

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Annual Report

2018



SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

*A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods
and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.*



The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is the lead regional organisation for the protection and sustainable development of Pacific island environments.

SPREP was established by its Member governments in 1992 to support cooperation and coordination on environmental matters in the region. The agreement establishing SPREP came into force in 1993, officially making the organisation an autonomous body.

With headquarters in Apia, Samoa, SPREP works closely with its 26 Member countries and territories – along with partners, donors and local communities – to deliver on environmental management and sustainable development in the region in four priority areas:

CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND GOVERNANCE

ISLAND AND OCEAN ECOSYSTEMS

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL

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PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa
+685 21929
sprep@sprep.org
www.sprep.org

Our vision: A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures





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Foreword

Birds of Papua New Guinea.

Message from the Chair



Twenty-five years on and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme continues to break new ground constantly evolving to suit the needs of her Members and our Pacific island region.

Papua New Guinea, as the current Chair of the SPREP Executive Board, is proud to have seen first-hand the progress of SPREP over the last 25 years and that which continues to take place.

In 2018 SPREP pioneered its biennial council meetings with the very first Executive Board Meeting taking place. This was a very successful event for which I chaired in partnership with my co-chair from Fiji and I applaud the initiative from

H.E. Lucy Bogari, Papua New Guinea High Commissioner to Fiji and Permanent Representative to the Pacific Islands Forum and CROP. Photo: L.Williams



SPREP to make these changes from an annual SPREP Meeting to a biennial event with an Executive Board Meeting in between. I also applaud my fellow SPREP Members for taking that step to support the new meeting format.

Our Pacific islands environment and our governments and communities face growing challenges which SPREP works to help us address.

While many may dwell upon our regional size, geographical location and isolation as constraints - our mindset is such that we take pride in our place on the planet as large ocean island states.

We are rich in a history and culture that has seen our Pacific people navigate the world's largest ocean by the stars, our ancestors have gifted us traditional knowledge for healing and we will continue to demonstrate our leadership by making the right environmental decisions for us all.

Propelled by our Members in 2018, SPREP broke new ground in many different ways on our journey for a resilient Pacific environment. We congratulate the Secretariat and partners for their support.

Pacific leadership was on show when Vanuatu announced and then enforced its ban on single-use plastic bags

and then being the very first country in the world to take action against plastic straws for which SPREP provided communications support.

With support from the Government of Japan through the Government of Samoa we saw the construction begin of the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) to be hosted in Samoa at SPREP. This is our very first, our very own, Pacific centre for climate change that will be owned by us all and we look forward to the positive results that will ripple throughout our region from the PCCC.

For the very first time, SPREP formalised its partnership with the International Labour Organization to promote a just transition towards a greener economy through decent work. This partnership will promote jobs that improve energy efficiency, limit greenhouse gas emissions and minimise waste pollution.

Palau and Tuvalu acceded to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising on their Utilization to the Convention on Biodiversity in 2018, for which we congratulate them and SPREP.

SPREP managed their very first Pacific and Koronivia Pavilion funded by the Government of New Zealand through the COP

23 Presidency during the 24th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. This was a resounding success featuring over 50 side events and having over 6,000 people spend time within our Pavilion. This was the opportunity for which we could showcase Pacific action on climate change to the world and having SPREP at the helm saw the Pavilion run smoothly.

We also commend SPREP, as lead coordinating agency on Climate Change in the Pacific, as our Secretariat also successfully led a one-CROP Plus strategy to help our Pacific island Members during the COP24.

We received support from SPREP in 2018 to address one of our greatest challenges in the region, the data shortages we need to help us bring about a sustainable environment. Through the Inform Project, a partnership between the GEF and the UN Environment executed by SPREP, we saw progress on national data portals developed across our region to fill this information gap.

SPREP continues to help our Pacific island media to share our messages for environmental protection and conservation by launching the very first Ocean Toolkit for Pacific Media empowering more news items about our

ocean issues in our local media. The more we can tell our Pacific stories, the more our people and our global community will listen and make informed decisions.

At the core of the Secretariat are the crew of hardworking people who serve us all as Members. We are proud to work with the Director General of SPREP and his team as they accompany us to meet our rising challenges ahead. We commend their efforts in 2018 to plant over 5,000 trees in support of Samoa's 2 million tree campaign 2015–2020 and in commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of SPREP.

