

## Message from the Director General of SPREP

Greetings!

The Secretariat is gearing up to a busy last half of the year, as with every year. We have been fortunate to have shared the celebration of our 30th anniversary with many of our Member countries so far this year, with a renewed commitment to serving them as best as we can for another 30 to come.

Our programme teams in Climate Change Resilience, Environmental Monitoring and Governance, Island and Ocean Ecosystems, and Waste Management and Pollution Control continue to work towards achieving a resilient Pacific, and some of that work during the month of July is highlighted in this issue of our monthly SPREP-Tok newsletter.

Happy reading!

Sefanaia Nawadra



Sefanaia Nawadra, Director General of SPREP.

## SPREP-Tok LATEST NEWS



### New report highlights recommendations for strengthening the management and conservation of sea turtles in Vanuatu

A recently launched report on the management and conservation of sea turtles in Vanuatu provides key recommendations to help strengthen Vanuatu's efforts in managing and conserving the five species of sea turtle that feed and nest in the country's coastal and marine environments.

The loggerhead, olive ridley, green, hawksbill and leatherback turtles are all listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as threatened species. The Government of Vanuatu is committed to their effective management and conservation as part of global efforts to prevent the extinction of these migratory marine species.

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### Community engagement highlighted as rat removal operation on Late island in Tonga moves forward

#### Island and Ocean Ecosystems

The Kingdom of Tonga is a step closer to implementing an operation to remove rats from the uninhabited Late Island following successful community and stakeholder consultations in Vavau last month.

The first of the two-day consultations was held at the Governor's Office with the second day moved to the Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change & Communication (MEIDECC) Conference room in Vava'u. The consultations brought together District and Town Officers, Government representatives, members of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), villagers and local fishermen to discuss the plan, the risks involved and the impact of the project.

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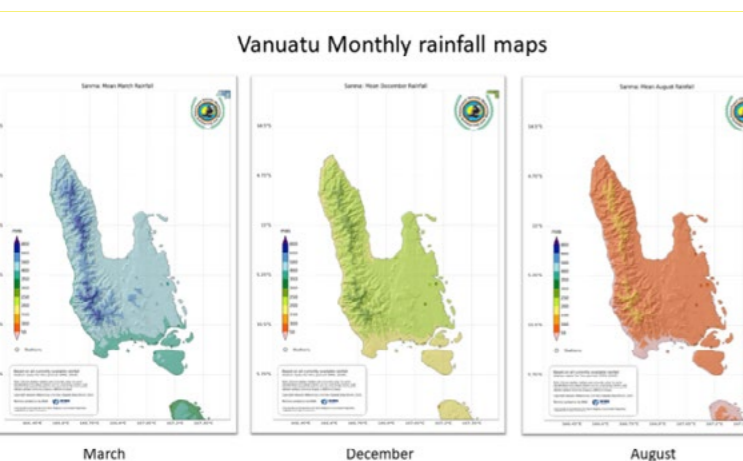
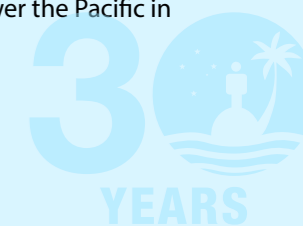
### Adapting coastal communities in the Pacific to sea level rise

#### Island and Ocean Ecosystems

Sea-level rise represents one of the most compelling consequences of climate change, as well as one of the most critical issues for our Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

Government representatives, members of civil society, researchers and climate change practitioners have gathered in Fiji for a regional workshop on "Adapting Coastal Cities and Territories to Sea Level Rise in the Pacific". Held at the Tanoa International Hotel in Nadi, from 10-12 July, workshop participants will take a deep dive into Sea Level Rise, adaptive approaches and strategies and ways to empower the Pacific in coastal adaptation planning.

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### New Vanuatu climatology maps unveiled

#### Climate Change Resilience

A new set of climatological maps of Vanuatu have been produced to help Government agencies visualise Vanuatu's climate vulnerabilities – and how to mitigate them.

The maps draw on climatology data from the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department and show weather patterns, climate variability, and long-term climate trends across a range of different timescales.

