

DEPARTMENT OF
CLIMATE CHANGE,
VANUATU



Mike Sam Waiwai, Director

Welcome to our readers to this first edition of the Department of Climate Change (DOCC) newsletter. This quarterly newsletter is an initiative to share information on the Department's activities to increasing the resilience of our people and communities to the issues affecting them as a result of climate change and natural hazards. In this first edition, we provide an overview of the Department's roles and functions, location and key highlights of the activities carried out since its establishment in January 2019. Other information of activities implemented by various projects around the country through the various climate change and resilience projects implemented through the DOCC Project Management Unit (PMU). We hope you will find it to be informative and interesting to read. You can find out more by contacting our office in Port Vila or by checking the NAB Portal.

DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS

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The New Department of Climate Change in Vanuatu

The newly established Department of Climate Change (DOCC) is a mandated Vanuatu government department under the Meteorology, Geological Hazards and Climate Change Act No. 25 of 2016 tasked with the coordination and implementation of all Adaptation, Disaster Risk Management and Mitigation to climate change impacts throughout the country. It is the fifth government department under the Ministry of Climate Change and Natural Disasters (MOCC). As the Vanuatu Government's focal point for achieving resilient development across all levels and sectors of the government, the focus of the new Department is intended to do the following tasks on behalf of the national government: To lead in innovation and change in climate change initiatives across the country and the Pacific.



Department staff attending a planning retreat in November 2019

ic. Support the functions and work of the National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in Vanuatu (NAB). Improve sustainability by securing highly trained technical and qualified contracted staffs into permanent Government positions in future. Maintain momentum and delivery of current projects. Progress current and new initiatives in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction areas in the country. Pro-

gress compliance to International Conventions to which Vanuatu is a signatory. Mainstream Climate Change across the Vanuatu Government as per the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP). Operationalize the Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy. Coordinate and monitor all climate change and disaster risk management projects and to secure further climate change and DRR projects and funding.

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DOCC Sets Standards: Goal, Vision, Mission and Values

“The government recognizes that climate change is the most complex and urgent issue affecting us today and the establishment of this new department is showing this recognition,”
Director Waiwai.



Participants from government and NGOs stakeholders attending the retreat workshop.

The Department of Climate Change with the support of its stakeholders and partners who are working in climate change and disaster risk reduction fields in Vanuatu has sets its standards through the finalization of the goal, vision, mission and values of the department. These standards were finalized during a workshop organized by the department in Port Vila at the beginning of this year aimed to develop objectives to guide the new Department of Climate Change with its services to the people of this country in terms of addressing the issues of climate change. The three-days workshop brought stakeholders in both government and private sector

together to discuss what the department exist to achieve and how it will fulfill its purpose. It is the first time that the Department of Climate Change is facilitating a workshop, following the appointment of its new director. Director Mike Sam Waiwai said the workshop has helped to set the foundation for the young department. From this workshop, the department has developed its Goal – A resilient development, environment and economy. Vision – A sustainable and climate resilient Vanuatu. Mission – To promote and enabling environment encompassing climate governance, adaptation and mitigation approaches via inclusive and

equitable services and Values – are framed around partnership, transparency, accountability, innovation, sustainability, equity and inclusiveness, learning and reflections, community based practices and positive working environment.

The establishment of a separate Department of Climate Change under the Ministry of Climate Change and Natural Disasters was approved by the Council of Ministers (COM) as provided for under the Meteorology, Geological Hazards and Climate Change Act No. 25 of 2016.

“The government recognizes that climate change is the most complex and urgent issue affecting us today and the establishment of this new department is showing this recognition,” Director Waiwai said.

“The new department will serve the needs of communities affected by climate change. It will also support the government to achieve its national and international climate change obligations and commitments.” Director Waiwai said one of the first activity the department plans to do is educate people, mostly in the rural areas about climate change and its impacts. He believes they lack knowledge on the issue.

According to Director Waiwai, the new Department of Climate Change staffs are individuals who specialise in climate change, resilience and disaster risks related issues.

Look up the NAB Portal Website on the following link: <https://www.nab.vu/department-climate-change> for more information about the Department of Climate Change.

“NAB Portal provides information on events, calendars, project profiles and information, documents, news and many more. Book mark www.nab.vu in your internet browser today.”

Launching of new Logo and Awareness Materials

The new logo and awareness materials to promote the work of the newly established Department of Climate Change (DoCC) has been launched at the beginning of this year 2019. The logo reflects the mission of the department which is to promote and enabling environment encompassing climate governance, adaptation and mitigation approaches via inclusive and equitable services. This Mission adheres to the National Sustainable Development Plan or the People's Plan 2016—2030. The new logo for the department was designed by Juliana Abel, a Year 12 student of Malapoa College. DoCC The department have decided to engage students in the logo design competition with the aim to educate them on the issues of climate change and its impacts. The winner of the logo competition received Vt50, 000 cash prize. Several schools throughout the country participated in the competition. The Information, Education and Communication (IEC) awareness materials such as posters and brochures will be used by the staff of the department in future outreach and awareness programs to the national and provincial stakeholders, as well as the general public. During the launching ceremony, the Acting Director General of the Ministry of Climate Change, Esline Garaebiti Bule, said the logo is the department's brand at international events. "The DoCC's main focus is to help coordinate the mainstreaming of climate change across all sectors," she said. "The department will also concentrate on helping the government to meet its international obligations on climate change," she said. Acting DG Bule and the Minister of Climate Change, Ham Lini, unveiled the logo at the MoCC in the presence of the other government officials from the government sectors. DoCC Director Mike Waiwai presented the goal, vision, mission, values and strategic objectives of the department before the unveiling ceremony. The DoCC was established in 2018 following the approval of the Council of Ministers. Currently, the department has eight staff. Its business plan, vision and mission objectives were launched last month. Vanuatu is the first and few countries in the Pacific region to have its own Ministry and Department of Climate Change. Establishing a separate department for climate change is part of showing to the rest of the world that Vanuatu is committed to contribute to achieving the Paris Climate Agreement goals.



