

# SPREP-Tok

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

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

Greetings. Time flies and here we are only a month away from Christmas.

The challenges posed by COVID19 restrictions throughout the world has not lessened our efforts to serve our member countries and partners in protecting our pristine Pacific environment. If anything, it has only fueled the fire to advocate for bold and urgent environmental action to make our world a better place for us all. It has meant we have had to work a lot harder, be innovative in our approach, which hasn't been easy. However, I believe in the old adage that wherever there is a will there will always be a way.

COP26 in Glasgow has been a key focus. While the Pacific's physical presence has been severely limited by the pandemic, our amplified Pacific voice has not gone unnoticed. Our message is simple but strong: we need to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and we need a 1.5 Degrees Celsius world. We can no longer delay urgent and bold action needed to address serious impacts of climate change.

Closer to home and equally important are efforts being made to address waste and pollution. The Third Clean Pacific Roundtable (3CPRT) scheduled for November presents stakeholders in the waste sector of the Pacific a key opportunity to advance the region's push for a cleaner future. The threat of increased waste and pollution is of grave concern and a serious threat to sustainable development. We are staring at a major crisis and we must come together, we must act now.

So while it is November, and I am already hearing the sound of Christmas in the islands, we have much work to do. Let's knuckle down and finish 2021 strong.

Soifua,



Mr. Kosi Latu,  
Director General of SPREP.

## SPREP-Tok LATEST NEWS

### PACIFIC POLITICAL CLIMATE CHAMPIONS AMPLIFY CALL FOR URGENT ACTION

The Pacific's collective voice, calling on world leaders to urgently implement the Paris Agreement, will have new-found mana at the UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow, with the announcement of five Political Climate Change Champions.

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DATA ON ALL TYPES OF LIFE IN PACIFIC AVAILABLE ON NEW PACIFIC BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION FACILITY



The last official sighting of Samoa's national bird, manumea or tooth-billed pigeon, *Didunculus strigirostris* was in March 1994, according to the Samoa Biodiversity Database. This piece of information, critical in efforts to save the manumea, can be found on the new Pacific Biodiversity Information Facility.

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PREPARATIONS AFOOT FOR THIRD GATHERING OF PACIFIC WASTE SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS



Stakeholders in the waste sector of the Pacific are preparing for the Third Clean Pacific Roundtable, scheduled for 16 – 25 November 2021. Close to 100 participants from various sectors will come together virtually to advance the region's push for a cleaner future.

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ONLINE PORTAL TO ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CAPACITY IN THE PACIFIC



The Pacific region is home to some of the world's most unique biodiversity and ecosystems which, over the years, have experienced increasing multiple negative impacts as a direct result of human activities.

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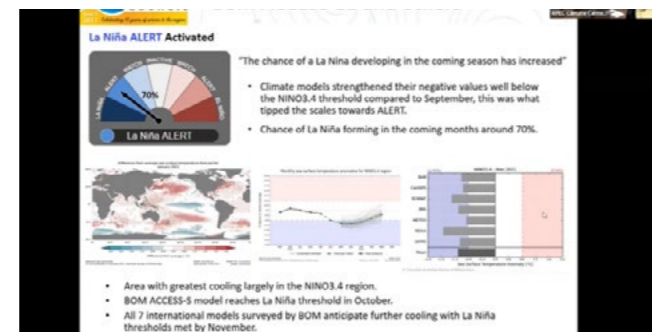
MANA CLASSES TO STRENGTHEN PACIFIC MEDIA REPORTING



The media are the eyes and ears of members of the public. In an effort to strengthen the capacity of Pacific islands media to accurately report on issues that are pertinent to the Pacific, a series of training sessions have been lined up to achieve this.

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PACIFIC LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE DOUBLE-DIP LA NIÑA EPISODE



The Pacific is likely to experience a rare occurrence of what is called a double-dip La Niña in the coming months, climate models and prediction tools used by Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services show.

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PROTECTING VANUATU'S MARINE SPECIES



A new initiative to protect Vanuatu's marine species was recently launched, with Ms Eslie Garaebiti stating that Vanuatu is blessed with a diverse and productive marine environment, and its marine species, such as fish, turtles and seabirds are part of their cultural heritage.

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SWAP PROJECT PUSHES FOR CLEANER PACIFIC OCEAN



Marine litter negatively affects the environment, people and coastal economies around the world. In the Pacific region where 98% is covered by ocean, the problem is even more severe given the reliance of countries on healthy ocean ecosystems and services.

