



VANKIRAP **NEWSLETTER**

2ND QUARTER : JUNE 2025



Editorial: An Integrated Approach to Climate Resilience: The VMGD and VanKIRAP Model



(VMGD), with VanKIRAP, showcased a powerful model for climate resilience—one rooted in community empowerment and the fusion of traditional knowledge with modern tools.

Across Torba, Santo, and East Epi, citizen scientists were trained to monitor local climate indicators, bridging connectivity gaps and enriching early warning systems. Climate Watch Trails and local knowledge focal points ensure that vital observations—like animal behavior or plant cycles—are captured and shared.

VMGD's closure of the cyclone season on April 30 marked a shift, not an end. Though major winds spared Vanuatu, heavy rains underscored the need for year-round preparedness. Tools like the VMGD Weather App and KLAEMET SAVE Talkback keep climate info accessible and engaging.

Regionally, VMGD staff joined workshops in the Solomon Islands and Tonga, strengthening skills in communication, data analysis, and platforms like OSCAR.

This approach—collaborative, inclusive, and culturally grounded—positions communities as active partners in resilience. By valuing elders' wisdom, empowering youth and women, and using smart tools, VMGD and VanKIRAP offer a hopeful blueprint for climate action.

Thank you and we hope you enjoy reading more of the stories in this newsletter.

Moirah Matou,
Project Manager, VanKIRAP

VMGD Boosts Climate Resilience in Torba Province with Community Outreach and setting up of ClimateWatch Initiatives Port Vila, Vanuatu

The Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD) has completed a series of community awareness programs in Torba Province from May 8–10, 2025, covering Mere Lava, Gauda, and Ureparapara islands. The initiative strengthens climate resilience through education, traditional knowledge integration, and citizen-driven monitoring.



On Mere Lava, the team engaged the Tasmate community, focusing on cyclone tracking and weather interpretation. They registered eight new ClimateWatch spots and recruited four citizen scientists. The community also gained access to VMGD's toll-free number (116) for real-time weather updates.

At Divers Bay, Ureparapara, the team bolstered local climate monitoring through refresher training with the Rainfall Collector and Traditional Knowledge focal point. They launched the first ClimateWatch Trail in the Banks group and registered 15 new ClimateWatch spots.

On Gaua, in Ontar, the focus shifted to volcanic hazard preparedness due to the active volcano. Residents were introduced to VMGD's Weather App, safety measures, and early warning techniques.



In the Torres Islands, the team established the first-ever ClimateWatch trails in Loh, Tegua and Hiu, expanding monitoring efforts. Over 20 new ClimateWatch spots were recorded across the region, creating a stronger observational network.



This initiative integrates traditional and scientific knowledge to enhance early warning systems and community-driven climate monitoring, with forestry, environment, and biodiversity sectors benefiting from the data collected.

VMGD continues to expand ClimateWatch, strengthening Vanuatu's resilience against climate change through community-led action and collaboration. Let me know if you'd like further refinements





Viewing Climate watch App



Toga Community



Toga Primary School



Explaining Weather & Climate



Sola



Loh Island Villagers farewelling team



Getting back to HELPR1 via Sparrow



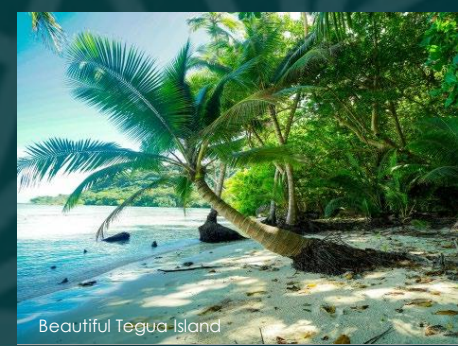
Sola



Group discussion



Climatewatch app trailing continues in Ureapapara Island



Beautiful Tegua Island



The Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD) has officially closed the 2024-2025 Tropical Cyclone Season, effective April 30, 2025.

While the season saw two tropical cyclones, their winds did not directly impact Vanuatu, though heavy rainfall and strong coastal winds affected many communities.

