



**SPREP  
PROE**

**SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2023**

# A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is the lead regional organisation for the protection and sustainable development of Pacific Island environments. SPREP was established by its Member governments in 1992 to support cooperation and coordination on environmental matters in the region. The agreement establishing SPREP came into force in 1993, officially making the organisation an autonomous body.

With its main headquarters in Apia, Samoa, SPREP works closely with its 26 Member countries and territories – along with partners, donors and local communities – to deliver on environmental management and sustainable development in the region in four priority areas:

**BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT**

**WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL**

**CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE**

**ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND GOVERNANCE**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In our efforts to fulfil our vision of 'a resilient Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures', as highlighted in this 2023 Annual Report, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment (SPREP) is extremely grateful to our valued Members, development partners, donors, our CROP family, and stakeholders.

Without your meaningful, long lasting, and productive partnership and collaboration, we would not have been able to accomplish our key results and outcomes in 2023.

We would also like to thank the Government of Australia (DFAT) and the Government of New Zealand (MFAT) for their significant contribution to SPREP core and programme funding including the annual contribution from the People's Republic of China. We sincerely appreciate your contribution in supporting our work towards a resilient Pacific environment.

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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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# Message from the Chair

Talofa! On behalf of the Government and the People of Tuvalu, it has been an honour and a privilege to steer our vaka during the past 12 months as the Chair of the 31<sup>st</sup> SPREP Meeting of Officials.



I acknowledge the effort by the Kingdom of Tonga as Chair of SPREP's Third Executive Board Meeting, noting their hard work and dedication to SPREP's vision of building "a resilient Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures."

I emphasise SPREP's vision here at the outset for a reason. During our tenure as Chair of the 31<sup>st</sup> SPREP Meeting, we celebrated a very special milestone, the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SPREP. Thirty years is a long time when tests and challenges could have easily derailed any organisation without a vision, and yet SPREP has only grown from strength to strength during this period.

From humble beginnings in 1991 with just three professional officers and four support staff all working out of the South Pacific Commission Office in Noumea, New Caledonia, to the growing and respected international organisation it has become today with close to 150 staff members across its five offices in the Pacific, SPREP should be proud of its journey.

The scriptures tell us that where there is no vision, the people perish. Indeed, to build and sustain a successful international organisation like SPREP, it is prudent we remind ourselves about our vision time and time again. It is this vision that determines our priorities and shapes our work to achieve all we aspire to.

A resilient Pacific environment, sustaining livelihoods, our heritage, and our cultures all point to our people, and our survival. Speaking of survival, you would agree with me that we live in very challenging and uncertain times, exacerbated by economic, political and social challenges. The unpredictable nature of war and strife in different parts of the world is a reality we cannot ignore.

In the Pacific, we face a great threat. Our people and our communities are at the forefront and at the mercy of the impacts of the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. In Tuvalu, we live and breathe the impacts of these crises. We have suffered from the loss of our precious biodiversity; our fish and marine life have been choked by the plastic pollution crisis. As a small, low-lying atoll nation in the middle of the vast Pacific Ocean, we are up against extraordinary challenges due to climate change, particularly from sea level rise. By 2050, it is estimated that half the land area of our capital Funafuti will become flooded by tidal waters. By 2100, the same estimates tell us that 95% of land will be flooded by routine high tides.

We are already seeing this reality. Our communities see their land being eaten away by coastal erosion and rising sea levels. Some of our islands are slowly disappearing. Our taro plantations and our crops we rely upon for daily sustenance are dying because seawater has infiltrated our lands. Our fisheries have also been affected because of the salinity and the warming of the sea.

Climate change poses extreme risks to our drinking water, food security, energy supply, and all aspects of daily living. Let us not forget the threat to our culture, traditions and language. These treasures are closely aligned with the land, so when we lose part of our land, that takes away part of our culture. We cannot place an economic value on these losses.

The irony is that the socio-economic and environmental problems we face concerning the triple planetary crisis, especially climate change, are global in nature but not of our making. This is why Tuvalu continues to raise its voice on the global stage to call for urgent and ambitious actions to address these environmental challenges.

However, we are not just making noise on the global stage. Tuvalu is also actively exploring homegrown solutions. One such initiative is Tuvalu's Climate Change and Disaster Survival Fund (TSF), established to provide immediate vital services to combat the devastating impact of climate change and natural disasters and allow Tuvalu to respond to future climate change impacts and natural disasters in a coordinated, effective, and timely manner.

Let us remind ourselves again here and now that climate change remains the single greatest existential threat facing our Blue Pacific. Tuvalu has also added its voice to our Pacific Leaders' declaration that the Pacific is facing a Climate Emergency threatening the livelihoods, security, and well-being of our people and ecosystems. This is why the work of SPREP, with the support of development partners and donors, matters. We need action. Now.

I want to thank all our 26 Member countries and territories, and our local communities for their support. We are grateful to our regional and global partners and donors for their contribution to the protection and management of the environment and natural resources of the Pacific.

I would like to acknowledge with gratitude the Director General of SPREP, Mr Sefanaia Nawadra, and the staff of SPREP for their work. In 30 years, SPREP has made significant strides in promoting sustainable environmental management across the Pacific, continued to facilitate meaningful partnerships, foster cooperation among member nations, and worked tirelessly to ensure that the voices of the Pacific island nations are heard at the global stage.

Looking at the mountain of environmental challenges we are up against today, SPREP's work has never been more important for the sake of "a resilient Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures."

*Fakafetai lasi! From the Chair, and the people of the blue Pacific region*

Pasuna Tuaga

Chair of 31st SPREP Meeting of Officials and Secretary for Tuvalu's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Labour and Trade

# Message from the Director General



What a year 2023 has been with our team constantly on the road implementing work throughout our Blue Pacific and beyond in partnership with our Members and partners. Celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the SPREP Treaty was a pivotal moment for our region collectively.

I point to just a few key highlights of 2023.

Our 31<sup>st</sup> SPREP Meeting and High-Level Ministerial Talanoa followed by our first Partners Dialogue was an overwhelming success. We made key decisions on the following:

- Guiding Framework for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)
- Implementation of the Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 and the Coral Reef Action Plan 2021-2030
- Reconvening of the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable in 2024 and the establishment of a traditional knowledge working group
- Adoption of technical guidelines developed by the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention (BRS) on Environmentally Sound Management of hazardous waste.
- Report of the Working Group and its prioritisation of recommendations from the Mid-Term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017 to 2026 and the Independent Corporate Review conducted in 2021
- Biennial Work Programme and Budget of USD 40,679,684 for 2024 and provisional Work Programme and Budget of USD 30,082,893 for 2025; and

New Zealand strengthened the Pacific's environmental resilience, by committing NZD 20.6 million to the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) to support the implementation of the Restoring Island Resilience Project.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pacific Meteorological Ministerial Meeting and associated meetings, the governance structure and finance facility for Weather Ready, a USD 167M programmatic undertaking to strengthen our institutional arrangements and capacity, was approved. This structure was later endorsed by Pacific Leaders and included as one of the Pacific Partnerships for Prosperity during the 52<sup>nd</sup> Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in the Cook Islands. We acknowledge the investment by Australia of AUD 30 million announced in 2023, and the NZD 20 million support of New Zealand that was announced early 2024.

2023 was another pivotal year for amplifying our Pacific voyage across the international multilateral environmental agreement meetings. Our Pacific voice was heard in Paris and Nairobi for the second and third sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee working towards a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution with the ambition to complete the negotiations by the end of 2024. This area of work was further amplified by the elevation of the High Ambition Coalition for a Plastics Treaty through the Pacific Partnerships for Prosperity, endorsed by our Leaders in November 2023.

At the Twenty-Eighth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Dubai, SPREP led one of its strongest teams through the One CROP mechanism to support more than 1000 Pacific delegates. Our collective team did an excellent job providing technical advice and support to Pacific delegations with the negotiations, the Pacific Delegation Office and a platform through the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion to showcase Pacific issues supported by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand.

Biodiversity loss on islands continues to be the highest globally. We supported our members leading up to the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties on the Convention on Biological Diversity and the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in 2022. We were proud to support our Pacific islands delegation, the largest ever, with our One-CROP team. Since the adoption of the GBF, we have participated and subscribed to global initiatives relevant to the Pacific so that we can strengthen our support to members in implementing the GBF.

All the work we do across our strategic priorities includes teams of people from our engine rooms, such as Communications and Outreach, Finance and Administration, Human Resources, Information Communications and Technology, Internal Audit, Knowledge Management, Legal, Project Coordination Unit, Strategic Planning, Sub-regional offices and Executive Support. This teamwork ensures our work is implemented on the ground and across the regional and international fora in a strategically planned, coordinated, actioned and reported in a transparent and accountable manner.

I want to acknowledge our valued Members, development partners, donors, our CROP family, stakeholders, the Government of Australia (DFAT) and the Government of New Zealand (MFAT) for their significant contribution to SPREP core and programme funding including the annual contribution from the People's Republic of China. I also acknowledge the long-term and increasing support from the European Union and Japan. I also want to thank my staff for their tireless work.

We live in very difficult times, exacerbated by the impacts of the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Thirty years ago, against extremely trying circumstances, SPREP was established and vowed to work with all our Members to address these challenges. The environmental problems before us are large and increasing, but our mission, commitment and dedication to our Pacific communities stay the same, and our pledge to work with and for our Members will continue.

*Sa vinaka saka!*

Sefanaia Nawadra  
SPREP Director General

# High Level Summary of Key Results 2022–2023

Overcoming many storms and challenges over the past thirty years, SPREP as an organisation has grown in size and stature in its on-going efforts in building a resilient Pacific environment, one that will sustain livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Across the years, the implementation of environment policies through SPREP's work with our members, donors and partners have delivered substantial results and outcomes for our Pacific communities.

This work continues and is at the heart of our Strategic Plan 2017–2026 directing and charting our journey forward. The implementation of our Strategic Plan 2017–2026 is assessed through the Performance Implementation Plan (PIP), which provides high level planning and reporting to Members on the achievements and progress towards the strategic goals.

This High-Level Summary is the final report for the 2022–2023 PIP (PIP3) reporting on Overall Performance of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017–2026 at the Goal level. The PIP3 Report is the first PIP report aligned to the updated Results Framework (RF 2017–2026) strategic targets. Due to the impacts of COVID-19 on programme performance and delivery, the SPREP Results Framework 2017–2026 was adjusted in 2021 across the Strategic Plan Regional and Organisational Goals. This resulted in changes to the sub-outcome indicators and targets where it was considered feasible, relevant, and measurable within the Strategic Plan timeframe thus, leading to a total number of 123 outcome indicators to be tracked for reporting until 2026.

The overall PIP3 results against the 123 outcome indicators, comprising of 69 indicators for the Regional Goals and 54 indicators for the Organisational Goals, show 84 of 123 targets for PIP3 2022–2023 were Achieved.

Figure 1 below shows overall performance across PIP1 (2018–2019) to PIP3 (2022–2023).

As observed, the changes in PIP3 achieved outcomes were associated with the shifting of approaches including improvements to systems, processes, amongst others. The factors included but not limited to changes to several indicators and targets, and delays in activity implementation. It is important to note that the implementation of PIP2 was fully impacted by COVID-19.

For the PIP3 2022–2023 report on the strategic outcome achievements across the four Regional Goals, a total of 69 outcome indicators are used as the benchmark for assessing performance for each of the four Regional Goals. While achieving 47 of 69 outcome indicators is a good result, it is worth noting some of the reasons for not achieving 100 percent such as delays in the development and delivery of project activities due to a combination of challenges. For example, the delay in activities to fully implement integrated coastal management at watershed scale at sites in Fiji and Vanuatu through EDF-11 funded Bycatch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Initiative as part of the Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership programme. While most of the activities including training, rapid biodiversity survey, capacity needs assessment coastal management programmes, amongst others were completed, the marine and coastal ecosystem management policy has yet to be implemented. A consultancy has commenced to engage with communities and stakeholders to undertake biodiversity and socio-economic

assessments including the development of integrated ecosystem management plan for Beqa Lagoon-Navua Catchment.

For this year's PIP3 2022–2023 report on the strategic outcome achievements across the Organisational Goals, 34 of the 54 outcome indicators were achieved. Some of these are work in progress while others are due to funding constraints to fully implement and achieve the targets.

SPREP continues to amplify our Pacific voyage across the international Multilateral Environmental Agreement meetings. At the Twenty-Eighth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Dubai, SPREP supported more than a 1000 Pacific delegates through policy advice and technical support to Pacific delegations in the negotiations as well as in amplifying Pacific Voices through the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion.

The progress of the Weather Ready Pacific Programme is a game changer in the way we are helping Pacific communities deal with extreme weather events. Following the endorsement by Pacific Forum Leaders of the Weather Ready Decadal Programme of Investment in 2021, the Pacific Meteorological Council at its sixth meeting and out-of-session meetings endorsed the Weather Ready Pacific governance and implementation arrangements including the establishment of the WRP Unit under the Pacific Meteorological Desk. At the end of 2023, Australia had committed AUD 30 million with more donors indicating interest to invest.

SPREP provided support to strengthen national capacities and systems to access climate finance through the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness and Support Programme. Four countries which included Nauru, Niue, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Solomon Islands successfully accessed the second round of GCF Readiness funding to strengthen GCF National Designated Authority capacity.

SPREP supported Members to reduce the impact of invasive species. One hundred and five islands in the Pacific are now rat-free, with the delivery of an additional 28 rat eradication operations in the islands of French Polynesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Wallis and Futuna.

SPREP also provided strong support to Pacific Island Members' engagement at the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which resulted in the historical Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Since the adoption of the GBF, SPREP has participated and subscribed to global initiatives relevant to the Pacific to strengthen its support to Members to implement the GBF.

In Samoa, SPREP worked in partnership with the Australian Institute of Marine Science and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to successfully complete the Pacific Reef Cloud monitoring project. The pilot project strengthened stakeholder collaboration, enhance data and information sharing on coral reef status and threats across different geographies, and improve resource management strategies informed by scientific understanding and traditional knowledge. The Reef Cloud is a digital tool that uses Artificial Intelligence to advance analysis to inform reef management decisions.

In our work to address waste management and pollution, support was provided to Pacific Islands Small Developing States in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee's (INC) work to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including the marine environment is ongoing. The Government of Australia through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, provided over AUD 2.4 million to support Pacific countries to effectively engage in the ongoing INC process.

The work to manage hazardous legacy waste such as healthcare wastes, e-wastes, used oil, asbestos and liquid chemicals is making a huge difference in Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga. In Tonga, the PacWaste Plus project successfully completed the asbestos abatement activity with approximately 2,622.79 m<sup>2</sup> of non-friable asbestos removed from five government buildings and properly disposed. Three of the buildings have been re-roofed and remain in use by government officials. The other two buildings are derelict and scheduled for demolition. Through the SWAP project, Samoa, Tonga and Solomon Islands are progressing in the management of used oil through the development of their national used oil management plans. SPREP, through Pacific Ocean Litter Project assisted the Government of Solomon Islands to Green the Pacific Games 2023 through the promotion of a plastic free Honiara.

The successful conclusion of the Inform Project paved way for utilising environment data for decision-makers in the Pacific. It marked a milestone in harnessing environmental data for informed decision-making, leading to a significant improvement in the capabilities of Pacific nations to utilise environmental data effectively, enabling informed, strategic, and impactful environmental policies and interventions.

SPREP and partners hosted The Pacific Day 2023 in the margins of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand 2023 conference as a crucial platform for enhancing environmental assessments and planning in the Pacific region. The event brought together diverse stakeholders, including government officials from nine Pacific Island countries, environmental experts, and regional and international partners. It spotlighted the Pacific's innovative approaches to environmental challenges, emphasising country-specific solutions, integrating traditional knowledge, and advocating for enhanced regional collaboration and resource allocation.

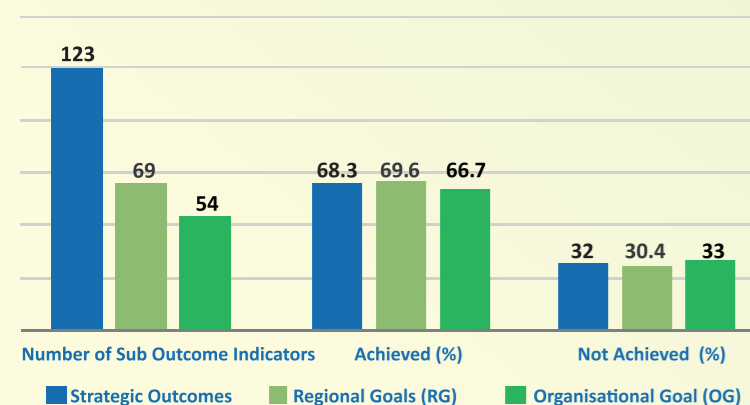


FIGURE 1 PIP3 (2022–2023) Achievement by Strategic Goals: Overall

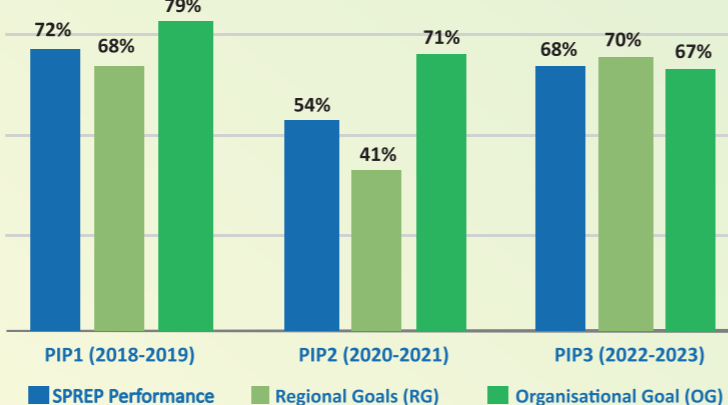


FIGURE 2 Over-all SPREP Performance by PIP and Strategic Plan 2017–2023

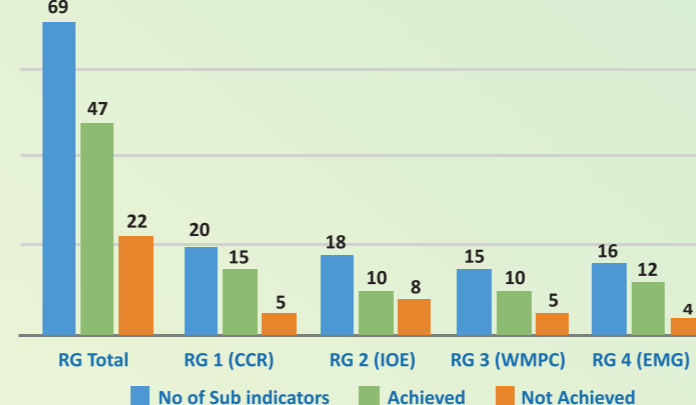


FIGURE 3 PIP2 Strategic Outcomes: performance by Regional Goals

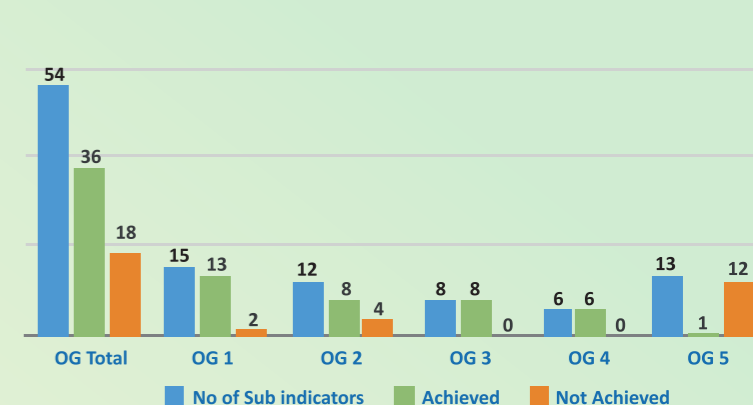


FIGURE 4 PIP3 Strategic Outcomes Performance by Organisational Goals

## Organisational Goals

As an organisation, SPREP continued to strengthen its institutional capacities to support our members through enhanced IT systems and services, increased visibility and outreach, improved staff digital access to information and knowledge products, and the sharing and dissemination of environmental messages to encourage positive environmental behaviour change among Members.

The One Pacific Voice amplification campaign at COP28 was a tremendous success. The Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion hosted more than 75 events, and more than 35 high-level events, and over 430 speakers at the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion Platform were Pacific Island voices. The Mana Moana Pasifika Voices Vol 3 – showcased poetry to tell our Pacific Islands stories on the global scale to invoke action for strong outcomes in the negotiations and reach people at the personal level to address impacts of climate change. Three poems launched by Pacific Island women poets.

SPREP in its role as an Accredited Entity to the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund continued to assist Member countries improve access to finance to address their respective climate ambitions. As Executing Agency of Global Environment Fund (GEF) working through UNEP as the GEF Implementing Agency, SPREP continued to implement GEF funded projects including the GEF Regional Invasives Project to strengthen national and regional capacities to reduce the impact of Invasive Alien Species on globally significant biodiversity in the Pacific; the GEF Inform Project to strengthen environmental data for reporting to Multilateral Environment Agreements and inform decision making; and the GEF ISLANDS Project to prevent the build-up of Persistent Organic Pollutants and mercury materials and to manage and dispose of existing harmful chemicals and waste across Pacific Small Islands Developing States.

In collaboration with Pacific Resilience Partnership Taskforce Support Unit, SPREP continued to carry out onsite in-country assessment on the operationalisation of Framework for Resilient Development (FRDP in the Pacific 2017–2030 embedding Pacific Resilience Standards (PRS) in the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The assessment led to the socialisation of FRDP Monitoring and Evaluation Framework adapting the rubrics of the Pacific Resilience Standards (PRS) ascribed in FRDP's goals. This enabled the country

to match its existing country indicators utilised for reporting in other regional frameworks and be used in FRDP outcome reporting such as SAMOA Pathway, Sustainable Development Goals, National Environment Management Strategies among others. This work was supported by the Government of Australia and the European Union.

