

# SPREP-Tok

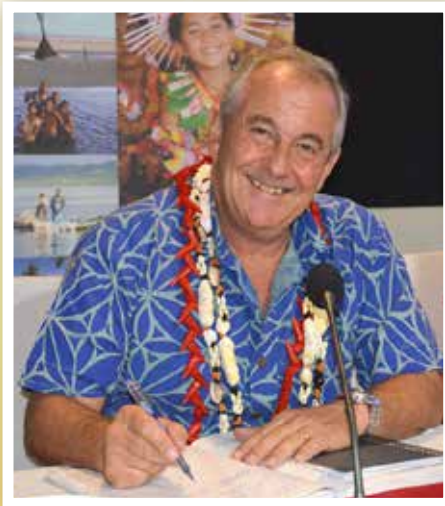
A monthly e-bulletin from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme



# SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

ISSUE 19 – OCTOBER 2015



## Talofa!

October has been a fruitful month for us all as we come closer to the end of the year, this is reflected in the stories we have for this issue which we hope you enjoy.

New and strengthened partnerships are beneficial to SPREP and the work we do to assist you as you will see through the range of different activities we have embarked on over the past month. We now have two new Peace Corps volunteers based at SPREP as part of a new partnership with the Peace Corps. In October the very first planning activity under the new Ocean Acidification Partnership with the Government of New Zealand, SPC and USP took place, and last month we also received a generous donation from the Chinese Government of 150,000 USD to assist with the delivery of the core areas of our work.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the SPREP Tok and we look forward to working with you all over the next few months of 2015.

Tofa soifua,

David

**David Sheppard**

Director General, SPREP

## LATEST NEWS



Chinese Ambassador to Samoa, HE Wang Xuefeng handing over the cheque to Director General of SPREP, David Sheppard.

## CHINESE GOVERNMENT COMMITS USD 150,000 TO SPREP

His Excellency, Mr. Wang Xuefeng, Chinese Ambassador to Samoa, delivered a cheque of USD 150,000 to SPREP to assist delivery of the core areas of SPREP's mandate.

On behalf of SPREP, the Director General, Mr. David Sheppard, expressed his sincere thanks to the Government of China for its valued support, which has been generously provided to SPREP since 1998.

"This contribution will enable SPREP to support Pacific island countries and territories to better manage and protect their environment," said Mr. Sheppard.

[Read more ...](#)



Mr. David Sheppard, presenting at the Nansen Initiative Global Consultation.

## CROSS-BORDER DISASTER DISPLACEMENT – A PACIFIC PERSPECTIVE AT GLOBAL CONFERENCE

“Business as usual is unacceptable for the countries of the Pacific island region,” was the message from a global forum on the displacement of persons and communities from natural disasters and climate change.

SPREP is a key partner to the Nansen Initiative’s Global Consultation which brought together over 112 countries in Geneva to address movement of people in response to climate change and natural disasters and to discuss a Protection Agenda for displaced people. [Read more ...](#)



PacWaste meeting participants learned about the successful implementation of the pre-paid ‘green bag’ in Kiribati. Photo: A.Carvan/SPREP.

## INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO ATOLL WASTE MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTED AT MEETING ON PACIFIC HAZARDOUS WASTE

Globally, hazardous waste management is a pressing and complicated issue, and nowhere is it more challenging – or urgent – than on the low-lying atolls of the Pacific. At last week’s Third Annual Steering Committee Meeting of the PacWaste project, representatives from 13 Pacific island countries gathered in Tarawa, Kiribati to learn more about how the vulnerable island nation is seeking to improve the health of its environment and people through sustainable waste management initiatives.

PacWaste is a €7.85 million, four year project funded by the European Union and implemented SPREP to improve regional hazardous waste management across the Pacific. [Read more ...](#)



Fish for sale at the Punanga Nui Market in the Cook Islands.

## PACIFIC ISLANDS STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE TO OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

Strengthening Pacific island resilience to Ocean Acidification is at the core of an action based partnership coordinated by SPREP and supported by the Government of New Zealand.

A regional brought together Pacific island countries, stakeholders and experts on the threats posed by ocean acidification to the region, an activity under the very first Pacific island regional initiative to address ocean acidification. Outcomes from the three day consultation workshop included key adaptation and resilience building activities; a plan of action for the way forward, and the identification of initial ocean acidification pilot project sites across the region. [Read more ...](#)



Illustration by Riber Hansson.

## SWEDISH CARTOONS USING THE POWER OF HUMOUR TO MAKE A CLIMATE DIFFERENCE

Facing the Climate, an exhibition that looks at the climate issue from new angles was launched at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Campus by the Ambassador of Sweden to Samoa H.E Mr Pär Ahlberger on Tuesday 2 November.

