



NATIONAL ADVISORY  
BOARD ON CLIMATE  
CHANGE AND DISASTER  
RISK REDUCTION

# VANUATU UPDATE: Climate, Weather, Geo-hazards and Disaster Risk Reduction

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2012

## Launch of the NAB

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In September 2012, Vanuatu will launch an innovative approach to climate change and disaster risk reduction in the Pacific. The Vanuatu Government recognise that disaster risk reduction and climate change activities address many linked issues, and are often implemented by the same organisations. To better coordinate government and partner resources, the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department and the National Disaster Management Office have been working together to create a new, integrated, National Advisory Board on

### Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction.

The new National Advisory Board, or NAB, is co-chaired by VMGD and NDMO jointly. The Board takes the place of the previous National Advisory Committee on Climate Change (NACCC) and National Task Force for Disaster Risk (NTF). The NAB will provide a single overarching climate change and disaster risk reduction governance body for Vanuatu.

The NAB will be supported by a Secretariat + Project Management Unit known as the NAB SPMU. The SPMU will sit in the

VMGD offices, but will maintain strong links to the staff of both VMGD and NDMO. The PMU will be up and running in September 2012, and invitations for a launch will be sent out soon, to welcome new staff and introduce them to the many members in Vanuatu working in climate change and disaster risk reduction.

More information on the National Advisory Board and the PMU roles, responsibilities and membership can be found at [www.nab.vu](http://www.nab.vu), or email [compmp@meteo.gov.vu](mailto:compmp@meteo.gov.vu).



## CC + DRR: Building Networks

One of the roles of the National Advisory Board is to act as a national focus point for climate change and disaster risk reduction activities. This isn't limited to Vanuatu government agencies - the NAB invites anyone working in climate change or disaster risk reduction to get involved. Some of the upcoming network-building activities are:

- Quarterly publication of the Vanuatu Update newsletter
- Launch of the NAB Climate Change and DRR website to host news, activity maps, event listings and resource guides
- Starting a 'Trip Network' email list, to keep all organisations informed of planned trips to the provinces
- Hosting 'State of the Sector' social functions and workshops on climate change and disaster risk reduction issues.

Visit [www.nab.vu](http://www.nab.vu) or email [compmp@meteo.gov.vu](mailto:compmp@meteo.gov.vu) for more information on how to be linked into CC and DRR networks.

# Hyogo and MIRA



July was a busy month for humanitarian actors, with a review of Vanuatu's progress under the Hyogo Framework for Action undertaken on July 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, and a multi-cluster rapid assessment workshop using the MIRA approach hosted on July 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>.

The Hyogo Review brought together government and non-government humanitarian workers to discuss the progress Vanuatu has made in addressing disaster risk reduction, and to establish priority areas of work for the

future. The two-day discussion was helpful for all involved, and highlighted the progress Vanuatu has made in establishing effective disaster risk reduction programming. All agreed that better coordination was a way forward for the future.

The multi-cluster rapid assessment workshop, hosted by UNOCHA in the Pacific and the NDMO, provided an opportunity for participants to review disaster assessment processes, tools, practices, standards and coordination

arrangements. Practical case studies and planning exercises gave the workshop participants a chance to plan a rapid assessment process from start to the end point – sharing of information amongst organisations. Vanuatu Humanitarian Team cluster members will have the opportunity to apply these methods in practice in November, when a simulation emergency response and rapid assessment process will be held in North Efate. For more information contact

[van.humanitarian.team@gmail.com](mailto:van.humanitarian.team@gmail.com)

*“The Provincial Disaster Committees provide a vital link between Community Disaster Committees and the NDMO”*

## PDC launched in Tafea

In June 2012, NDMO Disaster Risk Reduction staff, Red Cross, NGOs and the Tafea Provincial Council worked together to establish the Tafea Provincial Disaster and Climate Change Committee (PDC).

The Tafea Provincial Disaster and Climate Change Committee is the second such-committee to be established in Vanuatu, with the Torba Provincial Disaster and Climate Change

Committee having been launched in April 2012. Shefa Provincial Council is also currently working with the NDMO to establish the Shefa Provincial Disaster Committee.

The Provincial Committees will perform a coordinating role on disaster risk reduction and climate change issues affecting the provinces. They will also provide a vital communication link between Community Disaster

Committees and the National Disaster Management Office.

The Committees' members are made up of all government agencies with officers in the Province, including Agriculture, Forestry, Police, Education, Public Works, Rural Water Supply and of course the Provincial Council. NGOs and the Red Cross also participate in the committees.

