



**giz**



## Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region (CCCPIR)

### Adaptation to Climate Change through Composting Pele Island, Vanuatu

A major problem for agriculture, forestry and food security on Pele Island is lack of good quality, nutrient rich soil for seed germination and high productivity. Buying soil and fertilizers from Vila is expensive and transportation to Pele too difficult. So with the support of the SPC-GIZ CCCPIR Program, island committees sought to develop their own solutions.

Composting toilets turn human waste into good soil through the process of decomposition and dehydration. These toilets use no water, do not have septic systems, cause minimal environmental impacts and produce a valuable compost mix for gardening. In as little as nine months, human waste is turned into a fully usable organic material for enhanced gardens and climate resilience.

The SPC-GIZ program installed composting toilet at Tangovauwia Primary School, where the 100+ students 'help' to produce about 40 kilos of excellent fertilizer per year. The compost is used in the climate change adaptation through forestry project on the island.

Not only do the toilets produce compost, they also protect the island's underground water sources in a time of serious climate change. Pele Island is already experiencing water shortages as there are no rivers, no streams and no creeks. The only fresh water comes from rain, and that is not enough for everyone's needs. Most of the water that is used for washing, bathing and cleaning comes from dug wells, which up until a few years ago were clean and safe. Now with deforestation causing dirty water runoff, sea level rise influencing the salinity of groundwater wells, and an increase in the number of pit toilets, over half of Pele's 27 wells have recently tested unfit for use.

The CCCPIR aim of converting from pit toilets to composting toilets will protect water, provide an excellent source of compost and help Pele islanders to adapt to climate change!



#### Project facts CCCPIR

Funding sources: Federal Republic of Germany through the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Regional partners: SPC, SPREP and USP, Duration: January 2009-December 2015