VMGD Director Levu Antfalo commended communities, disaster agencies, and partners for their preparedness, emphasizing the importance of early warnings and resilience. Despite the season's end, VMGD urges the public to remain vigilant, as off-season weather events can still occur.

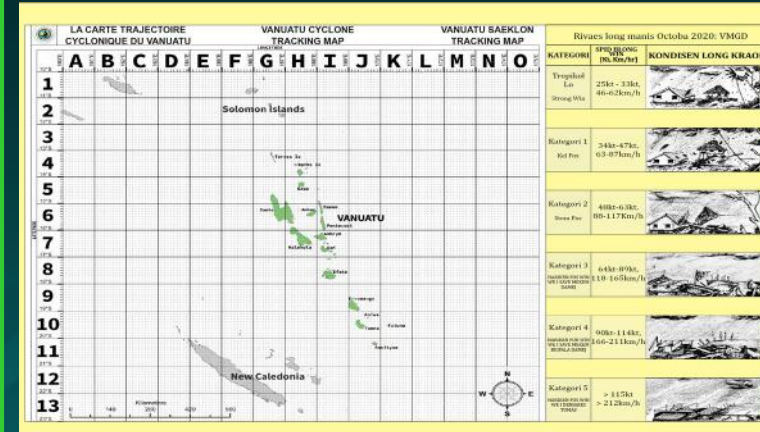
To support continued preparedness, VMGD encourages the public to use the Weather App. This app enhances public access to critical weather and hazard information, keeping communities informed and ready for emergencies. VMGD remains committed to strengthening climate resilience through community engagement and scientific forecasting.

- **Real-Time Forecasts** for all Vanuatu regions.









•**Geo-Hazard Alerts** on volcanic activity, earthquakes, and tsunamis.

- **Marine and Climate Updates**, including El Niño patterns and cyclone warnings.

- Offline Access**, ensuring key alerts remain available even without internet.



Riviera long manis October 2020: VMGD

RATEGORI	MANEM DAMEI SAKELON SAVI NEREN LO KIRAN	KONISHER BILONG SOKWOTA	WAKENI CAVE HAPER LONG SOKWOTA
Tropical Low Strong Ws			
Strong Ws			
Hot Fire			
Category 2 Dove Fire			
Category 3 Tropical Storm			
Category 4 Tropical Storm			
Category 5 Tropical Storm			

BLU ALET

VMGD Long manis October 2020: VMGD

Category 1

Category 2

Category 3

Category 4

Category 5

YELO ALET

VMGD Long manis October 2020: VMGD

Category 1

Category 2

Category 3

Category 4

Category 5

RED ALET

VMGD Long manis October 2020: VMGD

Category 1

Category 2

Category 3

Category 4

Category 5

Laman blog radio non-jarak SMS blong bilong lohoten
blong Tropical Seaford long Trindad Nago

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KLAEMET SAVE Talkback show Hits Mid-Season Mark with 3,000+ Viewers and Climate Insights

The **KLAEMET SAVE Talkback show** series has reached the halfway point of its season, continuing to educate and engage communities across Vanuatu on climate and weather topics that matter most.

Airing every second Thursday at 12pm on TBV, Radio Vanuatu, and streamed live on the VanKIRAP and VBTC Facebook pages, the show has built a loyal audience of **over 3,000 viewers**—a testament to its relevance and reach. From farmers to youth leaders, people from all walks of life are tuning in to stay informed and take action.

So far, the season has delved into how **traditional knowledge** plays a vital role in forecasting, with communities using signs from nature to read the weather. The program has also highlighted **Community Climate Centers**, where locals access climate information and develop plans to strengthen their resilience.

Listeners have also been introduced to innovative tools like the **OSCAR System**, which brings together climate data to support decision-making, and the **Climate Watch** and **VMGD mobile apps**, which help users receive timely weather updates and alerts—even in the most remote areas.

With more exciting episodes ahead—covering topics like El Niño, disaster preparedness, and food security—KLAEMET SAVE Talkback show continues to be a platform where culture, science, and community intersect.

Join the movement. Tune in every second Thursday and add your voice to the national conversation on climate.