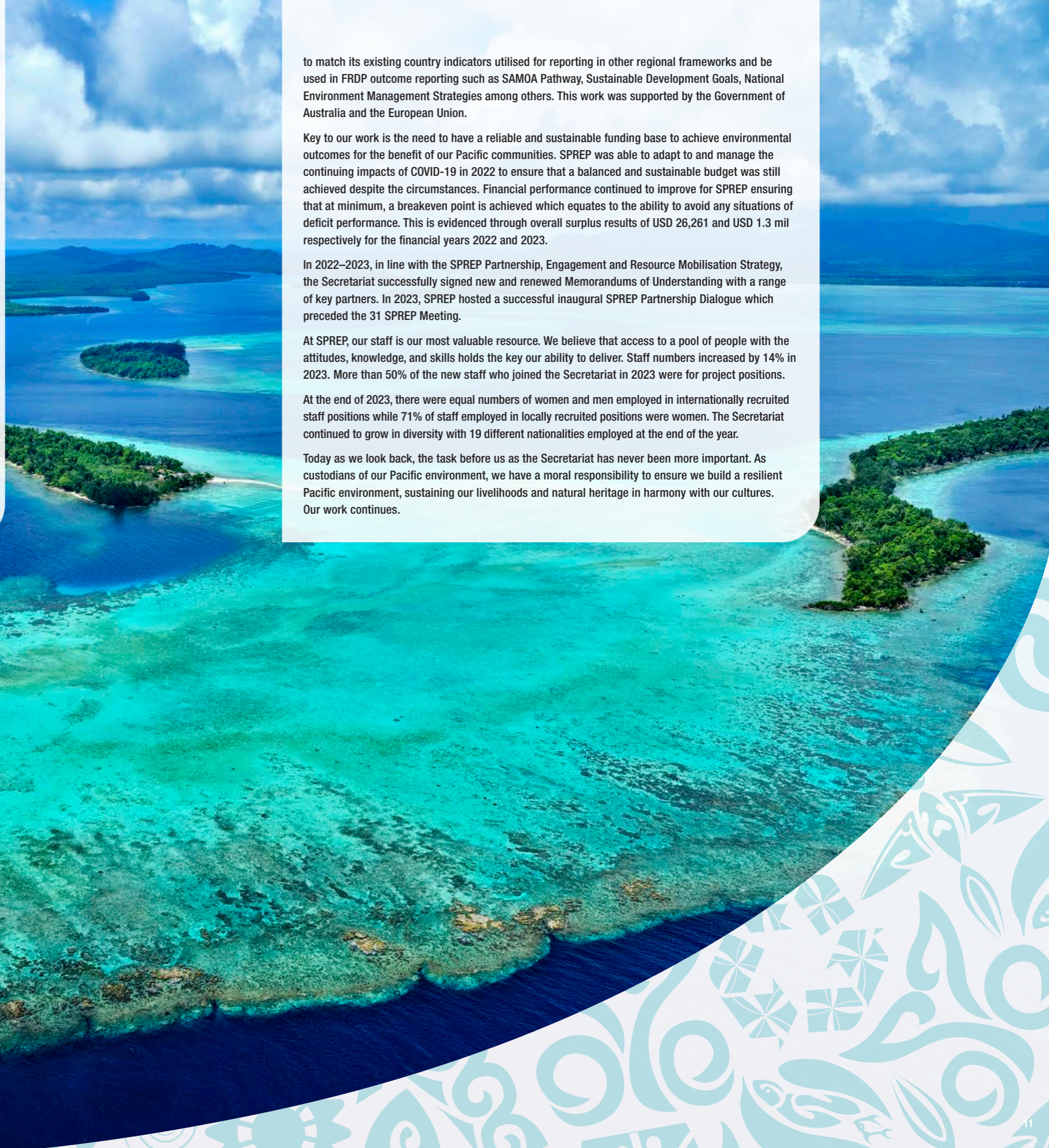
Key to our work is the need to have a reliable and sustainable funding base to achieve environmental outcomes for the benefit of our Pacific communities. SPREP was able to adapt to and manage the continuing impacts of COVID-19 in 2022 to ensure that a balanced and sustainable budget was still achieved despite the circumstances. Financial performance continued to improve for SPREP ensuring that at minimum, a breakeven point is achieved which equates to the ability to avoid any situations of deficit performance. This is evidenced through overall surplus results of USD 26,261 and USD 1.3 mil respectively for the financial years 2022 and 2023.

In 2022–2023, in line with the SPREP Partnership, Engagement and Resource Mobilisation Strategy, the Secretariat successfully signed new and renewed Memorandums of Understanding with a range of key partners. In 2023, SPREP hosted a successful inaugural SPREP Partnership Dialogue which preceded the 31 SPREP Meeting.

At SPREP, our staff is our most valuable resource. We believe that access to a pool of people with the attitudes, knowledge, and skills holds the key our ability to deliver. Staff numbers increased by 14% in 2023. More than 50% of the new staff who joined the Secretariat in 2023 were for project positions.

At the end of 2023, there were equal numbers of women and men employed in internationally recruited staff positions while 71% of staff employed in locally recruited positions were women. The Secretariat continued to grow in diversity with 19 different nationalities employed at the end of the year.

Today as we look back, the task before us as the Secretariat has never been more important. As custodians of our Pacific environment, we have a moral responsibility to ensure we build a resilient Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures. Our work continues.



# Celebrating 30 Years of the signing of the SPREP Treaty

Adversities have a way of transforming some of the biggest challenges into remarkable opportunities, bringing out the best in people and organisations. I am reminded of this as we reflect on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our establishment through the signing of the SPREP Treaty. It is timely we remember our history as we face the triple planetary crises of biodiversity loss, climate change and waste.

It was at a Ministerial Meeting of SPREP's Member governments in July 1991, that Ministers agreed that SPREP be established as an independent intergovernmental organisation with its own autonomous governance arrangements and secretariat. It was also at the same meeting where Ministers had accepted an offer by the Government of Samoa to provide temporary office accommodation in Apia, as well as land for a permanent Secretariat headquarters. Our work at that time consisted of a coral reef project and the coordination of the Noumea Convention to protect the marine environment housed within the then South Pacific Community (SPC) in Noumea.

While it was an exciting time, there were tremendous challenges. There was the movement of staff, office records, equipment and furniture from Noumea to Apia and the establishment of new systems that were a steep logistical mountain to climb. All this was happening against the background of the worst cyclones to have devastated Samoa in living memory. In 1990, Cyclone Ofa pounded Samoa for three days causing indescribable devastation and suffering, another Category 5 Cyclone Valelia followed in 1991, killing 13 people and causing an estimated USD 280 million in damage.

These challenges could have easily discouraged us from making the move. Still the Director of SPREP Dr Vili Fuavao decided that the move continue as planned in solidarity with Samoa and that we should face the rebuilding together. In 1993, with the support from the SPC, Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), what was known as the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme was established in an old copra factory at Vaitele. We were given land in Vaillima and officially opened our newly built permanent home there in 2000. It was the dawning of a new era in SPREP's mission to assist Pacific countries and territories to protect and improve their shared environment and to manage their resources to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations.

It is the same desire to show solidarity then with Samoa that continues to drive our regional work. Fast forward thirty years to today, this desire to provide support and stand in solidarity with our Pacific Members has not withered. It is a desire fuelled by our dedication and commitment to make a difference and be the difference in the lives of the people and the communities we exist to serve. We see our work here at SPREP as a God-given calling. Our response is to do our best to build "a resilient Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures."

Now with more than 150 staff mostly in Samoa but increasingly spread across the Pacific Islands region, the services SPREP provides to our Pacific Island Members have expanded in correlation to the emerging environmental challenges and the support our Members require to meet these.

From our humble beginnings with an annual budget of USD 1.5 million, SPREP has come a long way. Today, SPREP has an annual budget of around USD 40 million. We have secured a project portfolio of more than 90 projects worth more than USD 160 million, with offices in Fiji, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. We are the Pacific's intergovernmental Environment Organisation and are increasingly seen as the partner of choice for addressing multiple environmental challenges before us.

SPREP was established as a Partnership, and we know that our strength continues to lie in maintaining and strengthening our Partnerships. Thank you for working with us across thirty years of SPREP – an organisation that is for our Pacific people. To our partners, we salute you for supporting our joint work to build a Resilient Pacific, to our SPREP family that has been a part of this thirty-year journey your legacy lives on, and lastly and most importantly to our SPREP Members whom we serve we are grateful for the opportunity to serve and to work towards our vision for the Pacific. We are committed and look forward to another thirty years of service to the Pacific and working with all of you!

*Faafetai Lava.*

**Sefanaia Nawadra**  
Director General  
SPREP







## Commemorating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SPREP with our Pacific youth!

18 per cent of our Pacific Islands population are aged from 15–24 years, with the median age in the Pacific region being 22.6. As an organisation formed by our Pacific people, for our Pacific people we share messages from our Pacific future.

"Thank you for all the projects, initiatives and voices you amplify. Thank you for addressing major environmental concerns and finding solutions to address these concerns. Thank you for ensuring we have a Resilient Pacific. Happy 30th Anniversary SPREP! I look forward to seeing what the future holds for the organisation and its Member countries."

Ms Marinda Imakulata Tagiilima of Samoa, the Pacific youth representative at the 15th Convention on Biological Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP15) and at the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Climate Change

"Always remember what the world perceives as tiny speck of islands in the middle of nowhere, we see an expanding Blue Pacific that is the beating heart of our big Island, earth. Its protection and vitality thus become imperative to the continuation of all lifeforms. This is an enormous responsibility the world needs to recognise and respect the people who are the primary custodians. I salute you all for your service and commitment."

Mr Solomon Yeo of the Solomon Islands, a founding member of the Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change

"I wish to acknowledge and share my great appreciation for the tremendous work of the Secretariat. It is a huge milestone to have come this far in building and sustaining a resilient Pacific community. I wish to acknowledge the work of SPREP in recognising and supporting the work of young Pacific people across all key areas of environment. As we celebrate 30 years, I'd like to congratulate and thank the hardworking SPREP staff, Governments, partners, and the people of the Pacific, for their work and passion to continue this regional institution of ours. As we embark on another year, I am optimistic and looking forward to more collaboration and activities to continue advocating and amplifying the voices of Pacific youth and people, God Bless."

Mr Rodrick Holness from Solomon Islands, the Pacific youth representative at CBD COP15 and a member of the Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change

"We appreciate your commitment to conserving and protecting our environment, oceans and our people. Pacific youth have been active in biodiversity work all their lives. At some point, we have all spent time in a village setting. We have gathered firewood, gone fishing, and worked the land. We need more youth voices in the planning, implementing and reviewing of policies, plans and frameworks. This transformation will build a resilient and well-informed network of future Pacific leaders."

Ms Camari Divuniwaqa from Fiji, a Pacific youth representative at CBD COP15

## Celebrating 30 years of SPREP with our Pacific people! Our #OnePacificVoice

"I wish to congratulate SPREP on its 30th anniversary celebrations and to thank also SPREP sincerely for its valuable contribution to Samoa's development. My Government is privileged to work and partner with SPREP on many occasions in support of our sustainable development aspirations."

Honourable Afioga Fiame Naomi Mataafa Prime Minister of Samoa

"As we look back over the past 30 years, we can be proud of the progress that has been made in protecting our environment and promoting sustainable development. SPREP has played a critical role in this progress, and we are grateful for their continued partnership and support. I would like to congratulate SPREP on this milestone anniversary. We look forward to many more years of partnership and collaboration in our shared mission to protect our environment and promote sustainable development in the Pacific region."

Hon Albert Nicholas, Minister of Environment Services of the Cook Islands

"I acknowledge the great Partnership the Palau Government had with SPREP in the last 30 years and wish SPREP and its members a stronger collaborating commitment in sustaining our environment and better livelihoods for our future generation in the next 30 years"

Hon. Minister Steven Victor Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Environment and the Chairman of the Palau National Environment Protection Council

"We have come a long , and we are still paddling the va'a forward in unison. Malo lava everyone and God bless."

Ms Lupe Silulu, a long serving staff member of SPREP since 1992

"The Noumea Convention is a cornerstone of the work of SPREP, and we hope to strengthen our shared vision to work collaboratively to protect the environment of the Pacific for current but also future generations. We acknowledge and greatly appreciate the vital role of SPREP in this partnership. Congratulations SPREP on your 30th Anniversary."

Ms Susan McErlain of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water of Australia

"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. I'm proud to have worked here and contributed my part to the future of the Pacific region."

Ms Kate Brown Vitolio, Executive Director for the Global Island Partnership and Co-chair for Local 2030 Islands Network



# Climate Change Resilience

**REGIONAL GOAL 1**  
Pacific people benefit from strengthened resilience to climate change.



## Innovative Solutions with Japan at the Pacific Climate Change Centre

The Innovative Solutions for Pacific Climate Change Resilience Project funded by the Government of Japan through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) commenced in partnership with the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC).

The three-year project aims to bolster the capacity of the PCCC to promote innovative climate change solutions, develop and deliver training programs targeting both public and private sectors, and enhance its ability to foster public-private partnerships through the PCCC Partnership Framework.

Based at the PCCC, the project will also strengthen knowledge brokerage capabilities for collecting, disseminating, and sharing information on innovative climate change solutions.

A key milestone to initiate the project was the signing of the Record of Discussions between JICA and key stakeholders of the project including the Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Samoa Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Samoa Ministry of Finance, and SPREP.

## OBJECTIVE 1.1

Strengthen the capacity of Pacific Island members to lead, prioritise, and manage national climate change adaptation (CCA), mitigation (NDCs) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) in fulfilment of their national environment and development goals and their voluntary and legal obligations under regional and international agreements.



## PCCC services strengthened with support from Australia

The Government of Australia invested AUD 5 million for the Strengthening the Services of the Pacific Climate Change Centre Project to bolster delivery, implementation and operationalisation of activities undertaken. This funding cycle will be completed in 2025 against an agreed workplan with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Government of Australia.

## Building Pacific knowledge brokerage

Working in partnership with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and the Australia Pacific Climate Partnership (APCP), the Pacific Climate Change Centre co-developed the Knowledge Broker Support Program Volume 1 Foundational Modules, and Volume 2 Knowledge Broker Tools.

Content from these modules have been used in a co-delivered series of capacity building activities with CSIRO, APCP, and the Australia Pacific Climate Action Network. These included Training of Trainers for the Knowledge Broker Support Program, Sub-Regional Knowledge Brokerage Workshops for Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia, as well as a national workshop in Solomon Islands. This helped bring about a deeper understanding of decision-making, and how to better tailor and synthesise information for actionable knowledge, driving policy and action at national levels.

Over 85 participants collectively have benefited from these training modules.

The Modules and Knowledge Brokerage Tools will continue to be updated across the coming years to align with national priorities.



## Successful bid for the Australia Awards Fellowship results in Indo-Pacific Program

Fifteen Fellows from across the Indo-Pacific region participated in the Advancing Climate, Health and Equity Outcomes through Local Action in the Indo-Pacific Program by the University of Melbourne and the Pacific Climate Change Centre.

Supported by the Australia Fellowship Awards, a six-week course took place with the University of Melbourne in November, with successful applicants sought from the PCCC Capacity Building Community of Practice. At the end of the program each fellow presented a climate policy and, or practice output to be developed or implemented. The second phase of the Fellowship continues in 2024.

The 15 Fellows selected are from Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam.



## OBJECTIVE 1.2

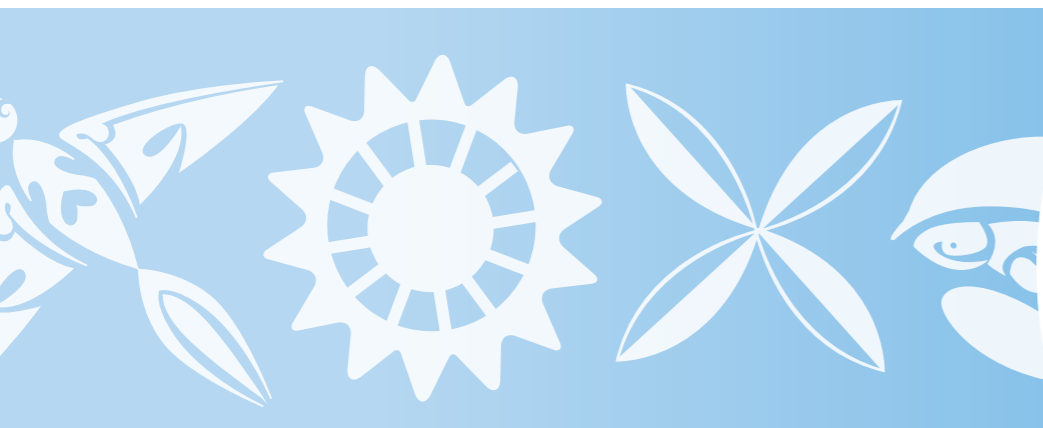
Minimise multiple pressures on vulnerable Pacific island ecosystems by implementing ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, including responses to ocean acidification and sea level rise, to sustain biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services that support livelihoods and sustainable development.

### Adapting Pacific coastal communities to sea level rise

Adaptive approaches and strategies to empower Pacific communities in coastal adaptation planning was at the core of a regional workshop on Adapting Coastal Cities and Territories to Sea Level Rise in the Pacific.

Hosted in Fiji, this event brought together over 60 Pacific representatives from the different sectors of government, civil society, academic and climate change to engage in deep-dive sessions on sea-level rise. This is the culmination of a partnership between the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) and the Ocean and Climate Platform as part of its Sea'ties Initiative, which facilitates the development of public policies and the implementation of adaptive solutions for coastal cities threatened by rising sea levels.

Delegates from American Samoa, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu participated in the event that was coordinated by the PCCC and the Ocean & Climate Platform. The workshop was supported by the Government of France through the Fonds Pacifique, the Government of Australia and the Government of New Zealand, the Ocean & Climate Platform, and the SPREP Technical Assistance through the Kiwa Initiative.



## OBJECTIVE 1.3

Enhance National Meteorological and Hydrological Services capacity in weather forecasting, early warning systems, long-term projections, and improved climate services to support Members' decision-making and coordination through the Pacific Meteorological Council.

### Van-KIRAP Project Enhances Vanuatu's Infrastructure Resilience

A Vanuatu Road Resilience Guide was developed by the Vanuatu Public Works Departments (PWD) with assistance from the Vanuatu Climate Information Services for Resilient Development Planning (VanKIRAP) Project funded by the Green Climate Fund.

The Vanuatu Road Resilience Guide incorporates new climate data and climate change projections, ensuring that engineers designing new infrastructure projects are equipped with up-to-date information regarding future climate risks. By integrating this data into their designs, the PWD aims to construct infrastructure that can withstand the challenges posed by changing climate conditions.

Supporting the design of more resilient infrastructure in Vanuatu by the PWD, VanKIRAP also empowered the use of LiDAR, a high-resolution mapping capability that allows engineers to accurately depict the catchment area that feeds into bridges and other such infrastructure. By gaining a better understanding of these catchment areas, engineers can design infrastructure that is more resilient to environmental factors such as flooding and erosion.

VanKIRAP conducted LiDAR aerials assessment in Port Resolution community in Tanna, Tafea Province.

Funded by VanKIRAP, this activity was undertaken in partnership with the Government of Vanuatu and the Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organisation.





## Pacific Meteorological Leadership showcased in 2023

The Sixth Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-6), and the Third Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM-3) was held in Nadi bringing together over 200 stakeholders including Pacific Islands Meteorological Directors, Disaster management members and Pacific Ministers to discuss, promote, and explore opportunities to strengthen weather, climate, waster, ocean and related development services for sustainable development.

The First Development Partners and Donors Engagement Meeting was also convened in 2023 with over 20 development partners, UN Agencies, and private sector to present the Weather Ready Pacific (WRP). A Pacific Partnership Engagement Platform dashboard was also launched at this meeting to assist with donor coordination and enhance understanding of "who is doing what" in the meteorology and climate space.

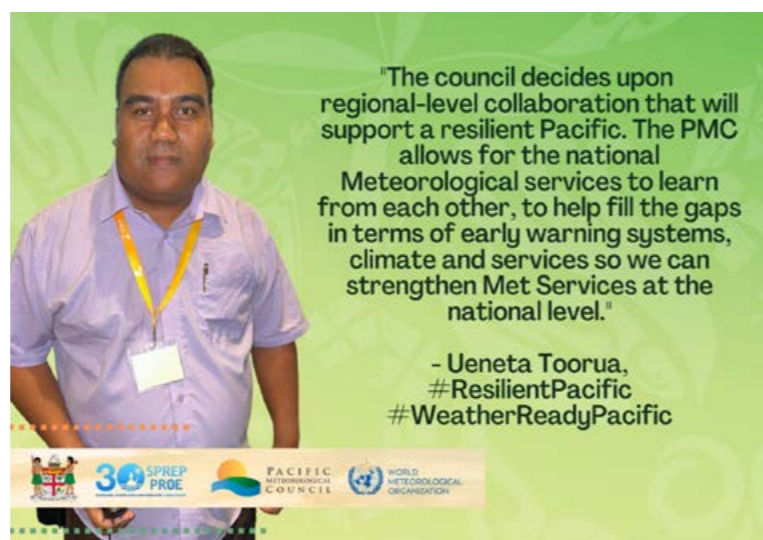
The events ended with the endorsement of Governance Structure and implementation plan for the WRP Programme of Investment which hit the ground running in 2023 with the Government of Australia announcing their initial support with a commitment of AUD 30 million.

Since the endorsement of the WRP by Pacific Forum Leaders in 2021, SPREP and members have raised the WRP profile at international and regional events, and through bilateral dialogues with various development partners.

The WRP was presented at the Fifty-Second Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting (PIFLM52) in Rarotonga, Cook Islands and was listed as one of the partnerships endorsed by Pacific Leaders to support in the Pacific Partnerships for Prosperity Initiative launched by the Cook at the PIFLM52.

The PMC-6 and PMM-3 was attended by delegations from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States of America and Vanuatu.

The PMC-6, the First Development Partners and Donors Engagement Meeting and PMMM-3 was supported by a strong partnership between the Government of Fiji, SPREP, World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the European Union's Intra-African Caribbean Pacific Climate Services and Related Applications Project, United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Climate and Oceans Support Programme in the Pacific, Australian Bureau of Meteorology, Climate Risk Early Warning Systems Pacific Project, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Pacific Community, Varysian, GCF Funded VanKIRAP project, the People's Republic of China's contribution to SPREP and OTT HydroMet.



## NMHS and NDMO meeting provides next steps for closer collaboration to build resilient Pacific

The need to build new a structured engagement mechanism and pursue new approaches to strengthen collaboration between providers and users of climate information, was one of the outcomes of the joint meeting of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) in the Pacific.



For the first time in a decade a two-day Joint Meeting of Directors from all NMHSs and the NDMO in the Pacific islands region was held. The purpose of this two-day meeting was to enable and encourage in-depth discussions on opportunities for improved climate and Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) information in support of robust climate-sensitive decision-making.

