



VANUATU *briefing* note |

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A ni-Vanuatu success story



The forestry project teaches us how to plant trees along our coastline to protect the land from washing away. This way we are not losing our island to the sea when there is a cyclone. We also sell plant seedlings at the market in Port Vila. There is no work here on the island and the money from the market sales is our only income.

Fairis and Joan from Worearu/Pele

Project facts CCCPIR

Funding sources: Federal Republic of Germany through the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Regional partners: SPC, SPREP and USP

Countries: Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

Duration: January 2009–December 2015

SPC/GIZ Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region

Climate adaptation through forestry, Pele Island, Vanuatu

The Island of Pele (SPC/GIZ Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region (CCCPIR) pilot site) is experiencing many climate change impacts, including coastal erosion, slope erosion, leaching of soil nutrients and increasing temperatures.



Forestry in Vanuatu

Forests have long been of key importance for the people of Pele Island and across Vanuatu. For households, forests provide timber, posts and thatch for construction; food; fuel-wood; and traditional medicine. With respect to the environment, forests and trees act as soil and water protectors, and provide shelter from sun, rain and wind. Thus, given the importance of forests, sustainable forest management was selected as a primary adaptation focus for climate change at the national level.



Vanuatu's Priority Action Agenda highlights the importance of forestry for economic development and environmental sustainability, and emphasises the need to 'Maintain and improve the regulatory and management framework for the sustainable development of the sector'. With SPC/GIZ CCCPIR support, Vanuatu was able to revise its National Forest Policy in 2011 to incorporate climate change considerations. Policy directives on climate change adaptation include:

- Develop forestry-related climate change adaptation demonstration projects that address food security, soil stabilisation, water management, and coastal erosion
- Introduce and promote climate change resilient tree species and varieties
- Undertake ground cover initiatives to prevent soil and coastal erosion
- Identify and seek financing for novel and promising forestry adaptation projects and programmes
- Train all stakeholders on the opportunities and advantages for adaptation and impact assessment
- Rehabilitate watershed and water catchment areas to secure water supplies
- Systematically assess and minimise wind damage to crops and infrastructure by trialling windbreak species and systems

The overall objective of the SPC/GIZ CCCPIR activities on Pele is to trial forest-related technologies that enable climate adaptation, especially those that have high potential for replication in other sites throughout Vanuatu.

Hands-on, sustainable projects

On Pele Island a climate resilient nursery has been established to cultivate native coastal plant species, high-value timber, fruit and nut species and erosion control grasses in preparation for replanting. Moreover, a series of coastal revegetation plots to prevent erosion have been established. These plots focus on emergency soil stabilisation and make use of plants that enrich the soil. In addition, rehabilitation plots have been planted on a degraded slope with erosion controlling plants and high-value fruit species. In order to prevent soil erosion, heat-, drought- and salt-tolerant trees and grasses now cover an area of 3 hectares.



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GIZ is a federally-owned enterprise that supports the German government in the field of international development cooperation. For more than 30 years, GIZ has been cooperating with Pacific Island partners in strengthening the capacity of people and institutions to improve the lives of communities for this generation and generations to come. GIZ is an implementing agency providing support through technical cooperation to balance economic, social and ecological interests through multi-stakeholder dialogue, participation and collaboration.

