

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,
August has been an exciting month for your Secretariat on our collective journey to an environmentally Resilient Pacific with activities across our Blue Pacific. We kicked off the Fourth Clean Pacific Roundtable in Tuvalu, where Members and partners came together building momentum for a Cleaner Pacific. We thank Tuvalu for being an amazing host of almost 200 stakeholders working towards one goal. The Sixth Pacific Invasive Learning Network Meeting took place in Cook Islands with the Invasive Species community making leaps and bounds in addressing our invasive species challenges in the region while celebrating their successes and strengthening networks and opportunities for collaboration. Genuine and durable partnerships with SPREP were demonstrated this month and we thank the Governments of Australia, Japan, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom for investing in our Pacific Islands as we journey towards a Resilient Pacific. As we head into a busy time with upcoming Conferences of the Parties for the range of multilateral environment agreements, we reaffirm our commitment to you in ensuring you meet your regional and national environmental needs. Have a lovely month ahead!

Sefa



COOK ISLANDS SHOWCASE SUCCESSFUL INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES AT THE SIXTH PILN MEETING

Island nations face daily challenges from various invasive animal and plant species, which significantly threaten biodiversity, climate resilience, and island ecosystems. These invasive species can also severely impact agriculture, food security, and human health.

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THREATENED BY WORSENING CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS, FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA PLANS TO ADAPT FOR SURVIVAL

The impacts of climate change on the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) are severe. According to a recent report by the Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment (PIRCA), communities in Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk, Yap...

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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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GIS TRAINING ENHANCES DATA ANALYSIS AND MAPPING CAPACITY IN VANUATU

The effective use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) helps drive informed decision making for sound environmental management through data analysis, mapping and enhanced research skills and innovation. This was highlighted at a GIS training course held from 24 – 28 June 2024 in Port Vila facilitated by SPREP for Vanuatu.

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TONGA LAUNCHES ITS NATIONAL SINGLE-USE PLASTICS ROADMAP

The Kingdom of Tonga today launched a National Single-Use Plastics Roadmap aimed at phasing out single-use plastics (SUPs) in the country. This strategic roadmap will provide a clear pathway for targeted actions to achieve a cleaner environment and improve waste recycling strategies. The roadmap was launched at a side event at the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting hosted by Tonga.

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KIRIBATI BEGINS PREPARATIONS FOR YET ANOTHER LA NIÑA IN THE PACIFIC

Several models and observations have shown that the Pacific is gearing up for yet another La Niña event, which is likely to be in November 2024, and the Kiribati Meteorological Service (KMS) is wasting no time in preparing for this occurrence. La Niña is the name given to the phenomenon whereby there is an increase in the strength and intensity of trade winds which enhances the warm pool in the Western Pacific.

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NAVAKACOA WOMEN AND YOUTH JOIN EFFORTS TO REHABILITATE MANGROVES

Navakaoa village is located on the northeastern coastline of Taveuni island, and its community is dependent on fish and marine resources for subsistence and livelihoods. However, over the years, the people of Navakaoa have been experiencing a decline in availability and abundance of fish. They recall days when their parents and grandparents would fish near the coastline and the catch, they would bring home was large in number and in size.

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MNRE AND SPREP COLLABORATION RESULTS IN THE CAPTURE OF MONGOOSE IN SAMOA

In a true display of collaboration and partnership between SPREP and a Member country to ensure the protection of our Pacific environment, SPREP through the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) responded to a call for assistance received from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) of Samoa regarding the discovery of a mongoose.

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EMPOWERING THE RESILIENCE OF AMERICAN SAMOA

Working together to build American Samoa's resilience to climate change is the Governor's Resilience Office and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The Office known as GRO was newly established in 2021 by the Executive Order of the Governor of American Samoa, High Chief Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga.

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WEATHER READY PACIFIC: SAVING LIVES IN TONGA WITH NEW WEATHER RADAR

Tonga launched a Weather Radar during the Fifty-Third Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting. The Radar is the first deliverable of the Weather Ready Pacific in our Pacific region, it aims to save lives while building a resilient Pacific through enhanced Met Services forecasts and warnings. The milestone event is one of many ahead on the path of the Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Program of Investment.