The key outcomes of this meeting endorsed at the PMC-6 were:

1. That SPREP and the Pacific Community (SPC) facilitate the establishment of a structured mechanism to foster collaboration and interaction between providers and users of early warning information which will contribute to building a resilient Pacific.
2. That SPREP and SPC work together to support the mechanism alongside key partners WMO, UNDRR, Pacific Disability Forum and other regional actors.

The meeting was supported through the European-Union funded Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Application (ClimSA) project by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and the Climate and Oceans Support Program for the Pacific (COSPPac). Additionally, support was provided by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Pacific Community (SPC), the Pacific Regional Climate Center-Network, and other partnering organisations.



## PICOF13 unite the Pacific Meteorological, Agricultural and Fisheries Sectors for a Resilient Pacific

Members of the Agriculture and Fisheries sectors across the Pacific were the focus of the Thirteenth Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum which shares the climate patterns of the last six months, and forecasts what lies ahead in the next six months to prepare for impacts.

PICOF 13 aimed to strengthen relations between the Met Community and the agriculture and fisheries sector to better understand the latest regional climate and ocean outlooks and discuss and identify how Agriculture and Fishery sectors would respond to climate outlook ahead and their needs.

The development of a PICOF13 Regional Statement is completed which becomes the foundation for national statements to be produced by Pacific NMHS. From this, messages can be shared to sectors and communities to assist their planning and decision-making.

PICOF13 was jointly organised by the Pacific Meteorological Council, Pacific Islands Climate Services Panel, Pacific Regional Climate Centre, SPREP, and the World Meteorological Organization it was funded by the European-Union funded Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Application (ClimSA) project by ClimSA and the Climate and Oceans Support Programme in the Pacific Project.





### Building communications capacity through training in Samoa

The European-Union funded Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Application (ClimSA) project partnered with the Australia Pacific Climate Alumni Network to deliver a two-day technical workshop on the use of Kobo Toolbox and Canva to staff of the Samoa Meteorology Services and Samoa Water Resources Division.

The aim of this was to enhance effective communications in relaying information to build preparedness and resiliency. The training saw two days of classroom-based learning, field visits and the completion of assessments.

Kobo Toolbox is an intuitive, powerful, and reliable software used to collect, analyse, and manage data for surveys, monitoring, evaluation, and research. Canva is a free-to-use online graphic design tool. It is used to create social media posts, presentations, posters, videos, logos and more.

Eighteen staff from the Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment based within the Samoa Meteorology Division and the Water Resource Division received Certificates of Achievement after successfully completing a customised training programme on Using Kobo Toolbox and Canva to improve the delivery of climate services to the public.

Following this training, a post curated by Samoa Meteorological Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment on social media attracted more than 50,000 engagements within a 24-hour period.



**OBJECTIVE 1.4**  
Support Pacific island Members to access and manage climate change finances and their national accreditation processes.



### Green Climate Fund Readiness project closes in Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands Green Climate Fund Readiness (GCF) One Project closed in 2023. SPREP as the delivery partner has supported the Solomon Islands GCF National Designated Authority, the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology since 2021. The Pacific Climate Change supported the costs for the extension of this project by six months.

The key outputs for this project included the Solomon Islands GCF Country Programme that was launched in Honiara, No-Objection Letter Procedure, Training needs and gap analysis, communication strategies, stakeholder engagement strategy, private sector mapping, project information management system, and the establishment of the Solomon Islands Climate Finance Steering Committee. Further support was provided to support two national entities, the Development Bank of Solomon Islands and Ministry of Finance and Treasury to initiate accreditation to the GCF.

Solomon Islands are working with SPREP as the delivery partner for both the Readiness Two and another readiness project currently under development.



### Strengthening IPCC coordination and engagement for Pacific countries

The Pacific Meteorological Council endorsed the recommendation for “SPREP through the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) to support and strengthen the Pacific regional coordination and engagement with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and related processes in collaboration with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and other national and regional partners and agencies.”

The recommendation was an outcome of the regional dialogue organised by the PCCC to support member countries on the coordination and engagement with the IPCC processes, to ensure Pacific realities and challenges are reflected in the IPCC processes and reports.

### Kiribati hosts National Climate Outlook Forum

After eight years, Kiribati reconvened the National Climate Outlook (NCOF) Forum in Tarawa bringing together over 25 participants. An additional Climate Outlook Forum was held on Kiritimati Island for the Line and Phoenix Islands.



The NCOF is a platform to promote the understanding of Meteorological events and exchange information needs between users of climate information and the Kiribati Meteorological Service

Participants expressed strong interest in deepening their understanding on the range of climate information services that have been developed and are being developed by the Kiribati Meteorological Services for the different sectors, particularly for Fisheries and Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Forum was made possible with funding from the European Union’s Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications (Intra-ACP ClimSA) Project, implemented by SPREP.



### Nauru builds resilience through the Green Climate Fund

Nauru’s Department of Climate Change and National Resilience and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme launched a two-day joint inception workshop for the Republic of Nauru National Adaptation Planning-Phase One known as the Nauru NAP. As a joint workshop it also strengthened the capacity of the National Designated Authority and Direct Accredited Entity Access Projects known as Nauru Readiness Two.

The Nauru NAP project will deliver on four key outcomes for adaptation planning, which include strengthening of the governance and institutional coordination in Nauru; building the evidence base to design adaptation solutions for maximum impact; catalyse private sector engagement; and increase adaptation finance. The Nauru NAP is the second project approved under SPREP’s portfolio of National Adaptation Planning projects to support member country readiness.

These two projects, Nauru NAP and Nauru Readiness Two, are financed under grants from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) valued at USD1.8 million and USD 450,000 respectively.

The Readiness Two project builds on the Nauru GCF Readiness One project and will strengthen coordination through the formal establishment of the GCF steering committee, further strengthen processes related to the No-objection procedure through the formulation of the Nauru GCF National Designated Authority Operational Manual, and further consultation and review of the Nauru GCF country programme.



## Pacific Islands Loss and Damage Dialogue

The Pacific Islands Loss and Damage Dialogue was hosted in Samoa bringing together over 100 delegates. Coordinated by SPREP the event convened representatives from 13 Pacific Island governments, civil society organisations, the private sector and youth.

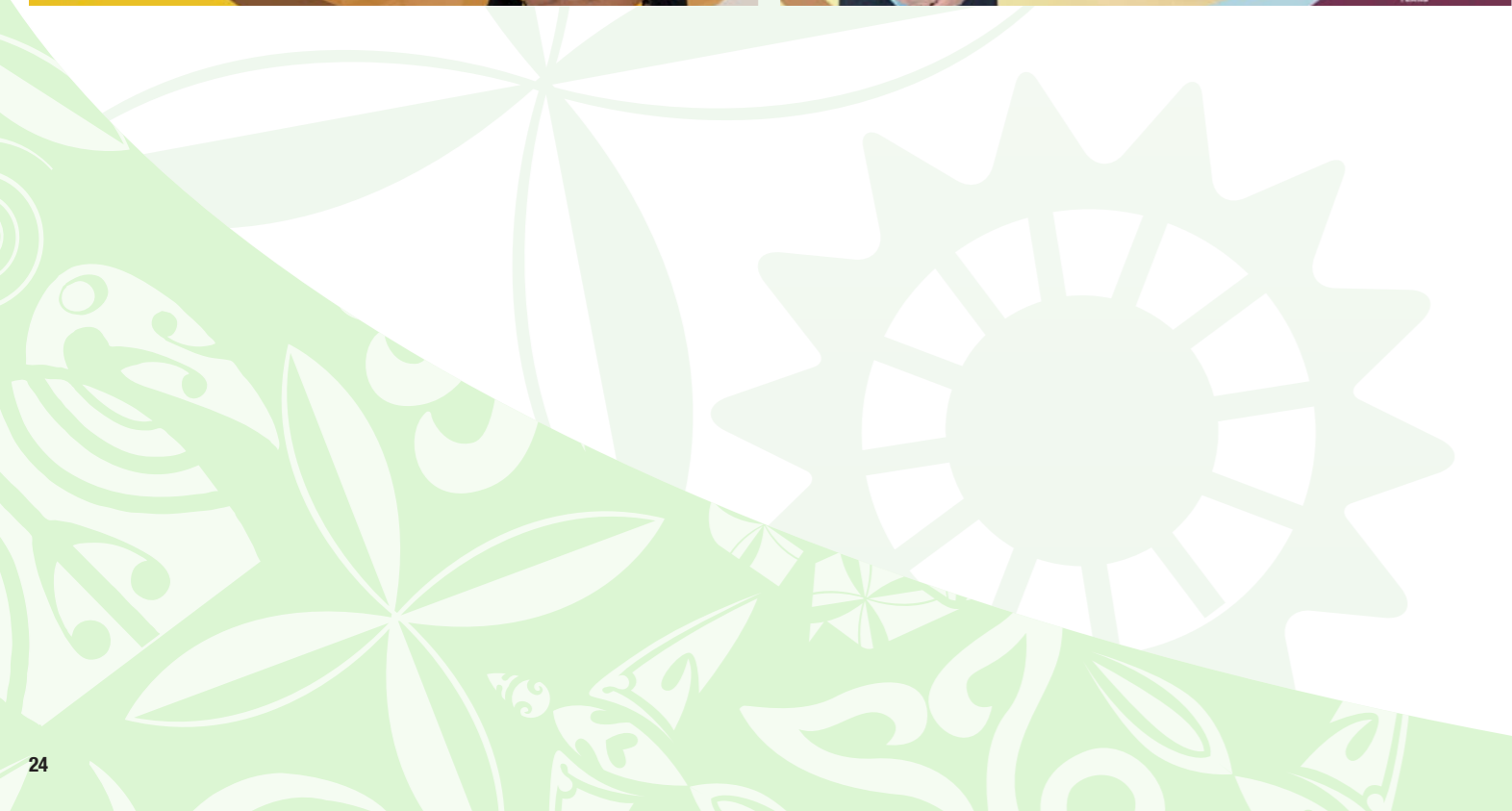
This follows on from the virtual Loss and Damage Workshop for Pacific Islands Small Islands Developing States that was coordinated in partnership by SPREP and Climate Analytics in 2022.

The Pacific Loss and Damage Dialogue provided a platform for open and informed discussion amongst the Pacific community about loss and damage, the impacts that are already being felt and the long-term needs of the region. It helped determine the Pacific Small Islands Developing States position on the issue at the Twenty-Eighth Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Climate Change.

The Pacific Islands Loss and Damage Dialogues will be an ongoing event that aim to record and articulate the loss and damage experiences attributed to the impacts of climate change suffered in Pacific Islands to strengthen the Pacific resilience. This content will be applied to supporting technical dialogues, international negotiations and the development of resources.

This 2023 Pacific Islands Loss and Damage Dialogue was made possible through the support of the Government of Australia through the Strengthening Pacific Leadership in International Climate Change Engagement (SPLICE) Project.

**OBJECTIVE 1.5**  
Support Pacific Island Members to develop policy responses to issues of loss and damage, and climate change and disaster induced population mobility.



# Amplifying our One Pacific Voice at COP28

## 2023 PSIDS Preparatory Events and Support Materials

COP28 was the culmination of a year's worth of support and planning on behalf of all Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDS), the supporting One CROP (Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific) agencies, led by SPREP, as well as Climate Analytics, through preparatory meetings and regional trainings across 2023.

As well as facilitating a post-COP27 analysis meeting and a pre-Bonn intersessional preparation meeting, SPREP organised nine online "in-depth analysis" sessions to help prepare negotiators for COP28.

Finally, an in-person preparatory meeting was held at the Pacific Climate Change Centre, with support from the Alliance of Small Islands States (AOSIS), Climate Analytics and the One CROP team. This work enabled further enhancement of coordinated PSIDS positions ahead of COP28, including a Pacific Strategy document,

and assignments of delegates to thematic areas, supported by One CROP staff.

The ability to respond to our members needs is supported by the International Climate Change Engagement (ICCE) team within the Climate Change Resilience Programme and executed under the regional project called "Strengthening Pacific Leadership in International Climate Change Engagement (SPLICE)". The ICCE team's ability to drive these initiatives is through the support from the Government of Australia. This is the first time a SPREP member and donor has provided support towards the recruitment of a policy team dedicated to focus support for Pacific negotiators under the UNFCCC's global work programme.

Support for attendance to the UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai was also made possible for Pacific Islands Party Delegates through the Governments of Australia and New Zealand.

### One CROP Preparatory Sessions for PSIDS Negotiators

MEETINGS / WORKSHOPS	VENUE	DATE
PSIDS Post-COP27 Analysis Workshop	Virtual	February 2023
Preparatory Meeting for June Bonn Intersessionals	Virtual	May 2023
Bonn SB60 Intersessionals, incl. PSIDS Strategy Day	Bonn, Germany	June 2023
Regional Loss and Damage Dialogue	Apia, Samoa	July 2023
Pacific High Level Climate Change Dialogue	Suva, Fiji	August 2023
Nine "In-depth Analysis" sessions on Priority Thematic Areas:	Virtual	September 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Adaptation</li> <li>■ Gender</li> <li>■ Oceans</li> <li>■ Article 6</li> <li>■ Loss and Damage</li> <li>■ Just Transition</li> <li>■ Climate Finance</li> <li>■ Mitigation</li> <li>■ Global Stocktake</li> </ul>		
PSIDS Pre-COP28 Preparatory Meeting (including bilateral meetings with New Zealand and Australia delegations)	Apia, Samoa	October 2023

## COP28 High-Level Political Climate Champions

The Twenty-Eighth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was hosted by the United Arab Emirates in Dubai from 30 November to 13 December. SPREP led the coordination of the One-Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) Members in providing support to Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDS) Parties to the UNFCCC. The key thematic areas for the PSIDS were identified as: Loss and Damage, Mitigation, Adaptation, Article 6, Gender, Periodic Review Research and Science, Technology and Capacity Building, Transparency, Global Stocktake, Climate Finance, Oceans, Agriculture and Just Transition.

### Political Climate Champions at COP28

The Political Climate Champions initiative whilst a joint initiative of the One CROP team, it was led by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. The initiative was developed to strengthen the capacity of PSIDS to strategically engage at UNFCCC COP's through well supported Political Climate Champions to help bring about strong outcomes from COP28. This includes those that encompass the key priorities for the Pacific Small Islands Developing States.

Eight Political Climate Champions were confirmed for COP28, each Political Champion was supported by a national adviser and a One CROP support lead.

The eight Champions for COP28 were:

<b>Global Stocktake (GST)</b>	Hon. Mark Brown, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands
<b>Climate Finance</b>	Hon. Siaosi Sovaleni, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga
<b>Just Transition</b>	Hon. Seve Paeniu, Minister of Finance and Climate Change, Tuvalu
<b>Loss and Damage</b>	Hon. Ralph Regenvanu, Minister for Climate Change, Vanuatu
<b>Adaptation</b>	Hon. John Silk, Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce, Republic of the Marshall Islands
<b>Oceans</b>	Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji
<b>Gender and Social Inclusion</b>	Hon. Mona Ainuu, Minister of Natural Resources, Niue
<b>Mitigation</b>	Hon. Toeolesulusulu Cedric Schuster, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa

A briefing was held for the Champions at the onset of the COP and one page high level summaries of their respective thematic priorities were provided. Support was also provided on communications and visibility, side events, bilateral meetings and the negotiations. The political champions were actively engaged to ensure PSIDS priorities to be reflected, particularly in the last few days where the COP28 outcomes were finalised under the leadership of Alliance of Small Islands States (AOSIS) Chair Samoa.

## Pacific Small Islands Developing States Coordination (PSIDS)

To ensure the objectives of the Pacific strategy and key Pacific priorities were advanced, One CROP provided coordinating support to Pacific Champions and PSIDS Ministers and negotiators throughout COP28. This coordination involved:

- Two PSIDS Ministerial briefings
- Six PSIDS coordination meetings held every second day for lead negotiators to provide thematic updates to the wider group
- Thematic group coordination
- Policy and logistical support to eight Pacific Champions
- Regular bilateral meetings
- Briefings and updates to inform interventions
- Assistance with coordination amongst PSIDS on the thematic priorities when they participated in coordination meetings and discussions as members of networks, partnerships, alliances and governance bodies under the UNFCCC.

Under the leadership of SPREP as Chair, the One CROP provided additional support, including:

- Booked and confirmed appointments and other arrangements in consultation with the PSIDS Chair for the wider PSIDS coordination meetings
- Coordinated, in collaboration with, relevant PSIDS coordinators, WhatsApp contact groups for each PSIDS thematic priority
- Coordinated in consultation with PSIDS Chair, bilateral meetings between donor countries and development partners and PSIDS Heads of Delegation and high-level meetings with Pacific Leaders and Political Champions, including high level bilateral meetings with New Zealand and Australia and Ministerial meetings with the UN Secretary General.





## Moana Blue Pacific @COP28

The Pacific Delegation Office, funded by Aotearoa New Zealand, was open a few days prior to the commencement of COP28 from 28 November to 12 December 2024. There were 107 meetings held in the Office – totalling over 1,000 users.

The Pacific Delegation Office had three rooms which were available to PSIDS for meetings – the main Pacific Office Space, a shared meeting room with Aotearoa New Zealand and Tokelau Office and the Moana room.

The PSIDS coordination meetings, thematic coordination meetings, virtual and hybrid meeting discussions and PSIDS ministerial meetings and political champions meetings were held in the Pacific Delegation Office.

The Delegation Office was also utilised for delegation meetings, bilateral meetings, and high-level signing events. Heads of Governments frequented the space for coordination meetings as well as other high-level engagements in 2023. These High-level guests included the Prime Minister of Cook Islands, Hon. Mark Brown, Prime Minister of Fiji, Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, President of Kiribati, H.E. Taneti Maamau, Premier of Niue, Hon. Dalton Talagi, President of Palau, H.E. Surangel Whipps Jr and the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Hon. Kausea Natano.

In addition to PSIDS using the Pacific Delegation Office, other key partners and donors utilised the space such as CROP agencies, Pacific media teams and Pacific youth. The Office was also used as a quiet space of work for Pacific Islands delegates when it was not in operation for meetings.

The Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion, a Pacific partnership with Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia managed by SPREP, was the vaka for our Pacific Islands to navigate their way through COP28 in Dubai. It was the vessel that allowed Pacific Islands climate change stories to be told through Pacific Islands voices, cementing authenticity and ownership by our Pacific Islands community at COP28.

The Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion at COP28 was host to more than 75 side events for which more than 35 were high level events across an 11-day period from 30 November to 11 December with the pavilion closed on 7 December. All side events organised featured Pacific Islands speakers and panellists that further amplified the One Pacific Voice at COP28. In total there were over 430 panellists and speakers that utilised the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion at COP28 as a platform to elevate our Pacific Islands stories and voices. Of these over 310 were Pacific Islands speakers. Through the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion, the “1.5 to stay alive” message was echoed throughout the COP28 venue in different ways.



### Mana Moana Pasifika Voices Volume 3

Mana Moana Pasifika Voices Volume 3, supported by Aotearoa New Zealand and coordinated by the SPREP, Mana Moana and Storybox, with the support of Pasifika poets and artists, aimed to amplify the Pacific voice at COP28 through moving image creative interventions. This collection is the third in a series that began in 2021.

Three poems from Pacific Island poets were shared on film and across COP28. These were featured at side events within the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion and showcased consistently on screens at the Pavilion as well as shared on social media. The poems were:

- *Writing* by the late Déwé Gorodé of New Caledonia
- *They taking picture of us in the water* by Audrey Brown-Pereira of the Cook Islands, Samoa.
- *Cry Sis* by Ruby Macomber of Rotuma.

A legacy poem at COP28 was formed through a social media wall promoted at the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion. This interactive engagement activity resulted in Pacific voices developing a joint poem curated by Pacific Islands woman poet Audrey Brown-Pereira titled “Breathe 1.5”. Production is in process to complete the poem and share this across 2024 as part of the continuing the promotion and featuring of all Mana Moana Pasifika Voice collections completed.

### Partnership with Pasifika TV

SPREP worked in partnership with Pacific Cooperation Broadcasting Limited funded by NZ MFAT, home of Pasifika TV which has 14 Pacific Islands and 21 Pacific Islands TV Channels as Members. The station shares content which member stations can access and broadcast.

The COP28 partnership led to virtual training for over 40 Pacific reporters on climate change and the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties process. This resulted in the selection of a Pasifika Media Team of five, funded through Pasifika TV by the Government of New Zealand to attend COP28.

The Pasifika Media Team provided over 60 news reports back to over 23 Pacific-based TV stations sharing information about climate change from COP28 which had over 90,000 delegates.



# Island and Ocean Ecosystems

**REGIONAL GOAL 2**  
Pacific people benefit from healthy and resilient island and ocean ecosystems



## Pacific BioScapes Programme helps to protect key Pacific species

### Sea turtle management and conservation initiatives in the Pacific region

A report on the status of sea turtles in Vanuatu, including turtle research, monitoring and knowledge management approaches, ni-Vanuatu cultural values, threats to sea turtles, and government and customary management systems was produced under the By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) Initiative, a Key Result Area of the Pacific European Union Marine Partnership programme, funded by the European Union and the Government of Sweden. The report highlights the impacts of offshore fisheries by-catch, inappropriate tourism activities, traditional harvesting, coastal land-use changes, pollution, and climate change on sea turtles in Vanuatu.

BIEM is implemented by SPREP to support Pacific countries deliver their priorities to halt the decline of protected marine species, strengthen the sustainable management of their coastal and marine ecosystems and support poverty reduction.

Seven high-level priority recommendations are proposed together with suggested actions to improve the sustainable management and conservation of sea turtles in Vanuatu. These include strengthening existing and developing new policy and legislative frameworks to prohibit the harvesting of critically endangered leatherback and hawksbill sea turtle species; building community awareness of best-practice guidelines for wildlife tourism encounters; and extending sea turtle by-catch mitigation in fisheries to include nearshore fisheries.

The report further identifies gaps in knowledge and practice and makes specific recommendations to support turtle monitoring, research and enforcement, including building local capacity in research and valuing the significant positive efforts of Vanuatu communities actively involved in sea turtle monitoring. Preliminary results also indicate that, despite protections in some countries and awareness campaigns, a significant number of adult turtles are being caught and killed in these countries.

Moreover, it recognises Vanuatu's pioneering role in the conservation and management of sea turtles for nearly 30 years in recognition of the environmental, cultural and socio-economic importance of sea turtles to Vanuatu people.

