

SPREP TOK

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



MESSAGE FROM MR SEFANIAIA NAWADRA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SPREP

Kia Orana!

Your Secretariat has wrapped up a busy first quarter for the year, continuing to work collaboratively with our Member countries and partners for a resilient Pacific environment.

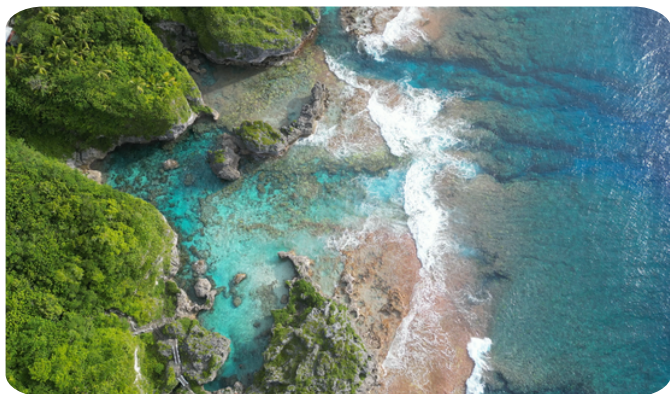
Our four thematic programmes have been on the ground focused on key initiatives on plastics, oil spill response, invasive species, traditional knowledge, climate outlooks and enhancing Met Services.

Our Senior Leadership Team also met with the Governments of Australia and New Zealand for the SPREP trilaterals, discussing the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, current and emerging regional challenges, SPREP organisational governance, and challenges and next steps for the Secretariat for the coming year.

May you have a great month ahead,

Kia Manuia

Sefa



CHARTING THE COURSE TO A PLASTIC-FREE FUTURE IN NIUE.

It was once the sacred swimming spot for Niuean royalty, today it is a popular destination for both locals and visitors alike, but the magical Matapa Chasm now faces a menacing threat in the form of a foreign object: plastic. At the seat of the two towering cliffs that encompass the chasm, a plastic water bottle and cup lies at the edge of the abyss.

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BARANA NATURE PARK VISIT REINFORCES CONSERVATION LESSONS FOR SOLOMON ISLANDS STAKEHOLDERS.

Stakeholders from Government ministries, provincial councils, NGOs and the private sector in the Solomon Islands experienced biodiversity conservation in action first-hand during an immersive excursion to Barana Nature Park recently.

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SPREP TOK ISSN: 2311-861x

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
(685) 21929 - PO Box 240 - Apia, Samoa - sprep@sprep.org - www.sprep.org

Our vision - A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures



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MUSEMETU COMMUNITY IN VANUATU TO LEAD CLIMATE ADAPTATION INITIATIVE WITH PRISMSS SUPPORT.

The Nusemetu Community Conservation Area (CCA) in Vanuatu, on the Island of Tanna, has been chosen as a key site to pilot an invasive species management initiative. It has also been chosen as a site to re-introduce lost native species as key actions for climate change adaptation following the recent Resilient Ecosystems-Resilient Communities (RERC) stakeholder's workshop.

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ENHANCED PARTNERSHIPS LAUNCH OIL SPILL TASK FORCE IN MAJURO.

In a landmark collaboration, five Hawaii-based active duty members of the U.S. Coast Guard's 14th District and the Marine Environmental Response team from the newly established Regional Activities Center, alongside a scientific support coordinator from NOAA, joined forces with SPREP and the Republic of the Marshall Islands Environmental Protection Authority to initiate an Oil Spill Task Force in Majuro.

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KIRIBATI NATIONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM CULMINATES IN WORLD MET DAY CELEBRATIONS.

Mayors and clerks representing 18 of Kiribati's 33 islands attended the annual Climate Outlook Forum in Ambo, on the island of Tarawa, for a briefing on the latest climate and oceans forecast and deepen their understanding of the services provided by the Kiribati Meteorological Services.

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PACIFIC LEADING THE WAY IN CONSERVING UNIQUE BIODIVERSITY AND WORK TO ACHIEVE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK GOALS.

Pacific island countries continue to show global leadership in conserving the region's unique biodiversity, with most of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) already aligned with the recently adopted Global Biodiversity Framework.

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THE ROLE OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE IN A CHANGING CLIMATE; THE FUTURE WE WANT.

In the Pacific, our relationship with nature is a natural one. Nature is us, we are nature. We use nature to meet our basic needs, food, water, clothing and shelter. We communicate through nature, we use it for medicine, transportation, music and entertainment. Generations have used those natural signs, which in today's world we refer to as traditional knowledge, to plan for the future.

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"OUR YOUTH ARE ON-THE-GROUND ACTORS FOR BIODIVERSITY! WE NEED TO BUILD CAPACITY FOR MORE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN THESE REGIONAL DIALOGUES SO YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A CLEAR SENSE OF DIRECTION TO ACHIEVING THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS."

- CAMARI DIVUNIWAQA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Sub-regional Dialogue on NBSAPs



PACIFIC FUTURES TALANOA: WHY NBSAPS MATTER IN THE CONSERVATION OF OUR NATURAL WORLD.

I've never felt so cold in my life, it was freezing in fact. Two years ago, I was amongst Pacific representatives advocating our Pacific priorities at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal Canada. Our Pacific countries might be small in size but our One Pacific Voice was loud and strong.

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SPREP HOSTS TRILATERALS WITH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) 2024 Trilateral Meetings with the Government of Australia's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade were held on 17-18 April, at the Pacific Climate Change Centre. The trilateral meetings are an opportunity for officials to meet with the Senior Leadership Team of SPREP and discuss the work of the Secretariat. Australia and New Zealand provide multi-year funding support to the core budget of SPREP, that enables the Secretariat to meet its priorities and functions in ensuring a resilient Pacific environment. Trilateral meetings are held annually, and key agenda items for this year include the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, current and emerging regional challenges, SPREP organisational governance, and challenges and next steps for the Secretariat.



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