

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Annual Report 2015



SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



Photo: Niue Tourism



Photo: © Stuart Chape

The Pacific environment – sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is the regional coordinating organisation for the protection and sustainable development of the Pacific island environment.

SPREP was established by its member governments in 1992 to support cooperation and coordination across the region. The agreement establishing SPREP came into force in 1993, officially making the organisation an autonomous body.

With headquarters located 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



CLIMATE CHANGE



WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL



ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND GOVERNANCE

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Photo: © Stuart Chape

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Foreword

A message from the Chair



Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa

2015 was an important period in SPREP's history, it has also been an important period for the Pacific region. It will be remembered as the year the Pacific made clear to the world that addressing climate change is an urgent and critical priority, and it culminated in the world coming together to endorse the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. This signals a new era of hope for the global community and the beginning of the real work. These hard-won agreements put us at the starting line for the serious challenges ahead in finding practical solutions to both mitigate and adapt to climate change and to sustain the environment and our livelihoods. SPREP played an important role in supporting the Pacific region at the landmark event in Paris, and as an accredited entity to the Green Climate Fund, SPREP is well positioned to now step up efforts to strengthen the region's resilience to climate change.

"He waka eke noa" is a New Zealand Maori whakataukī or proverb which means "the canoe in which all of us are in together, without any exception". When it comes to climate change and to other environmental challenges, we are all in it together. The solutions are best worked on in partnership, and as members of SPREP, we can harness the benefits of shared knowledge and shared resources to practically address both national and regional priorities. We are



aware that not only are SPREP members all in the one canoe, but all the regional agencies need to paddle in unison to realistically achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to make the Paris Agreement more than an aspiration. The planned climate change centre, to be based at SPREP, will provide a venue for a range of regional actors with a common purpose to collaborate. The ground work for this promising new way of working has begun in 2015. This is the spirit of the SAMOA Pathway agreed at the Small Island Developing States conference.

Over 2015, progress has been made in conserving and protecting our Pacific island environment, the backbone of Pacific island livelihoods. Our year started in the face of adversity as Typhoon Maysak intensified into a Category 5 passing near the Federated States of Micronesia in March, and in the Southern Hemisphere, Cyclone Pam, another Category 5, struck Vanuatu in March, leaving behind devastation and destruction.



Erakor Island, Port Vila, Vanuatu.
Photo: © Stuart Chape

Despite these challenges to our region, as a Pacific family, we have worked together to recover and to better protect and manage our environment for sustainable development and resilience, while ensuring that our Pacific way of life continues.

Work to halt the loss of Pacific biodiversity was undertaken; several invasive species activities saw many positive results in different islands across the region. Iconic marine species were highlighted in the Shark and Ray Action Plan, and the Year of the Whale campaign was in the planning stages for a regional launch.

The strategy for a 'Cleaner Pacific 2025' was endorsed to build on SPREP's work in managing and reducing waste across the region. Implementation of the Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL) Strategy 2015–2020 is now under way, and new Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines were

developed for the region. SPREP also signed the New Zealand Pacific Islands Partnership on Ocean Acidification in 2015, a partnership with member countries and other CROP agencies. To our knowledge, this is the first project of its kind. It will be of great benefit to our island communities given the importance of our sea in providing food, as a home to marine ecosystems and for housing our coral reefs, which protect our shorelines and are a valuable tourism resource.

2015 also saw us farewell Mr David Sheppard, who has led SPREP as the Director General since 2009. His energy, focus and efficient delivery of outcomes has raised SPREP's regional and international reputation as a results-oriented organisation committed to protecting the environment. His legacy continues to live on in SPREP's work and its focus on having real impact.

On this note, I congratulate our

members and partners for their strong unity in supporting and guiding the work of SPREP. I note also the successful 2015 hosting by Samoa of SPREP's 26th Meeting of Officials and look forward to similar success at this year's meeting, hosted by Niue, which importantly also includes ministerial level participation.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work of the Secretariat and the important impact it is making in the region. We welcome Kosi Latu, the new Director General of SPREP as of January 2016, and also his replacement as Deputy Director General Roger Cornforth from June 2016. We look forward to continuing the positive journey ahead – with partners, members and the Secretariat.

Kia kaha, Kia toa, Kia manawanui

Jackie Frizelle

On behalf of New Zealand,
Chair of the 26th SPREP Meeting

Introduction

A message from the Director General



I am very pleased to introduce the SPREP Annual Report for 2015. As this report demonstrates, 2015 was an action-based year for us.

We acknowledge the crew of SPREP and our members and partners as well as the leader at the helm in 2015, our former Director General Mr David Sheppard. He completed his term at the end of 2015, having spent six years navigating our organisation through a change management process. We pay tribute to his hard work and leadership, bringing SPREP into the thriving and robust organisation that it is today.

As we embark on a new charted course, we reflect upon the milestones achieved in 2015 which have been made possible with the strong support from members and partners.

SPREP attended the Seventh Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting

(PALM7) in Fukushima Iwaki, Japan, hosted by H.E. Mr Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan. Climate change was a key topic of discussion, and the PALM 7 Declaration stated the Prime Minister's intention to "provide comprehensive assistance, in collaboration with SPREP, including the development of the Pacific Climate Change Centre and capacity-building which supports the efforts for tackling climate change by the Pacific region as a whole." The extraordinary support of the Governments of Japan and Samoa will further enhance the role of SPREP as the lead coordinating CROP agency for climate change and the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) as a regional coordinating mechanism to serve our Members, alongside our regional and global partners.

In 2015, the SPREP Meeting approved the terms of reference for the SPREP Troika, which formalises the roles and responsibilities of the governance mechanism consisting of the past, present, and future Chairs of the SPREP Meeting. The functions of the Troika include assessment of the Director General's performance; participation in the Audit Committee; advice and direction on strategic issues, including on issues discussed at CROP meetings; guidance and support on the planning and implementation of the annual SPREP Meeting; and support and guidance for SPREP on any matter

considered relevant to the Troika. The Troika will continue to serve an important function, as the SPREP Meeting convenes every second year from 2017, as agreed to by Members in 2015.

The strength of SPREP was further endorsed with its accreditation as a Regional Implementing Entity for the Green Climate Fund (GCF). We are now able to serve our Pacific members to access GCF resources to implement climate change mitigation and adaptation projects that align with GCF objectives to support low-carbon and resilient development. In 2015, SPREP was the only CROP Agency to have such accreditation to the GCF and the Adaptation Fund, and SPREP is partnering with other agencies such as USAID and the Commonwealth Secretariat to assist Pacific Members gain access to funding.

In 2015, a Global Environment Facility (GEF) Medium Sized Project began to help strengthen SPREP in seeking accreditation as a Project Agency of the GEF. The MSP will strengthen the systems, processes, and internal policies of SPREP to be compliant with their standards and key partners, such as the European Union (EU) and GCF.

SPREP is working closely with members to enhance core funding through additional voluntary contributions, which have been received with appreciation from the Governments of Papua New Guinea and Samoa. We also



Freycinetia species, Samoa.
Photo: © Stuart Chape

strived to ensure continuation of multi-year funding agreements with the Governments of Australia and New Zealand after current arrangements conclude. This type of funding is critical because it increases the ability of SPREP to plan and implement long-term programmes for its Pacific island members.

On World Environment Day, the Government of Vanuatu and SPREP signed a milestone Host Country Agreement, which facilitated the in-country implementation of the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) Project supported by the Government of Germany. A Fiji office was also established under this project as our in-country presence grows stronger across the region, based on actions on the ground. SPREP's emphasis on ecosystem-based adaptation means better management and protection of important ecosystem services as a basis for resilience to climate change.

The PacWaste project funded by the European Union improved management of hazardous waste

across the region. The healthcare component commenced across 14 Pacific island countries and Timor-Leste, helping with the safe and sustainable management of infectious and chemical waste. We also saw the end of the Japanese Technical Cooperation for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific island countries project, J-PRISM having completed five successful years in building both human and institutional capacity in solid waste management in the Pacific islands.

We ended 2015 on a positive note with the historic Paris Climate Change Agreement endorsed by parties at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change. Pacific island leaders and their delegations to COP21 were part of this milestone agreement, which will impact the future work of SPREP. In addition to the leadership and resilience demonstrated by our Pacific leaders, another key aspect of the success of COP21 was the host Government of France, a valued member of SPREP, which worked tirelessly for a successful outcome.

At COP21 in Paris, France, SPREP worked with peer CROP agencies as "One Team" alongside key partners, to support Pacific island countries with technical assistance in the lead up to and during the negotiation process.

SPREP would like to thank all donors and partners for supporting and working with SPREP in our common endeavours to make the Pacific environment a healthy and sustainable one. We value your support and increasing trust in our organisation. We will work hard to ensure that we have earned your trust and confidence.

I would also like to thank all staff at SPREP for their dedication and hard work over the last year. Thank you to SPREP Members, whom we as a Secretariat have worked hard to support. We appreciate your wise guidance and your partnership. We will continue our efforts to make SPREP a more efficient and effective organisation that can better serve the needs and priorities of our member countries and territories.

Kosi Latu

Director General, SPREP

Our Pacific island Members

Working in partnership to achieve shared goals

SPREP is committed to working with Members to deliver on environmental management and sustainable development in the region.

Our work is driven by strategic priorities which are developed in close consultation with all our Pacific island members and other stakeholders.



American Samoa host of Pacific Islands Environment Conference

American Samoa hosted the Pacific Islands Environment Conference, which is an annual event jointly sponsored by the Governments of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa. “Pacific Cohesion” was the main focus of the four-day event that covered a range of environment issues, finding solutions to move toward a sustainable Pacific. The Conference commended SPREP, with special recognition of the former Director-General Mr David Sheppard for commitment and service to the Pacific islands region and its precious natural resources.



Photo: Environment Protection Agency
American Samoa

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands interested in NZ Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification

A representative from the Department of Lands and Natural Resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands participated in the regional workshop on strengthening Pacific island resilience to ocean acidification hosted in Auckland in October. The workshop was the regional consultation of the NZ Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification (NZ PPOA) to pave the way for resilience building and adaptation actions to address ocean acidification in the region. The NZ PPOA is an action-based partnership coordinated by SPREP with partners and supported by the Government of New Zealand and the Principality of Monaco.



Photo: D. Welch

Cook Islands installs solar systems on remote islands

The Cook Islands have reached their target goal of converting 50% of its electricity to renewable energy sources by 2015, with the next step being to reach 100% by 2020. The Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP) helped the Cook Islands achieve this target through the installation of solar systems on Palmerston Island. In total, 210 solar panels of 255 W capacity were installed on the island, which generate approximately 260 kWh of energy each day. The project was a partnership between SPREP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), funded by the Government of Denmark through the SIDS DOCK project component.



Photo: PIGGAREP

“The Cook Islands are at the forefront of change.
We are showing the way and will hopefully inspire others.”

– Director of Renewable Energy Development Division, Tangi Tereapii

Fiji developing crucial environment documents

Fiji is in the final stages of completing their State of Environment Report (SOE) and National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS). Developed through a consultative process over the past year with a regional template piloted in Fiji, support was provided by SPREP to help complete the SOE and NEMS. An SOE helps to estimate the current status of a given environment, similar to a report card on the health of the environment and its prognosis for the future. The SOE makes it easier to develop policies and plans—the NEMS—that will conserve environmental resources for future generations.



Photo: © Stuart Chape



Photo: J. Stanford

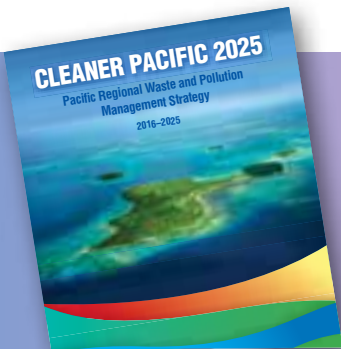
Federated States of Micronesia now has Invasive Species Action Plan

A National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) was developed for the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). This includes a Strategy and Action Plan for all of FSM as well as individual action plans for each of the four states. The NISSAP prioritises actions for invasive species management to ensure available resources are used effectively and are targeted toward national and state priorities. The NISSAP was developed with stakeholders during workshops in each state and is the first step for FSM in implementing the Regional Biosecurity Plan for Micronesia and Hawaii. The creation of the NISSAP was funded under the GEFPAS “Prevention, eradication and control of invasive alien species in the Pacific islands project”, implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and executed by SPREP and the FSM national government and state partners.



French Polynesia shares experiences at Year of the Whale planning workshop

A planning workshop bringing partners and SPREP member countries together to prepare for the Protect Pacific Whales – Ocean Voyagers campaign focused on strengthening the whale watching industry in French Polynesia, while maintaining respect for whales and supporting ocean conservation. National activities in French Polynesia include resources for both school and tourist audiences, awareness campaigns on television and radio, whale respect themes through cultural activities and a commemorative national ‘Whale Day’. The French Polynesia Environment Service will continue to work with the Pacific islands and partners to implement the Pacific whales campaign, to be launched in 2016 and run over a period of two years.



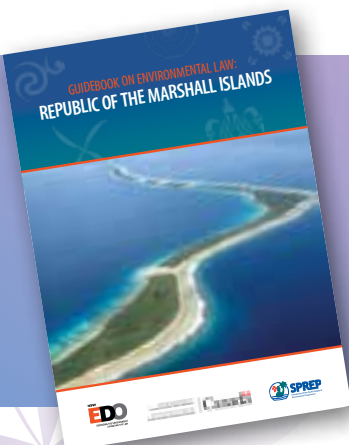
Guam plays pivotal role in Cleaner Pacific 2025 sub-regional consultations

In June, Guam was host of one of three sub-regional consultation workshops to inform the development of the Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2016-2025, known as Cleaner Pacific 2025. The Micronesia and Atoll Group consultation provided an opportunity for representatives from Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru and Tuvalu to provide feedback on the draft strategy, which was subsequently endorsed at the Twenty-sixth SPREP Meeting of Officials. This activity was undertaken in partnership with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Guam and other participating countries.



Kiribati National Climate Outlook Forum

For the very first time, fora were convened in Tarawa and the Kiritimati islands in Kiribati to develop the three-month climate outlook and to bring stakeholders together to discuss the meaning of this climate outlook product. Both of these events were significant because it was the first time stakeholders were shown the different ways they could use and apply the climate information provided. It was also the opportunity to pave the way for improved engagement between Kiribati meteorological services and their stakeholders. The fora were convened through the support of a partnership between SPREP, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Government of Canada and the Kiribati Meteorological Service.



Republic of the Marshall Islands launches Guidebook on Environmental Law

Available in both Marshallese and English, “Kolajerakin Kakien Ko Nan Belaak Ko Belaakid: Republic eo an Ailon Kein (Majol)” is a guidebook to help strengthen awareness and understanding by the citizens of the Republic of the Marshall Islands of environmental legislation covering environmental protection, conservation of natural resources and other environmental themes. Launched in 2015, the Guidebook has been prepared as a user-friendly reference book that summarises the rights, prohibitions and obligations that arise in relation to particular priority areas for environmental protection and natural resource management. The Guidebook was made possible through a partnership between SPREP, Environmental Defenders Office New South Wales, the Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination of Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Canadian Government.

Nauru has new national wetland inventory and management plan

A national wetland inventory was conducted in Nauru along with a management plan for the Ijuw-Anabar Wetland Proposed Conservation Area site. The management plan aims to strengthen the sustainability of this important wetland site and was developed in consultation with national stakeholders. The Ijuw-Anabar Wetland Site is just over 46 hectares in size and contains the only significant area of mangrove patches in Nauru; these mangroves along with other plants are of ecological and cultural importance for the island. These activities were conducted through the Global Environment Facility Pacific Alliance for Sustainability-Integrated Island Biodiversity Project (GEFPAS IIB), funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by UNEP and executed by SPREP in partnership with the Governments of the Cook Islands, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu.



Photo: V.Jungblut/SPREP

New Caledonia strengthens sister marine park agreement

SPREP assisted a delegation from New Caledonia to visit the Cook Islands Marae Moana team and learn more about the Cook Islands experience in marine spatial planning and marine park area management and to forge the next steps for joint activities. In 2013, the New Caledonia and the Cook Islands governments signed a sister-sites agreement between their large-scale marine park to help coordinate their efforts to strengthen marine protection under the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape. The combined area of the Cook Islands Marae Moana Marine Park and New Caledonia's Coral Sea Natural Park is 2.5 million square kilometres, which represents almost 6.6% of the total SPREP region. Through support under the Noumea Convention and French Fonds Pacifique, SPREP continues to provide logistic and technical support to their sister site exchanges in marine spatial planning and marine park management, including translation of materials and resources.



Photo: R. Wright/SPREP

Niue introduces lowest toxicity programme in fight against weeds

The weed eradication programme in Niue, aimed at removing priority species of weeds such as the Singapore daisy and chain of hearts, uses a 'lowest toxicity herbicide' policy and best practice herbicide management equivalent to the New Zealand Standard. This is particularly important on Niue where the water lens is within the raised coral island, meaning that substances can easily leach down through the substrate into the water supply. An analysis of herbicides used was carried out in Niue, which led to the selection of new herbicide products based on their effectiveness on the target weeds and their safety to humans and the environment. These lower-toxicity herbicides were introduced to Niue with training conducted on managing the herbicides and using them both effectively and efficiently. This activity was carried out under the GEFPAS "Prevention, eradication and control of invasive alien species in the Pacific islands project", implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and executed by SPREP and the Government of Niue.



Photo: © Stuart Chape

Palau featured in Building Capacity on Oceans for the Pacific

Palau was the host of the Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP), which held their very first Pacific regional capacity building workshop focusing on ocean observing and data applications. The DBCP is an international programme coordinating the use of autonomous data buoys to observe atmospheric and oceanographic conditions over ocean areas where few other measurements are taken. Over the course of the four-day workshop, a need was identified for better coastal inundation forecasting, support for marine meteorology, training and capacity building and stronger international and local support for ocean observing and marine forecasting. Over 35 participants from across the region attended the workshop in Palau, including participants from American Samoa, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, New Caledonia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.



Photo: © Stuart Chape



Photo: PNGNWS/WMO

Papua New Guinea National Climate Outlook Forum

The Papua New Guinea National Weather Service (PNGNWS) convened two key inaugural forums: a National Climate Outlook Forum to share the three-month climate outlook with stakeholders and a National Climate Services Stakeholder Consultation. The consultation was to discuss mechanisms by which to inform different sectors about climate and weather information, facilitating better decision making. This consultation was particularly important in 2015 given the devastating El Niño drought impacts experienced by Papua New Guinea. It was also the opportunity to pave the way for improved engagement on climate services between PNGNWS and their national stakeholders. The fora were convened through the support of a partnership between SPREP, WMO, the Government of Canada and the PNGNWS.



Photo: R. Wright/SPREP

Samoa drives strong support for International Coastal Clean-up Day

In September, more than 200 people gathered across Samoa to participate in the thirtieth annual International Coastal Clean-up, the world's largest single day volunteer effort to clean up beaches and rivers. Run in partnership with Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), the event resulted in the collection of more than 1,135 kilograms of rubbish, which was sorted and sent to the recyclers and the landfill. As well as cleaning up the coastline and raising awareness on the problem of marine litter, the information gathered from the clean-up has contributed to greater understanding about the volume and variety of marine litter in and around the archipelago.

"Keeping our ocean free from rubbish is one of the easiest ways to make the ocean more resilient. From creating less rubbish to using proper rubbish disposal, everyone can help keep our ocean clean and free of debris."

– Suluimalo Amataga Penaia, CEO of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Samoa



Photo: L. Curry/SPREP

Solomon Islands takes action on marine litter

In June, SPREP worked closely with the Solomon Islands Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM) to install three 20 metre booms across the Mataniko River in Honiara. The booms, donated by the Government of Samoa, will reduce the volume of litter entering the sea from the river and will help to raise awareness of the environmental impact of litter originating from rivers around Honiara. This activity, funded through the Noumea Convention, was part of the Mataniko River Rehabilitation Project through which the MECDM analyses the litter collected by the booms and conducts community outreach to educate communities, schools and businesses about marine litter.



