



ClimateWatch

Shannon Anstee
Biodiversity and Climate
Manager



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



About Earthwatch

Empowering people to save the natural world

We are a global environmental charity aiming to create a society that lives in balance with nature. Our citizen science model is a sophisticated, efficient and engaging solution that actively involves people from all sectors of the community.

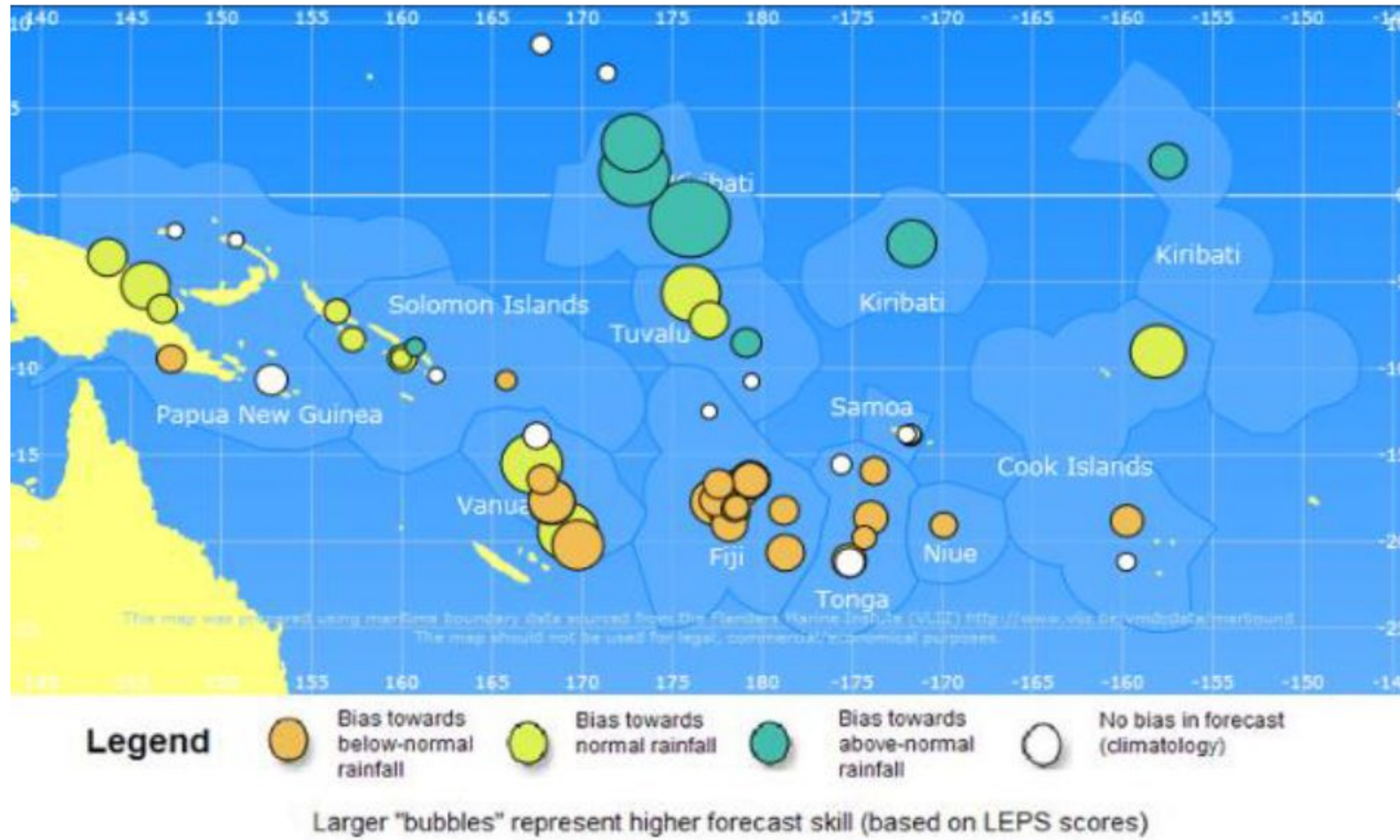


Across the Globe...

