

MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION



E-NEWSLETTER

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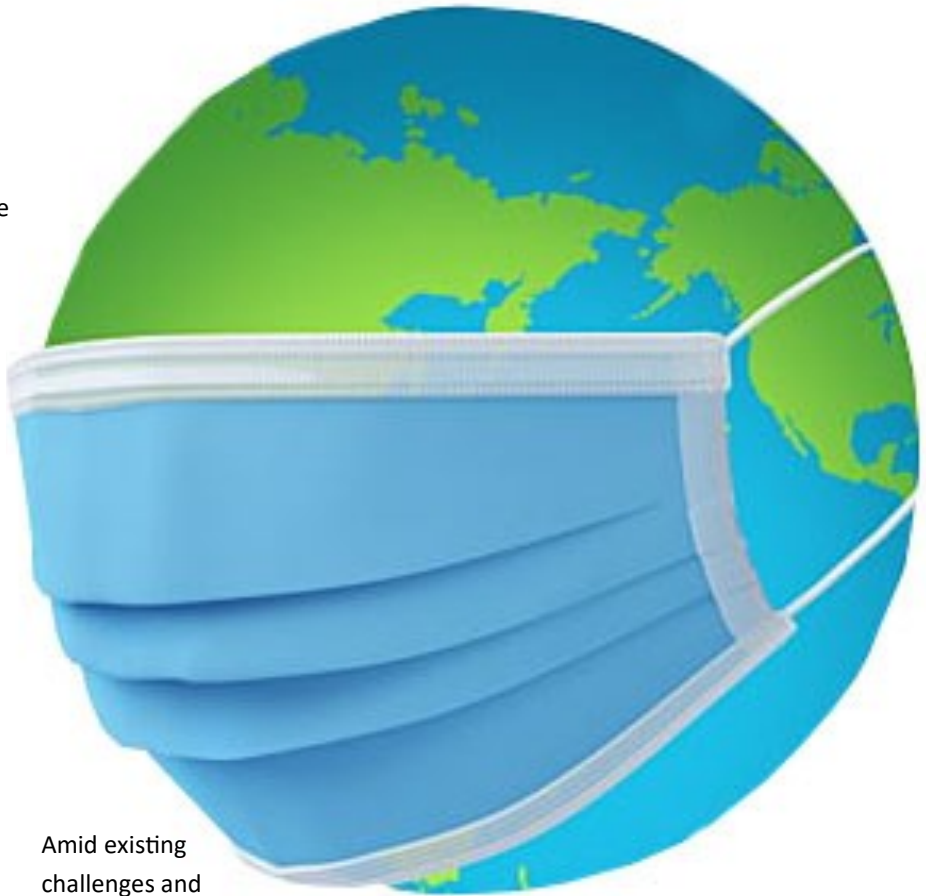
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In this first edition, we highlight some projects and activities undertaken in September 2021, amid existing challenges such as effects of climate change and the COVID-19 global pandemic that Vanuatu as well as Pacific neighbours and other parts of the world, continue to adapt and remain resilient.

Much of these activities are undertaken through departments under the Ministry with support from the Ministry's Corporate Services Unit.

These departments include the Department of Climate Change, Department of Meteorology and Geo-Hazards, Department of Energy, Department of Environment Protection and Conservation and National Disaster Management. Partnership to carry out these activities, as spelled out under the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) or The People's Plan, is vital to roll out services and meet targets under the NSDP and the Ministry's Corporate Plan. This is where stakeholders from the private and public sectors provide much-needed support to ensure effective and efficient service delivery to the people of Vanuatu.

Our Resilience Amid The 'New Normal'



Amid existing challenges and adapting to a 'new normal', works have to continue. There are two important national and international events coming up. They are the Disaster Risk Reduction Day on Santo and the COP26 conference to be held in the United Kingdom, which we are getting ready for, to ensure Vanuatu

participates at this important international meeting held under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

We trust that you will find this e-newsletter informative.

Tangkiu Tumas!

Preface From The Director General

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this first edition of the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology and Geo-Hazards, Energy, Environment and National Disaster Management's newsletter.

This initiative is part of the Ministry's strategy to fulfil our vision of promoting a resilient, sustainable, safe and informed Vanuatu.