Minister Ham Lini and Acting DG Esline Garaebiti Bule and Directors cutting the cake to mark the launching of the new logo and awareness materials.



The Director of Climate Change presenting the prize of 50,000VT to the winner of the logo completion Juliana Abel.



The display of the logo, awareness and communication materials after the launching ceremony.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE DEPARTMENT'S ESTABLISHMENT



The Director of Climate Change and staff from within the Ministry of Climate Change at the retreat.

“The creation of the Department of Climate Change should not be regarded as a cost to the Government, but rather an investment for a more resilient Vanuatu that is better placed to meet the challenges of climate change.”
Director Waiwai.

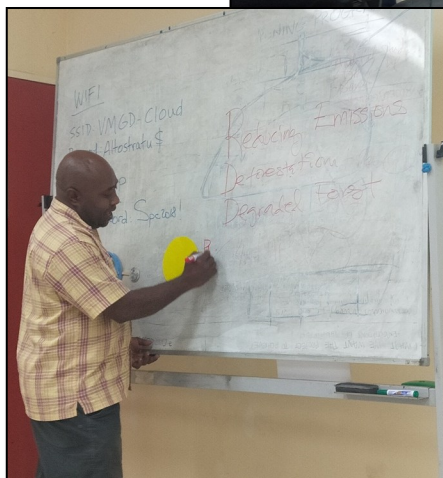
In its first eleven months of establishment, the Department of Climate Change (DOCC) is happy to share with its partners and stakeholders some of the great achievements it has produced this year 2019. These achievements were the Recruiting of new staff members, purchase the Departments Assets, Conduct 2 departmental initial planning workshops, development and launching of its first Business Plan 2019, Goal, Vision, Mission, Values and a new Logo. Aligning of the objectives to the strategic plans and policies for implementation by the Department, development of the first Information, education and Communication (IEC) awareness materials, Institutional capacity buildings, NAB portal upgrade training, formation of the first ever Mitigation Technical Working Group, five permanent staffs, and lastly the positive outcome for the department's first submitted New Project Proposal (NPP). So far the Depart-

ment was highly recognized for achieving all that were to be achieved in its Business Plan for this year 2019. From these achievements, few highlights were that the Department successfully recruited all seven staffs under its structure with five of them now became permanent. The initial outreach and awareness program successfully reached all six provinces, schools and communities throughout Vanuatu, Adaptation stock take activities, Mitigation stakeholders' workshop and formation of a TWG. Another major highlight was the establishment of a partnership with Oxfam in Vanuatu through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Staffs attended various national and international meetings and workshops and finally the successful closure and handing over of assets of the IRCCNH and VCAP projects. With these achievements, the Department guided by Vanuatu's Climate Change (CC) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Policy, will continue to promote good governance and establishes clear priorities for future action. It will deliver better information on and assessment of climate change and disaster risks, building on existing systems and cultural heritage to improve Vanuatu's resilience. Monitoring and evaluation of projects and outcomes, capturing experience and lessons learned to inform planning and good practice will drive better service delivery and implementation of Climate Change projects, programs and initiatives in the future. The Department is looking forward to working closely with its government and Non-government organisations partners and stakeholders in future to achieve a common goal in addressing the impacts of climate change. To reiterate, the creation of the Department of Climate Change should be regarded as an investment for a more resilient Vanuatu.

Climate Change Mitigation Stakeholders' Workshop: Mitigation Working Group Form

The Department of Climate Change has organized its first ever Mitigation stakeholder workshop from 13 to 14 May 2019 with the participation of key climate change mitigation stakeholders from the government such as the Department of Energy, the Department of Customs, Department of Environment, the Department of Forestry, the Department of Ports and Harbor and the Department of Local Authorities. Other private businesses as the Pacific Petroleum and our stakeholder Oxfam attended the workshop. This workshop saw key stakeholders and partners presented and pointed out some



REDD+ Coordinator Ioan Viji giving his presentation on the Project activities.



Participants from stakeholders on Day two of the Workshop discussing inputs to the Technical Working Group (TWG) as well as discussions on who to be the member within the TWG.

of the key climate change mitigation activities, challenges encountered in their various sectors. Each sector reported on progress of work, challenges, way forward and future activities they are facing related to climate change mitigation. The REDD+ project for instance, has two phases; phase 1 is the Readiness phase. This started from 2012 and still ongoing at present and was funded by World Bank (FCBF). Second phase of the project involves the implementation phase. The project has four main activities; Institutional setting involves setting up PMU, Civil Society Organizations, setting up CSO platform with CSO Coordinator, the Extension and Outreach, developing REDD+ strategy which involves a contracted consultant to work on finding out if there is conflict occurred on the area and 'hoe' this issues can be solved during implementation phase and also the study was contracted to the German firm

(UNIQUE) and study focuses on drivers of deforestation, benefit sharing and also SESA study, this involves social and environment study. The Sustainability of Monitoring, Reporting and Verifying (MRV) tool is one challenge for REDD+ Project, this project is looking forward in project implementation development and concept to help track the work of REDD+ in Vanuatu. The National Energy Road Map (NERM) under the Department of Energy was endorsed in 2013 with aim of ensuring energy accessibility, reliable and secure and green growth. The NERM address two pillars of NSDP; ENV 2.3 in renewable sources and promote efficient energy use. Work have progressed on developed a financial resources; National Green Energy Fund (NGEF) which encourage Donors if interested to fund activities related to electricity have to donate to be used nationally for the continual development of renewable energy projects. There are concession area such as Tanna electricity was generated by diesel, Efate used almost diesel to generate power small portion was generated by windmill, solar and coconut oil, Malekula used diesel and Santo; hydro used to generate power under the Japanese government. Chal-

lenges encountered with regards to various Renewable Energy related projects, this challenges includes monitoring tools, when implementing these activities there aren't tools in place to track the progress of work, the statistic in place for work done and also the exact Renewable energy data. However there some 2018 targets that was completed such as commissioning of kawene IMW solar farm, completion of Talise hydro phase 2 project electrifying 3 public institutions, Gazette NGEF Legislation and complete land acquisition for Brenwei Hydro. The Department of Environment is also working on registering Conservation areas which also help enhances Natural carbon stock, but most of the areas were not registered. However challenges encountered to the implementation of the activity were that the department has limited funds. For the Public Land Transport operating in Vanuatu, a total estimate of about 20,051 vehicles, most vehicles were off-road, however there is limited budget and no data for outer islands vehicles operating or servicing the islands. The meeting have agreed to set up a mitigation technical working group that is practical. Work on finalizing the ToR of the working group with key stakeholders is underway.