Elders and Communities are sharing traditional knowledge about plants, animals and weather with scientists and meteorological organisations

ClimateWatch explores the impacts of developing robust meteorological forecasts by combining contemporary and Traditional Knowledge forecasting

Meteorological forecasts are very good across the Pacific...



The majority of Pacific Communities still rely on their own Traditional Knowledge (TK)



Elders of the Somata community of the Solomon Islands (Photo: SIMS).

>70% overall relied on TK forecasts alone and less than 5% used contemporary forecasts alone

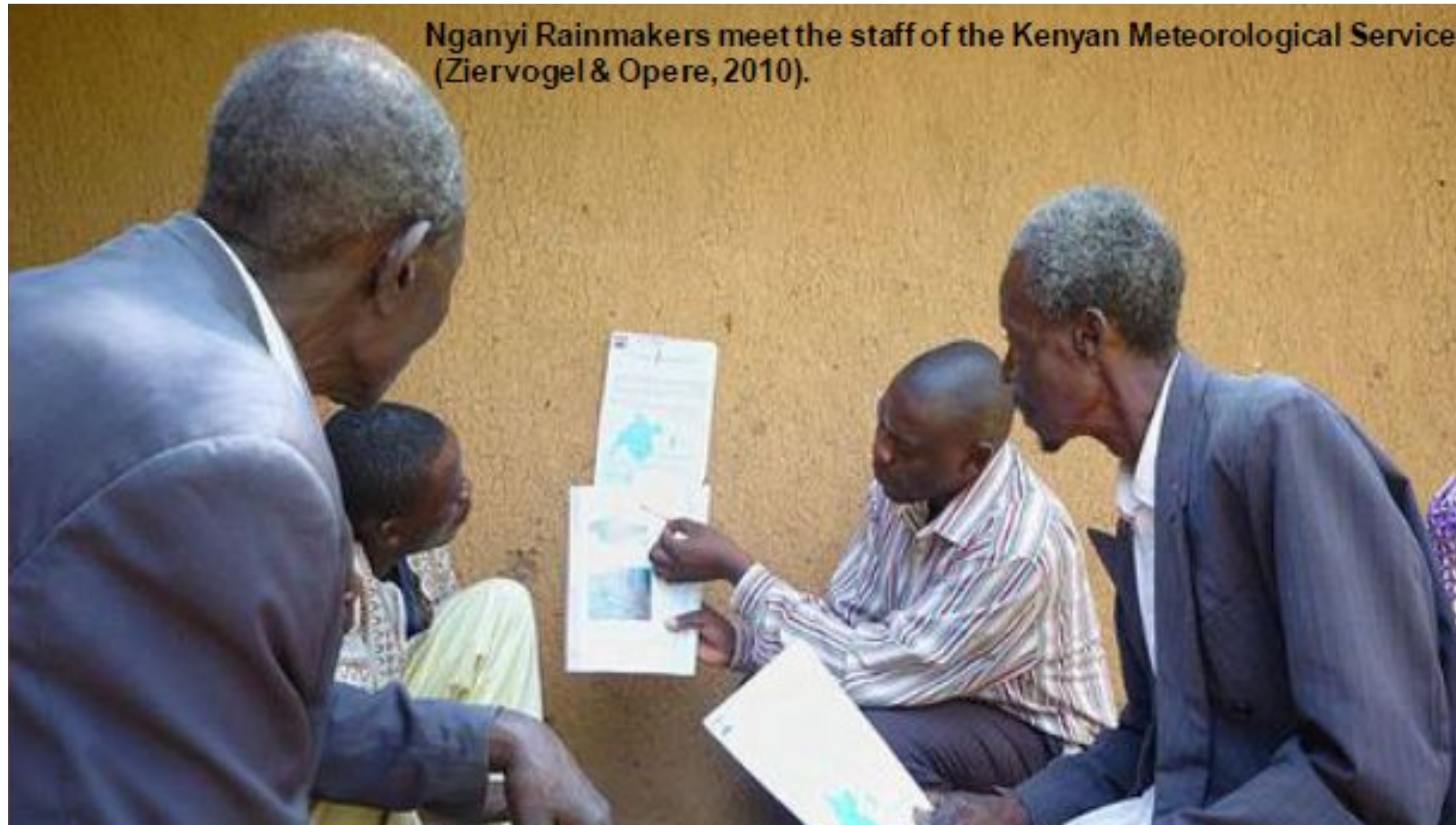
And the vast majority of communities would like to see TK combined with scientific forecasting

