

# Vanuatu's Key Biodiversity Areas: Aneityum

## Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

Sites qualify as global KBAs if they meet one or more of 11 criteria, clustered into five categories: threatened biodiversity; geographically restricted biodiversity; ecological integrity; biological processes; and, irreplaceability. The KBA criteria can be applied to species and ecosystems in terrestrial, inland water and marine environments, and must be confirmed by the KBA Secretariat. Vanuatu has 27 KBAs in total.

## Threatened Species

Vanuatu has a total of 138 species that have been identified as threatened or near threatened on the IUCN Red List. The Threatened Species Project has received funding from CEPF to work with 27 of the threatened species. Fourteen of these 27 threatened species are found on Aneityum's land or in its surrounding waters. They include:

### Endemic

- Anatom Skink
- Vanuatu Flying Fox
- Bangulu Palm

### Vanuatu endemic species previously found on Aneityum

- Royal Parrotfinch
- Vanuatu Megapode

### Found only in Vanuatu and one other country

- Fijian Blossom Bat
- Palm Lorikeet

### Widely distributed

- Dugong
- Collared Petrel
- Polynesian Storm Petrel
- Hawksbill Turtle
- Green Turtle
- Moluccan Ironwood
- Pacific Kauri

## Why is this Island Special?

In Vanuatu, CEPF has chosen six priority sites out of the 27 KBAs, including Aneityum. Aneityum is the southern most island of Vanuatu. The island is home to four endemic species that are currently threatened, including the Anatom Skink and the Bangulu Palm. While the Critically Endangered Bangulu Palm is a native on Tanna, Futuna and Aneityum, the Endangered Anatom Skink is only found on Aneityum and no other place.



Anatom Skink. Note: we do not have any known photographs of this endemic species. It looks similar to the Samoan Skink (above). The only difference when looking at them is the number of small scales on their sides and fingers.

Source: IUCNredlist.org



Aneityum

Source: Google Maps