

SPREP-Tok

A monthly e-bulletin from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

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LATEST NEWS



Message from the Director General of SPREP

Ni sa bula vinaka and warm greetings from the Secretariat,

As I write this, my first message as Director General of SPREP, the big task that lies ahead is not lost on me as I take over at the helm of the region's premier organisation for the protection of our environment. I would like to first of all congratulate my predecessor, Leota Kosi Latu, on all his achievements while serving the region as Director General for the past seven years, and thank him for his service to the region. The SPREP matavuvale wishes him all the best on this next leg of his journey.

As I begin my term as SPREP's new Director General, I am looking forward to continuing the work of achieving our vision of fostering a resilient Pacific environment that sustains our livelihoods in harmony with our cultures. I am excited for what lies ahead as we work alongside our Member countries and partners.

Vinaka,

Sefanaia Nawadra



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Our vision: A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

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SPREP farewells Mr Kosi Latu as Director General

Commemorating over a decade of achievements made, the staff of SPREP had a special virtual farewell event for outgoing Director General Mr Kosi Latu on 31 March 2022. Mr Latu began with SPREP as the Deputy Director General in 2008, then became Director General in 2016. His term as the SPREP Director General came to an end on 1 April 2022.

Over 100 staff and partners resident on the SPREP campus came together for the virtual event to extend their appreciation for the hard work of Mr Latu, presenting him with a special award for his outstanding leadership in building resilience across the Pacific islands region.

"Words alone cannot express the immense gratitude we have for your service and contribution to SPREP. You have served SPREP and the region well, over and above what was expected of you. You served with humility, passion and dedication because you cared very much for our Pacific people, our environment, and our natural heritage," presented Ms Easter Chu Shing, Deputy Director-General of SPREP.



Development of Samoa National Used Oil Management Plan underway

Waste Management and Pollution Control

The safe and effective management of used oils or commonly known as waste oils – from the collecting, transporting, storing, and disposal – was under the spotlight during the first stakeholder consultation on a National Used Oil Management Plan for Samoa in March.

Hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and SPREP, the consultation invited all stakeholders who deal with used oils in Samoa in various capacities, whether directly or indirectly, from the importing stage right down to disposal.

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SPREP, the Kiwa Initiative, and FFEM sign financing agreement for PEBACC+ Project

Island and Ocean Ecosystems

SPREP, the Agence Française de Développement and the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) have signed an agreement to fund the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change Plus (PEBACC+) Project, the second largest regional project to be signed under the Kiwa Initiative.

The signing ceremony, hosted in Noumea by AFD on 11 March 2022, was undertaken by the Director General of SPREP, Mr. Kosi Latu and the Director General of Agence française de développement (AFD), Mr. Rémy Rioux, who also represented FFEM.

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Our People, our Pacific Environment: Q and A with Maraea Slade-Pogi

Staff Q and A Series

Ms Maraea Slade-Pogi is the Procurement Officer within SPREP's Finance and Administration team. In her role, Ms Slade-Pogi is responsible for ensuring that the Secretariat's procurement activities are carried out in accordance with applicable policies and procedures.

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Supporting oil spill response, liability and compensation in the Pacific Islands region

Waste Management and Pollution Control

The International Maritime Organization has been continuing its work to help make oil spill response, liability and compensation a priority on the national and regional agenda in the Pacific Islands region.

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World must take lead from Pacific island nations in addressing worst impacts of Climate Change

Climate Change Resilience

Our future Pacific islands security requires aggressive emissions reductions by Western countries and wide implementation of climate adaptation, a co-author of the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says..

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Protecting our turtles, now and into the future

Island and Ocean Ecosystems

A national review is underway in Vanuatu to determine the current state of marine turtle management and conservation in the country. Marine turtles are ancient reptiles that have been in the Pacific since dinosaurs roamed the earth and are very important to Vanuatu's natural and cultural heritage.

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Pacific countries lament threat of catastrophic weather events, amplify call for urgent actions

Climate Change Resilience

The findings of the latest report from the IPCC point to a “bleak future” for the Pacific, where people who have the least to contribute to the causes of climate change, live in fear of “catastrophic and extreme” weather events.

Samoa's Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Hon. Toelesulusulu Cedric Schuster, offered the reflection when he addressed a webinar to discuss the main findings of the report, reiterating the call on the developed world for urgent climate actions.

The webinar was hosted virtually by the Pacific Climate Change Centre in partnership with the Institute for Climate, Energy and Disaster Solutions at the Australian National University.

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ISLANDS take steps to free Pacific countries from chemical and hazardous waste

Waste Management and Pollution Control

Fourteen Pacific islands have taken a critical step towards a future where hazardous chemicals and harmful waste are safely managed and sustainably disposed. The promise is contained in the rolling out of the Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island Developing States (ISLANDS) project, for which an inception meeting was held virtually in March to mark the beginning of the implementation phase.

The ISLANDS project is implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme and executed by SPREP.

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Countries share GCCA+ SUPA impacts methodology experiences

Climate Change Resilience

Representatives from the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and Tonga have shared the successes, challenges and experiences of working with a tailored set of tools tested to assess impacts of their history of climate change adaptations.

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Pacific countries push back against frightening marine litter statistics

Waste Management and Pollution Control

There are now more than 150 million tonnes of plastics in the oceans – including the Pacific ocean. This is according to a report by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, which has also warned that if the trend continues, plastics will outweigh fish in the oceans by 2050.

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On International Women's Day 2022: A Message from SPREP

Opinion

On International Women's Day, 8 March 2022, the women and all the staff at SPREP are delighted to join the rest of the world to commemorate this momentous occasion. It's a chance to reflect on the achievements of women across the board, measure the progress made in terms of gender equality and most importantly plan concrete steps for a better and brighter future.

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The world commits to strengthen efforts in the fight against toxic mercury at Minamata COP4

Waste Management and Pollution Control

There was strong Pacific representation at the Fourth Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury in March. Hosted in Bali, Indonesia the Pacific delegates participated in a week of intense negotiations.

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SPREP applauds endorsement of resolution to end plastic pollution

SPREP has applauded the historic endorsement of the resolution to End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument at the UN Environment Assembly at Nairobi in March.

SPREP Pacific Member countries were among 175 nations to endorse the resolution, which establishes an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to work with the ambition of completing a draft global legally binding agreement by the end of 2024.

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Pacific Marine Biosecurity Toolkit and Battler Guide launched

The Pacific's battle against marine invasive species has just been bolstered with the launch of new resources which will support marine biosecurity and invasive species management in the region.

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Training helps Samoa to make Sustainable Development a priority on tourism agenda

Public servants in various Government ministries in Samoa have been equipped with new knowledge on sustainable development and planning, and a renewed appreciation of their roles in making this a priority in the development of the nation's tourism industry.

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