questions of local, customary and community provision of security and social order, to a workshop (held as part of a Responsibility to Protect program) at the University of Queensland in September 2010. Partnership Facilitator Chief Seth Kaurua also took part in this forum and presented a paper on “Local Strengths”, focussing on the work of custom governance and “combined governance” (custom and state-based). The Workshop aimed to assist greater official recognition by Australian security providers of customary and local capacities to manage conflict in the Pacific Islands and East Timor and to draw up a draft framework for better interaction. Senior officers from the AFP and ADF, academics, and participants from the region took part. ADF and AFP participants are seeking follow-up workshops. The Framework for Engagement will be finalised after further consultation and circulated, including to AusAID.

Anne Brown also addressed a workshop on regional relationships at RMIT (Human Security) on 12 November, and will present a paper at the ANU (7-8 December) and appear on a panel organised by the World Bank (Sydney, 9 December) on responses to conflict. These presentations draw significantly on material generated through the Vanuatu Partnership.

Localisation of Research with MNCC

MNCC Research Officer Ms Roselyn Tor supports the research work of the Partnership, collaborating on research with ACPACS Researchers and also researching and writing on topics initiated by MNCC. Roselyn has transcribed various papers including a paper on ‘Women Leadership in Vanuatu’ and ‘Kastom and State Law’. As part of the MNCC 30th Anniversary in 2011 she has been given the task to compile a book on the History of the MNCC. This is a joint task that Roselyn and Oriette, MNCC Secretary, are currently engaged in. Roselyn has also been involved in

the Storians and has provided information on a wide range of topics that she has worked on as a Research Officer.

MNCC Facilitators are also encouraged to undertake their own research initiatives looking at kastom governance in their local communities. A highly successful example of this was the research by Miriam Bule and Gideon Ronolea and Selwyn Garu, MNCC Secretariat on kinship names in local languages and the obligations and roles in kastom for different kinds of kinship relationships. Franklin Woleg, local facilitator for TORBA Province has also undertaken research on 'Custom Marriages in Mota Lava'; this research aimed at identifying changes in the way that custom marriages were performed in the past and how they are performed today. Christian William carried out a small research initiative on his island, Malo to identify the main causes of ongoing land disputes on Malo. John Gilu carried out many important researches on Pentecost and worked with the chiefs of South Pentecost.

MNCC Facilitators are also gradually taking a role in the evaluation of the Partnership itself, regarding the impact of storians in their local region.

ACPACS Facilitators Anne Brown, Paula Peterson and Di Bretherton provided training to MNCC Facilitators for conducting Monitoring Interviews using 'Most Significant Change' methodology during the Facilitators' storian in June 2008, during the Organisational Workshop in December 2009 (co-facilitated by Daniel Lukai) and again during refreshers in 2010. Monitoring interviews by MNCC Facilitators will be a source of primary data for researching the work and impact of the Partnership.

Anna Nolan (ACPACS Project Manager) has worked with Roselyn Tor (MNCC Research Officer) producing short summaries of research papers from the previous phase, which Roselyn is translating to Bislama. These Bislama research summaries will be submitted to the Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta for inclusion in the VKS Library along with full-length English publications and reports from Phase 2.

2. STORIANS (GOVERNANCE DIALOGUE AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT)

Three Kastom governance storians were held in Year 1, at Mele village, Efate in July 2008, at Port Olry, Northeast Santo from 12-17 April 2010, and at Sola, Vanualava (headquarters for Torba province) 30 August to 4 September 2010. All storians were very well received, with participants very interested in explanations of the legally recognised role of customary authorities (eg, through the Constitution & Chiefs Act) and the structure and work of the Council of Chiefs system nationally. Programs for the three Governance storians covered a range of the following topics:

- Introduction to the VKG Partnership and to storians;
- What is governance; good governance and bad governance;
- Local context information on storian venue / region
- Kastom governance; Timeline: land and kastom
- The role of chiefs in kastom, and in the Constitution; the Chief's Act; the structure and role of the Councils of Chiefs (Area, Island, National);
- Leasing land, land disputes and kastom

- Kastom marriage
- Leadership and kastom
- Democracy and elections
- Local languages, kinship and family.
- Partnerships – kastom, government, churches, other groups (community, NGOs).
- Action plans.



