

VanKIRAP

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



# MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## New Community Climate Centre brings access to climate information for Tanna





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**PORT VILA:** The people of Tanna now have better access to climate information services thanks to a new Community Climate Centre launched by the Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen blong Redy, Adapt mo Protekt (VanKIRAP) Project on 27 February in Isangel, Tanna. The new Centre proved useful from day one, making information about the twin severe tropical cyclones Judy and Kevin available to communities before the cyclones arrived.

Being the most vulnerable country in the Pacific Region to climate related hazards, Vanuatu's vulnerable communities need adaptive capacity to help prepare themselves for extreme weather and climate-related events. Climate information services (CIS) are tools that give people details about climate and weather so that they can improve their decision-making, planning and preparation about these kinds of events.

The launch of the Tanna Community Climate Centre is a significant outcome for the Tafea Provincial Government and Tanna's communities. As a demonstration of its relevance and usefulness, the Community Climate Centre was able to provide detailed information to communities and provincial officials about the approaching cyclones Judy and Kevin on the very day the Centre launched, and just days before the cyclones wreaked havoc on Tanna.

The Community Climate Centre provides the people of Tanna with timely, tailored climate information and tools to help minimise the impacts of extreme weather and climate events on lives, livelihoods, natural resources, property and infrastructure. It also supports better policy, planning and decision-making across various sectors at the provincial and community level.

The launch followed a three-day Climate Science 101 training for government and NGO stakeholders from 22-24 February, facilitated by the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department (VMGD) and the VanKIRAP Project.

The training provided climate-sensitive sectors and key community focal points the ability to apply climate science and ocean science information in their decision-making. The training covered a range of topics including the

climate system, climate change, climate in Vanuatu, seasonal climate forecasts, drought monitoring and ocean climate.

The training concluded with a total of 25 participants nominated as climate champions. These community members will be focal points within their villages to disseminate information from the community climate centre down to the 'last mile'.

In his official remarks at the CCC launching ceremony, Francis Iaoiap, President of Tafea Province said that the establishment of the Community Climate Centre is "in line with the People's Plan under the Environment Pillar 3 which will help to improve and strengthen monitoring using early warning systems, and help build resilience"

"It also allows people at the community level to receive timely and accurate information on weather and climate", he said.

Mr. Iaoiap thanked the VanKIRAP Project's funder, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Project's managing entity, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP), as well as implementing agency VMGD and other delivery partners who helped establish the Centre.

Mr. Sunny Seuseu, Acting Vanuatu Manager for SPREP said he was delighted that the Isangel Community Climate Centre will allow people in Tafea Province to have better access to climate and weather information to improve their planning and decision-making in their daily activities.

He urged the communities of Tanna to use the Community Climate Centre to get the information that they need about climate and weather.

Mr. Seuseu also stressed that the Community Climate Centre is not the only kind of climate information service that the VanKIRAP Project provides on Tanna. Others include an ocean climate monitoring buoy deployed at Port Resolution, rainfall gauges installed at ten schools on Tanna, and an automated weather station that will be installed later this year, again at Port Resolution.

After the launch, Province President Iaoiap and delegation received a briefing on TC Judy and TC Kevin presented by weather forecaster Antony Wong from VMGD and Moirah Matou, VanKIRAP Project Manager.

The Tanna Community Climate Centre is one of six Community Climate Centres that the VanKIRAP Project is setting up across Vanuatu. To date, five have already been established on the islands of Vanua Lava, Ambae, Santo—and now Tanna. The next one will be established in Lakatoro, on Malekula.

Funding for the VanKIRAP Project, including the Community Climate Centres, is provided by the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The Project is managed by SPREP and implemented by the Government of Vanuatu through VMGD.

For more information or interview requests, contact Ellian Bangtor, VanKIRAP Communications Officer on [ebangtor@gmail.com](mailto:ebangtor@gmail.com) on [\(+678\) 7363184](tel:+6787363184).

## 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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### Vanuatu Klaemet blong Redy, Adapt mo Protekt (Van-KIRAP) Project

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