It also aligns with the national Communications & Engagement Strategy & Action Plan in line with the country's highest level policy framework, the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) – Vanuatu 2030 – The People's Plan.

The Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology and Geo-Hazards, Energy, Environment and National Disaster Management is the youngest Ministry in the Vanuatu Government, created in 2014.

This Ministry's Corporate Plan operates under a mission of developing sound policies and legislative frameworks and provide timely, reliable scientific information service delivery to enable resilient communities, a sustainable environment and economic development.

I acknowledge our international, regional and national partners that work with the Ministry's Corporate Services Unit and the Department of Climate Change, Department of Meteorology and Geo-Hazards, Department of Energy, Department of Environment and the National Disaster Management Office, through bilateral and multilateral support, to ensure targets are met and projects are developed, planned, implemented and completed within their timeframes.

Once again, welcome to you all.

Esline Garaebiti Bule
Director General



Esline Garaebiti Bule, Director General

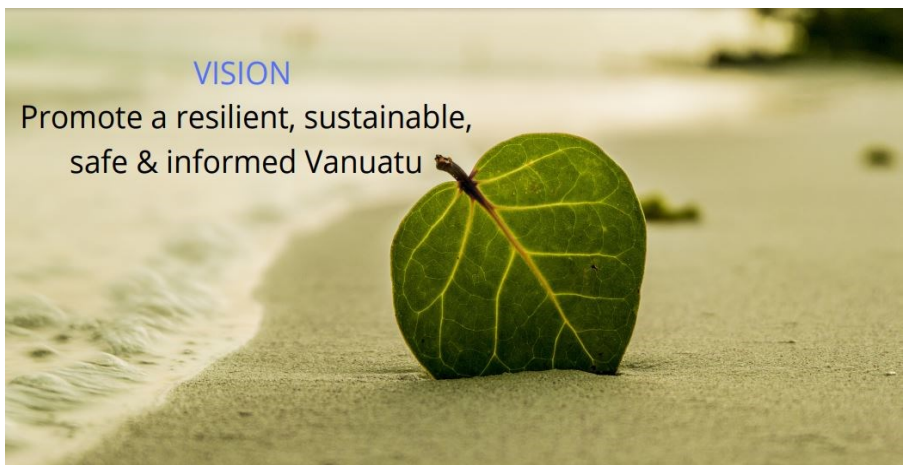
MISSION

Develop sound policies & legislative frameworks and provide timely, reliable scientific information for service delivery to enable resilient communities, a sustainable environment and economic development



VISION

Promote a resilient, sustainable, safe & informed Vanuatu



Van-KIRAP links climate information with activities to improve resilience

The Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen blong Redi, Adapt mo Protekt (Van-KIRAP) Project was established in Vanuatu as part of the Global Framework for Climate Services, through funding from the Green Climate Fund, to address the missing link between climate information services and sector activities and plans to improve resilience in Vanuatu.

National Project Manager, Moirah Matou, says when the World Meteorology Organization initiated the Global Framework for Climate Services in 2018, all national services around the world were encouraged to establish their own frameworks.

She said the Vanuatu Meteorological Services developed its own Vanuatu Framework for Climate Services.

This framework outlined that climate information must be tailored for each sector, to reflect what the Global Framework is doing.

All sectors are covered in this framework such as education, health, public works, agriculture, fisheries- what does fisheries need, what does the education sector need?

“When the Green Climate Fund indicated that there is funding available for climate projects, the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards



used its Framework for Climate Services to make a proposal of 22 million US dollars, but the Green Climate fund granted 18 million US dollars.

“This proposal was done through SPREP (Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme).

“When the Green Climate Fund accepted the proposal, it looked at the capacity available and it also made recommendations.

“Out of this we have delivery partners in the project such as the Bureau of Meteorology in Australia, CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Organization), APCC (Asia Pacific Economic Corporation’s climate arm based in South Korea).

“SPREP as a regional organization became the accredited entity,” Mrs Matou said.

During the implementation stage, five local priority sectors were involved –

fisheries, agriculture, Public Works Department, tourism and Water Resources.

There are four components of implementation.

