

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

The Festive season is a wonderful time regardless of wherever you are in the world. Here in the tropical surroundings of the Pacific, it is a joyous period where families, villages and communities take the time to gather to celebrate and appreciate the journey.

Looking back at 2021, from our standpoint at SPREP, it has been another tough year. It is the second year where the challenges and restrictions posed by the COVID-19 pandemic has dictated the way we work and operate. But we're not alone in this regard and like many people across the world, we have had to adapt and find ways to navigate these challenges and still fulfill our promise to serve all our member countries.

The stories in this edition of your SPREP TOK give us a glimpse of the work your SPREP team has been doing at the business end of the year. COP26 in Glasgow presented another opportunity for our amplified Pacific voice to be heard. I am very proud of the collective effort made to remind the world that we need to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and we need a 1.5 Degrees Celsius world. The Third Clean Pacific Roundtable (3CPRT) in November was another successful step in the region's push for a cleaner future. The adoption of the Cleaner Pacific 2025 Implementation Plan 2021-2025 and the Clean Pacific Roundtable 2021 Outcome Statement are key documents to guide our work and we look forward to working with everyone in the Pacific communities and our partners to keep the Pacific clean.

There was so much more work.

But it is Christmas and as we put our tools and implements down to spend quality time with our families and loved ones, let me take this opportunity to thank you all for 2021. Thank you for your work, support and prayers. Merry Christmas and we look forward to continuing the work in the New Year when your team at SPREP is back on deck on Wednesday 5 January 2022.

God bless!



Mr. Kosi Latu,
Director General of SPREP.

SPREP-Tok LATEST NEWS



CHINA CONTINUES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR A RESILIENT PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT

The People's Republic of China has continued its support for a resilient Pacific environment with the presentation of its yearly financial assistance to SPREP, the lead agency in the Pacific region for managing and protecting the environment. .

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The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

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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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TRAINING EMPOWERS SAMOA FA'AFINE ASSOCIATION WITH CLIMATE CHANGE KNOWLEDGE



Members of the Samoa Fa'afine Association (SFA) now have a better understanding of the basics of climate change, climate risk, vulnerability, adaptation and mitigation options, thanks to a one-day workshop hosted by the Pacific Climate Change Centre.

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WORKSHOP TO DELVE INTO BIODIVERSITY DATA SHARING AND WHY IT MATTERS



Following the successful launch of the Pacific Biodiversity Information Facility recently, SPREP's Regional Invasive Species team is capitalising on the momentum by hosting a virtual workshop to introduce participants to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

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BUILDING CAPACITY OF SPREP STAFF TO USE GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS



Enhancing the understanding of SPREP staff on Geospatial Information System and its functions was at the core of a two-day internal staff training hosted by the Secretariat's Environmental Monitoring and Governance programme.

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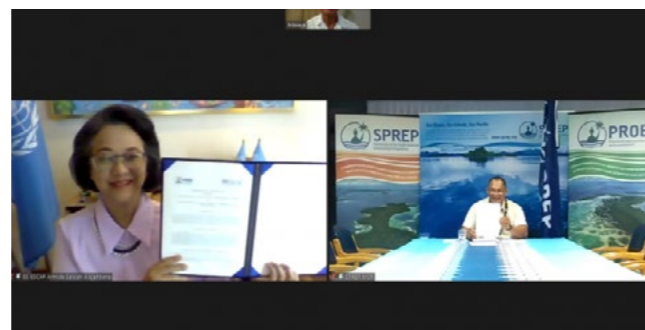
NEW REPORT PAVES THE WAY FOR PACIFIC SEA TURTLE EXTINCTION RISK MODEL



A report released by SPREP in November is the first step towards assessing the risk of extinction of sea turtles in the region and developing appropriate management plans for their effective conservation.

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SPREP AND ESCAP SIGN MEMORANDUM TO STRENGTHEN WORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



The partnership by SPREP and UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to accelerate the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SAMOA Pathway has been strengthened with the signing of a MOU.

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UPGRADED PORTALS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL DATA



The importance of data management and availability for informed decision making was reiterated during the official launch of the upgraded environmental data portals developed by SPREP through the Inform Project.

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WORLD LEADERS TOLD – “WE ARE NOT DROWNING, WE ARE FIGHTING”



The Pacific voice rang loud and clear when Pacific climate activist Ms Brianna Fruean, took the stage at the opening ceremony of the World Leaders Summit at COP26 in Glasgow, sounding the warrior call of the Pacific youth as she declared that “We are not drowning, we are fighting.”