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PARTNERSHIP DELIVERS EIA BENEFITS FOR PACIFIC REGION



Eleven Pacific countries have applauded a training designed to improve knowledge and skills of Environmental Impact Assessment regulators, project managers, and consultants from the private sector who are engaged to prepare EIA reports.

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FORUM PREPARES PARTICIPANTS TO INFORM PACIFIC OF LOOMING EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

As the South-West Pacific heads into its tropical cyclone season, and the tropical North Pacific prepare for their dry season, an urgent call to produce objective, user-relevant climate outlook guidance in real time to reduce climate-related risks has been made.

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PACIFIC COLLECTIVELY ASKS THE WORLD TO #FLEXFOR1PT5 TO HELP KEEP GLOBAL WARMING BELOW 1.5 DEGREES



The Pacific islands needs an urgent commitment for net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and a call for action was launched by SPREP ahead of the UN Climate Conference in Glasgow on 1 November.

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TRAINING BUILDS CAPACITY OF KIRIBATI PROTECTED AREA PRACTITIONERS



Protected area practitioners and government stakeholders of Kiribati are now equipped with the hands-on, practical knowledge of finding relevant up-to-date data, information resources and technical guidance on protected and conserved area management.

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TRAINING TO STRENGTHEN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY GAINS MOMENTUM



The work to enhance the economic development and the sustainable future of communities across the Pacific region continues to move forward step by step, with a second round of regional training for strengthening environmental and social sustainability organised from October to December 2021.

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PROJECT TO BUILD RESILIENCE OF MOATA'A MANGROVES BEGINS



A collaboration involving government departments, civil societies, private sector, and academia, to build the resilience of Moata'a Mangroves and benefit the ecosystem and socio-economic wellbeing of villagers, is underway.

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TURTLE TAGGING AND RELEASE SUCCESS AT SALELESI



A green sea turtle, which had been caught and entangled in a local fisher's net, was successfully tagged and released safely back into the ocean on 6 October 2021. The turtle, which was caught two days earlier, was kept in the village pool while assistance was sought from MNRE and SPREP.

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PACIFIC POPULATIONS URGED TO MAKE BETTER CONSUMER CHOICES TO KEEP PACIFIC CLEAN



Pacific countries are being urged to make better consumer choices to keep the Pacific clean. The call comes from the Director General of SPREP as stakeholders in the Pacific waste sector countdown to the Third Clean Pacific Roundtable scheduled for 16 – 25 November 2021.

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DISCUSSIONS ON 'INFORM PLUS' UNDERWAY



A discussion with Pacific countries for 'Inform Plus' is underway, with the Regional Knowledge Sharing and Project Update regional workshop providing one of the first opportunities to have a talanoa about it.

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NINE TO TWELVE TROPICAL CYCLONES PREDICTED FOR 2021/2022 CYCLONE SEASON



The National Institute of Waste and Atmospheric Research has predicted that between nine to twelve tropical cyclones could impact the Pacific region this cyclone season. Three or more could develop into severe tropical cyclones.

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SAMOA MOVES AHEAD TO IMPLEMENT SUSTAINABLE E-WASTE MANAGEMENT



A solution to the continued stockpiling, illegal dumping, burning, and landfilling of e-waste in Samoa will be addressed by an innovative and sustainable project partnership between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and SPREP, administered through the European Union-funded PacWastePlus programme.

E-waste contains a range of hazardous substances such as lead, cadmium, chromium, brominated flame retardants or polychlorinated biphenyls which contaminates soil, waterways when illegally dumped and pollutes atmosphere when burnt. Samoa communities like other Pacific Island nations depend largely on the environment for their livelihood, and improper management of e-waste can result in the contamination of the natural environment, placing the health of local communities at risk.

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PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE BUILD CAPACITY ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND FOOD PRODUCTION SYSTEMS



Eleven Pacific countries and territories and Timor-Leste have benefitted from the continuation of a training programme to build capacity and strengthen understanding of climate change risk and vulnerability, primary adaptation and mitigation options for food production systems.

The 7th Executive training on "Climate Resilience and Food Production Systems - Agriculture and Coastal Fisheries" was held from 20 September to 16 October. It was delivered in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations by the Pacific Climate Change Centre's Project for Capacity Building on Climate Resilience in the Pacific through the PCCC e-Learning platform and was attended by more than 65 participants.

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