

SPREP TOK

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

**SPREP Director General,
Sefanaia Nawadra and
Tuvalu Prime Minister, Hon.
Feleti Teo during the Clean
Pacific Roundtable in
Funafuti, Tuvalu 2024.**



Message from Mr Sefanaia Nawadra, Director General of SPREP

Malo e lelei,

April has been a busy month for your Secretariat. Our teams have been on the ground working with Members to build regional capacity in climate science, invasive species management, biodiversity conservation, climate change resilience and waste management. The triple Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm (BRS) COPs have wrapped up with a strong representation from the Pacific, amplifying our voices and Pacific priorities for hazardous and chemical waste management. We have a busy year ahead but we continue to set our sights on the horizon in steering our vaka towards an environmentally Resilient Pacific.

May you have a great month ahead!

Sefa.



Sustainable Watercress Farming: A Model for Income and Environmental Conservation

In the heart of Taveuni, Mr. Tomasi Sovayaloka from Tavuki, Cakaudrove, is proving that farmers do not need to encroach on the Taveuni Forest Reserves to make a living. By cultivating watercress, Tomasi has demonstrated that alternative crops can provide better economic returns than traditional farming methods while preserving the island's fragile ecosystem. For generations, farmers in Taveuni have relied on dalo and yaqona has their main cash crops. intact.

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Reviving Nu'utele Island: Enhancing Ecosystem Resilience by Eradicating Invasive Species

Eradicating invasive species like rats and pigs is a crucial initiative to enhance ecosystem resilience, as these invaders severely disrupt the native biodiversity of Pacific islands by preying on bird eggs, chicks, small reptiles, and damaging vegetation. By eliminating these invasive species, endangered species such as the Hawksbill turtle and the shy ground dove are protected.

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Working together to address climate-induced Loss and Damage in the Cook Islands

Celebrating history with the 60-years of self-governance this year, the Cook Islands is also focusing its lens on a future where the challenges of climate-induced loss and damage are met with equitable and effective solutions. The Cook Islands national dialogue on Loss and Damage in Rarotonga, brought together people from across the Cook Islands to share their experiences, build their knowledge, and to enable mutual support to actively address this climate change challenge.

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Traditional Knowledge: Our living memories and living libraries

The early blooming of specific trees, changes in animal behaviour, shifts in wind direction, and the alignment of stars is Traditional Knowledge (TK) that has long been used to anticipate cyclones, droughts, or high tides in Tuvalu. In Funafuti, a two-day national workshop brought together traditional knowledge holders, government representatives and community leaders to raise the critical role of TK in understanding and predicting Tuvalu's weather, climate, and extreme events.

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Basel and Stockholm Conventions provide opportunities for improved waste management in FSM

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), like other Pacific Island countries, is a country of imports. In fact, imported products and materials needed for agriculture, health, construction, transportation, and general consumption become a challenge when they become waste due to the lack of effective infrastructure systems to store and treat waste.

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Why blue carbon matters – a PNG conservationist's perspective

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is home to one of the largest mangrove covers and seagrass species in the Pacific, as well as globally. Growing up, Ms Marzena Ann Marinjembri witnessed first-hand how vital mangroves, seagrass beds, and marine biodiversity are to the wellbeing of local communities, both environmentally and economically. This fostered in her a deep respect for PNG's coastal ecosystems.

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Earth Observation technologies for Pacific sustainability

Earth Observation (EO) technologies are proving vital in advancing environmental sustainability and resilience across Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). That was the key takeaway message for participants of the "Integrating Earth Observation Technologies for Enhanced Sustainability and Resilience in the Pacific Islands" webinar.

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SPREP announces CIRCLE EXPO 2025

Excitement is growing as the countdown continues towards the inaugural Circularity, Innovation, Recovery, Culture, Learning, and Environment (CIRCLE) EXPO 2025. Organised and facilitated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) over five days in Apia, the CIRCLE EXPO is a multidisciplinary event to address issue of recyclable materials, organic materials, asbestos management, healthcare waste management, e-waste management, used oil management, bulky waste, and Disaster Waste.

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Real impact of our work lies with farmers, fishers, communities, 16th Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum reminded

The Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF) must evolve, become more ambitious and continue to be guided by a vision that reflects the changing needs of the Pacific region. This was the message from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) during the opening of the Sixteenth Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF-16).

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Regional Dialogue strengthens Pacific engagement in Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change processes

In Fiji, SPREP in partnership with the Australian Department of Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water (DCCEEW) and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), and key regional stakeholders, hosted the Pacific Regional Dialogue on the Pacific Engagement in the IPCC.

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One Pacific Voice

Special moments



Coral reef, Gau island, Fiji © Stuart Chape 2022

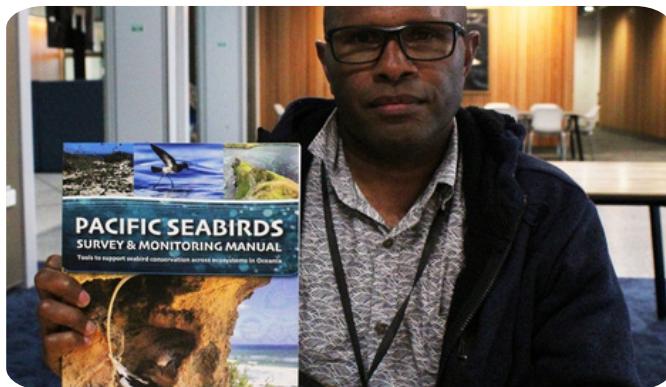
WORLD EARTH DAY 2025

Happy **#WorldEarthDay2025!**

On April 22 every year, people around the world unite to celebrate World Earth Day to focus on environmental conservation and sustainability awareness.

SPREP's Director General, Mr Sefanaia Nawadra, shared his thoughts on why World Earth Day matters and shines more light on the work being done by SPREP, Pacific countries and our partners to **#EndPlasticPollution** and build a healthier and cleaner Pacific environment.

[**READ THE FULL STATEMENT HERE**](#)



Pacific Seabirds Survey and Monitoring Manual and the Pacific Seabird Colony Database launched.

At the Oceania Seabirds 2025 Symposium, the new Pacific Seabirds Survey and Monitoring Manual and the Pacific Seabird Colony Database were launched. These new resources will assist greatly to better inform the management and protection of seabirds in the region.

These new seabird resources have been produced by the Pacific BioScapes Programme.

[**Download your copy of the manual HERE**](#)

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Writeshop Builds Pathway to Sustainable Financing for Taveuni Communities

In a continued effort to support climate resilience and sustainable development in local communities, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), through the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC+) project, completed its third round of the 'Writeshop' in Taveuni.

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