

# VANUATU *briefing* note

June 2013

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

*Adaptation to climate change through the improvement of  
honey bee husbandry, Pele Island, Vanuatu*



The European honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, is distributed throughout the world, including throughout the Pacific Islands. They are also the most economically valuable pollinator of agricultural crops worldwide. Bees are crucial in maintaining agricultural biodiversity by pollinating numerous plant species whose fertilisation requires an obligatory pollinator. In Vanuatu, honey bees are important as a source of food security and income (through honey sales).

Bees have adapted remarkably well to many different climatic biotopes. Changing climatic conditions will, however, have an effect on the survival and productivity of Vanuatu's local honey bee strains. The SPC/GIZ CCCPIR programme is seeking to find innovative ways to enable small-scale honey bee enterprises to adapt to climate change.

The following adaptive strategies have been trialled on Pele Island:

- Modification of hive design to suit changing temperature and rainfall;
- Selection of disease-free strains;
- Improved husbandry techniques;
- Proactive use of agro-meteorology information for planning;
- Increased agricultural productivity with bee pollination

*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.*

### *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

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