

# SPREP-Tok

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

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## MESSAGE FROM MR. KOSI LATU, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SPREP

Talofa lava and happy 2020 to you all!

The end of 2019 was a whirlwind for the Secretariat, with the preparations leading up to the 25th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP25) and the two-week conference itself in Madrid, Spain being a main focus of our SPREP team, our Members, and the world.

Our SPREP team consisting of experts from the Climate Change Resilience programme provided negotiations support for Pacific Island delegations to COP25. We have continued to work with our island Members over the years, to help amplify the Pacific voice at the world's largest climate change conference.

SPREP also was charged with successfully managing and implementing the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion, a Pacific partnership supported by New Zealand with Fiji, which provided a dedicated space to showcase the Pacific at COP25. SPREP received commendations from the New Zealand Minister of Environment, Hon. James Shaw, as well as the Honourable Prime Minister of Fiji, Voreqe Bainimarama, for the hard work and effort put into ensuring the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion was a success.

We are entering the second month of the year, but we already have our work cut out for us. 2020 is shaping up to be yet another busy year, and as we grow at SPREP to provide support to you, our Members for a Resilient Pacific, we look forward to our continued working relationship with you all.

The 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas will be held in April this year in Noumea and will be co-hosted by the Government of New Caledonia, Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation, and SPREP. The 2nd Pacific Islands Environment Leadership Awards will also be held during the conference, to honour those who have shown tremendous leadership in ensuring we promote and maintain a resilient and sustainable Pacific environment.

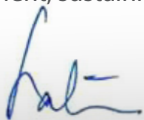
The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15) is also expected to be held this year in Kunming, Yunnan, China. The COP15 will review the achievement and delivery of the CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which includes the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

This year is a big year for oceans with the hosting of two big conferences – the UN Oceans Conference in Portugal in June, and the Our Oceans Conference to be held in Palau in August.

We also have our Third Clean Pacific Roundtable to be held in October this year, a gathering for us to coordinate our waste action as we address our island challenges.

As I've said, we have our work cut out for us this year. While it will be difficult, we can do this together. Through strengthened partnerships with our development partners, and collaboration with our Members whom we serve, we will be able to achieve our vision of a resilient Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our culture.

Soifua,



Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.



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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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### REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON DRAFT STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES



SPREP's Environmental Monitoring and Governance programme facilitated a regional consultation to review the draft Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines held in Auckland at the end of 2019.

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### KIRIBATI PRESIDENT CHALLENGES ALL NATIONS TO ENHANCE CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIONS



There were three key asks from Kiribati under the Paris Agreement, those being dedicated financing for loss and damage, simplified access to climate financing, and Article 6 with clear rules around ensuring environmental integrity.

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### THE MOANA BLUE PACIFIC PAVILION OPENS AT COP25 IN MADRID



A wave of the Pacific descended upon the 25th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, with the official opening of the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion at the IFEMA Convention Centre in Madrid, Spain.

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### LEARNING EXCHANGE STRENGTHENS UNDERSTANDING IN PLANT PROPAGATION AND NURSERY DESIGN



A technical learning exchange between Fiji and Vanuatu aimed at enhancing understanding of native tree propagation, nursery management and mangrove planting techniques was conducted at the end of 2019.

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### PACWASTE PLUS HOLDS RESEARCH ADVISORY GROUP MEETING



The PacWaste Plus programme held their first meeting for its Research Advisory Group in Brisbane, Australia, on 10 December 2019.

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### THE COOK ISLANDS ON CLIMATE CHANGE, RAISING AMBITION THROUGH ACTIONS, NOT WORDS



Climate change was at the core of a roundtable discussion by world leaders on Day One of the Twenty-fifth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

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PACIFIC ISLANDS SHARE EIA EXPERIENCE AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT



SPREP facilitated the participation of 12 Pacific islanders to the annual conference of the New Zealand Association for impact Assessment (NZAIA) held at the University of Auckland in late 2019.

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TONGA SHARES ITS COMMITMENT TO RAISING CLIMATE CHANGE AMBITION



From the world stage at the UNFCCC COP25, the Prime Minister of Tonga shared how the Pacific island continues to experience record rates of coastal erosion, overflow and flash flooding.

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NIUE VOICE COUNTED AT GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE



The science rings loud and clear, pointing to the need for even greater ambitions reflected in the Nationally Determined Contributions to a 1.5°C world. Commitment from countries is needed to make this happen.