Tokelau a possible site of the Ocean Acidification pilot project

Tokelau was represented at the regional workshop on strengthening Pacific island resilience to ocean acidification, hosted in Auckland in October, providing a strong case for the island atoll to be one of the pilot project sites of the NZ Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification. Still in the stages of being finalised, Tokelau contributed to the discussions on actions and the way forward under the partnership, which is coordinated by SPREP with partners and supported by the Government of New Zealand and the Principality of Monaco.

Tuvalu establishes landmark Invasive Species Committee

A successful workshop about the importance of combatting marine invasive species spearheaded the establishment of Tuvalu's first Invasive Species Committee in 2015. The workshop, held in Funafuti in August, was supported by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Australian Maritime and Safety Authority (AMSA) and funded through the Noumea Convention.

The newly formed Tuvalu Invasive Species Committee is coordinated by the Tuvalu Environment Department and consists of representatives from key government agencies, private sector, local communities and civil society. All have agreed to collaborate to fight invasive species in order to protect their environment, communities and economic aspirations. Tuvalu has experienced significant invasive species outbreaks, including the yellow crazy ant that is now established on Funafuti and surrounding islets, making their way throughout the outer islands.



Photo: A.Carvan/SPREP

Vanuatu strengthened their negotiation skills

A national workshop in Vanuatu helped prepare their national delegation for the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The participants received training to enhance their skills in negotiations and drafting of text as well as technical briefings on issues relevant to the negotiations. The three-day training was coordinated by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) using the skills and expertise of regional agencies SPREP, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the University of the South Pacific (USP).



Wallis and Futuna

A two-day invasive species workshop was held in Wallis and Futuna, conducted in partnership with Conservation International, SPREP and the National Environment Service. Attended by over 20 participants representing the Environment Service, Agriculture and Biosecurity Services and community associations, the workshop helped design a Territorial Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan. Some of the key priorities identified for action included introduced ornamental plants, invasive plants, rats, little fire ants and snails, such as the giant African snail and the rosy-wolf snail. Actions undertaken following this workshop include an ornamental garden survey to identify and locate invasive species as well as the formation of a priority weeds database.



PACIFIC VOYAGE TO COP21

The 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Preparing for the Voyage to Paris

Those who sail may tell you that preparation is crucial to the success of a voyage in reaching its intended destination. In the case of Pacific islands preparing for the 'Paris COP', this voyage was no different.



To ensure effective preparation and participation as a region at the Paris COP, Pacific island ministers and senior officials adopted a joint and collaborative approach to the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP21). The preparation highlights included a high-level support mechanism, the decision to create a joint plan of action known as the 'One CROP Team' and a regional workshop for negotiations training in addition to briefing papers.

Under a High Level Support Mechanism (HLSM) Project funded by the German Government Federal Ministry of Environment and Buildings (BMUB) and its International Climate Initiative, an opportunity was provided for updating Pacific delegations on the threads and key issues of negotiations as part of their preparations. This training provided a common platform for Pacific delegations to develop their joint plan of action for COP21. The training, which was coordinated by Climate Analytics in partnership with SPREP, also included coordination of communication activities.

In support of Pacific island delegations, regional agencies and partners developed a joint plan of action to work as 'One CROP Team'. This decision included the formation of a joint #4Paclands hashtag for the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) partners to use in different social media tools, and quickly gained traction for use by others.

A one-day regional workshop which encompassed a preparatory UNFCCC Subsidiary Body Meeting and negotiations training session was held after the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable in May. This effort was supported by a range of partners, including the Government of Switzerland and the HLSM Project.

Further negotiations training at the national level was coordinated and facilitated by SPREP with funding from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and technical support from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Training sessions were held in Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu and the Federated States of Micronesia, which was also attended by Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. This training provided Pacific delegations with a 'feel' for how negotiations work.

Fifteen briefing papers on the different issues at the UNFCCC COP21 were developed and circulated to Pacific island leaders at the Forum Leaders Meeting in Papua New Guinea. These papers were produced to help the Pacific islands prepare their national stances by providing them with an overview of the current status of the negotiations leading into COP21.

SPREP with support from the Government of France developed Guidelines to help Pacific islands develop their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC's), and 13 of 14 Pacific INDC's were submitted in time for COP21 in Paris.



Ministerial press conference simulation at HLSM preparations for COP21.



Preparing Pacific messages for COP21 with the HLSM



One joint team approach to support the Pacific islands at COP21.



Nations Unies Conférence sur les Changements Climatiques

COP21/CMP11

Paris, France



History made! The Paris Agreement reached!

Commitment from the Parties to the UNFCCC was evident as the negotiations for an agreement continued beyond the set duration of the conference. It was late on a Saturday night that a historic agreement to combat climate change was reached.

The Agreement includes several key elements that are of particular importance to the Pacific region, including recognition for pursuing a temperature goal of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, a strengthened mechanism for loss and damage, and the provision of scaled-up and simplified access to climate finance for small island developing states.

The Paris Agreement includes aspects that are legally binding and includes a five-year review of emissions to determine the ability to meet the long-term global goal, to “prevent dangerous anthropogenic climate change.”

Other key measures include to peak greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible and to achieve a balance between sources and sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century; to review progress every five years; and to commit USD 100 billion per year in climate finance for developing countries by 2020, with a commitment to further finance in the future. Small island states, together with least developed countries, have special status with regard to financing and reporting under the Paris Agreement.

The inclusion of “loss and damage” in the Agreement is a significant step toward recognition of the loss and damage that results from the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, and acknowledgment of the suffering of vulnerable states, including small island countries and territories in the Pacific.



Former Director General of SPREP with the President and delegation of Palau at COP21.

Another key implication from Paris will be an overhaul of historic proportions for energy policies worldwide and a huge investment in renewable energy and cleaning up the pollution now being emitted into Earth’s atmosphere. In the Pacific, this investment will signal an acceleration of the existing efforts of Pacific island countries and territories to shift to renewable energy. Globally, every country will now have to commit to reducing emissions.

Building a resilient Pacific through effective weather, climate, and early warning systems

SPREP, in partnership with the Governments of Samoa and Vanuatu, hosted an official UNFCCC side event on Wednesday, 9 December, at the COP21 venue.

This event was an opportunity to showcase work undertaken in the Pacific islands to strengthen island resilience through actions that use effective research and systematic observations of weather and climate as well as effective early warning systems to prepare communities for climate-related disasters.

The Finnish-Pacific (FINPAC) Project and its outcomes in reducing the vulnerability of the livelihoods of Pacific island villages and communities to the effects of climate change were highlighted

through a special presentation by Dr Matti Nummelin, the Environmental Adviser for the Finland Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Country perspectives were provided by Mr Jesse Benjamin of Vanuatu and Mr 'Ofa Fa'anunu of Tonga to help raise the understanding of the vulnerability of Pacific islanders and show why there is an urgent need for resources and support to help strengthen resilience and adaptation.

The side event also featured the current Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Dr Petteri Taalas, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the



Dr Petteri Taalas at the Pacific side event, COP21.

Pacific (UNESCAP) Dr Shamshad Akhtar and Mr Kosi Latu of SPREP.

For COP21, the UNFCCC received 820 side event applications of which 220 were selected, and of these 78 were commended for ensuring their side event committed to the UNFCCC 'green' principles. This event coordinated by SPREP was included in those 78.

Sharing the Pacific Voice on the Pacific Voyage to COP21



As many avenues as possible were travelled as part of sharing the Pacific island messages at COP21.

A Pacific island booth showcasing materials from SPREP as well as from the Pacific islands was provided. In attempts to raise island visibility and to bring a taste of 'home' to France, the booth distributed flowers to be placed behind the ear as a show of support for the Pacific islands at COP21. The booth was also the place to stop by and share a message using the hashtag #4Paclands.

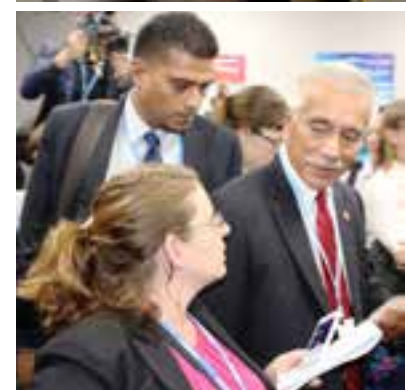
The hashtag was developed for visibility on social media and provided a link to all posts that use the #4Paclands hashtag. This tag

was in use when people posed for photos with their messages that were then shared on the SPREP Facebook page.

Media, both regionally and internationally, were also strongly interested in hearing the voice of the Pacific islands, and to provide support for this representation, two senior regional Pacific island reporters attended the COP21 with SPREP. Ms. Makereta Komai, the Manager of the Pacific Island News Association and PACNEWS Agency, and Mr Samisoni Pareti, the Managing Editor of Islands Business Magazine, provided daily coverage of the events unfolding at COP21 for the Pacific islands audience. Together, they developed over 50 news items, which were distributed to regional and international media for use.

Queries were also fielded from global media organisations interested in featuring Pacific island voices at the COP21, for which many Pacific delegates were willing and available to be interviewed.

In the spirit of partnership, an Island Pavilion was also the hub for island delegates at COP21, and this pavilion was the venue for several Pacific events staged for which SPREP provided support.

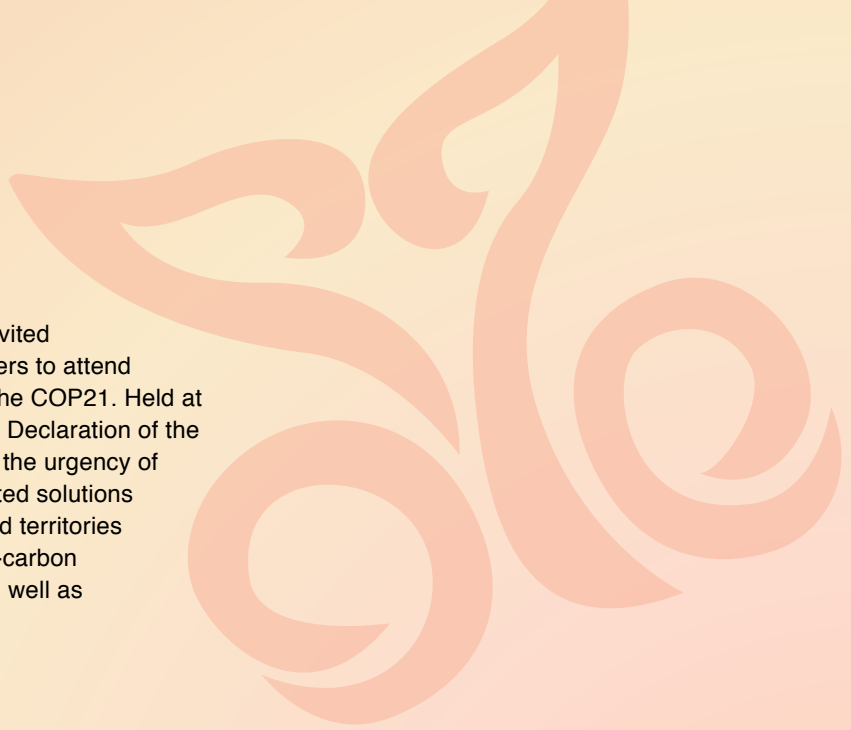


H.E. President Anote Tong of Kiribati answering media queries at COP21.

On the margins of COP21

Fourth France-Oceania Summit

The President of France H.E. François Hollande invited Pacific island leaders and SPREP as well as partners to attend the Fourth France-Oceania Summit on the eve of the COP21. Held at the Presidential Palace, this summit resulted in the Declaration of the Fourth France-Oceania Summit, which recognised the urgency of tackling climate change and of implementing targeted solutions to build the resilience of Pacific island countries and territories as well as the necessity of progressing toward low-carbon economies. The Declaration focused on COP21 as well as on sustainable development.



Special high-level event hosted by New Caledonia

High-level speakers were brought together by the Government of New Caledonia to make presentations on the topic of 'Mobilising knowledge for better governance to face the challenges of climate change in the Pacific' at the special side event. The special panels featured H.E. Philippe Germain, President of New Caledonia; Minister of Foreign Affairs from Papua New Guinea Hon. Rimbink Pato; Hon. Steven Ciobo, Australian Minister for International Development and the Pacific; and Ambassador Philippe Lacoste France's Special Representative for COP21, among others.

'Mobilising knowledge for better governance to face the challenges of climate change in the Pacific' event.



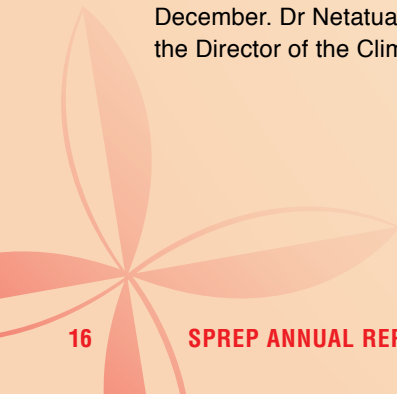
Lima–Paris Action Agenda Focus on Resilience hears Pacific island perspective at COP21

The Lima–Paris Action Agenda (LPPA) is a joint partnership between the Peruvian and French COP Presidencies, the Office of the Secretary General of the UN, and the UNFCCC Secretariat aiming to strengthen climate action throughout 2015 and well beyond. Over the course of COP21, a special LPPA day was commemorated as well as other events, including the LPPA Focus on Resilience event on 2 December. Dr Netatua Pelesikoti, the Director of the Climate

Change Division of SPREP, participated in a special panel on the 'Needs, Actions and Strategies from Vulnerable Regions and Actors'. The Pacific islands were highlighted, sharing examples of how island communities build resilience in the area of water management, food security and integrated coastal zone management. Also featured on the panel was Palau's Ambassador to the European Union, H.E. Ngedikes Olai Uludong.

Pacific Press Conference hears voice of leaders

The strong media interest in Pacific island perspectives from global media organisations led to a Pacific Press Conference facilitated by Mr David Sheppard, the former Director General of SPREP. The panel for the press conference consisted of Pacific island leaders: Prime Minister Hon. Henry Puna of the Cook Islands, Prime Minister Hon. Enele Sopoaga from Tuvalu, and H.E. President Tommy Remengesau Jr from Palau.



'We the Pacific' amplifying the Pacific voice at COP21

The Pacific Island Climate Action Network (PICAN) coordinated a special event at the Island Pavilion during the COP21 in partnership with the Pacific Island Development Forum (PIDF) with support from SPREP. The popular event featured the President of Kiribati, H.E. Anote Tong, Prime Minister of Tuvalu Hon. Enele Sopoaga, the Secretary General of PIDF Francois Martel, the Minister of National Disaster Management of Fiji Hon. Inia Seruiratu, and Ms Talissa Koteka representing the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands. All shared different experiences of climate change, with Minister Seruiratu of Fiji conveying their experience of relocating 40 communities with another 800 identified for relocation due to the impacts of climate change, saying 'Climate change is here now, we are feeling it now.'



SPREP and the Principality of Monaco sign a new partnership

A new partnership was formed between SPREP and the Government of the Principality of Monaco to address ocean acidification. This strengthens the Pacific Ocean Acidification Partnership, which was signed between the Government of New Zealand and SPREP in 2015. The Principality of Monaco is contributing Euro 60,000 over a one-year period with the possibility to extend.

SPREP's Kosi Latu and M Gilles Tonelli, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Government of His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco.

Ocean and Climate at COP21

A large number of events held on the sidelines of the COP21 focussed on oceans and climate, and SPREP was part of several of these events, including the Ocean and Climate Forum coordinated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) held on 3 December. Dr Netatua Pelesikoti, the Climate Change Division Director of

SPREP, presented the small island developing states perspective on the risks and consequences of unbalanced ocean and climate dynamics to human populations. A follow-up to this event was a mini-conference coordinated by the IOC and the Ocean and Climate Platform's Scientific Committee on 10 December, for which Mr Kosi Latu provided the Pacific perspective. Other key activities attended by SPREP included

the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) COP21 event called Islands at the Frontline of Climate Change on 7 December and the special Small Islands and Pacific Day on 2 December at the Tara Oceans and Climate Pavilion in partnership with Tara Expeditions, for which former Director General Mr David Sheppard made a presentation on impacts experienced by the Pacific island region.

Our Partnerships

Moving forward together through genuine and durable partnerships in 2015



Photo: © Stuart Chape



Papua New Guinea makes sizeable donation to SPREP

Papua New Guinea made a generous donation of 1 million kina to SPREP in 2015, the first time a Pacific island country has provided direct financial programmatic support to SPREP. This donation builds upon assistance from PNG in the late 1990s for the SPREP Campus. PNG was one of the seven donor countries providing financial assistance for the campus construction. The donation made in 2015 will help significantly strengthen the support SPREP provides to Pacific island countries and territories on environment and climate change issues.



IRD and SPREP formalise joint partnership

In 2015, the Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SPREP spanning five years in environmental education and for programmes, such as innovations in environmental law and biodiversity protection in Oceania. These innovations include efforts sustaining the rights of environmentally displaced peoples; the Oceania Observatory on the Consequences of Climate Change in collaboration with University of the South Pacific and the Great Observatory on biodiversity and the environment in the South Pacific; early warning systems for natural hazards — earthquake and tsunami detection; Pacific Island Global Ocean Observing System; and conservation of emblematic and migratory marine species.



Samoa makes voluntary grant to SPREP

Samoa, the host country of SPREP, made a voluntary grant to SPREP of over USD 20,000 in 2015. Welcomed by SPREP members, the contribution was commended during the 26th SPREP Meeting. SPREP moved to Samoa, in 1992. The donation made in 2015 will help significantly strengthen the support SPREP provides to Pacific island countries and territories.



United States Peace Corps Response Volunteers support SPREP

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the US Peace Corps, which led to the assignment of two Peace Corps Response Volunteers with SPREP, starting their term at the end of 2015 with a third in early 2016. The Peace Corps Response Volunteers are highly skilled and experienced volunteers with placements of up to one year. This partnership with SPREP is funded by the Government of the United States.



Agreement signed to strengthen turtle conservation in the Pacific islands

The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SPREP at the 26th SPREP Meeting. The MoU will facilitate collaboration on a regional community based turtle conservation project linking a SPREP Project that is currently underway in Fiji, Kiribati and the Solomon Islands, funded by the Government of New Zealand. The CTI-CFF is a multilateral partnership between the countries that define the Coral Triangle: among the six countries of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Timor-Leste, and Solomon Islands; with the main objective of addressing the urgent threats facing the coastal and marine resources of this area, which has the world's richest marine biodiversity.



Photo: Niue Tourism

MoU signing to strengthen Whale Heritage Trail proposed for the Pacific islands

A new partnership was formed between the World Cetacean Alliance (WCA) and SPREP. The WCA is an alliance of 70 partners, including whale watch operators and non-government organisations across 35 different countries. Through this Memorandum of Understanding, SPREP and the WCA will be working together to explore the establishment of a Whale Heritage Trail in the Pacific islands, including several potential Whale Heritage Sites, if they meet the accreditation standards under development by WCA.



Photo: © Stuart Chape

Partnering for improved integration of waste and pollution management in the Pacific Territories

In June 2015, a landmark Letter of Agreement was signed by the Pacific Community (SPC) and SPREP to integrate regional waste management initiatives with work being undertaken in Overseas Countries and Territories of the Pacific. Funded through the European Union's INTEGRÉ project, the partnership expands selected components of SPREP's waste management project portfolio to incorporate New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna, and Pitcairn Island. The collaboration will see the integration of waste management activities across seven different areas, including training for waste management workers, establishing recycling networks, and improving the management of used oil, used lead acid batteries, chemicals, and atoll solid waste. It will also see two key European Union funded projects in the Pacific – INTEGRÉ and PacWaste – working together to expand their effectiveness and reach.