These are just a few of the "firsts" that SPREP continues to support us with as we rise to meet our growing environmental challenges. Through these pages you will read of many more, as SPREP continues with us on our journey towards a resilient Pacific environment sustaining our natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Happy 25th Anniversary SPREP, we welcome the achievements to come, working together with our Members and partners.

Onwards and upwards.

H.E. Ms. Lucy Bogati

PAPUA NEW GUINEA HIGH COMMISSIONER TO FIJI AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM AND CROP

Introduction

Nauru. Photo: S.Chape

Message from the Director General



2018 marked the 25th anniversary of the signing of the treaty establishing SPREP as an autonomous body in 1993, mandated by Member governments to protect and conserve the environment for present and future generations of the Pacific island region. Since then, SPREP has grown from strength to strength with highlights presented in this 2018 annual report.

Mr Kosi Latu.

The first SPREP Executive Board meeting convened in September, which enabled a streamlined meeting of subregional representation to decide important matters for 2019, including the revised budget and the enhanced subregional presence of SPREP in the North Pacific. SPREP Members approved the new biennial arrangements in 2015.

Prior to the 8th Pacific Leaders Meeting (PALM 8) in Iwaki, Japan the ground-breaking ceremony was held on 11 May for the Pacific Climate Change Centre, led by the Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa, and H.E. Shinya Aoki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Samoa. The commitment by the Governments of Samoa

and Japan to this initiative will see the handing over of the PCCC to SPREP in September, 2019. This will be a significant milestone for the region as the PCCC will be a globally respected Centre of Excellence providing practical information, support and training to address the adaptation and mitigation priorities of Pacific island communities.

SPREP is grateful to the Government of New Zealand for their partnership with Japan, which was announced at the 49th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Nauru. New Zealand will provide additional capacity and human resource support of USD 2.3 million to help operationalise the PCCC, once construction is completed, and to complement the capacity building programmes to be delivered through the Centre by JICA.

To further reflect climate change as our principal concern, SPREP led the coordination of the One CROP Plus team at COP24 in Katowice, Poland. This included leading the One CROP Plus team on the climate change negotiations, communications and the joint management of the Pacific and Koronivia Pavilion, the latter a Pacific Partnership between the COP23 Presidency of the Republic of Fiji with the support of New Zealand. The success of coordination lies in the

commitment of the One CROP Plus agencies working together to support our Pacific island members before, during and after COP24. This will ensure the negotiation outcomes lead to tangible impacts that help Pacific island communities.

The first Pacific Ministerial Symposium on Sharks and Rays was held in March with the support of the Government of Samoa, the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Paul G. Allen Philanthropies. As host of the Symposium, Samoa became the 8th Shark and Rays Sanctuary in the Pacific alongside the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia and Palau.

The Second Clean Pacific Roundtable was held in Suva, Fiji at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in August and officially opened by the Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji and the COP23 Presidency. The outcomes of the Clean Pacific Roundtable Declaration were reiterated through the 49th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Communiqué, which reaffirmed commitment to the urgency of implementing the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan and recognition that waste is a critical issue for the Blue Pacific. There is a close partnership between SPREP, the European Union, JICA and CROP agencies to address the critical challenge of waste management and pollution. This partnership ensured the roundtable was a collective success with the vast stakeholders involved and that the work will continue.

The importance of understanding and reporting on what is happening to the environment at the national, regional and global scale is critical for the Pacific, and an area in which SPREP's Environmental Monitoring and Governance programme plays a unique role. A key area is helping Pacific island Members with their capacity to implement multilateral environmental agreements by strengthening planning and the state of environmental assessment and reporting. The Inform Project is a UNEP-GEF funded project, executed by SPREP, to help establish a Pacific island countries network of national and regional databases for monitoring, evaluating, and analysing environmental information to support environmental planning, forecasting, and reporting.

As part of strengthening engagement for the benefit of Members, SPREP signed the following MOU in 2018:

1. Government of the Republic of Marshall Islands, Environmental Protection Authority
2. Moana Taka Partnership with China Navigation Company PTE Ltd, Swire Shipping
3. Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology
4. International Labour Organization
5. The Global Green Growth Institute
6. Birdlife International
7. Le Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de Nouvelle-Calédonie.