- To support more effective turtle monitoring and conservation in the Pacific, a turtle monitoring manual has been produced by the EU funded Pacific BioScapes Programme. This will help identify the best monitoring methods in any given situation furthermore increased monitoring naturally results in better protection of nesting beaches, by monitors.
- The monitoring manual will be key to supporting inputs into the SPREP Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System.
- Pacific BioScapes is also supporting the development of best practice guidelines for wildlife tourism encounters in the Pacific and specifically for turtles in Vanuatu as recommended in the report above.

**OBJECTIVE 2.1**  
Effectively manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems; mitigation of the impacts of fisheries activities to ensure healthy populations of threatened species and reduce the release of marine pollutants that increase human health risks to achieve healthy and productive oceans that support food security and sustainable development.

**OBJECTIVE 2.2**  
Support the conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal, and terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity, consistent with regional and international commitments.

project and the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change project. The nurture and maintenance of these plans will help ensure their survival rate over time.

The Greater Nouméa Urban Mangroves restoration project began in New Caledonia as part of a wider 2030 plan and formal agreement between the Province Sud, the four municipalities of the Greater Nouméa and the University of New Caledonia. Through this, the PEBACC+ Project supported the removal of old dikes and debris in the water channel to restore the hydrology of the most popular Mangrove in Sainte Marie of 42 hectares.

Also to take place in New Caledonia was the restoration of coastal vegetation including narrow coastal mangroves to protect the coastline in three locations in Nouméa and Mont Dore. In Province Nord, Kouaoua municipality work was undertaken to address invasive deer control and improve bushfire management and agroforestry to secure water resources for such as drinking water, rivers, and soil water for subsistence agriculture. In Loyalty Province, EbA activities included coastal vegetation restoration to protect the coastline. These activities will continue through 2024.

In Wallis-et-Futuna, invasive weeds were removed in taro fields and other wetlands as well as mangrove and coastal vegetation restoration on two sites to purify rainwater, conserve marine coastal ecosystems, strengthen food and health systems, and protect coastlines.



**Reforestation programs in the Pacific**

Reforestation programs in Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu through the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change Plus (PEBACC+) Project are aimed at restoring land degradation caused by deforestation and unsustainable land use practices.

To help stabilise soils, prevent erosion, and restore ecosystem health in Fiji, tree replanting began for two of the 13 landowning units committed to be part of the PEBACC+ project. The replanting covered 7.2 hectares of land using 2,000 native tree seedlings to restore land degraded because of increased demand for root crops such as taro and kava root for export. Support on the Blue Line Boundary, the forest area surrounding the north and south parts of Taveuni, for the Taveuni Nature Reserve has started with the Fiji Ministry of Forestry. This includes line cuttings to mark the blue line boundary and signboard replacements to inform farmers of the boundary line, which will be monitored by forest wardens. The project has also identified sites for replanting within the Blue Line buffer zones for the forest reserve to address the issue of land encroachment by farmers. Additionally, key riparian zones linked to the reserve have been chosen for similar efforts to mitigate erosion into the water catchment areas. Community consultations were conducted in Fiji through the free, prior, and informed consent process to ensure full endorsement of the project is granted and there is increased participation in decision-making from all individuals including women, youth, and people with disabilities.

In Vanuatu, a tree planting initiative of 2,000 seedlings across three hectares was planted in the Tagabe Catchment through a collective engagement with the Vanuatu Department of Youth and Sports and Environment students at the University of the South Pacific. The initiative helped to raise awareness, foster engagement and build capacity on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) for climate change and conservation efforts. Also to take place was continued plant maintenance of native tree seedlings planted in the Tagabe River during Phase One of the PEBACC

**About PEBACC+**

The Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change Plus (PEBACC+) Project seeks to strengthen the resilience of ecosystems, economies, and communities to the impacts of climate change in Fiji, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Wallis-and-Futuna. The project is developing, sustaining, and institutionalising ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) to climate change in these five countries and territories. The PEBACC+ is a €5.8 million regional project implemented by SPREP and funded by the Kiwa Initiative through its donors the European Union, Agence Française de Développement, Global Affairs Canada, Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs, and New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with co-financing from the French Facility for Global Environment.



**Wedge-tailed Shearwater birds found to be plastic-free in Vanuatu and seabirds protected from invasive species in Kiribati**

Under the EU funded Pacific BioScapes Programme, SPREP is working with BirdLife International Pacific to investigate plastic ingestion in a wide-ranging seabird species in Vanuatu and restoring critical habitats for seabirds in Kiribati.

Initial investigations of the wedge-tailed shearwater (*Ardenna pacifica*) in Vanuatu have now revealed no plastic ingestion was found in the birds and they were all confirmed to be healthy. This is very good news both for the birds and the local community. Ongoing skills development and monitoring will allow the community to monitor any changes that take place over the longer term.

Assisting the recovery of two globally endangered seabirds, the Phoenix Petrel (*Pterodroma alba*) and the Polynesian Storm Petrel (*Nesofregatta fuliginosa*) by managing invasive species in Kiritimati, also known as Christmas Island, in Kiribati were also completed under the BioScapes Programme.

BirdLife International and EcoOceania worked closely with the Wildlife Conservation Unit of the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development in Kiribati to complete this activity in November 2023. A post-eradication survey will take place in 2024.

**Restoring reefs through the Pacific Coral Reef ReefCloud**

The ReefCloud project, which was piloted in Samoa, developed a coral reef monitoring tool to support coral reef monitoring and initiatives in Samoa. The ReefCloud is a data system that facilitates the integration of coral reef monitoring using underwater images and applying Artificial Intelligence to analyse these. This was complemented by traditional knowledge obtained through the engagement of local communities in monitoring their reef systems.

The ReefCloud Project is a collaboration between SPREP, the Australian Institute of Marine Sciences and the Government of Samoa through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

Through the ReefCloud Project key outcomes included:

1. Training of Fisheries and Environment personnel on coral reef monitoring methods, including sampling design and photo data techniques and using the ReefCloud tool to analyse the coral reef data collected.
2. Lessons learnt and challenges experienced were shared through a traditional knowledge and cultural exchange workshop involving the Aleipata district community of 11 villages, Samoa, Gidarjil Development Corporation, Australia and Sea Women of Melanesia, Papua New Guinea. Through this, the importance of integrating traditional knowledge, governance and traditional conservation practices in managing coral reef resources was emphasised.
3. A drafted National Coral Reef Monitoring Program for Samoa was developed to ensure standardised monitoring methods.



## Training strengthens Vanuatu CITES reporting on shark management

Officers from the Department of Environment Protection and Conservation and the Vanuatu Fisheries Department completed specialised training to improve national management and reporting of shark conservation measures and obligations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

The four-day workshop was organised by the By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) Initiative of the Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme, funded by the European Union and the Government of Sweden. The BIEM Initiative is being implemented in Vanuatu by SPREP in partnership with Vanuatu conservation and fisheries agencies.

The strategic training aimed to strengthen the capacity of the two government agencies to report on the country's management measures for sharks and CITES Non-Detriment Findings (NDF) using a newly introduced electronic reporting application, as well as carrying out NDF assessments on two shark species: thresher and shortfin mako.

The Republic of Vanuatu is a party to the CITES and Signatory to the Convention on the Conservation of Highly Migratory Species of Wild Animals through the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks in 2013.



**OBJECTIVE 2.3**  
Prevent the extinction of threatened species and support measures to sustain their conservation status.

## Memorandum between SPREP and Birdlife enhances collaboration to protect birds and biologically important sites

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and Birdlife International continue to strengthen cooperation through a new Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2023. This partnership will continue to see the organisations work to protect the region's birds and biologically important sites, marine and terrestrial.

SPREP is delighted to continue to work with BirdLife International to protect the Pacific region's birds and biologically important sites through the restoration of islands including invasive species management, species recovery programmes, by-catch mitigation and building the capacity of communities, governments and national stakeholders to sustain Pacific islands biodiversity and way of life.



## Sustainable management of marine, coastal and terrestrial ecosystems through the Pacific BioScapes Programme

The Pacific region is characterised by high biodiversity, including high levels of species endemism, and valuable coastal and marine ecosystems, including coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds. These ecosystems are increasingly threatened by climate change and other factors.

The Pacific BioScapes Programme is a European Union (EU) funded action, managed and implemented by SPREP that includes 30 diverse activities taking place across 11 countries to sustainably manage marine, coastal, and terrestrial ecosystems in the Pacific region.

It has been developed to face and respond to these significant challenges by delivering a comprehensive range of activities including community education, ecosystem management, marine spatial planning and species conservation.

Some key activities in 2023 included:

1. Enhancing local fisheries management capacity and national harvest strategies for key grouper species in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.
2. Supporting for the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation to implement conservation measures in the Pacific Islands region.
3. Working closely with the Government of Kiribati to focus on national coastal, marine and atoll-level spatial planning with the support of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

## Lui Bell Memorial Scholarship supports study on the impact of traditional hunting on Solomon Island dolphin populations.

The Lui Bell Memorial Post-Graduate Scholarship for Marine Species Conservation supported research through the Solomon Islands National University to build an understanding of the cultural aspects of dolphin use and the impact of drive hunts on the populations of these animals in the Solomon Islands.

Scholarship recipient, Mr Kabini Fa'ari Afia, is pursuing a Master of Science research project with the grant. Kabini hails from Malaita Province, where dolphin hunts are part of the annual cultural calendar in some communities. Little data is available on the drive hunts conducted in the last 10 years.

Administered by SPREP the scholarship is supported through the By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) Initiative of the Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme funded by the European Union and the Government of Sweden.

DNA analysis of dolphin bone and teeth commenced in April in collaboration with the University of Auckland to establish targeted species over the last decade. The cultural and scientific data will help inform options for the governments and communities to develop effective dolphin management and conservation plans.

The Lui Bell Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by SPREP in 2013 to honour the life and work of the late Mr Lui Bell. The scholarship is designed to promote the development of scientific expertise for Pacific island nationals in areas related to the conservation and management of Pacific marine wildlife (turtles, cetaceans, dugongs, sharks and rays, and seabirds) threatened by the impacts of fishing.



## Eradicating rats in Tonga

Invasive species such as rats are the leading driver of biodiversity loss in the Pacific. The Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) is the coordinating mechanism designed to facilitate the scaling up of invasive species management in the Pacific.

The programme brings together experts to provide support within the Pacific region focusing on protecting biodiversity and ecosystem functions. The goal is to reduce invasive species' ecological and socio-economic impact on ecosystems through the management or eradication of prioritised species and the protection of valued sites.



The rat removal project was to conserve one of the most important sites for biodiversity in Tonga. The plan discussed during community consultation defined the strategy, tasks, timeline and logistics necessary to complete the eradication on Late Island as well as on two islets within the Vava'u group. Removal of rats from Late will allow the island's ecosystems to recover and ensure the island can provide a secure home for populations of threatened and indigenous plants and animals.

This eradication was funded in part by the GEF 6 Regional Invasives Project – Strengthening national and regional capacities to reduce the impact of Invasive Alien Species on globally significant biodiversity in the Pacific.

**OBJECTIVE 2.4**  
Significantly reduce the socio-economic and ecological impact of invasive species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate priority species.

## Tonga wins the 2023 Pacific Invasive Species Battler of the Year Award

National Invasive Species Coordinator of the Tonga Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications, Mr Viliami Hakaumotu was honoured as the 2023 Battler of the Year.

For more than a decade, Mr. Hakaumotu has played a pivotal role in coordinating operations to restore biodiversity at priority sites in Tonga such as the successful rat eradication on islands in the Vava'u island group, including Maninita, Lua Loli, Fangasito, and Luahaipo. This impactful work has led to the resurgence of seabird populations and increased productivity in local coral reef systems, supported by scientific studies indicating a potential 50% increase in fish numbers.

Mr. Hakaumotu played a key role in the Mt. Talau Restoration project from 2015 to 2023. This initiative aimed to protect and protect the forest on Mt Talau which is one of the few remaining low-land tropical forests in Vava'u, and houses precious endemic species, including the Hengahenga (Tongan Whistler), and the Casearia buelowii plant species endemic to Mt Talau and identified for the first time in 2014.



## Marshall Islands increases climate change resilience by tackling invasive species on Irooj Island

In 2022 a team from the Marshall Islands Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce, with support from SPREP and guidance from global nonprofit Island Conservation, undertook an operation to remove invasive rats from Irooj. In March 2023, the project was declared an overwhelming success.

The eradication activities are part of the Regional Predator Free Pacific program, within the PRISMSS of which Island Conservation is a technical lead.

The activities are funded under the GEF 6 Regional Invasive Project (GEF 6 RIP), which aims to develop and implement comprehensive national and regional invasive species management frameworks that help to reduce the threats from invasive species to terrestrial, freshwater, and marine biodiversity in the Pacific. The GEF 6 RIP is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme, and executed by SPREP by the PRISMSS.

This work is also part of a wider program of work funded by both GEF and the U.S. Department of the Interior through its Coral Reef and Natural Resources Initiative, which will demonstrate proof of concept for further invasive rat eradications within RMI.

## Restoring Island Resilience Efforts Strengthened

The New Zealand government moved to strengthen the Pacific's environmental resilience, by committing NZD 20.6 million to the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) to support the implementation of the Restoring Island Resilience Project.

PRISMSS, led by SPREP is a regional mechanism that facilitates the scaling up of invasive species management for biodiversity protection in the Pacific in collaboration with leading organisations. It also supports countries and communities with resources to act against invasive species threats to their island ecosystems and resilience.

The funding arrangement was officially signed between SPREP and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) in June 2023. The objective of the PRISMSS- Restoring Island Resilience project is to improve the livelihoods and climate change resilience of Pacific Island countries and Territories by reducing the impact of invasive species on their natural and agricultural ecosystems.

The PRISMSS-RIR project builds on the foundational work previously funded by NZMFAT through the Managing Invasive Species for Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific project. The funding will also focus on developing PRISMSS and expanding its five invasive species management programmes, which include the Protect our Islands, Predator Free Pacific, War on Weeds, Natural Enemies, Natural Solutions and Resilient Ecosystems, Resilient Communities initiatives throughout the region

## Tuvalu launches first National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan

Tuvalu officially launched its National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) under the GEF 6 Regional Invasives Project which aims to strengthen national and regional capacities to reduce the impact of Invasive Alien Species on globally significant biodiversity in the Pacific.

The 2022–2027 NISSAP for Tuvalu is the country's inaugural plan, developed through extensive collaboration and consultation with various stakeholders. The plan's formulation began with a thorough desk-top review of existing information conducted by the Invasive Species Specialist Group.

The goal of the NISSAP is to facilitate and guide the protection of biodiversity and livelihoods from the impacts of invasive species through strong collaboration. Key areas of emphasis include maintaining and enhancing the status of native biodiversity, strengthening border control, developing an inter-island biosecurity programme, eradicating invasive species where feasible, and controlling those species that cannot be eradicated.

The GEF 6 RIP is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme, and executed by SPREP by the PRISMSS.



# Waste Management and Pollution Control

**REGIONAL GOAL 3**  
Pacific people benefit from improved waste management and pollution control.

**OBJECTIVE 3.1**  
Minimise the adverse impacts of chemicals and all wastes on human health and the environment via environmentally sound life-cycle management in accordance with agreed regional and international frameworks, including Cleaner Pacific 2025, and significantly reduce the release of pollutants to air, water, and soil.

## Greening of the 2023 Pacific Games in Solomon Islands

A “Safe and Green Games Strategy” was launched by Solomon Islands galvanising Honiara as a safe, and green host city of the Seventeenth Pacific Games hosted from 19 November to 2 December 2023.

SPREP, through the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM) provided SBD 4.8 million in assistance through various programmes and projects to support the ‘Greening of the Games’ activities, making SPREP the tenth largest contributor overall to the Pacific Games.

The Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) funded by the Government of Australia supported the Greening of the Games activities through the following:

- Clean up campaigns and waste audits.
- A comprehensive outreach and awareness campaign in collaboration with MECDM delivered through media, including TV, radio, social media, billboards, videos, banners, an interactive pledge board, distribution of Ocean Champion pins and stickers as well as posters, a Greening of the Games booklet for athletes and officials and a giant waste art installation.
- Supported five youth graduate interns recruited to provide implementation support.
- Engagement with over 10,000 people at the Pacific Games through a POLP information booth at the main stadium during the games to support learning and sharing and encourage behaviour change through interactive activities as well as the distribution of promotional merchandise.
- Empowered the use of less single use plastics through the distribution of 3000 reusable water bottles and 5000 environmentally friendly tote bags throughout the Pacific Games period.
- Enhanced good waste behaviour through the procurement and installation of waste bins for the segregation of waste during the Pacific Games.

The Pacific Climate Change Centre supported the Greening of the Games through a carbon offsetting initiative that aimed to plant over 5,000 trees at both the Solomon Islands National University and the St Joseph Tenaru School Games Village as well as across targeted sites in Honiara. This initiative was undertaken by school students, Pacific Games athletes and Officials.

While these initiatives were focussed on the Pacific Games, the long-lasting impacts will lead to a more sustainable, resilient and “green” future for Honiara City.





## Asbestos Containing Materials abatement work completed in Tonga and Nauru

Through the Pacific-European Union Waste Management Programme (PacWastePlus), Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) was removed from government owned buildings in Tonga, and stockpiles of ACM were removed in Nauru reducing the potential for exposure of workers and the public to this toxic material.

This activity was conducted in partnership with the Governments of Nauru and Tonga.

As a result of removing an estimated 2622.79 m<sup>2</sup> of ACM from four government buildings in Nuku'alofa utilised for work by the Tonga Ministry of Infrastructure, approximately 8832 individuals are no longer exposed to ACM each year.

Five, twenty-foot containers of ACM were removed from Nauru landfill, removing exposure from the workers and visitors to this site. Training of both government workers and private industry representatives on non-friable asbestos containing materials was included in the work.

The Pacific-European Union Waste Management Programme (PacWastePlus) is an 85-month programme funded by the EU and implemented by SPREP to address cost effective and sustainable management of waste and pollution as well as broader impacts including human health and wellbeing, climate change, disaster management, biodiversity conservation and resource recovery.

## Green waves made at the Va'a Federation World Distance Championship in Samoa

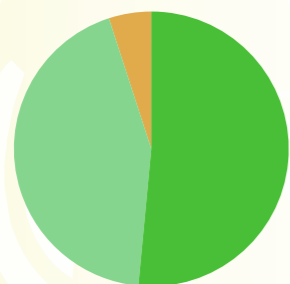
An estimated 73,000 single-use water bottles were not used during the Va'a Federation World Distance Championship in Samoa with support from SPREP through the Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) funded by the Government of Australia.

Samoa as host, empowered a green event with the distribution of 1,400 POLP-branded reusable aluminium drink bottles for athletes and officials. This enabled event organisers to leverage support from the British High Commission, Apia for 200 additional bottles for distribution.

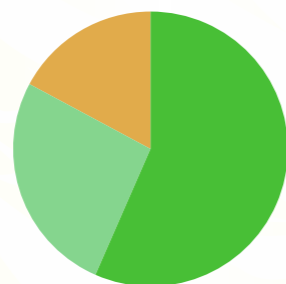
Underpinning this, 23 free water refill stations were made available at the plastic-free event village that was open to athletes, officials and visiting spectators. In addition, there was a POLP information booth at the event village for learning and sharing purposes, plastic-free promotion and visibility through national media, and in alignment with the event's plastic-free objective, vendors including food and beverage outlets used and sold alternative and substitute plastic products.

A consumer survey conducted during the event noted a high level of awareness about the impact of single-use plastic litter on the environment and willingness to use alternatives if they are available.

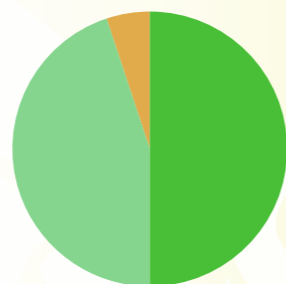
How familiar are you about the impact of single-use plastics on the environment?



How would you describe your level of knowledge of single-use plastic alternative products?



How likely are you to choose a more environmentally friendly alternative to single-use plastics if one existed?



This activity was a partnership between the Government of Samoa, International Va'a Federation World Championship, SPREP through the POLP funded by the Government of Australia and the Samoa Outrigger Canoe Association.



## Pacific Islands voice amplified at Plastics Treaty Negotiations

At the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA5.2) in February 2022, a historic resolution (5/14) was adopted to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment with the ambition to complete the negotiations by end of 2024.

In 2023, two sessions of the International Negotiations Committee (INC) took place, following INC1 in Uruguay at the end of 2022. INC 2 in Paris, France was held from 29 May to 2 June, with INC3 in Nairobi, Kenya from 13 to 19 November. SPREP continued work to support amplification of the One Pacific Voice in the INC process through coordinating Pacific Preparatory sessions funded by the Government of Australia. These allowed for the Pacific Small Islands Developing States to strategise their negotiations approach going forward.

The INC2 Pacific Preparatory Session was held in Paris, before the INC2 proper with the INC3 Pacific Preparatory Session hosted in Palau before departing for Nairobi. These resulted in plans of action to ensure Pacific priorities will be reflected in the final Legally Binding Agreement.

Pacific Islands commitment towards an ambitious legally binding agreement was cemented during the 52<sup>nd</sup> Pacific Islands Leaders Forum hosted in the Cook Islands with the endorsement of the Pacific Partnerships for Prosperity, a political prioritisation process to mobilise resources to empower Pacific people to bring about transformational change through national and regional development.

One of the Partnerships encourages members to join the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution for which Solomon Islands signed on in 2023, joining the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau as HAC members. The common ambition of the HAC is to end plastic pollution by 2040.

The Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu engaged in the INC2 and INC3 supported by SPREP with financial assistance from the Government of Australia. SPREP worked with partners the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, University of Newcastle, Environmental Investigation Agency, Centre for International Environmental Law, University of Wollongong, WWF and Massey University.

**OBJECTIVE 3.2**  
Strengthen national, regional, and international mechanisms for waste management including for chemicals, hazardous wastes, ship and aircraft generated waste, marine plastic litter, and other marine debris.



## Solomon Islands enacts regulation to ban single-use plastic bags

The scope of the Environment Act of Solomon Islands now bans the importation, manufacture, supply, and distribution of a variety of single use plastics. Through this the population of Solomon Islands will no longer have access to plastic bags, straws, and cutlery, polystyrene plates, and PET bottles under 1.5 litres. Banned single-use plastics will be prohibited when all provisions of the regulation take effect on 1 April 2024.

Brought into effect in September 2023 as part of government efforts towards the implementation of the safe, clean and green Pacific Games strategy actions, the regulation demonstrates the commitment towards a healthy ocean through reducing plastic pollution including in the marine environment.

