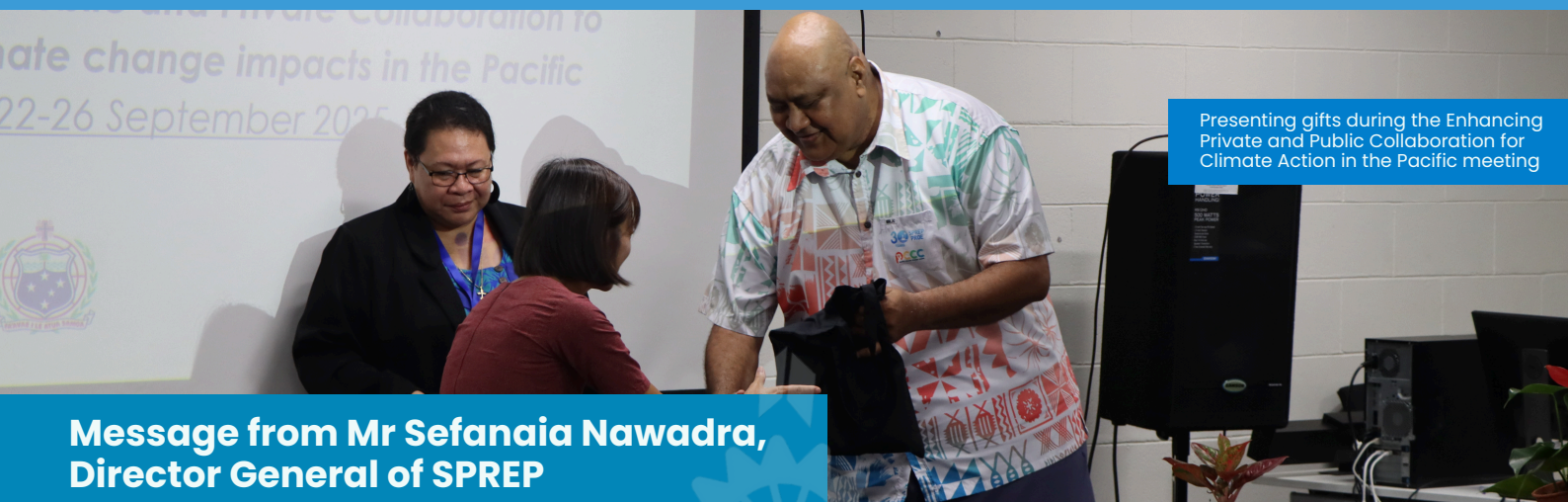


SPREP TOK

YOUR MONTHLY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE
SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME



Message from Mr Sefanaia Nawadra, Director General of SPREP

Bula vinaka!

As we enter the last quarter of 2025, we celebrate the submission of Tuvalu's Instrument of Ratification for the Noumea Convention. The decision by Tuvalu follows the 18th Conference of the Parties Meeting to the Noumea Convention in Apia, strengthening the collaboration by SPREP, our Members and partners for the protection of our natural resources and the environment. Congratulations Tuvalu! September was a busy month for us all, I am delighted to share some of our work highlights with our Members and partners in this edition of our SPRETok.

Sefa



Tuvalu ratifies Noumea Convention

In a move that strengthens regional cooperation and environmental protection in the Pacific, Tuvalu has formally submitted its Instrument of Ratification for the Noumea Convention. This enters into force on the thirtieth day from the date of deposit. The Noumea Convention, formally known as the Convention for the Protection of Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region is a multilateral comprehensive umbrella agreement for the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment.

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Nature Restored: Seabirds and Native Flora Return After Invasive Rats Removed in the Marshall Islands

Native forests are regenerating, and seabird populations are thriving once again on Bikar Atoll and Jemo Islet in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), following the 2024 removal of invasive rats through the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) Predator Free Pacific (PFP) programme. This marks a major step toward building resilient ecosystems, healthy oceans, and stronger communities across the Pacific.

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Strengthening integration of traditional knowledge in modern science for seasonal forecasting in Vanuatu

A week-long training focused on developing traditional knowledge-based seasonal forecasts is currently underway for the Vanuatu Meteorological Services Department. The initiative is supported by the Climate and Ocean Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac) and aims to strengthen the integration of Indigenous environmental knowledge into national climate services.

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University of Melbourne and Pacific Climate Change Centre secure AUD 500K to enhance climate, energy and health resilience across Small Island Developing States

The University of Melbourne, in partnership with the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC), hosted by SPREP, has once again secured over half a million dollars in funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to improve climate, energy and health resilience.

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Inclusive ocean governance and local resilience in Cook Islands through Climate and Biodiversity-Smart Marine Spatial Planning

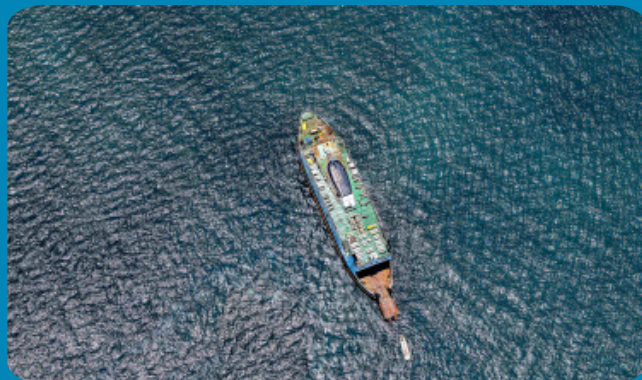
Being able to measure progress and outcomes towards marine spatial planning objectives in the Cook Islands was the focus of a consultation workshop held recently in Rarotonga. Partners in Marine Spatial Planning recently came together to co-design a country-specific engagement plan for the co-development of climate and biodiversity-smart marine spatial planning indicators for Cook Islands.