8. L'Agence Francaise pour la Biodiversité to enable secondment in New Caledonia for support of Nature Conservation Conference in 2020.
9. Meteo-France with support for met services.
10. Foreign Affairs (France) to SPREP for regional meetings on coral reefs.

A key aspect of the work of SPREP is the transparency and accountability of the Secretariat to its Members and Partners. The SPREP Audited Financial Accounts for 2018 by external auditor KPMG, Fiji noted a surplus of USD 154,273 for the audited accounts.

The new organisational structure became effective in January with the realignment of positions and programmes to help better deliver the strategic priorities in the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017–2026. The senior management team now has its full complement with the appointment of Ms Tagaloa Cooper as the Director of Climate Change Resilience and Mr Stuart Chape, Director of Island and Ocean Ecosystems, who has the additional role of the Acting Deputy Director General - Strategic Policy and Technical Programmes.

In the 25th anniversary year SPREP can boast that the senior management team reflects the region with the majority membership of women and or Pacific islanders.

Thank you for your support in 2018, we look forward to working with you in 2019.

Kosi Latu

DIRECTOR GENERAL, SPREP

Our Pacific Island Members

Working in partnership to achieve shared goals



SPREP is committed to working with our Members to deliver on environmental management and sustainable development in the region. Our work is driven by strategic priorities, which are developed in close consultation with all our Pacific island Members and other stakeholders.

Ghavatu, Tanambogho and Ghaome islands, Solomon Islands Photo © S. Chape

Preparing for Lotonuu Campaign in American Samoa

In 2018 the American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group worked with 15 different village and school gardens in collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States. The initiative provided tools and guidance to develop rain gardens near the coast and major waterways. The rain gardens filter polluted water passing through and clears them of pollutants before the water reaches the reef. This activity aims to inspire stewardship for a harmonious relationship between the land, ocean and its people for a sustainable way of life in American Samoa.

Learning about good environmental practices in American Samoa.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands at Sixth International Marine Debris Conference

CNMI was represented at the Sixth International Marine Debris Conference (IMDC) in the United States in 2018. The IMDC provided lessons about challenges and actions to address the global marine debris issue across a range of different themes such as laws and regulations, education and awareness, strategies and frameworks.

The delegates from CNMI also learnt about educational and awareness campaigns for use at the national level.

Marine Pollution. Photo: SPREP/J.Callebaut





Cook Islands launches national reporting tool

Developed under the Inform Project, the Cook Islands National Environment Service launched a reporting tool to track the status of environmental indicators. The tool provides the basis for monitoring and reporting on the State of Environment (SoE) for future reports, as well as multilateral environmental agreements such as the Aichi Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Sustainable Development Goals, SAMOA Pathway and National Sustainable Development Plans. The Inform Project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by UN Environment and executed by SPREP.

FSM prepares for SoE and NEMS

Support was provided to the Federated States of Micronesia through the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECEM) for national consultations to agree on the approach for the FSM State of Environment (SoE) report and National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS).

Representatives from the four states and National Government, and individual consultations with key government ministries, non-government organisations, and relevant stakeholders, gathered the necessary data and information for the SoE and NEMS. An environmental data portal was also established for FSM.



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Fiji strengthens CITES implementation

A draft framework was presented for endorsement by Fiji's scientific council to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

A national workshop was held to help improve the implementation of CITES obligations by various sectors, which may be dealing with the reporting and enforcement under separate policies. The framework identifies key challenges and issues, and prescribes a way forward.

The workshop brought together a wide range of national stakeholders including representatives of the Fiji national government, Fiji Environment Law Association, Maritime Safety Authority, University of the South Pacific, WWF – Fiji, Oceania Customs Organisation, Mamanuca Environment Society, Wildlife Conservation Society, SPREP and The Pew Charitable Trusts.

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MoU for strengthened relations with Meteo-France in French Polynesia

Meteo-France in French Polynesia will strengthen collaboration with SPREP through a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2018. The MoU will enhance coordination and collaboration in providing technical support and capacity development opportunities for Pacific Meteorological Services. It continues a partnership that saw Meteo-France attend the Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum in 2015, contributing substantially to the technical discussions.

