

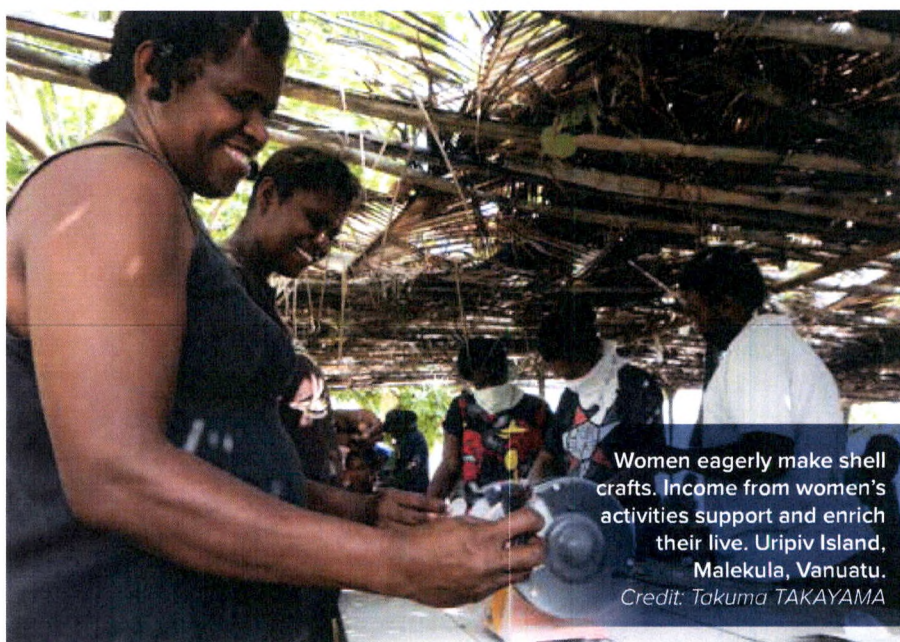
Project for Promotion of Grace of the Sea in the Coastal Villages (Phase 3) (Vanuatu)

"The Project for the Promotion of the Grace of the Sea in Coastal Villages" has been implemented in Vanuatu since 2006 and supported the traditional coastal communities' coastal resource-management activities. The Project also aimed to develop the means of livelihood of the communities to address the sustainability of resource management.

It is mainly women who collect shellfish from Vanuatu's coastal reefs. Recognizing the craft-making skill of women in Vanuatu and the importance of achieving sustainable use of shellfish resources, groups of craftswomen was established in the communities through the Project activities. The handicraft work suited the women well. Each woman could schedule her work independently, balanced with her domestic duties. The women soon started to create original designs with traditional touches. Through women making the crafts by using the shells instead of live shellfish, selling them to the tourists of cruise ships by themselves, and obtaining cash, it has led to not only an improvement in livelihood but also an increase in awareness of resource management. The women also contributed to the promotion of the tourism industry by creating "Made in Vanuatu" souvenirs.

Another remarkable outcome is the creation of new opportunities for women in a male-centered society. In these areas, women rarely participate in economic activities, and most of them engage only in domestic labour. Women's groups not only manufacture and sell shell and folk crafts, but also operate a fish cafe serving local dishes to tourists. The demonstration of their ability to generate incomes has raised their social status in the community. In fact, women's groups are officially represented in the community's Resource Management Committee and participate in the community's decision-making process. The creation of such opportunities has brought income sources to group members and empowered women's social status.

Currently, the number of women's group members has increased, and independent activities are taking place and developing day by day. Some leading women of the group teach women from other islands the technique of making shell crafts as part of the country's vocational-training program.



Women eagerly make shell crafts. Income from women's activities support and enrich their life. Uripiv Island, Malekula, Vanuatu.
Credit: Takuma TAKAYAMA