MARINE SANCTUARY

DANY ISLAND

SPECTACULAR CORAL REEFS

CONSERVATION AREA

CCA MANAGEMENT PLAN



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I. INTRODUCTION

a. Purpose/Aim

Dany Island Spectacular Coral Reefs is a location of intense marine biological activity. An area with great aesthetic beauty - a crucial habitat for groups of species of national and international biodiversity significance. Its ecosystem is the breeding ground and habitat for critically endangered sea turtles.

The mission of the “Dany Island Spectacular Coral Reefs” Community Conservation Area (CCA) is in accordance with sound conservation practices to protect and conserve the beautiful and unique coral reefs and the fragile marine ecosystem which lives within. The Dany Island reefs form a safe haven for endangered species to live safely and for visitors to view and enjoy in accordance with our CCA Usage Rules.

b. History of CCA

The Dany Island Spectacular Coral Reefs CCA has a reputation for having outstanding coral reefs, aesthetically pleasing marine life and is a breeding ground for sea turtles. During WWII, the Americans acknowledged this and identified the island and its reefs as a special home for the turtles. The soldiers used this island as their playground - as a beautiful getaway.

In 2016, Dany Girgis (an advocate of Vanuatu, environmental conservation, and tourism business owner) purchased the island and due to an ethical understanding of the region, his respect for nature and his understanding of tourism, Dany immediately started to take steps to preserve and protect the island and its surrounding reefs. Dany studied Marine Biology (majoring in Sea Turtles) and put a full-time caretaker in place on the island to protect the environment. The Chief also placed Namele leaves around the island as a sign to show that the reefs and marine life are in a protected zone.

Over the years, this combined effort has had an excellent result on the ecosystem. The coral reefs have improved in health, the number of sea turtles and diversity of marine life has increased. Tourists from around the world have given excellent feedback on the reefs and snorkelling activities. Of course, building up a thriving marine ecosystem means that preservation is increasingly important. Legally enforceable rules became a crucial part of properly providing protection to the environment and to the endangered species.

Dany Island is an area with special recreational values and is a sustainable tourist attraction. In 2023, all parties involved identified the importance of having this as a nationally and internationally recognised conservation area - A wise decision with positive benefits for generations to come.

c. Site Description

i. Habitats and ecosystems

Dany Island is surrounded by some of the most impressive coral reef habitats and marine ecosystems in the world. A 100 metre distance from the most outer part of all surrounding reefs as an exclusion zone is the required distance (for commercial fisherman and others) to stay away in order to properly and responsibly protect the area.

Ecosystems include:

- Flat reef beds (supports and abundance of shallow water marine life which can be seen during snorkelling)
- Cliff reefs (supports extra species of marine life which like to live 5m to 25m underwater and can be seen whilst scuba diving)
- Sandy Beach on west side and south side
- Tropical trees along beachfront
- Rocky coastline area on east side and north side

ii. Key and significant species

Key species include:

- Sea Turtles
- Coral Reef Fish
- Dugongs
- Nautilus

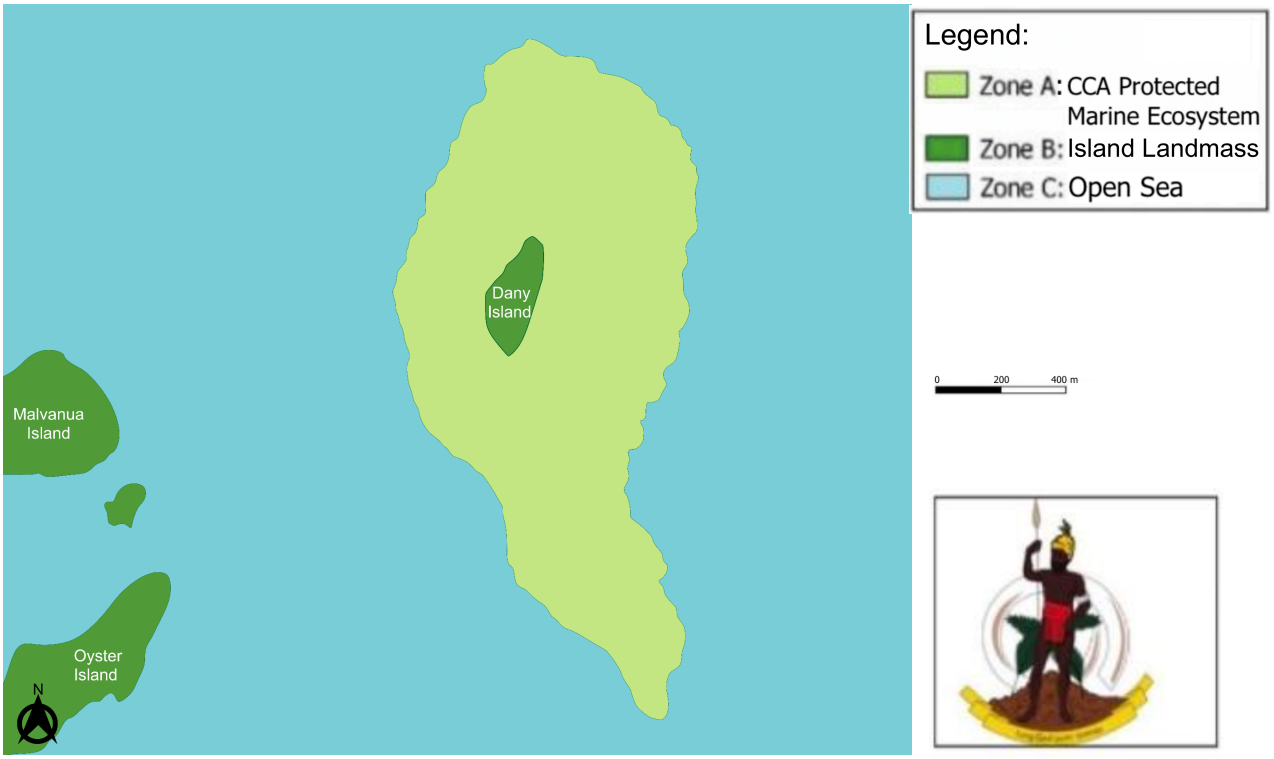
Specific species which are nationally significant or endangered:

- *Acropora Coral*
- *Porites Coral*
- *Birgus latro* (Coconut Crab) *Cardisoma* (Land crabs)
- *Charonia tritonis* (Bubu/Triton Shell)
- *Chelonidae* (Green turtle/Hawksbill turtle)
- *Cheilinus undulatus* (Humphead Wrasse)
- Dugong
- *Epinephelus lanceolatus* (Giant Grouper)
- *Holothuriidae* (Sea cucumber)
- *Odontoceti* (Dolphins)
- *Nautilidae* (Nautilus)
- *Panulirus* (Lobster)
- *Pomacanthidae/Acanthuridae* (Aquarium fish)

iii. Threats

- Marine debris (the caretakers on Dany Island keep this clean every day)
- Cyclone (this is in God's hands, but we do our best)
- Ignorance of rules (occasionally, someone comes and does not realise that it's a protected area and they anchor on the corals)
- People accidentally enter the protected area for illegal fishing (only rarely)
- People trespassing and illegally taking, moving or killing turtles (only rarely)

II. CCA MAP



III. OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of Dany Island Spectacular Coral Reefs Community Conservation Area are:

- To protect species diversity
- To protect vulnerable areas from misuse
- To conserve critical habitats
- To protect the natural home of critically endangered turtles
- To improve water quality
- To improve the health and diversity of coral reefs
- To protect the unique 150 to 250-year-old coral reefs
- To encourage increasing habitation by creating a safe zone for endangered marine life
- To maintain a high-quality environment
- To have clear, consistent, and well-known rules to encourage correct use and respect

- To maintain natural beauty for future generations
- To increase awareness of Vanuatu as an excellent tourist destination which engages in responsible environmental practices and wise conservation decisions