FOLLEM OL
DISCUSSIONS BLO



KLAEMET
SAVE
TALKBACK SHOW



EVERY FORTNIGHT
LIVE LONG



facebook



Knowledge as a Decision Tool: Training Tailors Climate Information for Pacific People- Honiara, Solomon Islands

Representatives from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu are attending a week-long training in Honiara to strengthen their expertise in climate services. The workshop focuses on enhancing the climate information value chain, from production to delivery, through activities like social media content creation, infographics, and user feedback analysis.

"The World Meteorological Organization reports that 2015–2023 were the hottest years on record, with intensifying climate extremes," noted Mr. Salesa Nihmei, Officer in Charge - Climate Science and Information Programme at SPREP. He emphasized the Pacific's urgent need for accessible, actionable climate data, as communities face cyclones, rising seas, and unpredictable weather.



Knowledge as a Decision Tool: Training Tailors Climate Information for Pacific People- Honiara, Solomon Islands (continued)



To bridge the gap between climate services and end-users, the EU-funded Intra-ACP ClimSA Programme has developed a Knowledge Brokers Training curriculum, equipping National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) with skills in digital communication, media engagement, and user feedback integration.

Patricia Mallam, Knowledge Broker for ClimSA Pacific, stressed the need for effective climate communication amid an evolving media landscape. "Social media dominates attention, while crucial climate forecasts struggle for visibility. Knowledge brokers ensure climate data is relevant, accessible, and tailored for decision-makers."

Implemented by SPREP in partnership with the ACP Secretariat, ClimSA Pacific strengthens climate information services, early warning systems, and decision-making capabilities across key sectors, fostering a climate-resilient Pacific community

Strengthening Climate Resilience in Pacific Agriculture

May 27, 2025 – Experts gathered at Tonga High School for a key event on leveraging climate tools for informed agricultural decision-making. Jointly hosted by the APEC Climate Center (APCC), Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD), and SPREP, the event showcased strategies to help Pacific farmers adapt to climate variability and change.

VANUATU CUSTOMIZED CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICES-BASED DECISION SUPPORTING SYSTEM (DSS)

#Resilient Development Planning
#Climate Change Adaptation
#Disaster Risk Reduction

OSCAR SYSTEM
4 Main Climate Services

- Agro-Met Service
- Decision Support for Farming
- Crop Climate Diary
- Agro-Met Bulletin

Rationales

- Reducing potential damages from climate events
- Adaptation to climate change and variability using modeling tools
- Supporting climate sensitive agriculture policies via state-of-the-art scientific results
- Increasing resilience to climate variability in every day farming activities

Contributing PARTNERS

- Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department (VMGD)
- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
- Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)
- APEC Climate Center (APCC), Korea
- EPINET.co., Ltd.

Van-KIRAP PROJECT

OSCAR
tailored System of Climate services for AgRiculture

Van-KIRAP PROJECT
C/ VANUATU METEOROLOGY AND GEOHAZARDS DEPARTMENT
PRIVATE MAIL BAG 9054, LINI HIGHWAY, PORT VILLA, VANUATU
WEBSITE: WWW.VMGD.GOV.VU
PHONE: +678 24696

SUPPORT FOR STABLE AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

IMPROVING THE PRODUCTIVITY OF FIELD CROPS

FARM CUSTOMIZED CLIMATE SERVICE

Web-based DSS
Mobile device-compatible DSS

Farming Advisory
Decide crop modeling and traditional knowledge-based optimal farming practices
#APCC mime seasonal forecasts
#crop modeling and decision trees

Interactive Weather Map
Explore high-quality near real-time weather data where you are now
#gap-filling
#quality-control

Automatic Weather Station

Crop Climate Diary (CCD)
Just take photo to collect crop growth and yields
#machine learning
#computer vision

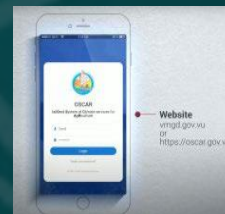
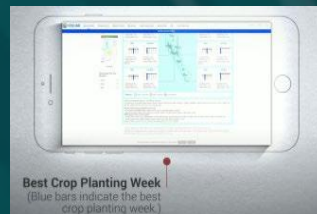
Vanuatu Digital Soil Map
Access digitized soil map and data online. A simple yet powerful way to utilize soil data
#more than 20 soil properties
#essential data for agricultural decision making

