

SPREP TOK

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

SPREP Director General, Mr Sefanaia Nawadra and Senior Climate Change Adviser from NZMFAT Ms Rachel Chisholm signed a variation for the extension of the Grant Funding Agreement between SPREP and New Zealand for the Pacific Climate Change Centre until March 2027.



Message from Mr Sefanaia Nawadra, Director General of SPREP

Bula vinaka,

as we journey towards the end of 2025, we remain on course for a very busy period. October has been a fruitful month as we've worked in partnership with Members and partners for a resilient Pacific. We've helped build capacity this past month to empower our Pacific Islands voices, acknowledged those that tell our stories with the Vision Pasifika Media Award, supported work on the ground in our Island Members and we've also partnered with the University of Canterbury to host the Adaptation Futures Conference 2025. You'll receive this as our Pacific Small Islands Developing States are attending the UNFCCC COP30 in Belem, we wish you all the best as you amplify our One Pacific Voice on this global stage.

Ni sa moce, *Sefa*



Winners of Vision Pasifika Media Awards Cleaner Pacific announced

A feature story authored by a university student highlighting the harm plastic pollution poses to human health in Fiji, with risks expected to rise significantly if robust action is not taken soon to address the crisis, has won the Online category of the 2024 Vision Pasifika Media Awards – Cleaner Pacific.

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Make sure your Voice is heard, Pacific delegates preparing for CITES COP20 urged

Pacific delegates, who spent a week in Samoa combing through the details of the upcoming Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) COP20 agenda, have been encouraged to make sure their Voice is heard loud and clear in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from 24 November – 5 December 2025.

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Lived reality of climate-induced Loss and Damage drives Solomon Islands national response

The Government and the people of the Solomon Islands are taking urgent concrete steps to address the devastating impacts of climate change-induced loss and damage on the Pacific nation. Amongst the first steps include the commitment to convene a Steering Committee Group made up of Government authorities, provincial governments and all relevant stakeholders to mobilise technical support for policies and plans, amongst other things, to advance the National Loss and Damage Agenda.

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From bushfires to flooding: Pacific faces climate challenges as PICOF-17 convenes

Bushfires, hailstorms, widespread flooding, heatwaves and droughts were some of the hazards reported by meteorological services in the Pacific Region between May and October this year. These hazards resulted in a range of impacts including losses to agricultural productivity, disruption to businesses, damage to infrastructure, road closures and loss of marine life. While the impacts vary across the Pacific, the adverse effects on livelihoods raise alarm bells and calls for better preparedness.

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Waste Management and Pollution training courses go live on SPREP e-learning platform

Building capacity and promoting knowledge sharing on Waste Management and Pollution Control for Pacific countries are key aims of several vocational training courses now available on the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) e-learning platform. The platform offers free, self-paced courses on critical environmental topics, providing open and accessible training resources tailored to Pacific needs.

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Tonga advances sustainable mining practices and environmental governance

The Kingdom of Tonga has taken a significant step forward in strengthening its environmental governance framework following the successful completion of a comprehensive five-day workshop on terrestrial aggregate mining guidelines and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes. Held from 13-17 October 2025, the workshop was co-organised and facilitated by SPREP in partnership with Tonga's Department of Environment (DoE) and delivered by consultant, Care of Our Environment (COOE).

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Young Farmers Cultivate Hope and Sustainability in Taveuni

In the quiet farming community of Vuna, on the southern tip of Taveuni, Fiji, a new wave of young farmers is redefining what it means to cultivate the land and a future. They call themselves the Kevin Young Farmers Alumni (KYFA), a group of 14 young men from Kanacea and Vuna, most of them graduates of the Tutu Rural Training Centre. What began as a casual conversation among friends about how to apply what they learned at Tutu has grown into a structured and disciplined farming cooperative.

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As we prepare for COP30, we remain hopeful that together we can all make a difference

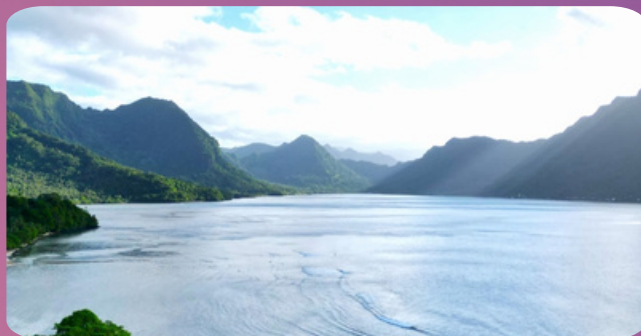
COP30 takes place at a critical time where there are so many competing global issues. 2025 also marks a decade of the Paris Agreement which exists to combat climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees, compared to pre-industrial levels.