Institutional capacity – mainly looks at building capacity of VMGD to a standard where it can provide enough data to cover the whole of Vanuatu, on top of what already exists, and ICT capacity (weather radar, automatic weather stations, ocean buoys, automatic flood monitoring gauge)

Outreach – this component addresses converting the data into useful information, 12 community climate centres in all provinces (two in a province). Creation of Van-KIRAP portal for climate change products, projections targeting community to government level.

Social and economic impact - carried out by CSIRO to measure impact of implementation of project. This covers traditional knowledge.

Capacity building – training people at community level up to government level to make decisions when information are received.

The main objective of the project is to build a climate resilient thinking to plan ahead three to six months before disaster strikes.



Global Solutions Needed For Global Threats: PM

Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Hon. Bob Loughman Weibur, recently delivered a strong statement before the 76th Session of the United Nations during the general debate time.

He highlighted in particular the increasing effects of climate change. The Prime Minister said there are increasingly evident effects of climate change, including record breaking wildfires flooding and more extreme temperatures.

“The latest IPCC reports provides new estimates of the chances of crossing the global warming level of 1.5 degrees in the next decade, unless there are immediate, rapid and large reductions in Green House emissions, limiting warming to near 1.5 degrees will be beyond reach.

“The issues are increasingly eluding the control of individual national governments. Global solidarity, and concerted international cooperation is therefore very essential. “For us and

other small island developing states especially, our biggest threats are global.

“Most notably climate change, the management of our oceans and of course COVID-19. “Therefore our solutions too must be global. To recover better together, we need to take comprehensive action at the global, regional and national levels,” the Prime Minister told the United Nations meeting.

He continued that effective and sustainable support is now needed more than ever to regain momentum of international cooperation to achieving international cooperation to advancing the 2030 agenda, while building inclusive economies and resilient societies. The PM said Pacific leaders, during the recent 51st Pacific Leaders Forum Meeting, also acknowledged the challenges that threatens the strength and solidarity of the Forum family and calls on leaders to be redirected to the Pacific way of

dialogue to address these challenges.

This includes the COVID-19 pandemic, economic challenges, the intensifying climate crisis facing Pacific island countries and intensifying of geopolitical competition in the Pacific region.

“In Vanuatu and all countries, the economic shock caused by the pandemic has exposed structured weaknesses, notably in health and social protection systems.

“Vanuatu recently graduated from Least Developed Country. The challenges were compounded by a natural disaster.

“COVID-19 pandemic followed by Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Harold, which caused extensive devastation in April 2020, has meant detrimental Impact on the economy, society and communities at an unprecedented level,” the Prime Minister of Vanuatu stated in part of his speech to the United Nations via a pre-recorded video.

Consultation for Review of Public Service Act



The Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation (MoCCA), on September 9 and 10, participated and contributed in the consultation and contributed to proposed changes to the review of the Public Service Act.

Representations on behalf of the Ministry during the consultation were done by the Corporate Services Unit of the Ministry, through Director General Esline Garaebiti Bule and the Human Resource Manager, Charles Warpocpoc, as well as directors from departments under the

Ministry.

The consultation involved presentations and group discussions among directors general, directors, human resource managers and other managerial officers under the Public Service. Among the many issues raised as considerations for inclusion in the undertaking of the review of the Public Service Act, were issues of allowances for staff under the Public Service that actively engage in disaster operations.

This includes 'dirty job' and on-call allowances, which it was felt, should

be included under the review and that this should apply to other front line officers such as Immigration, Customs, Ports and Harbours, and Correctional Officers as well as Health workers.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be present around the world and within the region close to Vanuatu such as in Fiji and the French territory of New Caledonia, the issue of health and safety of the public servants were also raised as a need to be addressed by the Public Service Act.

Gov't Signs Grant Arrangement With KOICA to Implement Energy Subsidy Project Under NGEF



Minister of Finance, Johnny Koanapo (centre) with DG Esline Garaebiti Bule. (right) and Georgewin Garae at far left. Mr. Kapchae Ra, from KOICA's Fiji Office is involved live on Zoom in background.

The National Green Energy Fund (NGEF) is the first government entity to benefit from Korean International Cooperation Agency's (KOICA) renewable energy subsidy project worth USD400,000 (around 40 million vatu) to assist with rural or off-grid electrification in Vanuatu.

