



The Sarakata River, Vanuatu. ©SOPAC

Vanuatu GEF Pacific IWRM Project kicks off

The Vanuatu GEF Pacific IWRM Project has hit the ground, with Rossette Kalmert finally being contracted as the Project Manager. Rossette has moved to Luganville on Santo Island to coordinate this project based in the Sarakata catchment. Rossette has established a Project Office within the Lands Building and has a consultant reviewing and providing recommendations on the project design.

An inception workshop was convened from March 30-31, 2010 to: (a) familiarise the new SANMA Water Advisory Committee members with the Vanuatu IWRM Demonstration Project; (b) review the project status; (c) review and endorse the logframe; (d) review and endorse the implementation work plan; (e) review the proposed TOR for SANMA Water Advisory Committee to act as the Project Steering Committee; and (f) review and agree on membership of the SANMA Water Advisory Committee.

Members of the existing SANMA Water Committee gathered under the Chairmanship of Charlie Nari - Provincial Manager PWD. The meeting was also attended by Marc Wilson – GEF Pacific Regional Project Manager.

Groups were formed to review the logframe and implementation work plan in order to assist the finalisation of these for endorsement. There was a general level of concern at the scope of the work to be completed within the remaining 4 years of the project and some complaints about the delayed start. As the Director of Water Resources was not present the reasons for the delay were not determined. Mr Wilson informed the meeting that countries had been informed in April 2009 that funding was available to commence the Projects.

The working groups emphasized the need to adequately resource the project's awareness activities and also to ensure that project activities were regularly communicated to communities and in particular land owners in the catchment.

The SANMA water committee currently only has National, Provincial and Municipal officers and there was much discussion about the inclusion of non government stakeholders. In the end it was agreed that the Chair and Secretary of the Sarakata Catchment Group, the Chair of the SANMA Council of Chiefs, the President of the SANMA Tourism Association, President of the Chinese Association, and a Women's Representative should be invited to join the SANMA Water Committee.



Rossette Kalmert (centre) with members of the SANMA Water Committee.

Read more: www.pacific-iwrn.org/component/content/article/1-latest-news/64-iwrn-demo-inception-workshop-vanuatu.html

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