IV. MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Dedicated caretakers on Dany Island full time, to implement the following each day:

- Make visitors aware of the CCA rules and regulations
- Stop fishing and collection of marine life in a protected zone of 100m within Dany Island reefs
- Prevent collection of sand from shore
- Stop people from anchoring on the Dany Island reefs which causes distress and breakage to the reef (incoming boats will need to come to a dedicated part of the Western shoreline then tie to the Dany Island pre-anchored buoys to limit unnecessary damage to the Dany Island Spectacular Coral Reefs CCA)
- Direct and assist boats coming to Dany Island, especially during low tide and at nighttime when inexperienced people may hit the coral reef.
- Rehabilitation activities:
    - Outsourcing a Marine Biorap Assessment
    - Consultation with Marine biologists/experts
    - Buoy deployment for boundary demarcation where possible
    - Avoid major vegetation clearing on the island
    - Continued tree planting activities on the island
    - Monitoring of shores to prevent erosion
- Stop surfers from causing ongoing damage to the reefs (by anchoring on them and hitting them with their surfboard). They will be asked to tie to the pre-anchored buoy

and to come to shore on arrival to be given directions on the current conditions and on where to surf

- Educate visitors and residents about the local marine species and promote the importance of responsible environmentally friendly actions

The owner will monitor the implementation of the above activities and will conduct/arrange a full examination of the coral reef area twice a year and monitor the results. This will also be done in cooperation with registered scuba divers who will be familiar with the CCA rules and will report back to the owner accordingly. The owner will also have ongoing liaison with leading experts on Sea Turtles from around the world.





V. MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

a. Management Committee

Office Bearer	Responsibility	Represents
Dany Girgis	Chairman	Leaseholder
Evlemae Pinili	Secretary	Vanuatu Tourism
Leslie Pinczi	Member	Natural Conservation
Uri Lue Matalue	Member	Island Caretaker
Mathias Livo	Member	Mavea region

b. Staff

- Full time caretakers
    - Maintenance of Dany Island
    - Security for Dany Island
- Tour operation staff
    - Interaction with tourists and visitors
    - Responsible for overall customer experience of tours

VI. RULES AND BY-LAWS

a. Visiting:

Anyone entering within 100m of the Dany Island coral reefs must come to the Western sandy shore and make themselves known to the island caretaker(s) so that they can be briefed on the usage rules of Dany Island and its reefs.

Visits can be arranged at www.danyisland.com or by contacting book@danyisland.com

b. General:

Each visitor has a responsibility to preserve the natural beauty of Dany Island for future generations.

- Do not touch or disturb fish
- Do not touch or disturb turtles (either on the land or in the water)
- Do not touch or disturb lobsters (naura)
- Do not touch or disturb sea cucumbers
- Do not touch or disturb coral reefs
- Do not touch or disturb any marine life
- Do not anchor on or near the reef

c. Anchoring

There is to be no anchoring on or near the Dany Island reefs. The reefs are a fragile part of the ecosystem and are easily damaged by anchors. You must first come to shore in your vessel and the caretaker will instruct you to tie to the pre-anchored buoys, or to leave your vessel on the sandy shore if appropriate.

d. Fishing:

There is a complete ban on fishing within 100m of the outer edge of Dany Island reefs - report any offenders to caretakers.

Breaking of the above rules in relation to anchoring, fishing or trespassing will result in immediate eviction and ban from Dany Island and its reefs. Further action may also be taken against the offender with the involvement of police as well as local and international law enforcement (fines and imprisonment).

e. Look, don't take:

No souvenirs: Shells and WWII items on Dany Island or around Dany Island reefs are to stay in place as they are.

Any foreign items found in the water (or floating on the water) must immediately be reported to the island caretaker.

f. The reefs:

The preservation of Dany Island is top priority: Any environmental risks, concerns, or any citing of crown of thorns (starfish species) should be reported immediately to the island's caretaker.