The signing ceremony was officiated via Zoom Call on September 23 between Minister of Finance and Economic Management, Johnny Koanapo, and Mr. Kapchae Ra, Country Director, KOICA Fiji Office.

The objective of this project is to accelerate the implementation of renewable energy projects in Vanuatu by 2030, as articulated in the updated National Energy Road Map (NERM) and contribute to affordability by the off-grid potential beneficiaries of the NGEF.

Similarly, the project will also increase

economic benefits by increasing income activities and reducing fuel and transport expenses to the beneficiaries.

With a consistent supply of electricity compared to non-renewable fuel-based generation, schools for instance will experience improvement to learning and management systems, in particular, the daily upload of reports onto the Open VEMIS (education planning toolbox) system anytime. When implemented, this project will contribute to generating 466KWhs (Kilo Watt Hours) of electricity from solar energy per day, saving fuel costs by VT150,524 or 959 litres of fuel and reduces carbon dioxide emission by 108kg, all contributing to achieving the NERM targets and the National Sustainable Development Plan for Vanuatu. The total number of systems to be installed is 72 and comprises of Solar Home Systems and Micro-grid Systems.

Four sectors to benefit from this project include 22 established cooperatives, 28 primary schools, 20 secondary schools and 2 tourism bungalows. The solar PV sizes range from 2353 to 21740Whs per day and will be installed in all the six provinces. The signing is crucial, given the negative effects of COVID-19 on small business performances and unemployment that has affected the purchasing powers of the potential beneficiaries including future ones.

The Government of Vanuatu, through the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management and the Ministry of Climate Change is pleased with the Milestone achievement and wishes to extend its gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to the KOICA and the People of Korea for their generous support towards this project. Congratulation to the NGEF Board and Management team for a successful achievement.

Vanuatu Co-Hosts Second Sub-Regional Private Sector Workshop on Climate Finance



Minister of Climate Change Adaptation (centre front) , Hon. Bruno Leingkone, with Ministry staff and members of VBRC.

The Government of Vanuatu, through the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation and the Vanuatu Business Resilience Council co-hosted a two-day Melanesia Sub-regional Private Sector Workshop on Climate Finance in September in Port Vila, with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in Fiji.

This is the first collaboration of its kind between the Government and Vanuatu's private sector in terms of climate financing. The meeting aims at providing a platform for businesses and the Green Climate Fund National Designated Authorities (NDA) of the five countries Melanesian (Fiji, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu) to increase their awareness and access to climate finance and options for Public Private Partnership (PPP) and investment.

In his opening remarks, the Minister of Climate Change Adaptation, Hon. Bruno Leingkone, outlined three points that were expected to be achieved through the workshop.

These include providing a platform for key stakeholders to come together and update each other on pertinent issues

related to the current pandemic and climate change and how we can work together to address the challenges and achieve better outcomes; learning from each other's expertise and skills; and to strategize by identifying the different roles of the public and the private sectors, and most importantly the key issues to elevate at the sub-regional level and approaches that will ensure that the objective of the sub-regional workshop are met. Minister Leingkone revealed that the Ministry of Climate Change supported the Vanuatu Business Resilience Council (VBRC) to access readiness support funding from the Green Climate Fund.

The VBRC is an accredited Green Climate Fund observer, and it is an observer in the National Advisory Board on climate change, Climate Finance Working Group and Climate Diplomacy Taskforce.

A Public Private Partnership Policy is currently being developed to guide all PPPs in the climate change sector.

The Director General of the Ministry of Climate Change, Esline Garaebiti Bule was present at the workshop, including directors and senior staff of the Ministry,

together with the VBRC members and other members of the private sector. Chairman of the VBRC, Mr Glen Graig also co-chaired sessions of the meeting.

Other opening remarks delivered included Dr Filimon Manoni, Deputy Director General of the Pacific Islands Forum and Mr George Hoa'au, Acting Director General of the Melanesian Spearhead Group Secretariat.

Deputy Director General Manoni said while the private sector plays a key role in building the resilience of communities in the Pacific, they continue to remain peripheral, in the context of climate change finance.

"This is not necessarily unique to Melanesia, but does highlight that there is room for significant improvement.

