

SPREP-Tok

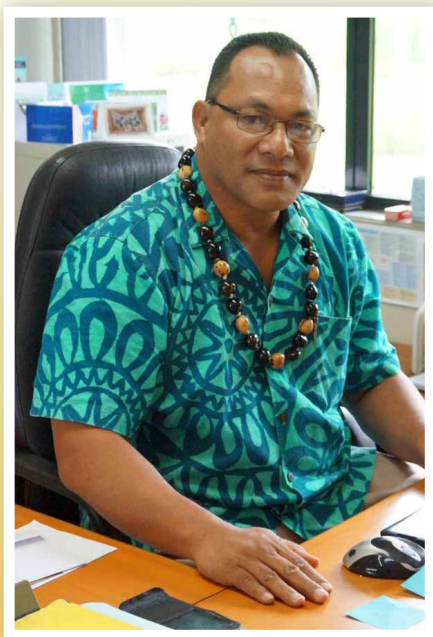
A monthly e-bulletin from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme



SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

ISSUE 20 – FEBRUARY 2016



Mr. Kosi Latu, Director-General of SPREP, image courtesy of Samoa Observer

Welcome to the very first SPREP Tok for 2016, it is my pleasure to write this as the new Director-General of SPREP!

While 2015 was a very busy year for us under the guidance of David Sheppard, we also have another big year ahead with many significant activities on our work agenda.

My team and I are honoured to work with you all as we strive to bring about a more resilient and sustainable Pacific region through a strengthened environment.

We have taken the first steps towards achieving that vision through the strategic planning workshops that we've had this month with staff. That process will continue for the next few months involving members and partners in developing and finalising a draft strategic plan identifying the regions' priorities which will be submitted to members at the SPREP meeting in September.

Thank you very much for your cooperation and support which is very much appreciated.

I'm going to keep this message brief, no doubt you will hear more from me over these coming months as we gear up for a productive year. To learn more of our year ahead and our vision for SPREP, please [read more here](#).

Onwards and upwards, together!

Kosi Latu

Director General, SPREP

LATEST NEWS



Prime Minister of Tuvalu with the President of Palau (left) and the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands (right) at a Pacific Press Conference at the COP21

UNDERSTANDING THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND WHERE TO FROM HERE, WITH SPREP

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) will continue to work closely with its member countries, regional organisations and development partners to provide direct support to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The adoption of the Paris Agreement at the recent 21st Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) marks a potentially revolutionary moment in the history of the battle against climate change.

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Community garbage collection system, Vava'u, Tonga

TACKLING WASTE IN THE PACIFIC WITH THE J-PRISM PROJECT

The Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) completed the five-year J-PRISM (Japanese Technical Cooperation for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries) project at the end of January.

The J-PRISM project, a region-wide technical cooperation project, was committed to tackling the issues of solid waste management unique to island countries for 11 Pacific states in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

At the inception of the project, some of the solid waste problems in the Pacific region included increasing and diversifying solid waste due to a changing lifestyle and concentration of the population in urban areas.

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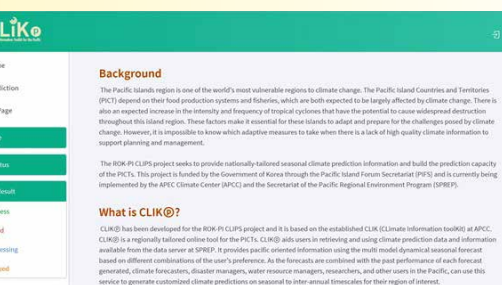
Members of the Environmental Monitoring and Governance Division of SPREP during a planning session

SPREP TO BUILD CAPACITY TO ACCESS ENVIRONMENT FUNDING

In the coming months, SPREP will host a team of four experts from the Nataij consultancy firm based in the United States of America, to undertake a series of capacity building activities that will strengthen the overall capacity of the Secretariat to deliver projects across the region.

The team will be in Samoa from the 15 February to 5 March and will meet with senior management of SPREP and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to discuss their mission goals. This is the first of three missions to take place throughout the year as part of the Medium Sized Project (MSP) implemented by UNDP, funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF) and executed by SPREP.

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NEW ONLINE CLIMATE PREDICTION SYSTEM HOUSED AT SPREP

There is now a new online Seasonal Climate Prediction System which gives you the option of combining climate models from 10 different global meteorology centres to develop a prediction system over any three month period.

Called "CLIK Pacific", this system will provide the Pacific island region with ongoing access to data from state of the art climate models on the cutting edge of the climate science field.

Using the forecast climate models and data from the ten international organisations, the new online service allows you to select the variables, methods and seasons of interest to develop a Multi Model Ensemble (MME) into a regional forecast for the Pacific islands, or into forecast maps for individual countries.