The MoU includes a standing invitation to participate in meetings such as the Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology, the Pacific Meteorological Council Meeting, Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum and other regional strategic planning meetings as appropriate; as well as the co-sponsoring and convening of relevant meetings and associated stakeholder engagements as part of donor-funded activities in the Pacific.



SPREP/F.Artzner



2018 International Coastal Cleanup Report.

Island Sustainability Conference hosted in Guam

The 9th Regional Conference on Island Sustainability hosted by Guam was held in March. The conference inspired change, facilitated action and provided a venue for sharing, networking, and collaboration of sustainability issues related to economic, social/cultural, educational, environmental or energy solutions. According to the Guam Daily Post, Guam’s leaders advocated for continuous efforts toward island sustainability during the opening of the conference.

Mr Robert Underwood kicked off remarks in his last conference as the University of Guam’s President, followed by Lt. Gov. Ray Tenorio, legislative Speaker Benjamin Cruz, and Del. Madeleine Bordallo. Each drew attention to existing environmental concerns and suggested how they could be improved.

Kiribati featured during second Clean Pacific Roundtable

The Kaoki Maange System to empower sustainable waste management in Kiribati was featured during the Clean Pacific Roundtable in 2018, during a session on Progress on Existing Sustainable Waste Mechanisms in Waste Management. The Kaoki Maange “money-back” system for aluminium cans, PET bottles, and used car batteries in Kiribati began in 2003. Since then over 550 tonnes of waste has been exported – over 200 tonnes of aluminium cans, over 90 tonnes of PET bottles and over 200 tonnes of scrap car batteries.

There is work underway to expand the programme to include a scrap vehicle recycling system to address the stockpile of end-of-life vehicles on Kiribati.

Kiribati featured at Second Clean Pacific Roundtable.



Nauru calls for global community to Act Now

Leaders of the world were called upon to “act now” by the President of Nauru, H.E. Baron Waqa at the 24th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

President Waqa addressed the High Level Plenary at the UNFCCC COP24 in Katowice, Poland in December asking world leaders and conference delegates how they wish to be remembered. His comments came after the release of the UN Environment Emissions Gap Report just before UNFCCC COP21, and the IPCC Special Report on 1.5, issued in October, 2018.

“If we do not act now, then the next generation of leaders surely will. Global movements led by our youth demand it.”

H.E. Baron Waqa, President of Nauru

Marine Protected Area Surveillance and Management workshop hosted in New Caledonia

Officers from New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna have a better understanding of the available technologies to help Marine Protected Area (MPA) surveillance, through a study commissioned by the Agence Française pour la Biodiversité (AFB). A workshop on Marine Protected Area Surveillance and Management was held in Noumea, New Caledonia in 2018, to present findings of the MPA surveillance technology study and the MPA surveillance technology decision support tool. The workshop was coordinated by the AFB and SPREP (as part of the Pacific Biodiversity Blue Belt Project, funded under the European Best 2.0 grant) and consisted of three components. The first took stock of the project’s activities, the second presented on MPA surveillance technologies, and the third was learning about handling the decision support tool, called the ‘choice of surveillance technology’.

The Pacific Biodiversity Blue Belt Project was launched in May 2016, funded by the European Union and implemented by SPREP in partnership with the AFB.





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Niue Readiness

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) Niue Readiness Project commenced in 2018 with the launch of the project at an inception workshop, facilitated by the Niue Project Management and Coordination Unit (PMCU) in partnership with SPREP. The project supports Niue to work more effectively with the GCF and other partners to access finance to address their priority climate change needs. The workshop brought representatives together across government, non-government and business sectors to discuss how Niue can work together to ensure effective, high impact and sustainable use of climate finance to be accessed through the GCF.

The Readiness project has a total budget of USD 558,000 and will be delivered by a Project Team based at the PMCU, Government of Niue, working in partnership with SPREP as the GCF Delivery Partner.

Palau protecting Sharks

Palau signed the Pacific Islands Ministers Declaration on the Conservation of Sharks and Rays in 2018.

Palau made history in 2009 by establishing the world's first shark sanctuary. Another historic moment came in 2015 when Palau, FSM and the Republic of Marshall Islands established the very first regional shark sanctuary called the Micronesia Regional Shark Sanctuary.

Over 100 million sharks are killed each year in commercial fisheries to meet the high demand for shark fins, despite the fact that healthy reefs are vital for tourism and marine life. Science shows that sharks help maintain the health of coral reefs.