Facilitators' Storian on Kastom Governance at Luganville in April 2010

Chief Gratien's participation in the Port Olry storian was particularly important and valuable. Three unexpected outcomes of the Port Olry storian were:

- 1) As a vehicle for some degree of reconciliation between communities identifying with Jimmy Stevens and the Francophone resistance at the time of decolonisation and the Anglophone supporters of the newly independent Vanuatu government led by Walter Lini – this emerged particularly around discussions of custom, as during the independence struggle, those who followed Jimmy Stevens in resisting independence thought that it was about doing away with custom and they wanted Santo to become a separate state based only on the custom of Santo. Storian participants realised from discussions at the storian that the Constitution actually called for the recognition of custom throughout the whole of Vanuatu, so after all Jimmy Stevens and Walter Lini had been fighting for the same cause.
- 2) Because of the confusion during the independence struggle and the growing influence of the church, most villages in Santo have a community hall but not a nakamal. The chiefs realized from the storian that the administration of custom stands more chance of being recognised by the courts if it is done properly in a nakamal. Nakamals have custom protocols and rules and powers that people have to follow unlike a community hall building. The chiefs realized that as a consequence of many community halls and less nakamals therefore in Santo everyone is running to the Lands Tribunal with all sorts of land conflict issues rather than having them resolved using the nakamal custom process.

- 3) Another significant outcome from the Port Olry storian was the involvement of a very enthusiastic local Church of Melanesia minister which led to an agreement that in that region of Santo, whenever a Church is built or restored, a Nakamal will also be built or restored.

The Vanualava/Mota/Motalava storian was also enthusiastically received. The confidence of the local facilitators at this and the Port Olry storians was notable. It is also worth commenting on the serious logistical challenges of mounting such a large event in the Banks Islands and on the excellent arrangements that the MNCC office and the local facilitator in the Banks (Franklin Woleg) managed between them. Participants were brought in from far afield and supported; the organisation was impressive. While the organisation of storians is usually of a high standard, in this case it is particularly noteworthy.

Local facilitators also showcased their own work supporting cultural approaches: for example, John Gilu speaking on the resolution of a very difficult, potentially violent dispute in North Pentecost; Daniel Graham on Tongoa week in Port Vila; Miriam Bule and Gideon Ronolea on the exploration of language for kinship relations, as a way of reflecting on different customary roles and responsibilities associated with particular relationships within extended families. This is seen as a fundamental part of kastom governance systems.



Facilitator Miriam Bule with Storian Participants at Vanualava/Mota/Motalava storian

Prior to each of the three Governance storians, short Facilitators' workshops or Refresher storians were held to re-establish the Facilitators' familiarity and confidence with the Governance theme, and to further develop skills and collaboratively review and agree on content and programs for subsequent community storians. MNCC Facilitators have shown a strong development of skills, but it is important for them to continue deepening and sharing their knowledge and skills base with mentoring from ACPACS Facilitators, particularly around the elicitive style. The confidence of local facilitators with Kastom Governance storians has grown markedly through Year 1, to the point where ACPACS Facilitators have taken on less Facilitation and more of a mentoring role. Reflections and evaluations from ACPACS and MNCC Facilitators recorded after storians, has

highlighted the importance of holding 'Learning Circles' for Facilitators at the end of each day of storian facilitation, to enable and embed the action learning cycle, (plan, do/practice, reflect / learn). As noted further below under 'Issues Arising', women's participation in storians and gender issues have been raised much more directly and constructively addressed in Phase 3.

3. FOLLOW-UP (ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION)

This Activity is conducted by MNCC local Facilitators, and was focussed on Follow-up with participants from a previous Governance storians on Efate, Tanna and Pentecost and the recent ones at Port Olry and Sola, Vanua Lava. The Efate Storian identified that land was the biggest conflicting issue and so the area councils drew up action plans that involved awareness on land disputes resolution and strengthening the Area Councils and the Efate Vaturisu Council of Chiefs. The Local facilitators for Shefa, Tatalo William and Daniel Graham are directly involved with this and have a draft plan to conduct follow up around the island of Efate in February –March 2011.

The Tanna Storian identified that the Area Councils were not fully established and so the Action Plans were centered around setting up the Area Councils of Chiefs; additionally there were several awareness sessions that the area councils planned to hold within their own areas. Seth Kaurua, local facilitator for Tafea Province made follow ups on the action plans and to date the seven Area Councils of Chiefs in Tanna have been set up and are working together with the Nikoletan Island Council of Chiefs. Nikoletan Island Council of Chiefs are now doing their work more effectively through the 7 Area Councils since they were set up.

