



30 August 2021 (Issue 4)

# PNEA Newsletter



 **PNEA**  
PACIFIC NETWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

“The PNEA is such a great tool as it’s a depository for a whole wealth of information from Samoa as well as the pacific which is a gem for our research work”

**TAMARA UTULEI LUI**  
PRINCIPAL STRATEGIC PLANNER WITH  
PUMA  
SAMOA

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Tamara Utulei Lui, the Principal Strategic Planner for the Planning and Urban Management Agency (PUMA) of Samoa and a member of the PNEA. PUMA was created to prepare strategic urban planning tools such as planning provisions, plans, and development standards; development consent and compliance of development activity; environmental impact control and compliance, and established the planning tribunal and also provided enforcement provisions. In this PNEA issue, Tamara shares her experience and personal life.

[Read More](#)



## Intersessional Work webinar

SPREP Environmental Planning Team attended the recently held 'BBNJ Intersessional Work webinar' to provide technical support to the PSIDS delegation specifically around matters related to EIA and SEA.



## HIGHLIGHTS: Inform Project Launches e-learning Platform

SPREP Inform project hosted a webinar to officially launch the Pacific Inform e-learning platform. The “Inform e-learning to Decision” webinar is the second installment of SPREP’s 2021 series titled, “Our Pacific Environment in a COVID-19 World” which was held on 11 August.

[Read More](#)



## HIGHLIGHTS: P-SIDS DSM capacity building workshop

SPREP Environmental Planning Team participated in the recent deep seabed mining capacity building workshop held from 26-29 July 2021, hosted by the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and the Cook Islands.

[Read More](#)

## Scholarship Opportunity

The deadline for applications for three scholarships to attend the University of the South Pacific campus in Fiji has been extended to 27 September.

For additional information, please contact:




**2021 CONTRACT**

## Deadline for applications

Two (2) scholarships for an **undergraduate degree** in marine science, geology or engineering at USP

One (1) scholarship for a **degree** in biology



Ms. Annekah Mason, Training Coordinator, ISA, [training@isa.org.jm](mailto:training@isa.org.jm)



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## WorldBank launches Pacific Orientation Course

The 'Pacific World Bank Project Orientation Course' provides an introduction to the knowledge and skills required to work on a World Bank-financed project in the Pacific. The course is free and made up of short 5-15 minute self paced lessons.

[Enroll here](#)







**PC 425**  
Environmental Impact Assessment & Strategic Environmental Assessment

> About the course

The course teaches students the principles and methodology of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of development proposals. The course is cross-disciplinary building on environmental expertise acquired from undergraduate science, arts, business and law programmes to enhance research skills and an understanding of methodological issues. Students will acquire a comprehensive knowledge of the best practice assessment processes to critically evaluate development projects for environmental sustainability to support sustainable development throughout the Pacific region.

> Course Coordinator: Dr. Hilda Veiga-Sakai  
Prerequisites: Admission into Postgraduate Diploma in Climate Change  
Offered: Semester 2  
Contact: E: [Hilda.veisa@usp.ac.fj](mailto:Hilda.veisa@usp.ac.fj) or Ph: 32 32096  
Website: <https://pace.usp.ac.fj/>

Follow PACES-SD on:  
  

## USP offering EIA and SEA course in semester 2 2021

The University of the South Pacific's Pacific Centre for Environment & Sustainable Development (PaCE-SD) is offering a course in Environmental Impact Assessment & Strategic Environmental Assessment (PC 425) for Semester 2, 2021. For more Information contact:

E: [Felipe.veisa@usp.ac.fj](mailto:Felipe.veisa@usp.ac.fj)

P: +679 32 32096

[Read More](#)





## UPCOMING: COP16 Noumea Convention

SPREPs Environmental Monitoring and Governance program will virtually host the 16th meeting of the Noumea convention scheduled for 02 September 2021 with the theme “Accelerating Actions for a Resilient Blue Pacific”

[Agenda](#)



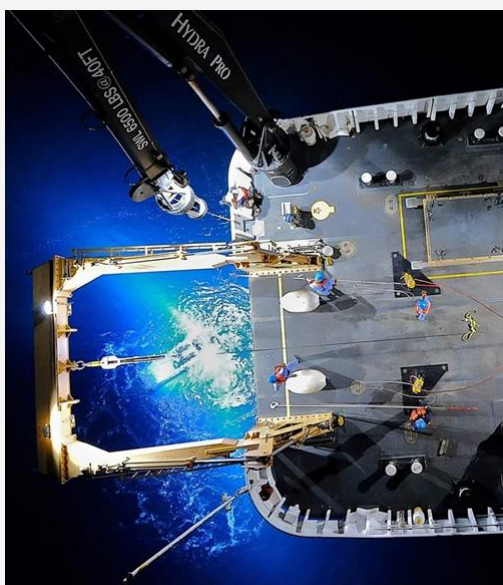
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## HOW TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF THE **PNEA** PORTAL

TRAINING WEBINAR | 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

## UPCOMING: SPREP to host PNEA training webinar

A training webinar for the PNEA portal will be hosted by SPREPs Environmental Monitoring and Governance program in September 2021. The training is targeted at EIA practitioners across the region and how the PNEA can strengthen their practice. Invitations will be sent out soon. For interest or enquiries, please email [pnea@sprep.org](mailto:pnea@sprep.org).