If any coral is accidentally touched, disturbed, broken, stepped on: you must report this to the island's caretaker

Under no circumstances is there to be unauthorised anchoring on or near the reefs, or any unauthorised use of the area.

g. Snorkelling/Scuba Diving:

- GO SLOW: Slow down while snorkelling and diving - you are less likely to bump into things accidentally and cause damage to yourself and the reef. You are less likely to get a cramp or tire yourself out, and you'll also be amazed how much more you will see when you slow down.

- KEEP YOUR DISTANCE: Be mindful of your position in relation to the reef.
    - Snorkellers: Don't touch or step on the coral. Coral is sharp but also very fragile, so it's easy to cut yourself and damage the reef. If you need a rest, float on your back or hang on to a float - don't stand on the coral.
    - Divers: Be careful not to kick the coral (or your buddy) or kick up the sand and sediment with your fins and make sure none of your equipment is dangling down where it can damage the coral by bumping it or dragging on it. Attach your hoses to your BCD. If you're confident in your buoyancy, aim to be at least 0.5m away from the reef at all times. If you're not confident, stay out of kicking distance.

h. Respect

Respect all caretakers, owners/managers, Ni-Van staff and other visitors to the island. Above all, please respect the environment and the rules in place for its protection.

VII. OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

a. Committing an Offence:

A person who undertakes any prohibited activities in the CCA is deemed to have committed an *offence* under this management plan.

- **i.** If the person is an individual, they shall pay a fine of 20,000vt per *offence*.
- **ii.** If the same person commits an *offence* for a second time, they shall pay another fine of 20,000vt per *offence*.
- **iii.** If a person is representing a corporate body, then they shall pay a fine of 20,000vt per *offence.*
- iv. If a person representing the same corporate body commits an *offence*, this will be deemed to be a second *offence* and the fine will be 20,000vt and any further applicable penalty will be as stated in the EPC Act CAP 283.
- v. All fines for *offences* are payable to the Management Committee.

b. Repeat Offenders:

If either a corporate body for the second time or an individual for the third time commits an *offence*, the Management Committee will refer the matter to the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation to be dealt with according to Part 5, section 41(1)(f) and 41(2)(a-d).

c. How Offenders with be dealt with:

The Management Committee will deal with offenders by reporting them to the Police. In cases where the offenders or trespassers are caught by any Committee Member, all their tools and natural resources or biodiversity caught or collected will be seized and given to the appropriate government authority/organisation as approved by the Management Committee. If the natural resources are still alive and in good health then they will be released back into the CCA. Other confiscated resources not fit to be returned to the CCA will be sold by an approved authority and/or the Management Committee. Funds raised through the selling of confiscated resources will be used to support activities in relation to the management and conservation of the CCA.

Police and Government Authorities may also press further charges on offenders based on their legislative powers.

For serious offences, the Police, Government Authorities or Courts may be involved upon the first or second offence.

d. Environmental Protection and Conservation (EPC) Act

Where appropriate and enforceable, the Vanuatu EPC Act will come into effect.



Signatures

We the undersigned declared that:

Declaration

On this Day: 4th Month: May Year: 2024

We the undersigned declared that: Dany Island Spectacular Coral Reefs meets the requirement of the Environmental Protection and Conservation Act No. 12 Cap 283 section 37 (3):

(a) The objectives of the Community Conservation Area are in line with sound practices of Conservation and;

(b) The boundary is correct;

(c) Every stakeholder and interested parties have agreed to this management plan and that;

(d) This management plan will support and implement the objectives of the Dany Island Spectacular Coral Reefs and its biodiversity.

Signatures:

Management Committee

Name	Designation	Signature
Dany Girgis	Chairman	
Evlemae Pinili	Secretary	
Mathias Livo	Member	
Uri Lue Matalue	Member	

Endorsement

This Management is endorsed by;

Rolenas Tavue Baereleo,
Acting Director
Department of Environment

REPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU
BUREAU DE LA PROTECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET LA CONSERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION
REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
SANMA
CONSEIL PROVINCIAL

Albert Rudley
A/ Secretary General
Sanma Province

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John Nambas
Area Administrator
East Santo Area Council
Santo Island