



# VANKIRAP NEWSLETTER

1ST QUARTER : APRIL 2025





## EDITORIAL: A Leap Forward for Climate Resilience in Vanuatu

It is with great enthusiasm that we unveil VanKIRAP's inaugural quarterly newsletter for 2025—a platform to celebrate milestones, foster connections, and champion resilience in the face of climate change. Together with the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD), VanKIRAP continues to support transformative advancements that empower communities and enhance preparedness across our beautiful archipelago.

One monumental achievement on the horizon is the installation of Vanuatu's first-ever weather radar. This state-of-the-art technology will enable VMGD to monitor weather patterns in real-time with unprecedented accuracy, enhancing our ability to provide timely warnings and mitigate the impacts of extreme events. The radar marks a milestone in Vanuatu's journey towards becoming a climate-resilient nation and underscores our commitment to protecting lives and livelihoods.

Outreach remains a cornerstone of VMGD's work, exemplified by this year's vibrant World Meteorological Day celebrations in Tanna and Malekula. Communities came together to learn about weather forecasting, climate adaptation, and disaster preparedness—a powerful reminder of the importance of local engagement and collective action. Similarly, the "Klaemet Save" Talkback Show has become an engaging platform for connecting with communities, sharing critical updates, and fostering conversations about climate resilience. These initiatives demonstrate our unwavering focus on inclusive approaches to building resilience.

At the heart of VanKIRAP lies a unique approach that blends Traditional Knowledge (TK) with cutting-edge facilities to enrich climate information. This integration honors the wisdom of local communities while leveraging advanced technologies to enhance resilience. As a flagship project, VanKIRAP is a beacon of innovation, inspiring replication across the Pacific region by other meteorological services. This Pacific-wide adoption of VanKIRAP's concept highlights its transformative impact and its role as a regional leader in climate adaptation.

Technological innovation continues to drive our efforts "in closing the early warning gap", with the launch of two ground-breaking apps: the VMGD Weather App and the Climate Watch App. The VMGD Weather App puts real-time forecasts, warnings, and updates at users' fingertips, while the Climate Watch App provides insights into longer-term climate trends in climate variability and climate change and their implications. Both tools empower citizens to make informed decisions and adapt to changing conditions, ensuring accessibility and usability for all.

Our oceans, too, play a vital role in shaping Vanuatu's future. The deployment of weather buoys across key locations enhances the monitoring of marine conditions, providing valuable data for fishing communities, coastal residents, and policymakers alike. These buoys symbolize our commitment to harnessing science and technology to safeguard both people and ecosystems.

VanKIRAP and VMGD proudly champion Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), ensuring that all voices are heard and valued in our work. By addressing unique vulnerabilities and promoting equitable participation, we are building a more inclusive and resilient Vanuatu—one where everyone has a stake in shaping the future.

As we reflect on these developments, let us celebrate the collective spirit that drives us forward. Together, we are turning challenges into opportunities, strengthening communities, and paving the way for a sustainable and resilient Vanuatu. The journey has only just begun, and I invite you to be part of it.

**Levu Antfalo**  
**Director, VMGD**



# Van-KIRAP Team Ensures Vanuatu's Ocean Monitoring Buoys Stay Afloat

Van-KIRAP officers Vanessa Sandy and Dimitry are dedicated to ensuring the functionality of Vanuatu's ocean monitoring buoys, which are indispensable for tracking wave heights, sea surface temperatures, and barometric pressures. These buoys are key instruments in issuing early warnings and forecasts, protecting communities from climate-related risks such as cyclones, coastal erosion, and marine hazards.

Strategically positioned along vital coastal regions, the buoys provide critical real-time data to support agencies like the Vanuatu Meteorology & Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD) and the Fisheries Department, helping to safeguard lives and livelihoods. Moirah Matou, Van-KIRAP Project Manager, emphasizes their importance by calling them "critical tools" for weather prediction and urging communities to protect and respect these advanced devices.

Recently, Vanessa and Dimitry undertook an ambitious expedition to Rah Island, Toman Island, and Port Resolution, Tanna, ensuring the buoys were in optimal condition. On Rah Island, they cleaned and redeployed a buoy while installing solar lights to improve nighttime maritime safety. On Toman Island, they addressed a unique challenge where a buoy had drifted to Australia due to ocean currents. Global collaboration facilitated its retrieval, preparation, and redeployment, underscoring the need for consistent maintenance and the complexities of ocean dynamics.

