

SPREP-Tok

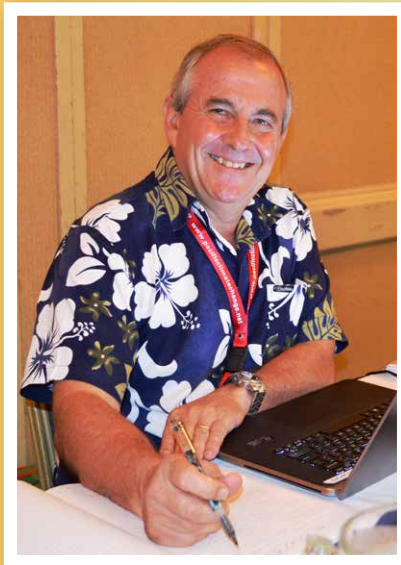
A monthly e-bulletin from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme



SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

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Talofa from our team here at SPREP,

July has been a busy month for SPREP, with achievement of a number of milestones that will benefit the region.

This month SPREP coordinated the very first Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology which led to the endorsement of the “Nuku’alofa Declaration for Sustainable Weather and Climate Services for a Resilient Pacific”. We sincerely thank the Government of Tonga who were most generous and welcoming hosts for this event and the Third Pacific Meteorological Council. You can read much more on this at our [SPREP website](#).

We also signed and formalised a new partnership with the Government of New Zealand to implement a new Project for our Pacific islands that addresses Ocean Acidification – a crucial topic for our region.

It was a great pleasure for us to commemorate SPREP Day (anniversary of the signing of the SPREP Agreement in 1993) with an open day event at our campus in Apia, bringing together over 400 visitors, including nine schools visiting our organisation and having special tours throughout our compound. One of the highlights of our special day was the visit from the Manu Samoa team who made time in their busy schedule before they played the All Blacks in a historical game.

To end this month’s SPREP Tok we pay tribute to the late Aliko Faipule Foua Toloa, the former Ulu of Tokelau who passed away at the end of June. He was an Ocean Champion for our Pacific region and his legacy lives on through the conservation work we, and others, undertake.

We hope you enjoy this quick splash of work we undertook in July, please feel free to visit our SPREP website and our SPREP Facebook page to read more of our achievements and visit our images.

We hope you will have a safe and enjoyable month ahead.

Tofa soifua,

David Sheppard

Director General, SPREP

LATEST NEWS

SPREP AND NEW ZEALAND COLLABORATE TO ADDRESS OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

A partnership to undertake a 1.8 million NZD project on Ocean Acidification has been signed between the Government of New Zealand and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). Funded by New Zealand, the four-year project will be implemented by SPREP in partnership with the University of the South Pacific (USP) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). Its aim is to build the resilience of Pacific islands countries and territories to Ocean Acidification in four key areas. [Read more...](#)





NAURU SUPPORTS NUKU'ALOFA DECLARATION ON SUSTAINABLE WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Nauru has given its full support for the outcomes of the First Pacific Ministers Meeting on Meteorology and the Nuku'alofa Declaration for Sustainable Weather and Climate Services for a Resilient Pacific. "It is an honour for me to be speaking on the role of national meteorological and hydrological services and their contribution to our sustainable development," said Minister Aaron Cook who attended first Ministerial meeting of Meteorology in Tonga. "We do not have an established Meteorology Service in Nauru but it is a priority of our Government," said Minister Cook. [Read more...](#)



SAMOA INFLUENCES REGIONAL WEATHER DECLARATION

Samoa's call for a regional weather and climate declaration to include international frameworks on sustainable development has been answered. Specifically, Samoa wanted the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) included in the Nuku'alofa Ministerial Declaration for Sustainable Weather and Climate Services for a Resilient Pacific. Regional meteorology Government ministers and representatives were in Tonga for the first Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology and adopted the declaration. Samoa's Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Faamoetauloa Lealaialoto Taito Dr Faale Tumaalii, made the request during his country statement. "We can't just talk about sustainable development we must connect our goals to this international framework." [Read more...](#)



SUCCESSFUL END TO 18TH PACIFIC ISLANDS ROUNDTABLE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

The [18th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation](#) came to an end in Suva, Fiji, last month after two days of discussions under the theme – "Biodiversity for Sustainable Development." Over the course of the two day meeting of the PIRT, the topics and issues discussed included critical and emerging issues, the critical role of conservation in achieving sustainable development, funding and financing opportunities to support the implementation of objectives of the Framework. There was also a sharing of information, experiences and lessons learnt from local community, national and regional levels – such as the work undertaken by SPREP. [Read more...](#)



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HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT CRUCIAL TO RE-SHAPING THE PACIFIC WASTE LANDSCAPE

The issue of chemical management, and the Persistent Organic Pollutants (known as POPs), that some toxic chemicals release, have been the topic of new initiatives discussed at a regional level by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and its Pacific island Members. While chemical management is a global issue, island countries of the Pacific face a particular vulnerability to the adverse effect of poor chemical management due to poorly maintained storage facilities and limited resource capacity. These factors are exacerbated by the region's exposure to storm surges and tropical cyclones. [Read more...](#)



PACIFIC CORAL REEF MANAGERS RETURN FROM AMAZING LEARNING EXPERIENCE ON THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in partnership with consultants *Reef Ecologic* recently assisted five coral reef managers from the Pacific to join their peers from the Caribbean and Indian Oceans on an intensive three week Coral Reef Management Fellowship programme in June at the Great Barrier Reef, Australia. Ms. Rolenas Baereleo and Ms. Donna Kalfatak of Vanuatu, Ms. Samantha Kwan of Samoa, Mr. Samiuela Pakileata of Tonga and Mr. Arawaia Moiwa of Kiribati have just returned from the Fellowship with an immense new body of knowledge and learning on innovative coral reef science, management and leadership. [Read more...](#)



NEW WMO AND SPREP PARTNERSHIP TO HELP ENHANCE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

The World Meteorological Organization and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme formalised an agreement in Tonga during the Pacific Ministers Meeting on Meteorology. The PacificMet Desk Partnership will manage and implement a programme of actions over a two year period to help ensure capacities and mechanisms for climate services production and delivery are in place in Small Islands Developing States, namely, the Pacific islands. The range of actions 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. [Read more...](#)



MANU SAMOA COMMEMORATES SPREP DAY!

