

# SPREP-Tok

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

ISSUE 74 • APRIL 2021

## MESSAGE FROM MR. KOSI LATU, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SPREP

Talofa lava from the SPREP Campus,

We have come to the end of the first quarter of 2021, and while much has been accomplished, much more remains to be done.

In November last year, we officially launched the [State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report](#) during the 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. This year, I am pleased to inform you all that we recently launched the [State of Environment and Conservation website](#) in April.

This website ensures that the important data and information on the state of the environment and conservation in the Pacific is made accessible to everyone in the Pacific, as well as the rest of the world. I would like to thank and congratulate all of those who worked hard to ensure that this website will become a reality, and I hope that it will be a useful tool to all those who are working to ensure that our unique Pacific environment is protected and conserved for years to come.

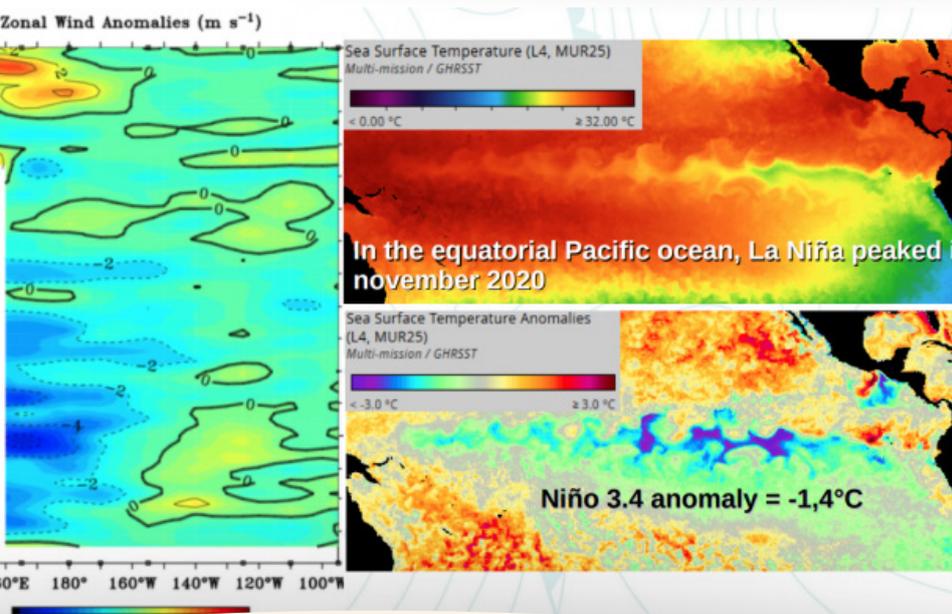
This issue of the SPREP-Tok also highlights other important work carried out by the Secretariat in the month of April, and it is my pleasure to present it to you all for your reading pleasure.

Soifua,



Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.

## SPREP-Tok - NEWS FROM SPREP



## REFLECTING UPON LA NIÑA AND 2020 TROPICAL CYCLONE SEASON AND LOOKING TO THE SEASON AHEAD

With the Pacific having recently gone through a La Niña event, representatives of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services from across the Pacific, as well as their partners from regional organisations and scientific institutions, came together in a virtual meeting in April to reflect on their experiences.

[READ MORE ...](#)



SPREP-Tok ISSN: 2311-861X

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

(685) 21929 | PO Box 240 | Apia, Samoa | [sprep@sprep.org](mailto:sprep@sprep.org) | [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org)

Our vision: A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

 Click to follow us on [FACEBOOK](#) and [TWITTER](#).

ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS – STATE OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION WEBSITE LAUNCHED



We all depend on our unique Pacific biodiversity. Nature surrounds us, but natural Pacific species and spaces need our help, according to a new assessment released by SPREP.

[READ MORE ...](#)

STRENGTHENING OUR PACIFIC THROUGH THE NEW PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE E-LEARNING PLATFORM



Over 50 participants from across 13 different Pacific islands have attended the very first training programme using the newly launched Pacific Climate Change Centre e-Learning platform.

