

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

MESSAGE FROM MR. KOSI LATU, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SPREP

Greetings from the SPREP campus,

We're gradually progressing through the new year and the SPREP engine is steaming full speed ahead.

March was a milestone month for SPREP – we launched our new SPREP 10 year Strategic Plan, and also held our SPREP Advance to start working on the Performance Implementation Plan.

The SPREP Advance saw all staff come together for two days to input and contribute to our PIP which will be before the SPREP Meeting this year for endorsement.

To end my brief note, we'd also like to congratulate FSM who had their USD 9 Million Dollar Adaptation Fund Project approved. This will greatly help FSM strengthen resilience to climate risks.



SPREP Advance, March 2017

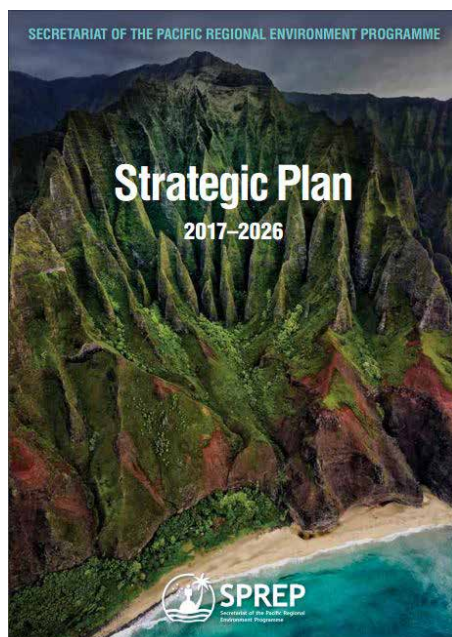
This will greatly benefit SPREP's French speaking members with their Environmental Impact Assessment work.

Soifua,

Kosi

Director General, SPREP

SPREP-Tok LATEST NEWS



SPREP LAUNCHES NEW 10-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

SPREP has launched its new **Strategic Plan**, which will provide guidance and direction for the Secretariat over the next ten years. The new Strategic Plan was approved at the annual SPREP meeting held last year in Niue, and has now replaced the previous five year plan.

The core priorities and focus for SPREP over the next decade include climate change resilience, ecosystem and biodiversity protection, waste management and pollution control as well as environmental governance with oceans as a key cross cutting theme across all priorities. Climate change resilience is elevated as the primary concern for the Pacific region.

[READ MORE ...](#)



SPREP-Tok ISSN: 2311-861X

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
(685) 21929 | PO Box 240 | Apia, Samoa | sprep@sprep.org | www.sprep.org

Our vision: *A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.*

Click to follow us on [FACEBOOK](#) and [TWITTER](#).

UN ENVIRONMENT AND SPREP PARTNERING TO SUPPORT THE PACIFIC ISLANDS AS THEY HEAD TOWARDS THE UN OCEANS CONFERENCE



Samoa. Photo: C.Iacovino/SPREP

Home to more than 10 per cent of the planet’s oceans, the Pacific islands are uniting to help shape global ocean management as defined at the UN Ocean Conference in June this year.

SPREP and the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) through its Pacific sub-regional office are partnering together to implement several different initiatives to support Pacific island countries as they prepare for the UN Ocean Conference. Co-hosted by the Governments of Fiji and Sweden, the UN Ocean Conference will be held in New York from 5 to 7 June 2017.

[READ MORE ...](#)

PROTECTING PACIFIC WHALES THROUGH ART – EXHIBITION OPENS IN NOUMEA



Ms Ruha Fifita sitting in front of her enormous tapa, with another tapa by Ms Christelle Montané on the wall.

The “Des baleines et des hommes pour la protection des oceans” art exhibition opened at the Tjibaou Cultural Centre in Noumea last month. The exhibition showcases art works by 11 Pacific island artists to commemorate the regional Protect Pacific Whales – Ocean Voyagers Campaign. In September last year, the 11 Pacific artists took up residency at the Tjibaou Cultural Centre to work on developing art pieces for the exhibition launched on 2 March. The exhibition will be open through until September this year at the Tjibaou Cultural Centre before it travels to Kone in Province Nord, New Caledonia.