© S. Chape

PNG established national data portal to support improved environmental governance

Papua New Guinea is one of 14 Pacific island countries participating in the GEF Regional Inform Project implemented by UN Environment and executed by SPREP. With assistance from the Inform Project, a national environment portal was established for PNG under the leadership of the Conservation and Environmental Protection Authority (CEPA). The data portal is a repository of environment and related data and information. The main purpose is to make it easier for government agencies, key stakeholders and the general public to access key information to support planning, monitoring, reporting and decision-making. The portal also assists with national reporting such as the State of Environment report, as well as reports required under Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Sustainable Development Goals.

The PNG environment data portal is built on open source software, which is used by larger global and regional organisations to make information available. It is also designed to serve CEPA and can be used to support multi-sector, intra-ministry access and collaboration. Capacity building was provided to CEPA as part of the process for establishing the portal. PNG's national environment portal received supplementary financial support from UNDP's Enhancing Capacity to Develop Global and Regional Environment Project in the Pacific.

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Republic of the Marshall Islands launches NEMS

A soft launch of RMI's National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS) 2017–2022 was held in the margins of the Inform project inception in August last year. NEMS is a commitment by RMI to conserve and improve its environment for current and future generations, promote sustainable development and integrate environment conservation and the proper governance of development efforts.





Samoa the 8th Shark Sanctuary of the Pacific

Samoa announced a shark sanctuary within its 128,000 sq km Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), making it the eighth Pacific island country that has designated its national waters as a protected sanctuary for all sharks and rays. This was a result of amending the Marine Wildlife Protection Regulation 2018, which bans the commercial fishing, selling, import and export of all shark and ray species as well as their derivatives.

Samoa's announcement increases the total area established as shark sanctuaries in the Pacific islands to an estimated 17 million sq km. This consists of the EEZs of Cook Islands, FSM, French Polynesia, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Palau, RMI and Samoa.

Tokelau Greenhouse Gas Emissions to be counted

The Project Greenhouse Gas Tokelau was showcased at a special event in the Pacific and Koronivia Pavilion at the 24th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in December last year.

For the first time Tokelau will be undertaking a Greenhouse Gas Inventory to be submitted with New Zealand's GHG Inventory in 2019. New Zealand extended its ratification of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement to include Tokelau, after extensive consultations between the two governments. This means New Zealand will report on Tokelau's GHG emissions and removals as well which has led to the joint initiative between the two governments – Project GHG Tokelau – to develop the methodology to do so.

Top Award for Solomon Islands

An Ecosystem and Socio-economic Resilience Analysis and Mapping (ESRAM) assessment undertaken by the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change Project (PEBACC) in Solomon Islands has won a top award. The 2018 Sustainable Management Award in the Internationally Funded Category was presented by the Australia and New Zealand Institute for Sustainable Management (ANZISM).

The Australia-based consultancy group BMT prepared the assessment, which refined and applied ESRAM methodology developed by SPREP for the PEBACC project. BMT engaged local stakeholders over two years to map ecosystem types; define key ecosystem functions and services; identify threats to these functions and services; and identify and prioritise ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) interventions to improve ecosystem health and increase community resilience to climate change.

Tonga hosts Climate and Ocean Support Program Meeting

The Climate and Ocean Support Program in the Pacific confirmed support from the Australian Government to continue through a second four-year phase beginning on 1 July 2018, at the review meeting hosted by Tonga. The aim of COSPPac is to enhance the capacity of Pacific islands to manage and mitigate the impacts of climate variability and tidal events, and work together with members to build tools to forecast and report on climate, tides and the ocean. It will also determine how best to communicate this information to communities, businesses and governments.

COSPPac is managed by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) and implemented in partnership with Geoscience Australia (GA), the Pacific Community (SPC), and SPREP.





PACC/L.McPake



SPREP/D. Sadler

Tuvalu reviewed its Integrated Waste Policy and Action Plan 2017–2026

SPREP assisted in reviewing the implementation of the waste policy in Tuvalu, including determining changes in priorities. This was coordinated with the Department of Waste Management in consultation with the relevant sectoral stakeholders. A Capacity Needs Assessment was undertaken to determine gaps for policy implementation. The output reports outline the one-year progress and the revised priorities of the Tuvalu waste sector, and help to guide future actions.

