

SPREP-Tok

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

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LATEST NEWS



Message from the Director General of SPREP

Ni sa bula vinaka.

After nearly three years of lockdowns, the steady re-opening of international borders all over the world and across the Pacific region is an exciting development, as we move to build back from COVID-19.

SPREP was very pleased to be part of the first Pacific dialogue forum on traditional knowledge for biodiversity and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), held in Suva, Fiji, in May.

I was blessed to have been part of it. It was wonderful to meet in person again; the open talanoa allowed the sharing of experiences, challenges and exploring opportunities to address biodiversity conservation goals in the Pacific in the context of linkages to traditional knowledge.

As we continue to fight against the challenges brought by the triple planetary crises of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss, it's important to remember that some of the solutions have always been with us, passed down through word of mouth from our forebears. Such traditional knowledge is critical as we navigate the challenges before us today.

Vinaka vaka levu.

Sefanaia Nawadra



Forum on Traditional Knowledge paves way in Pacific's push to achieve Biodiversity and Sustainable Development Goals

The very first Pacific dialogue forum on traditional knowledge for biodiversity and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) opened today in Suva, Fiji.

The Pacific islands region is of critical importance for global biodiversity conservation and cultural heritage values. The focus of the meeting is to have an open dialogue to share experiences and challenges and explore opportunities to address biodiversity conservation goals in the Pacific in the context of linkages to traditional knowledge.

The value of traditional knowledge when it comes to our Pacific biodiversity and recognising its role in achieving the SDGs and implementing the new 2030 Global Biodiversity Framework were acknowledged today during the opening of the Dialogue on Traditional Knowledge for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Pacific.

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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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Call for urgent global reduction of fossil fuel as Pacific dissects IPCC Working Group III report

Climate Change Resilience

The latest report from the world's most authoritative source of climate science demands a substantial global reduction in fossil fuel use, improved energy efficiency, and use of alternative fuels, to limit global warming.

The message reverberated during a webinar where Pacific countries and partners delved into the main findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group III report on Mitigation of Climate Change, and its implications for the Pacific, a region already suffering from the severe impacts of climate change.

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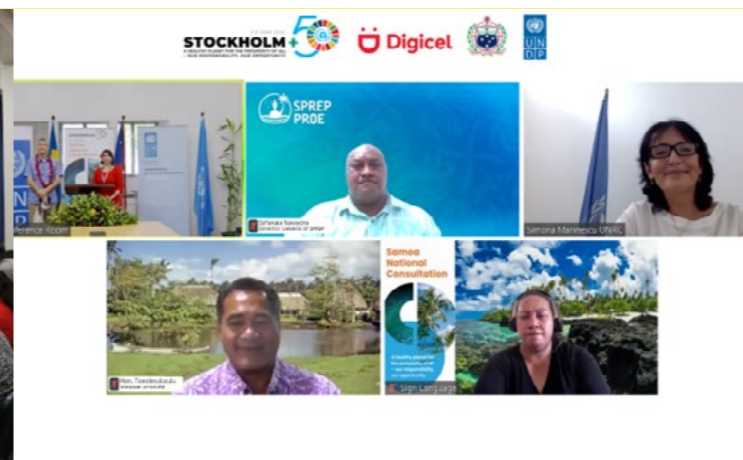
Partnership to address risk of WWII oil spill at Chuuk Lagoon launched

Waste Management and Pollution Control

There are over 1200 potentially polluting shipwrecks (PPW) in the Pacific Ocean, many from World War II. Chuuk Lagoon in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) contains the largest concentration of potentially polluting wrecks in the Pacific Ocean, 19 of which have been identified as posing significant environmental risks due to the volumes of toxic fuel oil and unexploded ordnance they hold.

The Australian Government is partnering with SPREP and the Major Projects Foundation (MPF) to enhance existing efforts to address the risks to human health and safety, and to the environmental and economic security of nearby Chuuk communities, posed by the oil spills.

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Tonga shares experience after trialing Impact Analysis methodology tools

Climate Change Resilience

Tonga's experience after trialing an Impact Analysis (IA) methodology on the groyne structure at Hahake District and the rock barrier at 'Ahau village has been shared with other countries to inform the work in measuring the progress of climate change adaptation work in the Pacific..