Despite heavy rains in Port Resolution, the team collaborated with the local chief to integrate traditional knowledge with scientific data, strengthening community resilience. These efforts illustrate the transformative role of technology in managing marine protected areas (MPAs), promoting citizen science, and enhancing disaster preparedness.

As Vanuatu contends with rising sea levels and intensifying cyclones, the Van-KIRAP team's work highlights the country's ongoing commitment to climate resilience. Backed by the Government of Vanuatu, VMGD, the Green Climate Fund, and SPREP, the project exemplifies the union of technology and tradition in safeguarding vulnerable communities from climate-induced threats.



# Strengthening Climate Resilience: Van-KIRAP and VMGD Bring World Water Day & World Meteorological Day Celebrations to Malekula and Tanna

For the first time, the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD) and the Van-KIRAP project took World Water Day (WWD) and World Meteorological Day (WMO) celebrations to Malekula and Tanna. This initiative marks a major step in climate awareness and disaster preparedness, providing rural communities direct access to vital climate services.

Held from March 17–21, 2025, the events in Lenakel, Tanna, and Lakatoro, Malekula aligned with global themes: “Glacier Preservation” for WWD and “Closing the Early Warning Gap Together” for WMO. These themes highlight urgent climate action and improving resilience against climate threats.

Chief Jimmy Dick of Imaen village, Tanna, stood out as a leader in inclusive disaster preparedness. Living with a disability, Chief Jimmy advocates for early warning systems and climate information that reach everyone. He joined training sessions on weather tracking, disaster risk reduction, and early warning systems led by VMGD and Van-KIRAP.

For years, these national celebrations were Port Vila-based. This year, VMGD and Van-KIRAP brought critical tools like the ClimateWatch app and Climate Maps directly to communities, integrating traditional knowledge with scientific forecasting. Schools also benefited, with over 800 students participating in interactive booths and exhibitions.

John Ruben, VMGD Principal Scientific Officer, calls this a “huge step” in empowering communities with knowledge of early warning systems and water security. Supported by expert-led workshops, these efforts strengthen Vanuatu’s resilience in the face of rising climate challenges, ensuring no one is left behind.







