

# SPREP TOK

YOUR MONTHLY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE  
SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

**SPREP Director General, Mr Sefanaia Nawadra presenting to a cohort of 32 Pacific island officials participating in the Pacific Diplomatic Training Programme on 20 March 2025.**



## Message from Mr Sefanaia Nawadra, Director General of SPREP

Bula vinaka,

Your Secretariat has wrapped up a busy first quarter of the year. Pacific preparations kicked off in the Cook Islands for the meetings of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions held later this month in Geneva. We were in Niue for advancing use of traditional knowledge and gender integration in Met Services and in Samoa, the legal profession is taking steps to strengthen national capacity on environmental law, critical to address pressing environmental issues for Pacific resilience. We have an eventful year ahead and we look forward to working with you all for the protection of our Pacific environment.

May you have a great month ahead!

Sefa.



## Vanuatu Met Engineers hone expertise in Finland ahead of historic Weather Radar installation

Three engineers from Vanuatu's Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department (VMGD) are returning home equipped with cutting-edge technical skills and will become key players in the nation's climate resilience efforts, namely the installation of the nation's Weather Radar.

Ms Esther Saul, Mr Loic Jimmy, and Mr Jino Moli have completed an intensive 30-day factory training programme in Finland.

[READ MORE](#)



## Majuro Tackles Invasives: Invasive Birds Management Training to enhance Biodiversity Conservation

RMI has been actively working on managing invasive species, including birds, through various initiatives. One significant effort is the endorsement of the National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP), which aims to enhance the effective management of invasive species and outlines priority actions to mitigate their impacts on RMI's biodiversity.

[READ MORE](#)



## SPREP lead efforts to assist communities in Chuuk to adapt to climate change impacts

The predicament is dire for citizens and communities living on Chuuk State in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). According to an analysis of Chuuk's climate averages, variability, trends and projections identified in the Climate Impact, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (CIVRA) report undertaken by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), sea surface temperatures have been increasing, and this trend is projected to continue.

[READ MORE](#)

## Strengthening Environmental Law in Samoa

Samoa is taking steps to strengthen its capacity on environmental law, critical to address pressing environmental issues for Pacific resilience. The Pacific islands are faced with exponential threats and impacts imposed by the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. As a result, Pacific countries are fighting on all fronts to address the impacts with little resources and administrative capacities.

[READ MORE](#)



## Building our Pacific negotiating capacity ahead of Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conferences of the Parties

The delegates representing the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) to the upcoming Triple Conferences of the Parties (COPs) to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, further bolstered their preparations through a negotiations training at the Pacific Sub-Regional Preparatory Meeting for the BRS COPs.

[READ MORE](#)

## Regional workshop to strengthen integration of traditional knowledge and gender into climate services kicks off in Niue

The capital of Niue was abuzz with activity on Friday 21 March as delegates from around the Pacific converged on the Millenium Hall to officially open a regional peer-to-peer learning workshop that looks to strengthen the integration of traditional knowledge and gender into climate services.

[READ MORE](#)





## PAVE Health Inception Meeting delves into health-related impacts of climate change

The Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) hosted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) in partnership with the University of Melbourne (UoM) have launched the Pacific Action to enhance the Visibility of Evidence on Health and Climate Impacts (PAVE – Health) Inception Meeting in Samoa.

[READ MORE](#)



## Resilient Ecosystems, Resilient Communities Tonga Exchange Workshop Empowers Pacific Battlers

The Government of Tonga, with funding from the Global Environment Facility's Regional Invasives Project (GEF6 RIP), continues to strengthen its commitment to ecological restoration, having a total of three restoration sites within the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) Resilient Ecosystems, Resilient Communities (RERC) programme, a flagship initiative of PRISMSS.

[READ MORE](#)

## Enhancing Skills in Environmental Data Management

"The Pacific Environment Data Portal is an essential tool for our member countries, providing access to reliable environmental data that supports adaptation planning and reporting obligations," said Mr Jope Davetanivalu, Director of SPREP's Environmental Governance Programme. "By investing in internal capacity building, we are strengthening our ability to support member countries in achieving their sustainable development goals."

[READ MORE](#)



## Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme to strengthen understanding of the plastic problem in the Pacific

The Coastal Monitoring Programme aims to measure and monitor mismanaged plastic waste across islands in the Pacific. Working with government and communities, teams will collect on ground data to identify sources, distribution and hotspots of marine litter.

[READ MORE](#)



# One Pacific Voice

Special moments



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025

IWD is a specific day dedicated to the advancement of women worldwide. Commemorated on 8 March, IWD celebrates the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women and marks a call to action for accelerating gender equality. SPREP celebrated IWD this year by standing in solidarity in support of this year's theme 'Accelerate Action'. We must increase opportunities for women and girls, as sustainable development in the Pacific will not be achieved unless women are fully involved in all aspects of the management and protection of our Pacific environment.



## Singing from the Same Pacific Song Sheet Crucial for Improved Early Warnings for All Commemorating 75th Anniversary of WMO on [#WorldMeteorologicalDay](#)

"More than ever, we all need to speak the same language when it comes to early warnings and preparing our Pacific Peoples by equipping them with relevant information," said Mr. Salesa Nihmei, Officer-in-Charge of the Climate Science and Information Programme at SPREP.

[READ MORE](#)



## FFA and SPREP strengthen environmental protection and fisheries sustainability

A milestone agreement between Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and SPREP reinforces the sustainable management of Pacific fisheries and environmental conservation. The MOU was signed by FFA Director-General Noan Pakop and SPREP Director General Sefanaia Nawadra, and witnessed by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General Baron Waqa.

The signing took place at the margins of the [#HoniaraSummit2025](#) that was held in Honiara from 24 - 27 February 2025.