Climate Extremes & Agromet indices
Get early warning information for agricultural practices
#satellite image-based high resolution data
#monitoring and forecasting

OSCAR
tailored System of Climate services for AgRiculture

- Weather Map >
- Climate Extremes Index >
- Agromet Index >
- Agromet Bulletin >

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The session spotlighted Van-KIRAP and Climate Information Services for Resilient Development Planning in Vanuatu, focusing on the OSCAR system, a climate platform supporting farmers with localized forecasts. Moderator Sunny Seuseu emphasized that timely climate data is essential for agricultural resilience across the Pacific.

Strengthening Climate Resilience in Pacific Agriculture

The event featured discussions on mainstreaming climate services into national planning and regional coordination through the Pacific RCC Network. Moirah Matou (VMGD) highlighted Vanuatu's leadership in climate adaptation, while Pakoa Leo (DARD) provided insights on OSCAR's impact at the grassroots level.

Dr. Jong Ahn Chun (APCC) introduced a "Tool Spotlight" on OSCAR's capabilities, followed by an interactive session led by Ji Hyun Kim (APCC), where participants applied climate data to practical strategies.

The event reinforced the need for continued investment in climate services to safeguard Pacific agriculture against climate threats, ensuring resilient and sustainable farming practices.



Empowering Santo Through Tradition: Vanuatu's Climate Resilience Mission

20 June 2025, Vanuatu – A two-week VanKIRAP outreach mission has equipped 16 remote communities along Santo's Big Bay Coast with tools to monitor and preserve environmental wisdom, blending traditional methods with digital innovation.

Funded by the Green Climate Fund through the VanKIRAP project and implemented by VMGD and SPREP, the May 2025 mission trained residents to track climate indicators via paper forms and the ClimateWatch app — a citizen science tool that records species behavior as early warnings of extreme weather.

Facilitators engaged villages from Malovuko to Pelvus, installing TK billboards and cyclone maps while training 35 volunteers — nearly half women — as local knowledge focal points. In Tolomako, 65% of participants were female, highlighting women's essential role in climate resilience.



Despite rough terrain and limited connectivity, communities embraced the initiative. In Piavot, youth and football teams transported materials on foot; in Aore, students created a permanent climate trail, mapping species even under phone-use restrictions.

Evening sessions boosted attendance as villagers returned from gardens, aligning with VanKIRAP's GEDSI inclusion plan. Chiefs like Nason Tavue of Pelelau called it their "first-ever VMGD visit" and praised the cyclone map and TK board for safeguarding local knowledge. Chief Robak Ova of Pelvus emphasized youth engagement: "I'm keen to share my skills and encourage the next generation."

This grassroots effort enhances Vanuatu's climate services by fusing ancestral cues — such as bird behavior before storms — with VMGD forecasts. It fosters a climate-literate future rooted in tradition and strengthened by science.

The Van-KIRAP project is a five-year, USD 22 million initiative supporting resilient development through climate services in agriculture, fisheries, tourism, infrastructure, water, and communities. It's led by SPREP with VMGD, CSIRO, BoM, and the APEC Climate Center.



COMMUNITY PROFILES: Feedback



“I am grateful to be present today with the elders and youth of my village to listen and gain understanding on all VMGD services and most importantly the use of Traditional Knowledge or local save in my village.

I urge our younger generation to take part and monitor the nature to understand better weather and climate.”

-JEAN BENOIT

COMMUNITY REP, VASI VILLAGE, BIG BAY, SANTO, VANUATU



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“ Ms Philimon tu I gat Janis blong tek pat long awareness blong weather / klaemet infomesen wetem traditional knowledge mo ClimateWatch app. Hemi talem se awareness ya hemi helpem hem bigwan blong save moa long local save (TK) blong vilej we I stap long notis bod mo tu blong mekem monitoring long nature raun long vilej blong hem.”

-GLORIA PHILIMON

COMMUNITY DISASTER CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE MEMBER, JEREVIU VILLAGE, BIG BAY, SANTO, VANUATU



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PROE



“This is has been a very useful workshop for me, helping me to understand better the nature around me.

I have traditional knowledge that can easily help me as a community leader and my community to be better prepared for any weather or climate hazard event.”

-JERRY PATO

**COMMUNITY SAFETY LEADER
VASI VILLAGE, BIG BAY, SANTO, VANUATU**



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“ Big Bay Coast Area council is a very remote location and telecom networks is only limited to certain villages.

The VMGD awareness and training on Traditional Knowledge has provided our communities a tool which can still be used when all else fails. Tank yu tumas VankIRAP project, and VMGD.”

-TAKA JERETH

**AREA ADMINISTRATOR
PELVUS AREA COUNCIL, SANTO, VANUATU**



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VanKIRAP Staff Strengthen Climate Comms Skills in Full-Day Training Workshop

VanKIRAP staff recently participated in a full-day communication workshop led by Red Eye Creative, aimed at improving how the team engages communities on climate resilience.

The training focused on practical, culturally grounded strategies to make climate messages more inclusive and impactful. Through interactive sessions, staff explored how to tailor communication to different audiences and link messaging with VanKIRAP's broader goals.

Topics covered included:

- Identifying key audiences and their needs
- Designing meaningful engagement activities
- Crafting clear, inspiring messages
- Choosing effective channels—from village loudspeakers to social media
- Practicing outreach techniques through role-play
- Planning communication around fieldwork
- Reflecting on past experiences to strengthen future efforts

The workshop fostered collaboration across departments and sparked new ideas for community outreach. Participants emphasized the importance of listening, trust-building, and making climate information relevant to everyday life.

"There was laughter, learning, and a real sense of purpose," said one team member. "It reminded us that communication is key to empowering communities."

This training marks a step forward in VanKIRAP's mission to support climate resilience through strong, people-centered communication.



VanKIRAP and VMGD Advance Traditional Knowledge Monitoring in East Epi

A dedicated team from the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department (VMGD) and the VanKIRAP Project recently completed a 10-day outreach mission across East Epi, engaging communities in preserving and applying traditional knowledge (TK) for climate resilience.

From 2–11 June, the team visited nine villages in the Varsu Area Council—Mate, Nikaura, Nuvi, Nivenue, Moriu, Niku, Paia, Maparawa, and Lokopui—culminating in an awareness session at Epi High School. The mission aimed to:

- Establish TK monitoring systems to document indigenous indicators for weather and climate prediction
- Train locals to use the Climate Watch app for citizen science
- Gather feedback on VMGD services and app trials
- Inspect educational signboards installed in 2024



A total of 133 community members (68 women, 65 men) participated in meetings, training, and surveys. Women's strong engagement—especially in Mate, Paia, and Maparawa—highlighted VanKIRAP's commitment to Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI).

"As mothers and gardeners, we see changes in the land and sea first. This session gave us confidence to record what we see—not just tell our husbands. It's like having our own recipe book for the weather," shared Ms. Leimawa Simon of Maparawa.

The mission successfully empowered communities to monitor and record TK indicators, use the Climate Watch app to support observations, and contribute valuable local data to scientific understanding. Participants also provided direct feedback to VMGD and learned how to use the signboards as ongoing educational tools.

To support intergenerational knowledge sharing, the team held a session at Epi High School, reaching 113 students. Youth were introduced to the value of TK alongside modern climate science.

"Learning why my grandfather watches certain birds or how old stories predict cyclones connects me to our island in a new way. It's not just science from books—it's our science," said Samuel Nako, Year 10 student.

This mission marks a significant step in integrating traditional and scientific knowledge for climate preparedness, reinforcing community ownership and resilience across East Epi.

DOWNLOAD THESE MOBILE APPS TODAY TO GET MORE INFORMATION ON
VANUATU WEATHER, CLIMATE AND GEO-HAZARD SERVICES

VMGD APP



OSCAR APP



CLIMATEWATCH APP



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