

# 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

### Greetings from the SPREP Campus,

In the month of July, we officially confirmed the funding assistance from the Government of Ireland through Irish Aid for the National Meteorological Services of the countries severely impacted by Tropical Cyclone Winston earlier this year. The NMSs of Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu were recipients of funding and assistance, delivered through SPREP, which will go towards the repair and replacement of important infrastructure and equipment damaged during TC Harold. I would like to extend my gratitude to the Government of Ireland for their support for climate change response in the region.

The Cook Islands State of Environment Report was officially endorsed by Cabinet earlier this year, and I congratulate the Cook Islands on this achievement, which was the direct result of the hard work put into prioritising environmental data collection in order to ensure informed decision making at all levels.

Finally, our "Transitioning to a post-pandemic Pacific" webinar series also wrapped up in July, with the final session hosted by our Islands and Ocean Ecosystem programme. The webinar, which focused on "Healthy Environment = Healthy Humans", included a panel of distinguished speakers who explored the linkages between ecosystem degradation and the loss of biodiversity, and the emergence of infectious diseases.

The session concluded the five-week webinar series, which aimed to drive Pacific conversation which empowers a "blue and green" component in the COVID-19 recovery plans for Pacific island countries.

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

Soifua,



Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.

## SPREP-Tok LATEST NEWS



### GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND PROVIDES SUPPORT TO ASSIST RECOVERY EFFORTS FOR COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY TC HAROLD

In early April of 2020, Tropical Cyclone Harold, which was categorised as a Cat 5 cyclone, caused widespread destruction to the Pacific island nations of Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

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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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TOURISM SECTOR ENCOURAGED TO CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT IN SUSTAINABLE TOURISM PLANNING



The importance of integrating environmental considerations in sustainable tourism planning was emphasised during a webinar hosted by SPREP.

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SAMOA METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE RECEIVES TRAINING ON ADVANCED CLIMATE TOOLS TO SUPPORT THEIR WORK WITH COMMUNITIES



Building the capacity of the Samoa Meteorological Service in providing seasonal forecasts to support their national climate forecasting was the main objective of a three-day training workshop held in July.

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SAMOA COMMITS TO ENHANCING E-WASTE MANAGEMENT IN COLLABORATION WITH THE PACWASTEPLUS PROGRAMME



The Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment with the support of the PacWastePlus programme have selected e-waste as their priority waste stream.

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CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTION MAPS FOR FIJI LAUNCHED



SPREP in partnership with the Fiji Meteorological Service presented a series of climate prediction maps for Fiji to Permanent Secretaries at a function held at the Suva Business Centre in July.

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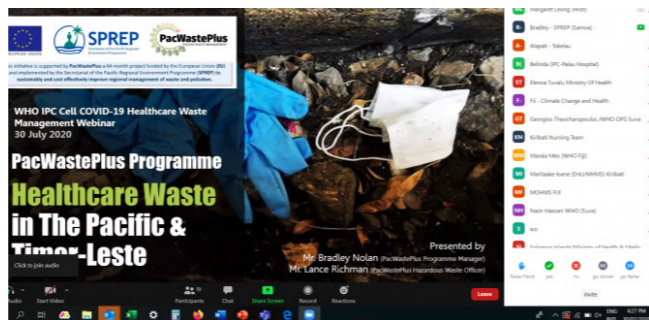
COOK ISLANDS STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT ENDORSED BY CABINET



The Cook Islands State of Environment Report 2018 was officially approved by Cabinet on 6 March 2020, and updates the 1993 baseline with the latest findings supported by scientific data from the Cook Islands and presents it in a form that is easily understood.

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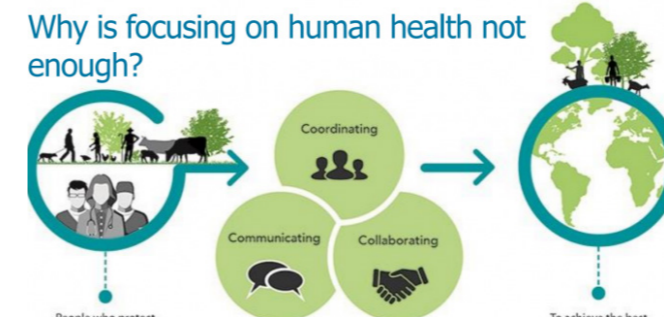
MANAGING HEALTHCARE WASTE FOR COVID-19 WEBINAR



Representatives from the European Union – Pacific Waste Management Programme (PacWastePlus) participated in World Health Organization webinar on healthcare waste management.

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HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT = HEALTHY HUMANS: DISCUSSING THE LINKAGES AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



As the COVID-19 pandemic rages on across the globe, the linkages between ecosystem degradation and the loss of biodiversity was discussed during the final session in SPREP's webinar series.

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HELPING PACIFIC ISLANDS PROTECT GENETIC RESOURCES AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE



Mr Rahul Arvind Chand, Capacity Building Officer of the Global Environment Facility funded and UN Environment Programme implemented Access and Benefit Sharing project at SPREP.

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PACIFIC TO PUSH FOR AMBITIOUS BIODIVERSITY TARGETS



The intergovernmental process led by the Convention on Biological Diversity to develop a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework is in motion and is engaging the global community to reach a new global pact for biodiversity.

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PROVIDING LEADERSHIP SUPPORT TO HELP ACHIEVE SPREP'S ORGANISATIONAL GOALS.



Ms Audrey Brown-Pereira is employed at SPREP as the Executive Officer. She is part of a team that supports the Director General implement SPREP's four strategic priorities on climate change resilience, island and ocean ecosystems, waste management and pollution control, and environmental monitoring and governance.

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10th Pacific Islands Conference

## NATURE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED AREAS

*Nature Conservation Action for a Resilient Pacific*

Noumea, New Caledonia



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