“It is very pleasing to see INTEGRÉ and PacWaste, both funded through the 10th European Development Fund, working together to deliver best practices and, importantly, best value across the region. Collaborations like this one serve to expand the reach of both projects and benefit a considerably larger number of communities across the region.”

– Mr Jesús Laviña, Head of Section for Natural Resources and Infrastructure, European Union Delegation for the Pacific

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management



The Pacific islands region is one of the richest complexes of terrestrial and marine ecosystems on Earth, with habitats ranging from mountain forests to volcanic islands, low-lying coral atolls and the open ocean. Hundreds of plants and animals that inhabit our region are found nowhere else on the planet. Many have adapted to specialised habitats, making them especially vulnerable to the threats and pressures caused by, or derived from, human activities.

Importantly, biodiversity conservation in the Pacific region is a complex ecological issue encompassing social, political and cultural dimensions. Pacific islanders are dependent on natural ecosystems and their resources for livelihoods and national economic development. They are also a critical component of Pacific island cultures, providing the objects of traditional cultural practices, myths and legends.

Blue Days – a first for the Pacific islands region

New milestones were reached with the Blue Days Conference, the very first marine-based ecotourism conference held in June in French Polynesia. This resulted in the Framework for a Multi-year Programme in the Development of Marine Species-based Ecotourism in the Pacific Islands Region.

The vision of the framework endorsed by the 26th SPREP Meeting is 'by 2020, the Pacific is recognised as a leading destination for marine ecotourism

– a conservation tool for the marine environment, local cultures and sustainable socioeconomic development'.

The framework was developed with input from the 60 participants across the region from the different sectors of tourism, community groups, scientific experts and conservation specialists.

A comprehensive assessment of the development of ecotourism in the Pacific islands was provided at

the conference, as well as its positive and negative impacts on dugong, turtles, whales, dolphins and sharks.

Blue Days participants experiencing marine-based ecotourism first-hand, observing spinner dolphins in Pape'ete.



Government of French Polynesia's Minister for Environment, Hon. Heremoana Maamaatuaiahutapu with SPREP's Director of Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management, Stuart Chape, at the press conference to open Blue Days.

The Blue Days conference was the initiative of the Government of French Polynesia in partnership with SPREP and Fonds Pacifique.



"Species and habitats are valuable and vulnerable. There is no 'one size fits all' solution to structuring and developing a blue economy, and there are numerous definitions of what ecotourism is. Definitions of ecotourism vary; they tend to include elements of ecological, cultural, and economic development and guardianship. This conference and subsequent conversations present opportunities to build a framework for ecotourism in the Pacific."

– Dr Michael Lueck, School of Hospitality and Tourism, Auckland University of Technology

Biodiversity project a model of positive results for the Pacific islands



An elder of Vava'u participates in the construction of the participatory 3D model.



The Governor and community of Vava'u with the completed P3DM model. Photo: Paulo Amerika.

The Global Environment Facility Pacific Alliance for Sustainability Integrated Island Biodiversity Project (GEF-PAS IIB) was launched in 2012 and implemented in the Cook Islands, Nauru, Tonga, and Tuvalu. The project has helped to strengthen national and local capacity to sustainably manage island biodiversity and natural resources.

In 2015, key milestone outcomes of the project include:

- A Rapid Biodiversity Assessment Survey of the Cook Islands cloud forest ecosystems on Rarotonga,

which provided the foundation for the development of a management plan for the protection of the cloud forest ecosystems.

- A participatory three-dimensional model (P3DM) was produced for the Vava'u Island Group of the Kingdom of Tonga that involved training on how to create the model as well as its development. This was the very first P3DM completed that involved a wide range of key stakeholders. It will be used as a tool to help with resource management planning in Vava'u.

- Also in Tonga, seven sites were identified and recommended for conservation from the Rapid Biodiversity Assessment Survey for the Vava'u Island group which was conducted in 2014. Work is ongoing to complete the GEF-PAS IIB project, which will be operationally closed by the end of September 2016.

The GEF-PAS IIB project is implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and executed by SPREP in partnership with the Governments of the Cook Islands, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu.



Participants learning about turtle tagging.

Community turtle monitoring in the Solomon Islands

Communities in Marau on the island of Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, are well equipped with the skills to conduct turtle monitoring after SPREP trained 33 participants from the three tribal groups in Marau who own the designated turtle nesting islands of Kosa, Rauhi and Tavarao.

The training has led to 30 turtle monitors implementing community turtle-monitoring activities along their designated beaches.

This monitoring includes carrying out nest relocation for nests that are threatened by predators or rising sea level as well as identifying the different turtle species and tagging turtles with tags attached to their flippers.

This activity is part of a four-year Turtle Monitoring and Ecotourism Development Project funded

by the New Zealand Overseas Development Assistance Programme and managed by the NZ Department of Conservation and SPREP.

The aim of the project is to enhance capacity and commitment in the Pacific region to conserve and sustainably manage endangered marine turtle populations and to achieve increased skills, sustainable economic benefits and improved livelihoods for local communities through turtle-related management and ecotourism activities.

“This is the first time ever for me to see turtles being released freely back into the sea after they were caught in Marau. This is a historical event for us, conserving turtles.”

– Audrey Risimora, Marau Community turtle monitor during the training on how to tag and release turtles



Turtle eggs relocated to a new egg chamber.

Strong commitment indicated for the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation

Eight members of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) signed the new membership agreement in 2015, indicating their commitment to the Principles and Code of Conduct that guides the delivery of conservation efforts in the Pacific islands region.

Conservation International, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), SeaWeb, Society for the

Conservation of Biology in Oceania, SPREP, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) signed the new PIRT agreement, which aligns with the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific islands region 2014–2020.

The Framework was approved at the 25th SPREP meeting by members.



Photo: © Stuart Chape

Pirini community supports natural solutions to rehabilitate their watershed

The Pirini watershed at Sasamuga village in Choiseul Province, Solomon Islands, has provided water for the local community and Sasamuga Hospital for over 30 years; however, this watershed has been continuously degraded as a result of human activities since the 1980s.

In 2015, ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) activities were carried out to help rehabilitate and protect the water catchment, provide greater water storage at the village and hospital, as well as stabilise the shoreline and manage the nearby marine system.

Once strengthened through the Pirini watershed rehabilitation which requires natural re-growth of vegetation, the water source can support up to 22 households of over 140 people for the Pirini community as well as the Sasamunga Hospital, which provides medical services to over 3,000 people in the surrounding communities.

The nursery for watershed vegetation rehabilitation began in

“Often, many water supply projects only focus on the area between the dam and the taps. We want to work on the watershed catchment. The only way the community can be secured is to protect their catchment and provide management and replanting for that area.”

– Myknee Sirikolo, Director of Herbarium, Ministry of Forest and Research

May with mostly native species, and five months later in September, the plants grown were ready to be transferred to the catchment. The successful growth of the nursery means the local Pirini community of Sasamuga village can now undertake the revegetation, including transplanting and propagation of seedlings in the field. This project has used natural solutions to enable the watershed ecosystem to recover and continue to provide its service as a water catchment for the community.

As part of the watershed rehabilitation, water tanks were installed to ensure the Pirini community and Sasamuga Hospital

continued to have access to water. The community supported implementation of these natural solutions by taking proactive steps to limit gardening activities and tree cutting in the catchment.

This activity was part of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Choiseul EbA project implemented by SPREP. It was carried out in partnership with the Lauru Land Conference of Tribal Community, Choiseul Provincial Government, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management, as well as the Ministry of Forests and Research of Solomon Islands.



Sasamuga hospital. Photo F.Patison/SPREP



Pirini water tanks installed at the base of the catchment. Photo F.Patison/SPREP



Pirini nursery in Sasamuga village ready for field transfer. Photo F.Patison/SPREP

School students take action! Planting trees to build their community resilience

In November, over 35 students of Taro Primary School in the Choiseul Province of the Solomon Islands helped plant more than 120 trees on Taro island to help the island adapt to climate change and reduce the risk of natural disasters. Taro island is the provincial centre for Choiseul Province with a population of over 1,000 people.



Students planting trees.
Photo F. Patison/SPREP

The participation of the students in this coastal replanting activity strengthened their awareness and appreciation of using natural solutions to address the impacts of climate change and how these solutions may build the resilience of this provincial centre against disaster risks.

Choiseul Province communities will be encouraged to replicate and up-scale coastal tree planting, similar to the Taro island activity, as a cost-effective intervention to strengthen resilience against disaster risks.

This activity was implemented by SPREP with support from partners to the Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme: The Pacific Community (SPC), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Youth at Work, Choiseul



The three zones where coastal planting was undertaken. Image: SPREP

Provincial Government, Lauru Land Conference of Tribal Community and the Solomon Islands Government Ministries of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, and Forests and Research.

Kiribati programme to eradicate myna birds considered a success

A programme to eradicate two species of myna bird from Kiribati began in November 2014, one year later it is considered likely that the species has been successfully eradicated.

The two species of myna found in Kiribati, the common myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) and the jungle myna (*A. fuscus*), are two of the world's most destructive invasive species as they carry diseases and parasites, compete with native birds for food and nest sites, and damage food crops such as breadfruit and papaya.

The work to eradicate these species in Kiribati involved a pre-eradication survey and development of an operational plan prior to the eradication itself. Of the six different options explored to undertake the eradication activities, shooting and the laying of poison were identified as the most effective measures.

Discussions were also held to confirm methods to prevent future establishment of myna birds in any of the islands of Kiribati for which an Inter-Island Biosecurity Plan and Early Detection and Rapid

Response Plan is being developed.

Monitoring will continue on Kiribati to ensure no further myna birds have been missed.

This successful activity was implemented within the GEF-PAS 'Prevention, eradication and control of invasive alien species in the Pacific islands' project (GEF-PAS IAS) which is being implemented by UNEP, while SPREP and the Environment and Conservation Division of the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development of Kiribati are executing partners in the project.



Left to Right: Security guard Taruru with a myna bird that was shot, Different myna roost sites on a disused port crane, Contract expert shooter dispatching the last of the myna. Photos: David Butler

Decrease of invasive feral pig population after control and management activities in Niue

A successful pilot programme for the management of feral pigs on Niue was implemented in 2015.

Feral and wandering domestic pigs cause significant environmental damage in Niue, in particular to the coconut crab populations and other native flora and fauna. They also cause significant economic damage to plantations and domestic gardens.

To address the problems caused by feral pigs, a six-month pilot programme was implemented using four trial control methods: increasing the effectiveness of local hunters; lured enclosures using large pens with automated trapdoors; snaring using specialised steel cord; and a toxin trial using encapsulated sodium nitrate in bait boxes designed to exclude other animals.

Of the methods trialled, hunting was the most successful following the introduction of modern equipment and specialist pig-

hunting dogs as well as training of the local Niueans in better hunting techniques. Of an estimated feral pig population of 250, close to 100 pigs have already been culled by locals. This particular activity to help address challenges caused by feral pigs has the potential to be replicated in other Pacific island nations.

One of the key factors contributing to its success was the community support, which was increased through the knowledge of what the pigs were doing to the environment, outreach activities by the Ministry of Natural Resources, coaching and public awareness by celebrity hunter and former All Black Glen Osbourne and the increase in fresh pork on the island. The hunting programme will be continued with several young specialist dogs to be brought to Niue, enabling a sustainable pig-hunting dog breeding programme to be maintained on Niue. Lured



Pig hunting trip with the Hon. Billy Graham Talagi (Minister for Environment), Mr. Brendon Pasisi (Director DAFF), Mr. Huggard Togatule (Invasive species Co-ordinator), Glen Osborne and Pete Peeti (New Zealand professional hunters) and local Niuean pig hunters. Photo: Niue Government

enclosures and toxins will also continue to be viable control methods because these are customised to suit the local environment on Niue.

This activity was implemented by UNEP under the GEF-PAS IAS project and executed by SPREP and the Niue Ministry of Natural Resources.

How to eradicate rats on small islands

Participants from Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Tonga and Wallis and Futuna underwent training to build their capacity to complete small, simple invasive species eradications, maximising the use of their limited resources and with very little assistance from outside organisations.

The training was designed for Pacific island countries with many small islands that face the challenges of limited resources and funding constraints. While removing rats from large islands will always require substantial technical and financial support, removing rats from small islands is within the capacity of Pacific countries and territories, providing relatively easy but substantial benefits to complement larger projects.

The hands-on training included the removal of rats on the islands of Malinoa and Motutapu in the Tongatapu island group of Tonga. The training was implemented in August 2015 and follow-up monitoring in April 2016 indicates that rats have been successfully removed.

The workshop also produced two guidance documents for the Pacific region on eradicating rats on small islands and safety using rodenticides.

The rat eradication initiative was a partnership between SPREP, Island Conservation and the Government of Tonga. It is supported by the GEF-PAS IAS project, UNEP, Vava'u Environmental Protection Agency (VEPA) and Fonds Pacifique.



Comprehensive and well planned spreading of bait throughout the whole area aims to supply the toxin to every individual rat. Photo: Island Conservation

“Tonga can do this. With what we have learned and the skills we now have we can protect our smaller but important islands and their biodiversity from the many impacts of rats.”

- Mr. Viliami Hakaumotu, Invasive Species Coordinator of Tonga



Pandanus Forest in O le Pupu Pu'e National Park in Samoa. Photo © Stuart Chape

Restoration of forest sites in Samoa and Tonga a success

Our islands already have many existing invasive species that are decimating our biodiversity, and unfortunately, national biosecurity measures alone will not halt this decline. There is need for a different focus based on protecting high-value biodiversity sites or assets where many invasive species need to be managed on an ongoing basis to ensure that these sites or assets are maintained at a level to support both our biodiversity and the benefits that they provide.

Two countries within the GEF-PAS IAS project have taken on this challenge, with important biodiversity sites in Tonga and Samoa now having operational plans, with three being implemented.

Toloa Rainforest in Tonga, known locally as the 'Golden Forest', at 23 hectares is the last remaining



Top: Mo'unga Talau National Park.
Bottom: Fonualei Island.
Photos: Government of Tonga

native stand of forest on the island of Tongatapu, where the majority of the Tongan population lives. It is a valuable resource for all the schools in Tongatapu who use it as an educational forest experience. The forest is managed by Tupou College school students, known as the Forest Team, every day after school in partnership with the Tongan Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communication (MEIDECC). Their activities focus on controlling invasive weeds and rats and the revegetation of open areas using native plants, some of which have long disappeared from the forest. The three most impressive students received scholarships from SPREP covering their school fees in 2015, presented by Her Majesty Queen Nanasipau'u of Tonga at the national schools prize-giving.

Mt Talau National Park in the Vava'u island group is home to the Tongan Whistler (*Pachycephala jacquinoti*) or Hengahenga. The Vava'u Environmental Protection Association in partnership with the local community and youth have controlled rats over the past year, resulting in a significant increase in the population of Tongan Whistler and other bird species. Pigs are also a problem on Mt Talau and have been managed by restricting pig access to the site where the endemic plant is located by creating a pig-proof fence.

Samoa has also embarked on a large restoration project on Mt Vaea. This mountain has slowly been overtaken by invasive plants such as African Tulip Tree, Panama Rubber Tree and Tamaligi as cyclones and other disturbances have affected the forest. The last survey showed that up to 90% of plants on Mt Vaea were now invasive species. The focus of this project to date has been the systematic control of invasive plants in priority areas and revegetating the area with the planting of 12,000 Samoan native species in 2015. The project is being completed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Samoa and the local community around Mt Vaea, Vailima village.

O le Pupu Pu'e National Park on the south coast of Upolu island in Samoa has a severe invasion of Merremia vine. In 2015, a restoration plan was designed focussing on replanting these invaded areas with Samoan native species and addressing other invasives within the park.

The restoration projects carried out in Samoa and Tonga are supported by the GEF-PAS IAS project implemented by UNEP and executed by SPREP in partnership with the governments of Tonga and Samoa and other partners.



O le Pupu Pu'e National Park in Samoa has a severe invasion of Merremia vine.

Polynesian Capacity Building Restoration Study Tour

Seven participants undertaking national restoration projects in American Samoa, Niue, Samoa and Tonga participated in a study tour of restoration projects in New Zealand.

A total of seven restoration sites were visited consisting of three island and four mainland sites. These provided a range of available management options for biodiversity conservation, including isolated open sanctuary islands, predator-proof fenced peninsulas, virtual 'fenced' reserves and urban parklands. All sites had a major focus on managing invasive species either through the eradication of pests or through ongoing management to reduce the impact the invasive species were having on biodiversity.

The participants successfully completed the one-week study

tour, with many new ideas for restoration activities and projects as well as renewed motivation for invasive species management and site restoration. Experiencing what can be achieved has fostered a 'can do' attitude, which is a requirement for such projects to be initiated and sustained for the long term.

Participants also agreed to maintain regular communication and sharing of ideas and experiences with each other through the Pacific Invasives Learning Network as part of a restoration-focused group, with Tonga visiting the Samoan sites late in 2015.

This study tour was primarily funded under the GEF-PAS IAS project implemented by UNEP and executed by SPREP.



The participants of the study tour with SPREP Invasive Species Adviser, David Moverley (front centre).



Participants carrying out a practical exercise as part of the study tour.

Marine spatial planning a tool for better resource management in Samoa

Helping Samoa to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas through Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) was at the core of a national workshop held by the Convention on Biological Diversity Sustainable Ocean Initiative.

The workshop, attended by ten government agencies, helped to strengthen the national scientific, technical and managerial capacity of relevant policymakers, managers and scientists in Samoa to understand and assess the various types of values associated with the marine and coastal biodiversity of Samoa and integrate this into cross-sectoral planning using MSP.

The participants applied MSP tools and principles to identify the multiple influences on Samoa's key marine assets and values and to make recommendations on the establishment of a national programme to complete this process over the coming years.

The workshop was a partnership between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity – Sustainable Ocean Initiative, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation of Australia (CSIRO), SPREP and the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner.

"Samoa's close connection with the sea reminds us all that we are not simply dependent on the ocean for its resources and services, but that we are, in fact, one with the ocean and our fates intimately intertwined."

– Tauti Fuatino Leota, Assistant Chief Executive Officer of the Division of Environment and Conservation, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Samoa

Climate Change

Pacific island countries and territories are vulnerable, to varying degrees, to the risk from the impacts of climate change, climate variability and other natural disasters. Some of the territories and bigger countries have stronger environmental diversity, social and economic capacity, while others are very fragile and limited.

Although the impacts of climate change are already evident in all continents and oceans around the globe, our region is one of the most vulnerable in the world to the threats of climate change and related disaster risks due to our limited capacities, geological formations and our geographical locations, which make us vulnerable to tropical cyclones, typhoons and earthquakes. For this reason, increased awareness and understanding of climate change impacts on Pacific communities and livelihoods are essential, as are activities that foster island resilience to changing weather extremes and climatic conditions.

SPREP is the lead agency on coordinating climate change responses and mainstreaming in the Pacific region. One of our key strategic goals is to strengthen the capacity of our members to respond to climate change. This strengthening is undertaken through policy improvements, implementation of practical adaptation measures, strengthening applications of weather and climate information and knowledge management, growing ecosystem resilience to the impacts of climate change and implementation of initiatives aimed at low-carbon development and emission reduction.



SPREP accredited to the Green Climate Fund

In March 2015, SPREP was successfully accredited to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as a Regional Implementing Entity. SPREP was one of seven entities to be approved in the first round of GCF accreditation. To achieve this accreditation, SPREP had to meet strict and extensive fiduciary, governance, project management and other compliance standards.

Pacific island member countries can now benefit from the growing multi-billion dollar fund for climate change adaptation and mitigation projects through SPREP, who

is able to work closely with and on behalf of Pacific countries in submitting applications for funding of projects of up to USD 50 million.

SPREP now has a Climate Finance Adviser to assist with facilitating this process and will expand its organisational capacity in order to respond to the growing demands and needs of Pacific countries to access climate finance.