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World history made with global agreement to protect our ocean

The BBNJ Agreement has reached a global milestone with 60 ratifications paving the way towards entry into force by January 2026. For the Pacific Islands region, home to large ocean island states within the world's largest ocean, this agreement is a symbolic lighthouse guiding the way for our Pacific islands voyage towards further protection of our biodiversity.

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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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Communities in New Ireland Province, Papua New Guinea, take ownership in protecting Blue Carbon ecosystems

Four coastal communities in New Ireland Province in Papua New Guinea have launched their own management plans to protect and restore seagrass beds and mangrove forests that sustain their shores, culture, and livelihoods. The communities are Lapai, Tome, and Bagatare villages in Tikana Local Level Government (LLG), and Sivasat in Kavieng Urban LLG.

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New Climate Centre empowers Erromango Community with lifesaving information

The remote community of Ipota, close to 2,000 people are now better equipped to face the challenges of a changing climate and natural hazards, thanks to the official launch of its new Community Climate Centre (CCC). The Centre, established by the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department (VMGD) and the Van-KIRAP project, will serve as a vital hub for weather, climate, and disaster information.

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Building regional readiness through Pacific symposium on marine pollution response

A five-day symposium concluded in Fiji marking a significant step forward in the Pacific's efforts to combat marine pollution. The event, which brought together experts and government officials from across the region, focused on enhancing emergency response capabilities and fostering greater cooperation to protect the Pacific's vital marine ecosystems and the communities that depend on them.

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Enhancing Private and Public Collaboration for Climate Action in the Pacific

Participants from national governments, private sector such as chambers of commerce and state-owned enterprise, NGOs and private companies across the different sectors have gathered for the in-person component of the Strengthening Public and Private Collaboration to address Climate change impacts in the Pacific training course.

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One Pacific Voice

Special moments

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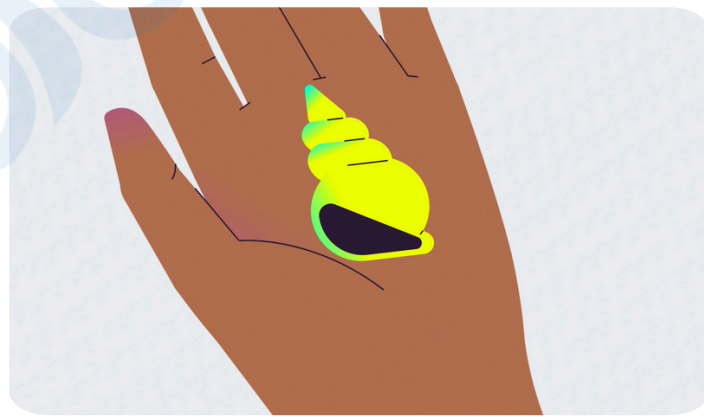
Pacific Senior Officials Task Force Meeting for COP31

Australian and [#PacifcIsland](#) officials convened in Brisbane in September for the second [#COP31](#) Pacific Senior Officials taskforce meeting. It was a collaborative moment to shape shared priorities, objectives and our potential legacy for our Australia-Pacific bid to host COP31. At the forefront of climate change impacts, Australia and Pacific Island nations have a longstanding commitment to negotiating strong international climate outcomes. The Pacific have a story to tell and leadership to share as we chart our respective paths to net zero. It's time for a COP in the Pacific. Ours will be the first COP in the Pacific region in nearly two decades, and the first ever COP delivered in partnership by an entire region. Our Pacific's consistent leadership and innovation combined with Australia's ambition to fast-track growth of the global clean energy economy, is what makes our bid to host COP31 unique.



Australia and Tuvalu along with SPREP attended the Asia and Pacific regional preparatory meeting for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-6) now underway in Bangkok Thailand from 23-24 September 2025. The regional preparatory meeting is to provide Parties in the Asia Pacific region the opportunity to hear briefings, exchange views and consult each other on the agenda items of COP-6. The Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-6).

[READ MORE ON THE ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING](#)



**The ocean is our lifeblood.
It feeds us. It connects us.
It carries our stories.**

So when the ocean speaks, we hear it. And it's telling us: Something is wrong. Plastic pollution is choking our oceans and threatening the very source of life for Pacific peoples. We must act to protect our ocean, our communities, and our future. That's why the Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) implemented by SPREP with support from the Australian Government — is partnering with 14 Pacific Island countries to reduce the volume of single-use plastics that reach our ocean. Because protecting the ocean means protecting our future.

[WATCH HERE](#)

**COSPPAC CLIMATE BULLETIN
AUGUST 2025**

CORAL BLEACHING

The Coral bleaching alert on 23 September shows patches of 'Alert Level 1 and 2' over northern PNG and FSM.

**THE COSPPAC
CLIMATE BULLETIN
FOR AUGUST IS
NOW AVAILABLE.**

**Fa'afetai tele lava!
We'll see you next month!**

04/04