REC Team equipting VMGD staff with Comms & photography skills



Launching of the VMGD APP



Community awareness on VMGD weather bouys



REC Team equipting VMGD staff with Comms & photography skills



VMGD 2025 planning retreat



Climate watch App Trail team heading to medel bush, Tanna



Tanna's first Climate watch App Trail



Tanna outreach workshop



Morning tea break with



Tanna Area Admins & stakeholders





GESI workshop participants



Listening in on GESI workshop



Tanna's first Climate watch App Trail. Getting GPS coordinates



Klaemet Save Talkback show panellists



Launching of the VMGD APP



Klaemet Save Talkback show panellists



Malekula World Water & Meteo Day exhibition

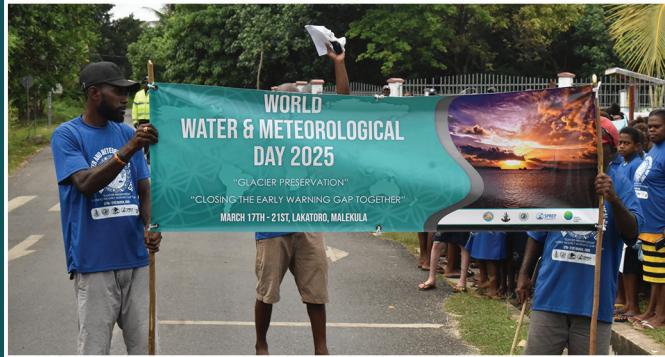


Malekula World Water & Meteo Day exhibition



Klaemet Save Talkback show Host





Malekula opens World Water & Meteo Day with a Parade



Malekula opens World Water & Meteo Day parade music



Leaving no one behind on Tanna outreach



Malekula opens World Water & Meteo Day guests of honour



VMGD exhibition on World Water & Meteo Day



A special session for people living with disability on Tanna



Enjoying the sunset after an all day EWS workshop, Isangel



Malekula Students preparing for parade



Giving out vital information during Health week in Port Vila



VMGD's Exhibition Booth during Health Week in Port Vila





Logistics Coordination in process



Malekula outreach Participants



EWS session with Tanna Area admins and stakeholders



Tanna participants test out Climate Watch App



VMGD exhibition Tent, Malekula



Malekula opens World Water & Meteo Day guests of honour



VMGD staff & workshop participants gearing up for the parade



Malekula opens World Water & Meteo Day



Health week in Port Vila

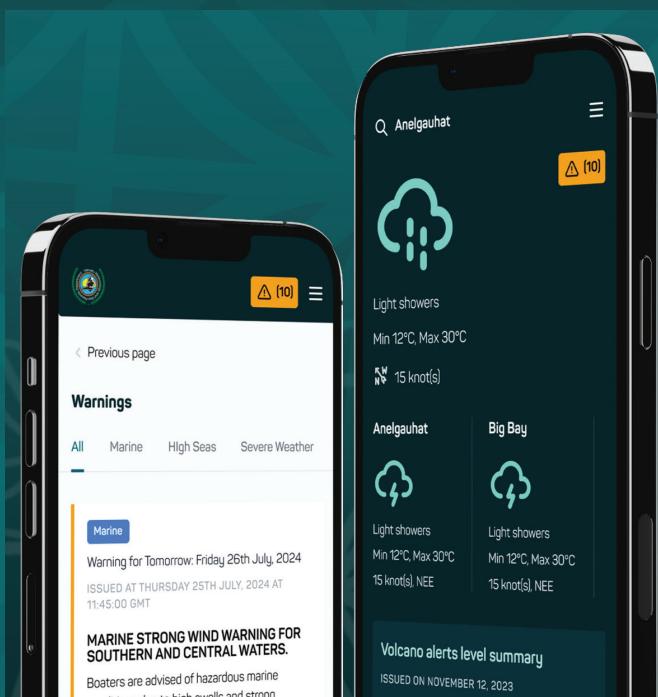


Malekula opens World Water & Meteo Day



# VMGD Weather App Empowers Vanuatu Communities with Real-Time Weather and Hazard Information

On February 14, 2025, the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD) launched its VMGD Weather App, officiated by Minister Ralph Regenvanu and Director Levu Antfelo. This innovative tool enhances public safety by delivering accurate weather forecasts and geo-hazard alerts.



## Key features include:

- Real-Time Weather Updates:** Access accurate forecasts for all regions of Vanuatu, enabling users to plan daily activities with confidence.
- Geo-Hazard Alerts:** Receive instant notifications on volcanic activity, earthquakes, tsunamis, and other natural hazards, ensuring communities are well-prepared for potential disasters.
- Marine and Climate Information:** Stay informed about marine conditions, El Niño Southern Oscillation updates, and cyclone warnings, which are crucial for coastal and maritime users.
- Offline Access:** Access essential alerts and information even without internet connectivity, ensuring users remain informed during critical times.

Minister Regenvanu described the app as essential for all Ni-Vanuatu, aiding informed decisions and safety. Director Antfelo emphasized VMGD's commitment to using technology for better communication and awareness nationwide.

The VMGD Weather App is available for Android and iOS platforms. Visit the VMGD website at [www.meteo.gov.vu](http://www.meteo.gov.vu) or contact [admin@meteo.gov.vu](mailto:admin@meteo.gov.vu) for more information. Empowering Vanuatu communities with vital climate tools, this app is a step forward in disaster preparedness and resilience.



