

Message from the Director General of SPREP

This year, we celebrate 30 years since the signing of the SPREP Treaty, and 30 years of service to the region, ensuring a resilient Pacific environment, which sustains our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures. As we reflect on thirty years of work, we recognise that we sit on the cusp of new and emerging environmental challenges that we must work together to address. Our future is wide open, adorned with our years of experience, lessons learnt, and technical expertise in our Pacific islands' capacity.

This celebration of our 30th anniversary will be a Pacific-wide celebration, which will reflect our joint commitment, work, and partnership. Our focus must always be to serve the needs of our Pacific Members, to whom we owe our existence as an organisation.

I and our team look forward to working with you all in 2023.

Sefanaia Nawadra



Sefanaia Nawadra, Director General of SPREP.

SPREP-Tok LATEST NEWS



Australia pledges AUD 30 million support for Weather Ready Pacific

The Pacific islands have applauded the announcement from the Government of Australia, pledging its support for a long-term solution to weather-related extreme events posed by climate change in the Pacific through the Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Programme of Investment.

Weather Ready Pacific is a visionary, ground-breaking ten-year programme of investment that will strengthen the region's ability to anticipate, plan for, and respond to high-impact and extreme weather, water, and ocean events. This is an initiative that was discussed and unanimously supported by members of the Pacific Meteorological Council at their 5th meeting in 2019 and actively engaged in developing. It was endorsed by the Pacific Island Forum (PIF) Leaders Meeting in 2021.

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A regional commitment to address marine litter in the Pacific

Waste Management and Pollution Control

The scale and rapidly increasing volume of marine litter and plastic pollution is putting the health of all the world's oceans and seas at risk. Despite current initiatives and efforts, the amount of plastics in the ocean has been estimated to be around 75-199 million tons.

This is according to the 'Global Assessment of Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution-From Pollution to Solution' conducted by the United Nations Environment Programme in 2021, warning that marine litter is a global, intergenerational and transboundary issue that negatively affects the environment, people and coastal economies around the world.

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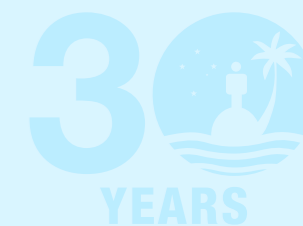
SPREP welcomes landmark biodiversity framework

Island and Ocean Ecosystems

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) has applauded the outcome of the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) held recently in Montréal, Canada, where the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted.

The Kunming-Montréal GBF outlines a historic package of measures deemed critical to address the dangerous loss of biodiversity and to restore natural ecosystems.

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A new fishery threatens Papua New Guinea's shark and dolphin species

Island and Ocean Ecosystems

In the last decade, fishers in lower riverine and inshore communities of the Kikori Delta in Papua New Guinea have begun targeting fish species for their swim bladders rather than meat. The swim bladder is a fibrous organ that fish use for buoyancy and communication.

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Data workshop aims to ensure resilient ecosystems and protected areas in the Solomon Islands

Environmental Monitoring and Governance

A data workshop focused on identifying and collating updated datasets from stakeholders that will enhance the spatial analysis of the network of protected areas in the Solomon Islands was conducted by SPREP through its EMG programme in February.

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New automated weather monitoring equipment a major upgrade to Vanuatu's climate resilience

Climate Change Resilience

Vanuatu is ranked as the world's most vulnerable country to natural disasters. Climate change is increasing the impact of climate-induced disasters in the country such as flooding and cyclones.

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The Cook Islands, proactively conserving biodiversity

Island and Ocean Ecosystems

Committed to achieving 25 per cent of land as a Protected Area in the Cook Islands under the Cook Islands NSDA2020+, the island nation is exploring new ways to do this. This further helps the Cook Islands meet global obligations as agreed in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) to both halt and reverse biodiversity loss

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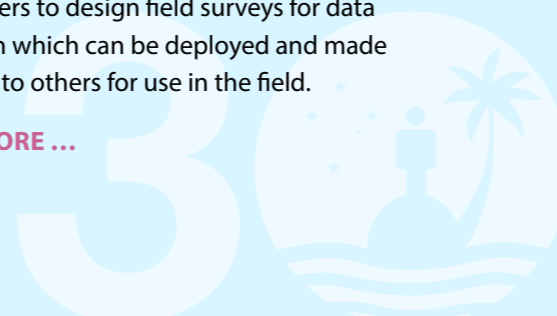
Overcoming field data collection challenges with a mobile tool

Environmental Monitoring and Governance

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) hosted a two-day training event in Vailima, Samoa to introduce a new suite of tools called KoboToolbox aimed at improving data collection and analysis in the country.

KoBoToolbox is a free and open-source suite of tools for field data collection, which can be used on most devices that can access the internet including smartphones and tablets. The platform allows users to design field surveys for data collection which can be deployed and made available to others for use in the field.

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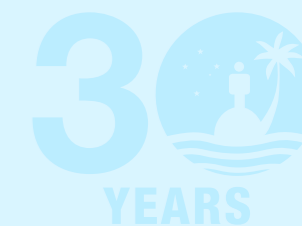
Work to strengthen Palau's climate change response continues as EU-funded projects explore synergies

Climate Change Resilience

The ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) Project team is continuing the work to improve regional, national adaptation and mitigation solutions to climate change in the Pacific region. They are in Palau this week for a two-fold mission.

The first part of the mission is to review the progress of the project in Palau, one of the countries where the €12 million European Union-funded project is making a tangible difference in the island nation's fight to survive the climate crisis.

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FAO and SPREP strengthen their partnership for a Resilient Pacific

General SPREP News

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

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Tree planting on Tagabe Riverbanks increasing Vanuatu's Climate Change Resilience

Climate Change Resilience

The Tagabe river is critical to Vanuatu's ecosystem, supplying fresh water to a population of over 50,000 in Port Vila and its nearby suburbs. But as climate change worsens, the river continues to be severely impacted placing the livelihoods of communities at risk.

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Planning workshop brings 5 Pacific island countries to enhance climate information and knowledge service for resilience

Environmental Monitoring and Governance

The Secretariat of Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) hosted a hybrid regional planning workshop on "Enhancing Climate Information and Knowledge Services for Resilience in 5 Island countries of the Pacific Ocean" from 21 to 24 March 2023 in Nadi, Fiji.

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Leaders from the Pacific region make a clear statement that the conservation of our oceans is not optional

Island and Ocean Ecosystems

Much of the talk at the CBD COP15 has centred around developing states concerned that there will be an unfair burden placed upon them to maintain their biodiversity.

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Our People, Our Pacific Environment

"Collective achievement starts with local action and support."

*David Sheppard
Former Director General, SPREP, 2009 - 2015*



30 Years of SPREP! Our Pacific People, Our Pacific Environment

This year, SPREP is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the signing of the SPREP Treaty, which brought about the establishment of the organisation as a separate, autonomous body, tasked with the protection and conservation of the Pacific environment.

The organisation has seen countless technical experts and passionate environmentalists come through its doors over the past 30 years, from the Pacific region and also from around the world, all have contributed their knowledge and expertise to the building of a resilient Pacific environment in the face of the countless challenges it faces today.

One of these people, was Mr. David Sheppard of Sydney, Australia.

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New report highlights by-catch as main threat to whales and dolphins in Pacific

EvA report released by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) this week provides deeper insight on the status of cetaceans (whales and dolphins) in the waters surrounding the Pacific island countries and territories.

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Pacific islands supported to better manage disaster waste

Participants from various Pacific countries have benefitted from a virtual Disaster Waste Management workshop designed to allow them to share experiences and lessons learned in disaster waste management.

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