## Calendar

Events for the next three months include:

### October

1-3 Oct: **Climate Futures software training**, VMGD (Climate Services) ph 24686

3-8 Oct: **Melanesian Volcano Network Regional Conference**, VMGD (Geo-Hazards) ph 24686

8 Oct: **Gender in Emergencies Training**.

Vanuatu Humanitarian Team, ph 565 4110

8- 13 Oct: **National Disaster Week**. NDMO ph, 23035/22699

22 Oct: **Provincial Climate Mainstreaming Workshop**, Santo. GiZ ph 29594

### November

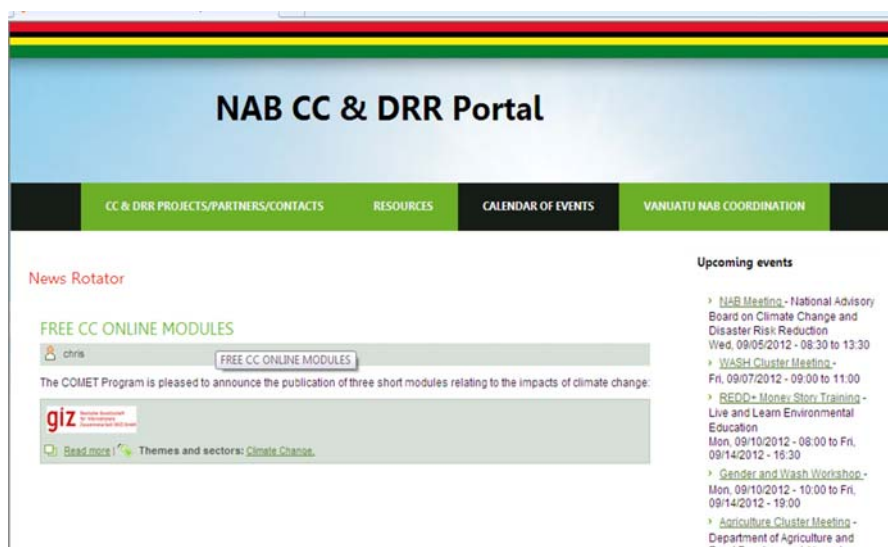
5-7 Nov: **Disaster Simulation Week**, Vanuatu Humanitarian Team, ph 565 4110

### December

Date tbc: **PCIDRR Partnership Workshop**, PCIDRR ph 7793732.

Check the Calendar on [www.nab.vu](http://www.nab.vu) for the full list of events planned in October to December, and to upload your own event information.

# Coordinating Online



Bookmark [www.nab.vu](http://www.nab.vu) in your internet browser – the NAB Portal is up and running!

The NAB Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Portal is a web page which provides a host of useful tools and resources for those working in climate, climate change, geohazards and disaster risk reduction in Vanuatu.

Materials on the site include a comprehensive database of CC and DRR projects in Vanuatu, a zoomable Google map to show where project and awareness activities are being undertaken,

a soft-copy searchable database of educational and awareness resources on climate, climate change and disaster risk reduction topics, news and job advertisements, contact lists, and a calendar showing upcoming events and workshops.

One of the portal's distinguishing features is that it is "user-owned" – that is, the government, civil society and community organisations of Vanuatu are able to upload project information, news, and contact details directly to the site. The site's usefulness will therefore rest on the participation of all of the CC and DRR

community in Vanuatu. A workshop will be organised in late 2012 for all interested people to learn how to upload materials and navigate around the website.

The NAB Portal has been created through SPREP funding, working with partners GiZ, SPC and USP with VMGD and NDMO input. The Portal is one of a regional network of portals which will in time be linked to allow Pacific countries to share information and data.

**"The web portal is 'user-owned', that is, users can upload news and information directly to the site"**

## Links and Resources

Every quarter, this newsletter will provide a list of useful Links and Resources – if you have any to add to the list please send them through to [commp@meteo.gov.vu](mailto:commp@meteo.gov.vu).

[www.meteo.gov.vu](http://www.meteo.gov.vu) The home page of the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazard Departments, with links to weather forecasts, hazard information and warnings, geo-hazards, climate and climate change information, tide and sun charts and more.

[www.geohazards.gov.vu](http://www.geohazards.gov.vu) The site specific to the Geohazard section of VMGD, where you can access real-time images and data on volcanic activity, earthquake information, and geophysical survey and research.

[www.nab.vu](http://www.nab.vu) A newly created portal bringing together information on DRR and CC activities and resources within Vanuatu.