[Read more ...](#)



SMART CHOICES FOR A CLEANER AND SAFER PACIFIC

A colourful new range of materials, launched by the PacWaste project, highlight the important role that we all play in protecting the future of our islands.

Called 'Smart choices for a cleaner and safer Pacific' the posters and stickers promote a range of simple actions that contribute to reduced waste and increased resilience.

A limited number of posters and stickers, printed on 100% recycled paper, are now available – free of charge – to educational institutions in the Pacific region. Materials are available in both English and French.

For more information about ordering, and to view the Smart Choices materials, please visit: www.sprep.org/pacwaste



Ms Juney Ward, Shark and Ray Conservation Officer, SPREP

PROTECTING THE SHARKS AND RAYS OF THE PACIFIC

The new Shark and Ray Conservation Officer at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Ms Juney Ward, is enjoying the challenges of her new role.

A Samoan national, Ms Ward began her role with SPREP late last year, and describes the main focus of her position, which is supported by a partnership between SPREP and The Pew Charitable Trusts, is to help Pacific island countries and territories establish protected areas and sanctuaries for sharks and rays, and to help them develop new, or review current, legislations to include sharks and rays.

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SPREP TO WORK WITH PACIFIC ISLANDS, MEMBERS AND PARTNERS TO DEVELOP NEW ROADMAP

SPREP has completed a two day Strategic Planning workshop to help develop a new Strategic Plan. This will be submitted to Members for adoption at the annual SPREP meeting in September this year, and will come into force in 2017.

“The Secretariat will take the primary lead in developing the Strategic Plan through an inclusive consultative and participatory process with our members, partners and staff to help identify the key environment priorities in our Pacific islands region,” said Mr. Kosi Latu, the Director-General of SPREP.

For now, the current SPREP Strategic Plan 2011-2015 will continue until the end of 2016. The new Strategic Plan will act as the guiding document for the organisation that provides support to its 21 Pacific island member countries through a range of different activities and partnerships

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FIJI ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT STAYS GREEN WITH “CLEAN, GREEN UNIT COMPETITION”

Good environment practices are being put in to action at the Department of Environment in Fiji with their year-long “Clean, Green Unit Competition”.

Starting in 2015, the six different Units within the Department of Environment competed for prizes, and ‘bragging’ rights as the most environmentally friendly unit within their Department. The competition saw them judged on a quarterly basis as to how they strengthened their ‘green and clean’ work habits and processes.

“We believe the Department of Environment should be taking the lead in terms of protecting our environment and should be setting an example,” said Ms. Tavenisa Luisa of the Awareness and Education Unit that led the initiative. “We are often asked to talk to other Ministries about ways they can adopt more environmentally friendly practices and wanted to make sure that we were doing that in-house first, before we request it of others.”

A judging team from the Corporate Services Division of the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment use a points system to rate the different units for activities that Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, energy and water efficiency, tidiness and beautification as well as sharing of environment messages.

The different units within the Department of Environment were also assigned designated areas surrounding the office compound to look after, using the environmentally friendly practices. Judged on a quarterly basis, the results were shared to all staff which prompted and motivated many to make greater efforts within their unit.

“It saw many changes from our staff from pot plants for beautification, to less use of lights and more use of outside natural light - composting and good waste practices were also adopted,” said Ms. Luisa. “We saw many good practices from our staff come from this competition. Although our actions may be small, they are contributing to a better environment and we are practicing what we preach.”

A prize giving held at the end of the year awarded the 2015 Clean, Green Unit Trophy to the Waste and Pollution Control Unit. This year the competition is on again and all units are now vying for first placing!

“Our plan is to open this up to other Government Ministries, right now we are starting small and making sure our good environment practices are cemented first. We look forward to the results of this year!”



Coordinators of the Clean, Green Unit Competition

SPREP-TOK FRENCH NEWS

FAIRE DES CHOIX ÉCLAIRÉS POUR UN PACIFIQUE PLUS SÛR ET PLUS PROPRE

Une nouvelle affiche en français, publiée par le Projet pour la gestion des déchets dangereux dans le Pacifique (PacWaste), souligne le rôle majeur que nous jouons tous dans la protection de l’avenir de nos îles. Intitulée « Des choix éclairés pour un Pacifique plus sûr et plus propre », l’affiche conseille plusieurs mesures simples permettant de participer à la réduction des déchets et à une meilleure capacité de récupération. Des exemplaires gratuits de l’affiche en couleur, sont téléchargeables sur www.sprep.org/pacwaste

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SPREP-TOK ISSN: 2311-861X

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

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