

SPREP-Tok

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

SPECIAL ISSUE • UN OCEANS CONFERENCE 2022

Message from the Director General of SPREP

Ni sa bula vinaka.

A team from your Secretariat provided support for our Members who attended and amplified the Pacific's voice at the United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon Portugal from 27 June to 1 July 2022. The Pacific Islands were represented by a strong contingent spearheaded by leaders from Fiji, Palau and Tonga. Also present were the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Our member countries reaffirmed the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action", adopted by the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14. They also joined the global call for stronger commitment to conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and marine resources as well as greater ambition at all levels to improve the health, productivity, sustainable use and resilience of the ocean and its ecosystems.

The Secretariat worked alongside Samoa, the Chair of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) and CROP to prepare the Pacific delegations for Interactive Dialogue themes, country interventions and negotiations in the lead up to and at the UN Ocean Conference. The Secretariat also participated in several side events that covered Ocean Acidification, Coral Reefs, Marine Pollution, By-catch, Depolluting oceans through controlling trade in plastic waste and combatting illegal traffic under the Basel Convention; and Ocean partnerships and science-based solutions for strengthening sustainable ocean economies in SIDS, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries and more.

I hope you enjoy some of the media coverage provided by our Communications and Outreach Team that was on the ground in Lisbon. Vinaka vaka levu.

Sefanaia Nawadra



SPREP-Tok UNOC 2022



Pacific science and traditional knowledge take centre stage on final day of UN Ocean Conference

Pacific Islands showcasing Pacific solutions to the global ocean crisis took centre stage at the UN Oceans Conference. The Pacific's leading scientific and environmental organisations came together to co-host a side event at the United Nations Oceans Conference in partnership with Members and partners.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and SPREP organised the side event to highlight how the Pacific islands region is applying the best available science and traditional knowledge to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14.

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SPREP-Tok ISSN: 2311-861X

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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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Pacific large ocean island states strategise for amplified voice at second UN Ocean Conference

UN Oceans Conference 2022

Uniting for a healthier ocean, the global community meet in Lisbon, Portugal for the Second UN Ocean Conference to take place from 27 June to 1 July.

Pacific Islands delegates have planned their engagement as a united body, eager to see commitments and action for the world's ocean, the lifeblood of our Pacific region.

The ocean covers 70 percent of the Earth's surface and is home to up to 80 percent of all life in the world. As the largest and deepest part of the Ocean, the Pacific Ocean covers around one-third of the Earth's surface.

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Partnerships at the heart of Pacific talanoa at UN Ocean Conference

UN Oceans Conference 2022

Genuine and durable partnerships, collective commitment and common action to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 targets were at the heart of a Pacific family talanoa at the United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, this week.

Organised by Samoa, the current Chair of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS), the "Leveraging the SIDS Partnerships Framework to Achieve Action for SDG 14" side event recognised the need for a renewed focus on the implementation of all SDG14 targets, including the targets that expired in 2020.

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SPREP spotlights Moana Taka Partnership as a solution at Ocean Conference

UN Oceans Conference 2022

SPREP at the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) shone the spotlight on the Moana Taka Partnership, where Swire Shipping vessels carry containers of recyclable waste from Pacific island ports to ports around the Pacific Rim to be sustainably treated and recycled in accredited facilities.

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Ocean acidification a threat to Pacific islands people

UN Oceans Conference 2022

The Pacific Islands consist of 98 percent ocean and two percent land. With Pacific people already impacted by climate change, the threats posed by ocean acidification are overwhelming, adding yet another layer to the long list they must suffer.

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Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Programme of Investment makes a splash at UN Ocean Conference

UN Oceans Conference 2022

The Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Programme of Investment, endorsed by Pacific Leaders in 2021 is an ambitious, innovative and transformative plan to strengthen the technical capacity of the region. This will bring about accurate and timely information during extreme weather events to safeguard communities.

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The Cook Islands reaffirms commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water

UN Oceans Conference 2022

Addressing the world community at the second UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, the Cook Islands stressed the international cooperation needed to determine and implement solutions to ensure a healthy ocean.