A vast awareness campaign was held to spread national awareness of the new regulation, a special section of which targeted approximately 500 retail outlets, informing them of the single-use plastic ban and the grace period from September 2023 to March 2024. This allowed for existing stock of single-use plastics banned in the legislation to be sold before the ban starts.

In developing the new regulation, Solomon Islands officials gained knowledge about options for the reduction of single-use plastics through the participation and consultation of women, men, youth and the business community. The Board of Solomon Airlines also agreed to use substitutes to single-use plastic for their inflight meals, this is now in place.

This work was supported by SPREP through POLP funded by the Government of Australia and is the culmination of a partnership with the Government of the Solomon Islands, Honiara City Council, Western Province Government, and Chamber of Commerce.



## Pacific Islands splash made at SpillCon2023

Twelve of the 14 Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan 2019 Plan (PacPlan) Members were supported through the PacPlan Resilience 2022–2025 Project funded by the Government of Australia to attend the Asia-Pacific SpillCon2023 Conference hosted by in Australia by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and partners.

The SpillCon Conference is a triennial international oil spill conference for the Asia-Pacific region that allows participants to share international experience and current knowledge on key issues of oil spill preparedness and response.

The oil spill conference and the associated SPREP and IMO Regional Workshop on “Developing Oil Spill Preparedness and Response Planning in Pacific Small Islands and Other Developing States” helped revitalise commitment to support and implement the PacPlan. Participants were trained on a suite of environmental management and governance tools and had the opportunity to learn from the experiences gathered in other parts of the world with similar characteristics as the Pacific.

The countries supported by SPREP at the regional workshop were Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.



## Diverting Organic Waste in Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Solomon Islands with PacWastePlus

Organic material makes up an average of 40% of waste to landfill across the Pacific Island countries. In Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) organic disposal is found to be 17.8%, Fiji 37.3%, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) 20.3%, and the Solomon Islands 69.8%.

Existing challenges with managing organics includes lack of transport and equipment, training, facilities, and awareness of impacts of organics disposal in anaerobic environment, and knowledge of options for composting and organics management solutions.

To address this PacWastePlus has worked with each of these four countries to develop specific program to divert the organic materials specific to their context and community needs. A suite of resources was also published to enable decision-support and identification of appropriate organic management solutions for different contexts, and to assist in the design and operation of the organic's facilities.

### Federated States of Micronesia

The Technical Design of the organic processing programme for the state of Chuuk and Yap was completed. Five Officers from Yap Division of Agriculture, and the Environment Protection Agency were trained on operating compost facility while officers from Chuuk Environment Protection Agency and the Chuuk Division of Public Works were trained to conduct community waste audits. With the establishment of proper operating procedures, the operation of the Yap Compost Facility has improved resulting in organic wastes being diverted from the landfill for processing at the facility instead.

### Fiji

Working in partnership with iTuakei Affairs Board, PacWastePlus supported waste audits and community consultations in 25 villages across nine provinces in Fiji. Provincial Conservation Officers were trained to conduct waste audits which help understand the type and volume of organic wastes generated to determine suitable organic processing programme to be adopted.

Through this work, 25 villages are now aware of the importance of managing waste and the impact of improper management on the local environment and food source. It has also led to the revival, and establishment, of environmental committees to oversee waste management in the villages.

### Republic of the Marshall Islands

PacWastePlus worked in partnership with the Majuro Waste Collection (MAWC) Company, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Majuro Local Government to conduct consultations to bring about awareness of activities to address the organic waste issue in RMI.

A large mobile organics chipper was procured for organics to be chipped, either at households or at the landfill, allowing for ease of transportation to the compost facility once chipped. Six staff from MAWC were trained to effectively conduct composting and to operate the compost facility.

Through these activities it is estimated that 10% of organic waste is being diverted to the landfill, providing meaningful employment for two staff. Compost is now made being bagged and provided to local households for their gardens.

## OBJECTIVE 3.3

Recover resources from waste and pollutants through composting (nutrient recovery), recycling (material recovery), energy recovery, and other measures in order to minimise waste and contribute to economic and social development.



The Pacific-European Union Waste Management Programme (PacWastePlus) is a 72-month programme funded by the EU and implemented by SPREP to address cost effective and sustainable management of waste and pollution as well as broader impacts including human health and wellbeing, climate change, disaster management, biodiversity conservation and resource recovery. Priority waste streams include hazardous wastes (asbestos, E-waste and healthcare waste), solid wastes (recyclables, organic waste, disaster waste and bulky waste) and related aspects of wastewater. Countries participating in the PacWastePlus are: Cook Islands, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu. Learn more about the PacWastePlus programme by visiting [pacwasteplus.org](http://pacwasteplus.org)

## Over 4,000 kilos of waste collected across six Pacific Islands on International Coastal Clean Up Day 2023

In September, as part of the International Coastal Clean-up Day 2023, the Committing to Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP) Project funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) worked with POLP and GEF ISLANDS to support 24 associations across six Pacific Islands to carry out beach clean-up activities including waste audits and the production of awareness materials.

Through this, local communities were engaged to help preserve their surrounding environment they are dependent on.

Twenty-four communities and 885 volunteers from Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Wallis and Futuna removed 4,126.50 kilograms of waste, collectively. They also developed nine awareness videos on marine litter.

Between 2021 and 2023, over 17 tonnes of waste were collected by SPREP partner associations and organisations taking part in the International Coastal Clean-up Days. The data collected during these events highlight that, in terms of weight, plastic items are the most significant part at 840.34 kg which is 20.36% of the rubbish collected and audited, followed by metal at 601kg which is 14.56% of waste collected. This highlights the importance of addressing plastic pollution, reducing the generation of waste and the need to increase the amount of waste recycled.

The International Coastal Clean Up Day 2023 was supported by SPREP through the SWAP funded by the AFD, Pacific Ocean Litter Project funded by the Government of Australia and the Global Environment Facility funded Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island Developing States (ISLANDS) Programme.

**OBJECTIVE 3.4**  
 Improve waste and pollution monitoring of receiving environments to enable informed decision-making on appropriate measures to protect human health and the environment and to reduce associated environmental damage.

## First ever amendments made to the Waigani Convention

The extraordinary meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the Waigani Convention saw Parties to the Convention adopt its first-ever amendment marking a significant step toward aligning the Convention with international efforts to combat plastic waste.

The Waigani Convention, a regional treaty aimed at tackling hazardous waste and other pollutants in the Pacific region, has long been a crucial instrument for environmental protection and sustainability.

The Convention is a mirror of the Basel Convention, which adopted amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX with the objectives of enhancing the control of the transboundary movements of plastic waste and clarifying the scope of the Convention as it applies to such waste.

When these amendments came into force on 1 January 2021, there was a disjuncture between the types of wastes covered by both conventions. Sensing the potential impact this development may have on the Pacific, Parties to the Waigani Convention requested a Working Group at COP-11, to undertake intersessional work to adopt the Basel Convention plastic waste amendments.

The amendments introduce stricter controls on the international trade in plastic waste. Previously, many mixed and contaminated plastic wastes could be freely traded without the controls applied to other forms of hazardous waste. With the amendments, only clean, uncontaminated plastic waste that is ready for recycling can be traded without these controls.

The amendments also require that exports of plastic waste can only proceed upon receiving a prior informed consent from the importing country. This mechanism will ensure that countries are well-aware and have given express permission before plastic waste enters their borders.

Parties to the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (the Waigani Convention) are Australia, the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.



## Building Pacific capacity to safely conduct beach clean-ups and waste audits

Over 160 people from across Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu were trained to conduct statistically sound beach litter surveys and audits during clean-up activities, and to record this data using the Litter Intelligence online application for Marine Litter data sharing, developed by Sustainable Coastlines, a New Zealand charity.

The series of training conducted across 2023 in each of the five Pacific Island countries, namely Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, targeted communities engaged in the Committing to Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP) Marine Litter Pilot Projects. Through this training the participants learnt about how marine litter is generated and about the types of waste are on Pacific Island shorelines to support decision-making when it comes to reducing plastic pollution.

This training empowers accurate data on plastic pollution for Members of SPREP while undertaking negotiations to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

Implemented by SPREP through SWAP funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the training was delivered by Sustainable Coastlines and SPREP.



Fishing boats, Suva harbour, Fiji © Stuart Chape





# Environmental Monitoring and Governance

**REGIONAL GOAL 4**  
Pacific people and their environment benefit from commitment to and best practice of environmental governance.

**OBJECTIVE 4.1**  
Strengthen national sustainable development planning and implementation systems through use of Environmental Impact Assessments, Strategic Environmental Assessments, and spatial planning.

## Pacific Day 2023: Shaping Environmental Assessments and Planning for Resilient Development in the Pacific

The spotlight shone on the Pacific during the Pacific Day 2023 event hosted on the margins of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) 2023 Conference in Auckland New Zealand.

Bringing together over 60 participants, the event facilitated meaningful discussions and dialogue between Pacific Islands and international organisations and experts on sustainable environmental practices. It showcased the Pacific's innovative approaches to environmental challenges, emphasising country-specific solutions, integrating traditional knowledge, and advocating for enhanced regional collaboration and resource allocation. The outcomes from the event have helped guide and inform SPREP's work and assistance to further enhance the capacity of Pacific Island countries on Environmental Impact Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment, and Environmental and Social Safeguards.

The event organised by SPREP was made possible through a partnership culminating Stantec New Zealand, New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment, EIANZ and the European Union-funded project on Capacity building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries – Phase III ("ACP MEAs 3") implemented by UN Environment programme and executed by SPREP.



## Pacific delegates amplified their voice at International Association for Impact Assessment Conference

Building capacity in national environmental assessment and planning, SPREP supported a Pacific delegation to attend the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) in Malaysia.

Over 600 environmental practitioners, researchers and policymakers from around the world attended that conference that focussed on how impact assessment and leadership can accelerate transformation and sustain resilience in a world facing pressing adversities that require immediate and impactful solutions.

The Pacific delegation consisting of representatives from Nauru, Samoa and Vanuatu gained valuable insights, shared experiences and learnt from professional and practitioners ultimately strengthening their ability to address environmental challenges in their respective countries.

SPREP, along with the Pacific delegates also engaged with senior officials from the World Bank discussing areas of mutual interest and potential cooperation on environmental and social sustainability in the Pacific.

Pacific Island participation at the IAIA conference was supported through the European Union-funded project on Capacity building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries – Phase III (“ACP MEAs 3”) implemented by UN Environment programme and executed by SPREP.



## Noumea Convention supports significant strides in protecting our shared environment

A two-day Ad Hoc Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Noumea Convention recognised the treaty as a key cornerstone of the Pacific’s regional collective efforts in addressing environmental challenges.

Organised by SPREP, the Ad Hoc Meeting enabled Contracting Parties to collectively assess the findings of a review of the Convention’s effectiveness and relevance. This resulted in a proposed pathway forward on the resourcing and financial stability of the Convention, development of a Monitoring and Reporting Plan and a Communications and Awareness Plan as well as a Strategy to strengthen the Secretariat.

The meeting strengthened the collective membership of the Contracting Parties, promoted the Convention’s relevance to current and emerging environmental threats, and provided direction for the Secretariat in the discharge of its roles and functions.

The Ad Hoc Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Noumea Convention was held in Apia, Samoa, from 14–15 June 2023. It was attended by representatives from Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and the United States, all of which are Contracting Parties to the Convention.



**OBJECTIVE 4.2**  
 Improve national capacity for good environmental governance supported by technical assistance for the development of policy and legislation, and implementation of Member international and regional commitments.

## Gathering of Geospatial Experts in Suva improves Pacific resilience, showcasing new tools

Contributing to Pacific resilience through building capacity on providing real time, or near real time information about environmental conditions, was the core objective of a gathering held in Fiji that brought together Pacific experts and technicians in Geospatial Information Systems (GIS).

Over 200 delegates, including those from across 16 Pacific Islands took part in the 25<sup>th</sup> Pacific Geospatial Conference. The Conference has significantly improved the capacity of Pacific countries in environmental monitoring and data usage, through enabling better management of resources and disaster responses. It showcased the development and application of new geospatial tools and open-source data, enhancing the decision-making processes in the region.

It also provided an opportunity for geospatial experts to engage with local communities, opening an avenue for networking to foster collaboration with experts, international institutions and organisations that can address common challenges and promote knowledge exchange. More than 60 presentations and featured discussions, six technical workshops and lightning talks were delivered by national focal points who attended the meeting.

Participation and capacity building efforts by SPREP were supported by the EU-OACPS Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme, an initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and the Pacific (OACPS) Group of States financed by the European Union 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund.

## National Environmental Management Strategy for Palau launched

Launched in 2023, the Republic of Palau’s National Environmental Strategy (NEMS) 2022–2030 highlights interrelated national policies, environmental actions, and targets categorised in eleven thematic areas.

The NEMS is the umbrella document that provides a strategic roadmap for addressing Palau’s top environmental concerns in a comprehensive and integrative manner and will contribute to increasingly informed environmental decision-making. The NEMS will assist the Palau Government and other national environment organisations to identify needs and prioritise actions to better manage, protect and restore components of Palau’s environment that are under pressure as identified by the Palau State of Environment Report, 2019.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the development of the NEMS was continued by the Palau Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Environment and the Palau National Environment Protection Council with support from SPREP.

The launch of the Republic of Palau NEMS also celebrated SPREP’s 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. SPREP was established under the Agreement Establishing SPREP to promote cooperation and assistance to protect and improve the environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations.



**OBJECTIVE 4.3**  
Strengthen environmental data collection, monitoring and analysis and reporting on results, nationally and regionally.

**The successful conclusion of the Inform Project paves the way for data-driven decision making in the Pacific**



SPREP, in partnership with Pacific Islands and the UN Environment Programme, successfully concluded implementation of the Inform Project, a GEF funded groundbreaking initiative that enhanced data-driven decision-making in the Pacific region. The project addressed the critical need for increased data availability and evidence of environmental resources, trends, and drivers of change, ultimately improving information management, interpretation, and standard procedures for handling environmental data.

The Inform Project has significantly enhanced the availability of vital environmental data in the Pacific region, empowering decision-makers, planners, and stakeholders to make informed decisions based on timely and accurate information. The project established robust Environment Data Portals in collaboration with the Pacific Community's Pacific Data Hub, facilitating easy access to data and promoting a sustainable future through evidence-based decision-making.

The project provided comprehensive assessments of the region's environmental state through the development of State of the Environment reports, National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS), and other key priorities across Pacific Island member countries. Fourteen Pacific Islands were also able to build their capacity through free online learning courses through the Inform Project, on the SPREP Moodle platform to promote and facilitate continuous learning and capacity development in data management, visualisation, sharing, and utilisation.

The "Building National and Regional Capacity to Implement Multilateral Environmental Agreements by Strengthening Planning and the State of Environment Assessment and Reporting in the Pacific", more commonly known as the Inform project was funded by the Global Environment Facility, implemented by UN Environment and executed by SPREP. It worked in partnership with the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

**Strengthening ecosystem monitoring and management through the Global Ecosystems Atlas**

SPREP supported the First Global Ecosystem Atlas Convening Meeting which took place in Geneva in 2023. The event facilitated discussion from various stakeholders on the Global Ecosystem Atlas, an initiative led by the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), an intergovernmental organisation with global partners comprising government, international and private sector, civil society organisations and scientists collaborating to provide equitable access to environmental information as a basis for evidence-based decision-making.

The Global Ecosystem Atlas will enhance the Pacific region's capacity to carry out environmental monitoring, including wetlands monitoring, by facilitating access to data and tools that can be utilised by Pacific Islands. The atlas will serve as a comprehensive global service, offering national entities the necessary resources, digital data, and tools for effective monitoring and mapping. This initiative originated from the Group on Earth Observations Week Ministerial Summit in 2019 in Canberra and further discussions held at the 2022 Oceania Geospatial Symposium (OGS) in New Caledonia.

The two-day meeting featured round table discussions with stakeholders engaged in remote sensing and in-situ Earth Observations, science, technology, policymaking, monitoring, and reporting under environment agreements to accelerate cooperation on developing the Global Ecosystem Atlas.

The Global Ecosystem Atlas First Convening meeting was made possible with funding support from the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and the European Union-funded project on Capacity building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries – Phase III ("ACP MEAs 3") implemented by UN Environment programme and executed by SPREP.



**Spotlight on Geospatial Solutions for Climate Challenges at COP28 in Dubai**

Showcasing Geospatial technologies and methods applied in the Pacific Region to address climate change-related issues was at the core of a special event held on the margins of the Twenty-Eighth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Facilitated by SPREP, this event had special emphasis on understanding, mitigating, and adapting to the impacts of loss and damage to secure a resilient Pacific. It featured vulnerability assessments undertaken in Fiji, biodiversity management in the Solomon Islands and climate preparedness work implemented in Vanuatu.

Discussions from the event stressed the need for cross-sectoral collaboration and the integration of geospatial data into national planning processes to enhance the effectiveness of climate action in the Pacific region. Support for the event was made possible through the European Union initiated capacity building project phase 3 titled, "Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries", implemented by UN Environment executed by SPREP.



**Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity surveys to help safeguard natural treasures of Samoa**

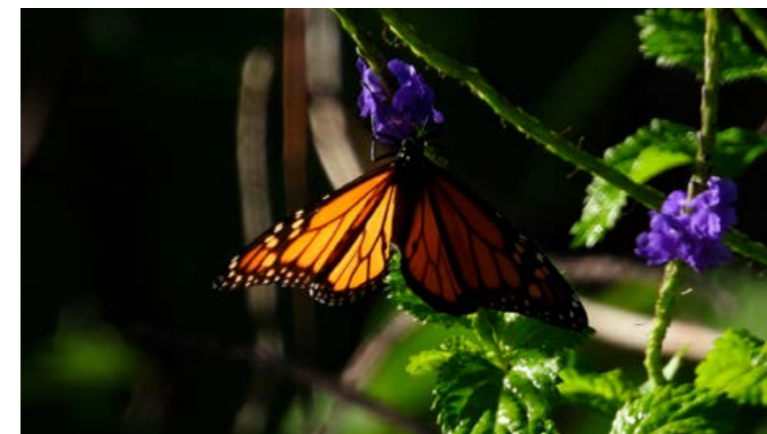
Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity surveys were successfully completed through support of the UN Joint Programme Building Better by Safeguarding Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services project for Samoa. The Ministry of Natural Resources of Environment of Samoa (MNRE) and SPREP undertook the two surveys across 2023.

The Terrestrial Biodiversity Monitoring Survey took place across Community Conservation Areas and Key Biodiversity Areas on both Savaii and Upolu in Samoa. The primary mission was to gain a deeper understanding of Samoa's biodiversity through a comprehensive data collection process.

The survey involved the identification and gathering of data on the presence of butterflies, birds, and reptiles at the target sites. This wealth of data collected serves as a critical resource for conducting trend comparisons against baseline information, enabling MNRE to track changes in the current populations of these species over time. Additionally, the survey had a crucial focus on distribution mapping. By gathering detailed information on the current distribution of these species, surveyors will be better equipped to develop targeted conservation strategies to safeguard Samoa's precious natural biological environment, ensuring that these species will continue to thrive in their natural habitats.

The whale and dolphin survey was also held across Upolu and Savaii to document humpback whales as well as other whale and dolphin species in Samoa waters. The survey focused primarily on documenting humpback whales through photo-identification to enhance the understanding and knowledge of whales, dolphins and their populations and habitat in Samoa's waters. The survey provided valuable hands-on training in the methodology, species identification and data collection techniques, with the aim of equipping local personnel and trained volunteers with the expertise needed to conduct cetacean surveys.

This work will contribute to Samoa's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and aligns with the Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022–2026, a regional strategy designed by SPREP to support Pacific Island countries on conservation and the management of iconic species including dugongs, marine turtles, sharks, rays, seabirds, whales and dolphins. It identifies regional priorities including research and monitoring, capacity building and collaboration, cultural significance and more under a species action plan.



## Data workshop builds resilient ecosystems and protected areas in the Solomon Islands

A data workshop focused on identifying and collating updated datasets from stakeholders enhanced the spatial analysis of the network of protected areas in the Solomon Islands. Co-facilitated by SPREP, and the Solomon Islands Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Disaster Management and Meteorology, the workshop was part part of the International Union Conservation for Nature project on Ensuring Resilient Ecosystems and Representative Protected Areas in the Solomon Islands (EREPA).

The EREPA project aims to establish a network of protected areas in Guadalcanal, Malaita, Renell-Bellona, and Temotu provinces to address terrestrial biodiversity loss and ecosystem decline through improved management of natural resources, the creation of protected and conserved areas within four Key Biodiversity Areas, and the strengthening of the policy framework for the creation, management, and maintenance of protected areas.

The data gap analysis conducted by SPREP through the EREPA Project will support the delineation of protected areas to achieve healthy, productive, and restored landscapes in the four provinces. The workshop facilitated the identification and collation of updated datasets from stakeholders, and conducted a field visit to the Barana Community Nature Park, one of the EREPA project sites in the Guadalcanal province.

Support for the workshop was provided by the European Union-funded project on Capacity building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries – Phase III (“ACP MEAs 3”) implemented by UN Environment programme and executed by SPREP, as well as the Global Environment Facility/UNEP-funded Inform Project and the Organisation for African, Caribbean, and Pacific States (OACPS) BIOPAMA Project.

## SPREP and World Bank build capacity for Environmental and Social Risk Management

The pressing challenges faced by Pacific countries in managing environmental and social risks, especially in a time when climate change and other global issues are exacerbating these risks, were spotlighted at the 31<sup>st</sup> SPREP Meeting of Officials.

SPREP, in collaboration with the World Bank, successfully hosted a side that aimed to strengthen Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM) in the Pacific region.

The side event showcased the outcomes of the Pacific Learning Partnership for Environmental and Social Sustainability (PLP-ESS) partnership between SPREP, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and the University of the South Pacific from 2019–2022, which delivered over 25 capacity building modules on ESRM topics tailored to the Pacific context.

It was at the event that a new World Bank proposal to develop; a new capacity-strengthening project was announced. This will focus on the scaling up of the outcomes of PLP-ESS, demonstrating collaborative environmental stewardship in the region and opportunities to support regional strengthening of safeguards management.



**OBJECTIVE 4.4**  
Strengthen access to funding mechanisms and using funds effectively and efficiently to deliver required interventions.

## Enhancing climate information and knowledge service for resilience

The UN Environment Programme Project, Enhancing Climate Information and Knowledge Services for resilience in five island countries of the Pacific Ocean (UNEP CIS-Pac5) officially began in 2023. SPREP is one of the eight regional technical partners of the UNEP CIS-Pac5.