[READ MORE ...](#)

INFORMED E-LEARNING IN THE PACIFIC



A series of online courses to help Pacific islands manage their own environmental data portals are now in development. The Inform Project has helped Pacific islands build national data to guide informed environment decision making resulting in both national and regional portals.

[READ MORE ...](#)

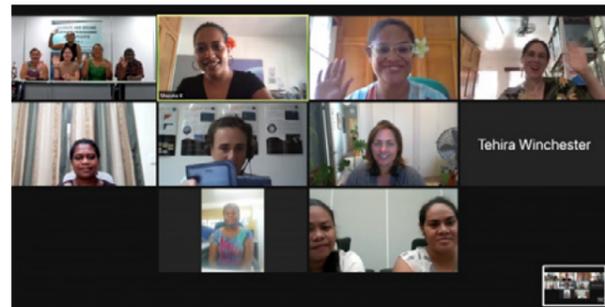
PROTECTING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, A PRIORITY FOR TUVALU'S BIODIVERSITY



Protecting the traditional knowledge associated with biological resources will pave the way for Tuvalu as it rolls out its Access and Benefit Sharing system under the Nagoya Protocol.

[READ MORE ...](#)

SUPPORTING GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION ACROSS PACIFIC MET SERVICES



A series of trainings which focused on raising awareness on the importance of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in improving service delivery of Pacific National Met Services concluded in April.

[READ MORE ...](#)

OUR PEOPLE, OUR PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT, Q&A WITH AMANDA WHEATLEY



We introduce you to Ms Amanda Wheatley, the Biodiversity Adviser of SPREP, based within the Island and Ocean Ecosystems programme. Amanda is no stranger to the Pacific islands. She was the former Biodiversity Officer at SPREP, yet many years before that she was also a Volunteer based in Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment as part of the Australian Volunteers Program.

[READ MORE ...](#)

A NEW APPROACH TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF PACIFIC INVASIVES BATTLERS



A new, innovative approach to managing health and safety when dealing with invasive species was commemorated during the World Day for Safety and Health at Work.

[READ MORE ...](#)

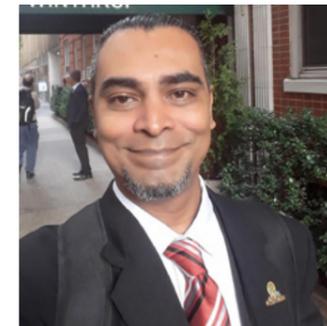
HAPPY EARTH DAY!



"Restore our Earth" is the theme for this year's Earth Day, observed annually on 22 April. This year's theme focuses on restoring the world's ecosystem through natural processes, emerging green technologies and innovative thinking.

[READ MORE ...](#)

REDUCING OUR WASTE FOOTPRINT THIS EARTH DAY, AND FOR THE REST OF THE DAYS!



In the mid-20th century, industrial America was booming. The economy was soaring but, the environment was suffering. As time went on, people began to grow concerned about the actions being taken and their ultimate impact.

[READ MORE ...](#)

OUR PEOPLE, OUR PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT: Q & A WITH SIONE FULIVAI



We introduce you to Mr Sione Fulivai, the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific Coordinator, based with the Climate Change Resilience Programme at SPREP. A familiar face to many, Sione was formerly with the Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications of Tonga.

[READ MORE ...](#)

YEAR 7 STUDENTS LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AT SPREP



The SPREP campus was abuzz with activity as it opened its doors to almost 100 students between the ages of 11 and 13 from Pesega Primary School in Samoa.

[READ MORE ...](#)

OUR PEOPLE, OUR PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT, Q&A WITH TAVITA SU'A



Mr Tavita Su'a is the Environmental Information Systems Developer and Analyst with the Environmental Monitoring and Governance programme at SPREP. He is responsible for the maintenance and development of all the systems and services provided by the Inform Project.

[READ MORE ...](#)