<http://unocha.org> United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

[www.pacificclimatechange.net](http://www.pacificclimatechange.net) SPREP's newly launched regional website providing resources on climate change

[www.solutionexchange-un.net/pacific/ccd/](http://www.solutionexchange-un.net/pacific/ccd/)

A discussion board on a range of climate change issues and solutions being implemented in the Pacific

**Owning Adaptation in the Pacific:** A report on climate adaptation finance in the Pacific: [www.oxfam.org.nz/reports/owning-adaptation-pacific-strengthening-governance-climate-adaptation-finance](http://www.oxfam.org.nz/reports/owning-adaptation-pacific-strengthening-governance-climate-adaptation-finance)



# Monthly Climate Update: Sep 2012

## General Lukluk (Ol El Nino development i slo)

**Southern Oscillation Index (SOI).**  
Lo las tu wiks blo September, SOI hemi climb i kam antap quiktaem lo neutral values. Latest value blo SOI lo manis blo September hemi +0.8.



### Wind

Ol trade wins oli stap semak olsem lo las tu wiks lo central mo eastern Pacific we i gat ol weak easterly

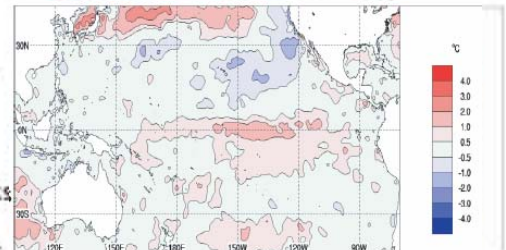
wins lo region. I gat too ol westerly win be oli weak bitim ol trade wins.

### Cloudiness

Ol cloud klosap lo dateline i stap fluctuate smol lo las tu wiks we hemi stap klosap average values folem ol weak anomalies lo cloud lo start blo manis ia.

### Sea surface Temperature (SST)

Ol temperature blo solwota oli continue blo wom mo wom part ia i stap muv i kam lo central tropical Pacific compare lo July we ol wom wota ia i stap lo eastern Pacific. Ol SST oli stap klosap lo average lo far eastern Pacific while area blo wota lo



equator between 160 deg west mo 120 deg west hemi 1 deg womer.

### Model forecast

Ol climate models we Vanuatu Meteorology mo Geohazards Department hemi stap usum oli soem se bae yumi stap klosap lo El Nino threshold kasem end blo year 2012 before i kam back lo neutral lo early 2013.

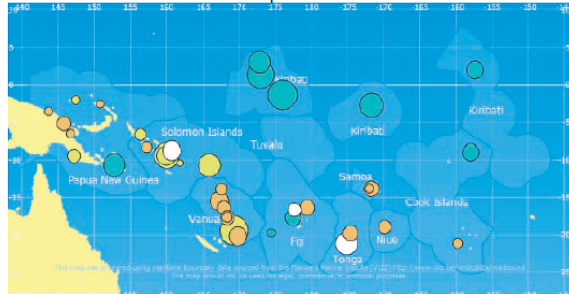
## Pas renfol

Ol renfol lo manis blo August 2012 lo Vanuatu hemi soem se i bitim normal lo evri seven stations we yumi stap mekem weta observation lo hem.

Lo las tri manis ( June- August 2012), renfol we i foldaon lo ol manis ia hemi below normal lo Bauerfield, Whitegrass mo Aneityum, normal lo Port Vila, Lamap mo Pekoa while hemi bitim normal lo Sola station.

Ol renfol we i foldaon lo trifala manis we i pas, hemi 'consistent' wetem wanem yumi forecastem lo stations blo Lamap wetem Bauerfield. Forecast hemi 'near consistent' lo Pekoa, Port Vila, Whitegrass mo Aneityum mo 'in- consistent' lo station blo Sola.

Seasonal Climate Outlook for the period October to December 2012



**Legend**  
 ● Bias towards below-normal rainfall  
 ● Bias towards normal rainfall  
 ● Bias towards above-normal rainfall  
 ○ No bias in forecast (Climatology)  
 Larger "bubbles" represent higher forecast skill (based on LEPS scores)

## Renfol we bae i kam

SCOPIC predictions lo manis blo October kasem December 2012 ( usim SST 1 & 9) lo Vanuatu

**Northern Region:** Lo ol provinces blo yumi lo Not ( Torba, Sanma, Penama mo Malampa) forecast hemi bias iko lo renfol we i bitim normal lo tri manis we i stap kam lo Sola. Normal renfol lo Pekoa mo below normal ren bae i foldaon lo Lamap station. (Confidence: High kasem very high).