The GCF was established in 2010 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to serve as

“This successful accreditation is a reflection of the strong unity we have across the region.”

– Mr David Sheppard, SPREP Director General 2009 – 2015

the central global investment vehicle for climate finance. It will help developing countries reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. Countries have agreed to jointly mobilise USD 100 billion each year by 2020.

The proposed PCCC design to be built at the SPREP campus in Apia, Samoa.



Pacific Climate Change Centre signed off

The Pacific Climate Change Centre, to be hosted at the SPREP Campus in Apia, Samoa, came one step closer to construction with the signing of minutes for a preparatory survey that will guide the design and construction between SPREP and the governments of Japan and Samoa.

The Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) will significantly enhance and improve delivery of climate change activities and serve as a centre for all SPREP members. It will provide a dedicated training and meeting space to take on new challenges and developments,

particularly in relation to climate change science and meteorology.

The PCCC will be constructed in line with environmentally friendly designs including rainwater harvesting, anaerobic digesters

and water saving bathrooms.

The PCCC is a partnership between the governments of Samoa and Japan, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

“It is a great honour for my government to see the generous commitment of the Government of Japan for the Pacific Climate Change Centre, which will be built here in Samoa at SPREP. The Centre will be a focus for innovation and climate leadership in this region and in the world and has the full support of my Government, as the host of SPREP.”

– Hon. Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa

The best Pacific Climate Change Roundtable, ever

'Lessons learnt from the ten-year implementation of the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC) 2006 – 2015' was the theme of the fifth Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR) held in Apia in May 2015.

The three-day event allowed for a sharing of lessons learnt from the past ten years of the PIFACC, leading to a greater sense of awareness of both regional and national climate change activities as well as an understanding of processes and tools used in successful adaptation and mitigation projects and how these could be replicated in new activities. The PCCR, held every two years is the platform for sharing



Panel during the PCCR.

new initiatives and opportunities, to build capacity and networks and strengthen partnerships.

The PCCR brought together over 180 participants from Pacific island countries and territories, regional and international agencies, non-governmental organisations, private sector, academia and development partners. The regional climate change event was jointly organised by the PCCR Steering Committee, consisting of country representatives, development partners and fellow Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies, and was hosted by SPREP and the Government of Samoa with funding support from the Government of

Switzerland, Australia, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), United Nations Development Program and the European Union.



The donor and partner 'speed dating' event during the PCCR. Photo: E. Cameron/SPREP

As the PIFACC comes to an end in the Pacific region, there are plans for it to be replaced by the Strategy for Resilient Development in the Pacific: an Integrated Approach to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (SRDP). The fifth PCCR in Apia, Samoa, also aimed to bring about a clear understanding of the SRDP and how the PCCR and its Working Groups will transition into a Pacific Resilience Partnership that will oversee the SRDP.

Pacific Leaders at their meeting in Papua New Guinea directed CROP to continue to refine and finalise the draft Strategy for endorsement at the 2016 Pacific Leaders meeting. Pacific leaders also asked that the PIFACC continue through until the end of 2016.

"We want to stand by you, we want to be involved in this debate, we want to support your countries, and we want to be amongst those states that ensure that the worst case scenarios do not happen. We will continue work together with you, and we will continue to help when we can."

– His Excellency David Vogelsanger, Ambassador of Switzerland to Samoa, at the opening of the PCCR 2015

Building resilience to ocean acidification in Pacific island communities and ecosystems

The New Zealand Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification (NZ PPOA) took root and grew in support last year. A signing between the Government of New Zealand and SPREP to undertake an NZD 1.8 million project on ocean acidification took place in July. The four-year project is implemented by SPREP in partnership with the University of the South Pacific (USP) and the Pacific Community (SPC) and saw an inception workshop take place in October last year.

This partnership gained further momentum with the support of the Principality of Monaco, who signed an agreement with SPREP on the margins of the 21st Conference of

the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP21).

The NZ PPOA project aims to build the resilience of Pacific island countries and territories to ocean acidification in three key areas: research and monitoring; practical adaptation actions; and capacity and awareness raising. The project aims to work directly with local and national government to ensure a strong sense of ownership while at the same time empowering communities to take direct, practical action.

Pilot resilience-building projects will take place in Fiji, Kiribati, Tokelau and Vanuatu over the course of the next few years.



Coral reefs and coastal ecosystems are also under threat from ocean acidification and climate change. Coral reef in Vanua Levu, Fiji. Photo: © Stuart Chape

Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu pilot communities strengthened resilience through the Finnish-Pacific Project

2015 was a busy year for the Finnish-Pacific project (FINPAC), with outreach taking place in Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu. FINPAC aims to improve livelihoods of Pacific island communities by delivering effective weather, climate and early warning services. The four year regional project funded by the Government of Finland and coordinated through SPREP with partners started in 2013 with a total budget of EUR 3.7 million.

The two key components to FINPAC are (1) providing the National Meteorological Services with the capacity and tools to deliver and communicate timely weather and climate services in a timely manner to support communities and (2) working with communities to strengthen their ability to use and apply meteorological data and information and to develop appropriate plans to address climate change and disasters.

In Samoa, it was through the FINPAC project that the Samoa Meteorological Service underwent media and communications training to help improve their delivery of



information in order for all audiences to understand. Lefagaoalii Village in Savaii also completed training on how to improve their response to climate and disaster events, with strong emphasis on improving community understanding of weather and climate information as the key early warning early action. This was followed by the development of a Community Climate and Disaster Resilience Plan as well as the establishment of Community Emergency Response Teams, who were trained in cyclone and tsunami preparation and response. The teams were also supplied with emergency kits, including portable radios, vests for visibility and loud hailers. Tsunami evacuation signs and information boards were also supported as part of the pilot project.

A special training in Tonga brought the meteorological service, national media and community members together to help strengthen the communication of climate and weather information in order for community members to understand the information and to act on it.

The village of Epau in Vanuatu now has a draft Community Climate and Disaster Resilience Plan as well as an Action Plan which will guide development in the

Tonga Met Service and partners develop ways to strengthen communication and understanding of Met terminology

community. These plans are the result of a week-long exercise to build community awareness and raise the level of understanding of community members on weather and climate information. This will help to strengthen the community Early Warning System, improve weather and climate information products and build community resilience through inclusiveness and innovative activities. The next stage is a small pilot project to strengthen the readiness to climate and disaster events in Epau.

Genuine and durable partnerships for sustainable development are demonstrated through these activities in Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu. The National Red Cross Societies, Disaster Management Offices, Environment Departments, Meteorological and Geo-Hazards Departments as well as the community stakeholders have all come together with SPREP, the Government of Finland and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to help successfully implement the activities, which will strengthen the resilience of the Pacific island communities.



Pacific Meteorology Council reaches many 'firsts' in 2015



In July 2015, the Third Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-3) held in the Kingdom of Tonga saw history made with many new milestones achieved.

The very first Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM-1) was held after the PMC-3, leading to the endorsement of the Nuku'alofa Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Weather and Climate Services for a Resilient Pacific. This was jointly funded by the Finnish-Pacific Project, a partnership between SPREP and the Government of Finland, and the World Meteorological Organization.

Nauru attended the PMC-3 and the PMMM for the very first

time and was present to see the establishment of three new technical working groups focusing on Marine and Ocean Services, Aviation Weather Services and Education, Training and Research.

Tonga also signed its first memorandum of understanding with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Climate Center in Korea to help link climate science with sectors such as agriculture, health and disaster risk management.

The event drew strong high-level representation from both regional and international organisations. Over 165 participants attended the PMC-3 and PMMM-1, for which the

“Having a robust Weather Service is no longer a luxury for us but an obligation. Quality weather and climate information is now a requirement to help us adapt, reduce risk and build resilience against climate and weather related hazards.”

– His Royal Highness Prince Tupouto'a
'Ulukalala of the Kingdom of Tonga

theme was 'Sustainable Weather and Climate Services for a Resilient Pacific', underpinning the important role of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in the sustainable context of Pacific island countries and territories.

The PMC-3 and PMMM-1 were held 20–24 July 2015 with support from the World Meteorological Organization; the governments of Finland, Australia and Tonga; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the APEC Climate Centre.

Abaiang, Kiribati strengthens access to reliable and portable water

Durable and genuine partnerships were at work under the cabinet-approved whole-of-island approach to help Abaiang in Kiribati address climate change. This initiative saw partners come together to implement different activities in various sectors, and SPREP and partners focused on increasing water security in five communities.

Abaiang atoll, located north of the main island of Tarawa, is home to a population of about 5,502 people (2010 census), and it suffers from coastal erosion, particularly in the village of Tebunginako, among other agricultural challenges.

In 1983, 1984, 1999, 2001 and 2007, Abaiang had droughts that left the communities with limited poor quality potable water. To help Abaiang be better prepared, the Drought Management and Response Plan was developed. This plan was made possible with funding by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented in collaboration with

the Government of Kiribati through the Office of the President, Kiribati Meteorological Service and the Ministry of Public Works and Utilities, SPREP, Abaiang Island Development Committee and Mayor, Village Committee and the GWP Consultants Limited Liability Partnership.

SPREP also installed Tamana water pumps in five villages on Abaiang: a locally designed pump that is simple to operate and reduces contamination by allowing pumping from closed wells. To ensure sustainability of the pumps, training was also provided to households on the operation and maintenance of these pumps.

Other activities under the USAID/SPREP project included support for ecosystem-based adaptation activities in the village of Aonobuaka on Abaiang. Aonobuaka has banned the construction of seawalls in their village but still grapples with the problem of coastal erosion. Natural solutions were developed by the community themselves



Water pumps at work in Abaiang, Kiribati.
Photo: C. Iacovino/SPREP

to help the village protect their land from erosion, including the 'te buibui' technique of building a brush structure from local materials such as branches, palm fronds and coconut fibre string to catch sediment and allow coastal dunes and beaches to rebuild. The community also established controlled access to the beach to allow vegetation recovery and beach vegetation planting. This activity was coordinated with funding from USAID, Kiribati Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development and the University of Tasmania.

Pacific Meteorological Services strengthened through new partnership with Republic of Korea

The online Seasonal Climate Prediction System, known as the 'Climate Toolkit for the Pacific' (CLIK®), available at <http://clikp.sprep.org/>, was successfully installed at SPREP in 2015. CLIK® provides Pacific Meteorological Services with seasonal climate prediction services and products for longer-term decisions and early warning of potential climate hazards.

The CLIK® is an outcome under the Republic of Korea-Pacific Islands Climate Prediction Services Project (ROK-PI CliPS) that is jointly implemented by SPREP and the APEC Climate Center (APCC). The project is supported with funding from the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the ROK-PI Cooperation Fund that is administered by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS). This project was launched in July, 2015, followed by the launch of the new online seasonal climate prediction tool in December. CLIK® provides Pacific Meteorological Services direct access to and the option of



Samoa Meteorological Staff learning to use the Climate Prediction software CLIK Pacific. Photo S.Seuseu/SPREP

combining climate model data from ten different global meteorology centres for any three-month period. The new online service allows Pacific Meteorological Services to select the variables, methods and seasons of interest to develop a multi-model ensemble into a regional forecast for the Pacific islands or into forecast maps for individual countries.

This toolkit is a significant milestone achievement because it will provide forecasts three months in advance to support decision making in multiple sectors and promote climate resilience from climate risks. It can help Pacific islands prepare for what may come, whether that is in the fields of agriculture, water, tourism, forestry, fishing, or community events.

Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience helps mainstream climate change and disaster risk reduction into national policies

Having been launched in 2014, the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience, an Asian Development Bank and SPREP partnership, continued on track in 2015. The Federated States of Micronesia (Kosrae) and Tuvalu were the selected pilot countries presented with three tools—Cost Benefit Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation and Central Agency Appraisal Checklist—to assist them with mainstreaming climate change into national planning processes.

Along with presenting the tools for use, training was also provided for people to apply the tools at both the national and sectoral level, in particular the food security and infrastructure sectors of Kosrae and Tuvalu.

The Cost Benefit Analysis tool will assist Kosrae and Tuvalu to calculate and compare the advantages and disadvantages of carrying out activities at the national level.

The Monitoring and Evaluation guidance materials will assist with budgetary decision making in Tuvalu and FSM so that climate change and disaster risk are taken into account in sector policies and projects.

The Central Agency Appraisal Checklist helps build the capacity of central government agencies to appraise new project proposals, including climate change and disaster risk elements; prepare good quality advice to help improve the design of new project proposals

and better inform investment decision-making; and strengthen linkages between relevant national, sector, program and project-level planning.

All three mainstreaming tools incorporate gender consideration and are progressively updated based upon feedback for improvements by users. They were developed as a collaborative effort between the Asian Development Bank, Landcare Research, the Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), University of the South Pacific (USP), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia and USAID.



Photo: Joe Hitchcock/PACC



Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project closes with overall satisfactory performance

The PACC project that was launched in February 2009 was closed with a satisfactory rating of its overall performance based on an independent evaluation completed in June 2015.

Key results were achieved during the reporting year:

Guides were published and distributed about how climate change adaptation actions were implemented in the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, and Niue. These guides aim to provide people with an understanding of the activities undertaken, challenges faced, and lessons learnt from these projects to help guide future climate change adaptation actions.

Also developed and made available were the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth editions of the PACC Experience Series, which covered topics of 'Gender and climate change adaptation', 'Improving resilience of food systems', 'Building resilient freshwater systems', and 'Reducing vulnerability of island coasts'. An overall lessons-learned report from the PACC regional programme is

also available, titled 'Lessons from the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) Programme: Informing the Design, Delivery and Evaluation of Future Regional Programmes'.

The objective of the PACC was to increase the resiliency and reduce the vulnerability of 14 Pacific island countries and territories by enhancing the capacity of three priority development sectors: water sector, food security and food production sector, and coastal management sector.

Through its four-year duration, PACC made the following impacts:

- Over 50,000 beneficiaries from 80 villages throughout all of its 14 member countries were reached by PACC through its pilot programmes and communications.
- More than 30,000 beneficiaries from 30 villages in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Tonga, Tokelau, and Tuvalu participated in demonstrating adaptation measures at the community level focusing on water resources management.

- Over 6,000 beneficiaries from 27 villages in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, and Palau participated in demonstrating adaptation measures at the community level focusing on food security and food production.
- More than 13,000 beneficiaries from 23 villages in the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia - Kosrae State, Samoa, and Vanuatu participated in demonstrating adaptation measures at the community level focusing on coastal resource management.
- Over 150 government and non-government institutions engaged directly with the PACC project and continue to do so with national implementing partners of the PACC project in government.

The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change project was funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme, and executed by SPREP.

SPREP and WMO renew partnership to help enhance Pacific Meteorological Services

The formalised agreement will support the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership, based at SPREP, to provide regionally coordinated support and services to the Pacific islands National Meteorological Services. The two-year partnership will ensure assistance is provided to support the production and delivery of meteorological services in the Pacific islands.

The range of activities to be undertaken through this renewed agreement are in line with the Environment Canada funded Programme for implementing the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) at Regional and National Scales, implemented by WMO.

The Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership is a collective and



coordinated partnership with WMO, Pacific Island National Meteorological Services and international and regional partners.

The formalised agreement was signed during the Third Pacific Meteorological Council in Tonga in 2015.

“We’ve made great accomplishments through this partnership, and we look forward to what is to come.”

– Dr Elena Manaenkova, Assistant Secretary General, WMO, 2015

Regional Technical Support Mechanism at work in 2015

The Federated States of Micronesia and Tonga received support from the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience’s Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM) in 2015.

Launched in 2014 at the Pacific Island Forum Leaders Meeting, the RTSM links technical experts working in the fields of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management to the Pacific island countries and projects that need them most. Also attached to the RTSM is an associated Rapid

Response Fund which finances the deployment of experts.

The Federated States of Micronesia received support through the RTSM to help finalise their Medium Sized Adaptation Fund Project Proposal. Tonga received support to prepare a feasibility study to inform the development of a Strategic Policy Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) as well as assistance in conducting an environment impact assessment to inform the development of the ICZM.

Toward the end of 2015, work was underway to provide assistance through the RTSM to Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Funded by the Climate Investment Fund through the Asian Development Bank, the RTSM and Rapid Response Fund is a collaborative undertaking of all CROP agencies and their associated development partners and donors.

Very first Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum

A regional statement on El Niño and its potential impacts for the Pacific islands was produced at the first Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICOOF-1) held in October 2015, hosted at the University of the South Pacific (USP) in Suva, Fiji.

The current El Niño as well as forecasted impacts on the water sector across the Pacific island region were the focus of the gathering that brought together over 70 representatives from governments, CROP agencies and international institutions and partners.

This forum was the opportunity to discuss climate prediction for the

three months ahead as well as the application of climate information to the water sector and to explore common approaches and best practices for climate services that can be extended throughout the Pacific island region in dealing with El Niño.

This event, led by the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership and the Pacific Island Climate Services Panel (technical arm of the Pacific Meteorological Council), was particularly significant for the National Meteorological Services across the region because it indicates the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate



Photo: USP

Services as well as the SPREP and Pacific Islands Meteorological Services Strategic Plans.

Partners to this event included SPREP, the Government of Canada, WMO, USP, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, SPC, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Australian Bureau of Meteorology and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Waste Management and Pollution Control

Pollution and the growing volumes of solid and hazardous wastes are major threats to the environments and sustainable development of Pacific islands. Globalisation is accelerating the transition of Pacific communities toward consumer economies, with increasing urbanisation, migration and participation in international trade.

This change is resulting in increased quantities of solid and liquid wastes, and these wastes increase the risk of coastal and marine pollution. The lack of controls on imported chemicals and the lack of national capacity for managing pollutants threaten to undermine the quality and health of vulnerable ecosystems on which Pacific people depend.

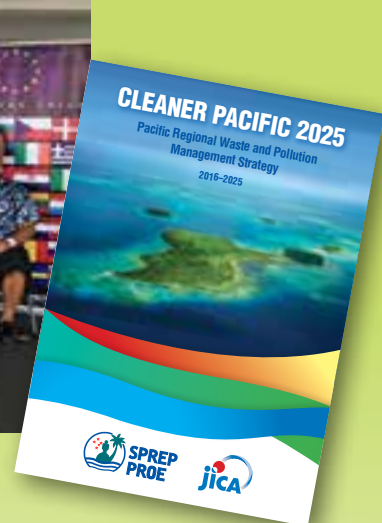
Improved pollution and waste management was thus a priority focus for SPREP in 2015. SPREP continued to assist countries to address pollution and to improve management of hazardous chemicals and waste through the provision of technical advice, programmes and institutional support as well as assistance securing funding to provide these services.

In 2015, PacWaste rolled out specialised training in healthcare waste management at 11 sites across the Pacific. Photo: E.Vanderburg/SPREP





Participants at the regional consultation for the Pacific Regional Integrated Waste Management and Pollution Control Strategy (2016–2025). Photo: A.Carvan/SPREP



Historic first steps toward a Cleaner Pacific

In 2015, historic first steps were taken toward the shared vision of a cleaner Pacific. In July, representatives from 15 Pacific island countries and territories joined key donors, partners and stakeholders to review and finalise the new Pacific Regional Integrated Waste Management and Pollution Control Strategy for 2016–2025.

The new strategy—known as Cleaner Pacific 2025—was developed through a partnership between SPREP and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), in consultation with SPREP member countries and territories and other key donors.

As well as shaping regional priorities in the area of waste management and pollution control, Cleaner Pacific 2025 recognises the critical importance of managing the pollution of waterways and marine environments, the regional management of hazardous waste and chemicals and resource recovery.

The new strategy is based on the four goals of preventing waste and pollution, recovering resources from wastes and pollutants, improving management of recyclable items and improving monitoring of the impact of poor waste and pollution management on local environments.

The regional consultation in July, supported in part through the European Union and the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Release Reduction project, was one of the final stages of the development of the strategy, which was preceded by three consultations specific to the countries and territories of Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia. The final draft document was presented and endorsed at the 26th Annual SPREP Meeting in September 2015.

