

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

MESSAGE FROM MR. KOSI LATU, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SPREP

Talofa from Apia!

This month kicked off with the Pacific Resilience Week which took place in Suva, Fiji. The Pacific Climate Change Roundtable and the Pacific Joint Platform for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management were held as part of the Pacific Resilience Week, making the Pacific region the first in the world to integrate climate change and disaster risk management to strengthen Pacific resilience.

Also taking place in October was the Twelfth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wildlife (CMS COP12) in Manila, Philippines. We celebrated having France and the UK coming on board and signing our Pacific Year of the Whale Declaration for the protection of our Pacific Whales, and also the successful listing of the blue shark on the CMS Appendix II, which was championed by Samoa and Sri Lanka.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the SPREP-Tok. Soifua,



Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.

LATEST NEWS



PATHWAYS TO A RESILIENT PACIFIC: THE PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE ROUNDTABLE BEGINS!

The Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR) opened in Suva, Fiji on 1 October, bringing together over 100 participants from across the Pacific to strengthen regional coordination. Since 2008, the PCCR has been coordinated by SPREP in partnership with the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific, Pacific island governments, development partners and donors.

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SPREP-Tok ISSN: 2311-861X

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



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PACIFIC LEADS THE WAY: INTEGRATING DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Pacific island region is first in the world to integrate climate change and disaster risk management to strengthen Pacific resilience. Already having made world history in being the first, the Pacific islands are strengthening their placing this week, holding the second regional meeting that brings the climate change and disaster risk management communities together.

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SPREP AND THE OCEAN FOUNDATION SIGN AGREEMENT AT OUR OCEAN CONFERENCE 2017



The Ocean Foundation President, Mr Mark J. Spalding, with SPREP Director General, Mr Kosi Latu. Photo: Alexis Valauri Orton

SPREP and The Ocean Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding to commit to co-host three workshops on ocean acidification to benefit 10 Pacific islands. SPREP and TOF have mutual interest in relation to the protection and conservation of the marine environment, particularly in the areas of ocean acidification, climate change, and integrated governance.

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CALLS TO PROMOTE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS WIDELY IN THE REGION AS AN OPTION TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE



Tanasio Tumoi of Naselesele village on Taveuni agrees that mangrove planting is a nature-based solution that his community must embrace to protect their shoreline from increasing coastal erosion. Photo: PEBACC

Nature-based solutions ought to be promoted more widely in the Pacific region as a viable option to tackling climate change. This was a key message at a side event organised by the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change Project (PEBACC) at the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable in Suva in October.

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Participating officers from various government ministries attending the 3-day training at SPREP. Photo: SPREP

STEPPING UP THE ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS IN SAMOA

Enhancing the capacity, skills and confidence of officers who play a role in environmental compliance and enforcement in investigating violations of environmental laws was one of the key objectives of the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement training held at the SPREP campus in October.

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SAMOA AND SRI LANKA CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO PROTECT THE BLUE SHARK



Samoa and Sri Lanka have called upon 122 countries to unite in a show of international cooperation to protect the blue shark under the Convention of Migratory Species of Wildlife (CMS). In all, 35 different migratory species have been proposed for protection at the Twelfth Conference of the Parties (CMS COP12) held in Manila in October.

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SAMOA'S PROPOSAL ACCEPTED BY INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CONVENTION



The 12th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species accepted the proposal by Samoa and Sri Lanka to list the blue shark on CMS Appendix II. Introducing the proposal to the 500 delegates assembled in Manila, Head of Delegation, Gillian Shirley Tuagalu of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Samoa appealed for support from the 104 countries represented at the conference.

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FRANCE SIGNS ON TO THE PACIFIC WHALE DECLARATION



Mr Kosi Latu and Mr Laurent Le Godec.

France has demonstrated its commitment towards the conservation of whales through the signing of the Pacific Islands Year of the Whale Declaration during the Twelfth Conference of the Parties to the Convention of Migratory Species of Wildlife in Manila.

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VICTORY FOR PACIFIC WHALES AS THE UK SIGNS ON TO PACIFIC WHALE DECLARATION



Mr Michael Donoghue and Ms Elaine Kendall

History was made at the Twelfth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wildlife in Manila, Philippines. For the first time since its establishment in 1979, the Conference had to resort to voting on a number of listing proposals for large terrestrial African mammals. Until COP12, listing proposals have been accepted by consensus or have been withdrawn if consensus could not be achieved.

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