Provincial Outreach and Awareness Program a Success

The Department of Climate Change (DOCC) and the National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in Vanuatu (NAB) Secretariat conducted an outreach and awareness workshop with all six provinces around the country on the role and function of the new DoCC in the country. This program brings together members of the Provincial Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) and heads of climate change and disaster risk reduction stakeholders within all Provinces. The program is part of a nationwide Provincial Outreach and awareness Program the newly established department of climate change in collaboration with the NAB is conducting in the month of September to October 2019.

Key areas discussed during this workshop are the functions of the DoCC and NAB, what are their roles and responsibilities, how to use the NAB Portal, stock take of all CC and DRR activities and initiatives within Shefa Province.

The purpose of this outreach program is to make known to key government authorities within the provinces on the DoCC's and NAB's services and to improve the knowledge and understanding of the people of the existence of DoCC and NAB as part of its continuous awareness, outreach and partnerships initiatives after its humble beginning at the beginning of this year 2019. It is the hope of the new Department and the NAB Secretariat through this collaboration to create partnerships and to conduct surveys on adaptation, mitigation, communications and monitoring and evaluation needs to improve its products and services in future. This program is also an opportunity to share and collect relevant information and feedback from everybody at the provincial, community and general public on the use and perception of the functions of DoCC and NAB.

The result of this outreach and awareness program and especially the stock take activities will help to assess and measure the climate change and disaster risk management services provided to the general public, which will also contribute to improving DoCC's and NAB's overall services.

This program is funded by the Department of Climate Change with support from the NAB Secretariat.



PTAC members from Torba Province



PTAC members from Penama Province



PTAC members from Sanma Province

Climate Change Awareness to Schools and Communities

The Department of Climate Change (DOCC) took part in a nationwide awareness program jointly organized by the Ministry of Climate Change and Natural Disasters (MOCC). The awareness program was held in the months of June and July this year at various schools and communities around Vanuatu such as in Pentecost, Tanna, Santo and Efate. The awareness program brought together staffs from the five departments under the MOCC - Vanuatu Meteorological and Geo-hazards Department, National Disaster Management Office, Department of Climate

to understand the different work carried out by MOCC. In Santo, Efate and Tanna islands, several senior secondary schools were visited by the staffs of the different Departments under MOCC which was very helpful to both the students and teachers to understand and become aware of the roles and functions of the MOCC. This career talk awareness program was mainly carried out to broaden the students understanding on the work that different department under the ministry of climate change were performing as well as career



Students of a secondary school in Santo.



Students of Tafea College in Tanna listening to presentations.

Change and the Department of Environment. The team visited two schools in Efate, seven schools in Tanna, four schools in Santo and two schools in Pentecost. In Pentecost the team also visited several communities. The aim of conducting such awareness program is to carry out awareness on climate change adaptations, mitigation and risk management topics to the people in the rural communities. Other topics covered during the program were on environment, climate, weather, energy and others. The program covered schools and communities mainly to broaden the minds of school students and community members

paths for students who are interested to pursue studies from different field within five departments. However the awareness was very helpful to students and teachers as it provides them questions with regards to matters in relations to the works of the five departments under MOCC. With communities in Pentecost, the team started the awareness talks with the brief account of the landscape and climate of Pentecost Island, the challenges faced by the communities on the day by day activities. The climate of Pentecost Island varies depending on several factors, the El Nino and La Nina

contributes to cold river and southern part. Water weather in the winter and warmer, wetter and weather. The awareness team discovered that North of Pentecost is mostly impacted by climate change seasonal variations. During the winter water shortage become major problems to communities since they depend on subsistence farming, rainfall is vital component of climate, communities at North Pentecost depends on rain water for consumptions and irrigations purposes. That part of island is also the rain shadow area and no streams or waterfalls are accessible compare to central

and southern part. Water shortage are visible that only rain catchment of commonly used by 90 percent of households. The awareness program helps the people from North Pentecost Lotavola regarding the issues of Climate Change in adapting and knows the risk management. Copies of awareness materials like La Nina and El Nina brochures, tsunami and earthquakes, climate change, cyclones and disasters and others were distributed to schools and communities. Some nearby communities were not able to reach the awareness program due to distance.



Lini Memorial College students in Pentecost with the awareness materials distributed during the program.

