

Acknowledgments – Tok Tankiu

My first visit to Vanuatu was in 2015, when I met young enthusiastic ni-Vanuatu in the capital of Port Vila. They were active in their fight for climate justice and concerned for the safety of their families residing on the many islands of Vanuatu. They directed me to investigate the thoughts of people in rural areas on the topic of climate change. My initial thanks, therefore, go to the Vanuatu Climate Warriors for those first discussions and directions.

I am grateful to everyone in Vanuatu who agreed to contribute to my research and therefore this book. Individuals have opened doors, given guidance, made critical statements and offered constructive comments. Particular thanks go to all the women and men of Dixon Reef and Siviri villages, who I had the pleasure of accompanying on numerous visits to their gardens – thank you for your patience and open-mindedness! It is not easy to teach an anthropologist about everyday life and render the ordinary once again extraordinary.

Mi wantem talem tankiu long ol man, woman mo pikinini long Dixon Reef mo long Siviri. Tankiu blong support blong yufalla! Bigfala Tankiu i go long late principal Jif mo fildwoka Joachim Kaibaba blong Dixon Reef. Hemi bin wantem contributem long ol risej, from hemi telem risej hemi wan wei blong documentem ol samting wanem i happen tedei. Bigfala tankiu i go long famili blong mi long Dixon Reef. Fulap taem oli spendem wetem mi, hemi bin wan bigfala kontribution long buk ia. Tankiu long ol mama blong Dixon, oli bin lanem evri lil samtin long mi, tankiu blong support blong yufalla!

Tankiu tumas long ol man, woman mo pikinini long Siviri, mo long Chief Atavi blong Siviri blong strong interest mo save. Mo, wan bigfalla tankiu i go long famili blong mi, hu bin welkam mi evri dei mo no bin taid long ol discussion.

Tankiu long ol mama blong Siviri wetem open hart mo wais words, tankiu blong support blong yufella!

The Vanuatu Cultural Centre has the central institution in the country to have supported this research. Many thanks go to Henline Mala for immense administrative help! I am also grateful to the members of the National Advisory Board on Climate Change in Vanuatu for their continuous engagement and facilitation of this climate change research.

Arno Pascht and I started this research project together and he accompanied me through all stages of my dissertation writing, helping me to realise this book through invaluable advice and critical discussions. My special thanks go to Arno, a constant source of encouragement!

I further want to acknowledge Eveline Dürr for her dedicated academic guidance and Magnus Treiber for his academic support. I would also like to show appreciation to the editors of the 'Umweltethnologie' series for gathering research insights together and making publications possible.

Members of the Oceania working group of the DGSKA (German Association for Social and Cultural Anthropology) have given me great assistance through academic exchange, inviting me for talks and advising me to continue with my work.

This book could not have been realised without the many individuals who have dedicated their precious time. I would like to thank the following people for reading, commenting, editing and for generally supporting me (in alphabetic order): Rosa Dümlein, Valerie Hänsch, Marianne Hartan, Sergio Jarillo, Rebekka Kanesu, Robin Rieprich, Julian Schmischke and Nadine Witte. Additionally, I appreciate all comments given within the doctoral colloquium and through various external conversations. For giving this book final language editing, I am indebted to Suzie Maine, my copyeditor.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my friends and family for their unconditional support. Writing a book requires friends and family to bear a lot while listening to the same stories over and over again.

My 2016–2019 fieldwork took place in the framework of the research project ‘Localising Global Climate Change Policies in Vanuatu: Reception of Knowledge and Cultural Transformation’, funded by DFG (German Research Foundation, grant number: 298643416). Further fieldtrips were financially supported by the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme FALAH (Family Farming, Health and Lifestyle in the Pacific, Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement number: 873185).

During my last visit to Vanuatu in 2023, I discussed these chapters with some of my research partners. A lot has happened since then – babies have been born, friends and families have died, there have been several further cyclones, people have rebuilt houses and replanted gardens. Community lives change. Ni-Vanuatu remain critical of their lives and continue to move on.

Tankiu tumas – Thank you – Danke!

