

SPREP-Tok

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

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Message from the Director General of SPREP

Ni sa bula vinaka!

Our Pacific countries might be small but there is never a dull moment looking through the lens of your Secretariat. The SPREP-Tok highlights what has been an action-packed month especially with international borders re-opening and person-to-person meetings permitted once more.

In Fiji, your Secretariat and the European Union signed the Pacific Biodiversity and Sustainable Land-Seascapes (Pacific BioScapes) Programme to assist 11 Pacific island countries manage their marine and coastal resources. Conserving our Pacific biodiversity is central to preserving our identity and our future.

Back at our Vailima headquarters in Apia Samoa, the Pacific Climate Change Centre launched its logo with an aim to position itself as the Pacific Centre of Excellence for climate change information, applied research, capacity building and training and innovation. The logo also represents PCCC's mandate to provide practical information, support, and training to address the adaptation and mitigation priorities of Pacific Island communities. I congratulate artist Mr Ronnie Reimers Jr from the Republic of the Marshall Islands for the winning entry.

But there are more opportunities for our Pacific members to become winners with SPREP. In partnership with Aotearoa New Zealand and key regional media partners, we are shining the spotlight on stories of Pacific resilience in the face of the escalating climate crisis through the 2022 Vision Pasifika Media Awards. We are delighted to highlight the role of the Pacific media in amplifying Pacific voices on climate change so I encourage all of our media friends submit their entries before 10 August 2022.

Vinaka vaka levu!

Sefanaia Nawadra



SPREP-Tok LATEST NEWS



European Union and SPREP partner to help Pacific islands manage and conserve Pacific island biodiversity

The European Union (EU) and SPREP signed the Pacific Biodiversity and Sustainable Land-Seascapes (Pacific BioScapes) Programme in June to assist 11 Pacific island countries manage their marine and coastal resources.

The EU-funded EUR 12 million (FJD 27.6 million) Pacific BioScapes Programme will contribute to the sustainable development of Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through the implementation of 30 focused activities in a diversity of ecosystems in Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia that will address critical issues concerning coastal and marine biodiversity, and ecosystem-based responses to climate change adaptation.

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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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Follow-up campaign after rat removal from four islets in Wallis and Futuna successful

Island and Ocean Ecosystems

In 2021, the Territorial Environment Service (STE), supported remotely by Island Conservation, successfully carried out rat removal operations on four islets of Wallis (Fenuafo'ou, Nukuhifala, Nukutapu, Nukuteatea) under the European Union funded PROTEGE project.

Considering the limitations in terms of support due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, the work carried out by STE was recognised through the awarding of SPREP's "Battler of the Year" 2021 Award.

In line with the Wallis biosecurity strategy, the islands are monitored every six months to check that no rats have been reintroduced.

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In Bonn, SPREP advocates for new and innovative financing to address Loss and Damage in the Pacific

Climate Change Resilience

The Pacific region's call for strengthened finance to minimise Loss and Damage (L&D) associated with the adverse impacts of climate change was amplified in Bonn, Germany, with the emphasis placed on the need for new and innovative sources of finance to begin to address this "lived reality for our region."

The concept of Loss and Damage in climate negotiations refers to the consequences of climate change that go beyond what people can adapt to, or when options exist but a community doesn't have the resources to access them.

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Pacific Climate Change Centre launches logo

Climate Change Resilience

The Pacific Climate Change Centre has officially launched its logo with an aim to position itself as the Pacific Centre of Excellence for climate change information, applied research, capacity building and training and innovation. The logo will now be seen across national, regional and international audiences as the new branding of the PCCC.

