

# 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

Kia Orana from the SPREP Campus,

Pacific climate change negotiators came together for the first time since the 25th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP25) this month to reflect on the outcomes of COP25, and to take stock of the work that has to be done by the region as a consequence of those outcomes. COP26, to be hosted by the Governments of the United Kingdom and Italy, has been postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but there is still work to be done.

The month of June also saw the Kingdom of Tonga launch its first ever State of Environment Report on World Environment Day. They became the fifth Member country to adopt or launch a State of Environment report in the span of two months. I would like to congratulate Tonga on this great achievement, which is another example of ongoing developments and steps taken by our Pacific islands in the right direction, to ensure that decision and policy makers are informed and that the environment is safeguarded through positive conservation actions.

Finally, as the world continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, SPREP launched a webinar series which was aimed at highlighting Pacific voices and driving Pacific conversation which empower a “blue and green” component in the COVID-19 recovery plans for Pacific island countries. The series focussed on the crucial role of the environment in the recover plans post-COVID-19 for a sustainable and resilient Pacific.

The series ran for five weeks, with a different topic being covered each week, and attracted a multitude of viewers from around the Pacific and the world. If you missed out, all five sessions of the series can be found on SPREP’s [YouTube channel](#).

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

Soifua,



Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.

## SPREP-Tok LATEST NEWS



### WEBINAR SERIES TO ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABILITY AS WORLD EMERGES FROM COVID-19

A weekly webinar series which aims to highlight Pacific voices and drive Pacific conversation which empower a “blue and green” component in the COVID-19 recovery plans for Pacific island countries was launched by SPREP in June.

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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](#).

AIMING FOR A BLUER PACIFIC IN POST COVID-19 RECOVERY PLANS



As the Pacific islands assess ways to build back economies severely struck by the COVID-19 crisis, the environmental impacts faced worldwide highlight the opportunity we now have in our hands to building back a 'Bluer Pacific'.

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ENSURING ACCURATE AND UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FOR INFORMED DECISION MAKING



Mr Ainsof So'o is employed at SPREP as the Systems Developer and Analyst. He is tasked with ensuring that accurate and up-to-date information is available for informed decision making.

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TIME TO REFLECT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF PACIFIC BIODIVERSITY DURING WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



Since 1974, the world has celebrated World Environment Day ever year on 5 June, engaging and encouraging governments, businesses and citizens of the world to focus their efforts on a pressing environmental issue.

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IMPORTANCE OF COLLABORATION EMPHASISED AS SAMOA CELEBRATES WORLD OCEANS DAY



The ocean connects us, rather than separates us. This message rang through the crisp morning air as the village of Moata'a in Samoa and its partners came together to commemorate World Oceans Day.

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SECOND VIRTUAL EIA AND ESS TRAINING DELIVERED FOR KIRIBATI ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION DIVISION



Following the successful launch of a series of virtual trainings on Environmental Impact Assessment and Social Sustainability on 21 May, the second of a four-part training series was held on 27 May and focused on the 'scoping' component of the EIA process.

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SPREP CELEBRATES 27 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PACIFIC



On 16 June 2020, SPREP celebrated its 27th anniversary since the signing of the Treaty establishing SPREP on 16 June 1993.

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TONGA LAUNCHES FIRST STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT ON WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



A week-long commemoration of World Environment Day culminated in the launching of Tonga's first ever State of Environment (SOE) report 2019 at the official closing on Friday 5 June 2020.

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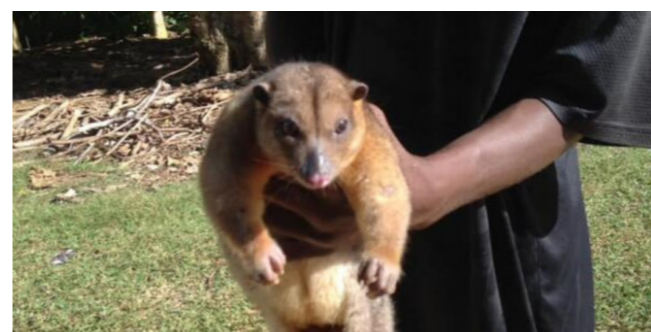
IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTIVE HEALTHCARE WASTE MANAGEMENT DURING PANDEMIC EMPHASISED



While countries in the Pacific have been significantly spared from the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of resilience and preparedness in the Pacific community, particularly in the area of waste management and pollution control, continues to be stressed.

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RETURN OF MARSUPIAL HAILED A NEW BEGINNING FOR BARANA COMMUNITY



After almost two decades, the Barana community is excited to see the return of the Northern common cuscus, *Phalanger orientalis*, also known as the grey cuscus.

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PACIFIC TAKES STOCK OF COP-25 IN LEAD-UP TO NEXT GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE



Pacific island climate change negotiators came together in a virtual forum to analyse the decisions and outcomes of the 25th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC held in Madrid, Spain, in 2019.

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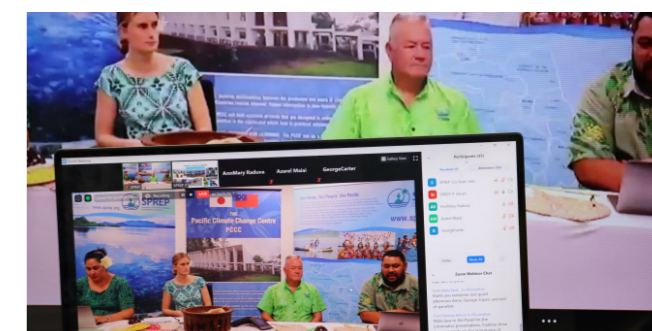
THE PACIFIC ISLANDS NATURE CONFERENCE IS GOING VIRTUAL!



We are excited to announce the 10th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas will now be held virtually from 23 – 27 November 2020.

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PLANET STILL BREAKING CLIMATE CHANGE RECORDS DESPITE COVID-19 LOCKDOWNS



The recent global lockdowns brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw air travel grind to almost a standstill, and resulted in decreased greenhouse gas emissions, have done little to slow down the rate of climate change.

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