**Southern Region:** Lo ol provinces blo yumi lo saot (Shefa mo Tafea) forecast hemi bias iko lo renfol we i below normal lo station blo Port Vila mo Aneityum while ren we i normal bae i foldaon lo Bauerfield mo Whitegrass (Confidence: High)

Taem yumi usim SOI olsem predictor, ol renfol blo yumi lo ol stations lo Vanuatu oli below normal lo nekis tri manis except lo Lamap mo Whitegrass we bae tufala i kasem normal renfol.

### Tropical Cyclone Watch

Nowia yumi stap kam klosap lo nara season blo cyclone lo Vanuatu. yumi everiwan i mas stap prepare from Vanuatu bae i continue blo kasem cyclone from hemi stap lo wan hotspot blo ol cyclone lo Pacific region. Bae department hemi putum aot wan forecast blo cyclone lo season ia lo nekis manis. Yumi mas prepare gud mo rere blo facem cyclone season blo yumi.

For more information, or to be added to the Monthly Climate Update email / mail list, contact VMGD (Climate Services):  
 malsale@meteo.gov.vu, ph 26686.

# Volcano Monitoring Network

The Geohazards section of VMGD is working to improve the response to volcanic hazards in Vanuatu through upgrade and improvement of the volcano monitoring network.

Working with GNS Science, through the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, VMGD has begun a nation-wide program of building new volcano monitoring stations and upgrading existing stations. The impacts of this program can already be seen in the new monitoring station on Yasur volcano in Tanna. The

Yasur volcano monitoring station now has a permanent high speed radio link to Port Vila, and camera monitoring equipment sends real-time information to the Geohazards section of VMGD and the Geohazards website ([www.geohazards.gov.vu](http://www.geohazards.gov.vu)).

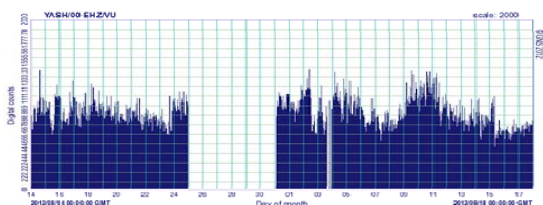
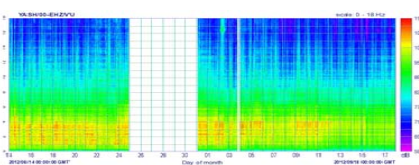
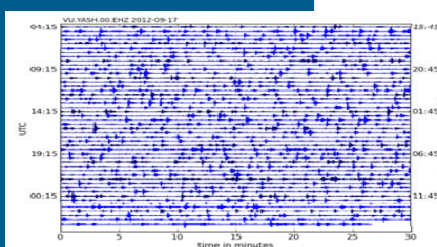
The real-time data allows Geo-hazards to monitor volcanic activity. Outside parties can also access information through the website, where photographs of activity at Yasur are updated every 15 minutes. By October it is expected that the pictures will be uploaded every 5

minutes to provide a current view of volcano status. Over the next 5 years, similar monitoring equipment will be installed at Vanuatu's other volcanoes on Ambae, Ambrym, Gaua and Lopevi.

Contact the Geohazards section, VMGD, for more information on the volcano monitoring program.

*Next issue: VMGD's new developments in volcanic activity educational material.*

*"The Yasur permanent volcano monitoring station provides real-time photographic data and data streams for staff monitoring"*





# Profiles: NAB Chairs

Every issue, the *Vanuatu Update* will profile a staff member or program working on geohazards, climate, climate change or disaster risk reduction issues in Vanuatu. This issue we have a dual profile on the Co-Chairs of the National Advisory Board on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change: **Mr Jotham Napat**, Director of VMGD and **Mr Shadrack Welegabit**, Director of NDMO.



**Mr Jotham Napat:**  
**What is your home island?**  
Tanna. I was born in Whitesands.

**What has been your educational journey?**  
I started work with the Vanuatu Meteorological Services as an Observer for several years, and was then selected to complete a World Meteorological Organisation Class II qualification in New Zealand and Australia. To support my technical training, I then also completed the PSC Frontline Diploma in Management and then a MBA at Revans University UK.

**What drew you to work in the area of meteorology and geohazards?**  
My initial interest was in the area of forecasting – I was interested in how we could provide precise forecasts of weather and extreme

weather such as cyclones to help the safety and well-being of the people of Vanuatu.

**“Now we have new technologies at our disposal, but my focus is still the same—to bring accurate information to the people of Vanuatu.”**

When I first started, there were no technologies to support forecasting, we had to analyse charts and manually make predictions. Now we have new technologies at our disposal, but my focus is still the same, to find ways of bringing forecasts to the people to help them prepare for weather and geo-hazard events.