# Vanuatu Advances Climate Resilience with First Weather Radar Installation

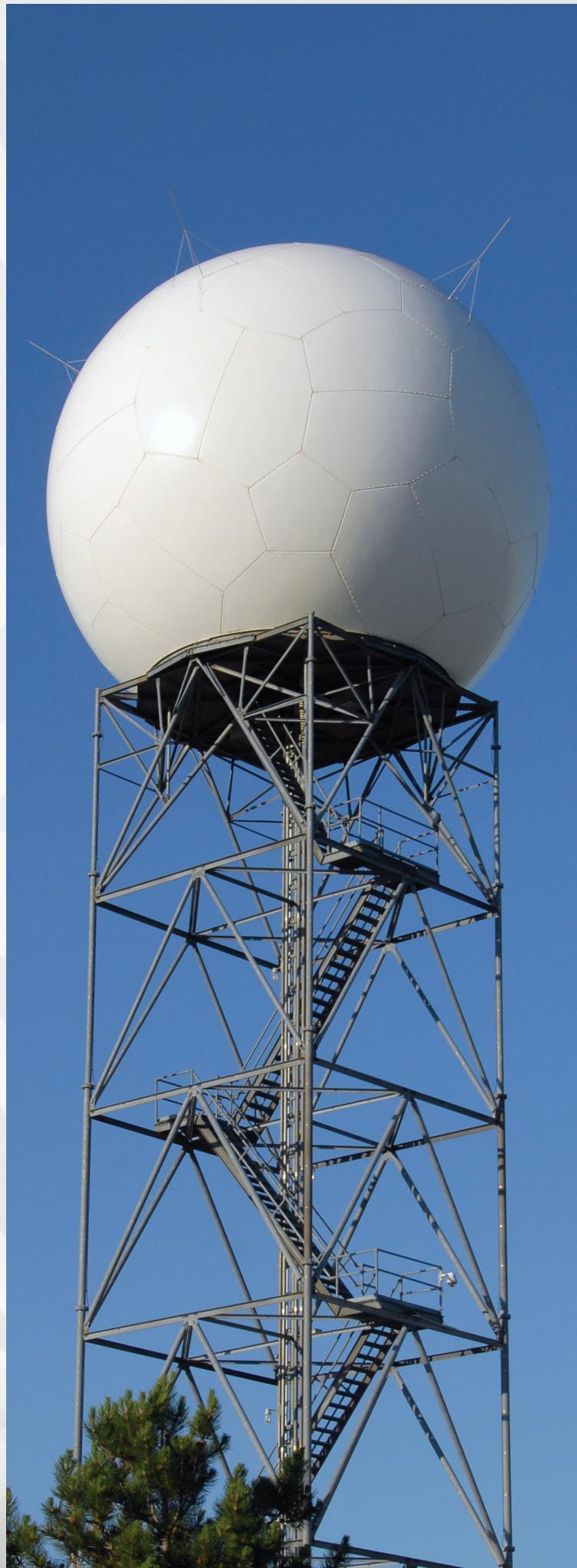
Vanuatu is taking a major step toward enhancing climate resilience and disaster preparedness with the installation of its first weather radar system. The C-band radar, located at Klems Hill in West Efate, represents a 248 million vatu investment in cutting-edge technology. It provides real-time data on weather patterns, rainfall intensity, and storm tracking, significantly improving forecasts and early warnings for extreme weather events like tropical cyclones and flooding.

Previously reliant on global and regional weather models, Vanuatu now shifts to localized, high-resolution monitoring, bolstering its ability to address climate challenges. To ensure effective operation, VMGD engineers Esther Saul, Loic Jimmy, and Jino Moli are undergoing specialized training in Finland to master radar management.

Aligned with the Van-KIRAP Project, the radar strengthens Vanuatu's climate information services for resilient development. Supported by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the project contributes to regional climate monitoring efforts.

Enhanced forecasting benefits multiple sectors, from agriculture and fishing to aviation and tourism. Farmers can better plan activities, fishermen ensure safer voyages, and disaster response strategies become more robust.

This milestone underscores Vanuatu's commitment to tackling climate change and natural disasters head-on. By investing in advanced technology and capacity building, the nation is empowering its communities and paving the way for sustainable development in a changing climate.



# Building Inclusive Climate Resilience: Lessons from Niue Inform GEDSI Integration in Vanuatu

The Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen blong Redy, Adapt mo Protekt (Van KIRAP) project and the Vanuatu Meteorology & Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD) are advancing inclusive climate resilience through recent Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Training. Held from February 18 to March 4, 2025, the initiative engaged government sectors, climate experts, and students in practical tools for integrating GEDSI principles into climate services.

One challenge in climate adaptation has been accessibility. This training aimed to empower participants, including representatives from Agriculture, Fisheries, Tourism, Public Works, Climate Change, VMGD, and Vanuatu Institute of Technology (VIT), with gender-responsive

approaches to planning. It also built on key lessons learned during the regional workshop in Niue on traditional knowledge and gender integration in climate early warning systems.