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THE FIGHT FOR TUVALU'S SURVIVAL AT COP25



Tuvalu, with a land surface of no more than four metres above sea level, is extremely exposed to climate change. The island nation is doing everything it can to ensure that Tuvalu will survive, and has a future, exploring a range of innovations including the construction of artificial islands.

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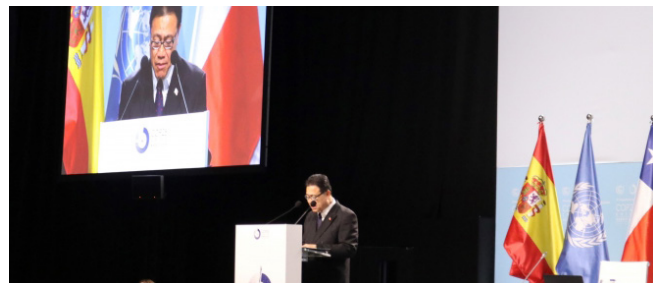
"WE CAN DO BETTER THAN THIS!" - SOLOMON ISLANDS AT WORLD'S LARGEST CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE



Solomon Islands, stands in solidarity with other Small Islands Developing States, in the climate change negotiations to avert a climate change crisis.

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"YOUR TURN WILL SURELY COME, SOONER RATHER THAN LATER" - SAMOA AT THE UNFCCC COP25



The High Level segment of the Twenty-fifth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was held from 10-11 December. The statement from Samoa was delivered by H.E. Aliioaiga Feturi Elisaia on 11 December.

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YOUR VOICE AT THE MOANA BLUE PACIFIC PAVILION

**MOANA BLUE PACIFIC PAVILION**



“We are responsible for Gods' creations so we must be good stewards of the earth's resources – especially our marine resources.”



**SAVE OUR REEFS SO THEY CAN SAVE US!**

Annie Rasmussen Semca

“For me the Paris Agreement is about finding a way to cooperate that includes all the countries and ensure fair representation, so that we can hold countries accountable for the emissions they produce and hopefully move into a world that is equitable not only for people but for the species we share the world with.”



**1.5 TO KEEP OUR PACIFIC OCEAN ALIVE!**

Chloe Bernadette Runsey  
New Zealand

**MOANA BLUE PACIFIC PAVILION**



**MOANA BLUE PACIFIC PAVILION**



“To put more emphasis on the ocean because we in the Pacific are facing the issue of rising sea levels where people are now being relocated, losing their homes, their sense of identity, their traditions and their culture. So oceans would be the biggest issue I would like the leaders to take into consideration this year.”



**KEEP OUR OCEAN CLEAN, CHOOSE TO REUSE!**

Komal Kumar  
Fiji

“Small island states contribute the least to climate change, yet we are suffering the most as recently experienced with cyclone Maria in Puerto Rico that caused 3057 deaths under the current state of global warming. We need to see more ambition from countries because beyond 1.5 Degrees – many of our islands won't survive.”




**I'M AN OCEAN CHAMPION**

Isabel Marie Carrion Rodriguez  
Puerto Rico

**MOANA BLUE PACIFIC PAVILION**




“What I would like to see at COP25 is for the big countries, the global North, to mitigate, mitigate, mitigate! And to use renewable energy.”



Carlton Zacharias  
Marshall Islands

**MOANA BLUE PACIFIC PAVILION**



“Climate finance is part of the solution, and it's a main key in mitigation and adaptation. It is not the only solution as there are things we can do every day, changing the way we buy, move, build – but the finance of public strategies is a major requirement to accelerate the movement of innovatio, and adapting to what is already happening because of climate change now.”



Mairia Sage  
French Polynesia

**MOANA BLUE PACIFIC PAVILION**



CLIMATE FINANCE FOR A 1.5°C WORLD



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TOKELAU CALLS UPON WORLD LEADERS TO ACT NOW



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THE JOURNEY TOWARDS RESILIENCE - ARE YOU IN THE VAKA WITH TOKELAU?



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FOR ALL STORIES FROM COP25 PLEASE VISIT [WWW.SPREP.ORG](http://WWW.SPREP.ORG)

CLIMATE CHANGE THE SINGLE GREATEST THREAT TO ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN VANUATU



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STRIVING FOR A BLUE AND RESILIENT KIRIBATI IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE



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WE MUST DO MORE THAN SIMPLY OFFER OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS - MARSHALL ISLANDS AT COP25



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10th Pacific Islands Conference

**NATURE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED AREAS**

*Nature Conservation Action for a Resilient Pacific*

Noumea, New Caledonia

**19-24 April 2020**

