SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Lessons Learnt Briefing Paper: Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen blong redy, adapt mo protekt (VanKIRAP) Project – Sector Coordinators

Introduction

The Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen blong redy, adapt mo protekt (VanKIRAP) project, funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and jointly implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD), has been a pioneering initiative in strengthening climate resilience in Vanuatu. By delivering tailored climate information services (CIS) to key sectors—agriculture, fisheries, tourism, water, and infrastructure—the project has supported decision-making and fostered resilient development outcomes. This briefing paper highlights key lessons learnt from the project's implementation and its impacts across sectors.

The Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen blong redy, adapt mo protekt (VanKIRAP) project introduced sector coordinators as a key mechanism to bridge the gap between climate information providers (e.g., Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department - VMGD) and end-users in key sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, tourism, water, and infrastructure. These sector coordinators played a critical role in increasing the uptake and utility of climate information services (CIS) for resilient development in Vanuatu.

Below are the key benefits of having sector coordinators in the VanKIRAP project:

1. Enhanced Sector-Specific Relevance of Climate Information

- Benefit: Sector coordinators ensured that climate information was tailored to the specific needs, vulnerabilities, and decision-making processes of each sector.
- Example: In agriculture, coordinators worked with farmers to translate seasonal forecasts into actionable advice on crop selection and planting schedules.
- Impact: This increased the relevance and usability of CIS, leading to higher uptake and better outcomes for sector stakeholders.

2. Improved Communication and Accessibility

- Benefit: Sector coordinators acted as intermediaries, simplifying complex climate data and communicating it in a way that was accessible and understandable to end-users.
- Example: In fisheries, coordinators used local languages and visual aids to explain ocean condition forecasts, helping fishers plan safe and productive fishing trips.

- Impact: This improved communication ensured that even remote and less technically literate communities could access and use climate information effectively.

3. Strengthened Relationships and Trust Between Stakeholders

- Benefit: Sector coordinators built strong relationships between climate information providers (e.g., VMGD) and sector stakeholders, fostering trust and collaboration.
- Example: In tourism, coordinators worked closely with resort operators and tour guides to co-develop early warning systems for extreme weather events.
- Impact: This trust-building increased the willingness of stakeholders to adopt and act on climate information.

4. Capacity Building and Empowerment of Sector Stakeholders

- Benefit: Sector coordinators conducted training and workshops to build the capacity of stakeholders to interpret and apply climate information in their decision-making.
- Example: In the water sector, coordinators trained water resource managers to use rainfall forecasts for optimizing water storage and distribution.
- Impact: This empowerment enabled stakeholders to independently use CIS for long-term planning and risk management.

5. Facilitation of Co-Design and Co-Production of Climate Information

- Benefit: Sector coordinators facilitated the co-design and co-production of climate information, ensuring that it met the specific needs of end-users.
- Example: In infrastructure, coordinators worked with engineers and planners to develop climate risk assessments for road and building designs.
- Impact: This participatory approach increased the utility of CIS and ensured that it was aligned with sectoral priorities.

6. Integration of Climate Information into Sectoral Policies and Plans

- Benefit: Sector coordinators played a key role in integrating climate information into sectoral policies, plans, and practices.
- Example: In agriculture, coordinators supported the development of climate-smart agricultural policies that incorporated seasonal forecasts and drought warnings.
- Impact: This integration ensured that climate resilience became a core component of sectoral development strategies.

7. Real-Time Feedback and Continuous Improvement

- Benefit: Sector coordinators provided real-time feedback from end-users to climate information providers, enabling continuous improvement of CIS.
- Example: In fisheries, coordinators relayed fishers' experiences with ocean condition forecasts back to VMGD, leading to more accurate and user-friendly updates.
- Impact: This feedback loop improved the quality and relevance of climate information over time.

8. Increased Awareness and Advocacy for Climate Resilience

- Benefit: Sector coordinators acted as advocates for climate resilience, raising awareness about the importance of CIS and its role in reducing vulnerability.
- Example: In tourism, coordinators conducted awareness campaigns on the economic benefits of using climate information to plan safe and sustainable tourism activities.
- Impact: This advocacy increased the demand for CIS and encouraged proactive adaptation measures.

9. Bridging the Gap Between Science and Practice

- Benefit: Sector coordinators translated scientific climate data into practical, actionable advice for sector stakeholders.
- Example: In water resource management, coordinators used rainfall projections to advise communities on water conservation practices during dry seasons.
- Impact: This bridging of science and practice ensured that climate information was not only understood but also applied effectively.

10. Strengthened Multi-Sector Collaboration

- Benefit: Sector coordinators facilitated collaboration between different sectors, enabling a more holistic approach to climate resilience.
- Example: Coordinators worked with both agriculture and water sectors to develop integrated strategies for managing drought risks.
- Impact: This multi-sector collaboration maximized the impact of CIS and ensured that resilience-building efforts were coordinated and complementary.

Conclusion

The introduction of sector coordinators in the VanKIRAP project was a game-changer in increasing the uptake and utility of climate information services across key sectors in Vanuatu. By acting as intermediaries, capacity builders, and advocates, sector coordinators ensured that climate information was relevant, accessible, and actionable for end-users. Their role in fostering trust, facilitating co-design, and integrating CIS into sectoral policies and practices has significantly contributed to resilient development outcomes in Vanuatu.

This innovative approach highlights the importance of human-centered, sector-specific strategies in enhancing the effectiveness of climate information services, providing a model that can be replicated in other Pacific Island countries and beyond.

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