IRCCNH Project Closes: Builds Community Resilience Through Micro-Projects

The Increasing Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Hazards (IRCCNH) Project has come to a close in June this year after it started in 2012. The IRCCNH Project received its funding from the GEF, GFDRR and European Union (EU) and administered through the World Bank Group in collaboration with Vanuatu Government. The objective of the project was to help increase the resilience of communities in Vanuatu to the impacts of climate variability and change and natural hazards on food and water security as well as on livelihoods. The project is implemented through the Project Management Unit under Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD) and now housed under the Department of Climate Change. IRCCNH is a multi-sector project that initially involved the following sectors at the national level, Department of Water Resources, Department of Local Authorities, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vanuatu Agriculture Research and Training Centre (VARTC), National disaster management office (NDMO) and Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department (VMGD) as the lead implementer. At the sub-national level the project works with the provinces of Shefa province - localizing in Tongoa, Tongariki and Buniga islands of the Shepherd islands, Tafea province in Tanna island and Torba province mainly the headquarter at Sola and a seismic station in Gaua island. The four components of the project are Institutional strengthening, Area Council strengthening and micro investments, Agriculture and Water Investments. Under these components, various types of micro-projects are implemented on the different islands such as the feeder roads reconstructions, community multi-purpose centers, agriculture demonstration plots, gravity fed systems and rain water catchment systems. These micro-projects have benefited a total of 156,951 people throughout Vanuatu. To officially close the Project, the then Minister for Climate Change and Natural Disaster Honourable Ham Lini Vanuaroa thanked the World Bank for administering the financial resources necessary to ensure Vanuatu is able to deliver on the adaptation and disaster risk reduction activities through the IRCCNH Project. The Minister also emphasized that partnership strengthening is crucial in successfully delivering the project activities in Vanuatu and encourage all partners including the national government to continue in future climate resilience projects. The World Bank Country Director for the Pacific Islands Michel Kerf in his address stated that "We are pleased to have supported the government to directly improve the lives, wellbeing and climate resilience of 30,000 people affected by Tropical Cyclones Pam and Hola in Tanna, Shepherds and Ambrym. We are proud that Vanuatu now has eight seismic stations that are connected to early warning systems, with some having already supported the response in Ambae and Ambrym after the volcanic eruptions in 2018." The Climate Change Minister in his address concluded that "While we are in the process of closing an important page of our resilience building efforts, allow me to express Vanuatu's strong interest to continue partnering with the World Bank and other key implementing agencies to continue addressing Vanuatu's adaptation



Climate Change Minister, Director General and World Bank Team at the official closing ceremony.



World Bank delegation welcomed at the closing ceremony.



Handing over ceremony from communities to the Directors.

Strengthening Efforts towards Addressing Climate Change and Disaster Risk Issues with Oxfam through Partnerships



The signing between the Director Mike Waiwai and the Director of Operations of Oxfam Vanuatu Mrs. Elizabeth Faerua.

The Department of Climate Change (DOCC) has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Oxfam in Vanuatu as part of its partnership program. The signing ceremony took place on Friday 13 September 2019 between the Director of the Department of Climate Change Mr. Mike Waiwai and the Director

of Operations of Oxfam in Vanuatu Mrs. Elizabeth Faerua. The signing ceremony took place at the Department of Climate Change conference room in Port Vila witnessed by staffs from both institutions. Oxfam in Vanuatu is a not for profit, secular, community based aid and development organization aimed at finding solutions to poverty and injustice in the world and in Vanuatu, while the Department of Climate Change is a government department under the Ministry of Climate Change and

Natural Disasters who is overseeing all climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives and activities in Vanuatu. Through this MOA, both Parties have agreed to strengthen their partnership and to collaborate together in relation to creating stronger and long term partnerships and collaborations in their working together towards Vanuatu's

resilience to the impacts of climate change. Under this Agreement, the Parties have agreed to support and assist each other with the necessary and appropriate resources in climate change upcoming events, assist in strengthening relationships with key stakeholders in government, NGO and civil society and the private sector. Both Parties also agreed to exchange, disseminate and share information and best practices with regards to climate change adaptations, mitigation and disaster risk reduction initiatives. Also for DOCC to support and facilitate Oxfam in Vanuatu presentation at national level during government events and to collaborate at all levels in advocacy activities for the purposes of mobilizing resources to strengthen climate change initiatives. Oxfam in Vanuatu have already supported the DOCC in various workshops and meetings this year and would like to thank Oxfam for its support. DOCC is looking forward to more collaboration with Oxfam in future.

DOCC Joins PSC Careers Day to reach students and Public

The Department of Climate Change (DOCC) joined the Public Service Commission's Day (PSC) career's day celebration at the Vanuatu Convention Center on the 25th to 26th of July 2019. This day is about the carries day for all the public, students and government workers. During the PSC day, the DOCC staffs prepared a small booth for displaying the awareness materials that can help the public with relevant climate change information in long term climate change. The materials contained the displaying of agriculture food crops that are climate resistance and the technique when to plant, how and where to plant crops. People from different government sectors, private sectors and academic institutions were interested in participating and asking questions on the impacts on climate change and solutions to cope with these changes. Within these two days display, there were about 42 people attended the booth for their interest in asking questions and seek for information about climate change which includes public, students and also

the government workers. In addition during the presentation of climate change mitigation and adaptation it shows that most of the academic institutions, government sectors and private sectors are very keen on the solutions to cope with climate change which is the adaptation measures and mitigation measures. The presentations helped students with their carrier path for future, and helps them to think what is climate change, its impacts and also to understand that climate change is a big issue around the world and not just in Vanuatu. It also helped the public in farming seasons by understanding the weather seasons and adapts their ways of plants in times of disasters. There are some participants that were interested in other presentations that raise their topics of interest in the areas of adaptation to climate



DoCC staffs who took part at the PSC Day careers program.

change, mitigation to climate change, El Nino and La Nina. Participants were also motivated through talks that were given out by officers. Strategies involving year 12 and 13 learners to motivate them into the pathway for climate resilience and communications, language of technology for climate change in addressing climate issues affecting communities in future were some of the topics highlighted at the event.

Technology Needs Assessments Underway in Vanuatu

The Technology Needs Assessments (TNA) project supports processes such as Vanuatu's national communications efforts and implementation of the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). The Project is being implemented by the Department of Climate Change. Technologies play a central role in acting on climate change. Climate technologies that help us to reduce greenhouse gas emissions include renewable energies such as wind energy, solar power and hydropower. To help us to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change, we use climate technologies such as drought-resistant crops, early warning systems and sea walls. There are also 'soft' climate technologies, such as energy-efficient practices and know-how to operate machinery. TNAs are a long-standing process under the UNFCCC. Since 2001, more than 80 developing countries have undertaken TNAs to assess their technology needs to address climate change. The concept of the TNA was formalized under the UNFCCC process in 2001, when in Marrakesh Conference of the Parties (COP) 7 established the technology transfer framework. One of the originating themes of the framework is the TNA. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) provides financial support for these TNAs, with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme the implementing agencies for supporting the country projects. Vanuatu is being supported for its' TNA under phase 3 of the Global TNA project. The TNA Project comprises of 3 components: 1. Identification and prioritization of sectors and technologies, 2. Barrier Analysis and



Consultation session with the Water sector technical working group.