Country	No. of responses	Yes	No
Niue	31	24 (77%)	2 (6%)
Samoa	9	7 (78%)	1 (11%)
Solomon Islands	62	61 (98%)	0 (0%)
Vanuatu	55	55 (100%)	0 (0%)

Community support, or otherwise, for the combination of contemporary and traditional forecasts.

Malsale et al. 2018 Protocol and partnerships for engaging Pacific Island communities in the collection and use of traditional climate knowledge.

In Kenya, Climate Communication is improved when combined with Indigenous Biodiversity Knowledge



Ziervogel, G & Opere, A. (2010) Integrating meteorological and indigenous knowledge-based seasonal climate forecasts for the agricultural sector. IDRC Report, 19pp.



As we know....

Pacific Islands are amongst the most sensitive to climate variability

There is much Traditional Knowledge across the Pacific and in Vanuatu that can be used to improve Climate Forecasts and prepare for Climate Change

TK Reliability Concerns

“The trees are flowering much earlier now and they don’t tell us what they used to”

- Generation loss
- Climate change
- Land use change



ClimateWatch Vanuatu objective

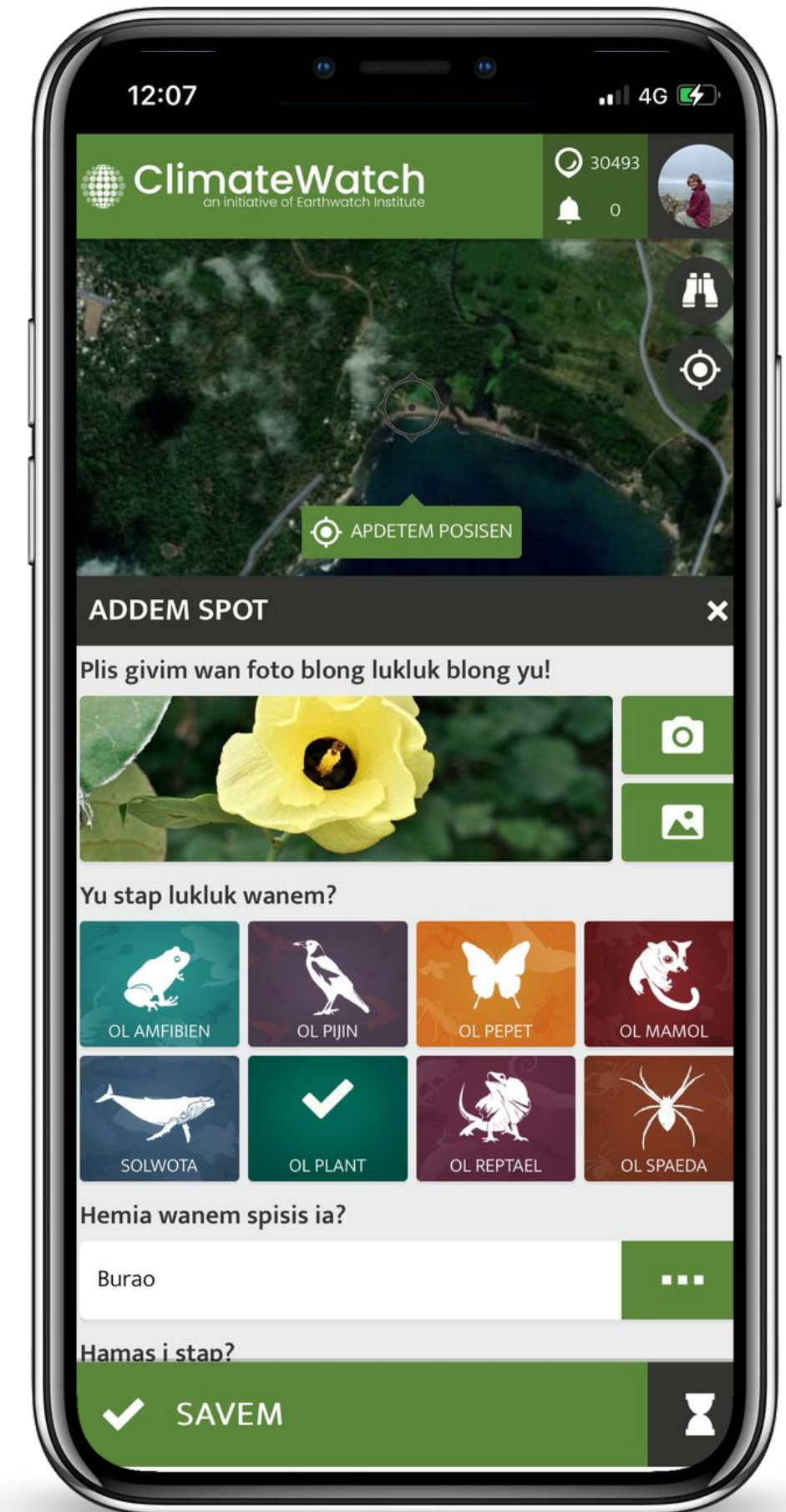
Increased ni-Vanuatu community response to climate forecasts and projections, leading to increased community resilience to climate change and extreme weather.