The Pentecost Action Plan from the previous phase has a special component leading into this phase with budget support for a special nakamal training to be conducted on the proper understanding of custom leadership processes and roles within a custom governance area which is called in the Pentecost dialect the "Batun Vanua". Weeks of research were carried out by the Penama Province facilitator John Gilu with a particular chief of Atangurua Village who is well-known in North Pentecost for his wisdom. He is Chief Uloiwanga Thomas Liu, and he was consulted for this program in lieu of the Gaiware Custom Research Institute (GCRI) in North Pentecost due to the institute's very high intellectual property right fees and its participation costs. The decision to reject GCRI was jointly made by the MNCC Project Coordinator and the MNCC CEO after discussions and negotiations with GCRI. In 2011 a MNCC training program will be developed and training should commence during 2011.

Christian William and Siro Vagaha, the facilitators for Sanma Province and Luganville Town, have been following up on the Action plans from the Port Olry storian held in North East Santo in April 2010, and work is progressing in the main villages of Santo. The action plans for many of the villages in Santo was to build or rebuild nakamals. In Port Olry, Chief Tangislas who also participated in the storian, has almost completed the building of his nakamal. He has faced many challenges since Port Olry is a strong catholic mission village. People's lives in Port Olry are therefore centred mainly around the program of the catholic mission and not a village nakamal. Port Olry village is divided into 5 sectors by the catholic mission and chief Tangislas is the chairman of Sector 5. Having realized that people in Sector 5 know very little about the functioning of a nakamal, Chief Tangislas continued with the building of his nakamal but altered the design to

make it more like a small custom classroom. He plans to teach the youth and interested adults in Sector 5 first about custom and the importance of having a nakamal and the role of the chief in connection with a nakamal.

Fr. James Aru a participant from Fanafo Village has taken the leading role in coordinating the implementation of the Fanafo Action Plan. Siro and Christian followed up on this and reported that in Fanafo, Fr. James of the Anglican Church has done outstanding work in running several awareness sessions with chiefs in relation to the Storian. The idea of building a kastom nakamal in Fanafo has begun and villages will work together with the chiefs to give materials to build this nakamal.

Finally the recent Storian held in Sola, Vanua Lava had similar action plans as Port Olry, involving the re-building and building of nakamals. Chief Nikolas Brown of Mota island has coordinated the action plans for Mota Island and to date the foundations of the nakamal on Mota Island have gone up and building has begun. On Vanua Lava, Mr. Christopher McKenzie the Assistant Provincial Secretary for the TORBA Province has taken the lead role in the implementation of Vanualava action plan and Franklin Woleg, local Facilitator for the province has reported that Mr. McKenzie and the chiefs of Vanualava have completed the awareness part of their action plan, visiting all the villages of Vanua Lava raising awareness on a wide range of topics related to kastom as identified in the storian.

4. MANAGEMENT SUPPORT FOR MNCC AND ISLAND COUNCILS

The partnership through the MNCC local facilitators, MNCC Project Coordinator and Project Assistant has provided various forms of management support to the MNCC Secretariat and the Island councils. Area and Island Councils of Chiefs have been set up during this 3rd phase, including finalising a new Port Vila Island Community Council of Chiefs.

Additionally, because the proposed administration structure for MNCC has yet to be approved by the Public Service Commission, the Malvatumauri project staff has had to fill many roles supporting the MNCC Secretariat. This assistance includes preparation of letters for the CEO, the island councils and the island community councils; attending meetings, providing advice and consultations to the MNCC and chiefs. Other assistance included the setting up of the Island Community Councils, also as an action plan for the Port Vila Storian (phase 2). Furthermore Dickinson Tevi has represented Malvatumauri in many meetings and workshops. He was part of the Mama Graon Vanuatu Land Program selection panel to select the successful bidder. Georgina Faerua and Daniel Graham have provided much assistance in drafting the Pilot Activity for the Kastom Lands Officer. Research Officer Roselyn Tor has been engaged in the drafting of a History Booklet for the MNCC as part of the Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the MNCC in March 2011. The local facilitators also facilitated a successful and influential 5 day storian for the National Council of Chiefs in October as part of a Council Resolution in 2010.