The exhibition showcases work by five Swedish cartoonists including Love Antell, Magnus Bard, Riber Hansson, Karin Sunvisson and Helena Lindholm. Their work has been viewed in traveling exhibitions around the world by over 250,000 people in over 20 countries including Athens, Tel Aviv, Latvia, South Africa and now, Samoa. Exhibiting cartoonist Helena Lindholm states – “The use of satire, cartoons and political illustrations is my way of catching the reader’s attention, and hopefully interest, for issues that might not always be easy, lightweight and fun. The power of humour is NOT to be underestimated.” [Read more ...](#)





*Captain Fani of the Gaulofa explains to the students basic concepts behind traditional navigation.*

## SUSTAINABILITY IN POLYNESIAN ISLAND CULTURES AND ECOSYSTEMS AT HEART OF US SAILING SCHOOL VISIT TO SPREP

The regional intergovernmental environment organisation hosted over 35 students, teachers and sailors from the Sea Education Association (SEA) in the United States at their Vailima campus. The students are exploring “Sustainability in Polynesian Island Cultures and Ecosystems” on their voyage throughout the Pacific region.

“This educational journey helps students from all different study areas learn about nautical science, ocean science and cultural understanding,” said Dr. Ben Harden, Assistant Professor of Oceanography. [Read more ...](#)



*L–R Mr Clark Peteru SPREP, Mr John Sidle and Mr Robbie Leichtner the Peace Corps Volunteers, Mr Kosi Latu SPREP, Ms. Sherry Russell Peace Corps, Mr. Eddie Stice Peace Corps.*

## PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS START AT SPREP

Two Peace Corps volunteers from America, Mr John Sidle and Mr. Robert Leichtner from the Peace Corps Response Volunteer (PCRVR) Programme were sworn in to begin their one-year tenure with SPREP.

Members of the Peace Corps and SPREP welcomed them at a ceremony at the Peace Corps headquarters in Apia.

“This marks the beginning of a relationship between Peace Corps and SPREP in a regional climate change adaptation project. Being involved in a regional project, consisting of 10 Pacific island countries, including Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu, is a first for Peace Corps,” said Mr Eddie Stice, Peace Corps Country Director. [Read more ...](#)



## SPREP AND MNRE COMMEND STUDENTS OF ST MARY’S COLLEGE FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO A CLEANER PACIFIC

Eighty-eight students and five teachers from St Mary’s College were presented with certificates of appreciation and small gifts for their enthusiastic participation in September’s International Coastal Cleanup – the world’s largest single day volunteer effort to clean up beaches and rivers. This year, Samoa participated in the International Coastal Cleanup for the first time, thanks to a partnership between SPREP and Samoa’s Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE).

The awards were presented by Dr David Haynes, Director of the Waste Management and Pollution Control division at SPREP, Mr Anthony Talouli, SPREP’s Pollution Adviser, and Mr Fata Eti Malolo, Principal Water Resource Officer from MNRE. [Read more ...](#)



*PEBACC Inception meeting participants.*

## VANUATU LAUNCHES NEW CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT WITH SPREP

SPREP launched the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) project in Vanuatu this month.

The project is focused on implementing Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) activities across three Melanesian countries, namely Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. This project is funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) and is planned to last five years. [Read more ...](#)





Mr. Lui Bell on right at back in red shirt – working with Pacific island colleagues as part of turtle monitoring programme.

## LUI BELL SCHOLARSHIP: LEGACY OF PACIFIC ISLAND MARINE SPECIES CONSERVATIONIST THRIVES

The legacy of Mr. Lui Bell, a known Pacific island marine conservationist, lives on through a Post-Graduate Scholarship for Marine Species Conservation with Ms. Saras Sharmas, the first recipient of this special award.

Lui Bell passed away in 2012 yet he remains as a beacon for marine conservation in the Pacific region and will continue to do so for many years to come. The scholarship launched by SPREP and the family of Lui Bell in 2013 in honour of his memory, awards up to 20,000 USD to Pacific islanders undertaking studies in marine science with a focus on conservation of threatened marine species, in particular turtles, cetaceans, dugongs and sharks.

Ms. Sharmas is currently undertaking her postgraduate studies at the University of the South Pacific, Suva. Next year she will be carrying out her Masters on the topic of humpback whales in the Vatu-i-Ra channel in Fiji. [Read more ...](#)

## INVASIVE SPECIES SCHOOLS CHALLENGE!

An Invasive Species Schools Challenge has been launched by SPREP with the distribution of new materials. A series of factsheets, along with a cartoon animation, 30 second radio spots and classroom challenge sheets have been made available across the region for schools to use.