## REPORT: New Report Discusses How Regulators Develop Environmental Impact Assessment Requirements for Seabed Mining

A new report evaluates a selection of international and domestic EIA processes to identify institutional structures and legal requirements that might be best suited for EIAs for seabed mining projects.

[Read More](#)

## REGIONAL NEWS: Rio Tinto to pay for Panguna impact assessment



Following a human rights complaint filed last September by 156 Bougainville residents, Rio Tinto has publicly committed to fund an independent environmental and human rights impact assessment of its former Panguna mine.

[Read More](#)



### **REGIONAL NEWS: Cabinet approves Tonga's Ocean Management Plan**

His Majesty's Cabinet has approved Tonga's Ocean Management Plan that will provide for the sustainable management of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) covering an estimated 700,000km<sup>2</sup>

[Read More](#)



### **REGIONAL NEWS: VELA Chairman suggests separate Environmental Court**

The Chairman of Vanuatu Environmental Law Association (VELA), Colin Leo has suggested Vanuatu should consider setting up a separate Environmental Law Court to handle all environmental matters.

[Read More](#)

### **STUDY: Understanding why impact assessment fails; a case study of theory and practice from Wafi-Golpu, Papua New Guinea**

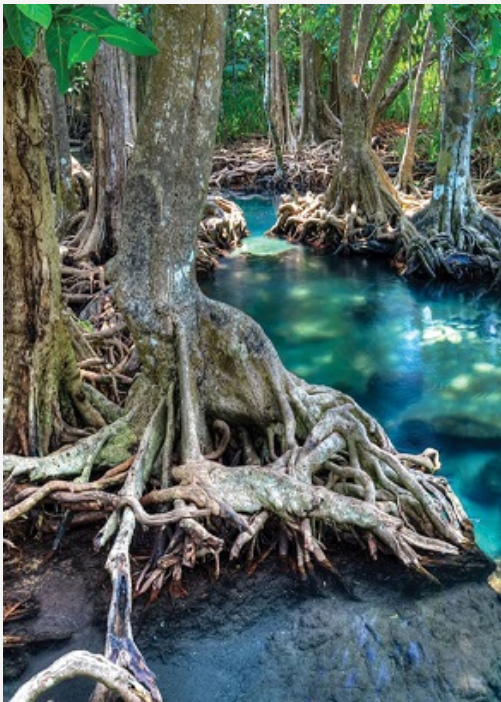
Seeking to better understand how Impact Assessment (IA) is practiced





and experienced, researchers from Murdock University explore the proposed Wafi-Golpu mine, located in the Morobe Province of Papua New Guinea.

[Read More](#)



### **ARTICLE: Sustainable Mangrove Management Offers Tangible Benefits to SIDS**

Despite their potential for supporting valuable ecosystem services to vulnerable small island communities, mangroves are often sidelined in national and international agendas. With the right support from governments in SIDS, there is now real hope that recent work in raising awareness on the principles of ecological mangrove restoration can lead to a higher success rates..

[Read More](#)



### **ARTICLE: Preventing Future Pandemics Starts with Protecting Our Forests**

At least 60% of emerging infectious diseases are of zoonotic origin and an estimated 1.7 million currently “undiscovered” viruses exist in mammals and birds. According to Sheila Wertz-Kanounnikoff (Senior Forestry Officer) and Astrid Agostini (REDD+ Coordinator, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN), healthy forests are essential to reduce the risks of future zoonotic diseases.

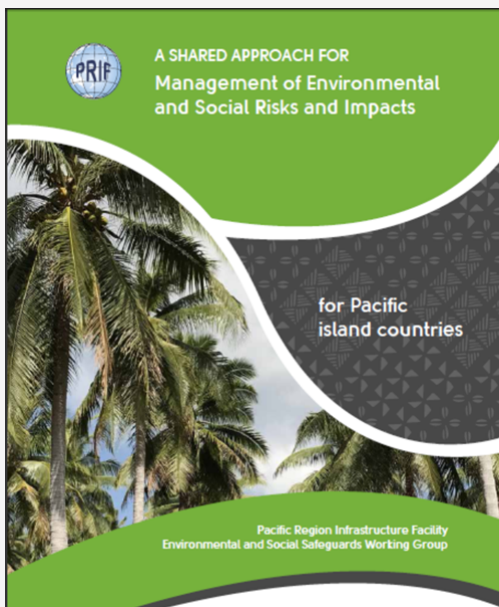
[Read More](#)



## ARTICLE: How Environmental Impact Assessments Promote Sound Tourism Investments

Tourism has the potential to contribute to economic growth and generate substantial foreign exchange earnings. However, tourism development can also have adverse effects unless the proper measures are in place to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth.