ClimateWatch

- Developed by Earthwatch Australia, Bureau of Meteorology and University of Melbourne in 2009
- Adapted for Vanuatu in 2023!
- Free to use
- First app in Bislama

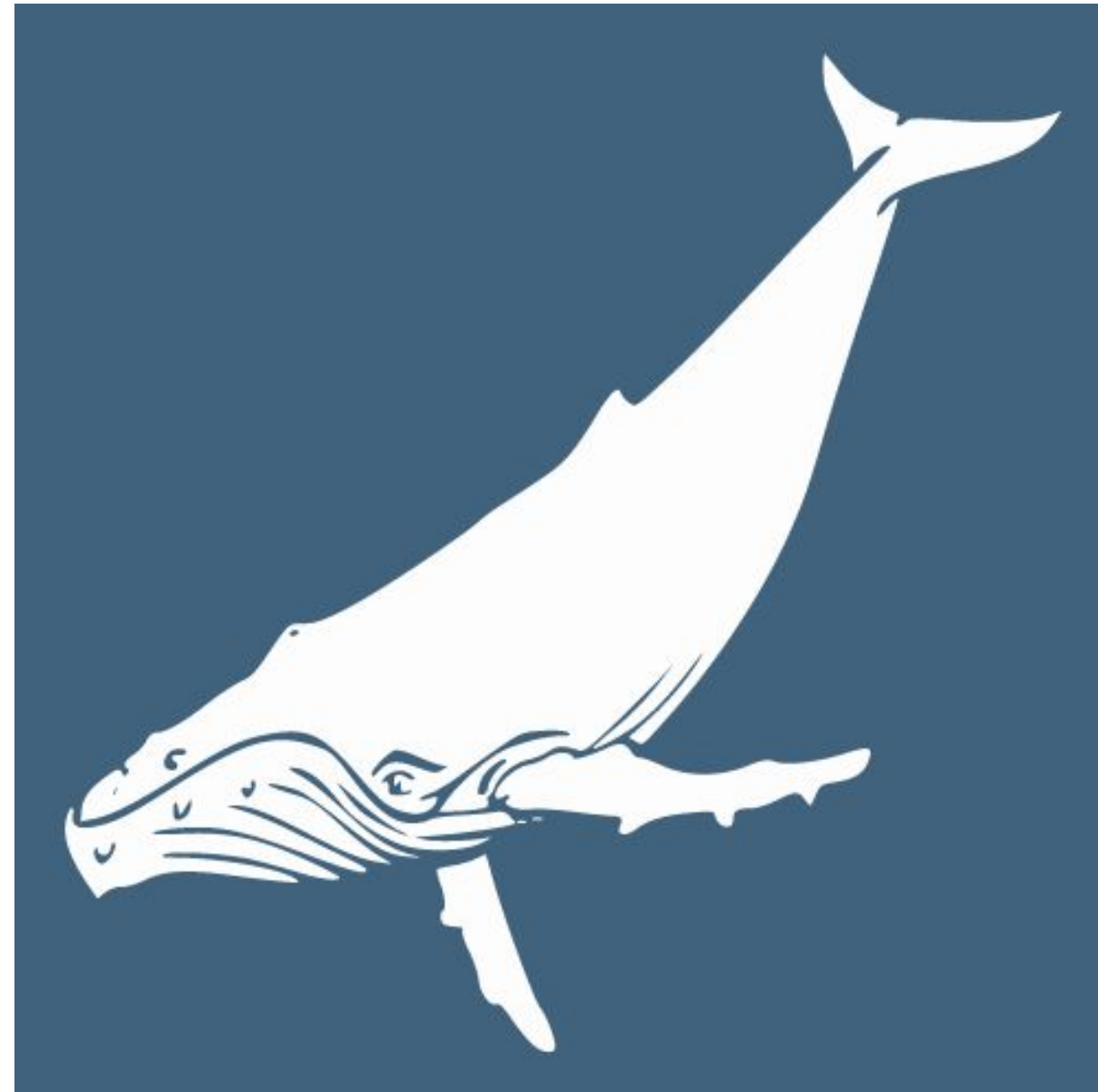
Now everyone in Vanuatu can be a "citizen scientist" and help collect data on TK species



