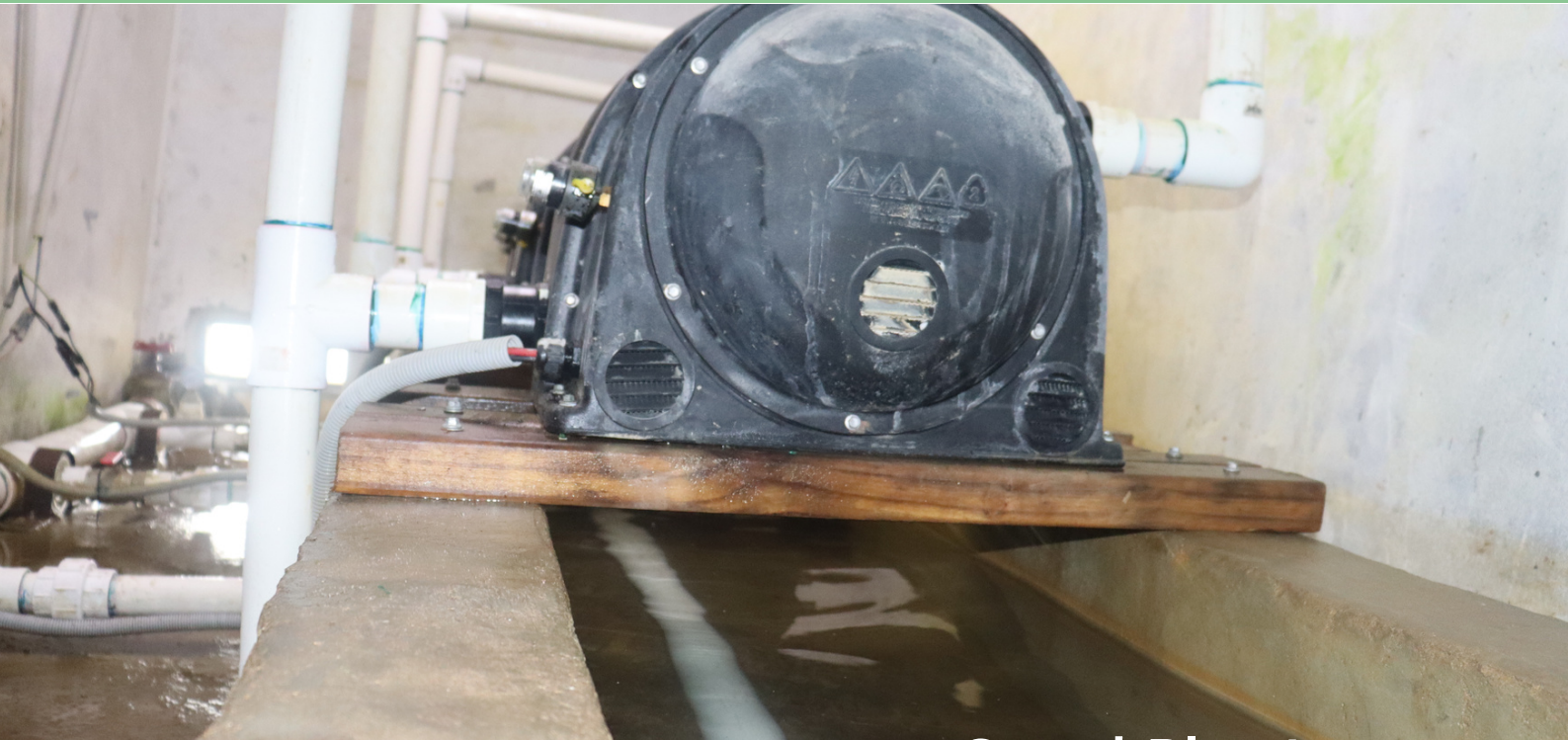




Newsletter



Renewable Hybrid Electricity Grid For Pentecost

For the first time, Loltong villagers on Pentecost have access to reliable and uninterrupted electricity service 24 hours daily and seven days a week.

Electricity harnessed from a mini hydro and solar grid was launched on January 23, 2023. This project reflects the National Energy Road Map (2016–2030) (NERM), in line with the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP).

The NERM's vision is to energise growth and development in Vanuatu through provision of secure, affordable, widely accessible, high quality, clean energy services. The project was co-funded by the Vanuatu Government (19 million vatu) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) (12 million vatu) under the Barrier Removal for Achieving the National Energy Road Map Targets for Vanuatu (BRANTV) Project.

Leonvanua Pico Hydro PV Solar Hybrid Mini-grid Project has a total capacity of 8,800 watts. Hydro generates 6,800 watts and solar generates 2,000 watts.

This mini-grid has been designed to be a user-pay system that will generate electricity to 97 households, which includes two schools, nearby areas of Latano, Amagilua and the Penama Sub-Provincial Centre.