**What is the most satisfying part of your work?**  
It is very encouraging seeing the number of young Ni-Vanuatu graduates gaining an interest in meteorology and geo-hazards and taking up key positions in this field. On an organisational level, it has also been immensely fulfilling to see the development of the Vanuatu Meteorological Services – now Vanuatu Meteorological and Geo-Hazard Department – over the last 10 years. We have made giant steps towards our organisation’s mission to provide timely and accurate meteorological and geo-hazards information to the people of Vanuatu. In the future we are building on these advancements to establish the Department as a regional authority in meteorology, geo-hazards, climate and climate change.



**Mr Shadrack Welegabit:**  
**What is your home island?**  
Gaua Island in the Banks Group, Torba Province.

**What has been your educational journey?**  
I completed primary and secondary school in Vanuatu, and then gained a Diploma and a Bachelor’s Degree in Agriculture at USP in Samoa. In later years I completed a Post-Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Economics at the University of New England (UNE), NSW, Australia. I went on and completed a Masters in Economics at UNE.

**“The most satisfying part is working directly with communities to hear and address their needs and issues and helping them to become safer.”**

**What drew you to work in the area of disaster response and risk management?**  
I originally worked with the Agriculture Department, and then worked with the Research Department of the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu. In 2007, I resigned from the RBV and joined Torba Provincial Government. In

my work as the Secretary-General of Torba Province, I became involved with disaster risk reduction and disaster response activities. Torba Province is vulnerable to a range of natural hazards, and in my role I was involved in preparing for and responding to a variety of disaster events. In 2009 after the volcanic eruption on Gaua, there was much work to be done in evacuating communities from the Western part of the island, assessing damage and undertaking emergency response. I found it very fulfilling to be working and helping communities.

**What is the most satisfying part of your work?**  
The most satisfying part of this work is being out in the field, working directly with communities to hear and address their needs and issues and helping them to become safer. Working in disaster response and disaster risk management is itself satisfying, as you are working to make sure people are safe from both natural and man-made disasters.

A lot of work with the NDMO is based on relationship-building with humanitarian partners. Globally, there is much more cooperation between countries—disasters are no longer the sole responsibility of any country. When Haiti, Indonesia, Japan experienced disasters the world was there to help them recover by responding. Within the Pacific, we share many experiences, and many vulnerabilities. NDMO is building good relationships with regional partners, to share our knowledge and experiences and also learn from their experiences that could be applied in Vanuatu.

# IEC - Information, Education and Communication Materials

In August and September this year, an IEC Working Group has been discussing ways of coordinating, sharing and endorsing DRR and CC “IEC” materials (or Information, Education and Communication materials).

There is a vast range of IEC materials being produced in Vanuatu and the Pacific for use in educating and informing people about hazards, response and preparation. Materials in use include pictures, posters, songs, brochures, comics, radio shows, theatre plays, websites, DVDs, booklets, manuals—to name a few!

Through SPC-GiZ funding, VITE has been visiting all organisations working on CC and DRR in Vanuatu to collect copies of all materials currently in use. These materials are being scanned and will be uploaded onto the NAB Portal ([www.nab.vu](http://www.nab.vu)), to provide a comprehensive database resource of IEC materials.



Also through SPC-GiZ funding, a facilitator has been working with NGO and government representatives to:

1. Identify where materials will be stored, and how to access them
2. Develop and promote a practical ‘endorsement’ process. Under this process, the NAB Project Management Unit can check IEC materials for technical accuracy and messaging and provide endorsement to organisations for their materials.

3. Discuss copyright and replication issues to assist organisations to print out materials for use in their own programs.

4. Consider ways of including gender, disability and vulnerability concerns into production of IEC materials.

The facilitator Mr Paolo Malatu is preparing recommendations on the storage, endorsement and replication process for submission to the IEC Working Group and then discussion by the National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction. Feedback is welcomed—further information can be gained from Paolo Malatu, [malatupaolo@gmail.com](mailto:malatupaolo@gmail.com), or from [vanuatuclimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:vanuatuclimatechange@gmail.com).



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**The National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (NAB) is a joint unit, chaired by both VMGD and NDMO.**

**The Board's role is to serve as a focal point and advisory body for all disaster risk management and climate change programs, projects, initiatives and activities in Vanuatu—including government, non-government and civil society activities.**

**The Board and its Project Management Unit will also provide resources to help in coordination of climate change and disaster risk reduction activities.**