Mitigation technical working group session discussing technologies for energy and waste management (waste to energy).

Enabling Framework identification (BA&EF) and 3. Technology Action Plan (TAP) with the agriculture, water, energy and waste management sectors under Component 1. Prioritised technologies for each sectors are as follows: Agriculture - Crop diversification and new varieties, Agro-forestry and Farmer field schools. Water - Rainwater harvesting from roof-

tops, Water safety plans and Flood hazard mapping. Energy - Efficiency wood stove, Battery electric vehicle and Solar electric boat and lastly, Waste to energy - Manure based biogas digester, Compact biogas digester for urban households and Anaerobic digestion biogas plant. Finalization of the technologies prioritization Since July 2019, various stakeholders

were consulted to draw up priority technologies phase report is currently underway with technical review inputs being provided by the UNEP and USP (acting as the regional resource center). It is expected that Component 2 will kick-start in early 2020 whereby market assessments of the selected technologies will be undertaken.

Profile: Interview with Mitigation and Adaptation Officers: Nelson and Paulianne

In all our newsletters for the years to come, we will present two officers who are working with the Department of Climate Change (DOCC) and from our partners in Vanuatu. They will be discussing their work, what made them do this job and what they like about their job. In this first issue of the Department of Climate Change quarterly newsletter, we are presenting our two Senior Officers who are based in Port Vila. Nelson Kalo is our Principal Scientific Officer Mitigation and Paulianne Basil who is the Senior Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management Officer. The two officers are part of the seven first Government Officers of the new Department of Climate Change recruited at the beginning of this year 2019.



Ms Paulianne Basil:

What is your home island/country?

I am originated from Merelava island in the Banks islands in Torba Province and from Mele village in the Island of Efate in the Shefa Province.

What was your education background?

I did my primary and secondary education in Vanuatu by attending French schools. I went over to study in the field of Agriculture in a French University in Noumea, New Caledonia and have obtained a Degree in Agriculture in tropical regions. After that I came home and worked at the Department of Agriculture at VARTC in Santo doing research and later on worked for Live and Learn and Save the Children where I have built my interest in the area of adapta-

tion and humanitarian response which brings me to where I am today.

What made you work in the area of Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction?

I want to work in the area of climate change and disaster risk management because in my previous job experiences I have seen a lot of changes to our environment and our people's welfare as a result of the impacts of climate change, I have developed more interest in Climate Change issues and Disaster Risk Management through direct involvement with communities to build up their resilience in several sectors and identify that there is more work to do but needs proper coordination at the national level in order for all stakeholders to replicate their best practices and approaches in a more holistic way in our future activities.

What part of your work do you like the most?

The part of work I like the most is the climate change adaptation area, which helps to minimize the risk of disaster impacts in terms of sustaining livelihoods when other mitigation methods are not the choice of the communities. By strengthening existing activities at all project sites partners have done adaptation work. Build capacity of stakeholders in new methodologies and improve technologies relevant to our context to ensure implementation of the activities consistent with the practice in ecosystems-based adaptation nationally.

"I believe that equipping our people with the right knowledge is very important to keep them safe from any future disaster events at all times".



Mr Nelson Kalo:

What is your home island/country?

I come from the island of Tongoa amongst the Shepherds Islands in Shefa Province in Vanuatu.

What was your education background?

I did my Primary and secondary education here in country before I went to do my tertiary education for an university degree at the University of the South Pacific (USP) Laucala Campus in Fiji. I did a degree in Geography and Management and Public Administration. Because I have so much interest in the Social and Physical Environmental matters, I went on to study for a Post graduate Diploma in Environmental Management. One of the highlights of my education journey was to become a recipient of the Gold Medal award in Geography while a student at the Laucala Campus of USP in Fiji.

What made you work in the area of Climate Change Mitigation?

Working with Environmental related issues are an interest area for me and climate change being one of them since it drives physical changes in the environment impacting mostly the lives of vulnerable communities of our country. So finding means of reducing risks of impacts to peoples live is a core objective to enable resilient communities. Therefore, with this passion in mind, I joined the new Department of Climate Change as the

Principal Scientific Officer Mitigation. In this role I will help the Vanuatu Government through the activities of the Department to implement activities that can help to reduce the impacts of climate change to our people and their communities.

What part of your work do you like the most?

Part of the work that i like the most is climate change advocacy through means of mitigation as well as liaising with key climate change mitigation stakeholders and partners through advisories and support in initiatives, programs and projects towards curbing as well as tracking GHG emission at the National level.

As many communities still need to be better prepared to cope with climate change and disasters facing them today, an ongoing challenge is to build their resilience. I love to travel to the islands to visit the communities mostly on boat and I enjoyed giving awareness talks to schools and communities around the country about

"My interest area is around social and physical Geography.....I also like climate change advocacy work through partnership with key stakeholders".

climate change issues and providing them with the adequate information on climate change mitigation issues and later revisiting them.

To find out more information about their work with the Department of Climate Change, contact Nelson Kalo on nekal@vanuatu.gov.vu and Paulianne Basil on pbasil@vanuatu.gov.vu. You can also call them on phone 22160 or come and visit them at the Department Office at Namba 2 Area in Port Vila.

VCAP Project Closes: Helps Communities Adapt to Climate Change



PM Salwai and UNDP Resident Representative Levan Bouadze at a road opening.



The Prime Minister and UNDP Resident representative at the launching in Pentecost.



A bridge constructed by the project in Pentecost.