Welcome!

Welcome to the 7th edition of the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation's Newsletter.

The first quarter of 2023 started off with a double hit by severe tropical cyclones Judy and Kevin. Both reached Category 4 when they made landfall. The cyclones brought much devastations to islands in Tafea Province and Shefa Province and affected the livelihoods of the rest of the people in Vanuatu.

These two cyclones came at a time when La Nina was very much present, but going towards a neutral phase. Since March, immediately after the two cyclones, a state of emergency was declared under the Disaster Risk Management Act.

A coordinated relief distribution, through the National Disaster Management Office, at the National Emergency Operation Centre began, despite challenges of dry ration stock in the country.

But amid challenges from natural phenomena, exacerbated by effects of climate, there have been positives in-between. In January the people of Pentecost formally celebrated the launching of their mini-hybrid renewable electricity system.

This project gives electricity to 97 households, which is in line with the National Energy Roadmap.

In May Vanuatu successfully hosted Ministers and representatives from 20 Pacific countries for the 5th Pacific Energy and Transports Ministers Meeting, hosted at the Warwick Le Lagon in Port Vila.

Apart from financing being on top of the agenda, the Pacific Energy and Transport Ministers at this meeting also called for Leaders to establish a Pacific Energy Commissioner.

Vanuatu successfully hosted this regional meeting under the coordination of the Pacific Community (SPC).

With these achievements, and despite challenges, the Ministry continues



to work under the framework of its vision to promote a resilient, sustainable, safe and informed Vanuatu.

**Director General
Esline Garaebiti Bule**



Cyclone Relief Distribution

Dry ration destined for Emau Island in First Push. Photo: NDMO

The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), through the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC), continue the cyclone relief distribution of dry ration, with Priority Area 1 of Tafea Province and Efate and Offshore. As of April a total of 98,943 dry rations were distributed mostly in Tafea and Shefa provinces under the First Push. Distribution on Epi and Pentecost islands started in May as First Push progresses, followed by the Second Push that started on Efate and its Offshore Islands. The distributions were led by Shefa Provincial Disaster Team.

Head of Sustainable Waste Action in the Pacific visits Vanuatu



At the Bouffa Landfill

The Head of Sustainable Waste Action in the Pacific (SWAP), Ms Pauline Faye, visited the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) on April 20. Ms Faye was accompanied to DEPC by the Ambassador of France in Vanuatu, Mr Jean-Baptiste Jeangene Vilmer and embassy staff.

The visiting delegation and staff of the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation also visited the Bouffa landfill at Etas on Efate.

The Government of France, through the Agence Francaise de Development (AFD), provided funding for three projects in Vanuatu through SWAP. The DEPC team updated Ms Faye and the Ambassador of France on the three projects that AFD is funding through SWAP. The first project - Marine Debris clean-up will happen at Erakor, Ifira and Paunangisu villages and the Kawenu and Port Vila wharf area. There will be three rounds of clean up with waste audit and the first clean-up will happen from the 29th of May to the 2nd of June this year.

The Landfill Rehabilitation and Climate Proofing is very challenging and SWAP is providing urgent support for Bouffa Landfill at Etas. Due to high rainfall in the last few years, garbage vehicles do not dump rubbish at the proper site because of the wet surface so rubbish is dumped right in front of the entrance.

This has made extra work on the landfill staff to try to move the rubbish to the right place. Funding from SWAP will fund the priority task which is to move the large heaps of rubbish to the more correct place referred to as cell 1 and

make a better access road to cell 1.

There are other tasks as well that will be funded for Bouffa at Etas and the dumpsite in Luganville. The third project is Used Oil management which Vanuatu had just submitted its project proposal to be finalized and submitted to SWAP.

These projects are phase 1 of the SWAP projects, and there is potential for a second phase. Vanuatu is not the only Pacific country being funded for the same projects, other Pacific island countries are also benefiting from this.

Efate's Conservation Area

The Government of Vanuatu, through the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, and the SHEFA Provincial Government Council (SPGC) in February 2023 joined Efate's Vaturisu Council of Chiefs' Task Force to sign the Work Plan for the Efate Land Management Area (ELMA).

This is a milestone for ELMA as work progresses towards a Management Plan and eventual establishment of the 16,000 hectares of land area as a Community Conservation Area under the Environmental Protection and Conservation Act (CAP 283).

The initial area approved by Vaturisu was just over 19,000 hectares but parts of the area have been leased out, leaving 16,000 hectares. It also goes in line with the National Sustainable Development Plan's (NSDP) targets of creating and managing conservation and protected areas as well as getting Community Management Committees to implement the Community Conservation Area management plans. Efate Land Management Area is an initiative of Efate's Vaturisu Council of Chiefs that was initiated in 1993 to protect the remaining dark bush in the central part of Efate island.