PacWaste: Making the Pacific safer and cleaner for all

In 2015, the European Union-funded Pacific Hazardous Waste Management Project, known as PacWaste, made strides in the improved management of hazardous waste across the Pacific region.

One of the hazardous waste types that PacWaste is targeting is healthcare waste: the range of waste generated by hospitals and health clinics. Healthcare waste is hazardous because it has the potential to be infectious or harmful to humans and the environment or to create harmful contaminants when poorly treated.

The healthcare waste component of the project, taking place across 14 Pacific island countries as well as Timor-Leste, looks at the safe and sustainable management of infectious waste, such as anatomical wastes, bandages and swabs, chemical waste from medical laboratories, sharps such as syringes and scalpels, and

expired, unused or unwanted pharmaceutical products.

In 2015, PacWaste rolled out specialised training in healthcare waste management at 11 sites across the Pacific. These tailored training programmes are part of a Euro 2 million package of healthcare waste-management assistance proved by the project. Along with the training, PacWaste is providing 26 high-temperature incinerators to 26 hospitals and clinics across 12 countries.

Healthcare waste is one of four focus areas for PacWaste; the others include E-waste, asbestos and atoll solid waste management. At the project's Third Annual Steering Committee Meeting, representatives from 13 Pacific island countries gathered in Tarawa, Kiribati, to review some of the key achievements of the project so far in each of these focus areas.

“In Kiribati, the PacWaste project is supporting healthcare waste management initiatives, undertaking asbestos removal works and supporting an e-waste pilot project to safely extract and export valuable or hazardous materials from old electronic and computer equipment. The Government of Kiribati looks forward to continuing our work with the European Union and SPREP to protect the people and the environment of Kiribati from the impact of hazardous waste.”

— *Mr Moannata lentaake, Permanent Secretary for the Kiribati Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development (MELAD)*

Innovative ways of reducing Persistent Organic Pollutants in the Pacific islands

In 2015, the Pacific POPs Release Reduction Project continued with its programme of activities designed to help Pacific island countries reduce emissions of POPs, particularly those that are created unintentionally as a result of poor solid and hazardous waste management practices.

In August, the project launched a new initiative in Niue to promote composting as an alternative to burning green waste. The demonstration project, run in partnership with the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom), will run over a three-year period engaging families in the villages of Alofi, Avatele, Hakupu, Liku, Tamakautoga and Vaeia and focuses on sharing composting knowledge and encouraging communities to separate waste and convert it into a useful resource.

Also in 2015, the project continued to provide Pacific island waste workers with specialist instruction on solid and hazardous waste management. Since its commencement in 2013, more than

60 individuals from 13 different countries have been trained in best-practice landfill management and hazardous waste-handling techniques through this vital capacity building initiative, hosted by the Fiji National University (FNU) School of Medicine, with delivery assistance provided by Australia's Griffith University and support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The regional training of trainers in solid and hazardous waste management has three different modules, covering waste-management techniques, landfill management and hazardous waste management, taught over a two-week period. The training programme also teaches participants presentation and communication skills so they can effectively pass on useful information and skills to their colleagues.

The Pacific POPs Release Reduction project is co-funded through the Global Environment Facility Pacific



The Niue composting demonstration project is encouraging communities to take up composting as an alternative to the common practice of burning green waste. Photo: T.Hartley/SPREP

Alliance for Sustainability (GEF-PAS) and Agence Française de Développement (AFD). It is executed by SPREP and implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).



Vox POPs, the newsletter of the Pacific POPs Release Reduction Project, keeps stakeholders informed of key project outcomes.

Preparing for the designation of the Pacific region's first Particularly Sensitive Sea Area

The Pacific region possesses some of the most outstanding ecological resources in the world. These resources face many pressures, including from international shipping.

In 2015, SPREP worked with its Pacific island members and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to lay the foundation for the development of the Pacific region's first Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA)—a global mechanism, developed by IMO, to mitigate or eliminate the impacts of international shipping on sensitive marine environments.

For an area to be designated as a PSSA, countries are required to identify the ecological, socio-

economic or scientific values or attributes of the area, explain the area's vulnerability to impacts from international shipping and propose measures to control shipping movements or discharges in these areas.

At a July 2015 workshop held in Nadi, Fiji, representatives from eight Pacific island countries joined staff from SPREP, IMO and the Pacific Community (SPC) to discuss five areas in the Pacific—located in waters off the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati and Papua New Guinea—that have been identified as meeting the necessary criteria to establish a PSSA.

As well as assisting countries to identify potential marine areas that

can be designated as a PSSA, the training explored the development of four-year national action plans to assist in structuring the development of PSSA proposals for submission to IMO in the future.



Delegates from Papua New Guinea with Mr Edward Kleverlann from the IMO at the sub-regional workshop on 'The Identification and Designation of PSSAs in the Pacific Ocean'. Photo: © IMO



Clean School Programme in Vava'u, Tonga. © J-PRISM



Before and after images of the Baruni landfill in Papua New Guinea taken in 2011 and post-rehabilitation in 2015. Photo: © J-PRISM

J-PRISM celebrates five successful years

In 2015, the Japanese Technical Cooperation for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries project, known as J-PRISM, prepared to wrap up after five years in building both human and institutional capacity in solid waste management in the Pacific islands.

Implemented by JICA in partnership with SPREP, the project operated on two levels. At the regional level, J-PRISM activities were designed to strengthen south-south cooperation, and at the national level, 11 separate sub-projects were implemented across 11 Pacific island countries, with each project focusing on nationally identified priorities.

J-PRISM has helped to create recycling-oriented communities, foster cooperation at the grassroots level and participate in south-south cooperation and intraregional

collaboration with stakeholders including SPREP, United Nations organisations and other donors.

At the fifth and final steering committee meeting of the project, held in September 2015, stakeholders spoke of the achievements and lessons learned from J-PRISM. These included the successful rehabilitation of waste sites in Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk and Pohnpei), Fiji (Labasa and Sigatoka), Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby), Solomon Islands (Honiara) and Tonga (Vava'u).

With oversight and guidance from JICA experts, J-PRISM has also overseen the successful introduction of home compost subsidy programmes, market waste composting, green waste chipping, clean schools programmes and the expansion of recyclable collection services across the region.

“We have done and learnt a lot from this project and I am confident that our island environments and people have gained a lot from the progress made by everyone’s hard work, commitment and great effort. Whatever lessons and experiences gained from this project, let’s use it for the betterment of our Pacific islands and people in the future.”

– *Faafetai Sagapolutele, J-PRISM Assistant Chief Adviser*

A further key outcome has been the development of the Pacific Islands Database of Capacity Development Activities (PIDOC), a database of local experts and trainers who can facilitate further work in waste management into the future.

Improving regional understanding of the Waigani Convention

SPREP’s Pacific Regional Centre (PRC) is responsible for the regional coordination of the Basel and Waigani Conventions. The Waigani Convention, which came into force in 2001, bans the importation of hazardous and radioactive wastes. Importantly, it also restricts the production of these waste types and encourages

signatories to dispose of them in an environmentally sound manner.

In July 2015, representatives from 16 Pacific island countries and territories gathered in Suva for specialised training on the Waigani Convention and its ongoing relevance to the Pacific region.

The four-day training was

supported by the Pacific POPs Release Reduction project, which is co-funded through GEF-PAS and AFD. Additional support was provided from SPC’s INTEGRE – Initiative des Territoires pour la gestion régionale de l’environnement project – funded by the European Union, through which representatives from New Caledonia and French Polynesia were also able to participate.

The momentum and renewed enthusiasm for the Waigani Convention was evident at the Eighth Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention in September 2015, with nine of the thirteen member parties present.

“Tonga faces a great challenge with regard to the disposal of hazardous waste. We are look forward to continue working with SPREP to identify areas in which they can assist us in building our capacity to fulfil our obligations under the Waigani Convention to enable us to do this.”

– *Sione Tukia Lepa, Chief Environmentalist at Department of Environment, Tonga*

SPREP partnership with Australia Maritime Safety Authority leads to numerous outcomes

Many positive achievements were made in the area of marine pollution in 2015, thanks to the support of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). The AMSA-funded Marine Pollution Officer, based in the Waste Management and Pollution Control division of SPREP, worked with the team on a wide range of activities between 2013 and 2015.

Key outcomes included the creation of regional guidelines on the proper handling of bulky materials, asbestos and dredged materials, model marine legislation on anti-fouling systems and a risk analysis of regional shipping patterns.

Other key outputs included an

IMO legislation summary booklet to strengthen understanding of IMO Conventions and legislative frameworks and the revision of the Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention (PACPOL) Programme Strategy and Work Plans 2015–2020, which were endorsed at the 26th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme in September 2015.

These activities have contributed enormously to improved planning and operational practices in regional ports and on transiting vessels. They have also helped to guide management intervention and risk-reduction prioritisation across the Pacific region.



Many positive achievements have been made in the area of marine pollution, thanks to the support of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA).

Tuvalu and Samoa develop Ballast Water Management Strategies



Developing strategies to manage ballast water helps to prevent the spread of invasive marine species, such as the crown of thorns starfish. Photo: © I.Chowra

“Before the workshop, I didn’t really understand what ballast water was and how it can be a problem for us here in Tuvalu. Now I know how these invasive species are transported by ballast water, so we need to make sure that ships don’t come and let the water out in our lagoon or we may have invasive species.” – Vasa Tuisiga, Officer, Marine Department, Tuvalu.

Every year, approximately 100,000 vessels sail through the Pacific island region, and many of these pass through the region's ports. When doing so, these vessels take on and discharge ballast water.

Ballast water is seawater used by ships to help them stabilise and balance. Globally, it is estimated that 7,000 species are carried around the world in ballast water every day, with 10 billion tonnes of ballast water transferred each year.

In 2015, SPREP worked closely in partnership with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to address the spread of marine invasive species through ships in the Pacific region. The issue was discussed at special workshops conducted in Tuvalu and Samoa and has led to the development of National Ballast Water Management Strategies for both countries.

With funding support from the Noumea Convention, similar strategies will also be developed in other countries across the region. Using these common procedures across the Pacific will reduce the risk of marine invasive species and help the shipping industry conform to ballast water management requirements.

Encouraging smart choices at home and in the classroom

If we want to see entrenched waste management practices in our communities, an important starting point is to change our mindsets when we deal with any kind of waste – whether it is green waste in our gardens, household waste in our rubbish bins, or even wasted energy from appliances and lights.

In 2015, SPREP's Waste Management and Pollution Control division continued to invest in educating and engaging young Pacific islanders about the importance of sustainable waste management.

One highlight was the launch of a colourful campaign, supported by the European Union as part of the PacWaste project, called Smart Choices for a Cleaner and Safer

Pacific. The campaign promotes simple actions that contribute to reduced waste and increased resilience in the Pacific. In 2015, hundreds of Smart Choices posters and stickers, in both English and French, were distributed to educational institutions across the Pacific.

Also in 2015, representatives from SPREP and Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) presented certificates and prizes to the staff and students of St Mary's College in Vaimoso. The awards were in acknowledgement of the school's enthusiastic participation in September's International Coastal Clean-up, the world's largest single-day volunteer effort to clean up beaches and rivers.

"Our class is working on a range of initiatives, such as composting, to improve our resource management. These posters will be a great reminder to all our students about the importance of making smart choices, rather than falling back into old habits."

– Ms. Annie Meredith, Year 7/8 Teacher at Vaiala Beach School.



Smart Choices campaign banner.

New research sheds light on the illegal dumping of waste from fishing vessels

The dumping of waste from fishing vessels, such as fishing nets, ropes, cables, plastics, and other debris, can have profound adverse impacts on protected species and fish. Dumped waste also poses a threat to navigation—by tangling propellers—and can wash up on beaches and reefs.

In 2015, representatives from SPREP presented the preliminary findings of new research on the number of marine pollution incidents reported by mandatory observers on purse-seine fishing vessels in the Pacific region.

Approximately 90% of tuna harvested in the Pacific islands is caught by purse-seine vessels. In recent years, all purse-seiners have been mandated to carry a Fisheries Observer, who reports not only on the fish catch but also on a range of other metrics, including the disposal

of waste. Any incidents are recorded on a regional fisheries observer report, known as a GEN-6 form.

SPREP's analysis of more than 10,000 GEN-6 forms (from 2003 to 2015) has shown an average of 1.2 marine pollution incidents for all purse-seine trips. These incidents include oil spillages, the dumping or loss of fishing gear, and the disposal of waste into the ocean from the vessels. While the number of pollution incidents recorded on purse-seine vessels is alarmingly high, it is possible that the situation on longline vessels is even worse because only 5% of longline vessels are required to carry observers.

As a result of the new research, conducted by SPREP's Marine Pollution Assistant, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) is considering the establishment of



Abandoned fishing gear, such as this net in Majuro lagoon, can have profound adverse impacts on the marine environment. Photo: T.Hartley/SPREP

an inter-sessional correspondence group to explore ways to mitigate this issue, with a major focus on raising awareness among fishing crews of the hazards to marine life from discarded waste.

The issue also highlights the need for Pacific island countries and territories to improve port facilities to ensure that vessels can safely dispose of their rubbish when they return to harbour.

Environmental Monitoring and Governance

Building the capacity of our Pacific island members in environmental management and governance is crucial to achieving sustainable development.

One of our key strategic goals is to ensure that the region has the capacity to develop and implement transparent and robust environmental governance and management frameworks and processes. This task is achieved through improved legislation, implementation, monitoring and reporting.

These activities also assist our members in mainstreaming environmental issues at the national level and meeting their national environmental and sustainable development targets.



Environmental Impact Assessment Training in Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu well received

Evidence of Helen Keller's famous saying, 'Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much', was clear in the work undertaken by the Environmental Monitoring and Governance Division in 2015.

EMG carried out training to help build and strengthen the capacity of members to implement planning tools such as Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in the countries of Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Over 70 Pacific islanders learnt how to screen development proposals, scope terms of reference for EIA reports, review EIA reports, work with consultants in the EIA process and undergo public consultation and engagement, as well as the different ways of compliance monitoring and enforcement.

These workshops were followed by providing EIA technical assistance through independent advice and input to government agencies at different stages of the EIA process. This included assistance with preparing the terms of reference for developing EIA reports, review of the reports as well as guidance on project approval conditions and the content of environmental

management plans.

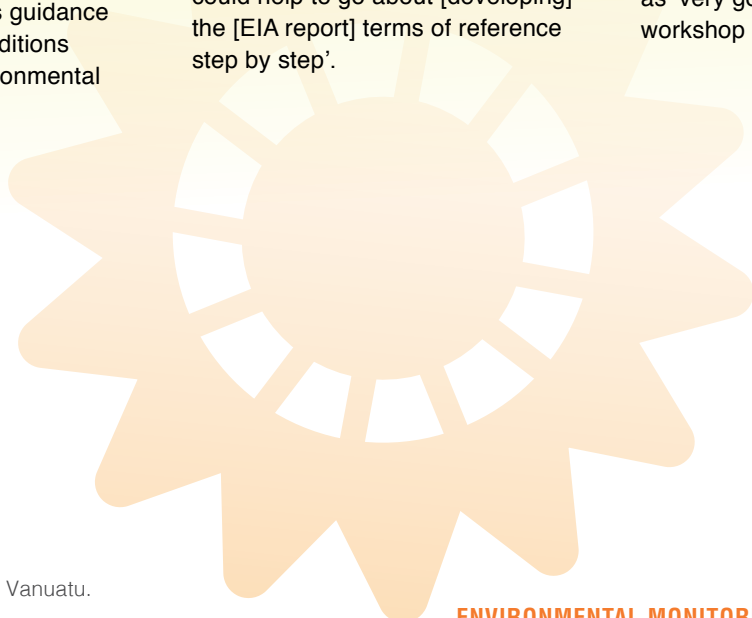
In Samoa, the training was a partnership between the Planning and Urban Management Agency and SPREP, for which excellent feedback was received: 'Overall great content and practical exercises' and 'Job well done and commend the productive workshop'.

The training in Tuvalu was coordinated in partnership between the Tuvalu Department of Environment, SPREP and the SPC-EU Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States Project, which provided funding to support the attendance of Kaupule and non-governmental organisation representatives at the training. Of the 16 evaluation forms received for the training in Tuvalu, 88% rated the workshop as 'excellent', with the remaining 12% rating the training as 'very good'. One participant said, 'I learned a lot about EIA and how the 'checklist' could help to go about [developing] the [EIA report] terms of reference step by step'.



Site inspection of a wharf development during the EIA training workshop in Vanuatu. Photo M.Bradley/SPREP

In Vanuatu, feedback from the participants highlighted the facilitation and the topics: 'All topics were covered so well' and 'Was very well presented. Enjoyed the learning experience!' The training was implemented as a joint effort between SPREP and the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation, and 14 evaluation forms were returned: 64% rated the workshop as 'excellent', 22% rated the workshop as 'very good', and 14% rated the workshop as 'good'.



Regional Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines Endorsed in 2015

After three years of extensive consultation and drafting, the Regional Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines titled '*Strengthening Environmental Impact Assessment: Guidelines for Pacific Island Countries and Territories*' were endorsed by member countries at the 26th SPREP Meeting.

Building upon the first regional EIA guidelines published over 20 years ago in 1993, these guidelines will assist with implementation of national EIA legal requirements, promote best practice in EIA across all economic development sectors in the Pacific and encourage impacts related to climate change and natural disasters to be considered as part of EIA.

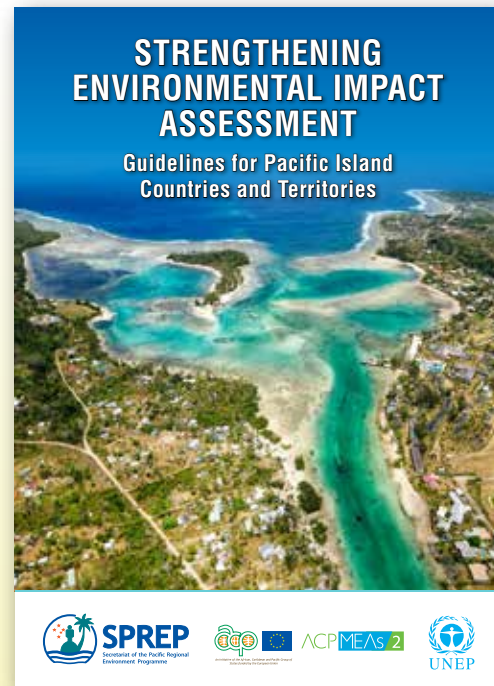
The guidelines also link the EIA process to meeting obligations under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the

Rio Declaration and the Noumea Convention.

An EIA toolkit that includes templates and checklists for EIA screening, scoping and review is included in these guidelines for which the next stage is the development of a regional EIA training manual. The guidelines accompanied by the regional training manual will further support EIA capacity building in the Pacific islands region.

Financial support for the development of the regional EIA guidelines was provided by the European Union through its project titled "Capacity Building related to MEAs in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries", implemented by UNEP, as well as the governments of Australia and New Zealand.

During development of the guidelines, technical input was received from the Asian Development Bank, Melanesian



Spearhead Group, New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment, Pacific Community, SPREP member countries, The World Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme.

Enhancing SPREP for Global Environment Facility accreditation

A new USD 1 million project for SPREP to strengthen the capacity of Pacific island countries to develop environmental projects was approved in 2015.

This Medium Sized Project (MSP) will help to strengthen the overall governance and institutional arrangements of SPREP to comply with GEF accreditation standards. Once SPREP is accredited, Pacific island nations will be able to apply for GEF funds and support through

SPREP as an accredited agency.

This project is funded by the Global Environment Facility, implemented by the United Nations Development Program Multi-Country Office in Samoa and executed by SPREP. The Medium Sized Project is expected to be completed by December 2016.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a partnership of 183 countries who work with partners to address global environment issues,

providing billions of dollars to fund environmental projects. Since 1991, the GEF has provided USD 13.5 billion in grants and leveraged USD 65 billion in co-financing for 3,900 projects in over 165 developing countries.