“It’s hoped that while learning about Invasive Species, students of all ages across the Pacific islands can try the challenge activities and incorporate fun into their learning,” said Mr. David Moverley, the Invasive Species Adviser at SPREP.

[Read more ...](#)



“Invasive species are a danger to biodiversity.”

## FEATURE



The Marshall Islands, a low lying atoll.  
Photo: Diane McFadzien.



Dr Elizabeth Jewett, Director of NOAA's Ocean Acidification Programme.



SPREP Commemorates World Oceans Day – Healthy Oceans, Healthy Planet #WOD2015.

# TAKING ACTION ON OCEAN ACIDIFICATION IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Ocean Acidification is rapidly emerging as a significant regional and global threat to our ocean ecosystems, fisheries, food security and livelihoods. Increasing ocean acidification is driven by the emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere of which approximately 50% is absorbed into the atmosphere, 26% into the land and 24% into the oceans. This is changing the chemistry of the seawater, a process called Ocean Acidification.

“There is a lot of public discussion on climate change in the Marshall Islands, however not so much on ocean acidification. It’s a new issue for us and we’re keen to learn more on it and the impacts of this on us as a low lying atoll,” said Ms. Kalena DeBrum, the Resource Management Facilitator of the Marshall Islands Marine Research Authority. [Read more ...](#)

## LATEST NEWS



### TARO PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN TREE PLANTING TO STRENGTHEN THE RESILIENCE OF TARO ISLAND FROM THE CONTINUED IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Over 35 students of Taro Primary School in the Solomon Islands participated in the SPREP Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Project in partnership with USAID to plant over 120 Trees on Taro Island.

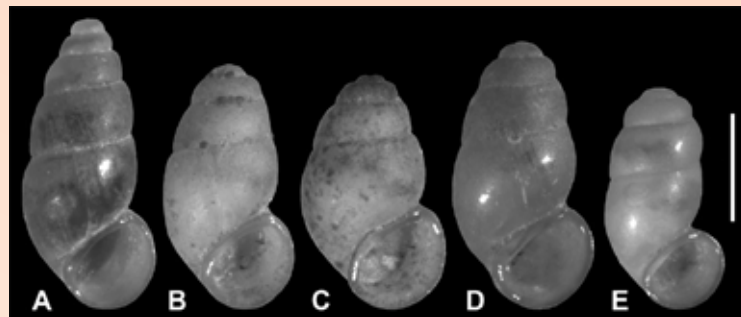
The Standard Six students took time out from their normal classes to plant trees along the coast and to learn about climate change with other organisations and partners of the Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme. [Read more ...](#)

## SPREP-TOK FRENCH NEWS

Endemia est une ONG néo-calédonienne consacrée à la promotion de la faune et la flore de Nouvelle-Calédonie, via son site internet largement utilisé et alimenté par des amateurs, scientifiques et institutions. Les articles suivants ont été diffusés via la Lettre d'information Endemia publiée chaque mois. [www.endemia.nc](http://www.endemia.nc)



### 5 NOUVELLES ESPÈCES DE GASTÉROPODES D'EAU DOUCE (Haase)



SHolotypes. A *Hemistomia andreae* sp. n. B *Leiorhagium adioincola* sp. n. C *Leiorhagium areumum* sp. n. D *Leiorhagium clandestinum* sp. n. E *Leiorhagium neteae* sp. n. Scale bar = 1 mm.

[Lire la suite ...](#)

### UNE NOUVELLE VARIÉTÉ DE SANTAL DES LOYAUTÉ (Butaud)

Le groupe de spécialistes de l'UICN sur les plantes succulentes vient de finaliser l'évaluation liste rouge de l'ensemble de la famille des cactus. Cette famille de 1,480 espèces est native d'Amérique (du nord au sud). C'est seulement le 3ème groupe de plantes (après les conifères et les cycas) dont l'ensemble des espèces a fait l'objet d'une évaluation liste rouge. 31% des cactus sont menacés d'extinction, majoritairement en raison de la conversion des habitats naturels et de la collecte. [Lire la suite ...](#)

*Santalum austrocaledonicum* var. *glabrum*, Ouvéa, janvier 2015 (spécimen Butaud 3414).

### CELA POURRAIT VOUS INTÉRESSER :


L'Institut Agronomique Néo-Calédonien vient de publier son rapport d'activités rassemblant tous les résultats de recherche de l'année 2014.



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

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