

# SPREP-Tok

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



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

Bula vinaka,  
May has been an eventful month for your Secretariat. We hosted the first CIRCLE Expo highlighting Pacific successes in waste management. Pacific media practitioners joined the first Loss and Damage Reporting training, using storytelling as an awareness raising tool. Our SPREP Trilaterals took place reaffirming New Zealand and Australia's

commitment to the Pacific, with Australia committing an additional AUD\$24.75 million to the work of the Secretariat. As we head into the second half of the year our teams and partners remain committed in supporting our Members for an environmentally Resilient Pacific. May you have a great month ahead! Sefa.



## Vanuatu builds momentum ahead of United Nations climate negotiations

Government officials from across Vanuatu have taken a critical step to prepare for the 62nd session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Subsidiary Bodies (UNFCCC SB62) in June and, ultimately, the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) in Brazil this November. From 13–15 May 2025 at the Warwick Resort in Port Vila, government officials have been engaged in the second national climate change negotiations training.

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## Coastal Nature-based solutions in Kiribati draws on lessons from the past

SPREP through its technical assistance programme under the Kiwa Initiative, continues to support the Government of Kiribati in mainstreaming and implementing Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Climate Change Adaptation. The first mission to Kiribati in September 2024 with a team from O2 Metocean Pty Ltd included site visits, a national workshop and training on gender-responsive and socially inclusive NbS.

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## CIRCLE Expo strengthens resolve to effect meaningful change in waste management and pollution control

After five days of peer-to-peer learning and highlighting solutions, challenges and the achievements of 16 Pacific countries, territories and Timor Leste in the work to address waste management and pollution control, the inaugural Circularity, Innovation, Recovery, Culture, Learning, and Environment (CIRCLE) Expo 2025 in Samoa has closed.

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## SPREP hosts first Regional Pacific Media training on Loss and Damage Reporting

As climate change continues to devastate communities across the Pacific, media practitioners and journalists are gathering this week at the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) in Apia, Samoa, to sharpen one of the region's most powerful tools in the fight for climate change action, storytelling.

From 19–21 May 2025, SPREP hosted the first regional media training on Loss and Damage Reporting.

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## Tuvalu strengthens capacity in environmental knowledge management

To better manage, preserve, and share environmental knowledge was the aim of a virtual training for Tuvalu aimed at enhancing national capacity in using the SPREP Virtual Library, a vital resource for environmental information in the Pacific region. On 29 April 2025, participants from across Tuvalu, including representatives from the USP Tuvalu Campus, the Tuvalu Parliament Library, the Tuvalu National Library, and Library and Information Studies students took part in the training.

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## Pacific Tourism Board approves New Standards and Certification Programme to Phase Out Single-Use Plastics

A new era of sustainable tourism is taking shape in the Pacific as the Board of Directors of the Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) approved a new Certification Framework and Implementation Toolkit designed to help Pacific Island countries eliminate single-use plastics (SUPs) from their tourism industries.

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### SPREP Tok

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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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## Pacific Workshop Advances Environmental Policy Coherence in Climate and Nature Nexus

Biodiversity loss and climate change are two of the most pressing challenges facing humanity—and in the Pacific region, their impacts are deeply intertwined. Healthy ecosystems serve as natural buffers against climate impacts, while climate change accelerates environmental degradation and species loss.

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## Building resilience in FSM through strengthened capacity of Yap National Weather Service

The Federated States of Micronesia is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the impacts of climate change. As His Excellency Mr. Jeem S. Lippwe, FSM Ambassador to the United Nations stated at the 29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Baku last year, climate impacts are not abstract statistics for FSM, they are their daily reality.

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## Regular Tree Maintenance Key to Sustaining Conservation Gains at Aku Farm

A recent Tree Stocktake Assessment conducted at Aku Farm under the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change Plus (PEBACC+) project highlights the encouraging progress in reforestation at the Tagabe River catchment. However, the findings also stress that regular and strategic maintenance is key to the long-term survival of these efforts.

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## Weather Ready Pacific meets to chart a course towards Pacific resilience to extreme weather events

Identifying priority areas for funding and mapping out activities to be implemented under the Weather Ready Pacific (WRP) Programme, a Pacific-led and Pacific-owned initiative established by Pacific leaders in 2021, which seeks to strengthen the resilience of Pacific island communities to the impacts of extreme weather events, is at the centre of a series of meetings in Honiara.

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# One Pacific Voice

Special moments



## World Press Freedom Day 3 May 2025

On World Press Freedom Day, SPREP joined member countries, partners, and the global community in celebrating the vital role of the media across the Pacific and beyond. We paid tribute to the pioneers, trailblazers, and legends who paved the way for press freedom, and welcomed this year's theme: "Reporting in the Brave New World – The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media."

We acknowledge the essential role journalists and media workers play in promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance. We extend our heartfelt thanks to those who have supported our mission to protect the Pacific's environment and we look forward to continued collaboration as we work together for a resilient Pacific!



## New Chapter, Shared Future: Australia commits \$24.75m to SPREP

The Government of Australia has bolstered their commitment to the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) with an additional AUS\$24.75 million. The announcement was made during the annual high-level consultations between the Government of Australia and SPREP on 15 May 2025, building on longstanding partnership. This next phase of partnership marks a deepening of Australia's commitment to Pacific-led solutions.

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## Annual SPREP Trilaterals with Australia and New Zealand

The annual SPREP, Australia, and New Zealand Trilateral meeting was held 13–14 May in Samoa at the Pacific Climate Change Centre. Chaired by New Zealand's Ryan McLane and attended by Australia's Emily Luck, the meeting focused on regional priorities, partnership arrangements, and SPREP's programme delivery. SPREP Director General Sefanaia Nawadra thanked both countries for their support, highlighting the importance of the discussions in strengthening collaboration and capacity.