

SPREP-Tok

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

ISSUE 62 • FEBRUARY - MARCH 2020

MESSAGE FROM MR. KOSI LATU, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SPREP

Ni sa bula from the SPREP Campus,

The Secretariat spent the months of February and March not only carrying out our normal duties and responsibilities to our Members, but actively observing the world as it turns to face another threat to our survival, the coronavirus COVID-19.

In February in Nadi, Fiji, the European Union-funded Pacific Waste Management Programme (PacWastePlus) held its steering committee meeting, which saw representatives from countries supported by the programme coming together and acknowledging that waste management is a serious concern in their countries and the region as a whole.

In March, a think-tank working group meeting was held, comprising of country representatives, Pacific media and members of the Pacific Resilience Partnership Taskforce to progress the strategic communications activities which will help enable the effective carrying out of tasks under the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific.

By the time this issue of the SPREP-Tok comes out, you will all have been well aware of the current situation with the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected countless countries around the world, as well as in the Pacific.

We have had to postpone most of our regional meetings and events as a result, as the number one priority for the Secretariat is the health and wellbeing of not only our staff, but the people of the Pacific.

I urge you all to work together with your governments and adhere to the measures that have been put in place in order to ensure yours and your family's safety. We are all in this together for our resilient Pacific.

Soifua,



Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.

SPREP-Tok LATEST NEWS



COVID-19 CONCERNS POSTPONE 10TH PACIFIC ISLAND CONFERENCE ON NATURE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED AREAS

The 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, which was scheduled to take place from 19-24 April 2020, has been postponed to later in 2020.

The decision to defer the conference to a later date, yet to be confirmed, has been made by the conference host, the Government of New Caledonia and partners, SPREP and the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT).

[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](#).

OUR RESILIENT PACIFIC AND PEOPLE



We live in unprecedented times where it is not just the Pacific region but the whole world that sits on the cusp of a new threat that we have not encountered before. Now more than ever, our resiliency as Pacific people is our solid foundation to empower us all to take the right actions.

[READ MORE ...](#)

PACIFIC ISLANDS TO HELP HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS



Living in harmony with nature by 2050 is the goal of a new set of global biodiversity targets to be achieved between 2020-2030, targets which Pacific islands will also be committed to reaching.

[READ MORE ...](#)

ENHANCING VANUATU'S PROTECTED AREAS WITH GIS AND SITE MAPPING SKILLS



Environment officers in Vanuatu now have the skills to produce basic maps of protected and conserved areas of Vanuatu following training on the upgraded tools and features of the Pacific Islands Protected Areas portal.

[READ MORE ...](#)

NEW CALEDONIA TO HOST THIRD CLEAN PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE IN OCTOBER 2020



New Caledonia, in partnership with SPREP is pioneering new ground. New Caledonia is host of the Third Clean Pacific Roundtable scheduled for October 2020.

[READ MORE ...](#)

WORK TO ADDRESS MARINE PLASTIC LITTER GETS OFF THE GROUND



"Tuvalu is a country that relies heavily on the ocean therefore, management of marine litter is crucial." – Mr. Walter Pulogo, Acting Director of Tuvalu's Ministry of Local Government and Agriculture.

[READ MORE ...](#)

COMMUNICATING "PACIFIC RESILIENCE" FOCUS OF THINK-TANK WORKING GROUP MEETING



The importance of communicating "resilience" and what it means to the people of the Pacific was the focus of discussions which took place amongst a technical working group which met in March at the SPREP headquarters in Apia, Samoa.

[READ MORE ...](#)

PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES MOVE FORWARD WITH PACIFIC WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME



Pacific island countries supported by the European Union-funded Pacific Waste Management Programme (PacWasetPlus) concluded their intensive three-day programme steering committee meeting in February.

[READ MORE ...](#)

ENHANCING READINESS FOR DISASTER WASTE MANAGEMENT IN VANUATU



In the aftermath of disasters, Vanuatu faces a lot of challenges in dealing with huge volumes of wastes generated. To improve resilience, a workshop to develop a contingency plan to address this waste issue was carried out from 2-6 March in Port Vila.

[READ MORE ...](#)

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP HELPING RURAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES ACCESS EARLY WARNING AND DISASTER INFORMATION



A weather and disaster preparedness mechanism called Women Wetem Weta (Women's Weather Watch) in Vanuatu helps keep rural and remote women and communities informed of humanitarian crises at an early warning stage.

[READ MORE ...](#)

TUVALU MAKING SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN WASTE MANAGEMENT, ACCORDING TO LATEST REVIEW



"A cleaner and healthier Tuvalu". This is the vision behind the Tuvalu Integrated Waste Policy and Action Plan 2017-2026, the main national policy framework to guide the management of waste in the country.

[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.](#)

10th Pacific Islands Conference
**NATURE CONSERVATION
AND PROTECTED AREAS**

Nature Conservation Action for a Resilient Pacific

Noumea, New Caledonia