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NEW CALEDONIA SCOOPS 2024 PACIFIC INVASIVE SPECIES BATTLER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Mr. Patrick Barrière, Coordinator of the Threats Unit at the New Caledonian Biodiversity Agency (ANCB), has been honoured as the 2024 Pacific Invasive Species Battler of the Year. This accolade was presented during a special awards night and farewell function for participants of the sixth Pacific Invasive Learning Network (PILN) meeting, hosted by the Government of Cook Islands.

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OUR PACIFIC VOICES

How can we harness the power of nature to help solve development sustainability issues in the face of climate change impacts? How can we ensure that our Nature-based Solutions projects and initiatives will have lasting positive socio-economic impacts while achieving long-term positive change in the health of our natural ecosystems and biodiversity? Pacific participants at the 'Aligning Ecosystem-based Adaptation and Nature-based Solutions in Fiji' from 20 - 21 August, explored and improved their understanding on the convergence of NbS and Ecosystem-based Adaptation projects and how they can be best applied to support sustainable development. The workshop was a collaboration between SPREP's BIEM Initiative, which is a component of the Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme funded by the European Union and the Government of Sweden; the multi-partner PPIN project, funded by NZMFAT, and the Pacific Ecosystem Based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC+) phase 2 project funded by the Kiwa Secretariat and the French Facility for Global Environment



Nature-based Solutions provide multiple benefits. For communities it **improves livelihood** through sustainable agriculture, fisheries and ecotourism. It supports food security, disaster risk reduction and **enhances climate resilience** for vulnerable communities.

- Kristiana Ciocio, Fiji Islands

Aligning Nature-based Solutions & Ecosystem-based Adaptation Workshop
Suva, Fiji | 20 - 21 August 2024




Nature-based Solutions is the basis of, and for **sustainable development** in the Pacific. Communities have been living with and practicing **harmonic living** with the natural environment for years. Reviving this body of knowledge is timely. And it is the right thing to do.

- Tolu Muliaina, Samoa


Aligning Nature-based Solutions & Ecosystem-based Adaptation Workshop
Suva, Fiji | 20 - 21 August 2024




Nature-based Solutions are important for Pacific Islands as they offer sustainable and cost-effective ways to address environmental challenges, building resilience to **climate change** and protecting **biodiversity**.

- Rakeshni Lata, Fiji Islands

Aligning Nature-based Solutions & Ecosystem-based Adaptation Workshop
Suva, Fiji | 20 - 21 August 2024

Nature-based Solutions harnesses the power of nature in addressing environmental and societal issues. And I have seen NbS work in **coastal management** in Nabukadra Village in Ra.

- Josua Waqanivalu, Fiji Islands

Aligning Nature-based Solutions & Ecosystem-based Adaptation Workshop
Suva, Fiji | 20 - 21 August 2024





PACIFIC INVASIVE SPECIES BATTLERS EMBRACE GEDSI AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Regional participants attending the sixth Pacific Invasive Learning Network (PILN) meeting reaffirmed the importance of applying Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) and traditional knowledge (TK) principles, to enable invasive species management programmes and activities to become more inclusive, equitable, and effective, ultimately leading to better conservation outcomes in the region.

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MOANA BLUE PACIFIC PAVILION AT COP29 TO AMPLIFY PACIFIC ISLANDS VOICES

The call for side events is out now for the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion at the COP29 in November this year. Moana Blue Pacific at the twenty-ninth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) is a Pacific partnership with the Governments of New Zealand and Australia managed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

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TUVALU HOSTS FOURTH CLEAN PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE

The Government and the people of Tuvalu embraced the opportunity to host the Fourth Clean Pacific Roundtable (4CPRT) at the Rt. Hon. Dr Sir Tomasi Puapua Convention Centre in Funafuti, from 5 - 9 August 2024. More than 200 delegates converged on the atoll nation for the meeting to strengthen and advance the journey towards a Cleaner Pacific. Facilitated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, with Members and partners, the CPRT exists to facilitate networking and dialogue, improve donor coordination, mobilise technical and financial resources and to monitor the progress of the Cleaner Pacific 2025. Cleaner Pacific 2025 is a comprehensive long-term strategy for integrated sustainable waste management and pollution prevention and control in the Pacific islands region until 2025. It provides a strategic management framework to address waste, chemicals and pollutants that will reduce associated threats to sustainable development of the region.

The 4CPRT was a shining success and we wish to extend our gratitude to the people of Tuvalu, fafetai lasi for your warm hospitality.