

SPREP-Tok

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



SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

ISSUE 26 – JULY 2016

MESSAGE FROM MR. KOSI LATU, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SPREP



Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.

Talofa from the SPREP campus!

There was much to celebrate in July!

We opened our new programme office in Suva, located at 8 Thurston Street. The office will house the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change project, and increases SPREP's presence and profile throughout the Pacific region. It follows on from the signing of the host country agreement with the Government of Fiji last month.

The first ever Clean Pacific Roundtable was opened in Suva, Fiji, which brought together national representatives, donors, partners and other key stakeholders involved in waste management and pollution control in Pacific island countries and territories. The Roundtable, coordinated by SPREP with support from JICA and the European Union, was an important milestone towards Pacific regional waste management and pollution control.

We also took the next step in the development of a new Strategic Plan with a meeting of regional members and development partners held in Apia. The meeting sought the guidance of our members on the strategic direction of the Secretariat for the next ten years.

I hope you enjoy reading the stories in this month's SPREP-Tok.
Soifua,
Kosi.

LATEST NEWS



Fiji's Foreign Affairs Minister, Hon. Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, cutting the ribbon to officially open the SPREP office.

SPREP OFFICE OFFICIALLY OPENS IN FIJI

SPREP has opened a programme office in Fiji, continuing growth across the region. The opening follows the signing of the host country agreement with the Fiji Government last month, paving the way for the establishment of the SPREP office in Fiji.

The establishment of the office was made possible with the support of the German government through the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) project.

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Delegates in session at the Clean Pacific Roundtable in Suva. Photo: A.Bertram/ SPREP

CELEBRATIONS AS FIRST EVER CLEAN PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE COMES TO A CLOSE

The inaugural meeting of the Clean Pacific Roundtable concluded in Suva on 28 July. Over the course of four days, a total of 96 participants from 21 different countries and territories discussed key priorities for the implementation of the Pacific Regional Waste Management and Pollution Control Strategy 2016 – 2015 – known as Cleaner Pacific 2025.

The Clean Pacific Roundtable was coordinated by SPREP with the generous support of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the European Union.

Key elements from the Roundtable discussions were captured in an Outcome Statement which was endorsed, in principle, by participants in the meeting's final session.

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Ms. Simeamativa Vaai, Human Resources Adviser, presenting to the delegates on the work of Corporate Services within SPREP. Photo: SPREP

WORKING WITH THE REGION TO DEVELOP A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN FOR SPREP

Member countries of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and development partners gathered together in Apia this month for a two day SPREP Strategic Plan Regional Workshop.

The meeting sought the guidance of SPREP members on the strategic direction of the organisation for the next ten years, in addressing the Pacific's key environmental challenges, as well as SPREP's organisational goals and approach to guide this work.

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Participants taking part in group discussions. Photo: J.Davetanivalu/ SPREP

INTEREST IN ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT STRONG IN TOKELAU

Residents of Nukunonu Atoll in Tokelau now have the skills to conduct Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) following training coordinated by SPREP.

The training was requested by the Nukunonu Taupulega, through the Tokelau Director of Economic Development, Natural Resources & Environment, Mr. Mika Perez.

The training was the first of its kind for the island atoll, and participants included those from the Ministry of Health, Youth, Education, Fisheries, Environment, as well as Taupulega and a Fatupaipaito, a Women's Group of Tokelau.

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MILE-A-MINUTE VINE, A PACIFIC NUISANCE

Many Pacific farmers call it a nuisance, some call it "mile-a-minute" vine, and scientists call it Mikania micrantha. Whatever you call it, this weed is a big problem in the Pacific and in other parts of the world, where it can grow so quickly that it literally chokes and smothers other plants.

A rust pathogen that controls Mikania provides an easier solution to controlling the weed. The pathogen comes from the same place in South America and is the natural enemy of Mikania. It has already been introduced in five Pacific island countries and many countries outside the Pacific.

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Mikania micrantha plant. Photo: P.Skelton/ SPREP



PACIFIC ISLANDS TO BENEFIT FROM COMPUTER-BASED PROGRAMS FOR THEIR MET SERVICES

Fifteen Pacific Island met services across the region were gifted laptops to help strengthen their forecasting abilities using new ‘downscaling’ climate prediction software which will help provide weather and climate forecasts for Pacific island communities.

The Pacific island met services underwent training in the Cook Islands on how to use the new Seasonal Climate Prediction System, which gives you the option of combining climate models from ten different global meteorology centres to develop a prediction system, using the newly gifted laptops equipped with the software.

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THE KING AND QUEEN OF TONGA VISIT THE GOLDEN FOREST, STRENGTHENED THROUGH INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

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His Majesty King Tupou VI and Her Majesty Queen Nanasipau'u during their visit to Toloa Rainforest. Photo: MEIDECC

CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT TRAINING HELPS SMALL ISLANDS TACKLE BIG PROBLEMS

Specialised training in the best-practice management of hazardous chemicals is helping island countries to protect the health of communities and the environment.

The training programme developed in collaboration by SPREP and the University of the South Pacific is teaching laboratory workers, science teachers, and others how to safely store, handle, use and dispose of dangerous chemicals.

[Read more ...](#)



Participants at the Best Practice Chemical Management Training in Kiribati undertake an inventory exercise. Photo: Steven Sutcliffe/USP

NIUE MET SERVICE INSTALLS NEW AUTOMATED WEATHER SYSTEM, ANOTHER MILESTONE FOR THE PACIFIC

A new Automated Weather Station in Niue will assist with improving the safety standards of Niue’s aviation and the quality of weather and climate data for development planning and early warning services in Niue.

