

Erakor Village Mpau Natkon

South East Efate



Dear Director of Department of Environment Protection and Conservation

Port Vila, 6 May 2022

We would like to sincerely thank DEPC participation in the Erakor initiative the "Erakor Lagoons Restoration Plan". We also thank you for the invitation to be part of the SWAP project design as we hope that this may contribute to our plan.

Following the visit to the Erakor Lagoons on the 21 and 22 April by the Chiefs, Departments of Water Resources, Environment and Urban Planning, we jointly identified pollution hotspots that leak solid and wastewater pollution into the Lagoon.

We also witnessed together some areas on the Lagoons being threatened by ongoing activities that we believe are illegal:

1. Destruction of by a machine of a costal area with already a considered damage in the Lagoon at Erakor side margins;
2. Dumping area of electronic, car batteries, AC, construction materials, at the opposite side of the South Pacific Supply, after Korman;
3. Various dumpsites into the lagoons in the second lagoon and club hippique;
4. An illegal construction close to the Erakor Bridge;
5. Various private houses with pipes leaking water into the lagoons;
6. The Hospital wastewater plant;

We are concern about getting all of us prepared to the opening of the borders and will keep working hard to implement our plan. The Erakor Lagoons host many hotels and resorts. As you know the Restoration Plan has 3 main objectives: 1 STOP Pollution, 2 CLEAN and 3 RESTORE the Lagoons, based on Awareness, Education and Livelihoods.

We will continue to work in partnerships with authorities, businesses and communities and to achieve the objective 1, we need to make a general clean-up of all the hills around the Lagoons, before start cleaning the Lagoons. Attached is a draft plan of all areas to be cleaned. Dates to be agreed with community leaders and area councillors.

Please keep us informed on your actions regarding the points 1 to 5.

Best Regards,

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