

SPREP TOK

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



MESSAGE FROM MR SEFANAIA NAWADRA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SPREP

Bula Vinaka from the SPREP campus!

Our team has hit the ground running this year with not a moment to waste. We were honoured to welcome key high-level visitors to SPREP who have played a key role in building our Pacific resilience. The Right Honourable Winston Peters, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade as well as the Honourable Dr. Shane Reti, Minister of Health and Minister for Pacific Peoples of the Government of New Zealand as well as Honourable Yoko Kamikawa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Government of Japan.

Our teams continued to work closely with you all as they support our Pacific Islands for an environmentally resilient Pacific, and some of that work is highlighted in this issue of the SPREP-Tok.

Have a blessed month ahead.

Vinaka,
Sefa



SAMOA STEPS UP CORAL REEF MONITORING

Samoa is designing an intergrated national coral reef monitoring programme to better inform management of Samoa's coral reefs and associates fisheries. The follows a five-day workshop with key government ministries, intergovernmental and non-government partners, as well as a two-day workshop with local communities.

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PSIDS CHAIR RALLIES PACIFIC IN THE BATTLE AGAINST PLASTIC POLLUTION

The Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) are small in numbers but it continues to punch well above its weight in its commitment and dedication to ending plastic pollution. The point was made by the Government of Vanuatu, the new Chair of PSIDS in Auckland New Zealand.

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THE COOK ISLANDS ON THE CUSP OF MAKING CONSERVATION HISTORY FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

Dedicated towards conserving Cook Islands biodiversity, the island nation is applying for the Takitumu Conservation Area to be recognised as an 'Other Effective area-based Conservation Measure'. If successful, this will be the first internationally acknowledged OECM in the Pacific Islands region.

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PACIFIC PREPARATIONS FOR INC-4 PROVIDES COMMON UNDERSTANDING ON KEY ISSUES AHEAD OF OTTAWA

Fourteen Pacific countries have taken a step closer to finalise their preparations, with a common understanding of key issues, for the next round of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-4) in Canada.

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KIRIBATI BEGINS MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING JOURNEY WITH THE PACIFIC BIOSCAPES PROGRAMME

A successfully implemented marine spatial plan can reduce conflicts among users, reduce environmental impacts, facilitate compatible uses, and protect critical ecosystems. In practical terms, it provides a public policy process for society to better determine how the ocean and coasts are sustainably used and managed.

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ONE PACIFIC REFLECTS ON COP28

The One Pacific reviewed the outcomes of the world's largest climate change negotiations platform and preparing for the next steps on the 2024 journey through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations.

The UNFCCC's 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates last year was the biggest of its kind, with more than 80,000 participants in attendance, including 150 Heads of State and Government.

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STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE, PACIFIC OCEAN CONFERENCE

The continued partnership between the National University of Samoa (NUS), Victoria University of Wellington – Te Heranga Waka (VUW), and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) has been further bolstered and reinforced this week through a visit to Wellington by a contingent from the Samoan-based institutions.

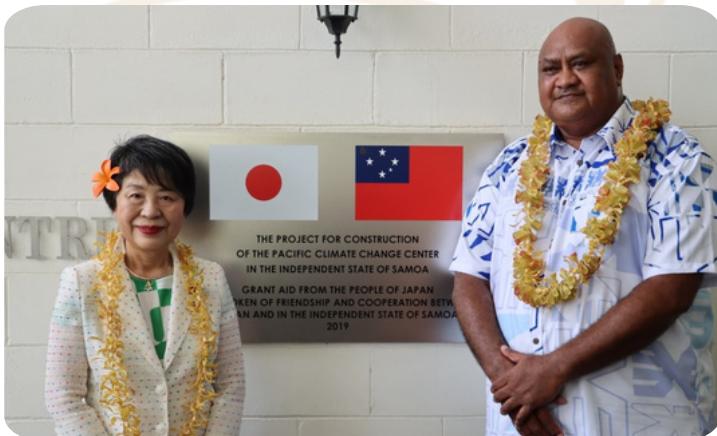
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YOUNG NEGOTIATORS LAUD EXPERIENCE SHARED AT PACIFIC NEGOTIATIONS TRAINING

As a young Pacific woman, Ms Darla Yatilman, of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has high aspirations to help her country address one of the most pressing issues of modern time, the plastic pollution crisis. But she knows that a small Pacific nation like hers needs all the help they can get to ensure their voice is reflected..

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NEW ZEALAND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND JAPAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS VISIT SPREP

Mr Sefanaia Nawadra, Director General of SPREP welcomed the Right Honourable Winston Peters, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade as well as the Honourable Dr. Shane Reti, Minister of Health and Minister for Pacific Peoples of the Government of New Zealand to the SPREP Campus in Apia Samoa. Mr Nawadra also received the delegation from Japan also included Deputy Minister for Foreign Policy and Director-General, Foreign Policy Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Yasuhiro Kobe and His Excellency Keisuke Senta, Ambassador of Japan to Samoa. The SPREP team were delighted to host the New Zealand and Japan delegations, both who have played key roles in building our Pacific resilience.