

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

Greetings from your Secretariat,

As you read through this issue of the SPREP Tok, you'll notice that despite the restrictions and challenges posed by COVID-19 lockdowns, the work to protect our Pacific environment never stops. This our commitment to our Member countries, partners and all the people of the Pacific.

I want to continue the momentum in terms of digital transformation and virtual platforms to facilitate the delivery of services to Members, effectively and efficiently. The unpredictable nature of the pandemic means we don't know what is going to happen tomorrow but our infrastructural capacity must meet the evolving and demanding nature of the work we are here to do.

The truth is that existential threats like climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss do not care about the fact the world is facing a pandemic.

Where we live in the Pacific, we are confronted by different climatic events each and every day demanding urgent action. We cannot be passive. It is why we must persevere and do whatever we can to deliver, whatever it takes.

Stay safe everyone, vinaka!

Sefanaia Nawadra



SPREP's New Director General Sefanaia Nawadra takes office

A new dawn at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) started this month with the organisation welcoming its new Director General.

Mr Sefanaia Nawadra takes over from his predecessor, Mr Kosi Latu, who held the role since 2016. Mr Nawadra's appointment was announced at the 30th SPREP Meeting of Officials last September, but was unable to take up the role due to prior commitments as the Head of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Pacific Office.

Still, the new Director General is excited about his new calling.

"I feel extremely honoured and humbled to be in this position," Mr Nawadra said.

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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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Striving to halt Pacific biodiversity loss

Island and Ocean Ecosystems

Amidst all that is going on in the world today, the fight to halt the loss of biodiversity is ongoing.

Unfortunately for the Pacific Islands region, we struggle to be heard from afar, to ensure our concerns are accounted for in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to be finalised and endorsed at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15).

COP15 was originally scheduled to be held in 2020, now two years later it is scheduled to be held in the third quarter of 2022 in Kunming, China.

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SWAP 2022 Steering Committee strengthens Cleaner Pacific focus

Waste Management and Pollution Control

The second SWAP (Committing to Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific) Steering Committee Meeting has ended with a renewed focus from the project, countries and all the partners to accelerate efforts to improve lives in the Pacific through proper and sustainable waste management.

The Second SWAP Steering Committee Meeting was chaired by the Assistant Head of the Territorial Environment Service of Wallis and Futuna, Ms Ateliana Maugeateau, who took over the reins from the outgoing Chair, Mr Seumaloisalafai Afele Failagi, of Samoa.

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Curtain falls on Next Generation Climate Projections project

Climate Change Resilience

Pacific Island countries have reaped the benefits of using enhanced science-based climate data and information to inform decision making across various key sectors, through the Next Generation Climate Projections for the Western Tropical Pacific project, which concluded in March 2022.

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Environmental Impact Assessment training helps Tokelau build sustainable future

Environmental Monitoring and Governance

Tokelau's quest for sustainable development has been strengthened by an Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment training delivered by the EMG Programme of SPREP.

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Value of waste data identified as critical; countries share marine litter experiences

Waste Management and Pollution Control

Valuable experiences from different countries have been shared, documented, and will play a critical part in formulating plans to fight marine litter and pollution. The successes and lessons were a key part of the "Marine Litter Workshop" organised by the SWAP project in April 2022.

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Celebrating a milestone for climate and ocean monitoring in the Pacific

Climate Change Resilience

A milestone since the convening of the 175th session of the Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) was celebrated when Climate and Ocean officers from Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services gathered for an online forum.

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Raising the bar to keep temperatures and sea levels low across the Pacific

By Prof. Mark Howden and 'Ofa Ma'asi-Kaisamy

With many parts of the Pacific still in flux due to COVID-19, a new report on climate change brings no solace for the region.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group III report on Mitigation of Climate Change finds that with greenhouse gas emissions at record levels, limiting global warming to 1.5C is only possible if global leaders commit to making immediate and strong action.

This is a question of survival for the Pacific because of its unique vulnerabilities and the existential threats posed by climate change.

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SPREP appoints Directors for Environmental Monitoring and Governance and Waste Management and Pollution Control programmes

General SPREP News

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme announced two senior appointments to the Directors for its Environmental Monitoring and Governance (EMG) Programme and the Waste Management and Pollution Control (WMPC) Programme.

Mr Jope Davetanivalu is appointed the Director of the EMG while Mr Anthony Talouli is the Director of WMPC. The appointments followed a rigorous, competitive, and merit-based selection process.

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How Impact Analysis methodology tools are helping Nukuoro atoll document its freshwater supply

Climate Change Resilience

The data collected using tools from an Impacts Analysis methodology, designed to monitor the progress of climate change adaptation work, is helping authorities in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) document its freshwater supply, and secure the future of the community.

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Training partnership for Environmental and Social Sustainability in the Pacific reaches new heights

Environmental Monitoring and Governance

Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) and Impact Assessment (IA) tools can help us to manage the impacts of infrastructure and projects in our island countries with the goal of achieving sustainable development of our Pacific islands.

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Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum convenes tenth session

Climate Change Resilience

Representatives of Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and partner agencies came together during the tenth session of the Pacific Island Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF-10) to review climate and oceans conditions in the Pacific from the past six months and provide outlook guidance for the next six months.

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Pacific partnerships at work in global biodiversity negotiations

Island and Ocean Ecosystems

Pacific fellowship was at work during the global biodiversity negotiations held in April. The suite of inter-sessional meetings were held as part of the journey to the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to take place in Kunming, China in the third quarter of this year.

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