

# VanKIRAP

Vanuatu Kloemet Infomesen blong Redi, Adapt & Protekt | Climate Information Services for Resilient Development in Vanuatu

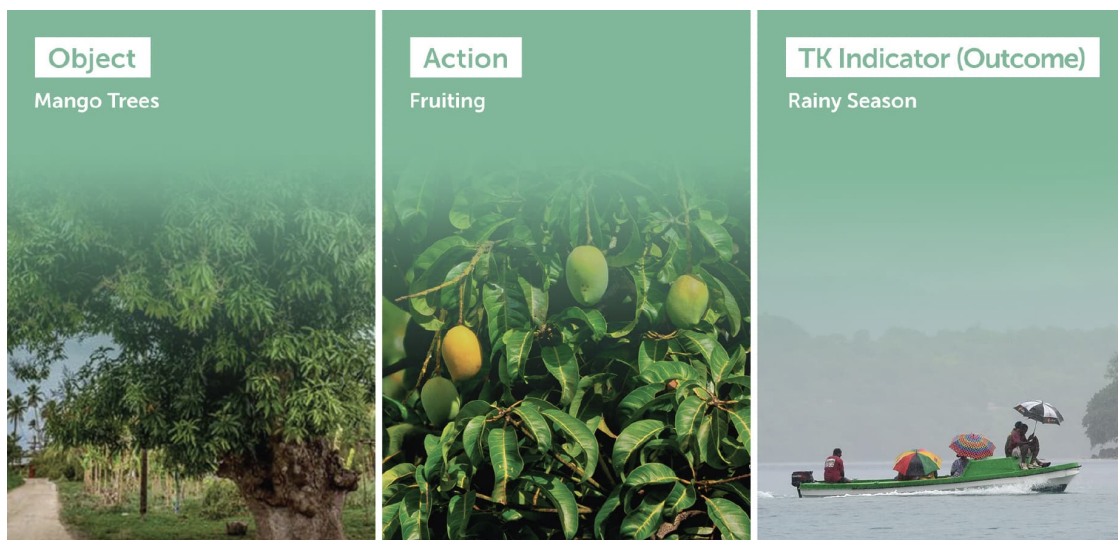


# MEDIA RELEASE

CORRECTED VERSION – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3 APRIL 2023

# Traditional knowledge integrated with climate information at VanKIRAP workshop



*Above: an example of a traditional climate knowledge indicator*



[Photos from the workshop – click on any image to download high resolution images](#)

*[CORRECTION: an earlier version of this media release incorrectly attributed CSIRO as the partner developing the ClimateWatch app. This has been corrected below Australia's Bureau of Meteorology].*

**Experience shows that communities with strong traditional knowledge** on weather and climate are better able to adapt to extreme climate and weather events.

In some parts of Vanuatu, though, these skills are starting to disappear. Reasons for this include language loss, knowledge holders being unable to pass information on to the next generation, and the impact of climate change on the traditional indicators when animal and plants change behaviours and habitats in response to the warming climate.

Maintaining traditional climate knowledge is critical for community climate resilience, so the Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen blong Redy, Adapt mo Protekt (VanKIRAP) Project is gathering existing traditional knowledge used in forecasting to produce integrated forecasts for Vanuatu that combine traditional knowledge with scientific model-based data.

Over the past two years, VanKIRAP has been collecting traditional knowledge through a free, prior and informed consent process supervised by the Vanuatu Cultural Centre. The information collected will be used in to communicate climate messages to communities throughout the country.

To learn more about this important work, on Friday 31 March, over 20 people attended a VanKIRAP workshop on National Traditional Climate Knowledge Indicators. The workshop was held at the Melanesian Hotel and facilitated by Albert Willy, VanKIRAP's Traditional Knowledge Officer.

Botanist Dr. Gregory Plunkett presented from New York Botanical Garden on traditional knowledge and Vanuatu's plant climate indicators. Wan Smol Bag Turtle Monitoring Coordinator, Donald James, presented on traditional climate knowledge about Vanuatu's sea turtles and how the rapidly changing climate is impacting turtle habitats and behaviours. Participants also learned about

the new ClimateWatch citizen science mobile app being developed with VanKIRAP's partner, Australia's Bureau of Meteorology (BoM).

Participants also heard from Harry Daniel, a rainfall data collector on Emae Island, who shared some examples of traditional weather knowledge from his community. He talked about cyclone indicators used on Emae, including when fruit trees bear more fruit than normal before the cyclone season, and when the tips of the suckers of young banana trees start growing sideways or downwards.

VMGD Principal Scientific Officer John Ruben introduced the National Traditional Knowledge Indicators, the main product on indigenous weather and climate forecasting knowledge that VanKIRAP and VMGD is collaborating on. It will be shared once finalised, so it can be used for disaster risk reduction, especially in remote parts of Vanuatu—as well as being a major new national cultural resource.

Workshop participants also collaborated to improve some of the traditional climate knowledge products being developed by VanKIRAP in partnership with the Vanuatu Department of Meteorology and Geo-Hazards (VMGD), in an agile and participatory revision process.

VanKIRAP Project Manager Moirah Matou explained that the purpose of the traditional knowledge component of the VanKIRAP Project is to improve the adaptive capability of communities and improve their resilience, as many communities rely on traditional knowledge to respond to climate variability and extreme weather events, even when they have access to forecasts and outlooks from VMGD.

"Having access to both kinds of climate information helps communities to have greater climate resilience", she says.

**ENDS**

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## About VanKIRAP

*VanKIRAP (Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen blong Redy, Adapt mo Protekt) is a project based at the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department (VMGD) that is making climate information better, more relevant, and more accessible for people across Vanuatu.*

*VanKIRAP's goal is to support Vanuatu's resilient development by increasing the ability of decision-makers, communities and individuals to plan for and*

respond to the impacts of climate variability and change, using climate information services (CIS).

VanKIRAP is the Bislama name for the Vanuatu Climate Information Services for Resilient Development Project (CISRDP) project, which is funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and jointly implemented by VMGD and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

Find out more [here](#) or [follow us on Facebook](#)



### Vanuatu Klaemet blong Redy, Adapt mo Protekt (Van-KIRAP) Project

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