The activity is a pre-requisite to the commencement of the bilateral Waste Project funded through the 11th European Development Fund (EDF11).



Urban forestry project commenced in Vanuatu

Vanuatu's Department of Forestry signed a letter of agreement with SPREP through the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change Project (PEBACC) to commence an urban forestry project in Port Vila. This project includes Tagabe river riparian restoration and the establishment of community-based tree nurseries. Activities include replanting along the Tagabe river, as well as ensuring the availability of seedlings by establishing tree nurseries across the greater Port Vila region. The SHEFA Tanvasoko Area Council Youth Committee was also supported by the project to coordinate a clean-up activity of the Tagabe river.

PEBACC is a five-year project implemented by SPREP in partnership with the governments of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The project is funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) administered by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). The project focuses on strengthening and protecting the role of natural ecosystem services to enhance resilience to climate change.

Wallis and Futuna has new mangrove trail

A new mangrove trail along the coast of Vaiteolo village in Wallis and Futuna was launched which highlights the value and fragility of mangrove ecosystems.

The 800-meter long trail leads to a freshwater source that holds significant importance to the history of the community, and supports the efforts made by village associations to plant mangrove trees along the coast. It was coordinated by the Pacific Biodiversity Blue Belt project on a BEST2.0 Medium Grant.

There are eight signs along the trail, which students on field trips or tourists can use to garner more knowledge on the importance of mangrove ecosystems. The Pacific Biodiversity Blue Belt Project was launched in May 2016, funded by the European Union and implemented by SPREP in partnership with the French Agency for Biodiversity (AFB).



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Celebrating SPREP's 25th Anniversary in 2018

The SPREP Agreement was signed in June, 1993

The SPREP 25 Years Campaign kicked off in May 2018 with a special cake cutting ceremony led by the Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa, on the same day as the ground breaking for the Pacific Climate Change Centre. The Prime Minister was joined by ministers of state, members of the diplomatic corps, development partners and representatives from SPREP and the Pacific Community (SPC).



The Federated States of Micronesia celebrated the 25th anniversary during a special mission by SPREP staff to FSM. The Deputy Secretary for the Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr Samson Pretrick, reflected on some of the major accomplishments by SPREP in FSM including the first State of Environment Report in 1992, completed with technical assistance from SPREP and financial support from the Asian Development Bank.

"I commend SPREP for pursuing the path to environmental development by enhancing friendly relations and mutual beneficial cooperation with most countries,"

Mr Samson Pretrick



The 25th Anniversary of SPREP was also commemorated at the 2nd Clean Pacific Roundtable in 2018 by the Prime Minister of Fiji, Hon. Josiaia Voreqe Bainimarama; Mr Kosi Latu, Director-General of SPREP; and Dame Meg Taylor, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.



The International Union for Conservation of Nature and SPREP celebrated their anniversaries with the Government of Samoa during the welcome for the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme Regional inception workshop. As SPREP marked its 25th anniversary, and the IUCN celebrated its 70th, a special cake commemorated the importance of partnerships for the Pacific region.



Lefaga College in Samoa won the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Schools Challenge in 2016 with a poster encouraging people to help stop the spread of invasive species. As part of the 25th anniversary events, the winning poster was displayed on a billboard at the school.





SPREP observed its 25th anniversary on 16 June, 2018. To mark this milestone, SPREP held an Open School Day for over 150 students to showcase some of the important work the organisation does across the region, in partnership with Pacific island Members and partners. The visiting students, parents and teachers also learnt about activities linked to the 2018 Pacific Year of the Coral Reef.



Keeping Pacific environment issues in the public eye was a focus of the 25th anniversary. The activities included a monthly Pacific Conversation Series in the Pacific regional magazine *Islands Business International*.



The social committee of SPREP, Le Coral Club, commemorated the 25th anniversary by planting 5,271 native seedlings in the Vailima Nature Reserve, in partnership with Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. This was in support of Samoa's two million trees campaign 2015–2020.



A number of meetings and workshops organised by SPREP coincided with the anniversary, with the participants also joining in to mark another milestone for the organisation.



CBD COP14

14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity



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Pacific preparation leads to strong Pacific visibility in Egypt at CBD COP14.