Funded by the Finnish-Pacific (FINPAC) Project, the iSTAR Automated Weather Station is a new milestone achievement for the Pacific Islands. Not only will it supply information that is required for national purposes, but most of the data recorded by the iSTAR AWS will also help fill gaps in information from the Pacific shared through the Regional Basic Synoptic Network (RBSN) – core global weather and climate observation system.

[Read more ...](#)



Installing the sensor for the iSTARAWS. Photo: Niue Meteorological Service



Dr. Alan Broadfoot of the University of Newcastle with Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.

SPREP AND UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE COMMIT TO SOLUTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE PACIFIC

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by SPREP and the University of Newcastle at the inaugural Clean Pacific Roundtable in Suva this month.

The agreement signifies the beginning of a new partnership to implement solutions for the benefit of both the environment and Pacific island communities.

Through the agreement, the University of Newcastle's excellence in applied research, development and problem solving will be utilised by SPREP in a number of environmental fields.

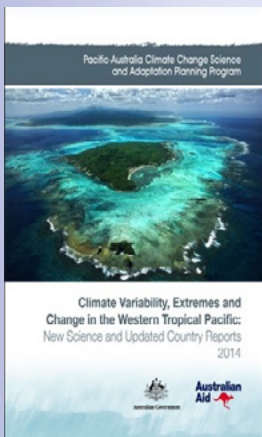
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SPREP AND CSIRO TO WORK TOGETHER TO HELP STRENGTHEN PACIFIC ISLAND RESILIENCE

Sharing new findings in science-based climate knowledge products will roll-out across the region. Products developed by the Pacific-Australia Climate Change Science Adaptation Planning (PACCSAP) program will be at the core of the project to help Pacific islands gain a deeper understanding of the science.

The project is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and is being led by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) as a joint initiative on behalf of CSIRO, SPREP and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology.

[Read more ...](#)



Ms. Lupeoaunu'u Va'ai with her book on the steps of the Houses of Parliament, London.

THE VOICE OF AN ISLAND LAUNCHED BY TWELVE YEAR OLD LUPE VA'AI

Twelve year old Lupeoaunu'u Va'ai from Vaoala, Samoa, launched her award winning book "The Voice of an Island" in London. Lupe won a Gold Medal for her story in the Voices of Future Generation's Children's Story Writing Competition last year, as a Voice of Future Generations Child Author, has committed to turning her book into a series, writing one story each year until 2020.

Her story is centred on a young girl named Katalina, and touches on topics of climate change, biodiversity protection and education.

[Read more ...](#)

MORE NEWS FROM JULY

- Pacific Region Unites to Battle Invasive Species
- 19th PIRT Annual Meeting Brings "Mana" to the Table
- Enhancing Climate and Weather Communications for Resilient Island Communities
- Tackling the Menace of Used Pesticide Containers in the Pacific
- "Downscaling" the buzz word for Pacific Met Services Across the Region
- Disaster Waste in the Spotlight at Clean Pacific Roundtable
- Pacific Science-Based Climate Information To Be Rolled Out Through New regional Project
- Pacific Island Women Pursuing Careers in Meteorology
- "The Voice of an Island" Launched by Twelve Year Old Lupe Va'ai
- Island Biodiversity to Benefit from Ongoing Commitment From Pacific Organisations

LUPE VA'AI: BLOGGING FROM EUROPE!



Lupe Va'ai with Mary Robinson, President of the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice in London.

Twelve year old Lupe Va'ai, one of SPREP's youth ambassadors, launched her award winning book "The Voice of an Island" in London, England earlier this month. Lupe shared her journey with us through her blog posts, one of which is as follows:

"Hey there! Today I was interviewed for a video being compiled by Voices of Future Generations, for the child authors to talk about our books. I answered lots of questions such as who inspired my characters and what my story was about. My key message was the need for awareness on climate change and the small islands in the Pacific region, particularly on the impacts of climate change. My Samoa and the Pacific region are one of the most beautiful places on earth and yet are the most vulnerable and threatened. It was really fun and interesting also to listen to the other child author's interviews where they talked about issues important in their areas of the world including poverty, gender and inclusiveness. Guess what? The highlight of my day was having the privilege to meet Mrs Mary Robinson, the President of the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice and having to sit down with her and the other child authors to share ideas on biodiversity and climate justice. It was so inspirational to hear her stories on her work to help children globally and defend the interests of future generations, especially in promoting human rights, sustainable development and climate justice. I was really excited to have lunch with her as she is also the first ever female president of Ireland, that's right. She also stated in front of everyone that she loved Samoa when she came for the SIDS conference in 2014 and that it was one of the best global conferences she had attended because Samoa hosted the SIDS conference with a human touch. How awesome is that? It was very inspirational. At the end of the day, I was very happy to be able to spend time with the child authors and Mrs Mary Robinson. I gave her a signed copy of my book and a traditional Samoan ulafala (she's wearing it in our photo below) Thanks for reading!"

More of Lupe's blog entries can be found on the SPREP/PEIN Facebook page.

ENJOY SPREP-TOK? YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE:



CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS

The monthly newsletter from our Climate Change Division.

PACWASTE NEWS

Get the latest PacWaste updates with their quarterly newsletter.

Vox Pops

The newsletter of the Pacific POPs Release Reduction Project.



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

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