The six focal areas of the GEF are biodiversity; climate change; chemicals and waste; land degradation; international waters; and sustainable management of forests and REDD+.

PACIOCEA wraps up in 2015

The first Pacific regional scale Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Project came to an end in 2015. The Pacific Ocean Ecosystem Analysis, or PACIOCEA, Project covered an area of 33 million km², aiming to strengthen marine spatial planning capacities at local and regional scales to gain further understanding of our oceans and to improve conservation and sustainable ocean management in the Pacific island countries and territories.

Since the project was launched in 2013, a number of achievements were made, including:

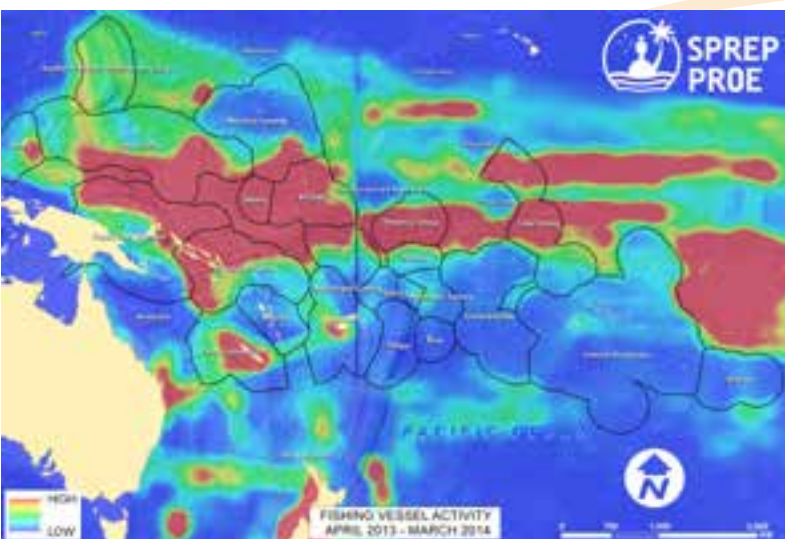
- collection and analysis of human and environmental marine datasets across the region, looking at interactions and providing new information to assist identification of key areas of management and assist national and regional planning processes;
- development of a web-based, open-access regional database repository, developed and housed at SPREP, to serve spatial data across the region and assist marine management. Named SPREP's Environment Spatial Information System (<http://gis.sprep.org>), the online system was developed using free, replicable open-source components to facilitate capacity building in the region;
- development, to assist the completion of a number of workshops, of a range of factsheets providing a regional overview of spatial information to assist in running the 'Territory Game': a participative approach for stakeholders to co-construct a shared vision of the Pacific region and its evolution through potential, spirited scenarios;
- development of SeaSketch, a proprietary web-based tool, to display geographical data and integrate information to design prospective plans; and
- completion of a survey developed to seek Pacific island youth feedback.

Future Pacific MSP activities will be able to utilise the outputs developed during the PACIOCEA to inform relevant national and regional frameworks and strategies in the region.

The PACIOCEA project was implemented jointly by the Agence des aires marines protégées and SPREP in close collaboration with Pacific island governments and the French Research Institute for Development. Other partners included the European Union, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation of Australia (CSIRO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.



Cruise ship Apia harbour, Upolu, Samoa: An analysis of fishing and cruise vessels was undertaken during the PACIOCEA Project. Photo: © Stuart Chape



Fishing vessel activity over a 12 month period across the Pacific. Analysis was conducted during the PACIOCEA project. Image: R.Wright/SPREP

SPREP works to continue capacity building for Pacific islands to implement their multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEA)

A project proposal seeking USD 4.3 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was developed and submitted. The project aims to further capacity development under the European Union project titled “Capacity Building related to MEAs in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries” implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and executed by SPREP, currently in its second phase. The EU ACP MEA Project promotes environmental sustainability by strengthening and enhancing the capacity of Pacific countries to effectively mainstream and implement chemicals, waste and biodiversity MEA.

This project proposal submitted to the GEF will strengthen capacity

of the Pacific islands to plan and report on their progress to the Rio Conventions, namely the Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation.

Activities under this proposed project will work within SPREP island members to establish networks of environmental databases and to establish mechanisms to collect and analyse data for planning.

Partners for this project will be GEF and UNEP, which will assist with a regional database for capturing biodiversity and protected area management in the Pacific region.



Delegate from Tonga at the 12th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

Republic of the Marshall Islands supported to develop key environment documents

A State of the Environment write-shop and National Environment Management consultation was held in the Republic of the Marshall Islands in August, bringing 26 participants together from across a range of government agencies.

The State of Environment (SOE) Report process in the Marshall Islands is being coordinated in parallel to the National Environment Management Strategy and the Environmental Impact Assessment, which helps ensure multi-sectoral input and product delivery.

Periodic SOE reports serve as a “health check-up” for the environment and environmental services upon which the people of the Marshall Islands depend. The results from these reports feed directly into strategic environmental planning, which seeks to protect the healthy parts of the Marshall Islands' environmental systems and improve other parts that are in decline.



State of the Environment and National Environment Management Consultation.

This capacity building and reporting process will update the 1992 Marshall Islands SOE and National Environment Management Strategy, contribute to the achievement of the Marshall Islands National Strategic Plan and also link to other regional and global plans, such as the SIDS Accelerated Modalities Of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, Rio Convention and other MEAs that the country has ratified.

The training is followed up and supported by the compilation and

drafting of the SOE indicators and analysis of data, which is provided by SPREP.

SPREP is working with the Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination of the Republic of the Marshall Islands across multiple sectors on the island nation. This activity is funded by the European Union project titled “Capacity Building related to MEAs in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries” and coordinated by UNEP.

Enhancing Pacific Protected Area information management with the Pacific Islands Protected Areas Portal and Regional Reference Information System

As signatories to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and associated Aichi Targets, Pacific island countries and territories have committed to undertake actions that halt biodiversity loss and ensure sustainable and equitable use of natural resources—under Aichi Target 11, this includes establishing protected terrestrial, coastal and ocean areas. However, despite having high aspirations for protecting valued natural resources, Pacific island countries remain challenged by a number of issues, one of which is the need for useful baseline data and information.

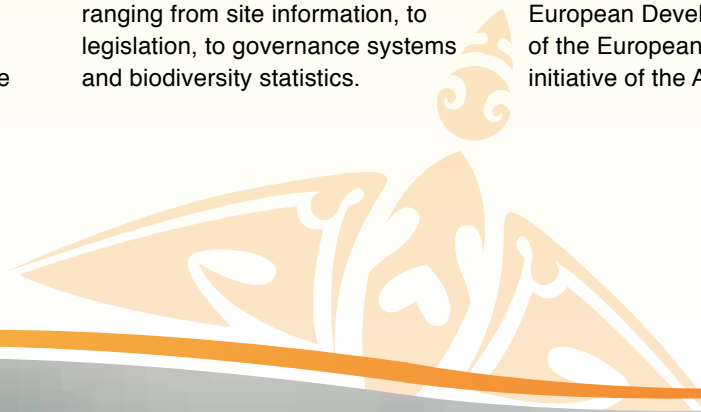
The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Programme (BIOPAMA) aims to improve biodiversity conservation by promoting the use

of the best available science and knowledge and by building capacity to strengthen policy and decision-making on biodiversity conservation and protected areas management, both terrestrial and marine.

Signed in 2014, an IUCN-SPREP Grant Partnership Agreement facilitated the development and hosting of the BIOPAMA Regional Reference Information System (RRIS) within SPREP's Pacific Islands Protected Areas Portal in 2015. The RRIS, a data platform, is a decision-support tool for practitioners, managers and policy makers alike and is a one-stop shop for protected area information ranging from site information, to legislation, to governance systems and biodiversity statistics.

In 2015, BIOPAMA activities in the Pacific focussed on development of the RRIS, with initial country engagement with selected Pacific ACP countries: the Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa and Solomon Islands. The information collected from national protected area focal points will supplement global protected area datasets, which often exclude community-based and traditional and cultural management area initiatives that make up a substantial proportion of the protected and managed area situation in the region.

BIOPAMA is financially supported with resources from the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) of the European Union and is an initiative of the ACP Group.



Corporate Services



#SPREPDAY

The Corporate Services Division is the engine room of SPREP, encompassing the vital functions of human resources, finance and administration, information and communication technology, communication and outreach, and knowledge management.



Information Technology

Talking IT

The **Information and Communication Technology (ICT)** team ensure that reliable, secure and effective systems are available to the organisation in order to effectively deliver services to our members and stakeholders.

Technical assistance was provided to the Solomon Islands Meteorological Service in the area of Information Communication and Technology from the ICT team of SPREP. Helping to migrate servers and resolve ICT issues, this support also led to building the capacity of the Solomon Island Meteorology Staff and was the culmination of a partnership between the Finland Meteorological

Institute and SPREP through the Finnish Pacific Project.

In 2015, SPREP hosted the Pacific Regional Reference Information System using the latest open source Content Management System. This improved the user functionality of the Pacific Islands Protected Areas Portal, including better presentation and delivery of information through the additional website features. This activity was supported by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Italy.

Partnership between Griffith University of Australia and the national climate change portals of Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu saw the IT team work to implement a Federated Search Facility on the Pacific Climate Change Portal

(PCCP). This allows for climate change data and information from around the Pacific to be searchable on either the PCCP or any of the national level portals. A map or geographical representation of climate change projects from around the Pacific, with direct links to the sources of the project information, became available.

SPREP's internal communications systems were upgraded in 2015 with a new full IP PBX telephone system and a new contract with local suppliers in Samoa which included an upgrade of 8 MBps internet bandwidth. As a result of this upgrade, there are better communications and teleconferencing capabilities as well an improvement in the efficiency of IT operations and hosting of regional portals.



Keeping informed

SPREP's **Information Resource Centre and Archives (IRCA)** holds a unique collection of publications, periodicals, scientific and technical reports prepared by SPREP, our members, stakeholders and partners. This vast assembly of environmental information is available to SPREP staff, member countries and territories, and members of the public.

In 2015, three hundred visitors to the Information Resource Centre were recorded, including two school visits from Vaiala Beach Primary School and the very first visit from Loto Taumafai, a school of children with special needs.

Through these visits, SPREP is helping to empower our Pacific island youth and future generations to protect our environment.

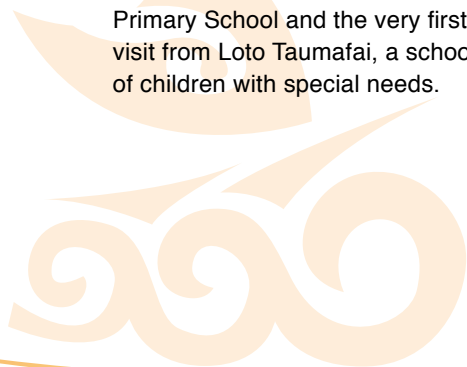
The IRCA team coordinated the Climate Change Cartoon Exhibition, the first ever to be hosted at SPREP over a period of three weeks. Open to the public, this exhibition featured cartoons from Sweden, using the power of humour to make a climate difference. This exhibition was held in partnership with the Government of Sweden.

The SPREP Staff Seminar Series, an internal activity to help all SPREP staff learn about the work areas of fellow colleagues, underwent another successful year. Each month, a staff member is featured in the

“Sweden strives to lead by example in the global battle against climate change.”

– *Ambassador of Sweden to Samoa, H.E. Mr. Pär Ahlberger*

staff seminar series hosted in the IRCA, with fellow staff encouraged to attend. This initiative helps encourage knowledge sharing among staff and strengthens the ‘One Team’ approach used by SPREP in undertaking work across the region.



Governance

Internal Audit functions continue

Governance: SPREP's governance function includes an Internal Audit unit, which assists the Secretariat to strengthen and improve corporate governance processes, risk management, and internal controls.

In 2015, the recommendations made to Senior Management after a review of the Risk Management Plan were audited. The audit was to review the status of implementation of these recommendations.

The Risk Management Plan will be updated with new risks being identified and will take place in parallel with the development of the

new SPREP strategic plan in 2016.

There were two resignations from the Audit Committee in 2015.

There were two meetings held of the Internal Audit Committee, held in April and July of 2015.



School students plant trees on the SPREP Campus.



Collaboration in Communications and Outreach

As well as providing strategic support to projects and programmes within SPREP, the **Communications and Outreach** team plays a key role in raising awareness of SPREP's activities through the media and in supporting the growth of the region's next generation of environmental leaders.

Over 400 school students of Samoa from nine schools visited the SPREP Open Day to help commemorate SPREP Day. The Secretariat opened its doors to schools and the public to participate in a special tour of the compound complete with interactive activities to help learn more about the work done by SPREP. The Leulumoega Fou School of Fine Arts displayed their art work and skills through a live carving that was part of the tour. A special highlight of the event was a surprise visit by players of the Manu Samoa Team, who also took part in the tours with schools as well as planted trees.

The SPREP Youth Ambassador, Ms. Brianna Fruean, helped

raise the Pacific profile in several different platforms over 2015. Her first official activity as the SPREP Youth Ambassador saw her share her experiences with schools and community groups in Ouvéa, New Caledonia, as part of the Regional Resilience to Climate Change and its Consequences Workshop. She also spoke before Pacific leaders at the Oceania 21 event in New Caledonia during a special session on 'Youth as powerful mobilisers and a source of inspiration in negotiations'. An outcome of the Oceania 21 was the Lifou Declaration, for which Ms. Fruean contributed to the youth text.

In 2015, the Broadcasters Climate and Disaster Resilience Plan Project (BCDRP) was completed, resulting in nine Pacific island countries completing media plans and standard operating procedures for use during disasters, as well as the completion of training in climate change and disaster reporting. A key highlight was the roundtable dialogue of media workers and meteorological and disaster

management staff after Tropical Cyclone Pam struck Vanuatu. The roundtable dialogue helped to identify challenges and lessons learnt in relaying information on TC Pam to people in Vanuatu through the media and to find ways for improvement together. The BCDRP is funded through the Pacific Media Assistance Scheme and executed by SPREP in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC).

A Pacific regional media team of 11, providing coverage of the Third Pacific Meteorological Council and the First Pacific Meteorological Ministers Meeting in Tonga, produced a strong output of news which was published in media organisations in Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, PACNEWS, USP Wansolwara and Vanuatu. The SPREP Media Outreach Programme was commended during the PMC-3 by the heads of the Pacific Meteorological Services. This programme was a partnership between the BCDRP and the Finnish-Pacific project (FINPAC).

"We hope you learn how SPREP is naturally part of the community both in Samoa and around the Pacific region."

– Mr David Sheppard, Director General SPREP, 2009–2015



Teachers in Samoa undergoing a focus group activity as part of resource development for schools.



SPREP Youth Ambassador with delegates from New Zealand, Cook Islands and Samoa at the Oceania 21.

One Va'a, One Team

The **Human Resources** team take the lead on ensuring we recruit and retain the highest quality of staff at SPREP. They look after our staff during recruitment and induction and handle all staffing and employment matters. The HR Team are also in charge of HR policies, performance and professional development and act as the official channel for information about staff-related matters at SPREP.

As part of SPREP's continued growth, the organisation saw major change underway with the announcement of Mr Kosi Latu as SPREP's new Director General to start in 2016. Mr. David Sheppard, who led SPREP since 2009, completed his term at the end of 2015 and was acknowledged for his efforts at the 26th SPREP Meeting. Over 100 delegates and

"SPREP has grown, it is stronger, it is connected – it is proud and credible."

– H.E. Jackie Frizelle, New Zealand High Commissioner to Samoa, Chair of the 26th SPREP Meeting

staff gave Mr Sheppard a standing ovation.

Four SPREP staff members participated in the 12-month Pacific Regional Leadership Initiative under the Pacific Leadership Programme for CROP agencies funded by the Government of Australia. Over the duration of this course, they participated in a formal leadership development programme and received strategic coaching from an appointed mentor through weekly sessions.

SPREP is expanding its horizons, with staff now based in Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. A Fiji-based office is now located in Suva, which houses the Manager and supporting team of the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation Project that is implemented by SPREP and coordinates staff based



in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands.

Investing in SPREP's most valuable resource, our people, sees SPREP continue its efforts to strengthen a performance culture through its Performance Development System. In 2015, two staff received the Director General's Excellence Award in recognition of exceptional performance, with eight staff receiving the Director General's Commendation Awards. All staff also participated in Leadership, Management and Team Building training as part of the SPREP Staff Learning and Development Programme.

The SPREP partnership with Yale University continued in 2015 with two students attached to SPREP in the Climate Change and the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Divisions for a ten-week work attachment.

"I really understood the difference between leadership and management and appreciated using real-life case studies to explain leadership and how they can be applied to improve your skills."

– Ms. Easter Galuavo, Biodiversity Adviser, SPREP

Achievement through numbers

Copies of 40 SPREP publications were distributed to 96 depository libraries, institutions and organisations across the globe. This is an increase from the 32 SPREP publications distributed in 2014.

The SPREP Facebook page had an increase of followers from the 30,000 followers recorded in December 2014 to 57,000 followers by December 2015.

There was a significant increase of over 40,000 visits to the SPREP website in 2015 in comparison to 2014, which recorded 95,554 visits. In 2015, the SPREP website received 136,262 visits.

Over 90 news stories were developed over the period of a week during the Third Pacific Meteorological Council Meeting and the First Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology. These stories were distributed throughout the Pacific region and published as well as broadcast in 12 different Pacific media organisations on a daily basis.

	2014	2015
SPREP publications distributed	32	40
facebook followers	30,000	57,000
web visitors	95,554	136,262

A fiscally sound and credible organisation

Finance and Administration: SPREP's finance and administration section looks after a wide variety of essential services ranging from travel, facilities and management, property maintenance and internal auditing to day-to-day financial management of the organisation.

SPREP further improved and strengthened its procurement policy and manual. This policy provides a rigorous procedure in procuring

goods and services on behalf of SPREP. It was enhanced with contribution from all SPREP staff and complies with European Union requirements.

The new online Financial Management Information System, which was installed for use at SPREP in 2014, underwent further upgrades for continuous improvement and increased efficiencies, particularly in meeting the increasing demands of a growing organisation and the volume of financial transactions taking place. This upgrade further strengthens SPREP as a fiscally sound and credible organisation.



Training was provided for all staff to ensure the system is fully understood and used.

SPREP's commitment to green standards was further emphasised in 2015 with the replacement of air conditioners in three modules at SPREP with energy efficient air conditioners.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2015

DONOR FUNDS AND MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS (USD)							
DONOR/PROGRAMME	Balance 1-Jan-15	Actual Funds Received	Total Funds Available	Programme Support	Programme Expenditure	Other Adjustments	Balance 31-Dec-15
Asian Development Bank	(137,576)	1,302,408	1,164,832	(119,020)	(708,185)	–	337,627
Australian Bureau of Meteorology	–	27,100	27,100	(2,064)	(23,410)	–	1,626
Govt. of Aust. Extra Budget	(133,727)	2,343,193	2,209,466	(279,143)	(1,744,316)	–	186,007
Govt. of Aust. Extra Extra Budget	110,681	79,699	190,380	(14,434)	(227,108)	–	(51,162)
British High Commission	5,391	10,864	16,255	(697)	(2,446)	–	13,112
Climate Analytics	–	115,285	115,285	–	(103,759)	–	11,526
Commonwealth Secretariat	11,175	–	11,175	–	–	–	11,175
Conservation International	69,077	–	69,077	–	–	–	69,077
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	379,527	49,145	428,672	(8,860)	(206,357)	–	213,455
European Union	1,751,994	2,692,397	4,444,391	(126,055)	(2,041,763)	–	2,276,573
Food and Agriculture Organization	21,405	79,830	101,235	(190)	(9,926)	–	91,119
Government of Canada	11,497	–	11,497	–	–	–	11,497
Government of Finland	316,465	750,683	1,067,148	(75,349)	(628,028)	–	363,771
Government of France	256,455	53,375	309,830	(19,595)	(109,614)	–	180,620
Government of Germany	112,587	237,925	350,512	(41,550)	(326,702)	–	(17,740)
Government of Japan	6,092	–	6,092	–	–	–	6,092
Government of Switzerland	(1,212)	149,969	148,757	(18,372)	(129,925)	–	460
Government of Wallis and Futuna	–	17,802	17,802	–	(10,910)	–	6,892
Institute of Global Environment Strategies	–	10,830	10,830	(300)	(7,868)	–	2,662
International Maritime Organization	17,197	107,833	125,030	(19,190)	(56,929)	–	48,911
International Union for Conservation of Nature	–	56,375	56,375	(10,573)	(88,224)	–	(42,422)
John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation	6,303	–	6,303	–	–	–	6,303
NZ Aid PIE	4,812	–	4,812	–	–	–	4,812
NZ Aid Extra Budget	(53,773)	925,306	871,533	(89,948)	(759,272)	–	22,312
NZAid Extra Extra Budget	56,857	961,896	1,018,753	(56,175)	(422,367)	–	540,211
PACMAS	–	–	–	(10,440)	5,342	–	(5,098)
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat	–	–	–	(15,171)	(53,136)	–	(68,307)
Packard Foundation	5,460	–	5,460	(498)	(4,126)	–	837
PEW	–	79,343	79,343	(1,083)	(18,152)	–	60,107
Other Funds	674,768	100,922	775,690	(4,590)	(491,634)	–	279,466
Ramsar Secretariat	(159,857)	–	(159,857)	(5,754)	(40,643)	–	(206,253)
The Pacific Community	–	97,887	97,887	(9,535)	(96,638)	–	(8,287)
The Nature Conservancy	41	–	41	–	–	–	41
The Christensen Foundation	8,178	–	8,178	–	–	–	8,178
United Kingdom Meteorological Office	190,764	220,530	411,294	(14,597)	(145,965)	–	250,732
United Nations Development Programme	15,857	992,283	1,008,140	(65,530)	(791,997)	–	150,613
United Nations Environment Programme	904,318	1,663,588	2,567,906	(39,661)	(1,922,385)	–	605,860
United Nations Institute for Training and Research	53,538	–	53,538	(3,852)	(32,032)	–	17,654
UN Economics and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)	8,786	–	8,786	–	(47)	–	8,739
UN Office of Project Services	7,055	–	7,055	–	–	–	7,055
US Department of Energy/Los Alamos University	4,471	–	4,471	–	–	–	4,471
US Fish and Wildlife	14,625	–	14,625	–	–	–	14,625
US Department of State	83,575	1,196	84,771	(6,287)	(81,229)	–	(2,745)
USAID	37,333	638,626	675,959	(57,392)	(664,423)	–	(45,856)
US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	97,109	24,997	122,106	(5,547)	(55,296)	–	61,263
US Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council	1,059	–	1,059	–	–	–	1,059
World Meteorological Organization	(22,895)	209,091	186,196	(8,000)	(138,911)	–	39,285
TOTAL	4,735,412	14,000,378	18,735,790	(1,129,449)	(12,138,382)	–	5,467,956

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS (USD)	
American Samoa	10,184
Australia	185,106
Cook Islands	10,184
Federated States of Micronesia	10,184
Fiji	20,422
France	140,883
French Polynesia	20,360
Guam	20,360
Kiribati	10,165
Marshall Islands	10,184
Nauru	10,184
New Caledonia	16,366
New Zealand	134,202
Niue	–
Northern Mariana Islands	–
Palau	–
Papua New Guinea	20,360
Papua New Guinea – voluntary contribution	353,140
Samoa	20,380
Solomon Islands	20,380
Tokelau	10,184
Tonga	30,553
Tuvalu	10,184
United Kingdom	134,202
United States of America	200,000
Vanuatu	8,980
Wallis and Futuna	–
Samoa Host Country Contribution	20,327
TOTAL	1,427,454

PARTIES TO THE NOUMEA CONVENTION (USD)	
Australia	3,778
Federated States of Micronesia	472
France	3,779
New Zealand	3,778
Papua New Guinea	4,006
Samoa	472
Solomon Islands	487
United States of America	9,993
TOTAL	26,765

PARTIES TO THE WAIGANI CONVENTION (USD)	
Australia	23,583
Federated States of Micronesia	1,075
New Zealand	23,576
Niue	1,074
Papua New Guinea	6,302
Samoa	1,075
Solomon Islands	1,090
Tuvalu	1,068
TOTAL	58,842

Note: The income received shown above can be located in the Donor Funds schedule in the rows titled 'Other Funds'.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME (USD)	
Members contributions	1,427,454
Programme management charges	1,129,449
Programme/donor fund income	12,138,382
Other donor fund income	1,389,464
Amortisation of deferred income	83,256
Other income	185,887
TOTAL INCOME	16,353,892

EXPENDITURE (USD)	
Executive management and corporate support	3,944,401
Climate change	4,461,049
Biodiversity	3,260,947
Waste management	3,537,387
Environment monitoring	892,761
Depreciation and amortisation expense	228,912
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	16,325,457

Betham & co

Chartered accountants and business advisors

**Independent Audit Report
To the Members of
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme ("SPREP") which comprises the statement of income, statement of movement in reserves and statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 December, 2015, the statement of financial position as of that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Managements' responsibility for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and with the requirements of the SPREP Financial Regulations. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion to the Members of SPREP, as a body, in accordance with SPREP Financial Regulation 32. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than SPREP and the SPREP Members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

We confirm that we have no other relationship with SPREP other than the audit of the financial statements.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report 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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the SPREP's Directors and Management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by SPREP, so far as it appears from our examination of those books and the financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards:

- (i) are in agreement with the books of account;
- (ii) to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us:
 - a. give a true and fair view of SPREP's state of affairs as at 31 December, 2015 and of its statements of financial performance, changes in reserves, and its cash flows for the year ended on that date;
 - b. provide the information required by the SPREP Financial Regulations in the manner so required.

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.

Specific Reporting Requirements

In accordance with SPREP's Financial Regulation 32 we report on the specific matters per the financial regulation as follows:

- a) The extent and character of our examination has been explained in the section on *Auditor's Responsibility* above and is based on the International Standards on Auditing. The financial statements for the year end of 31st of December, 2015 have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.
- b) There are no matters affecting the completeness and accuracy of the accounts.
- c) We confirm the accuracy of the equipment records as determined by physical inspection of additions to assets and verification of disposals during the reporting period.
- d) The financial procedures of SPREP are adequate based on our examination of the financial procedures necessary for the purposes of formulating the auditor's opinion expressed above.
- e) Based on our examination of the insurance documentation the insurance cover for SPREP's assets is adequate.
- f) Others matters which do not affect our audit opinion have been brought to the attention of management in our report to management.

Betham & Co
BETHAM & CO.
Chartered Accountants
Apia, Samoa

Dated *30th May, 2016*

Betham & Co House, Vaitele Street, Lalovaea, Samoa.
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www.bethamco.com www.agn.org

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An association of
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financial advisory businesses

INTERNAL AUDIT ATTESTATION



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Environment Programme

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F: +685 20231
W: www.sprep.org

The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.



Internal Audit and Risk Management Attestation Statement Financial year: 2015

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

We, Kosi Latu and Tupuola Oloialii Koki Tuala, are of the opinion that the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme has internal audit and risk management processes in place that are, in all respects, compliant with the policy procedures and other requirements contained in the policy document titled "Internal Audit Policy" with the exception noted below. These processes provide a level of assurance that enables the Senior Management of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme to recognise, understand, manage and effectively control its exposure to risk.

Exception noted: The 2011 Risk Management plan has not been updated to reflect the new risks identified by SPREP. The organisation is currently in the process of preparing a new strategic plan and there afterwards the new Risk Management plan will be aligned accordingly

We, Kosi Latu and Tupuola Oloialii Koki Tuala, are of the opinion that the audit committee for the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme is constituted and operates in accordance with the independence and governance requirements of the Internal Audit Policy and Audit Committee Charter.

The Chair and members of the Audit Committee are:

- Independent Chairman Mr. Tupuola Oloialii Koki Tuala (CPA) – Koki Tuala Chartered Accountant
- Independent Member Mr. Mike Walsh – Deputy High Commissioner NZ
- Independent Member Mr. Jovilisi Suveinakama – General Manager Apia Office of Tokelau
- Non-Independent Member Mr. Clark Peteru – Secretariat Legal Counsel
- Non-Independent Member Mrs. Simeamativa Vaai – Secretariat Human Resource Adviser

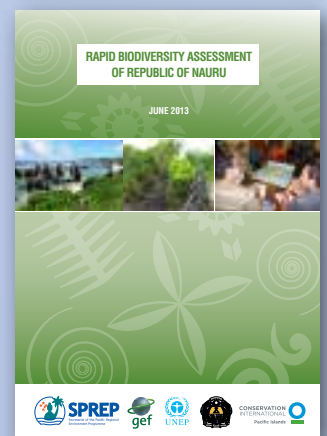
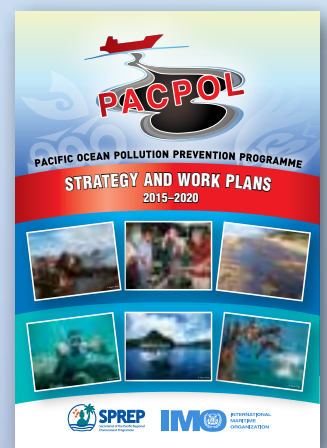
We, Kosi Latu and Tupuola Oloialii Koki Tuala, declare that this internal Audit Attestation is made on behalf of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

Kosi Latu
SPREP Director General

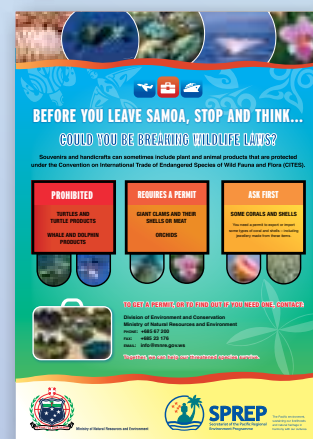
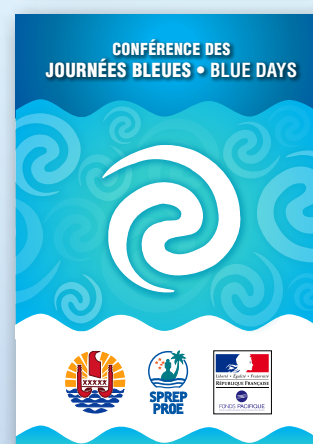
Tupuola Oloialii Koki Tuala
Chair of the Audit Committee

SPREP PUBLICATIONS 2015

TITLE	ISBN / ISSN / LINK	PAGES
Technical Reports		
A Tamaliki Ko Gaasue! Se Tala Ki Mafulifuliga o Tau o Aso	978-982-04-0555-4 (print) 978-982-04-556-1 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/1SK4nrg	20 p.
Ko e Savea ki he Ngaahi Me'amou'ui 'o e Vahefonua Vava'u', Pule'anga 'o Tonga : Lipooti Fakatahataha – Ko e Ola Tefito' Mo e Ngaahi Fokotu'u'	http://bit.ly/1RPPJeh	12 p.
La conservation de la nature et les aires protégées dans la région du Pacifique insulaire 2014–2020	978-982-04052-5-7 http://bit.ly/1H5imqD	36 p.
Marine Pollution Risk Assessment for Fiji	http://bit.ly/1SKp6Lt	90 p.
Pacific Guidelines for INDCs: a guide to the development of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions and their further implementation	978-982-040-5622 (print) 978-982-040-5622 (e-copy)	18 p.
Pacific Islands Shark and Ray: policy brief	http://bit.ly/26bE6f8	4 p.
Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL) Strategy and Work Plans 2015–2020	http://bit.ly/1oSlwqC	64 p.
The Pacific Guide to Project Proposal Preparation for the Kyoto Protocol Adaptation Fund	978-982-04-0545-5 (print) 978-982-04-0546-2 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/1QnBAK0	84 p.
Powering up remote Tuvalu through solar: Sustainable energy for Nukufetau, Nui and Nukulaelae	978-982-04-0547-7 (print) 978-982-04-0548-6 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/1rbC9Qb	16 p.
Rapid Biodiversity Assessment (BIORAP) of Republic of Nauru	978-982-04-0516-5 (print) 978-982-04-0515-8 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/1Q3qMh9	242 p.
Rapid Biodiversity Assessment (BIORAP) Vava'u group, Kingdom of Tonga: synthesis report – key findings and recommendations	http://bit.ly/2bivBuH	12 p.
Rapid Biodiversity Assessment (BIORAP) of Vava'u group – Kingdom of Tonga	978-982-04-0528-8 (print) 978-982-04-0529-5 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/1oRJCBN	310 p.
Rapid Biodiversity Assessment (BIORAP) of Upland Savai'i, Samoa: synthesis report – key findings and recommendations	http://bit.ly/23pE3xs	8 p.
Requin et Raie des Iles Du Pacifique : note d'orientation	http://bit.ly/1NjMS4H	4 p.
Waste Assessment Guide to the Export and Import of Used Lubricants and Used Oil	978-982-04-0553-0 (print) 978-982-04-0554-7 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/1YqJYeP	24 p.
Series		
Climate Change Matters (Issues 31–41)	ISSN: 2227-6947 http://bit.ly/1HPsTqM	11 p.
Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation Newsletter	http://bit.ly/23UOu97	4 p.
SPREP Annual Report 2014	ISSN:1562-675X http://bit.ly/1jSEXhb	74 p.
Rapport annuel du PROE 2014	ISSN: 1990-3561 http://bit.ly/1S6kkum	74 p.
SPREP Tok (Issues 11–20)	2311-861X http://bit.ly/1cMbbGT	4 p.
VoxPOPs (Issue 1)	http://bit.ly/1ViYBmp	4 p.
PACC Technical Report 13: Demonstration Guide Climate Proofing' coastal development on Mangaia Island, Cook Islands	ISSN: 2312-8224 http://bit.ly/1VOXMRC	40 p.



TITLE	ISBN / ISSN / LINK	PAGES
Series cont.		
PACC Technical Report 14: Demonstration Guide – Improving Domestic Rainwater Harvesting Systems in Niue	ISSN: 2312-8224 http://bit.ly/1UX8w0Z	52 p.
PACC Technical Report 15: Demonstration Guide – Improving Rainwater Harvesting Infrastructure in Tokelau	ISSN: 2312-8224 http://bit.ly/1S6f4qF	40 p.
PACC Technical Report 16: Demonstration Guide – Improving Resilience of the Water Supply for Hihifo District, Tonga	ISSN: 2312-8224 http://bit.ly/1ScmA6w	40 p.
PACC Technical Report 17: Demonstration Guide: Building Resilience to Climate Change in Lowland Farming Communities in Fiji	ISSN: 2312-8224 http://bit.ly/1WovXE1	40 p.
PACC Technical Report 18: Demonstration Guide – Integrating Climate Risk into Coastal Road Design in Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia	ISSN: 2312-8224 http://bit.ly/1RQc0jn	32 p.
PACC Technical Report 19: Demonstration Guide: Pilot Climate Change Adaptation in Food Production and Food Security on Low-lying Atolls of Solomon Islands	ISSN: 2312-8224 http://bit.ly/1N1EIZG	44 p.
Meeting Reports		
Report of the Twenty Sixth (26th) SPREP Meeting, 21–24 September, Apia, Samoa	978-982-04-0560-8 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/25W1sFq	70 p.
Rapport de la Vingt-sixieme Conférence des représentants officiels duPROE, 21st Septembre – 24th Octobre 2015, Apia, Samoa. PROE, 2015.	978-982-04-0560-8 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/23qkEfU	70 p.
Promotional Materials		
Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (<i>Folder</i>)	http://bit.ly/1BQGb0g	
BlueDays Conference (<i>Folder</i>)	http://bit.ly/1VysFv8	
Journees Bleues Conference (<i>Folder</i>)	http://bit.ly/1VysRdE	
Republic of Korea: Pacific Islands Climate Prediction Services Project (<i>Banner</i>)	http://bit.ly/1QiuuDU	
SPREP Christmas E-card (<i>E-card</i>)	http://bit.ly/1MEw4oR	
Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation : PIRT Secretariat (<i>Business Card</i>)	http://bit.ly/1YE1UTq	
CITES (<i>Brochure</i>)	http://bit.ly/1SWarNI	
CITES (<i>Banner</i>)	http://bit.ly/1SPi5ZA	
CITES (<i>Poster</i>)	http://bit.ly/1NjXssm	
Pacific Regional Integrated Waste Management and Pollution Control Strategy 2016-2025 (<i>Banner</i>)		
Fact Sheets		
Learn more about Invasive Species (<i>Fact sheet 01</i>)	http://bit.ly/1S6JsCv	
How do Invasive Species arrive and spread (<i>Fact sheet 02</i>)	http://bit.ly/1Qi0VJQ	
Learning about the Little Fire Ant (<i>Fact sheet 03</i>)	http://bit.ly/1NjLWxb	
10 Things that you can do to help reduce the spread of Invasive Species! (<i>Fact sheet 04</i>)	http://bit.ly/1NQDEsX	
Videos		
PacWaste 2015: Our Year in Review	http://bit.ly/1SU4WyD	
PacWaste in action – Emergency Asbestos Clean Up in Fiji	http://bit.ly/1Lnqu4U	
Powering up remote Tuvalu through solar	http://bit.ly/200JmBl	
Stop little fire ants (30 sec)	http://bit.ly/1qRLc8j	
Stop little fire ants (80 sec)	http://bit.ly/1Td01d4	
Stop little fire ants (60 sec)	http://bit.ly/1SU5N2y	



STAFF LIST (AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2015)

STAFF MEMBER	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE	
SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM				
1	David Sheppard	Director General	Australia	31-Dec-15
2	Kosi Latu	Deputy Director General	Samoa	31-Dec-16
3	Stuart Chape	Director Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management	Australia	04-Sep-17
4	Netatua Pelesikoti	Director Climate Change	Tonga	31-Jul-16
5	Clark Peteru	Legal Adviser	Samoa	31-Jul-16
6	Alofa Tuuau	Finance and Administration Adviser	Samoa	23-Jul-17
7	Simeamativa Vaai	Human Resources Adviser	Samoa	31-Jul-16
8	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Director Environmental Monitoring and Governance</i>		
9	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Director Waste Management and Pollution Control</i>		
EXECUTIVE SUPPORT				
10	Rosanna Galuvao-Ah Ching	Executive Assistant to the Director General	Samoa	30-May-16
11	Apiseta Eti	Executive Assistant to the Deputy Director General	Samoa	31-Dec-15
12	Audrey Brown-Pereira	Executive Officer	Cook Islands	31-Dec-16
REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS				
13	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>SPREP Technical Expert (Water Sector)</i>		
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA				
14	Simpson Abraham	Solid Waste Management Expert, North Pacific	FSM	31-Dec-16
INTERNAL AUDIT				
15	Selesitina Reti	Internal Auditor	Samoa	25-Jun-18
BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT				
16	Makerita Atiga	Secretary to Division Director/ Division Assistant	Samoa	02-Aug-17
17	Warren Lee Long	Coastal and Marine Adviser	Australia	28-Jun-17
18	Michael Donoghue	Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser	NZ	19-Oct-16
19	Catherine Siota	Turtle Database Officer	Solomon Islands	12-May-16
20	Juney Ward	Shark and Ray Conservation Officer	Samoa	31-Dec-16
21	David Moverley	Invasive Species Adviser	NZ	13-Oct-18
22	Easter Galuvao	Biodiversity Adviser	Samoa	11-Apr-16
23	Amanda Wheatley	Ecosystem and Biodiversity Officer	Australia	13-Jun-17
24	John Sidle	Pacific Islands Protected Areas Portal Adviser (Peace Corp Response Volunteer)	USA	31-Dec-16
25	Herman Timmermans	PEBACC - Project Manager	South Africa	19-May-18
26	David Loubser	PEBACC - Vanuatu Country Manager	NZ	04-Jul-18
27	Fred Patison	PEBACC - Solomon Islands Country Manager	Solomon Islands	30-Sep-18
28	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Coral Reef Management Officer</i>		
29	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Invasive Species Officer</i>		
30	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Ecosystem-based Adaptation Officer</i>		
31	<i>Under Recruitment</i>	<i>PEBACC Communications Officer</i>		
32	<i>Under Recruitment</i>	<i>PEBACC Vanuatu Project Officer</i>		
33	<i>Under Recruitment</i>	<i>PEBACC Fiji Project Officer</i>		
34	<i>Under Recruitment</i>	<i>PEBACC Finance and Administration Officer</i>		