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PNEA upgrade brings new features to assist impact assessment practitioners in the Pacific

Environmental Monitoring and Governance

Pacific Island environmental impact assessment and safeguard administrators and practitioners will benefit from a recent upgrade of SPREP's Pacific Network for Environmental Assessment (PNEA) Portal, bringing new functionalities and improved security to the portal.

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SPREP reflects on journey in lead-up to Stockholm+50

General SPREP News

Fifty years after the first United Nations Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden, SPREP Director General, Mr Sefanaia Nawadra, has reflected on how a seedling planted at that Conference would eventually become the tree that is now known as SPREP.

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PacWastePlus programme participating countries commit to "make it happen"

Waste Management and Pollution Control

The urgency of implementing commitments into action was the key message at the 3rd PacWastePlus programme steering committee meeting, which was held virtually on May 12, due to the ongoing COVID pandemic.

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SPREP prepares Pacific for Conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

Waste Management and Pollution Control

Pacific Island parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions have met to prepare for the upcoming joint Conference of the Parties (COPs) in Geneva, Switzerland.

The 15th meeting of the COP to the Basel Convention, the tenth meeting of the COP to the Rotterdam Convention and the 10th meeting of the COP to the Stockholm Convention will be held in June, and Pacific Island parties gathered for a two-day preparatory meeting to identify regional priorities and positions to take to the COP, discuss the agenda and identify matters of concern and interest to the region.

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Webinar highlights sustainable financing for effective management of invasive species

Island and Ocean Ecosystems

The invasion of species from beyond our shores is one of the leading causes of biodiversity loss in the Pacific and managing them can be a huge cost to Pacific island economies.

Sustainable ways to finance the prevention and response to biological invasions were discussed today in an event hosted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The event presented ways to create sustainable financing for invasive species management and launched the new publication, Create Sustainable Financing for Invasive Species Management.

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Pacific Islands Climate Change Forum highlights importance of climate science for decision-making

Climate Change Resilience

Climate change is not something that will occur in the future. For people living in the Pacific, it is something they are facing already. The reminder came from the SPREP Director General Mr Sefanaia Nawadra during the Pacific Islands Climate Change Forum (PICCF) last week.

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Celebrating innovations in turtle conservation research

Island and Ocean Ecosystems

Scientists are concerned that human induced climate change is causing an increase in the number of female marine turtle hatchlings, leading to a decline in overall population due to the lack of male production. This process, known as feminisation, occurs as the sex of a marine turtle embryo is determined by the temperature of the nest in which the eggs incubate.

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Environmental information and knowledge made accessible with SPREP virtual library

General SPREP News

In a bid to further strengthen SPREP Member countries' knowledge of the Pacific environment, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme's (SPREP) Knowledge Management team conducted a virtual training session to introduce participants from Kiribati to the SPREP Virtual Library.

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Factsheets break down key messages in latest IPCC reports

Climate Change Resilience

Eleven factsheets designed to convey and communicate the key findings of the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report are available for all members of the public so they can stay up to date with the latest developments and how climate change impacts them.

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Loss and damage high on the Pacific list for Climate Change meetings in June

When it comes to climate change negotiations, Loss and Damage is one Pacific priority issue that has been on the table for many years. Loss and Damage is when the impacts of climate change are greater than our ability to adapt, be that of our ecosystems, communities or countries. These are impacts of slow onset processes such as sea level rise, or those caused from extreme events such as cyclones or flooding.

The twenty-sixth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) held in Glasgow last year, established the Glasgow Dialogue on Loss and Damage to explore ways to fund Loss and Damage in the future.

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Learning from the past, GCCA+ SUPA Steering Committee meeting forges path forward

The importance of thorough consultation with the community and resource owners were among the lessons highlighted by countries during the GCCA+ SUPA Steering Committee Meeting.

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New e-learning courses on Geospatial Information Systems launched

A new online course which will assist countries in strengthening their capacities on the basic functions and components of Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) has been launched in response to a growing demand and interest for GIS training.

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