An inception planning workshop was held to review and plan the implementation of activities in the UNEP CIS-Pac5 countries of Cook Islands, Niue, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu.

The project is focussed on integrating climate and ocean information services and multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS) in the five countries. The four project key results are strengthening the delivery model for climate information and services, improving community preparedness and response capabilities and resilience to climate risks, and enhancing regional knowledge management and cooperation for climate services and MHEWS.

This project is a UNEP led and Green Climate Fund funded initiative and it addresses priority needs identified in the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy 2017–2026 and the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific. It will directly contribute to Article 7 of the Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goal13 on Climate Action, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the SAMOA Pathway.



**OBJECTIVE 4.5**  
Strengthen synergies between science, policy, and traditional and local knowledge to guide decision making.



## Strengthening Strategic Environmental Assessments in the Pacific

Making informed decisions for a healthy and resilient Pacific was at the core of a virtual event hosted by the SPREP through the Pacific Network for Environmental Assessment aimed to equip our Pacific Islands with the tools to make the best decisions possible for a healthy and resilient Pacific.

The webinar focused on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), a critical process that integrates scientific findings and traditional knowledge to evaluate the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts of proposed policies, plans, and programs.

The webinar built upon the Regional SEA Guidelines for Pacific Island Countries and Territories developed by SPREP in 2020, which emphasise the integration of scientific findings and traditional knowledge in decision-making. It provided participants with valuable insights into the technical and institutional challenges and best practices for strengthening SEA in the Pacific bringing about:

- Enhanced understanding of SEA principles and practices, and how they integrate scientific findings and traditional knowledge.
- Sharing of best practices and experiences related to SEA implementation.
- Networking and collaboration among key stakeholders involved in environmental decision-making in the Pacific region.

The virtual event which brought together seasoned professionals, policymakers, environmental regulators, practitioners, civil society organisations, academics, and other stakeholders involved in environmental decision-making in the Pacific region was made possible with financial support through

the European Union-funded project on Capacity building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries – Phase III (“ACP MEAs 3”) implemented by UN Environment programme and executed by SPREP.



# Secretariat Highlights

**ORGANISATIONAL GOAL 1**  
SPREP has information, and communication systems that get the right information to the right people at the right time and influence positive organisational, behavioural, and environmental change.

**OBJECTIVE 1.1**  
Share and use knowledge through the development and maintenance of reliable systems and processes for the effective collection, storage, and access to critical information

The SPREP Website [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org) underwent a revamp applying new technologies for a strengthened online presence enhancing user experience for our Members and partners. Incorporating an Artificial Intelligence component for a user-friendly search facility improved the overall search of SPREP content on the website allowing for an integration of information resources such as the SPREP Virtual Library and SPREP's Project Management Information System. In line with the SPREP Information and Communications Technology Strategy, this revamped website was launched on the margins of the 31<sup>st</sup> SPREP Meeting.

The central repository for all Pacific environment-related information and knowledge resources developed by SPREP received an upgrade allowing easier access to this wealth of knowledge. The SPREP Virtual Library contains information that is current, available and easily accessible to anyone at any given time. A new section added to this virtual space highlighting products developed by the range of different environment projects is now available to users through the click of a button. SPREP is mandated to assist the Pacific region to improve its environment and ensure sustainable development for present and future generations. The availability of updated information is crucial to SPREP and its Members in fulfilling its mission and supports informed decision making.

Over 200 school students from across Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu participated in the SPREP Open Day that commemorated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary through both face-to-face and virtual means. This activity saw our Pacific future generation participate in activities learning more about SPREP and good environmental practices through a range of different interactive learning hubs across SPREP throughout the day. The Virtual Station had students from Tonga and Tuvalu join the festivities happening from SPREP and engaging in environmental discussions with SPREP staff and students from Samoa. This is the second virtual station that has embraced students from across our Pacific islands to be part of the SPREP Open Day activity.



## OBJECTIVE 1.2

Influence positive behaviour change within SPREP and its stakeholders through persuasive, purposeful, and integrated communications.

SPREP supported the Cook Islands as host of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Pacific Islands Leaders Forum (PIFLM52), working together to coordinate all communications aspects of the PIFLM52 inclusive of media engagement, branding and visibility as well as the Pacific Partnerships for Prosperity Pavilion. Secondments were based within the Cook Islands which also helped empower and build capacity, collectively.



Winners of the Pasifika Environews Awards resulted in reporters from Fiji and Solomon Islands commended for their contributions to raising awareness of environmental issues from across the Pacific Islands region. The awards were a culmination of a partnership between the Pacific Islands News Association, Internews Earth Journalism Network and the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner. Mr Charles Piringi of the Solomon Islands was awarded the SPREP Best Environment Story Award for an investigative piece on mining in Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands.

Helping to build an empowered media to share information about environmental issues across our Pacific Islands region saw the launch of the Climate Change Media Kit for Pacific Media during the PIFLM52 in the Cook Island. SPREP also contributed to the PIFLM52 Pacific Media Training a partnership between SPREP and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. These activities were funded from SPREP by the IntraACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) project funded primarily by the European Union (EU) with targeted support from the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Monaco and is delivered jointly by SPREP, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Pacific Community (SPC) and the University of the South Pacific.

Understanding the holistic nature of engaging in negotiations at conferences for multilateral environment agreements, sessions on how to amplify our Pacific voice in the negotiations space were held in the Cook Islands during the Pacific regional preparatory meeting for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiations session on Plastic Pollution, as well as in Niue and Vanuatu. SPREP also hosted the Young Pacific Leaders funded by the United States of America during their workshop in Samoa building their knowledge on climate change and supporting the amplification of Pacific youth voices in negotiations. In total over 70 people participated in the different sessions.



Bringing about enhanced preparedness in Vanuatu saw SPREP facilitate communications training for over 20 Vanuatu Met staff through the GCF funded Vanuatu Climate Information Services for Resilient Development Planning project. Working with Radio New Zealand Pacific, a range of media and communications training and tools were delivered and shared with the Vanuatu Meteorology and Hydrology Department to ensure clear communications of weather and climate information. As part of this capacity-building initiative, two staff from the Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation underwent work attachments with the SPREP Communications and Outreach Unit.

The Digital Timeline of SPREP was developed and launched in commemoration of its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the SPREP Treaty. This helped to raise awareness of the members, partners and wider community of SPREP through accessible information on the milestones of the organisation. All users have the tools to be well informed of SPREP's history and how it all began. They are also now better equipped with the right information to share with others and to make well informed decisions.

Digital transformation is well underway at SPREP bringing about a paradigm shift in how SPREP conducts its business and operates as an organisation. The SPREP Information Communications and Technology (ICT) Strategy was endorsed with a strong focus on building a digitally resilient organisation. Within the ICT Strategy are two streams for services, those being Core ICT and ICT for Development.

At the 31<sup>st</sup> SPREP Meeting, SPREP hosted a joint side event with the VanKIRAP Project and the PRISMSS projects titled Leveraging Digital Technologies for a Resilient Pacific Environment showcasing the ICT for Development initiatives in managing the environment in the region. This event featured the Climate Watch App Vanuatu on monitoring traditional knowledge and the tools used by PRISMSS to integrate monitoring systems of invasive species and management of resource mobilisation.



## OBJECTIVE 2.1

Promote integrated programme approaches to address environmental management challenges.

SPREP signed its first Country and Territory Strategic Partnership Framework (CTSPF) with the Government of the Republic of Palau. The CTSPF responds to the SPREP Governing Council's decision to strengthen the Secretariat's engagement with SPREP Members.

The priority areas for collaboration identified in the Palau CTSPF are informed by the Palau National Environmental Management Strategy 2022–2030, this directly reflects Palau's goals and needs and is focused on strengthening Palau's engagement, leadership, and ownership in the development and implementation of SPREP projects and activities.

The CTSPF is a two-way partnership, promoting greater alignment of regional and national goals and priorities. It confirms mutual commitments between SPREP and Palau for addressing priority environmental and resilience issues.



The CTSPF is designed to improve the coordination of SPREP's work in-country, to serve Palau in a more integrated, coordinated and targeted way, to ultimately achieve enhanced positive outcomes and impacts. The CTSPF will also increase the visibility of outcomes and results arising from the work of SPREP and Palau, both nationally and regionally, and promote greater accountability and transparency concerning our actions and interventions.

## OBJECTIVE 2.2

Strengthen SPREP's learning and outcomes reporting framework, integrating organisational and environmental performance.

Working in Kiribati and Federated States of Micronesia, SPREP supported the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP): An integrated approach to address climate change and disaster risk management. Socialising the FRDP Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, reviewing national mechanisms for reporting and conducting refresher sessions on the FRDP in Kiribati and FSM resulted in built capacity on methods to conduct Monitoring and Evaluation, as well as understanding the range of tools available to undertake this. While these can, and are, being used for implementation of the FRDP, they can also be applied for work in other sectors. The strengthening of monitoring and evaluation of resilience systems and associated capacities is essential to facilitate informed climate adaptation and mitigation decision-making, prioritisation, and resource allocation at the national and sub-national levels. This work was supported by the Government of Australia and the European Union funded Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Project.



## OBJECTIVE 1.3

Improve quality and interoperability of information and communications technology infrastructure in the region.

### ORGANISATIONAL GOAL 3

SPREP has a reliable and sustainable funding base to achieve environmental outcomes for the benefit of the Pacific islands region and manages its programmes and operations to stay within its agreed budget.



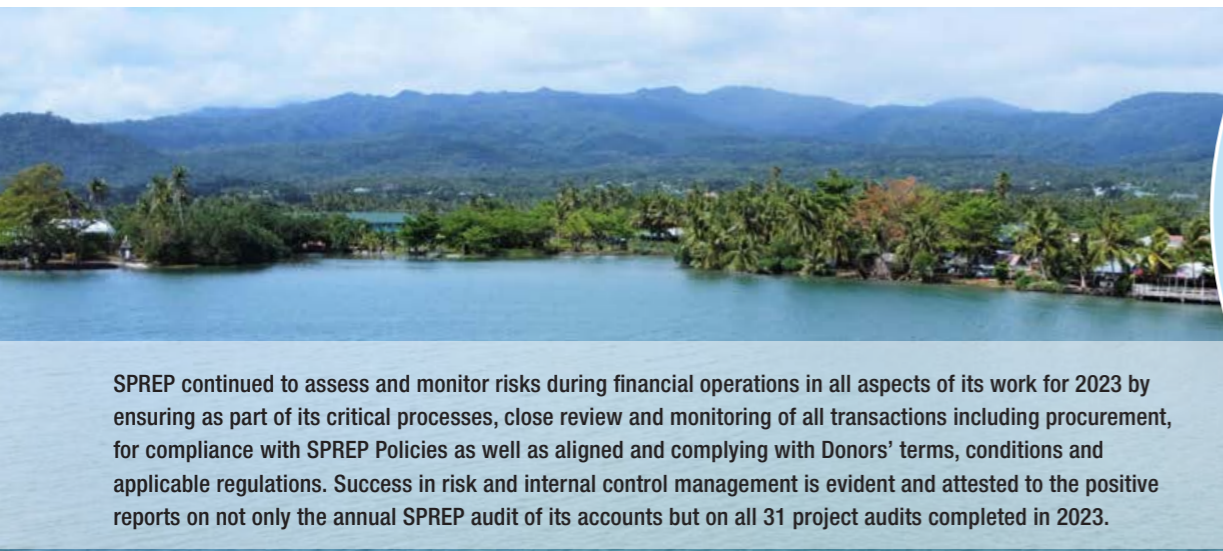
### OBJECTIVE 3.1 Achieve a balanced and sustainable budget

The overall financial performance for SPREP in 2023 noted a surplus of USD 1.3 million. In terms of the budgetary performance, overall actuals exceeded the budget at USD 40.5 million vs the budget of USD 36.5 million. At the detailed level, while SPREP Programmes on average exceeded budget expectations with Actuals of USD 35.4 million versus the Budget of USD 30.3 million, the Core Budget of USD 6.2 million was not fully spent based on actuals of USD 5.2 million or a saving of USD 1 million. The underspent in the Core Budget of USD 1 million directly correlates to and is the major contributing factor to the overall financial performance surplus at the years end. To help ensure financial responsibility SPREP undertook direct monitoring of the overall budget on a monthly basis to ensure progress remains on track with Programmes being directly responsible for their programme Implementation and budget management.

The 2023 Actual expenses of USD 40.5 million reflect the highest level of programme delivery since 2012 with an increase of 54% from 2022. Over the last 10 years from 2012–2022, the actual expense/delivery for SPREP averaged USD 18.7 million. This is a significant achievement in terms of effectiveness overall for budget management and programme implementation work by the Secretariat.

### OBJECTIVE 3.2 Manage funds efficiently and transparently through effective financial, risk management, and audit systems, integrated with programme management, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting systems.

SPREP continued to assess and monitor risks during financial operations in all aspects of its work for 2023 by ensuring as part of its critical processes, close review and monitoring of all transactions including procurement, for compliance with SPREP Policies as well as aligned and complying with Donors' terms, conditions and applicable regulations. Success in risk and internal control management is evident and attested to the positive reports on not only the annual SPREP audit of its accounts but on all 31 project audits completed in 2023.



In 2023, the inaugural SPREP Partnership Dialogue was convened with the theme “Strengthening our Partnerships for a Blue Pacific”. The Dialogue preceded the 31 SPREP Meeting as part of the SPREP 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It brought together SPREP Members, Secretariat and Partners to share information and discuss opportunities for strategic engagement, collaboration, cooperation, and partnership. It also provided an opportunity for those partners and donors who do not have a formal engagement during the SPREP Officials Meeting to dialogue with SPREP Members. The Partnership Dialogue was structured around four thematic partnership types (i) donor partners; (ii) technical scientific and research partners; (iii) implementation partners; and (iv) multilateral financing institutions and philanthropies.

The Partnership Dialogue underscored the importance of SPREP and partners in working together collaboratively to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

SPREP continued to work together with its Partners in delivering policy advice, technical assistance, capacity building and training, innovation and research, knowledge brokerage, networking and facilitating access to multilateral and bilateral funding to implement regional and national priorities in the four key strategic priorities of SPREP on climate change resilience, islands and ocean ecosystem, waste management and pollution, and environmental monitoring and governance.

SPREP partnerships continued to grow with eleven partnerships established in 2023 with the following organisations:

- Food and Agriculture Organisation
- Environmental Investigation Agency
- Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)
- Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO)
- Australian Bureau of Meteorology
- The Global Green Growth Institute
- Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO)
- Pacific Community (SPC)
  - Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO)
  - Birdlife International
  - Griffith University

At the global level, SPREP in collaboration with CROP and partners supported Pacific Small Islands Developing States' engagement in multilateral environmental processes including at the UNFCCC COP28; the second and third sessions of the International Negotiating Committee on plastic pollution including in the marine environment; and the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction.

### ORGANISATIONAL GOAL 4 SPREP is leading and engaged in productive partnerships and collaborations.



**ORGANISATIONAL GOAL 5**  
SPREP has access to a pool of people with the attitudes, knowledge, and skills to enable it to deliver on its shared regional vision.



2023 began with the Senior Leadership Team Strategic Planning Meeting which considered lessons learnt from the previous year, and the priorities and opportunities to set the direction for the year and beyond.

In its third year of implementation, the SPREP People Strategy worked against a calendar of activities developed to focus on priority work areas such as ongoing policy reviews specific to relevant outcomes. These include 1) Organisational Culture initiatives implemented to enhance staff empowerment, team building and inclusion 2) Flexible and Remote Work Arrangements 3) Occupational, Health Safety and Well-being 4) Robust Workforce Plan, and 5) Grievance Mechanism. In addition, the review of the Staff Regulations and Recruitment policy and processes was in progress awaiting the outcome of the Remuneration Review, which impacts many of the staff terms and conditions.

Strengthening the SPREP Suva Office and increased engagement and close collaboration on the ground with the Government of Fiji and many partners and donors continued with the relocation of the first core staff of the Island and Ocean Ecosystems (IOE) Programme from Apia. This included the Director, IOE amongst other technical staff. Six projects with almost twenty staff are currently based in the Suva Office.

Recruitment continues to be an integral part of SPREP's work and delivery contributing 14% to staff growth in 2023 with the majority recruited for the projects across the SPREP Offices in Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

The retention rate for 2023 was at 90%. Staff departures were primarily due to the completion of projects and exploration of opportunities for further studies as well as personal commitments. At the end of 2023, there were equal numbers of women and men employed in internationally recruited staff positions while 71% of staff employed in locally recruited positions were women. The Secretariat continued to grow in diversity with 19 different nationalities employed in SPREP positions at the end of 2023.

With the celebration of SPREP's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Secretariat acknowledged 30 years of service to SPREP and the region for its longest-serving staff members, Ms Apiseta Eti, Ms Lupe Silulu and Ms Monica Tupa'i.

Work was progressed, through staff engagement under the five Outcomes Groups under the SPREP People Strategy. This work is ongoing for SPREP.

### OBJECTIVE 5.1

Recruit and retain people who contribute their skills and knowledge in a collaborative manner to execute SPREP's strategic plan in an effective and efficient manner, including the channelling of technical assistance.

### OUTCOME 2: Health, Safety and Wellbeing is embedded across all locations

**FIRST AID AND FIRE EMERGENCY TRAINING:** 29% of the staff were certified under training carried out by the Samoa Fire and Emergency Services Authority. This included a Fire Drill to strengthen preparedness in the workplace.

**DISASTER AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP:** 15% of staff attended the workshop in preparation for the Cyclone Season.

### OUTCOME 3 Robust Workforce Plan is Delivered

**ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE:** there is ongoing review and institutional strengthening of the organisation structure to respond to strategic priorities of the Secretariat

- Formal establishment of the Department of Strategic Planning, Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation (SPPR); recruitment in progress for the Director SPPR and the Strategic Partnerships and Donor Relations Adviser
- Formalisation of the Department of Information Services in the pipeline

The filling of approved positions in the structure remains a challenge considering dedicated funding; support has been provided through dedicated funding agreements with Members and Donors to bridge the gaps given this structure was based on the current Strategic Plan which has a currency of 2.5 more years.

### OUTCOME 4 Increased Mastery in Leadership capability

**PACIFIC ISLANDS LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME:** The Secretariat fully supported one of its young professional staff for full attendance in the programme hosted by the East-West Center in Hawaii through full pay and incidental cost support.

- Fully funded opportunities for short-term learning and training opportunities are circulated widely and staff are encouraged to apply

**ONGOING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** 40% of staff were supported for ongoing professional learning and development in their areas of work through initiatives and support including:

- Study leave for personal studies either for formal tertiary qualifications or short-term learning programmes
- Learning development fees in support of areas agreed to in the Learning and Development Plans, mainly on short-term online courses – about 10% of staff
- Refresher sessions on key institutional policies and processes continued throughout the year for staff development
- Induction programme for all new staff – programme currently undergoing revamping
- Memberships in professional institutes were supported which provided access to several free online webinars and information sharing for approximately 10% of staff

**OBJECTIVE 5.2**  
Build our human resource capability and capacity through continuous professional development within an empowering professional workplace culture.



**CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WITH SPREP**

"To embrace equity means to provide equal opportunities for all regardless of gender. Equal opportunities in everything we do to serve our Member countries, stakeholders and the Pacific"

-Miraneta Williams-Hazelman, Manager, Knowledge Management, SPREP

#EmbraceEquity #IWD2023

**CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WITH SPREP**

"Embracing equity means doing to others what I would like done for me. We embrace equity at SPREP by living our SPREP values and continuing to be a family."

-Sefanaia Nawadra, Director General, SPREP

#EmbraceEquity #IWD2023



Work was progressed through staff engagement under the five Outcomes Groups under the SPREP People Strategy. This work is ongoing for SPREP.

**OBJECTIVE 5.3**  
Build a constructive, empowering, and results-oriented culture where working as a collaborative team that respects and values each other is the norm.

**OUTCOME 1**  
**Culture is Inclusive and Resilient**

**ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE FRAMEWORK:** development in progress with a focus on transformational change, results-oriented and staff ownership and engagement

Several people and culture initiatives were implemented to enhance staff empowerment, participation, community and team building with events such as the:

- Pinktober Event to support cancer patients and the Samoa Cancer Society
- Twelve Days of Christmas supporting staff engagement in different activities and with a Knowledge Management-themed Christmas Tree
- Affirmation Boards for positive awareness and encouragement
- Book Drive for the House of Hope in Apia for community service

Flexible and remote work arrangements continued informally to support staff acknowledging the increasing diversity in the workplace.

Whilst the Performance Development System is under review, staff performance reviews continued, and a 2% performance bonus was awarded in August 2023 for 2022.

**OUTCOME 5**  
**Enhanced People Policies, Practices and Ways of Working**

**RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION:** The trial decentralisation of the process for ownership by Programmes and Departments continued throughout 2023. The review is expected to be completed by the end of 2024 with recommendations including consideration of outsourcing. A number of procedural changes were made including:

- changes to the application of the 6-year rule
- changes to project contractual terms in line with the project timeframes
- direct appointment considerations in support of succession planning
- development of the guideline for the engagement of close relations

**REMUNERATION REVIEW:** Work in progress by the Members Working Group. This work area plays a huge contribution to the recruitment and retention initiatives of the Secretariat.



# Cross Cutting Issues and Lessons Learnt



**If you want to go fast, go alone.  
If you want to go far, go together.”**

At SPREP we recognise the value of this African proverb, reminding us about the importance of teamwork, and that forging a path that reaches far beyond our individual limits requires us all to journey together.

The interconnectedness of the challenges brought about by the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution require innovative, integrative, and transformative approaches in delivering our continued efforts in addressing the impacts of the triple planetary crisis. These are supported through innovation, strategic linkages, risk management, and gender mainstreaming as well as lessons learnt from the implementation of the strategic priorities of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017–2026.

## Innovation

SPREP continued to implement adaptive approaches and exercising flexibility in delivering services to Members including through interactive virtual platforms in responding to critical environment issues even after borders were opened. For example, the successful delivery of webinars and virtual events.

The first Pacific Virtual Climate Innovative Exhibition hosted from 4–6 October 2022 engaged more than 2,000 participants. The Exhibition connected people sharing ideas and experiences on potential innovative solutions to address climate change challenges facing the Pacific region.