The Vanuatu Coastal Adaptation Project (VCAP) has come to its close at the end of December 2019. The Project have started its activities in 2014 and is being implemented by the Department of Climate Change on behalf of the Vanuatu Government. The Project received its funding from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) with assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF). The VCAP project aims to build community resilience against climate change and natural disasters through improved infrastructure, sustained livelihoods and increased food production in Vanuatu, which are in line with the national government priorities. These efforts by the project worked towards improving the quality of life in targeted vulnerable areas in the coastal zone of the different islands the project is working with. To address these national priorities, the project will focus on adaptation options including the development of village and Area Council local adaptation plans, better management of forest, water, and agriculture including coastal re-vegetation and rehabilitation to strengthen resilience to climate change, climate proofing of selected infrastructure such as roads and foot-paths, bridges and wharves for communities, and the development of an efficient early warning system for cyclones and other natural disasters. Under VCAP, coordinators of the various project components from the Department of Local Authorities, Public Works Department, Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department, Fisheries and Communication were recruited to the support their activities implemented by each sector throughout the country. To mark the end of the five year project, a lessons learnt workshop was organized by the project with participants from all islands and communities as hosts of project sites throughout the country. Participants were VCAP Site Coordinators, Area Secretaries and Administrators, Chiefs and project coordinators. The Lessons learnt and best practices that were shared during the workshop were documented and will be shared with all climate change stakeholders and partners for future references on similar project for future planning. The project also had its final board meeting in Port Vila to discuss the achievements of the project so far, challenges, recommendations and the future of the project. At its official closing ceremony, all assets of the project were handed over to the Ministry of Climate Change and Natural Disasters by the UNDP and Project Team leaders. With the outstanding achievement of the VCAP Project in Vanuatu and the further need for more work to be done in the area of climate change adaptation in Vanuatu, the UNDP has officially announced the approval of the second phase of the project that will begin its designing phase in early 2020.

NAB Portal Technical Training Helps Staffs with Necessary Skills to use the Portal

“Visit www.nab.vu, or send an email to docc@vanuatu.gov.vu to get more information on climate change and disaster risk management issues in Vanuatu.”



The home page of the NAB Portal.

The staffs of the Department of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (DOCC) have benefited from a three days technical training on how to use and manage (DOCC) the National Advisory Boards on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (NAB) Portal. The NAB Portal is hosted by the NAB Secretariat with the support of the Department of Climate Change. The training workshop was organized and funded by the iCLIM Project which supported the NAB Portal in Vanuatu. The main objective of this training is for the Vanuatu team was to provide key focal points to the MOCC with training and resources on the software platform named Drupal, scope and plan a range of functionality improvements to the portal. And also providing hands-on experienced to implement the changes to the portal, and lastly

to plan and agree on portal rollout and stakeholder engagement. The main facilitators to this technical project/mission are Mr. Arve Soland, Technical Lead and Software Engineer from Griffith University in Australia and Dr. Christopher Bartlett, Resilience and Knowledge Manager at the Australia Pacific Climate Partnership. The Vanuatu government has established the NAB portal to help provide useful and practical information to the climate change stakeholders in terms of climate actions and its policy. The Portal has been very helpful and beneficial to many government officials, students and consultants as it provides useful and best practices found in the pacific region. The MOCC as the host government institution of the NAB Portal is focusing more in improving the national climate change Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) strategy as it helps

in strengthening the climate change adaptation and resilience planning with the support of the pacific iCLIM and SPREP. Also, the ministry is keen to improve the continued optimization of the national climate change portal. The pacific ICLIM is a project funded by the Australian governments department of foreign affairs and trade. This project is in collaboration with the SPREP and the Griffith University. Along with this project, the Australia pacific climate partnership aims to enhance climate knowledge brokering in all DFAT investment in the pacific. Other participants were staffs from the ICT Division from the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department, Department of Energy and the NAB Secretariat.. The DOCC still does not have a website and is currently using the NAB Portal to share its information.

Climate Change Stock Taking Exercise Underway: Monitoring Adaptation and Mitigation Activities

The Department of Climate Change has started its process of stock taking all climate change and disaster risk reduction related initiatives, activities and projects being implemented across the country. This stock take exercise was being established under the role of the Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management Officer aimed at paving way for a clear measure for achieving resilient development across all sectors in future.

This stock take exercise is necessary for the new Department of Climate Change as its roles and responsibilities mandated by Vanuatu's Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR) Policy is to establish clear priorities for future action, deliver better assessment of climate change and disaster risks issues, monitor and evaluate projects and their outcomes, capture experiences and lessons learned with best practices and drive better climate service delivery to the people of this nation. In order to achieve these priorities, the Department of Climate Change will need the right and full information of CCDRR projects, activities and initiatives from the past and current. This matrix aims at gathering all Climate change Adaptation from stakeholders on the specific climate change adaptation, Disaster Risk Management activities is ongoing? in what locations? What resources was produced on which component? Which component are you engaging on with what sector? Have you produced any resources? or intend to carry out this year etc.

Therefore, it is essential for the new Department to quickly establish its practical basis and clear function that will guide future adaptation and mitigation related work plans. The development and circulation of the stock take matrix



Members of the PTAC from Shefa Province who participated in the stock take program.



PTAC members from Penama Province during the stock take activity.

was developed by the DOCC staffs and were distributed for various stakeholder at the national, provincial and area council level to provide relevant information and were returned at the end of October as planned. The stock take exercise was also extended to the provincial authorities. The implementation of this exercise was served as a preparation to a Climate Change Adaptation Stocktake workshop which will be held early next year 2020. This will enable an effective and efficient Coordination strategies towards building-up the sustainability of the newly established Climate Change Department which sits

within the Ministry of Climate Change. The Department of Climate Change would like to thank all stakeholders and partners who have taken part in this initial stock take exercise. The current information gathered from this stock take exercise is now linked with GIS mapping done by the Department, which will be validated at a stakeholders' workshop early next year. The Department will circulate the next steps regarding this matrix and its findings prior to the workshop. The confirmed scheduled of the workshop and venue will be made known to everyone soon.

