



## Faith and recycling unite as Circular Pacific Plastics Phase 2 launches in Fiji

Pacific Recycling Foundation marked a significant milestone in Fiji's recycling journey with the successful launch of Phase 2 of the Circular Pacific Plastics (CPP) Project at Saint Pius X Parish Raiwaqa, bringing structured plastic recovery and recycling education into a faith-based setting for the first time. The launch, officiated by the Head of the Catholic Church in Fiji, Archbishop Peter Loy Chong, signals a new and important direction for recycling advocacy in Fiji - one that recognises the influential role of faith-based institutions in shaping values, behaviours, and community responsibility.



[For more](#)

## *Bula!*

This year is shaping up to be a big one for the region and we continue to strengthen our collaboration with our partners to support our Members. With 2025 recorded as one of the warmest years on record, the need for enhanced climate science services and environmental resilience has never been more urgent. Our team have been actively engaged in supporting capacity building in the use of Traditional Knowledge for weather forecasting, advancing climate resilience through practical invasive species management, and delivering training on marine litter. With a full calendar ahead, your Secretariat stands ready to support the region on our shared mission for a Resilient Pacific.

*From Mr Sefanaia Nawadra, Director General of SPREP*

## Tonga's newly appointed Prime Minister takes on Champion Role for Weather Ready Pacific Programme

The Weather Ready Pacific (WRP) programme has received a major boost with Tonga's newly appointed Prime Minister, Lord Fakafanua, graciously accepting the role of championing the Weather Ready Pacific Programme. Confirmed during his recent meeting with the Director General of SPREP, this marks a significant milestone for regional efforts to strengthen weather and climate resilience across the Pacific.



[For more](#)

## Protecting dolphins and whales in our Pacific

Traditional knowledge, science, storytelling and innovation converged in Fiji as Pacific nations and global partners gathered to strengthen collaborative conservation efforts for whales and dolphins across the Western Pacific. A Pacific partnership between the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and WWF resulted in a series of three workshops to help save our Pacific whales and dolphins.



[For more](#)

## Vanuatu takes BOLD steps to address climate change induced loss and damage

Vanuatu, a global frontrunner in climate action, is taking BOLD steps to address climate change-induced loss and damage, build resilience, preserve its identity and to ensure a sustainable future for its communities. In Port Vila, key Vanuatu stakeholders will gather for the Building Our Pacific Loss and Damage (BOLD) Response Project Inception and implementation planning meeting.



[For more](#)

## Working with Pacific and Caribbean leaders to enhance climate, energy and health resilience

The University of Melbourne, in partnership with the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) hosted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), have launched an innovative programme aimed to improve climate and health outcomes across the Indo-Pacific and Caribbean regions.



[For more](#)

## 2025 confirmed as one of the warmest years on Record in the Western Pacific

New climate data shows that 2025 was the fifth warmest year ever recorded in the western Pacific, continuing a long term warming trend that is reshaping conditions across the region. According to ERA5, a global climate dataset from the Copernicus Climate Change Service, 2025 was the third warmest year on record worldwide, following 2024 and 2023.



[For more](#)

## Reviving the use of Traditional Knowledge for Climate and Weather Forecasting in Samoa

The Samoa Meteorological Service (SMS) is reviving its work in the collection, monitoring and verification, and integration of traditional knowledge into climate and weather forecasting systems with the support of the Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac) Phase 3 Project implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).



[For more](#)

## 'Those graveyards, burial and historical sites represent our history, who we are'

Vanuatu, like all Pacific island countries, is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The World Risk Index consistently ranks the collection of 83 islands near the Pacific "Ring of Fire", an area of strong volcanic activity and earthquakes, and close to the centre of the cyclone belt, as the world's most vulnerable country to climate risks and disasters.



[For more](#)

## Enhancing Biosecurity through Inclusive Engagement: Evidence from the Vātalanoa Approach in Tonga

Invasive species are a major threat to Pacific islands, yet technical solutions alone are insufficient without community trust, inclusion and culturally grounded engagement. Drawing on new evidence from Vava'u, Tonga, a recent research traces a clear line between culturally grounded engagement and sustained biosecurity action in Pacific island communities.



[For more](#)

## Long-standing partnership reinforced during JICA President's visit to SPREP

The Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) welcomed the President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Dr Akihiko Tanaka, and his delegation to the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) hosted at SPREP, on 24 February 2026. The visit reinforced a long-standing partnership between the Secretariat and the Government of Japan through JICA.



[For more](#)

# SPREP-Tok

Your monthly environmental news bites from across our Pacific

## On the Pacific journey to COP31

The COP31 Türkiye – Australia partnership that includes the Pacific is a first in the history of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Türkiye holds the COP31 Presidency, upon which Australia is the President of Negotiations and COP31 pre-COP will be hosted in the Pacific.



[For more](#)

## World Wetlands Day: Amplifying our Young Pacific Voices as they care for our Pacific Wetlands.

In celebration of our Wetlands and their role for our planet and its people, we feature the voice of young Pacific Woman Ms Moana Tiua of Kiribati, sharing her story about her experiences in conserving a wetland site in our Pacific Islands region.



[For more](#)

## COSPPac Partners Convene in Melbourne to Strengthen Pacific Climate and Ocean Services

Implementing partners of the Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac) met in Melbourne from 2 – 6 February 2026 for a week-long coordination meeting aimed at progressing collaboration in the implementation of the programme, and advancing climate and ocean services, including data, ICT and communication platform and to reduce duplication across the Pacific region.



[For more](#)

## SPREP and University of Auckland sign MOU to strengthen environmental cooperation

SPREP and the University of Auckland, New Zealand have come together in Samoa to strengthen cooperation to advance the Pacific's journey towards a more resilient Blue Pacific environment. A critical part of the collaboration includes a commitment to foster academic excellence and research cooperation in the areas related to climate change resilience, environment, biodiversity and ocean systems, sustainable development, and waste management.



[For more](#)

SPREP Tok ISSN: 2311-861x

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)  
(685) 21929 – PO Box 240 – Apia, Samoa – [sprep@sprep.org](mailto:sprep@sprep.org) – [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org)  
**Our vision** – A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures

[f](#) [x](#) [in](#) [▶](#) Follow us on FACEBOOK, X, YouTube and LINKEDIN