# Van-KIRAP Project Sixth Steering Committee Meeting Paper

## MEETING INFORMATION

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| **Meeting Number** | SC-06 / 2023 | **Meeting Title** | Van KIRAP Project SC Meeting |
| **Agenda Item #6** | Endorsement of the Environmental Social Management Plan for the weather radar. | | |
| **Purpose** | 1. To seek endorsement from the meeting on the Environmental Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the weather radar to be procured, commissioned and installed by the *Climate Information Services for Resilient Development in Vanuatu Project (FP035)*. | | |

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The meeting is to **NOTE** the Environmental Social Management Plan (ESMP) pertaining to the weather radar.
2. The meeting is to **ENDORSE** the ESMP for the SPREP Project Coordination Unit (PCU) to submit the corresponding report to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

## BACKGROUND

At the 31st SPREP Meeting in Apia, Samoa, the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department (VMGD) through Ms. Esline Garaebiti, Director General, Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC), requested the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to provide technical support in the development of an Environmental Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the weather radar.

The ESMP is a requirement of the donor GCF, as well as SPREP as the Accredited Entity (AE)/Implementing Entity (IE).

SPREP Director of the Environmental Monitoring and Governance Programme, Mr. Jope Davetanivalu, and Ivan Diarra, EMG visited Vanuatu from 09-13 October, 2023. The SPREP team with support from the VanKIRAP Project Management Unit conducted stakeholders’ consultations with relevant government agencies such as (i). Department of Environment Protection and Conservation (DEPC), (ii). Department of Women, (iii). Department of Local Authorities (DLA), (iv). Civil Aviation Authority of Vanuatu (v) Telecommunication, Radiocommunication Broadcasting Regulator (TRBR), (vi). Office of the Chief Government Information Officer (OGCIO), (vii). Vodafone and (viii) Shefa Provincial Council and VMGD.

A site assessment was also conducted of the weather radar site including consultation with the Landowner and 8 families that reside in the vicinity.

A draft EMSP report was presented to the VanKIRAP Technical Working Group on Friday 13th October 2023 for input. An additional 5 days was given to the TWG to submit written comments to the draft report.

The ESMP's primary objective is to ensure the radar installation aligns with both national and international environmental and social standards. It emphasizes the importance of preserving Vanuatu's biodiversity, respecting its socio-cultural values, and guaranteeing that the project's benefits are realized without environmental compromises or jeopardizing the well-being of its citizens. This framework provides a systematic methodology to identify, evaluate, and manage potential environmental and social risks, emphasizing rigorous risk assessment, and the application of proactive mitigation strategies. It also addresses potential impacts on the environment and the community, ensuring that all stakeholders, including local communities and experts, are actively involved in the decision-making processes.

END.