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Strengthening the Pacific's ability to manage chemicals and pesticides to safeguard our environment, our people

Fiji's economy, culture, and quality of life rely on its pristine natural environment. The country's unique terrestrial and marine ecosystems are vital not just for ecological health but for socio-economic progress.

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New Nepul Community Climate Centre Empowers Vanuatu Community with Knowledge and Tools for a Resilient Future

In a significant step towards bolstering local climate resilience for more than 3,700 people, the Nepul Community Climate Centre (CCC) in Vanuatu has been launched, marking the culmination of a dedicated training workshop that has equipped 30 participants as certified Climate Champions.

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Samoa welcomes tiny heroes in the fight against invasive weeds

Samoa has officially received its first batch of African tulip beetles (*Paradibolia coerulea*), marking a major milestone in the country's efforts to combat the invasive African tulip tree (*Spathodea campanulata*) and the region's efforts to use natural solutions for invasive weed control. The African tulip tree while admired for its vibrant flowers, is a highly invasive species in many Pacific island countries. Its aggressive spread disrupts native ecosystems, contributing to biodiversity loss by outcompeting indigenous flora and altering habitats.

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From ballast tanks to Blue Ocean: Pacific moves to secure its Waters

Senior maritime and environmental experts from across the Pacific region have gathered in Nadi Fiji for a four-day regional workshop and expert meeting focused on implementing the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM). Hosted by the Government of Fiji and co-organised by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the meeting addresses the critical need for a unified approach to ballast water management in the region.

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Fiji concludes MACBLUE Project with Closing Event

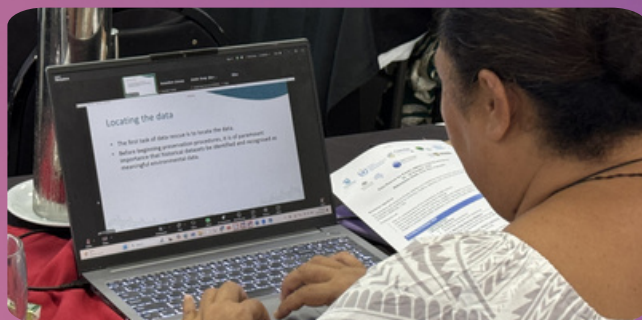
The MACBLUE project partners, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Pacific Community (SPC), and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), gathered in Suva, on Thursday 23 October 2025, to mark the successful closing of the project in Fiji. This initiative, implemented across Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu, has significantly advanced the conservation and sustainable management of coastal ecosystems, including mangroves and seagrasses.

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Preserving the Past, Protecting the Future: Data rescue workshop strengthens Pacific Meteorological Services

Preserving historical weather and climate data with aim of making them available for future climate analyses is vital for understanding how Pacific island climates are changing, and for strengthening the services that keep Pacific communities safe.

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One Pacific Voice

Special moments



Adaptation Futures Conference 2025 13 – 16 October

The Adaptation Futures Conference took place in Otautahi Christchurch, New Zealand. The conference, in its eighth iteration, is the premier international climate change adaptation conference – enabling practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and academics from across the world to gather to network, collaborate, learn, and inspire. SPREP was honoured to partner with the University of Canterbury to host the first Adaptation Futures Conference in the Pacific, recognising it as an opportunity for the Pacific to learn, share, and amplify the Pacific voice on adaptation; one of the Pacific's key priorities in the fight against climate change.



Tuvalu Minister Delivers Strong Message on Relocation: 'We Will Not Leave Our Island'

Tuvalu's Minister of Home Affairs, Climate Change and Environment delivered a powerful message during a guest lecture hosted by the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies at the Adaptation Futures Conference, affirming that Tuvaluans will not abandon their homeland in the face of rising seas and climate threats.

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Traditional knowledge: A key to enhancing climate resilience in the Pacific and Aotearoa New Zealand

A key to enhancing climate resilience lies within our Pacific communities, as demonstrated time and again through innovative practices rooted in traditional and cultural knowledge.

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Learning about invasive species, biodiversity, and climate resilience

Shoutout to our PRISMSS Pacific Battlers! A massive thank you to everyone who's taken on the challenge of our interactive video quiz "Ohh, That's a Bit Invasive!" at The Adaptation Futures Conference!



AF2025 PCCC Panel: Catalysing Innovative Climate Solutions for a Resilient Pacific