Department of Climate Change Staffs Benefits from COP Negotiations Training



Participants at the negotiations training workshop (Photo credit: VCAN Report).

The Director and Senior staffs from the Department of Climate Change have benefited from a climate change negotiation training as part of their preparations to attending the Conference of the Parties (COP)25 meeting which was held in Spain in December this year. The negotiation training was held from October 31 to November 1



Mitigation drafting and presentation by Moirah (VMGD) and Nelson Kalo Climate Change Mitigation Officer (DoCC)

2019 in Port Vila. The two days training was jointly organised by the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology, Geo-Hazards, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management through the NAB secretariat and the Department of Climate Change in collaboration with the Pacific Climate Change Collaboration Influencing and Leading (PACCCIL) and Vanuatu Climate Action Network (VCAN). This negotiation training helped staffs attending the

COP meeting to understand their role as government representatives to the meeting and representatives of Vanuatu as a member to the United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). More importantly the training was aimed at strengthening and developing the understanding of the Vanuatu delegation to the COP25 on the UNFCCC negotiation process, the main issues of this year's COP. These issues including the aim of limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to develop the draft Vanuatu positions. The two days training program provided the negotiation team with

different presentation on basic knowledge on UNFCCC, COP and the Paris Agreement and the presentation of each thematic area for Vanuatu as a country attending COP25. The second day was more interactive exercise on the negotiation technics and looking at the texts including drafting of the Vanuatu's positions for each thematic area. Vanuatu's thematic areas to this year's COP are on Finance, Transparency, Mitigation, Compliance and Implementation, NDC, Global Stocktake, Adaptation and Loss and Damage and Gender and climate change. At the end of the training, participants understand the Vanuatu position and the drafting techniques to the nine thematic areas. This process prior COP25

was fundamental because it enabled the Vanuatu delegation to participate well on their negotiations during the meeting. COP is an annual event under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and this year marked its twenty Fifth meeting since its first meeting in Berlin, Germany in March, 1995. Next year, COP 26 will be held in Glasgow, Scotland in the United Kingdom from 9 to 20 November 2020.

Vanuatu Schools Stand in Solidarity for Climate Action



The then Minister of Climate Change, Ministry of Education representative, Director Climate Change and school students during the climate stand at the Ministry of Climate Change.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Natural Disasters has met with the students from various schools in Port Vila who paraded to its premises as part of the School Stands in Solidarity with the World School Strike for Climate Action. Students paraded with various climate action messages and slogan and gave a speech on the importance of being part

of this climate action for them as children of Vanuatu. The then Minister for Climate Change Ham Lini and Director of the Department of Climate Change Mike Waiwai welcomed and commended the students, their mentors and supporters and families for their stand for climate action. The Minister in his response to the students' action assured them that their

actions and commitment to take this school stand will support the many schools and students around the world who have joined the stand. He encouraged the students to be strong leaders in future in the fight for climate change and that the Government will be always there to support them as the young leaders of this nation.

Vanuatu Joins World on Strike for Climate Emergency



The staffs of the Department of Climate Change leading the parade in Port Vila.

The Department of Climate Change has joined other Departments under the Ministry of Climate Change in a Strike for Climate Emergency on September 20 this year in Port Vila. The goal of the Vanuatu Strike for the Climate Emergency Campaign was to urge individuals, businesses, civil society, government agencies and leaders in Vanuatu to formally acknowledge the Climate Crisis and act on higher ambition to

address the unjust and devastating impacts climate change is having on our economy, our livelihoods and our fundamental rights. The event was hosted by Vanuatu Climate Action Network (VCAN) members, including school students, in collaboration with the Government of Vanuatu, including the Ministry of Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Education. This event will enable

Vanuatu to add its voice in solidarity with other governments around the world that have already declared Climate Emergency. Low levels of global ambition, and the failures and delays of nations to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement to reduce their greenhouse pollution means Vanuatu will face catastrophic warming of at least 3° C in near future. VCAN hopes this action campaign will inspire Pacific Island Countries and the global community to adopt an emergency response to climate change with regards to Human right and climate justice. It is hoped that the Government will have a mandate for immediate and urgent action to step up our commitments to include new and additional finance for loss and damage, economy wide emission reduction targets and quantifiable adaptation targets. The VCAN Coordinator Mr. Willy Missak presented the Climate Emergency Declaration to the Deputy Prime Minister Honorable Jotham Napat on behalf of the Vanuatu Government during the event. Mr. Missak called on the Government to voice Vanuatu's position on the Declaration at the World Climate Summit at the 74 United Nation General Assembly. The director of Climate Change accompanied the Prime Minister Charlot Salwai Tabimamas and his delegation to attend the Climate Summit meeting in New York on September this year.

DOCC Staffs Attends UNFCCC COP25 in Spain



Paulianne Basil, Climate Change Adaptation Officer giving her remarks at the Panel Discussion on Oceans Side Event.



Part of the Vanuatu delegation who attended the COP25 Meeting in Spain.