STAFF MEMBER	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE	
CLIMATE CHANGE				
35	Joyce Tulua	Secretary to Division Director/ Division Assistant	Samoa	29-Jul-16
36	Diane McFadzien	Climate Change Adaptation Adviser	Cook Islands	12-Nov-16
37	Naheed Hussein	PACC Finance and Operations Officer	Fiji	30-Jun-16
38	Espen Ronneberg	Climate Change Adviser	Marshall Islands	30-Jun-16
39	Christina Leala-Gale	Finland Project - Project Manager	Samoa	01-Sep-16
40	Salesa Nihmei	Meteorology and Climate Officer	Vanuatu	18-Jan-19
41	Tommy Moore	Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System Officer	USA	11-Jul-17
42	Sunny Seuseu	Climate Prediction Services Coordinator	Samoa	29-Mar-18
43	Tagaloa Cooper	Climate Change Coordination Adviser	Niue	31-Mar-16
44	Azarel Mariner	Climate Change Technical Officer	Samoa	01-Dec-16
45	Makelesi Gonelevu	Knowledge Management Officer	Fiji	30-Jun-16
46	Priscilla Olano	Pacific Climate Change Portal Technical Assistant	Samoa	12-Feb-17
47	Aoyama Michinobu	Pacific Climate Change Adviser (On Secondment from JICA)	Japan	24-Apr-17
48	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Pacific Islands Global Climate Observing System Officer</i>		
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND GOVERNANCE				
49	Pauline Fruean	Secretary to Division Director/ Division Assistant	Samoa	24-May-18
50	Joep Davetanivalu	Planning and Capacity Development Adviser	Fiji	30-Sep-16
51	Melanie Bradley	Environmental Planning Officer	Australia	08-Feb-17
52	Meapelo Maiiai	Global Environment Facility Support Adviser	Samoa	4-Nov-16
53	Paul Anderson	Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Officer	USA	17-Mar-17
54	Ryan Wright	Spatial Planning Officer	Australia	28-Feb-17
55	Anama Solofa	BIOPAMA Project Officer	Samoa	11-Aug-16
56	Robert Leichtner	Contracts Adviser (Peace Corp Response Volunteer)	USA	31-Dec-16
57	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Sustainable Development Adviser</i>		
58	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Adviser</i>		
WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL				
59	Faailo Maiuu	Secretary to Division Director/ Division Assistant	Samoa	20-Sep-18
60	Anthony Talouli	Pollution Adviser	Fiji	20-Apr-16
61	Ma Bella Guinto	Solid Waste Management Adviser	NZ	16-Sep-17
62	Frank Griffin	Hazardous Waste Management Adviser	PNG	20-Sep-16
63	Lusiana Ralogaivau	Global Environment Facility - Project Coordinator	Fiji	19-Jul-16
64	Stewart Williams	PacWaste Project Manager	Australia	11-Nov-16
65	Elizabeth Vanderburg	PacWaste Project Officer	NZ	06-Feb-17
66	Tim Hartley	PacWaste Solid Waste Project Officer	Australia	25-Jun-16
67	Amber Carvan	PacWaste Communications Officer	Australia	14-Aug-16
CORPORATE SERVICES				
<i>Information Resources and Archives</i>				
68	Miraneta Williams-Hazelman	Information Resources Centre and Archives Manager	Samoa	9-Aug-18
69	Angelica Salele	Information Management Officer	Samoa	18-May-17
70	Lupe Silulu	Registry and Archives Officer	Samoa	31-Dec-18
71	Emma Arasi	Assistant Registry and Archives Officer	Samoa	11-Jan-18
<i>Communications and Outreach</i>				
72	Nanette Woonton	Media and Public Relations Officer	Cook Islands	15-Sep-16
73	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Communications and Outreach Adviser</i>		
74	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Publications Officer</i>		
75	<i>Under Recruitment</i>	<i>Communications Support Officer</i>		
76	<i>Under Recruitment</i>	<i>Outreach Support Officer</i>		

STAFF MEMBER	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE
CORPORATE SERVICES cont.			
<i>Climate Finance</i>			
77 Simon Wilson	Climate Finance Adviser	Australia	01-Nov-18
<i>Monitoring and Evaluation</i>			
78 Vacant	Monitoring and Evaluation Adviser		
<i>Information Technology</i>			
79 Christian Slaven	IT Manager	Samoa	02-May-18
80 Epli Tagi	IT Network and Systems Support Engineer	Fiji	06-Jan-17
81 Billy Chan Ting	Web Applications Developer Specialist	Samoa	13-Feb-17
82 Ainsof So'o	Systems Developer and Analyst	Samoa	05-May-16
<i>Finance and Administration</i>			
83 Makereta Kaurasi-Manueli	Financial Accountant	Fiji	31-Mar-16
84 Maraea Slade-Pogi	Administration and Accounting Officer	Samoa	06-Jan-17
85 Leilani Chan Tung	Finance Officer	Samoa	24-Jun-16
86 Rachel Levi	Finance Officer	Samoa	24-Jun-16
87 Sabrina Reupena	Finance Officer	Samoa	16-Mar-17
88 Penina Matatumua	Finance Officer	Samoa	16-Mar-17
89 Reuben Tamanikaiyaroi	Finance Officer	Samoa	16-Mar-17
90 Lawrence Warner	Property Services Officer	Samoa	4-Dec-18
91 Faamanatu Sititi	Driver/ Clerk	Samoa	05-Dec-17
92 Tologauvale Leaula	Cleaner/Teaperson	Samoa	31-Dec-18
93 Amosa To'oto'o	Cleaner/Teaperson	Samoa	31-Dec-16
94 Tagiilima Enele	Groundsman	Samoa	12-May-17
95 Tino Faumuina	Groundsman	Samoa	19-Jan-18
96 Vacant	Conference and Travel Officer		
97 Vacant	Project Accountant		
98 Vacant	Finance Assistant		
<i>Human Resources</i>			
99 Luana Chan-Jamieson	Human Resources Officer	Samoa	05-Jan-17
100 Christine Purcell	Assistant Human Resources Officer	Samoa	04-Mar-18
101 Jolynn Managreve-Fepuleai	Assistant Human Resources Officer	Fiji	08-Jul-18
102 Monica Tupai	Corporate Services Assistant	Samoa	21-May-16
<i>Young Professionals/Attachments</i>			
103 Kilom Ishiguro	Spatial and Data Technician	Marshall Islands	28-Feb-16
104 Payal Maharaj	Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation Coordinator	Fiji	05-Aug-16
105 Ana Markic	PhD Work Placement with Waste Management and Pollution Control Division	Croatia	Jan-17
<i>Temporary Appointments</i>			
106 Leilani Curry	Project Assistant – National Broadcasters Climate and Disaster Resilience Plans	Samoa	31-Mar-16
107 Sela Simamao	Assistant Procurement Officer	Tonga	31-Mar-16
<i>Short Term Work Attachment</i>			
108 RubyLou Tuiloma	Climate Change Assistant	Samoa	Feb-16
<i>Consultants</i>			
109 Anna Bertram	GEPAS-IAS Technical Assistant	Germany	30-Apr-16
110 Vainuupo Jungblut	GEFPAS IIB Project Technical Expert	Samoa	31-May-16
111 Peniamina Leavai	Project Preparation Specialist	Samoa	26-Sep-16
112 Ewan Cameron	Climate Change Consultant – Nansen Initiative	Cook Islands	31-Dec-15
113 Andrea Volentras	Programme Manager – PPCR	Samoa	Aug-16
114 Aaron Buncl	Mainstreaming Specialist – PPCR	Australia	Aug-16
115 Veronica Levi	Procurement and Financial Management Specialist – PPCR	Samoa	Aug-16
116 Satui Bentin	Regional Technical Support Mechanism Coordinator – PPCR	Samoa	Aug-16



ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAMP	Agence des Aires Marines Protégées	MNRE	Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
ACP countries	African, Caribbean and Pacific countries	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
AFD	Agence Française de Développement	MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority	MSP	Medium Sized Project
APCC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Climate Centre	NEMS	National Environment Management Strategies
BCDRP	National Broadcast and Climate Disaster Resilience Plans	NISSAP	National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan
BIOPAMA	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Programme	NZ PPOA	The New Zealand Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification
BMUB	German Government Federal Ministry of Environment and Buildings	P3DM	Participatory Three-Dimensional Model
CFF	Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security	PACIOCEA	Pacific Ocean Ecosystem Analysis
COP	Conference of the Parties	PACPOL	Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention
COP21	21st session of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties	PCCC	Pacific Climate Change Centre
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific	PCCP	Pacific Climate Change Portal
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation of Australia	PCCR	Pacific Climate Change Roundtable
CTI	Coral Triangle Initiative	PICAN	Pacific Island Climate Action Network
DBCP	Data Buoy Cooperation Panel	PICOF-1	Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation	PIDF	Pacific Island Development Forum
EDF	European Development Fund	PIDOC	Pacific Islands Database of Capacity Development Activities
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	PIFACC	Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
FINPAC	Finnish-Pacific project	PIGGAREP	Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project
FNU	Fiji National University	PINA	Pacific Island News Association
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia	PIRT	Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation
GCF	Green Climate Fund	PMC-3	Third Pacific Meteorological Council
GEF	Global Environment Facility	PMMM-1	First Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology
GEF-PAS	Global Environment Facility – Pacific Alliance for Sustainability	PNGNWS	Papua New Guinea National Weather Service
GEF-PAS IAS	Global Environment Facility Pacific Alliance for Sustainability Project titled 'Prevention, eradication and control of invasive alien species in the Pacific islands'	POETCom	Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community
GEF-PAS IIB	Global Environment Facility Pacific Alliance for Sustainability – Integrated Island Biodiversity Project	POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
GFCS	Global Framework for Climate Services	PRC	Pacific Regional Centre
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	PSSA	Particularly Sensitive Sea Area
HLSM Project	High Level Support Mechanism Project	ROK-PI CliPS	Republic of Korea-Pacific Islands Climate Prediction Services Project
ICT	Information and Communication Technology	RRIS	Regional Reference Information System
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management	RTSM	Regional Technical Support Mechanism
IMO	International Maritime Organization	SAMOA Pathway	SIDS Accelerated Modalities Of Action Pathway
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions	SOE	State of Environment
INTEGRE	Initiative des Territoires pour la Gestion Régionale de l'Environnement	SPC	The Pacific Community
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission	SRDP	Strategy for Resilient Development in the Pacific: an Integrated Approach to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
IRD	Institute de Recherche pour le Développement Institute of Research for Development	TNC	The Nature Conservancy
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
J-PRISM	Japanese Technical Cooperation for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries project	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
LPPA	Lima-Paris Action Agenda	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
MECDM	Solomon Islands Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology	UNFCCC COP21	21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
MEIDECC	Tongan Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communication	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
		USP	University of the South Pacific
		VEPA	Vava'u Environmental Protection Agency
		WCA	World Cetacean Alliance
		WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
		WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
		WMO	World Meteorological Organization
		WWF	World Wildlife Fund for Nature



Our region

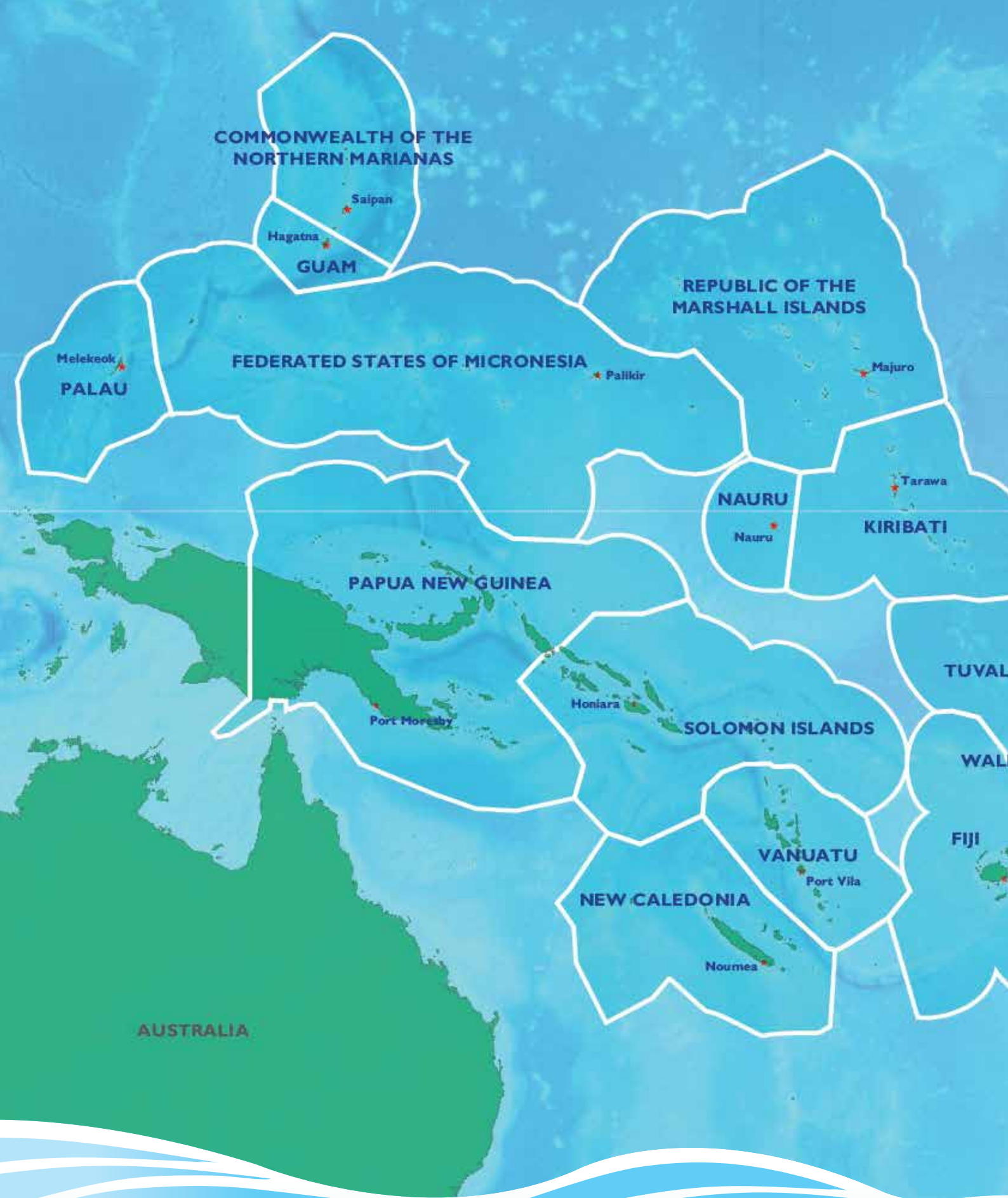
The Pacific is the world's largest ocean, covering nearly one-third of the Earth's surface. About 30,000 islands of varied shape and size lie across its vast expanse.

The Secretariat's Pacific island members 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

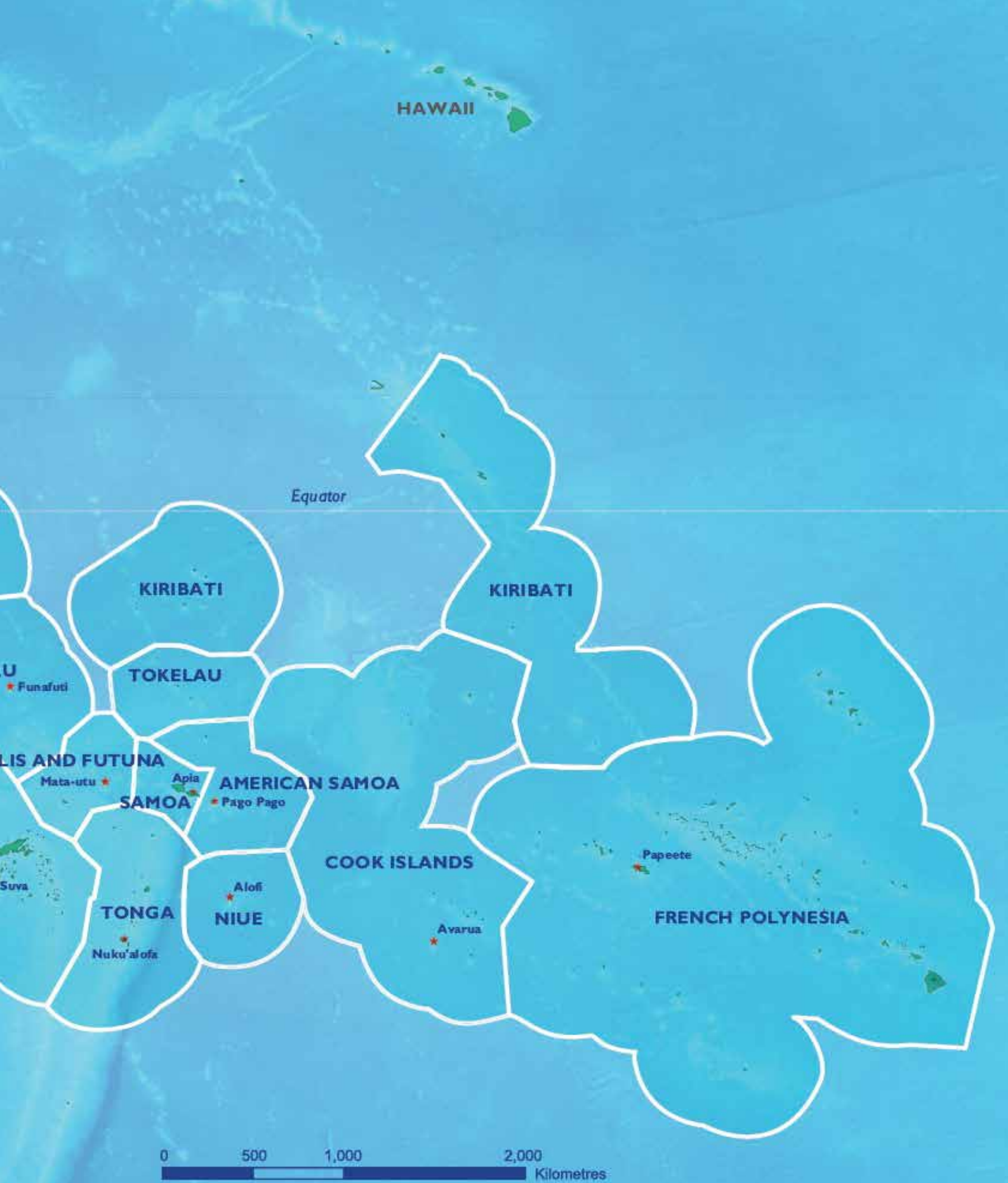
In addition to this, SPREP also has five metropolitan members. These are:

- Australia
 - France
 - New Zealand
 - United Kingdom
 - United States of America
- 
- 



SPREP

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Environment Programme



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.



SPREP

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