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### Australia and SPREP to provide support to PNG's single-use plastic reduction priorities

#### Waste Management and Pollution Control

A diverse range of stakeholders from government, industry and community and academia held an interactive meeting last week to share views on what Papua New Guinea (PNG) needed to do to address the very visible single-use plastic waste problem.

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### Pacific nations gather in Samoa for first Loss and Damage dialogue

#### Climate Change Resilience

The reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the world's most authoritative sources of climate science approved by 195 countries, reaffirms the reality that Pacific countries are already dealing with Loss and Damage (L&D) from climate change impacts.

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### Solomon Islands journalist wins SPREP Best Environment Story at Pasifika Environews Awards

#### General News

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) has congratulated the inaugural winners of the Pasifika Environews Awards, in particular Solomon Islands journalist, Mr Charley Piringi, who won the SPREP Best Environment story and runner up, Ms Sera Sefeti, a journalist for Islands Business.

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### Pacific delegates spearhead crucial discussions on greenhouse gas reduction

#### Waste Management and Pollution Control

Pacific delegates played a crucial role in discussions at the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) talks on greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction strategies, aimed to make a significant impact on combating climate change and safeguarding the region's vulnerable ecosystems.

Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu were among several voices who strongly called for the IMO member states to adopt an ambitious, science-based target to reduce GHG pollution from shipping and align it to the Paris Agreement temperature goal.

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### Loss and Damage washing our Pacific islands culture away

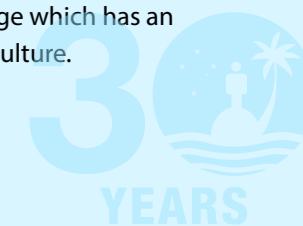
#### Climate Change Resilience

Loss and Damage. It's a term that has no agreed definition under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change yet, but it's one that many Pacific Islanders are familiar with.

Better felt as climate change impacts or harms that happen to us, regardless of what we do to adapt to them, or stop them – such as sea level rise and even loss of our cultural resources and heritage.

Loss is irreversible and permanent in nature, and damage is recoverable or reparable harm. Then we have the economic loss and damage which are those we can put financial value to, and the non-economic loss and damage which has an intangible value, such as our culture.

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### Satitua village welcomes pioneering exchange on traditional knowledge and coral reef monitoring

#### Island and Ocean Ecosystems

The blue lagoon of Satitua village on the south coast of Upolu Samoa provided the scenic backdrop for a significant milestone in the collective effort to draw on Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) to monitor and conserve coral reefs and coastal ecosystems.

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### Our Pacific people, our Pacific environment. Celebrating 30 years of SPREP

#### SPREP30 Q&A Series

Mr Solomon Yeo is a climate activist from the Solomon Islands. Together with his classmates, they founded the Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC), where Solomon now works as the Campaign Director.

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### New Battler Series aimed at managing Invasive Species at points of entry published

#### Island and Ocean Ecosystems

A newly published Battler Series has been added to the Pacific's arsenal in efforts to restore island resilience through invasive species management.

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### Pacific Meteorological Council meeting returns with Fiji gathering after pandemic disruptions

#### Climate Change Resilience

Preparations are underway for the 6th Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-6) and associated meetings to be hosted by the Government of Fiji in August, the first face-to-face meeting of the PMC after two years of COVID-19 lockdowns and travel restrictions.

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# Our People, Our Pacific Environment



"Keep up this amazing work for another 50 years - SPREP works best when it catalyses, forms partnerships and mobilises resources within the guidance of its Members."

-Kate Brown

## Our Pacific people, Our Pacific environment: Celebrating 30 years of SPREP

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 is Ms. Kate Brown, of Maori heritage (Ngai te Rangi, Morehu) from Tauranga, New Zealand.

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### Using nature-based solutions in response to climate change impact in the Pacific

As the Blue Pacific continues its fight against the mounting impacts of climate change, cost-effective and innovative solutions are needed. Our Pacific people have turned to ecosystem services and Nature-based solutions (NbS) for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

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### Regional Taskforce meets to tackle Biofouling

Biofouling, which refers to the accumulation of organisms such as algae, barnacles, and mollusks on the surfaces of structures submerged in water, poses serious economic and environmental risks to Pacific communities.

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