## Strategic linkages

The digitisation of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) systems and processes to support electronic permitting or 'e-permitting' facilitating the streamlining and the efficiency of the EIA process. Strategic collaboration with the World Bank to develop a new funding modality will position SPREP as a regional partner to enhance the integration of social consideration in project risk assessment and management across the Pacific region. This will support robust project implementation and increase capacity of the Pacific Islands to manage environmental and social risks effectively. This initiative will also strengthen SPREP's capacity as the lead regional expert on environment impact assessment.

SPREP promoted and supported the integration of safe circular economy in the conservation, protection, and use of natural resources across Pacific countries to build resilience through the implementation of the zero-waste hierarchy placing Refuse, Rethink, and Redesign at the top of the pyramid followed by Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Return.

Supported inter-programme collaboration in strengthening the nexus between climate change and conservation through the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service business case to access climate finance to support the implementation of invasive species eradication and management programmes in Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDS).

A whole of SPREP approach continued in delivering services and assistance to PSIDS at major regional and international events such as the UNFCCC COP28 meeting; the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution including in the marine environment process; the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly; meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in 2023; and the Intergovernmental Conference negotiations for a Treaty on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

At the regional level, SPREP continued to actively engage with Council of the Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) partners in the development of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. The 2050 Implementation Strategy was endorsed by the SPREP Executive Board in 2022. SPREP is the lead on two of the thematic areas on climate change and disaster and environment and oceans. SPREP played an active key role in the BBNJ negotiation process supporting PSIDS and working closely with the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner.

The same approach was also taken for delivering services at the national level for example the continued support to the GCF funded Climate Information Services for Resilient Development Planning in Vanuatu (VanKIRAP) project. The on-going Country and Territory Strategic Partnership Framework process is key to strengthening SPREP's engagement with Pacific Islands.

The visibility of SPREP expanded through the addition of LinkedIn as another platform for disseminating information on SPREP and its work across the region including at the national and international levels. This was further supported with the revamped SPREP website which was successfully launched during the 31 SPREP Meeting in September 2023.

SPREP's People Strategy is an organisation strategy involving staff, Senior Leadership Team and the Staff Advisory Committee in different outcome groups providing input and guidance to support its implementation.

## Gender

Gender equality and social inclusion are critical to the achievement of SPREP's Strategic Plan 2017–2026; and the Secretariat is committed in ensuring this is achieved through its programmes, projects, governance and operations. Women participation in various activities across programmes and departments ranged between 50 to 60 per cent average.

Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) is one of the thematic priorities of the PSIDS under the UNFCCC negotiation process. SPREP continued to support 14 Pacific countries on GEDSI including support to the Pacific Political Champion for GEDSI, Hon. Mona AINU'u of Niue.

SPREP through the Kiwa initiative integrated human rights, and GEDSI into Nature-based solutions. This also includes developing tools, guides and provided training and capacity building to support the implementation of GEDSI. The SPREP PacWastePlus, Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) and the Committing to Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP) Project integrated and implemented gender specific action plans.

Of the 500 participants who attended 12 executive courses through the Pacific Climate Change Centre, 57 per cent were women. On the Inform e-learning platform, female participants accounted for 52 per cent of the platform users. Through the Pacific Learning Partnership for Environmental and Social Sustainability, SPREP and its partners developed a range of modules and training materials on preventing gender-based violence, sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment in infrastructure projects.

At the end of 2023, there were equal numbers of women and men employed in internationally recruited staff positions at SPREP while 71% of staff employed in locally recruited positions were women.

## Risk management

Risk management remains an integral part of SPREP's governance and decision-making to improve resilience, accountability, and the achievement of strategic objectives.

At the organisational level, Priority Enterprise Risks (PERs) were regularly monitored and managed at Senior Leadership Team level by updating the senior management on the identification, mitigation, and reporting identified PERs through the Risk Committee. At the project level, risk management is built into project implementation and is continuously monitored and evaluated throughout the lifetime of the project. For example, risk management is integrated and considered in the annual reviews of projects like the PWP, SWAP, POLP, and GEF ISLANDS with regular updates reported to the respective project steering committees

During COVID19, the risks due to delayed implementation were addressed through the engagement of national project officers and coordinators.

Financial risks were consistently and continually monitored and managed resulting in positive audit reports for all audits and verification/assurance engagements completed in 2022 and 2023.

## Lessons learnt

Continuous learning is an integral part of our approach to our work. In the full implementation of the PIP3 (2022–2023), critical lessons were learnt.

On partnership engagement and regional coordination, working with other organisations is essential to address major environmental issues at a regional and global scale. For example, the One CROP approach continued to support Pacific Islands' engagement at global events and negotiation processes.

As SPREP embarked on its digital transformation journey, there is a need for continuous development and enhancement of SPREP IT systems and processes including staff skills on digital technologies. This also includes the need to upskill IT staff to keep abreast of fast evolving technology.

The nature of SPREP's work requires its operations and governance structures to be highly adaptive and agile to changing business environment. This includes the strengthening of institutional and systemic capacity to ensure these meet international standards and to best practice.

SPREP continues to rely on collective efforts of Members, Donors and Partners in ensuring the sustainability and resilience of SPREP going forward.



## ANNUAL STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023

### Scope of responsibility

As the Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP); I am accountable for maintaining an effective and efficient system of internal control as specified in Regulation 25 of the SPREP Financial Regulations. I also have responsibility for ensuring that funds are safeguarded and properly accounted for, and that these are used economically, efficiently, and effectively.

### Purpose of the system of internal control

Internal control is designed to reduce and manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve the Organisation's aims, objectives, and related policies. Therefore, it can provide reasonable but not absolute assurance of effectiveness. It is based on an ongoing process designed to identify the principal risks, evaluate the nature and extent of those risks, and manage them efficiently and effectively.

### The key elements of the internal control environment include:

**SPREP has an Internal Control Framework Guideline** – that is based on the COSO model of internal control<sup>1</sup> which is the best-known basis and most accepted model for understanding an Internal Control Framework (ICF) within an organisation. It sets out five interrelated components of internal control and 17 principles that are required to have an integrated and effective internal control system. For each of these components and principles, the guideline elaborates on the significant controls that are in place for SPREP.

**Ensuring compliance with established policies and procedures** – SPREP is undertaking a comprehensive review of all its policies, procedures, and manuals to ensure its consistency, relevance, and effectiveness to meet our current needs.

**Organisational Values and Code of Conduct** – SPREP's Organisational Values and Code of Conduct are made available to all staff on induction and constantly reinforced. Our expected behaviour is enforced through our performance assessments and supplemented by a Fraud Prevention and Whistle-blower Protection provision.

**Policy and provisions in the SPREP Procurement Manual** – SPREP has a stringent procurement and vetting process in place to promote compliance with manuals and best practices to ensure that member funds are properly safeguarded and are used economically, efficiently, and effectively in accordance with the authority that governs their use.

**Financial Management** – The Director for Finance and Administration is responsible for the accounting and has staff for record keeping, financial reporting, procurement, and project accounting.

There is adequate segregation of critical duties through Financial Delegation which ensures that commitments are made by authorized staff. SPREP staff use an enterprise software solution called Tech One which has been in operation since 2014. It produces data for the financial statements that are prepared in accordance with International Financial reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Standards on Auditing (ISA).

**Risk Management** – The SPREP revised Risk Management manual was approved in November 2021 and is aligned to the ISO 31000:2018 standards. It includes relevant terms of reference that is chaired by the Deputy Director General and supported by the Risk Committee. SPREP's approach to risk management is an integral and systematic process that seeks to identify mitigate, monitor, and communicate top prioritised risks for the Organisation.

<sup>1</sup> Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) Internal Control, May 2013

## ANNUAL STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023

### Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Control

As the Director General, I have the responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. My review is informed amongst others by the following sources.

**Senior Leadership Team meetings** – The Secretariat leadership team meets monthly and as and when the need arises. The objective of this meeting is to make decisions, bring up and solve issues, align cross-functionally, and gain insights into every programme and department.

**Audit Committee** – The Audit Committee has five independent experts and is complemented by the Troika members, consisting of the past, current, and future Chairs of the SPREP Meeting. The Audit Committee meets three to four times a year and provides the Secretariat with structured, systematic oversight of the SPREP's governance, risk management, and internal control practices.

**Internal Audit Function** – Internal Audit (IA) provides independent and objective assurance that the secretariat's risk management, governance, and internal control processes are operating effectively. The internal auditor reports administratively to the director general and is functionally responsible for the audit committee.

**External Audit** – The external auditor provides an annual certification of the financial statements that are in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and the International Standards on Auditing (ISA), which guarantee a high degree of transparency. In 2022, an unqualified or clean audit opinion was issued with no major control deficiencies noted by the independent external auditor BDO Samoa.

Based on these sources, I consider that the internal controls listed above and further elaborated upon in the SPREP Internal Control Framework are adequate for SPREP to carry out its core functions, manage its risk and operate effectively. Improvements needed and identified in this framework are being addressed, as SPREP continues to serve its members under the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017–2026.

SPREP is currently going through a period of growth and change with increasing staff and growing number of office locations. This will require us to continuously revise, strengthen and improve our management systems and processes to ensure we safeguard our finances, assets, and reputation. It is a challenge that we are prepared and ready to handle.



Sefanaia Nawadra  
Director General  
Apia, Samoa  
24 May 2023

## AUDIT COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023

### Introduction

The Audit Committee submits this Statement of Internal Control for the Financial Year 2023 in compliance with SPREP's Governance Policy and resolutions of SPREP meetings.

The Audit Committee operates according to SPREP's Governance Policy that is elaborated upon in the Audit Committee Charter. Together both documents give adequate and clear guidance as mandate for the work of the Audit Committee.

### Composition of the 2023 Audit Committee

For the financial year 2023 the Audit Committee consisted of the following members:

- Chairman** Mr. Tupuola Oloialii Koki Tuala, Partner, Koki Tuala Chartered Accountant (KTCA). (Special terms of appointment were extended by Troika for an additional year until 31 December 2024 after serving two four-year terms since 2016).
- Member** Ms. Rosalini Moli, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Finance, Samoa. (Re-appointed for second term in March 2023).
- Member** Ms. Katherine Berryman, Assistant Director, Pacific Climate Finance and Partnerships Section New Zealand and Climate Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). (Appointed in March 2023).
- Member** Mr. Reece Fitzgibbon, Second Secretary, New Zealand High Commission. (MFAT (Appointed in March 2023)).
- Member** Mr. Taimalie Kele Lui, Manager Human Resources, Tokelau Office, Apia. (The term concluded in July 2023).
- Member** Ms. Ake Puka-Mauga, Secretary to Council and Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau, Tokelau Office, Apia. (Appointed in July 2023).

### Effectiveness of Internal Control

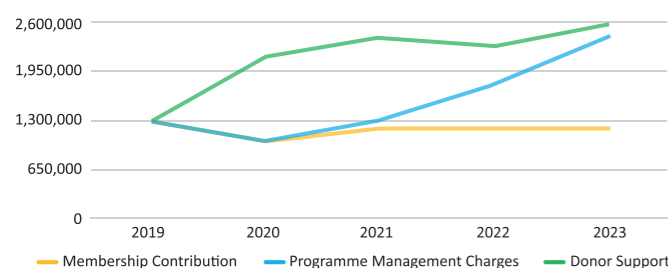
The Audit Committee has reviewed the 2023 audited financial statement signed by Sefanaia Nawadra, the Director General of SPREP on 28 March 2024. The information is consistent with the documents and reports reviewed and the presentations made to the Audit Committee.

I am pleased to present the audit committee statement on key discussion items deliberated by the Audit Committee during the period under review. This covers crucial aspects such as financial performance, donor support, membership contribution, reserve position, fraud prevention, cybersecurity, risk management, financial statement review, and ongoing consultations with management.

#### 1. Financial Performance

The Committee acknowledges the collective and concerted efforts made by the Secretariat in managing its financial position and performance. The Secretariat recorded a net surplus of US\$1,260,299 for the year ended 31 December 2023, compared to US\$26,261 for the same period as of 31 December 2022. This improvement was mainly attributed to the enhanced revenue collection, which increased by US\$841,125 or 15%, from US\$5,750,410 in 2022 to US\$6,591,535 in 2023.

The details of the Secretariat's principal revenue stream in US dollars for the last five years, 2019–2024, are shown below:



#### 2. Support from Partners and Donors

The Committee recognises and appreciates the increased support received from partners and donors, particularly DFAT and MFAT, towards the Secretariat's operations and corporate support. The total other income from donor funds for 2023 was US\$2,570,374 compared to US\$2,294,333 for the same period in 2022, representing 39% of the total income recorded for the year ended 31 December 2023.

#### 3. Membership Contribution Increase

The Committee welcomes the resolution passed during the 31<sup>st</sup> SPREP Meeting to enforce the 20% increase in membership contributions, which was originally proposed at the 28<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting, with this change taking effect in 2024. This decision is a significant step towards ensuring the financial sustainability of SPREP. The Committee expresses its appreciation to those members who have proactively increased their contributions by 20% prior to 2024 and have been punctual in paying their membership dues. We strongly encourage the remaining members to honour their commitment and extend their support.

#### 4. Outstanding Membership Contributions

The Committee is concerned about outstanding membership contributions on a cash basis for the period ended 31 December 2023, amounting to US\$446,859. The Committee noted the subsequent clearance of US\$11,331 in 2024. It is both a legal obligation and a moral responsibility of the members to ensure that the Secretariat has the necessary resources to fulfil the mandates entrusted to it by the member nations. The success of SPREP in achieving its objectives is directly linked to the active involvement and support of all its members. Members are encouraged to timely settle their membership dues and demonstrate membership solidarity.

#### 5. Project Management Fees

The project management fees, a major revenue stream for the Secretariat, improved significantly by 34%, or US\$604,960, from US\$1,797,631 in 2022 to US\$2,402,591 in 2023. This improvement is attributed to:

- Improved project implementation and delivery rates due to the reopening of borders, and normalization of operations to pre-pandemic levels in 2023.
- Implementation of new projects.
- Effective coordination and strong collaboration with partners and members.

#### 6. Improvement in Reserve Position

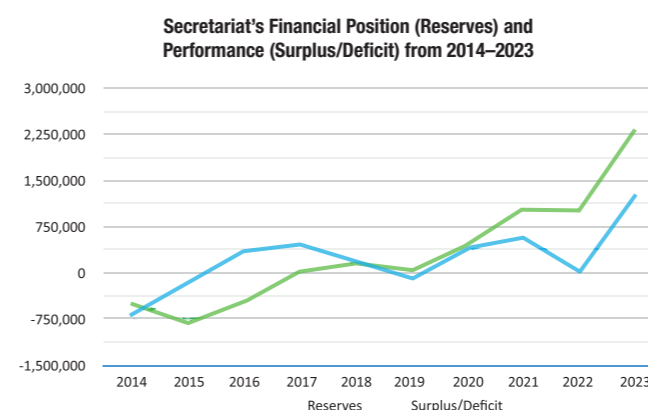
The Committee noted that the reserve position significantly improved from US\$1,043,972 as of 31 December 2022, to US\$2,304,271 as of 31 December 2023. The Secretariat is in a strong financial position with healthy reserves, positioning it well and sufficiently to sustain operations for 4 to 5 months in any unforeseen event. The Committee urges the Secretariat to sustain and improve this reserve position, recognizing that a strong reserve is crucial for:

- Efficient implementation of current operations and member obligations.
- Maintaining assets and infrastructure to ensure longevity.
- Managing staff welfare.
- Responding to unanticipated events.
- Supporting future headquarters and regional expansion, and visibility of the Secretariat.

### 7. Financial Position and Performance (2014–2023)

The financial position (reserves) and financial performance (net surplus/deficit) for the last 10 years are as follows:

Year	Financial Position Reserve US\$	Financial Performance Net Surplus/(Deficit) US\$
2023	2,304,271	1,260,299
2022	1,043,972	26,261
2021	1,017,711	570,573
2020	447,139	389,376
2019	57,763	(81,977)
2018	139,740	154,273
2017	5,123	445,982
2016	(443,762)	346,898
2015	(778,112)	(261,729)
2014	(492,631)	(769,488)



### 8. Recommendations for Sustaining Reserve Position

The Committee encourages the Secretariat to:

- Maintain vigilance and continue improving its revenue stream.
- Engage with each member to ensure their participation, timely membership contributions, and support; enhance membership benefits; and effectively address their environmental management challenges.
- Maintain existing partnerships and explore new core funding support arrangements with its metropolitan members and other donors.
- Continually improve the system and processes to support project delivery and efficiency.
- Maintain sound budgetary controls over core fund expenditures.
- Be vigilant of risk exposure arising from impending global inflation, competition for funds and recession affecting our major partners which could impact the Secretariat's operational costs.

### 9. Fraud Prevention and Awareness

The Committee appreciates the continued support and confidence of our donors in the Secretariat's governance processes and acknowledges the critical need to safeguard funds against fraudulent activities. During the current reporting period, no fraud complaints were recorded or received through our dedicated channel. To mitigate the risk of fraud, the Committee noted fraud awareness sessions were conducted encouraging staff to take necessary actions to prevent fraud and understand the reporting mechanisms in place. These sessions also highlighted the safeguards to protect whistleblowers.

### 10. Cybersecurity Incident and Response

In December 2023, the Secretariat was the target of a cyberattack affecting one of the DFAT-sponsored projects. The Committee noted the support received from DFAT and the proactive measures taken by the relevant authorities, which successfully recovered all but AUS\$49,933 of the funds, which is likely unrecoverable. The Secretariat is fully engaged and supports the ongoing inquiry by DFAT and relevant authorities into this matter.

### 11. Importance of Cybersecurity

The Committee understands that cybersecurity is a pervasive risk, and responding to cyber threats is particularly challenging due to the dynamic nature of the environment. Consequently, the Committee reiterates the Secretariat to:

- Proactively review, test, and manage its cybersecurity risk management plan.
- Strengthen its cybersecurity policy and IT infrastructure.
- Enhance staff awareness and training on cybersecurity threats.
- Prioritize cybersecurity as a top concern within the enterprise risk management (ERM) framework.

### 12. Cultivating a Risk-Aware Culture

The Committee emphasizes the importance of cultivating an effective and robust risk management culture. This includes:

- Proactively assessing and reviewing the risk management plan.
- Promoting a risk-aware culture that encourages prudent risk-taking and accountability.
- Fostering a proactive approach to risk management.
- Ensuring that risk considerations are integrated into decision-making processes at all levels of the organization.

### 13. Discussion and Review of Financial Statements

The Committee has discussed the 2023 audited financial statements and the relevant accounting policies with the Director General, the Director of Finance and Administration, and the external auditors, KPMG Fiji. It also reviewed the external auditor's report on the financial statements and the related management letter, providing recommendations for the future improvement of SPREP's operations. The Committee noted that there were no disagreements between the engagement team and management, no scope limitations were imposed by the Secretariat during the audit, and no adverse audit findings were raised by the external auditor. The annual consultations between the Committee and the external auditors have proven valuable over the past seven years, facilitating the exchange of views, sharing of information, and formulation of positive recommendations for improvement, which have added value to SPREP's audit process.

### Ongoing Consultations with Management

The Committee strongly advocates for the ongoing practice of regular consultations with the senior leadership team throughout the year. These consultations have demonstrated significant utility and value in enhancing dialogue, facilitating informed decision-making, and accelerating the implementation of practical solutions to the challenges faced by the Secretariat.

### Acceptance of Audited Financial Statements

On this basis, the Audit Committee concludes that the 2023 audited financial statements and the unqualified audit opinion by the external auditor should be accepted by the SPREP members.

The Audit Committee remains committed to maintaining high standards of governance and accountability. We appreciate the cooperation of all stakeholders in these efforts. Finally, we commend management and staff for their commitment and dedication in achieving the best financial results and outcomes for SPREP to date.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

**Tupuola Oloialii Koki Tuala**  
Chairman of the Audit Committee  
Apia, Samoa

Date: 11 June 2024

## EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT'S REPORT for the year ended 31 December 2023

The Executive Management present the annual report together with the financial statements of Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme ("SPREP" or "the Secretariat") for the year ended 31 December 2023 and independent auditors' report as set out on the following pages thereon in accordance with the Secretariat's Financial Regulations.

### Executive Management

The Executive Management in office as at the date of this report are:

<b>Sefanaia Nawadra</b>	Director General
<b>Easter Chu Shing</b>	Deputy Director General
<b>Tagaloa Cooper</b>	Director, Climate Change Resilience
<b>Stuart Chape</b>	Director, Island and Ocean Ecosystems
<b>Anthony Talouli</b>	Director, Waste Management and Pollution Control
<b>Jope Davetanivalu</b>	Director, Environmental Monitoring and Governance
<b>Clark Peteru</b>	Legal Counsel
<b>Simeamativa Vaai</b>	Director, Human Resources
<b>Petra Chan Tung</b>	Director, Finance and Administration

### Principal Activity

The principal activity of SPREP is to promote co-operation in the Pacific region and to provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations.

### Operating Results

We are pleased to present the following operating results of the Secretariat for the financial year as at 31 December 2023:

- During the year the Secretariat expended US\$5.4 million dollars compared to expenditure of US\$5.8 million in 2022.
- The net surplus for the period was US\$1.26 million compared to the net surplus of US\$26,261 in 2022.
- Foreign exchange exposure continues to be controlled and minimized within tolerable limits relative to transactions during the year, noting at year end a foreign exchange loss of \$34,789 compared to a loss of \$29,386 in 2022.
- Management recognizes that while reserves have significantly improved in 2023 based on financial performance results, there is still a need to maintain sustainability of funding in the long run with a view to strengthening the financial structure for SPREP and thus maintaining adequate reserve funds over time to ensure a solid financial position for the Secretariat in the long term.
- The challenge remains for the Secretariat to ensure a collective effort by Members and Executive Management to support the long-term financial sustainability & resourcing for SPREP and thus a strong reserves position.

## EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT'S REPORT for the year ended 31 December 2023

### Responsibility for Financial Reporting and State of Affairs

The accompanying financial statements are the responsibility of management. The financial statements have been prepared according to International Financial Reporting Standards and include amounts based on management's best estimates and judgments.

Management has established and had been maintaining accounting and internal control systems which include clearly stated policies and procedures. These systems are designed to provide reasonable assurance that our financial records are reliable and form a proper basis for the timely and accurate preparation of financial statements, and that our assets are properly safeguarded.

SPREP Members oversee management's responsibilities for financial reporting. The financial statements have been reviewed and approved by the SPREP Members on recommendation from management.

Our independent auditors KPMG Fiji, having been appointed by the SPREP Members, have audited our financial statements. The accompanying independent auditors' report outlines the scope of their examination and their opinion.