The Niue workshop highlighted the value of indigenous environmental observations and cultural wisdom in Pacific climate adaptation. It featured insights from the Niue Meteorological Service and Hon. Mona Ainu'u, Minister of Natural Resources, who emphasized the importance of empowering women and documenting traditional knowledge.

*“Climate resilience is not just about data—it’s about ensuring everyone has access to life-saving information,”* said Moira Matou, Van KIRAP Project Manager. reflection session during the training encouraged participants to apply GEDSI principles through case studies and gender analysis exercises.

Supported by the Green Climate Fund and SPREP, this initiative strengthens Vanuatu’s commitment to socially inclusive, science-driven climate services, ensuring no one is left behind.



# VanKIRAP Launches Klaemet Save Talkback Show to Empower Vanuatu Communities

VanKIRAP has launched the Klaemet Save Talkback Show, a platform empowering communities in Vanuatu with vital knowledge on climate and geohazards.

Since its debut on 13 March 2025, the show has aired three episodes, reaching audiences nationwide via Television Blong Vanuatu, Radio Vanuatu, and live streams on VBTC and VanKIRAP Facebook pages.

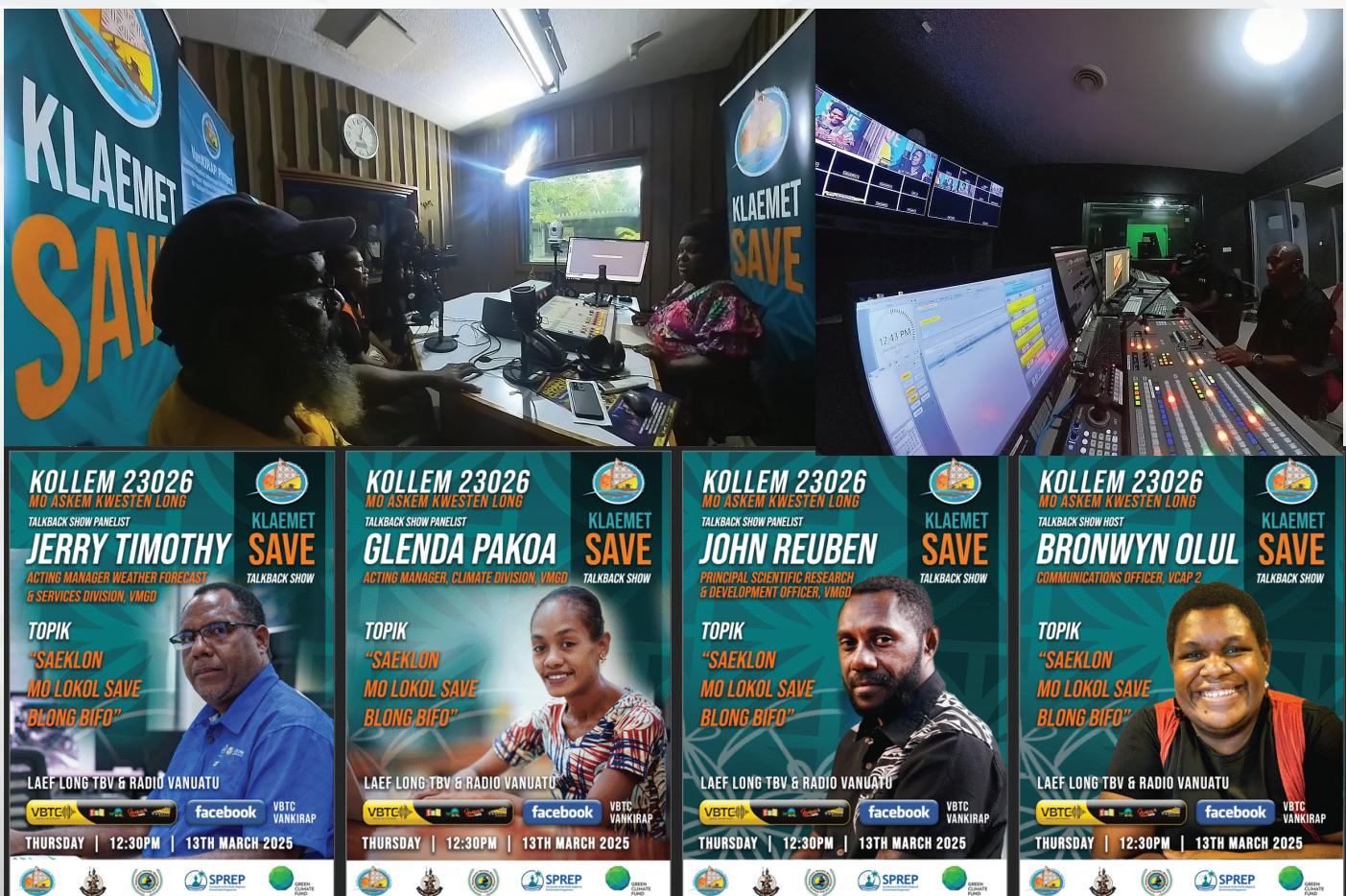
This interactive talkback show connects the public with experts, offering a space to discuss weather, climate, and geohazard challenges. Through live call-ins, participants can ask questions, share insights, and contribute to national conversations on climate resilience.