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Tonga takes ocean fight to global stage

UN Oceans Conference 2022

The Kingdom of Tonga has added its voice to growing calls for the global community to support the implementation of urgent measures to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14, to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Speaking to a global audience during the leader's plenary of the United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon Portugal, Tonga's Prime Minister, Hon. Siasoi Sovaleni, said the health of the ocean is critical for his nation's survival.

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Republic of Marshall Islands rings alarm bells on illegal fishing at Ocean Conference

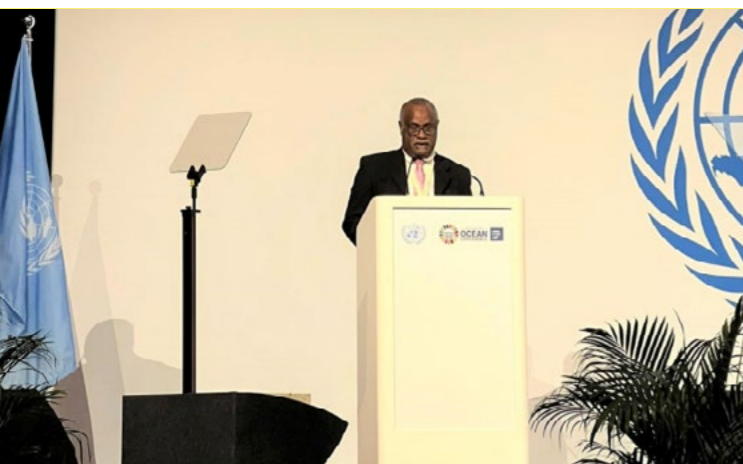
UN Oceans Conference 2022

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the Pacific region is "systematic and linked to organised crime."

The alarm was raised by the Republic of Marshall Islands Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce, Hon. John Silk, at the United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon Portugal. He called for stronger action to stop this for the sake of the Pacific nations' future generations and security.

"Up to a third of our own Pacific fish are taken, in fact robbed, from our waters, and we welcome new technology partnerships to boost our monitoring capacity," he said.

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At Ocean Conference, Vanuatu rallies support for advisory opinion on implication of climate crisis

UN Oceans Conference 2022

In a David versus Goliath move, Vanuatu has stepped up to the global community to seek an Advisory Opinion on the legal implications of climate change. To make this happen, Vanuatu needs the majority of countries at the UN General Assembly this year to instruct the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to do so.

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PHOTO: IISD/ENB | KIARA WORTH

Australia commits to plastic-free Pacific

UN Ocean Conference 2022

Australia has reassured its neighbours of its commitment for a plastic-free Pacific in an effort to protect the ocean. Australia's Minister for the Environment and Water, Honorable Tanya Plibersek, delivered the assurance at the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) in Lisbon, Portugal, this week.

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French Polynesia announces coral reef protection plan at Ocean Conference

UN Oceans Conference 2022

The Government of French Polynesia has announced its Coral Reef Protection plan, which aims to protect all coral species this year and then, by 2030, all its coral ecosystems.

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Pacific leaders state their case for sustainable ocean economies

UN Oceans Conference 2022

While Pacific laughter filled the Campolide Room at the Tivoli Oriente Hotel where Pacific leaders attending the UN Oceans Conference (UNOC) in Portugal gathered on Monday evening, their message to the world was anything but jovial.

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Imagine what our ancestors would say, FSM laments state of our ocean

UN Oceans Conference 2022

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) delegation at the Second United Nations Ocean Conference took global leaders on a journey down memory lane on Thursday.

Speaking during the plenary session at the Altice Arena in Lisbon Portugal, FSM's Head of Delegation, Mr Jeem Lippwe told the story of Portuguese navigator, Ferdinand Magellan, and his small fleet who entered a part of the ocean unfamiliar to him and his crew in the 16th century.

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COVID pandemic compounds climate and ocean challenges, Nauru reminds

UN Oceans Conference 2022

The impacts of the climate crisis on Pacific Island countries have been further compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, Nauru has reminded the international community.

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Threat of plastic outweighing fish by 2050 heavy on Pacific leaders' minds at Ocean Conference

UN Oceans Conference 2022

Marine plastic pollution is a threat to Pacific Islands people. At the United Nations Ocean Conference 2022 in Lisbon Portugal, Pacific leaders have taken their concerns to the global stage, calling for collective action to protect our ocean.

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