[READ MORE ...](#)

FRENCH VERSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT GUIDELINE LAUNCHED



Mr Paul Anderson of SPREP, presenting the French version of the EIA Guidelines to Ms Anne-Claire Goarant. Photo: SPREP

SPREP has launched its first ever French version of the regional Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines in Noumea, New Caledonia. The guidelines have been developed to assist SPREP’s member countries and territories with developing stronger EIA processes to help achieve sustainable and resilient development outcomes. The newly launched French version will greatly help SPREP’s French speaking members to fully utilise the guidelines.

[READ MORE ...](#)

NORWEGIAN DELEGATION VISITS SPREP



The Norwegian delegation with SPREP staff at the SPREP headquarters, Vailima. Photo: SPREP

The Deputy Foreign Minister of Norway, Ms Tone Skogen, paid a visit to SPREP in March, accompanied by H.E Ambassador Unni Klovstad and Edvard Hviding of the University of Bergen. The delegation met with SPREP Director General, Mr Kosi Latu, and a few of the SPREP staff to discuss climate change and oceans work in the Pacific region. The Deputy Minister assured the SPREP delegation that this would be the first of many regular visits to the region, as a symbol of their commitment to connect to the commonly shared concerns over climate change and oceans management.

[READ MORE ...](#)

LEARNING ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT WITH SPREP



Year 6 students from Vaiala Beach School are now better equipped with knowledge on how to reduce Persistent Organic Pollutants following a visit to the SPREP headquarters at Vailima. The students heard from presenters in the various division in SPREP, such as Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management, Climate Change, and Waste Management and Pollution Control. They learned about the different ways in which rubbish can be disposed instead of burning, such as composting and recycling, and also learned of adaptation methods being used in small Pacific island countries such as Tuvalu, who are facing water shortages as a result of the changes in climate.

[READ MORE ...](#)

PACIFIC NETWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT LAUNCHED



The Pacific Network for Environmental Assessment homepage.

The newly launched Pacific Network for Environmental Assessment (PNEA) helps island members of SPREP to request assistance with environmental planning and assessment. The PNEA is a web-based tool that is focused on environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA), and is an initiative by the Environmental Monitoring and Governance division of SPREP.

[READ MORE ...](#)



Waste collected by a boom placed in Mataniko River, Solomon Islands.

CLEAN SEAS FOR A CLEANER PACIFIC TO HELP SAVE OUR LIFELOOD

The “Cleaner Seas for a Cleaner Pacific” event jointly coordinated by the UN Environment Sub-Regional Office and SPREP, highlighted the alarming statistics of the impacts of marine debris across the region, during the Pacific Regional Preparatory meeting for the UN Ocean Conference in Suva, Fiji. It also showcased actions undertaken by the Pacific region to address this issue. The event is just one of many to raise awareness and initiate discussion about how we can work together to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14 in the lead up to the UN Ocean Conference in June.

[READ MORE ...](#)

“KNOWLEDGE IS POWER” SPREP AND UN ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP LAUNCH WEBSITE AND FACTSHEETS IN LEAD UP TO THE UN OCEAN CONFERENCE

The Pacific islands will play a crucial role as the Call for Action Declaration comes into being at the UN Ocean Conference in June this year. Home to over 10 per cent of the planet’s oceans, the Pacific islands continue to work together to help shape global ocean management, the issue at the helm of the milestone global oceans conference. The UN Environment through its Pacific sub-regional office and SPREP have launched the website “Our Pacific Voyage to the UN Oceans Conference” to help Pacific island countries and territories as they prepare for the June event.

[READ MORE ...](#)



ADAPTATION FUND APPROVES USD 9 MILLION PROJECT FOR FSM

USD 9 million has been approved for the Federated States



The project will support an inland road initiative as part of the Kosrae Shoreline Management Plan to reduce the impact on communities vulnerable and impacted by inundation and wave overtopping across the islands perimeter road.

of Micronesia to help island communities reduce vulnerability to extreme drought, sea level rise and other climate risks. The project will respond to specific climate change priorities identified by six highly vulnerable outer atoll islands: Wolean and Eauripik in Yap; Satawan and Lukunor in Chuuk; Kapingamarangi; and Nukuoro in Pohnpei. The responses will include water security and sanitation initiatives. The project will also support climate-resilient livelihoods in Kosrae through an inland road initiative as part of the broader Kosrae Coastal Shoreline Management plan.

[READ MORE ...](#)