

VanKIRAP

Vanuatu Kloemet Infomesen blong Redi, Adapt & Protekt | Climate Information Services for Resilient Development in Vanuatu



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **New information products aim to climate-proof Vanuatu's key sectors**



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**PORT VILA:** New climate information products that explain how climate change is likely to affect key sectors of Vanuatu’s economy, and how to plan practical adaptations to address climate risk, were unveiled last week in Port Vila.

The new information products are targeted at an audience of Vanuatu Government policymakers, technical experts, and field officers. They were developed for the Climate Information Services for Resilient Development in Vanuatu Project (known in Bislama as ‘VanKIRAP’) by delivery partner CSIRO, Australia’s national scientific and industrial research organisation.

The products cover Vanuatu’s agriculture, fisheries, infrastructure, tourism and water sectors and incorporate science-based historical data and future projections to identify how climate change is already affecting each sector, and how each will be impacted over the short and long term by climate change.

Geoff Gooley, Project Lead for CSIRO on the VanKIRAP project, says that these information products will offer “applied case studies... at finer spatial and temporal scales across multiple sectors and locations around Vanuatu”.

Moreover, he says, the products will be delivered with “updated national and sub-national current and future climatologies... covering a range of climate

variables like temperature, rainfall, tropical cyclones, sea level rise and drought”.

For the agriculture sector, for example, the information products focus on important crops such as kava, coffee, taro, yam, and banana, and the expected impacts on these crops from these climate variables change as the planet warms.

They will also be actionable, outlining how stakeholders can conduct climate change risk assessments, and base climate change adaptations on their findings.

At a workshop held last week at the Vanuatu Meteorological and Geo-hazards Department (VMGD) in Port Vila, CSIRO presented draft versions of the new information products to VMGD’s Climate and Forecast divisions for further validation. Once fully validated, they will form a full suite of information products to be available later this year in print and online versions.

CSIRO is also currently developing a portal website for VanKIRAP that will allow stakeholders to model different future climate change scenarios to see how these will affect each sector over different timescales, from the immediate term up to decadal projections.

Coastal inundation maps will show visualisations of coastal areas that might be impacted by sea level rise or cyclone storm surges in the future. With the portal and other information products, decision makers will be able to decide whether the future climate change impacts projected for a particular location will make it unsuitable for building roads or bridges, for example, or if a proposed tourism business should be given approval.

“With these new science-based climate information tools, planners and policymakers from Vanuatu’s key sectors will get insights about climate change risks that give them the ability to decide which climate change adaptations will be the most appropriate for the local context”, says Ms. Moirah Matou, VanKIRAP Project Manager.

“Stakeholders will be better equipped to guide policymaking to address climate change risks. They will gain the ability to assess risks for specific locations for up to decades in advance, and make planning decisions accordingly”, she states.

VanKIRAP is funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and jointly implemented by the Vanuatu Meteorological and Geo-hazards Department (VMGD) and SPREP.

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but a greater proportion of severe cyclones [2, 3].

Coffee (*Coffea arabica*) is one of the major cash crops of Vanuatu, along with others such as **kava**, **coconut** and **cacao** [5]. Aligning agricultural crop production to the climate is an important factor for any producer to consider. **Here we explore the temperature and rainfall suitability for coffee production in Tanna under current and future climate conditions.** For information on how this climate-hazard based impact fits into a broader risk framework, see the **Climate-risk document**.



## Information and historic climate data

Arabica Coffee was first introduced to Vanuatu in 1852 and the industry expanded until 1909, when coffee leaf rust (CLR) sent the industry into steep decline. Through the years, various attempts have been made to revive the industry. Established in 1982, the Tanna Coffee Development Company (TCDC) has introduced improved management practices and a new rust resistant coffee variety 'Catimor' which has stabilised coffee production [5, 7]. The industry employs many small-holder farmers with income generation for around 1,000 people on Tanna Island alone. Coffee is also grown in Santo, Erromango, Epi, Malo and Efate to a lesser degree [5].



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## About VanKIRAP

*VanKIRAP (Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen blong Redy, Adapt mo Protekt) is a project based at the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department (VMGD) that is making climate information better, more relevant, and more accessible for people across Vanuatu.*

*VanKIRAP's goal is to support Vanuatu's resilient development by increasing the ability of decision-makers, communities and individuals to plan for and respond to the impacts of climate variability and change, using climate information services (CIS).*

*VanKIRAP is the Bislama name for the Vanuatu Climate Information Services for Resilient Development Project (CISRDP) project, which is funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and jointly implemented by VMGD and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).*

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