In our opinion:

- The accompanying statement of comprehensive income is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the results of the Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2023;
- The accompanying statement of financial position is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of the Secretariat's affairs as at 31 December 2023;
- The accompanying Statement of Changes in Funds and Reserves is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the movement of funds and reserves of the Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2023; and
- The accompanying statement of cash flows is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the cash flows for the Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2023.

We are not aware of any circumstance which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We authorize the attached financial statements for issue on behalf of the Executive Management of the Secretariat.



**Sefanaia Nawadra**  
Director General  
28 March 2024



**Easter Chu Shing**  
Deputy Director General



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### Independent Auditors' Report

To the Members of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

#### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

##### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (the Secretariat or SPREP), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, the core fund statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in funds and reserves and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes, comprising material accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Secretariat as at 31 December 2023, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IFRS Accounting Standards).

##### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Secretariat in accordance with International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Samoa and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

##### Other Matter

The financial statements of the Secretariat as at and for the year ended 31 December 2022 were audited by another auditor who expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements on 29 March 2023.

##### Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Executive Management's Report, but does not include the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

##### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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*This Independent Auditors Report is provided in respect of the full set of statutory financial statements of SPREP for the year ended 31 December 2023 including notes comprising material accounting policies and other explanatory information. The statutory financial statements can be found on SPREP website [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org). These statutory financial statements form the basis of these abridged financial statements included on pages 76 to 79 of this Annual Report.*

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT



In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Secretariat's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Secretariat or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Secretariat's financial reporting process.

##### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Secretariat's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Secretariat's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Secretariat to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

##### Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, were necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the Secretariat, sufficient to enable financial statements to be prepared, so far as it appears from our examination of those books.



Suva, Fiji  
28 March 2024

*This Independent Auditors Report is provided in respect of the full set of statutory financial statements of SPREP for the year ended 31 December 2023 including notes comprising material accounting policies and other explanatory information. The statutory financial statements can be found on SPREP website [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org). These statutory financial statements form the basis of these abridged financial statements included on pages 76 to 79 of this Annual Report.*

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023



Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)  
Core Fund Statement of Comprehensive Income  
For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Income</b>			
Member contributions	5	1,190,245	1,190,195
Programme management charges	18 (b)	2,402,591	1,797,631
Other donor fund income	6	2,570,374	2,294,333
Amortisation of deferred income - property and equipment	8	239,474	239,474
Other income	7	188,851	228,777
<b>Total income</b>		<b>6,591,535</b>	<b>5,750,410</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Advertisements		11,678	8,058
Consultancies		86,410	867,140
Depreciation	11/13	274,905	309,554
Electricity & Water		55,104	59,682
Freight and Postal Expenses		272	250
Impairment (Reversal) / Expense		(23,397)	56,574
Insurance		345,551	269,131
Printing, Stationery and Office Supplies		131,885	88,226
Professional Services		106,890	169,329
Program Support Costs		119,391	104,091
Repairs & Maintenance		43,794	30,841
Remuneration Costs		3,503,198	3,150,217
Superannuation expense		343,883	312,630
SPREP Meeting		103,099	12,417
Telephone and Internet		47,879	58,341
Travel		79,420	66,731
Workshops & Trainings		70,084	28,626
Other Expenses		139,910	181,269
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>5,439,956</b>	<b>5,773,107</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) before net finance costs and foreign exchange</b>		<b>1,151,579</b>	<b>(22,697)</b>
Net finance income	10	143,509	78,344
Foreign exchange loss		(34,789)	(29,386)
<b>Net Surplus /(Deficit)</b>		<b>1,260,299</b>	<b>26,261</b>

This statement and the accompanying notes to and forming an integral part of the financial statements can be found on the SPREP website: [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org)

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023



Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)  
Core Fund Statement of Comprehensive Income  
For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property and equipment	13	9,640,657	9,888,472
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>9,640,657</b>	<b>9,888,472</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	14	42,419,270	46,373,144
Receivables and prepayments	15	189,067	275,711
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>42,608,337</b>	<b>46,648,855</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>52,248,994</b>	<b>56,537,327</b>
<b>RESERVES AND LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Reserves</b>			
Core funds		2,304,271	1,043,972
<b>Total reserves</b>		<b>2,304,271</b>	<b>1,043,972</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Employee benefits	16	304,202	360,395
Deferred income - property and equipment	8	9,201,586	9,441,060
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>9,505,788</b>	<b>9,801,455</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Programme/donor funds	18 (b)	31,948,960	35,755,187
Payables and accruals	17	1,282,196	927,649
Employee entitlements	16	1,056,723	822,486
Deferred income - property and equipment	8	239,474	239,474
Income received in advance	9	5,911,582	7,947,104
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>40,438,935</b>	<b>45,691,900</b>
<b>TOTAL RESERVES AND LIABILITIES</b>		<b>52,248,994</b>	<b>56,537,327</b>

Signed on behalf of the SPREP Members

  
Sefanaia Nawadra  
Director General

  
Easter Chu Shing  
Deputy Director General

This statement and the accompanying notes to and forming an integral part of the financial statements can be found on the SPREP website: [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org)



## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023



Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)  
Core Fund Statement of Comprehensive Income  
For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Core Fund \$	Total \$
<b>Balance at 1st January 2022</b>	1,017,711	1,017,711
Net Surplus for the year	26,261	26,261
<b>Balance at 31st December 2022</b>	1,043,972	1,043,972
<b>Balance at 1st January 2023</b>	1,043,972	1,043,972
Net Surplus for the year	1,260,299	1,260,299
<b>Balance at 31 December 2023</b>	<b>2,304,271</b>	<b>2,304,271</b>

This statement and the accompanying notes to and forming an integral part of the financial statements can be found on the SPREP website: [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org)

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023



Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)  
Core Fund Statement of Comprehensive Income  
For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Member contributions		1,202,564	1,220,190
Interest received		175,171	17,743
Core donor funds received	6	2,570,374	2,294,333
Other receipts		213,396	202,883
Personnel costs - Corporate Services		(3,666,640)	(3,482,755)
Corporate Services costs		(2,886,099)	2,915,133
Programme Income/(Expenditure)		(1,524,157)	11,177,416
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>		<b>(3,915,391)</b>	<b>14,344,943</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchase of property and equipment		(27,090)	(36,559)
Proceeds from drawdown of term deposit		7,947,104	3,124,683
New term deposit		(4,561,409)	(7,947,104)
<b>Net cashflows for investing activities</b>		<b>3,358,605</b>	<b>(4,858,980)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Lease payments	11	-	(40,565)
<b>Net cashflows for financing activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>(40,565)</b>
Net change in cash held		(556,786)	9,445,398
Cash at beginning of the year		38,692,973	29,276,961
Effects of foreign exchange		(34,789)	(29,386)
<b>Cash balance at the end of the year</b>	14	<b>38,101,398</b>	<b>38,692,973</b>

This statement and the accompanying notes to and forming an integral part of the financial statements can be found on the SPREP website: [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org)

TITLE	ISBN / ISSN	TITLE	ISBN / ISSN
<b>TECHNICAL REPORTS</b>			
Assessment of Target and Non-target Species catch rates in the Kikori Fish maw Fishery and Local Ecological Knowledge of locally Threatened Dolphin Species	ISBN: 978-982-04-1178-4	SWAP Marine Litter Training – Vanuatu. Activity report – Sustainable Coastlines, May-June 2023	
Contract to Conduct a Feasibility Study and Develop a National Used Oil Management Plan for Tonga, Solomon Islands, Samoa and Vanuatu: Tonga Analysis Report		Review and Updating of the Vanuatu Rural Road Design Guide (2017) – Gap Analysis Report Deliverable 1b: June 2023	
Contract to Conduct a Feasibility Study to Develop a National Used Oil Management Plan for Tonga, Solomon Islands, Samoa and Vanuatu: Samoa Feasibility Study		Contract to Conduct a Feasibility Study to Develop a National Used Oil Management plan for Tonga, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu – Tonga feasibility study	
Contract to Conduct a Feasibility Study to Develop a National Used Oil Management Plan for Vanuatu, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga – Vanuatu Feasibility Study		A Comparative Analysis of Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME Evaluation Tools for the Pacific Islands Region	ISBN: 978-982-04-1181-4 (print) 978-982-04-1183-8 (ecopy)
Review of Cetacean Diversity Status and Threats in the Pacific Island Region		Contract to Conduct Feasibility Study to Develop a National Used Oil Management plan for Vanuatu, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga – Vanuatu Feasibility study	
Online Workshop on Disaster Waste Management – Activity Report February		Regional Waste Data Collection Monitoring and Reporting Framework	ISBN: 978-982-04-1227-9 (print) 978-982-04-1228-6 (ecopy)
An Assessment of Marine Turtle Exploitation in Papua New Guinea		A Review of the Management and Conservation of Sea Turtles in Vanuatu	ISBN: 978-982-04-1176-0 (print) 98-982-04-1029-9 (ecopy)
SPREP Information and Knowledge Management Strategy 2022-2027	ISBN: 978-982-05-1157-9	Impact Assessment of Past Climate Change Adaptation Actions – Situation Report Cook Islands	
Vanuatu Climate Information Services for Resilient Development Project: Traditional Knowledge Strategy and Implementation Plan	ISBN: 978-982-04-1135-7 (print) 978-982-04-1136-4 (ecopy)	Impact Assessment of Past Climate Change Adaptation Action – Situation Report Tonga	
Vanuatu Climate Information Services for Resilient Development Project: Environment and Social Management Plan	ISBN: 978-982-04-1137-1 (print) 978-982-04-1138-8 (ecopy)	Impact Assessment of Past Climate Change Adaptation Actions – Situation Report Palau	
Learning about Climate Change the Pacific Way: A Visual Guide – Niue	ISBN: 978-982-04-1103-6 (print) 978-982-04-1104-3 (ecopy)	Impact Assessment of Past Climate Change Adaptation Actions – Situation Report Federated States of Micronesia	
Learning about Climate Change the Pacific Way: A Guide for Pacific teachers – Niue	ISBN: 978-982-04-1105-0 (print) 978-982-04-1106-7 (ecopy)	Impact Assessment of Past Climate Change Adaptation Actions – Database Report	
Understanding the Human-Mangrove Relationship for Resilience in Samoa – Findings from the Moata'a Household survey		Maps of the Past Climate of Vanuatu – Monthly Seasonal and Annual Rainfall and Air Temperature	
Resilient Ecosystems, Resilient Communities Situational Analysis of the Moata'a Community and Mangrove Environment – Analysis report		Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+): Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (SUPA) – Impacts Methodology Guide	ISBN: 978-982-04-1223-1 (print) 978-982-04-1224-8 (ecopy)
Sarakata Flood Mitigation and Early Warning System Gap Analysis report		Tonga Used Oil Management Plan	
Feasibility Report Vanuatu – Scoping study for Landfill Rehabilitation and/or Climate Proofing in Vanuatu		Samoa Used Oil Management Plan	
Feasibility Report Solomon Islands – Scoping study for Landfill Rehabilitation and/or Climate Proofing in Solomon Islands		Vanuatu Used Oil Management Plan	
Van-KIRAP Communications Strategy – August 2022		Solomon Islands Used Oil Management Plan	
SWAP Marine Litter training – Solomon Islands – Activity report March 2023		Snapshot 2022: Marine Resources Management Water Security Measures, Coastal Protection and Resilient Agricultural Measures	ISBN: 978-982-04-1194-4 (print) 978-982-04-1196-8 (ecopy)
Plastic Pollution Prevention in Timor-Leste: Gap Analysis of Current Legislation, Policies and Plans	ISBN: 978-982-04-1185-2 (print) 978-982-04-1187-6 (ecopy)	Weather Radar System for the Climate Information Services for Resilient Development in Vanuatu – Cost Benefit Analysis	
PacWastePlus Programme Steering Committee – Meeting Report, 26-28 April 2023, Rarotonga Cook Islands	ISBN: 978-982-04-1189-0 (print) 978-982-04-1190-6 (ecopy)	VankIRAP Rainfall and Windspeed Projections : Technical report	ISBN: 978-982-04-1229-3 (ecopy)
Waste Audit Report Solomon Islands	ISBN: 978-982-04-1205-7 (print) 978-982-04-1207-1 (ecopy)	SPREP Annual report 2022	ISSN: 1562-675X
SWAP Marine Litter Training – Fiji, Sustainable Coastlines – May 2023, Activity report		SWAP Marine Litter Training – Samoa : Activity report Sustainable Coastlines – June 2023	
PIDU Final report 2022-2023 Fishing Season – November 2022 – April 2023		Regional Waste Audit Analysis Report – August 2023	ISBN: 978-982-04-1230-9 (print) 978-982-04-1231-6 (ecopy)
Kingdom of Tonga National Invasive Species Strategy and Action plan 2021-2027	ISBN: 978-982-04-1172-2 (print) 978-982-04-1173-9 (ecopy)	International Coastal Clean-up Day 2022 – Activity Report	
Clean Boats, Clean Ports – A framework to Protect Pacific Island Countries and Territories from Invasive Species	ISBN: 978-982-04-1215-6 (print) 978-982-04-1216-3 (ecopy)	Gender Equality, Disability, and Social inclusion (GEDSI) Action Plan for Climate Information Services for Resilient Development in Vanuatu (VankIRAP):	ISBN: 978-982-04-1273-6 (print) 978-982-04-1274-3 (ecopy)
Inception report for the Development of Data Management and Governance Policy for the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Departments		Agricultural and Climate Information Services (CIS): Policy Review, Action and Communication Plan	ISBN: 978-982-04-0856-2 (print) 978-982-04-0855-5 (ecopy)
Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Strategy 2023-2028	ISBN: 978-982-04-1170-8 (print) 978-982-04-1171-5 (ecopy)	Cost Recovery Mechanism and Models Appropriate for the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department	
		Palau National Waste Audit Analysis Report – August 2023	ISBN: 978-982-04-1261-3 (print) 978-982-04-1262-0 (ecopy)
		Niue National Waste Audit Analysis Report – August 2023	ISBN: 978-982-04-1259-0 (print) 978-982-04-1260-6 (ecopy)
		Nauru National Waste Audit Analysis Report – August 2023	ISBN: 978-982-04-1257-6 (print) 978-982-04-1258-3 (ecopy)
		Kiribati National Waste Audit Analysis Report – August 2023	ISBN: 978-982-04-1255-2 (print) 978-982-04-1256-9 (ecopy)

TITLE	ISBN / ISSN	TITLE	ISBN / ISSN
<b>TECHNICAL REPORTS</b>			
The Guiding Framework for invasive Species Management in the Pacific	ISBN: 978-982-04-1213-2 (print) 978-982-04-1214-9 (ecopy)	Policy Review – Kiwa Capacity Needs Assessment for Implementing Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change Adaption	
Federated States of Micronesia National Waste Audit Analysis Report – August 2023	ISBN: 978-982-04-1253-8 (print) 978-982-04-1254-5 (ecopy)	Kiwa Initiative Capacity Needs Assessment for Implementing Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation	ISBN: 978-982-04-00-1514-2 (ecopy)
Fiji National Waste Audit Analysis Report – August 2023	ISBN: 978-982-04-1240-8 (print) 978-982-04-1241-5 (ecopy)	Marine Litter Training – Tonga : Activity Report Sustainable Coastlines August 2023	
Cook Islands National Waste Audit Analysis Report – August 2023	ISBN: 978-982-04-1242-2 (print) 978-982-04-1243-9 (ecopy)	Reducing Plastic Production to Achieve Climate Goals: Considerations for the Plastics Treaty Negotiations	ISBN: 978-982-04-1291-0 (print) 978-982-04-1292-7 (ecopy)
SPREP through the SWAP Project in collaboration with MNRE clean-up at Moata'a village : activity report (side event for the 31st SPREP meeting)		Communiqué des Ministres de l'environnement et des représentant es de haut niveau du PROE Communiqué du Talanoa 2023, 8 September 2023. Taumeasina Island Resort, Apia Samoa	
Palau: National Environment Management Strategy (NEMS) 2022-2030	ISBN: 978-982-04-1158-6 (print) 978-982-04-1159-3 (ecopy)	Weather Ready Pacific Program – Preparing for Extreme Events in a Climate Change World	
Sea Turtle Monitoring Manual: A Guide to Selecting Appropriate Tools for Basic Sea Turtle Research and Monitoring	ISBN: 978-982-04-1293-4 (print) 978-982-04-1294-1 (ecopy)	Saving Species of Special Interest from Bycatch: 5 years of Port-based Outreach	
Inception and Stakeholders Consultation Report : Review and Updating of the Vanuatu Rural Road Design Guide		The Moana Taka Partnership – Promoting Circular Economy	
Vanuatu National Waste Audit Analysis Report – August 2023	ISBN: 978-982-04-1236-1 (print) 978-982-04-1237-8 (ecopy)	Circular Economy	
Tuvalu National Waste Audit Analysis Report – August 2023	ISBN: 978-982-04-1234-7 (print) 978-982-04-1235-4 (ecopy)	Circular Economy – Unlocking Waste as resource	
Tonga National Waste Audit Analysis Report – August 2023	ISBN: 978-982-04-1233-0 (print) 978-982-04-1232-3 (ecopy)	The Role of IT in the Effective Management of Invasive Species in the Pacific	
Timor-Leste National Waste Audit Analysis Report – August 2023	ISBN: 978-982-04-1269-9 (print) 978-982-04-1270-5 (ecopy)	Climate Watch App Vanuatu	
Solomon Islands National Waste Audit Analysis Report – August 2023	ISBN: 978-982-04-1267-5 (print) 978-982-04-1268-2 (ecopy)	SPREP Environment Ministers and High-Level Representatives – Talanoa Communiqué 2023, 8th September 2023. Taumeasina Island Resort, Apia, Samoa.	
Samoa National Waste Audit Analysis Report – August 2023	ISBN: 978-982-04-1238-5 (print) 978-982-04-1239-2 (ecopy)	Performance Implementation Plan (PIP 4) 2024-2025 : Work Programme and Biennial Budget 2024 & 2025	
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# Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>ACM</b>	Asbestos Containing Materials	<b>MEA</b>	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
<b>ACP</b>	African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries	<b>MECDM</b>	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology of Solomon Islands
<b>ACP MEAs 3</b>	European Union-funded project on Capacity building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries – Phase III	<b>MFAT</b>	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
<b>AFD</b>	The Agence Française de Développement	<b>MHEWS</b>	Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems
<b>APCP</b>	Australia-Pacific Climate Partnership	<b>MNRE</b>	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Samoa
<b>AOSIS</b>	Alliance of Small Islands States	<b>NCOF</b>	National Climate Outlook Forum
<b>BBNJ</b>	Biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction or BBNJ Agreement	<b>NISSAP</b>	National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan
<b>BIEM</b>	The By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Initiative	<b>NMHS</b>	National Meteorological and Hydrological Services
<b>BIOPAMA</b>	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme	<b>OACPS</b>	The Organisation of African, Caribbean and the Pacific Group of States
<b>COP</b>	Conference of the Parties	<b>PacPLAN</b>	Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan 2019 Plan
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus disease 19	<b>PacWastePlus</b>	Pacific-European Union Waste Management Programme
<b>CROP</b>	Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific	<b>PCCC</b>	Pacific Climate Change Centre
<b>CSIRO</b>	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	<b>PEBACC+</b>	Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change Plus
<b>EbA</b>	Ecosystem-based Adaptation	<b>PEUMP</b>	Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership Programme
<b>EDF11</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> European Development Fund	<b>PICOF13</b>	Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum – 13.
<b>EREPA</b>	Ensuring Resilient Ecosystems and Representative Protected Areas in the Solomon Islands	<b>PIFLM52</b>	Fifty-Second Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment	<b>PIP3</b>	Pacific Implementation Plan 3
<b>EIANZ</b>	Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand	<b>PLP-ESS</b>	Pacific Learning Partnership for Environmental and Social Sustainability partnership
<b>ESRM</b>	Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM)	<b>PMC-6</b>	Sixth Pacific Meteorological Council
<b>EU</b>	European Union	<b>PMMM-3</b>	Third Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology
<b>GBF</b>	Global Biodiversity Framework	<b>POLP</b>	Pacific Ocean Litter Project
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility	<b>PRISMSS</b>	Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service
<b>GEF ISLANDS</b>	Global Environment Facility funded Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island Developing States (ISLANDS) Programme	<b>PSIDS</b>	Pacific Small Islands Developing States
<b>GEF 6 RIP</b>	GEF 6 Regional Invasive Project	<b>PWD</b>	Public Works Department of Vanuatu
<b>GEO</b>	Group on Earth Observations	<b>RF 2017–2026</b>	Regional Framework 2017–2026
<b>GIS</b>	Geospatial Information Systems	<b>SEA</b>	Strategic Environmental Assessment
<b>HAC</b>	High Ambition Coalition	<b>SPC</b>	The Pacific Community
<b>IAIA</b>	International Association for Impact Assessment	<b>SWAP</b>	Committing to Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific
<b>Intra-ACP Climsa</b>	Intra-African, Caribbean, Pacific Group of States Climate Services and Related Applications project	<b>UNDRR</b>	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>IMO</b>	International Maritime Organisation	<b>UNEA</b>	United Nations Environment Assembly
<b>INC</b>	International Negotiations Committee	<b>UNEP CIS-Pac5</b>	UN Environment Programme Project, Enhancing Climate Information and Knowledge Services for resilience in five island countries of the Pacific Ocean
<b>JICA</b>	Japan International Cooperation Agency	<b>VanKIRAP</b>	Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen blong Redy, Adapt mo Protekt
<b>NAP</b>	National Adaptation Plan	<b>WRP</b>	Weather Ready Pacific Programme
<b>NDF</b>	Non-Detriment Findings	<b>WMO</b>	World Meteorological Organization
<b>NDMO</b>	National Disaster Management Office		
<b>NEMS</b>	National Environmental Strategy		



This map is indicative only of agreed and potential maritime jurisdictional limits within the Pacific region. It does not imply the expression of an opinion by SPREP on the legality of any boundary shown.



## Our Region

The Pacific is the world's largest ocean, covering nearly a third of the Earth's surface. About 30,000 islands of varied shapes and sizes lie across its vast expanse. The Pacific Island Members of SPREP are:

- American Samoa
- Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- Cook Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Fiji
- French Polynesia
- Guam
- Kiribati
- Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Nauru
- New Caledonia
- Niue
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tokelau
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu
- Wallis and Futuna
- SPREP also has five metropolitan Members:
- Australia
- France
- New Zealand
- United Kingdom
- United States of America



Vatu-i-Ra island, Ra, Fiji © Stuart Chape





# SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme