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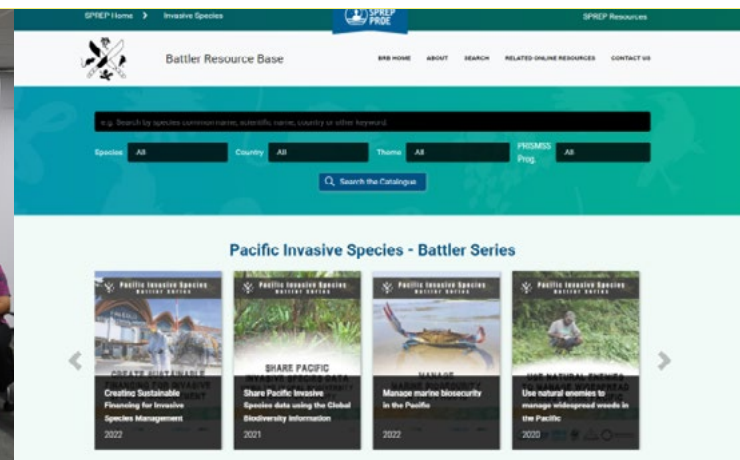


An introduction to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility

Island and Ocean Ecosystems

The staff of SPREP will now reap the benefits of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) network. An introductory workshop saw the staff delve into the data-sharing world and understand the benefits of publishing data, and gained an overview of how data is published and how it can be accessed on the network.

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Battler Resource Base – a new look, new feel and new touch!

Island and Ocean Ecosystems

The Battler Resource Base (BRB), launched virtually on 15 June 2022, is an online resource platform hosted on the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) website and managed by the SPREP Invasive Species Team.

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New plan to conserve and manage marine species in the Pacific launched.

Island and Ocean Ecosystems

The Pacific Ocean is the largest continuous marine habitat in the world. It is home to a diverse range of large marine species such as whales and dolphins, dugongs, marine turtles, sharks and rays, and seabirds. The contribution of these species to ecosystem services and livelihoods is crucial for Pacific peoples, but they are increasingly under threat.

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Inform Project supports the Cook Islands Environment Data portal

Environmental Monitoring and Governance

The Cook Islands stands to reap the benefits of a refresher training on the Pacific Environment Data Portal as well as the Cook Islands Environment Data Portal.

The Pacific Environment Data Portal network exists to provide easy access and safe storage for environmental datasets to be used for monitoring, evaluating, and analysing environmental conditions and trends to support environmental planning, forecasting, and reporting requirements at all levels.

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Pacific Climate Change Centre builds capacity on climate resilience and safe water access

Climate Change Resilience

Eleven Pacific countries and Timor-Leste have benefitted from the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) training on “Enhancing climate resilience and safe water access in rural areas in the Pacific.”

Held on 27 May 2022, more than 70 participants joined the ninth executive training course designed to enhance climate resilience and rural safe water access focusing on the most vulnerable population without or with limited access to safe drinking water.

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Training enhances skills of Nauru practitioners to access Protected Area information and geospatial mapping

Island and Ocean Ecosystems

Government stakeholders of the Republic of Nauru are now equipped with hands-on, practical knowledge of finding relevant up-to-date data, information resources and technical guidance to assist planning for protected and conserved area establishment and management.

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Vision Pasifika Media Awards shining spotlight on Pacific resilience in face of climate crisis

Climate Change Resilience

SPREP, in partnership with Aotearoa New Zealand and key regional media partners — the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA), Internews Earth Journalism Network, and the Pacific Environment Journalists Network (PEJN) — are shining a spotlight on stories of Pacific resilience in the face of the escalating climate crisis.

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Natural solution found for Tonga’s African tulip problem

Island and Ocean Ecosystems

The Kingdom of Tonga’s fight against the invasive African tulip tree, or *Spathodea campanulata* will be strengthened with the introduction of gall mites or *Colomerus spathodeae*, a natural enemy of the African tulip.

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Upgraded regional database set to serve turtle conservation and management needs in the Pacific ocean

Island and Ocean Ecosystems

The Pacific’s 30-year-old Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System, better known as TREDS, has recently been upgraded and uploaded to an online platform for better sharing and outcome-focused data collection purposes.

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