When this initiative was conceived in 1993 there were no dedicated funds to support it until the GEF 5 (Global Environment Facility) project dedicated funds to support this cause, through the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

In 2021 the Vaturisu Council of Chiefs held another meeting at Mele village and endorsed resolutions that addressed the way forward for the initial 1993 resolution, which is to work together with the Government to establish a conservation area.

Consultations with chiefs, communities, SPGC and the National Government were supported by the GEF 5 project, which is administered by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) as the Accredited Entity.

The consultations with communities are to ensure their involvement and they take ownership of the proposed conserved site. Stakeholders are working together to see a complete ELMA Management Plan and its Legal registration as a conservation site.

World Wetlands Day Commemoration



The World Wetlands Day was commemorated this year with the community of Greenhill on Efate, near Efate's biggest lake, Emaotul or commonly known as Duck Lake.

The Honourable Minister of Climate Change, Ralph Regenvanu and senior officers from the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, led by Director of the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC), Ms Touasi Tiwok, commemorated the day with the community. One of the activities carried out on the day was the planting of trees next to the Duck Lake.

The 2023 Theme for World Wetlands Day is: "It's Time For Wetland Restoration".

Asset Disposal By Donation



Acting Director General and Director of Energy, Antony Garae (back left), formally handing over table in background to church pastor, John Michael Maite, witnessed by Asset Officer, Jenneth Miake (centre left) and Elder Peter Tamakam (centre right) with Felix Maite and Luciana Maite.

The Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation (MoCCA) has assisted the Presbyterian Church at Blacksand community in the outskirts of Port Vila, with the donation of a table.

Towards the end of January this year, the handing over of the government asset was officiated by the Acting Director General, Antony Garae, in the presence of the MoCCA Asset Officer, Jenneth Miake.

Present to receive the asset were Pastor John Michael Maite and Elder Peter Tamakam, who were accompanied by Felix Maite and Luciana Maite.

During the brief ceremony, the Pastor of the Church thanked the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation for positively responding to the church's request. This disposal of Government asset by way of donation, is done

based on the MoCCA Asset Guideline on the procedure of disposing Government assets.

The beneficiary, in this case is the Presbyterian Church at Blacksand, had requested for the donation of asset in the form of a formal letter to the Director General for formal endorsement. When this process is undertaken, it is done under the coordination of the Asset Officer of the MoCCA.

Below is briefly the procedure of asset disposal by way of donation. Once a request for donation reaches the Director General, a Donation Asset Disposal Form is filled and signed by the Director General as approval, before the form is given to the Asset Management & Valuation Unit team for verification before being signed by the Director of Finance and Treasury under the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management.

Hydro Project For Waterfall

The Hon. Minister of Climate Change, Ralph Regenvanu, officiated the ground-breaking for a hydro system for central Pentecost on January 24, 2023.

This system will be installed near the waterfall at Waterfall Village in Central Pentecost.

This would be a similar project to the Loltong project, except that only this time there will not be any use of solar power at Waterfall as electricity will be harnessed from the rapid of the waterfall.

Central Pentecost and its surrounding communities presented petitions to the minister relating to energy generation reaching nearby villages that were not included in the initial scoping.

Hon. Regenvanu assured the community that the Government will do its part to see that the project works kick off around the second quarter of this year. The most important aspect for the project to be completed successfully is for the community to be involved as part of the community contribution.

The area where the ground-breaking took place is where the turbine for the hydro system will be installed under the coordination of the Department of Energy.

All four members of parliament from Pentecost come from communities within the area. The President of Penama Provincial Government, Mativin Lange, was also present for the occasion at Central Pentecost.



Pacific Energy & Transport Ministers Meeting



Hon. Ralph Regenvanu, Minister responsible for Energy (right front below big screen) chairing meeting and listening to a presentation made by Director General, Esline Garcebiti on Vanuatu's management of climate funds through the National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction.

The 5th Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Minister's meeting was held in Port Vila at Warwick Le Lagon Hotel from May 8 to 12.

This meeting was hosted and chaired by the Government of Vanuatu through the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology, Geo-hazards, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities, in collaboration with the Pacific Community (SPC).

A key outcome of the meeting was the call by the Energy and Transport Ministers for the

development and establishment of a Pacific Energy Commissioner.

The Commissioner will assist to accelerate access to regular power supply for 64% of the people in the Pacific that still lack regular supply, as the region prepares to reduce fossil fuel reliance.

The resolutions adopted in Port Vila, called the Efate Outcome Statement, called upon major emitters to meet their commitments

and ensure access to funding for the Pacific to transition away from reliance on fossil fuels.