Four staffs from the Department of Climate Change attended this year's 25th Conference of the Parties (COP) meeting under the United Nations Climate Change Convention in Madrid, Spain as part of the Government's delegation. Representing the Department at this meeting were Mike Waiwai Director, Nelson Kalo Scientific Officer Mitigation, Paulianne Basil Senior Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management Officer and Anne Marie Roberts the Senior Finance Officer. Each of them followed various topics and themes related to their areas of work and supported the other delegates to follow in other key thematic areas for Vanuatu. They were part of the national delegation which comprised of technical officers from various government offices such as the Ministry of Climate Change and Natural Disasters (MoCC), Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MoFEM), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister's Office. The Vanuatu delegates participated in high-level meetings and side events on topics that matter to Vanuatu in relation to climate change and its impacts. The Deputy Head of the Delegation and Director of the Department of Climate Change, Mike Waiwai, took part in a side event and voiced concern on displacement and relocation of people from disasters and climate change in Vanuatu. Other side events that Vanuatu participated in were, the Climate Law and Governance Day, A Leader's Talanoa with Pacific Youth on Ambitious

National Determine Contributions (NDCs): Enhancing NDCs to ensure a Resilient and Sustainable Future and the Blue Climate Action: Marine Nature-based Solutions for NDCs. The delegation while in Spain conveyed that the key issues negotiated at this year's COP include standardizing the reporting from all parties (Developed, developing and least developed countries) to the Paris Agreement to show how finance meant to fund climate change adaptation and mitigation activities is mobilized. Also, the terms of reference for the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage that there be a balance between funding going to adaptation and mitigation activities and that the approval process to access the funds through the Green Climate Fund be flexible and push for big emitters to increase their ambitions. The message highlighted at COP25 is that what the earth is currently facing is no longer climate change, but a climate emergency. This is because the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on 1.5 degrees backs up what small island states such as Vanuatu are saying, that global temperatures are now on tract to rise

by an unacceptable 3.2 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels by 2030 and greenhouse gas emissions are hitting an all-time high. COP meetings are held every year and is attended by representatives from almost all nations to discuss the Paris Agreement Implementation, which is to halt global warming at 1.5 degree Celsius. It is an opportunity for countries like Vanuatu to update their progress on dealing with climate change. The three major areas of political discussions are finance, emission targets and the role of 'big' states. COP25 ended on Friday 13 December 2019. COP26 will be held in Glasgow in Scotland from 9–20 November 2020.



Nelson Kalo Scientific Officer Mitigation in a meeting with a representative from the NDC Partnership Team.

Lists of Regional and International Meetings Attended in 2019

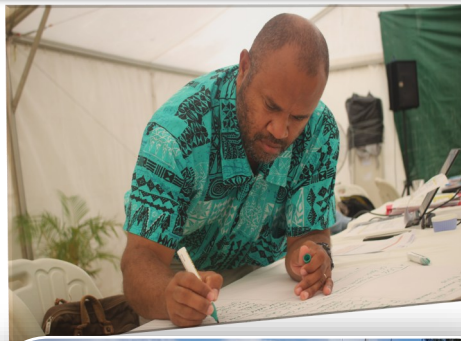
Date	Meeting/Workshop	Thematic Area	Staff Attended	Sectors Involved
January	Regional Training on Adaptation Appraisal and Prioritization—Tuvalu	National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) —Prioritization tools	Nelson Kalo (Mitigation Officer)	NDMO, DESPAC
April	Green Climate Fund and National Adaptation Plan Training Workshop—Korea	GCF and NAP (Finance and Adaptation)	Anne Marie Robert (Senior Finance Officer)	VCAP Project Manager, DOCC
July	1. Regional workshop on Blue Carbon and Nationally Determined Contributions—Vietnam 2. Regional NAP Training—SI	Climate Change Mitigation Climate Change Adaptation	Nelson Kalo (Mitigation Officer) Paulianne Basil (CC Adaptation Officer)	NAB Secretariat, MOCC VCAP Project Manager
August	1. Regional Climate Finance Workshop—Fiji 2. UNFCCC/ILO/WHO Awareness Creation workshop on Response Measures—Maldives	Climate Change Finance Climate Change Mitigation Measures, Paris Agreement, UNFCCC.	Anne Marie Robert (Senior Finance Officer) Florence Iautu (Communication Officer)	Department of Energy, CSU MOCC
September	National GHG Inventory Management System—Maldives	Climate Change Mitigation	Nelson Kalo (Mitigation Officer)	
October	1. Climate Change Negotiation Training for Women Leaders—Fiji 2. IKM Technical Working Group & NDC Hub Regional meeting—Samoa	Climate Change Negotiation skills IKM/NDC on Climate Change	Anne Marie Robert (Senior Finance Officer) Florence Iautu (Communication Officer), Johnny Tarry (M&E Officer)	
November	1. Regional Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Network meeting—Australia 2. GIS STAR Remote Sensing Meeting—Fiji 3. Media and Communication Climate Change Meeting—Fiji	Climate Change Mitigation GIS Climate Change Media and Communication	Nelson Kalo (Mitigation Officer) Johnny Tarry (M&E Officer) Florence Iautu (Communication Officer)	NAB Secretariat, MOCC Department of Lands and GIS User Group
December	1. UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) 25 meeting—Spain 2. Climate and Statistics Meeting—Indonesia	Climate Change Climate Change and Statistics	Mike Waiwai (Director), Nelson Kalo, Anne Marie Roberts and Paulianne Basil Johnny Tarry (M&E Officer)	Foreign Affairs, Finance, VMGD, NAB, Energy, State Law Office, VCAN. National Statistics Office (NSO)

The Department would like to inform our readers and stakeholders on some of the key meetings and workshops Department staffs participated in this year regionally and internationally. Reports of these meetings are available at the Department's Office for those interested to know more about this meetings and the benefit Vanuatu received from these meetings.

YEAR 2019 IN PICTURES



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2020

Dates	Events and Activities
2—13 March	DOCC Outreach Program to Government Sectors
22 March	World Water Day
23 March	World Meteorology Day
August	Regional IKM Technical Working Group Meeting
20 September	Vanuatu strike for climate emergency
13 October	World Disaster Risk Reduction Day
14 October	Climate Change National Day (Symposium)
5 November	World Tsunami Awareness Day
9—20 November	Conference of the Parties (COP) 26
1—3 December	Department of Climate Change Retreat (Business Plan 2021)

Our Stakeholders and Partners?

Our stakeholders and partners are all Government and private sectors and NGOs working on climate change and disaster programs in Vanuatu.

Where you can find us?

The Department of Climate Change is located at the premises of the Ministry of Climate Change Head Office in Namba 2 Area in Port Vila.

How to Contact us?

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