"At the global level, the private sector is seen as key to unlocking private investments towards cleaner and greener economies, including building back better post COVID-19," but he said this needs enabling conditions which requires government support and leadership.

This is the second meeting for Melanesia's sub-regional private sector workshop on accessing climate finance after the first meeting was convened in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, in 2018.



Climate Change Ministry's Sixth Provincial Office Opens in Penama

All six provinces in Vanuatu now host the decentralized office of the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation after the official opening of the Penama Office in Saratamata, Ambae, on September 16 by Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Bob Loughman.

The Prime Minister said the achievement reflects the Government's efforts to decentralize its services to reach the provincial level.

He said the building will act as an emergency operation centre.

"This building should have already been completed but the Ambae volcano eruption of 2017 caused the delay in works.

"But the project needed to be completed, which is why towards the end of 2020 the Ministry of Climate Change

contributed to the completion of the building," PM Loughman said, referring to the partnership between the European Union (EU) and the Vanuatu Government.

The Prime Minister acknowledged the Penama Provincial Government for allowing a space to the Ministry of Climate Change.

As planned by the Ministry, the building will be accommodating all departments under its jurisdictions.

Director General of the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Esline Garaebiti Bule, says in the near future all services of departments and the Corporate Services Unit under the Ministry will be decentralized.

Apart from the Meteorology Department that has established its presence in Penama over the years, so far, the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) is the first to establish an office in the new building.

This new office building has been achieved thanks to funding from the EU under the Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific project and the Government of Vanuatu.

The NDMO Officer based at Saratamata, Manson Tari, said Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation programmes will be run in the building.

Mr Tari said whenever there is a disaster, emergency response operations will be conducted in the building in its spacious conference room.

International Ozone Day commemorated in Port Vila



Children playing the Ozone game

The International Ozone Day was commemorated on September 16, 2021 at the Saralana Park in Port Vila.

Activities involved a joint awareness campaign by departments under the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology & Geo-Hazards, Energy, Environment and National Disaster Management, during the Penama Day Celebration in Port Vila.

Led by the Department of Environment Protection & Conservation, other departments involved included the Department of Climate Change and the Climate Division under the Department of Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards.

The International Ozone Day theme for 2021 is, 'Keeping Us, Our Food and Vaccines Cool'. The United Nations General Assembly designated September 16 on December 19, 2000, as the International Day for the Preservation of

the Ozone Layer.

This designation was made in commemoration of the date, in 1987, on which nations signed the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

Roslyn Bue, Senior Officer for Chemical and Ozone-related matters at the Department of Environment, says a lot of work have been done through activities under the Montreal Protocol.

"We acknowledge countries that provide as funding through the multilateral fund under the Secretariat of the Montreal Protocol.

"The fund reaches us in Vanuatu through the Department of Environment to assist us in ozone-related matters," she said.

Ms Bue says trainings are organized for technicians in the private sector that deal with appliances that contain HFCs (Hydrofluorocarbons) to ensure they

have the skills to minimize the leakage of these dangerous gases. These trainings come with issuance of licenses. There is also a quota system in place to import appliances that contain HFCs.

Vanuatu started work on controlling the importation and handling of Ozone depleting substances since 2019, through the implementation of the Ozone Layer Protection Act No. 22 of 2019. Vanuatu is the first Pacific island country to have included the Kigali amendment in the Ozone Layer Protection Act. The Kigali amendment is the amendment to the Montreal Protocol to include refrigerants that contribute to Global warming and hence climate Change. Vanuatu' achievements so far include being the first nation in the Pacific to ban single-use plastic bags. The Ozone Day events also saw the launch of a new song called the 'Environmental Protection Song', presented by local music artists Kyman Jeh and Milly Dham

2021 International Ozone Day theme 'Keeping Us, Our Food and Vaccines Cool'

1987

- Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer signed

2000

- The United Nations General Assembly designates September 16 on December 19, 2000, as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.

2019

- Vanuatu's Ozone Layer Protection Act No. 22 of 2019 implemented

Vanuatu is first Pacific island country to have included the Kigali amendment in the Ozone Layer Protection Act.

Vanuatu first country in the Pacific to ban single-use plastic bags