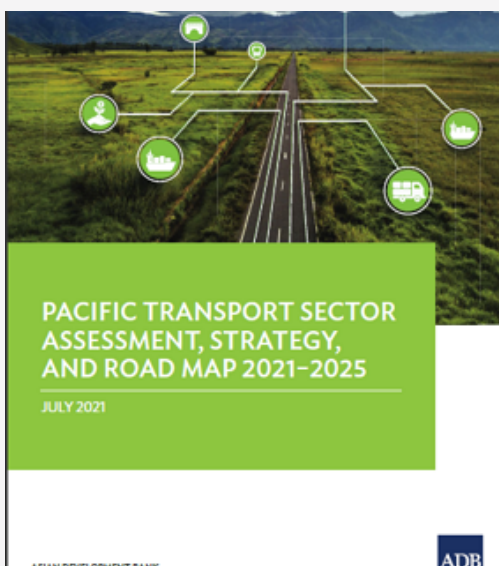
[Read More](#)



## PRIF releases "A Shared Approach for Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts"

The Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) Environmental and Social Safeguards Working Group has just released a shared approach manual for Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts for Pacific Island Countries.

[Download Report](#)



## ADB Pacific Transport Sector Assessment, Strategy, and Road Map 2021-2025

ADB publication gives an overview of key transport issues in ADB's Pacific developing member countries and of the bank's planned 2021–2025 transport sector operations in the region.

[Read More](#)

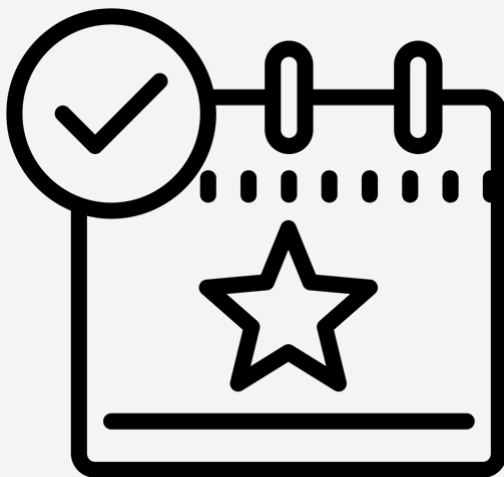




## Cook Islands Prime Minister launches the PRIF supported National Infrastructure Investment Plan 2021

Cook Island's Prime Minister, the Honourable Mark Brown, launched the country's updated National Infrastructure Investment Plan (NIIP) on 13th August 2021 - an important element of the Government's planning and management of infrastructure development in the Cook Islands

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## Upcoming Events

**2 Sep 2021**

COP16 Noumea Convention

**7-9 Sep 2021**

30th SPREP Meeting of Officials  
(Virtual event)

**21 Sep 2021**

PNEA sub-regional training webinar  
(Virtual event)

**05 Oct 2021**

Third Clean Pacific Roundtable 2021  
(Virtual event)

**11 - 24 Oct 2021**

COP 15 -Fifteenth meeting of the  
Conference of the Parties to the  
Convention on Biological Diversity  
(Kunming, China)

**12-14 Oct 2021**

ISA, MOMAF and MABIK- Enhancing  
Image-based Biodiversity  
Assessments to Advance Deep-Sea  
Taxonomy

**08 - 10 Nov 2021**

EIANZ 2021 Annual Conference





## EIA Quiz!

EIA is an environmental decision support tool, which provides information on the likely impacts of development projects. Test your knowledge of the EIA process by trying out this interactive Quiz.

[Check it Out!](#)



## PNEA Update

We're glad to announce that the PNEA resource library now holds over **300** member exclusive content including a number of EIA documents, guidelines and checklists for EIA administration, good practice manuals and relevant case studies. These resources are readily available for member access.

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## PNEA Website Revamp

As a hub for Pacific EIA practitioners, the PNEA Website is currently undergoing some improvements to enhance networking and information sharing for SPREP member countries and Community of Practice.

Stay tuned!

[Read More](#)

## Did you know?

Impact assessments can help countries attain Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in the strategic and project decisions they continuously make.



[Find out more](#)

Want more from PNEA? Visit [pnea.sprep.org](https://pnea.sprep.org)

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