[READ MORE ...](#)

OUR ISLANDS SPEAK, OUR ANCESTORS SPEAK AT COP26



Pacific poetry giving voice to the loss of our way of life as we know it, our homelands, and our livelihoods to climate change were heard in the corridors of COP26 through Mana Moana – Pacific Voices collection.

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COP26 PRESIDENCY HEARS THE AMPLIFIED VOICE OF THE PACIFIC



COP26 President, Alok Sharma, and the UK Minister of Environment Lord Zachary Goldsmith heard the amplified voice of the Pacific as they made their positions clear during a special session convened on the sidelines of COP26 in Glasgow.

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HIGHER AMBITION NEEDED FOR COP26 TO SECURE 1.5C GOAL



The Climate Action Tracker released a landmark assessment showing that with all pledges, including those made in Glasgow, global greenhouse gas emissions in 2030 will still be around twice as high as necessary to prevent breaching the 1.5C temperature limit.

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EVERY DEGREE BRINGS NEW LEVELS OF CLIMATE EXTREMES, SUFFERING, VANUATU REMINDS COP26



Vanuatu has called on world leaders and negotiators at COP26 to prioritise “action over politics, resilience over economic gain, and justice over inequality.” The point was made by H.E Antas Sumbue of Vanuatu’s Embassy in Switzerland, when he addressed the High-Level segment in Glasgow, Scotland.

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NIUE TAKING ITS BOLD CLIMATE ACTION TO THE STAGE AT COP26



One of the world’s smallest nations is taking a giant step when it comes to addressing climate change. Niue has made bold commitments in its Nationally Determined Contribution despite its greenhouse gas emissions being almost zero.

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FOR ALL COP26 STORIES PLEASE VISIT WWW.SPREP.ORG

FROM TRASH TO THE FASHION RUNWAY – SAMOA RECYCLING, WASTE ASSOCIATION TACKLES RUBBISH



Dealing with waste and pollution is everyone's responsibility. That's the message from the Samoa Recycling and Waste Association, spearheaded by a Pacific waste management pioneer, Ms Marina Keil.

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INGA'S HEALTH JOURNEY INSPIRES CHANGE AT WASTE AND POLLUTION CONFERENCE



The health journey of a global rugby legend, who admits that he could have faced an early death because he neglected his body, has been used to inspire behavioural change among Pacific island populations, in dealing with waste management and pollution.

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ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN ADDRESSING WASTE HIGHLIGHTED AT THIRD CLEAN PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE



The role of governments in formulating and implementing robust policies and laws to help Pacific countries deal with waste management was highlighted during the Third Clean Pacific Roundtable.

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SOLOMON IS. RECYCLERS AND WASTE ASSOCIATION EYE CLEANER COUNTRY AND GREEN PACIFIC GAMES



The Solomon Islands Recyclers and Waste Management Association is doing its best to keep their country clean and pollution-free but with an eye on an event that is going to attract thousands of visitors to their shores in November 2023, the Pacific Games.

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VANUATU PLASTIC BOTTLE BUYBACK PROJECT PAYS SCHOOL FEES, PUTS FOOD ON THE TABLE



A plastic bottle buyback programme in Vanuatu recently injected 10 million Vatu (AUD \$17,000) into the local economy, helping members of the community to pay school fees, put food on the table and most importantly preserve the island nation's beautiful environment.

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NEW PACIFIC WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY IN PNG ON THE AGENDA FOR A CLEANER PACIFIC



The plans for the TWM Roku Integrated Waste Management Facility in Papua New Guinea were announced at the Third Clean Pacific Roundtable.

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FOR ALL 3CPRT STORIES PLEASE VISIT WWW.SPREP.ORG



Dear friends of SPREP,

Our journey through the year has been filled with highlights we have celebrated, and challenges we have persevered through together, for our Pacific environment.

Thank you very much for your partnership and support over 2021.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year ahead.

Chers amis du PROE,

Notre voyage cette année a été rempli de moments forts que nous avons célébrés, et de défis que nous avons relevés ensemble, pour notre environnement Pacifique.

Merci beaucoup pour votre partenariat et votre soutien au cours de l'année 2021.

Nous vous souhaitons un joyeux Noël et une bonne année à venir.

Kosi Latu

Director General • Directeur Général



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