

# SPREP-Tok

Your monthly news highlights from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

## MESSAGE FROM MR SEFANAIA NAWADRA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SPREP

Mauri,

As we head into the second half of the year we remain optimistic in our journey towards an environmentally Resilient Pacific. We have continued our in-country assistance for invasive species management through training in Vanuatu and providing equipment in the Marshall Islands. In Kiribati, through the Climate Risks and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Pacific SIDS 2.0 project, technical equipment has been provided to ensure that communities are well informed and equipped with the knowledge needed to understand early warnings and be able to respond accordingly. In Vanuatu, we joined Vanuatu Prime Minister Hon. Charlot Salwai for the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the nation's first Weather Radar System, to offer timely and precise weather information also enhancing Vanuatu's early warning services. Through these initiatives, SPREP continues its commitment to provide technical assistance to our Member countries across all our thematic areas.

May you have a great month ahead!

Sefa



## REBUILDING NAURU – THE ISLAND NATION'S AMBITION CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLAN

The Government of the Republic of Nauru is taking its future into its own hands, with the development of an ambitious plan for a transformational and managed migration of people living in vulnerable areas along the coastline to areas further inland, called the Higher Ground Initiative (HGI).

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## ENHANCING VANUATU'S NATIONAL CAPACITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Vanuatu has taken a significant step towards enhancing environmental governance following a transformative week-long workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and enhancing national development permitting processes in the country.

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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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## CREWS PACIFIC PROJECT ENHANCES COMMUNICATION OF EARLY WARNINGS IN KIRIBATI WITH DONATION OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

Through the assistance of the Climate Risks and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Pacific SIDS 2.0 project, the Kiribati Meteorological Service have received the much needed technical equipment that will help ensure that communities are well informed.

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## PACIFIC INVASIVE SPECIES BATTLERS ARMED TO TARGET WIDESPREAD WEEDS WITH NATURAL ENEMIES

Natural enemies play a crucial role in the biological control of widespread weeds, offering an environmentally sustainable alternative to chemical herbicides. When prioritising weeds for biological control, several critical criteria must be considered to ensure effective and sustainable management.

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## CHIPPER BOOSTS ABILITY OF REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS TO MANAGE ORGANIC MATERIALS

Managing organic material is a lot more efficient for the Majuro Atoll Waste Company in the Republic of Marshall Islands, with the arrival of a new heavy-duty chipper. The new bright orange mobile chipper is currently in operating at the dumpsite, processing the organic material received into mulch for transport to the compost facility.

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## PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS CONTRIBUTE TO FIJI'S GOAL OF PLANTING 30 MILLION TREES

More than thirty students of Ro Delainamako Primary School can hold their heads high with great sense of pride having contributed to Fiji's goal of planting 30 million trees in 15 years. Year 7 and Year 8 students of the Naboro-based primary school participated in a mangrove restoration programme on Wednesday 24 July 2024 to commemorate World Mangrove Day.

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## WEATHER RADAR SYSTEM A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RESPONSE IN VANUATU

Vanuatu receives the highest number of cyclones than any other country in the Southwest Pacific region. It also remains to be the most vulnerable country in the world to natural disasters and remnants of twin cyclones Judy and Kevin in early 2023 can still be seen in Vanuatu to date. With the increasing vulnerability to the climate crisis and disaster events, the need for timely and precise weather information.

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## PROTECTING COMMUNITIES IN TUVALU FROM THE THREAT OF ASBESTOS

The Tuvalu Department of Waste Management (DWM) is determined to keep their communities safe from the potential hazard of asbestos through accurate data collection and assessment.

Director of DWM, Mr Epu Falega, knows the consequences of not addressing the issue and is working to do everything possible to safeguard his country and people.

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## MANUIA LAU MALAGA OUR DEAR COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND, MR ROGER CORNFORTH.

In July, we bade farewell to our dear colleague and friend, Mr Roger Cornforth. A conservationist and environmentalist from Aotearoa New Zealand who served our great Pacific Islands region with humility and respect for our people and our environment. Roger was our former Deputy Director General of Strategic Planning, Project Coordination, and Information Services from June 2016 to January 2021. Prior to this, he had worked across the Pacific from Samoa to Tokelau and was already a friend and colleague to so many of us in the environment, development, and resilience space. While with us at SPREP, Roger played an instrumental role in the development of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017 - 2026, which continues to guide our work today. On a personal note, as one of our SPREP family, we all have fond memories of Roger as a kind, compassionate, and supportive member of our leadership team.

Our deepest condolences go out to Betty-Lynne and their family. We will miss our good friend and colleague.

Kua hinga te tōtara o Te Waonui a Tāne. May Roger Rest in Eternal Peace and Love.