ACPACS Facilitators Anne Brown and Paula Peterson facilitated a 4 day Organisational Development workshop in December 2009 in consultation with Selwyn Garu and Dickinson Tevi. It resulted in an Action Plan for MNCC to assemble documents clarifying a number of office

processes, and also led to a clearer understanding among MNCC Office staff about the Partnership, which has improved communications and organisational capacities.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

The idea for holding Public Forums in Vanuatu arose in the Project Design Consultations in 2008 (see p.23 of the VKG Design Document March 2009), as a way of increasing public awareness and understanding of kastom governance issues and the interface with formal government in Vanuatu. Forums are also an opportunity to strengthen MNCC's relationships with Vanuatu Government officers and NGOs.

The MNCC organised and held the first Public Forum in the lead up to Constitution Day on 5th October. The Forum was a series of three evening sessions (on Thursday 30th Sept, Friday 1st Oct and Monday 4th Oct) focussing on the Vanuatu Constitution and Kastom. The aim of the forum was to raise awareness on the importance of Vanuatu Kastom as the basis on which Vanuatu's constitution was written. The forum discovered that quite a number of important articles in the constitution have made reference to kastom and yet no legislation has been created to give effect to these articles.

The forum was broadcast live on TV and radio and was a first time event for Malvatumauri to capture a live audience across the country. It therefore not only raised the profile of the Malvatumauri but also raised interest in kastom and governance issues, with positive reactions throughout the country. The Project Coordinator consequently was invited for a live radio talk-back show by the Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation.

ISSUES ARISING AND SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AND GENDER ISSUES

Women's participation and discussion of gender issues have arisen more directly in Phase 3, both in Facilitators' workshops and in community storians. While this has sometimes brought tensions to the surface amongst facilitators or community participants, it has also enabled constructive discussions and reflections. The first 5 day Facilitators' storian for Phase 3 took a direct, co-operative approach to the question of how to raise difficult issues with chiefs during storians, including gender issues and violence against women. Local facilitators identified some of the chiefs' resistance to discussing gender issues, as stemming from a belief among some chiefs that changing roles for women and men undermine the old (kastom) order. A suggested solution was to raise gender issues in a discussion about marriage – that chiefs have a role in kastom wedding ceremonies and also in promoting social order in the community; in kastom a respectful marriage is a marriage where both partners care for each other and respect each other. This topic was included in the 3 subsequent storians at Mele, Port Olry and Vanualava.

Discussion about women's participation in storians arose at the Facilitators' storian prior to the Port Olry storian, where it was agreed that when someone is invited to a storian it is respectful to ensure that they can fully participate and have their voice heard; and therefore if situations arise where some male participants are limiting participation by women in some way, or if women are attending but not speaking up, MNCC Facilitators should be ready to ensure that women are

brought into discussions. Suggested solutions were to use different ways of grouping participants for group discussions (e.g. numbering off without reference to gender, or allowing a women's group to form if they so choose); and for male and female MNCC Facilitators to share responsibility for sessions that look at gender issues.

At the subsequent storian held at Port Olry, Gender dynamics within the Port Olry storian became an important issue, as six women participants from various communities wanted to express their views in the storian, but were not fully included in discussions by local chiefs, leading to male MNCC facilitators acting to support full participation by the women participants in a sensitive but also clear, public way. This opened the way for a positive later discussion of gender issues particularly between local chiefs and male facilitators. In Facilitators' learning circles after the storian, this was discussed again, and the solution suggested by MNCC facilitators was to include dialogue on the role of women in kastom governance, and also the important role of chiefs in ensuring security for women. It was agreed that the discourse of "rights" can be counterproductive, and dialogue is more likely to be open and constructive when looking at the principle of respect as a central part of kastom. This theme is explored in Anne Brown's (2007) research paper from Phase 2 "Gender and Customary Governance in Vanuatu".

The gender dynamics at the storian held at Vanualava/Mota/Motalava were very different, where women leaders participated very actively in the storian, taking a leading role in a number of presentations and activities. Women participants also stated clearly that a stronger assertion of kastom (which they supported) should not be a version of kastom that marginalised women. Young people were also represented and took a very active part in the discussions and in the action plans. This may have been the most active involvement of young people in a storian so far.

In general participation at storians aims to include 35 participants in total, 10 of which are the members of the Island Council, 7 other chief representatives, approx 5 community and church leaders, 5 women leaders and 5 youth representatives.