The first episode, "Saeklon mo lokol save blong bifo" (Cyclone and traditional knowledge on weather), highlighted the synergy between traditional knowledge and scientific forecasts in disaster preparedness.

The second episode focused on Komuniti Klaemet Senta (Community Climate Centres), showcasing grassroots initiatives for climate adaptation and early warnings. The third episode featured the Geohazards Division of VMGD and the National Disaster Management Office, emphasizing their roles in monitoring hazards and coordinating disaster responses.

What sets this program apart is its people-centered approach. By encouraging live participation, it bridges the gap between technical expertise and community knowledge, making information relatable and actionable.

The Klaemet Save Talkback Show is a testament to VanKIRAP's commitment to equipping communities with the tools to adapt to climate change and reduce vulnerabilities. Tune in every second Thursday of the month from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM on Radio Vanuatu, Television Blong Vanuatu, and live streams. Join the conversation by calling +678 26200 during the show.



FOLLEM OL  
DISCUSSIONS BLO



# KLAEMET SAVE

TALKBACK SHOW



EVERY FORTNIGHT  
LIVE LONG



facebook

# UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 2025 - JULY 2025

- > 4TH PACIFIC WEEK OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
- > COMMUNITY CLIMATE CENTERS VIRTUAL CLIMATE BRIEFING
- > ESTABLISHMENT OF LAST 3 CCC
- > SCHOOL VISIT - MALAPOA, CENTRAL, LYCEE, MORTMARTE
- > TK MONITORING & VERIFICATION - MALEKULA
- > COMMUNITY CLIMATE CENTERS VIRTUAL CLIMATE BRIEFING



## Van-KIRAP Planning Retreat: Charting the Path for a Strong Finish in 2025



The Van-KIRAP Project Team held a Planning Retreat in February 2025 at the Vanuatu Meteorology & Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD) Conference Room to prepare for the project's final year. This retreat focused on maximizing impact, ensuring sustainability, and aligning activities within the available budget as the project approaches closure.

Key discussions centered on reflecting on 2024 achievements, updating the budget and workplans for 2024-2025, monitoring progress on the Weather Doppler Radar, strengthening Community Climate Centres, and planning for a smooth project transition post-2025.

***“With the Weather Doppler Radar and other key initiatives in focus, our team is committed to a strong finish for Van-KIRAP’s impact on climate resilience in Vanuatu. This retreat allowed us to refine our strategies and reinforce our commitment to lasting climate solutions,” said Moriah Matou, Van-KIRAP Manager.***

As the project nears its conclusion, stakeholders are focused on sustaining climate information services. The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) continues to support these efforts.

“SPREP is proud to have supported Van-KIRAP in delivering vital climate information services across Vanuatu. This planning session marks a critical step in ensuring a sustainable legacy for climate services beyond 2025,” said Sunny Seuseu, SPREP Representative.

A big Tankiu Tumas to all staff for their dedication. With a renewed focus, the Van-KIRAP team aims to make 2025 a transformative year for Vanuatu’s climate resilience.

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