'Investing in biodiversity for people and planet' was the theme of the world's largest biodiversity conference in 2018 hosted in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. Over 190 Parties joined the 14th Conference of the Parties (CBD COP14) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity along with partners, the private sector, and NGOs to act on global commitments to halt the loss of biodiversity.

The Pacific Parties to the CBD met three months before COP14 to strategise a way forward for united engagement, and to prepare the sixth national reports to the CBD.

The resulting Pacific brief summarised the views of the Pacific island Parties; high level briefs on key areas of the agenda, and a Compass Guide to help the Pacific navigate the CBD COP14.

Pacific visibility was strong and included the distribution of *poa tiare* or *sei*, flowers for Pacific delegates to wear. SPREP operated a booth with communication and awareness materials, and Pacific delegates featured in numerous side events, including one specifically for the Pacific region.

A High-Level Segment preceded the CBD COP14. Other meetings included the ninth meeting of the COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, as well as the third meeting of the COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.



Pacific island delegates send strong messages at the CBD COP.



Mr Stuart Chape of SPREP, presenting on Pacific coral reefs.



Pacific island delegates.

Call for action for our coral reefs made during Pacific side event

A well-attended side event on the Pacific Islands Voyage towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets was held during the CBD COP14. The special event showcased the work in the Pacific islands, in particular the progress on Protected Areas in Papua New Guinea; the actions to enhance biodiversity protection through

education and awareness in Tonga, and work to address invasive species in New Zealand. Attendees also learnt about access and benefits sharing activities in Tuvalu.

The Pacific side event highlighted the action needed to protect our coral reefs through Target 10 of the CBD

Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including the importance of Marine Protected Areas and the need for effective coral reef monitoring and management planning.

Navigating through the CBD COP14 with a Compass handbook, especially developed for Pacific island delegates by SPREP.



Tonga reaches out during the High Level Segment of the CBD COP14

Ensuring the consideration of biodiversity protection and conservation in the context of mining was among the topics for the High-Level Segment. Tonga sought support from the Secretariat of the CBD to invest in the blue economy, and marine conservation and management, in light of deep-sea mining and exploration.

The Pacific islands have complete ownership over any seabed mining or exploratory activities within their large continental shelf areas. They can decline any mining activities if they decide the environmental impacts or risks associated with seabed mining outweigh the benefits.



“We recognise the potential benefits and risks of deep-sea mining activities and welcome further resources and assistance to better understand these. Unless managed carefully, deep sea mining activities could have negative impacts on the achievements of a number of SDGs and Aichi Targets. If well managed, mining activities can contribute to these achievements, by promoting economic productivity and job creation.”

Mr Paula Ma'u, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications of Tonga, at the High-Level Segment

SPREP Signs On To Global Protected Areas Partnership Launched At the UN Biodiversity Conference

There are two years to go to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as committed to by over 190 Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, including the Pacific island Parties. To help Parties achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 on Protected Areas over the next two years a Global Partnership was launched at COP14, bringing together 37 Partners, including SPREP.

The partnership is a strengthened commitment to mobilise the global community to implement Target 11 and was launched during a special day on Protected Areas at the CBD COP14.



Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa, also the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Hon. Fiame Naomi Mata'afa presents at the opening of the High Level Segment.



SPREP and RMI participated in a special event at the Rio Pavilion titled "Building Capacity beyond 2020".

Pacific islands voice at special events

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND HEALING PRACTICES: SAMOA NAVIGATES TOWARDS THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL

The Cook Islands and Samoa are featured in the publication ABS – Genetic Resources for Sustainable Development that was launched during CBD COP14.

A delegate from Samoa at the special event shared experiences of their work. This included a case study

by the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa, in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), researching Samoan medicinal plant materials to provide scientific evidence that they can help to prevent certain illnesses.

Prior to the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol, Samoa had provisions in place for bioprospecting in the late 1980s, although having signed and ratified the Nagoya Protocol in 2014 it is working on a national legal framework now in the final stages of development.