Monitoring species



Plants



Marine



Birds



Plants



Naval



Mandari



Banana



Wael Can
(Wild Cane)



Naviso



Mango



Bredfruit



Nakavika (Malay Apple)



Nandao Tri
(Pacific Lychee)



Burao



Natongtong
(Tall-stilt Mangrove)



Nabanga (Banyan)



Namambe
(Polynesion



Aranis (Orange)



Naus
(Polynesian vi-apple)



Marine



Leta Bak Totel



Hoksbel Totel



Gren Totel



Palolo Worm



Birds



Sot leg
(Pacific Emerald
Dove)

This will not only help VMGD to provide better early warnings to communities it will also:

- Help to keep TK alive, showing its relevance to the next generations
- Assist with response and preparedness (food security, cyclone shelters etc)
- Provide much needed biological monitoring data to assist other agencies (agriculture, forestry, fisheries, conservation)

Using ClimateWatch



Step 1. Download

Download the ClimateWatch app for free at the App Store and on

Google Play



Step 2. Register



Step 3. Study

Familiarize yourself with the ClimateWatch plants and animals



Step 4. Spot!

Add your photo of a species to the ClimateWatch app



Step 5. Validate

ClimateWatch community check your spot



Step 6. Impact!

Observations to Vanuatu Meteorology & Geo-Hazards Department

ClimateWatch | SPOTTERON



Expanding across the Pacific

Pacific Island countries have Traditional Knowledge

Traditional Knowledge monitoring across the Pacific through ClimateWatch can be used to improve Climate Forecasts and prepare for Climate Change

ClimateWatch Requirements

Country requirements for ClimateWatch development

- Active meteorological organisation in country
- Current work undertaken to capture Traditional Knowledge
- In country phone network, internet connection and smart phone access

Join a ClimateWatch walk

Download the app and join the team for a ClimateWatch walk

Date: Today (Wednesday 18th)

Time: 4:30pm

Meeting Point: Registration Table outside of the Farea Pacific Conference Hall



Download for
Apple



Download for
Android