DEMANDS ON MALVATUMAURI SECRETARIAT EXTERNAL TO THE PARTNERSHIP

The Partnership has been very successful in raising the profile of the Malvatumauri, however a consequence of this has been increasing demands on the Secretariat for involvement in many other events and issues. In seeking solutions to this, MNCC Secretariat has requested support from the Vanuatu Government central budget. This is looking quite positive for 2012, given assurances by the Director-General for the Ministry of Justice and Culture.

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APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND PERSONNEL – YEAR 1 OF PHASE 3

Dates	Activities	ACPACS personnel	Malvatumauri personnel	AusAID and other speakers	Storian participants:
23-27 June 2008	Facilitators' Storian on Kastom Governance in Port Vila	Anne Brown, Di Bretheron, Paula Peterson, Serge Loode.	Selwyn Garu, Dickinson Tevi, Roselyn Tor, Christian William, Siro Vagaha, Daniel Graham Lukai, Patrick Tevanu, Gideon Ronolea, Tatalo William, Miriam Bule, John Gilu, Franklin Woleg	Anna Naupa (AusAID); Ham Bulu (former Supreme Court Judge)	
July 2008	Storian at Mele, Efate (Kastom Governance)	Di Bretherton, Paul Jensen	Selwyn Garu, Dickinson Tevi, Roselyn Tor, Christian William, Siro Vagaha, Patrick Tevanu, Gideon Ronolea, Tatalo William, Miriam Bule, John Gilu, Franklin Woleg		18 chiefs, 6 women, 5 youth, 2 church leaders (males), 1 community leader.
February 2009	Maintaining face to face relationship & planning	Anne Brown	Chief Gracien, Selwyn Garu, Dickinson Tevi		
18-22 May 2009	Scoping and research in Vila for Community Development theme	Peter Westoby	Selwyn Garu, Dickinson Tevi.		
Sept 2009	Planning meeting for completion and new contract	Anne Brown	Selwyn Garu, Dickinson Tevi		
Oct 2009	Drafting Annual Plan	Anna Nolan	Dickinson Tevi		
21-24 October 2009	Planning meeting for Org. Dev. workshop & Year 1 Activities	Anne Brown	Selwyn Garu, Dickinson Tevi.		
10 Nov 2009	Finalising and signing MNCC Funding Agreement		Selwyn Garu, Dickinson Tevi	Charles Vatu (VKG Activity Manager, AusAID).	
30 Nov 09	Launch of Phase 3 of Partnership	Anne Brown, Paula Peterson	Chief Gratien Alguet, Selwyn Garu, Dickinson Tevi, Roselyn Tor and all MNCC Facilitators: Christian William, Siro Vagaha, Patrick Tevanu, Gideon Ronolea, Tatalo William, Miriam Bule, John Gilu, Franklin Woleg, David Eggie Merick, Seth Kaurua and MNCC office staff: Oriet David	Charles Vatu, Nick Cumpston (Counsellor, AusAID).	

1 Dec -4 Dec 2009	Organisational Development workshop in Port Vila	Anne Brown, Paula Peterson	Chief Gratien Alguet, Selwyn Garu, Dickinson Tevi, Roselyn Tor and all MNCC Facilitators: Christian William, Siro Vagaha, Patrick Tevanu, Gideon Ronolea, Tatalo William, Miriam Bule, John Gilu, Franklin Woleg, David Eggie Merick, Seth Kaurua and MNCC office staff: Oriet David		
8 Dec 2009	Signing of contracts for MNCC Facilitators and Research Officer		Selwyn Garu, Dickinson Tevi, Roselyn Tor, Christian William, Siro Vagaha, Daniel Graham Lukai, Patrick Tevanu, Gideon Ronolea, Tatalo William, Miriam Bule, John Gilu, Franklin Woleg, Seth Kaurua.		
January 2010	Drafting 1 st Quarterly report	Anna Nolan	Dickinson Tevi		
February 2010					
March 2010	Recruitment of MNCC Project Assistant		Selwyn Garu, Dickinson Tevi, Georgina Faerua	Charles Vatu	
10 March 2010	ACPACS received signed Funding Agreement from AusAID	Anne Brown, Anna Nolan		Charles Vatu	
8-9 April 2010	Facilitators 'Refresher (Luganville) for Kastom Governance Storian	Di Bretheron, Paul Jensen	Selwyn Garu, Dickinson Tevi, Roselyn Tor, Christian William, Siro Vagaha, Daniel Graham Lukai, Patrick Tevanu, Gideon Ronolea, Tatalo William, Miriam Bule, John Gilu, Franklin Woleg, Seth Kaurua.		
12-17 April 2010	Port Olry Kastom Governance Storian	Di Bretherton, Paul Jensen	Chief Gratien, Selwyn Garu, Dickinson Tevi, Oriet David, Roselyn Tor, Christian William, Siro Vagaha, Daniel Graham Lukai, Patrick Tevanu, Gideon Ronolea, Tatalo William, Miriam Bule, John Gilu, Franklin Woleg, Seth Kaurua.		16 chiefs, 7 women, 10 youth, 2 church leaders (males), 4 community leaders.
20-21 April 2010	Project Co-ordinators Meeting in Brisbane (finalising Annual Plan for Year 1)	Anna Nolan	Dickinson Tevi		
22-23 April 2010	Partners Leaders Meeting in Brisbane (approval of Annual Plan for Year 1)	Anne Brown, Anna Nolan	Chief Gratien Alguet, Selwyn Garu, Dickinson Tevi	Charles Vatu	