A total of 20 Pacific island countries were represented at the meeting in Port Vila, through their ministers or representatives.

The meeting in Port Vila recognised the progress made at the 4th Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers meeting in Apia, Samoa, in 2019, supporting the implementation of the Pacific Leaders' vision under the 2050 framework for the Blue Pacific Continent.



Sevem Wota

El Nino Watch



Vanuatu Meteorology mo Geo-Hazards Dipatmen (VMGD) hemi putumaot tok-save finis long pablik abaot longfala drae taem we I stap kam.

Longfala drae taem ia nem blong hem i El Nino.

Vanuatu I jas pasem wan longfala taem blong La Nina we I bin kat plante ren I foldaon.

Naoia VMGD i talem se El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) hemi stap long level blong 'ALERT'.

Hemia i minim se ikat 70% janis blong kat El Nino o longfala drae taem lo manis we I stap kam, we i minim se i save kat ren be bae i low bitim nomol.

ENSO hemi wan fasin blong ridim mo save jenis long klaemet folem jenis long tempereja blong solwota wetem jenis long paten blong win long Pasifik Osen.

Tok save i stap go long ol komuniti naoia blong sevem wota blong pripea from longfala drae taem ia.

Vanuatu I stap go insaed drae sisen blong hem be wetem El Nino, bae ples I moa drae mo lukluk se ren we bae I foldaon bae I low bitim nomol.

Ol nara impoten samting blong tingbaot long drae taem hemi blong planem long karem ol kakae we I save grow mo givim kakae long drae taem, wetem lukaot long faea from ples I drae faea I save spred I go long bush.

Lisin oltaem long advaes blong Vanuatu Meteorology mo Geo-Hazards Dipatmen, wetem Dipatmen blong Wota mo Depatmen blong Agrikalja.

WANEM BLONG MEKEM LONG TAEM BLONG EL NINO



SEVEM WOTA



Yusum narafala sos blong wota olsem riva, leik, o solwota blong washem ol samting long kijin o haus

Fulumap tank long ren wota naoia blong yusum long drae taem. Kavremap gud tank from san bae mekem nalumlum gro



NO PLEPLE WETEM WOTA

Tijim mo lanem gud pikinini long haus blong ino pleple wetem wota



YUSUM BAKET

Yusum baket blong wasem trak be ino hos paep mo yusum toti wota long ol plants



LISIN LONG ADVAES

Lisin oltaem long advaes blong Dipatment bong Wota





South Malekula Official Visit



The Hon. Minister of Climate Change Adaptation, Ralph Regenvanu, (centre back), on Akhamb Island, being shown the effects of coastal erosion around the island.

The Honourable Minister of Climate Change Adaptation, Ralph Regenvanu, made an official visit to South Malekula in February 2023.

The Hon. Minister led his delegation to South Malekula to areas where solar electrification projects will be established.

A staff of the Department of Energy was part of the delegation.

The Hon. Minister also visited conservation sites.

The Hon. Minister's delegation included Hon. Alick Terry, member of parliament for Malekula and the Area Administrator for South Malekula, Mr Lulu Leymang.

The first official stop for the Minister was at Penap village where he was greeted by the community and was presented a petition about the protection of the coastal area due to erosion where the main road runs from Lamap airport to all sectors of Lamap.

The Hon. Minister visited the Lamacca climate change association that is made up of the villages in Lamap. The second last stop was the Lamap wharf and the NTM Church where the Minister was shown a coastal concrete protection barrier that was built in the 1970s. The last stop on Lamap was at Nanamor Conservation area. This conservation area is an initiative of the community with non-government organizations.

The Hon. Minister then travelled by boat to Akhamb island.

Akhamb is also part of the solar grid project under the Department of Energy.

It is also an island that is facing effects of climate change. The Hon. Minister also visited Maskelyn Islands.

Hon. Ralph Regenvanu is the first Minister of Climate Change Adaptation to visit South Malekula on an official capacity.



Coastal Erosion in South Malekula Offshore Islands

The Honourable Minister of Climate Change Adaptation, Ralph Regenvanu, made an official visit to South Malekula in February 2023. The Hon. Minister's delegation visited Lamap, Akhamb and Maskelyn Island. The delegation visited conservation areas as well as sites that will host renewable energy grids as well as areas affected by effects of climate change.



Children of Akhamb Island on the shores of their home next to tree trunks that succumbed to coastal erosion



A resident of Akhamb Island pointing into the sea where a house used to be



A Kitchen used to be next to this coconut trunk but it was swept away by the tidal surge on Akhamb Island



Residents on Maskelyne Island have to build stone walls to stop the sea from intruding further inland



Some homes on Maskelyne Island right next to the oncoming sea. This area is usually covered in high tide.



A stone wall on Maskelyne Island to prevent the sea from reaching this meeting house.