Players of the Manu Samoa team helped celebrate SPREP day, along with 400 school students and general visitors to the campus in Samoa. SPREP opened its doors to the public to celebrate the day the SPREP Treaty was signed, welcoming schools and the local community to learn more about the intergovernmental regional environment organisation that works across 21 Pacific island countries and territories in partnership with five metropolitan members. “We hope visitors will learn how SPREP is “Naturally Part of the Community” – both in Samoa and around the Pacific region,” said Mr. David Sheppard, the Director-General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). [Read more...](#)

To access the images from the SPREP Open Day please click [here](#).



RENEWED OPTIMISM FROM PACIFIC COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES AS WAIGANI TRAINING CONCLUDES IN FIJI

Specialised training on hazardous waste management in the Pacific has concluded in Suva, with participants feeling optimistic about their improved understanding of the Waigani Convention. The 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. The four-day training programme, run by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), attracted delegates from 16 Pacific island countries and territories. [Read more...](#)

THE PACIFIC MOURNS THE LOSS OF AN OCEAN CHAMPION

With the ongoing work we undertake at SPREP to protect our marine biodiversity and oceans, we remember Aliki Faipule Foua Toloa, the former Ulu of Tokelau who passed away in June after a long battle with cancer.

Foua was well-known throughout the region as a passionate advocate and champion for the ocean and the conservation of its living resources and iconic species. With an EEZ the size of the United Kingdom, a land area of 10 sq km and a population of 1100 people, Tokelau is not only highly dependent on the ocean, but also grossly under-resourced to monitor activities in the waters under its jurisdiction. Foua was a champion of his beloved country, and through his tireless commitment, his determination, his knowledge and his eloquence, he brought Tokelau to the global stage of marine conservation.

This was not his only passion. He worked hard to raise the profile of Tokelau in their endeavor to seek support to make the island nation the first country in the world to produce 100 percent of its electricity from the sun – taking this ambitious vision to the Durban Climate Conference in 2011, seeking financial support to make this possible. By October 2012 Tokelau had achieved this goal.

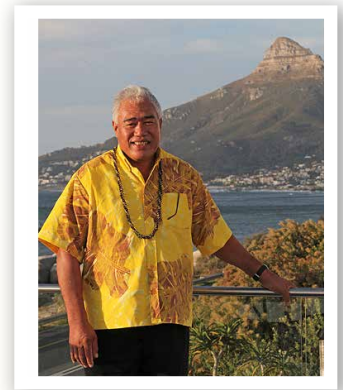
Foua was a big man in every respect – a champion of sport, a leader of people, and a sentinel for our oceans. Perhaps his most important legacy is the Tokelau Sanctuary. His wish was for all whales, dolphins, turtles and sharks to be protected not only in Tokelau waters, but throughout the world. In 2011, he was appointed as a Global Ocean Commissioner and for several years represented the conservation ethic of our region. Attending Commission meetings showed real commitment from Foua, as he had to travel over 500 kilometres by boat to Samoa from Tokelau, before he even caught the first of what would always be many flights. Despite the distances he travelled away from his home, and his deteriorating health, he attended all the Commission’s meetings, rubbing shoulders with some of the world’s most powerful and influential politicians and diplomats. He presented a Pacific perspective at the release of the Commission’s report in June 2014. All those who knew Foua have special memories –

while some recall his contribution to the Global Ocean Commission, others recall his commitment at the international negotiations to establish the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, where his eloquence and determination resulted in Tokelau being represented in its own right at the Commission, rather than being represented through New Zealand, opening the way for other Pacific island countries.

In 2010 Foua declared the Tokelau Whale Sanctuary at the Ocean Voices event in 2010 before a packed house at the Auckland Museum. Although he was joined on stage by a number of Pacific Island dignitaries, it was Foua who commanded all attention and brought so much Mana to the event. Although he spoke entirely in Tokelauan that night, his passion and commitment was conveyed at such a deep level that everyone in the audience understood exactly what he was talking about. Introducing the finale of his presentation, Foua recited the following Tokelauan ancestral prayer:

*Oooo Tui Tokelau e! Oh Tui Tokelau e!
 Fanaifo la ki to Moana, Come down to you Oceans
 He tai paala, A season of wahoo
 He tai kakahi, A season of yellowfin
 He tai atu, A season of skipjack
 He tai, he tai, he tai, A season, a season, a season
 He tai hakula, A season of marlin
 He tai mago, A season of sharks
 He tai tuaniu, A season of sailfish
 He tai, he tai he tai, A season, a season, a season
 He tai fonu, A season of turtles
 He tai takaga, A season of dolphins
 He tai tafola, A season of whales
 He tai, he tai, he tai, A season, a season, a season
 Oooo ko loa! Oh ko loa
 Tui Tokelau e! Tui Tokelau e!
 Tui Tokelau e! Tui Tokelau e!
 He tai, he tai, he tai, A season, a season, a season*

May He Rest in Peace



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Our vision: *The Pacific Environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.*