

# 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

### Mauri from the SPREP Campus,

We are fast approaching the last few months of what has been a very unusual year for all of us. The Secretariat continues to work with and provide support to our Member countries with the use of technology, as border closures and travel restrictions continue across the region and the world.

In August we conducted a virtual training for protected area practitioners and stakeholders in the Republic of Marshall Islands. The training aimed to equip them with the skills to produce basic maps of protected and conserved areas and enabled them to make full use of the Pacific Islands Protected Areas Portal.

The European Union (EU)-funded Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) project also held a two-day virtual meeting to update its partner countries and elicit their views on the project's progress to date, as well as to go through proposed changes to activities. It was the first Steering Committee since the project's Inception and Planning Meeting in April 2019, and was an opportunity for PACRES to receive guidance, advice, and direction on project activities.

A new project which will assist Pacific island countries to develop national profiles of mercury as a key step in early preparations for acceding to, and effectively implementing the Minamata Convention on Mercury has also gotten off the ground, with an inception meeting convened virtually in August. Representatives from countries involved in the project, as well as the United Nations Environment Programme, Biodiversity Research Institute, and SPREP, attended the virtual meeting, which aimed to inform them of the efforts to be undertaken in the context of the project and to ensure its efficient implementation.

You can read about all these activities and more in this issue of the SPREP-Tok.

Soifua,



Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.

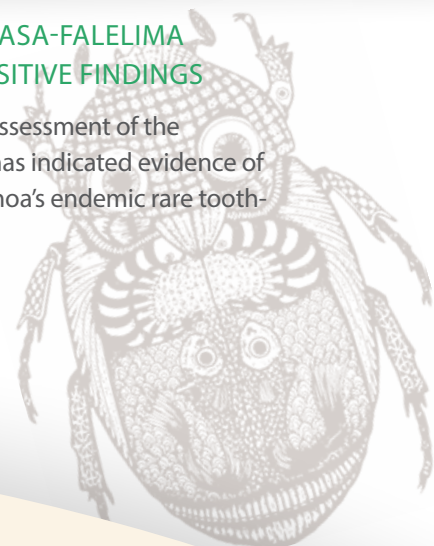
## SPREP-Tok LATEST NEWS



### BASELINE SURVEY OF MASAMASA-FALELIMA NATIONAL PARK RECORDS POSITIVE FINDINGS

The very first baseline survey and assessment of the Masamasa-Falelima National Park has indicated evidence of the presence of the manumea, Samoa's endemic rare tooth-billed pigeon.

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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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PEBACC HANDS OVER TAVEUNI ISLAND MUA NATIVE TREE NURSERY



The Mua Native Tree Nursery was officially handed over to the Government of Fiji by SPREP's Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change project at a ceremony held at the Mua Agricultural Research Station in Taveuni.

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PHD SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR PACIFIC ISLANDERS WORKING IN CLIMATE CHANGE AND INVASIVE SPECIES



Invasive species are one of the primary drivers of biodiversity loss in the Pacific. The impact of invasive species on Pacific island biodiversity, health, and livelihoods will further increase as a result of climate change.

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PACRES STEERING COMMITTEE CONVENES VIRTUALLY



A two-day virtual Steering Committee meeting of the European Union (EU)-funded Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) project was held on 19-20 August 2020.

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COOK ISLANDS LAUNCHES CONSULTATION PHASE OF NSDA 2020+



The Cook Islands has launched the consultation phase of the Cook Islands National Sustainable Development Agenda 2020+ calling for people to input into the document that has a 100-year vision.

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PACIFIC YOUNG WOMEN RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE



Women play a key role on the frontlines of disasters, working to ensure food security and safety of their families and communities. In recognition of the need for women in Pacific communities to have their voices heard, work is underway to building their empowerment using humanitarian responses.

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FOUR NEW RESOURCES FOR INVASIVE SPECIES BATTLERS!



Four new publications have been added to the 'Pacific Invasive Battler Series' and are now available for free download, to help Pacific practitioners in specific areas of invasive species management.

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VIRTUALLY ENHANCING MARSHALL ISLANDS PROTECTED AREAS WITH GIS AND SITE MAPPING SKILLS



Protected area practitioners and stakeholders of the Republic of the Marshall Islands are now equipped with the skills to produce basic maps of protected and conserved areas following an online, virtually delivered training on the upgraded tools and features of the Pacific Islands Protected Areas Portal.

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NEW PROJECT AIMED AT PREPARING PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES TO ACCEDE TO THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY COMMENCES



The Minamata Initial Assessment project conducted a virtual inception meeting in August, which aimed to bring together focal points and national stakeholders from Pacific island countries involved in the project to inform them of the efforts to be undertaken in the project's context and to ensure its efficient implementation.

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PACIFIC FISHERIES MINISTERS RAISE COASTAL FISHERIES, MARINE POLLUTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONCERNS



A new look Pacific Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting, which convened virtually in August, tabled key concerns on the state of coastal fisheries, climate change and marine pollution.


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USP UNDERTAKES WORK FOR PACWASTEPLUS TO ENHANCE HUMAN CAPACITY TO SUSTAINABLY MANAGE WASTE IN THE PACIFIC



The University of the South Pacific's Institute of Applied Sciences has commenced works with the European Union Pacific Waste Management Programme, through a service agreement focused on developing a sustainable capacity building programme for waste management in the Pacific.

[READ MORE ...](#)



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10th Pacific Islands Conference

## NATURE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED AREAS

*Nature Conservation Action for a Resilient Pacific*

Noumea, New Caledonia