30 April 2010	Submitted 1 st and 2 nd Quarterly reports	Anna Nolan	Dickinson Tevi		
May 2010	Preparation for Kastom Governance training Pentecost an MNCC event		John Gilu		
July – Oct 2010	Research planning for Vanuatu Research Approval and UQ Ethics Clearance	Anna Nolan, Anne Brown			
26-30 July 2010	30 th Anniversary of Independence		MNCC		
End of July 2010	Follow-up on Port Olry Action Plans and Monitoring Interviews with Port Olry storian participants		Christian William, Siro Vagaha		
July 2010	Draft 3 rd Quarterly report	Anna Nolan	Dickinson Tevi		
2-6 August 2010	National Council of Chiefs Meeting, Vila		MNCC	,	,
2-6 August 2010	Pacific Island Leaders Forum		Selwyn Garu, Dickinson Tevi		
Early August 2010	Two weeks logistical preparation for Vanualava/Mota/Motalava		Dickinson Tevi, Georgina Faerua, Franklin Woleg, Gideon Ronolea		
26-28 Aug 2010	Refresher storian for Facilitators on Kastom Governance (in Luganville)	Di Bretherton Anne Brown	Selwyn Garu, Dickinson Tevi, Roselyn Tor, Christian William, Siro Vagaha, Daniel Graham Lukai, Patrick Tevanu, Gideon Ronolea, Tatalo William, Miriam Bule, John Gilu, Oriet David.		
30 Aug -4 Sept 2010	Vanualava/Mota/Motalava Storian (Kastom Governance)	Di Bretherton Anne Brown	Selwyn Garu, Dickinson Tevi, Roselyn Tor, Christian William, Siro Vagaha, Daniel Graham Lukai, Patrick Tevanu, Gideon Ronolea, Tatalo William, Miriam Bule, John Gilu, Franklin Woleg, Oriet David.		14 chiefs, 7 women, 6 youth, 3 church leaders (males), 3 community leader.
30 August 2010	Submitted 3 rd Quarterly report	Anna Nolan	Dickinson Tevi		

29 Sept – 4 Oct 2010	Public Forum on Vanuatu Constitution and Kastom		Selwyn Garu, Dickinson Tevi, Roselyn Tor, Daniel Graham Lukai, Gideon Ronolea, Tatalo William, Miriam Bule, Oriet David, Georgina Faerua		
11-15 Oct 2010	MNCC storian with MNCC Chiefs (sponsored by Department of Justice)		Selwyn Garu, Dickinson Tevi, Roselyn Tor, Daniel Graham Lukai, Gideon Ronolea, Tatalo William, Miriam Bule, John Gilu, Georgina Faerua.		
Oct 2010	Preparations for first Facilitators' Storians on Community Development	Anne Brown, Anna Nolan, Paula Peterson, Paul Toon, Steve Capelin	Dickinson Tevi, Georgina Faerua, Selwyn Garu		
Oct 2010	Prepare Annual report (with financial acquittal statements) and Annual Plan for Year 2 for approval by PLG	Anna Nolan (ISSR finance section – financial statements_	Dickinson Tevi		
	[End of Year One]				

PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN PHASE 3 OF THE PARTNERSHIP

Some significant changes in personnel and organisational structures have occurred in the Partnership since the previous phase. Prof. Kevin Clements, ACPACS Director and one of the Partnership Leaders in the previous two phases, left ACPACS in December 2008. ACPACS Project Leader Anne Brown took this role in addition to her ongoing role within the Partnership, leading the implementation of the research and storian components.

