

Coping with drought and frost: Famine foods and migration during the 1997-98 El Niño event in rural Papua New Guinea

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This thesis investigates the responses of people in rural Papua New Guinea (PNG) to widespread and severe drought and frost in 1997-1998. Secondary survey data were analysed using a mixed-methods research approach to produce trends of famine food consumption, migration and alternative coping strategies. These key adaptation strategies are analysed using social and environmental factors.

This project finds coping strategies had strong associations with people's economic status and biophysical environment. Overall, the rural population widely consumed famine foods and many employed alternative livelihood strategies to obtain access to food. Remittances payments rose sharply. This project has created a database for future research into resilience of rural communities of PNG. Future research should focus on outcomes of coping strategies following drought and frost crises.