

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

Malo ni from the SPREP Campus,

We are officially in the final quarter of what has been a most unusual year. As this issue of the SPREP-Tok comes out, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread around the world, causing many countries to close their borders and halting international travel. We at SPREP are slowly but surely adapting to this “new normal” and have had to be innovative in finding ways to continue to work with our Members during this time. We are fortunate that the pandemic has not reached most of the countries in our Pacific region, and we must continue to remain vigilant in our efforts to stop this pandemic from reaching our shores.

The month of October saw the official declaration of a La Niña event, currently underway in the Pacific, by various agencies such as the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research of New Zealand. The La Niña, which is the Spanish term meaning “the girl” is a slow-onset event which will see countries in the central Pacific region such as Kiribati, Nauru and Tuvalu experience below normal rainfall, while islands in the South-West Pacific such as Fiji, Niue, Papua New Guinea and Samoa, will experience higher than normal rainfall.

The Secretariat, through the Climate and Oceans Support Programme in the Pacific (COSPPac) and the Republic of Korea Pacific Island Climate Prediction Service (ROK-PI CLIPS) projects, has been working with national meteorological services across the Pacific on how to best prepare for this event. The impacts of the La Niña will vary from country to country, with some set to be more susceptible to droughts while others will see more flooding and landslides. It is important that these countries prepare for these possible impacts as best as they can.

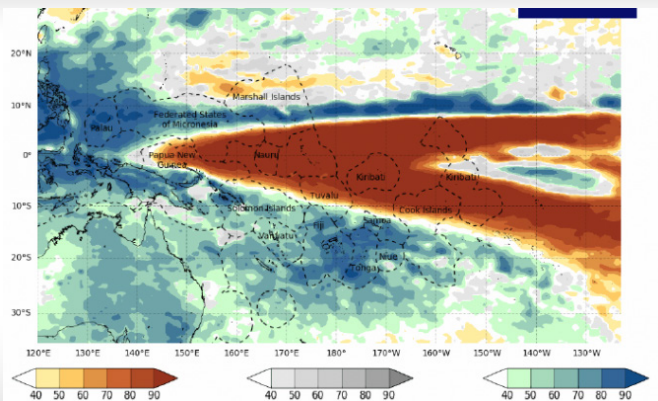
I hope you all enjoy this issue of the SPREP-Tok.

Soifua,



Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.

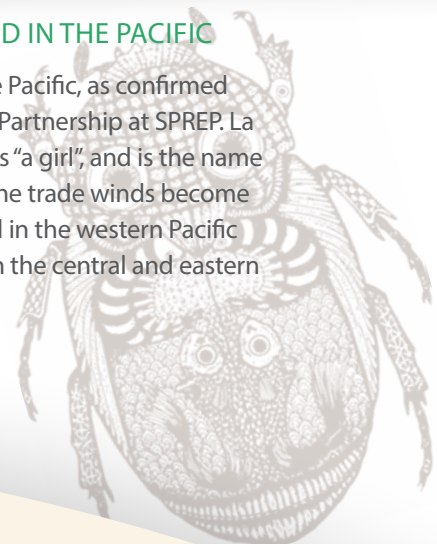
SPREP-Tok LATEST NEWS



LA NIÑA OFFICIALLY DECLARED IN THE PACIFIC

La Niña is officially underway in the Pacific, as confirmed by the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership at SPREP. La Niña is a Spanish term which means “a girl”, and is the name given to the phenomenon where the trade winds become stronger, enhancing the warm pool in the western Pacific and causing the air temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific to become cooler.

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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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NATURE CONSERVATION CONFERENCE VIRTUAL PLATFORM LAUNCHED



Participants in the 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas can now access important conference information and resources at the touch of a button with the launch of the new conference website and platform to support the now fully virtual event.

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FIJI TO BAN POLYSTYRENE IN 2021



A ban on polystyrene products in Fiji will go into effect on 1 January 2021. The ban is part of the Fijian Government's Climate Change Act, which was first announced in 2019.

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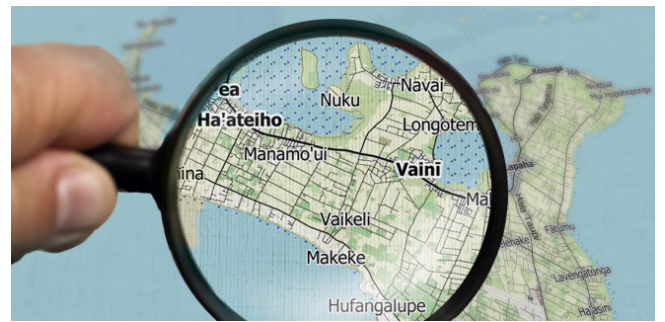
PACIFIC URGED TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM IN FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE



As the curtain fell on the 2020 Pacific Ocean Pacific Climate Change conference, organisers asked of themselves, their participants, keynote speakers, and presenters, "What are the next steps we need to take from here?"

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SPREP HAS MADE OPENSTREETMAP DATA AVAILABLE TO SERVE PACIFIC ISLANDS



SPREP, through the Inform project, has made data from OpenStreetMap (OSM) available through the Pacific Environment Portal to enable users to directly download OSM data.

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NEW PAPER ON ENHANCING CLIMATE RESILIENCE USING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE PUBLISHED ONLINE



The Climate and Oceans Support Programme in the Pacific recently had its Overall Traditional Knowledge Project paper published online as a chapter in the Palgrave Handbook of Climate Resilient Societies.

[READ HERE ...](#)

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION! WITH THE MICRONESIA CHALLENGE



More than 40 people have completed the Micronesia Challenge Young Champions internship program since it was launched in 2009. The internship program is generously funded by the Micronesia Conservation Trust.

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ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION IN THE PACIFIC



The why, how, and what is being done to address the issue of marine plastic pollution in the Pacific was highlighted during the third day of the 2020 Pacific Ocean Pacific Climate Change conference by Mr Anthony Talouli

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HELPING TO UNDERSTAND CLIMATE CHANGE IN VANUATU



Strengthening climate change awareness in Vanuatu was at the core of a one-day training for national media and communications officers in Port Vila in October.

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REPORT REVEALS POSITIVE OUTCOMES OF TONGA'S SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS ON MARINE ENVIRONMENT



Tonga's Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC) and SPREP have developed a report on the state of the environment in the country.

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YOUTH FARMERS LEARN OF IMPACTS OF WEATHER AND CLIMATE ON COCOA CROPS



Over 40 young Koko farmers are now better informed and aware of how weather and climate influence and impact their cocoa plants and farms following a two-week training workshop in Savaii.

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ENHANCING SOLOMON ISLANDS' PROTECTED AREAS THROUGH ACCESS TO INFORMATION RESOURCES AND GIS



Solomon Islands is an important centre of biodiversity in the Pacific islands region and there are many sites throughout the country that have high conservation value as key habitats for vulnerable and endemic species.

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WOMEN IN CLIMATE CHANGE SHIFTING THE POWER



The story of Pacific island women leaders across six different Pacific countries working for an inclusive approach in climate change and related disasters was told at the Third Pacific Ocean Pacific Climate Change virtual conference.

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