

SPREP TOK

Your monthly news highlights from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme



MESSAGE FROM MR SEFANAIA NAWADRA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SPREP

Talofa lava,

It has been another great month working with our Member countries delivering important capacity-building activities on environmental management, climate information services, Loss and Damage and waste management.

Our team joined the Sub-Regional Dialogue held in Fiji to support Pacific experiences and mutual learning related to the updating and revising National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), including national targets, to align with the Global Biodiversity Framework.

We continue to work across our key thematic areas to ensure a Resilient Pacific and look forward to another successful quarter as we work with our partners to support our Members.

Soifua,

Sefa



EIA WORKSHOP STEERS ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

A wave of new optimism is flowing through Solomon Islands to balance economic development with safeguarding its rich natural environment against unsustainable development. This follows an environmental management workshop hosted by SPREP, which key government and non-government stakeholders attended.

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PACIFIC COUNTRIES CONVENE TO ALIGN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY TARGETS TO GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

A historical agreement which sets out an ambitious agenda towards the vision of living in harmony with nature, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, was adopted during CBD COP15 in December 2023.

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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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SPREP TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO KIRIBATI'S SINGLE-USE PLASTIC REDUCTION PRIORITIES

In the Pacific Island nation of Kiribati, plastic has been identified as the top waste stream needing attention in the Kiribati Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-2030.

An estimated 13 per cent of the waste stream in Kiribati is comprised of plastic.

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SAMOA CONSULTATIONS SHAPE BOLD RESPONSE TO LOSS AND DAMAGE

Samoa is amongst the first countries to contribute and shape a critical new project designed to assist Pacific countries who are already dealing with Loss and Damage (L&D) from climate change impacts. These impacts include slow onset events such as sea level rise and temperature change or those caused from extreme events such as cyclones, floods and heatwaves.

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TONGAN SCHOLAR CHALLENGES GENDER NORMS TO PURSUE DOCTORATE IN INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Rat eradication programmes have long been used to tackle the issue of invasive species. Yet there is still much to learn about measuring the response of ecosystems to the absence of invasive rats, particularly in the Pacific region.

Are there more birds? Are there more fish or coral diversity to indicate the adjacent coral reefs are healthier without rats on the islands? If so, how can we easily measure this?

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PACIFIC COUNTRIES GATHER TO ENHANCE CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICES

Representatives from the Cook Islands, Niue, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Tuvalu gathered in Koror, Palau, from 19-23 February 2024 to advance and improve climate information and knowledge services, helping their communities become more resilient to the challenges posed by climate change. The gathering, hosted under the "Enhancing Climate Information and Knowledge Services for Resilience in 5 Pacific Island Countries (UNEP CIS-Pac5)" programme.

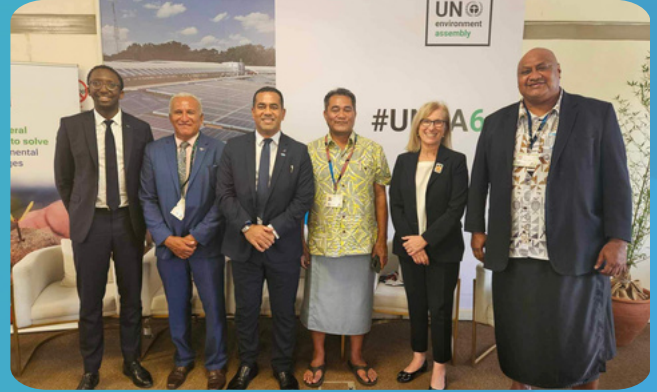
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QOMA VILLAGE, FIJI TAKING UP THE "WASTE" INITIATIVE

The village of Qoma, in Fiji, has taken steps to segregate and self-haul wastes generated to regulated dumpsites. Following a community awareness programme facilitated by the iTaukei Affairs Board, Tailevu Provincial Office, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme through the European Union-funded PacWaste Plus programme community members now understand health and environmental impact of improper waste management.

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UNEA-6, PROVIDING LEADERSHIP AND CATALYSING INTERGOVERNMENTAL ACTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental practitioners and officials from across the globe converged at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) from 26 February to 1 March 2024.

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ASBESTOS ABATEMENT WORKS UNDERWAY ON BANABA ISLAND

With support from PacWaste Plus, Kiribati aims to make dwellings and communal areas on Banaba Island safe by eliminating the risk of asbestos fibre exposure to the public. This work involves removing and safely disposing of Asbestos containing material (ACM) from high-risk sites on Banaba Island.

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NEW ZEALAND BACKS WEATHER READY PACIFIC FOR OUR ISLANDS

The Pacific has welcomed the announcement from New Zealand of their NZD20 million investment in the Weather Ready Pacific Program. The WRP is a decadal response to enable Pacific Islands to better anticipate, and respond to, high impact and extreme weather events.

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DEVELOPMENT OF TUVALU NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN PROGRESSES TO NEXT STEPS

Tuvalu is taking the next steps in the development of its National Adaptation Plan, with the preliminary findings of a Climate Impact, Vulnerability, and Risk Assessment study, as well as an appraisal methodology that will analyse adaptation measures, being presented during a series of sector workshops over the course of three days held in the heart of the nation's capital of Funafuti.

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GLOBAL RECYCLING DAY, CELEBRATING THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF RECYCLING FOR A GREENER FUTURE

As Global Recycling Day 2024 is celebrated across the world under the theme "#RecyclingHeroes", students in Samoa, partners, and staff of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) were reminded of the simple steps one can take to contribute to an environmentally stable planet and greener future for all.

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"As a citizen of an atoll island nation, the low-lying countries, we see the Weather-Ready Pacific important for our country to help our people prepare for the worst-case scenarios in the future, especially with these increasing changes in the world related to climate change."

- Tekena Redfern, Kiribati
#ResilientPacific #WeatherReadyPacific



"The Weather-Ready Pacific is important to safeguard life and property. It contributes to the development of our Pacific Islands. The benefits are cross-cutting for everyone."

- Dr Melchior Mataka, Solomon Islands
#ResilientPacific #WeatherReadyPacific

CELEBRATING WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY, 23 MARCH!

#DYK in 2023, the 52nd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders endorsed the Pacific Partnerships for Prosperity in which Mobilising Resources for the Weather Ready Pacific decadal Programme of Investments was featured? The PPfP Proposal is to encourage partners to make funding announcements to the Weather Ready Pacific (WRP). "At the Frontline of Climate Action"- the theme for this year's World Meteorological Day - we give voice to the WRP Program, a decadal response to enable our #Pacific Islands to better anticipate, and respond to, high impact and extreme weather events. The stronger and better the services of our Pacific Met Services, the stronger and better we are informed to prepare and empower our Pacific preparedness and resilience.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WEATHER READY PACIFIC HERE](#)