During 2008-2009, the University of Queensland brought in some changes to its management structures and financial system, which resulted in ACPACS and other UQ social research centres being amalgamated under a new level of management within the Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR). This, combined with the funding hiatus for the Vanuatu partnership, placed significant pressure on ACPACS, and ISSR imposed staff reductions at ACPACS, deciding not to appoint a new Director, and not to renew the contract for Ms Paula Peterson, who until January 2010 had worked part-time contributing to the planning, co-ordination and management of storians, evaluation and research activities. Anna Nolan has continued to cover this Project Manager role on a part-time basis throughout 2009-2010. Paula Peterson will continue on a consultant basis as an ACPACS Facilitator in Year 2. ISSR intend to close the ACPACS program at the end of December 2010, and Anne Brown has accepted a position as senior Research Fellow

within the School of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Queensland, commencing in January 2011, which will allow the work of the Vanuatu Kastom Governance Partnership to continue at the University of Queensland without any disruption to the Funding Agreement between AusAID and the University of Queensland.

In May 2010, partners from MNCC and ACPACS farewelled another valued Partnership Leader, Mr Charles Vatu (AusAID Activity Manager), who had provided excellent support, advice and strategic guidance to both ACPACS and MNCC since the inception of the Pilot Phase of the Partnership. Obed Timakata was welcomed as the new AusAID Activity Manager for the Vanuatu Kastom Governance Partnership.

In March 2010 MNCC recruited a Project Assistant, Ms. Georgina Faerua; to assist the Coordinator in management responsibilities and general planning for Storiators. In May, MNCC Local Facilitator, Daniel Graham Lukai relocated his base from the Vanuatu Cultural Centre to Malvatumaui and joined the team as a full time facilitator (after previously being part-time). His experience in the Vanuatu Young Peoples Project as an advocate for Youth and Community Work has made him a very competent facilitator for the Partnership.

Another MNCC local Port Vila facilitator David Eggie dropped out of the project before commencement of Phase 3 due to other commitments. This gap however has been well covered by the other 3 local Port Vila facilitators.

ACPACS Facilitator and Researcher, Dr Peter Westoby, is not available to work in the Partnership over the next 18 months, due to a significant change in his work structure. Peter had been the ACPACS Facilitation Co-ordinator in Phase 2 and had provided research, scoping and initial design for the Community Development theme in Phase 3 of the project.

ACPACS has introduced two new Facilitators with great depth of expertise in Community Development into the project, Mr Paul Toon and Mr Steve Capelin, who will work with the other ACPACS and MNCC Facilitators in future storiators. As well as a wide range of experience in community development (including international experience), both Paul Toon and Steve Capelin are senior managers in community development within the Brisbane City Council.

APPENDIX 2: PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT

The following principles inform the planning, implementation and management of the Partnership.

1. Respect for Kastom

A key principle of this Partnership is the emphasis on support that is consistent with values inherent in kastom governance such as respect for the role of the chiefs in Vanuatu society and the promotion of kastom as an important aspect of contemporary life in Vanuatu.

2. Action research

A second key principle within the Partnership's approach is that "learning by doing", sometimes known as "action research" is the most appropriate method for proceeding. This approach allows all partners to combine action with learning. It means that partners plan carefully together, try to deliver activities as appropriately and effectively as possible and make time for reflecting, learning and documenting the process and results.

3. Progressive engagement

An approach to managing the Partnership which is consistent with the action research approach is called "progressive engagement." This means that as more information or understanding is generated within the Partnership about priorities, about how each group operates and relates with the others and about what works well, this enhanced understanding is used to inform the way later stages of the activity are implemented.

4. Shared Responsibility and Management

Also inherent within a Partnership approach is the need to share management responsibility of activities. This means that members of the Partnership are responsible for decision-making and for the delivery of activities. It was implemented by maintaining regular weekly contact by phone and email between Project Co-ordinators in Port Vila and Brisbane, and by holding Partnership Leaders' Group meetings twice a year to review plans and progress and to monitor implementation of the Partnership activities. This approach underpins the principles of mutuality upon which the partnership seeks to be based.

APPENDIX 3: FINANCIAL ACQUITTAL STATEMENTS