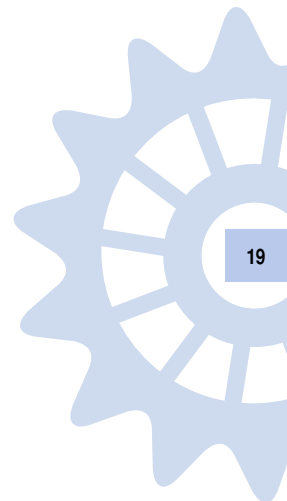


PALAU SHINES AT CBD COP14: SHARING THEIR STORY ON INVASIVE SPECIES ERADICATION

Showcased at the 'Beyond biodiversity: Scaling up invasive species eradications on islands' special event at CBD COP14, Palau shared their story on five projects to restore their native island ecosystems.

The eradication of rats and feral cats on Kayangel Atoll in Palau has helped to increase the

megapode bird population, and boosted regrowth of local root crops and the employment of local community members to help sustain their conservation efforts. Other positive outcomes to restore island ecosystems included rat and pig eradications on Helen Reef and Ngcherur island.



TUVALU READY TO IMPLEMENT THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL THROUGH THE GLOBAL ONLINE CLEARINGHOUSE

Presenting at the special event on the ABS Clearing House at CBD COP14, Tuvalu shared their experiences in acceding to the Nagoya Protocol as well as the steps required to ratify and implement the Protocol. One of the first activities undertaken by Tuvalu was to share information on the ABS Clearing House, a website

maintained by the Secretariat of the CBD. It aims to make all information relevant to ABS available in an open global repository. The ABS Clearing House allows providers to share information on contacts, procedures and requirements for accessing genetic resources and traditional knowledge.



Island and Ocean Ecosystems



Forest, Guadalcanal island, Solomon Islands. Photo: S. Chape

SPREP Strategic Plan Regional Goal 2: Pacific people benefit from healthy and resilient island and ocean ecosystems

Healthy ecosystems and their biodiversity are the foundation for sustainable development and adaptation and resilience to climate change in the Pacific region.

GBIF Pacific Invasive Species Data Mobilisation and Capacity Building Project Concludes

A project to build capacity across 14 Pacific island countries and territories for improved invasive species data sharing, security and usage has resulted in 22 new publishing agencies and 52 new datasets containing 20,585 new records.

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) is an open-data research tool funded by various governments, which aims to provide free and open access to biodiversity data to anyone, anywhere.

As the Pacific's first GBIF Participant node SPREP has enabled Member countries to publish their biodiversity data directly to GBIF using tools available to them.

This provides the opportunity for SPREP to integrate these new standards of data management into new and future projects.

[Training for Pacific Islanders to input Pacific data into the GBIF open-data research tool.](#)



Dugong and Seagrass Conservation in Pacific Island Range States

The declining status of seagrass and dugong populations in the region was reviewed by delegates from four of the five Pacific island range states for dugongs, convened in Solomon Islands in 2018.

Participants from New Caledonia, Palau, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu also reviewed the progress of the four-year Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

The meeting, supported by the Solomon Islands government, concluded that more effort is needed to raise public awareness; develop reliable

abundance estimates for dugongs, and map seagrass meadows of the range states that are an important habitat for dugongs. The meeting also provided feedback on the SPREP draft Dugong Action Plan 2018 – 2022.

The Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project is executed by the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund with financing from the GEF, and implementation support from UN Environment. Technical support is provided through the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals Dugong Memorandum of Understanding.



Photo: D. Perrine, Copyright Commonwealth of Australia GBRMPA

Report on the Pacific Coral Reefs, launched in 2018

Coral reef ecosystems are an integral part of the life and culture of Pacific islanders, which is highlighted in the Status and Trends of Coral Reefs for the Pacific report launched by UN Environment and SPREP.

The report provides the latest analysis of long-term trends in coral reef health based on primary data. While the coral reefs of the Pacific islands are in reasonable health there are

signs of decline, particularly in inhabited areas. Urgent action on climate change and coastal management are necessary to protect these life-sustaining ecosystems.

The result of a two-year process, the report was initiated at the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) Pacific Workshop held in 2016 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The last region-wide report was the Status of

Coral Reefs of the Pacific and Outlook: 2011.

The report was produced through a partnership with the International Coral Reef Initiative, Centre for Island Research and Environmental Observatory, UN Environment and SPREP, with support from the Governments of France, Sweden, and United States of America.

Report on the Pacific Coral Reefs, launched in 2018.



Helping the Pacific strengthen their Protected Areas

With the aim to strengthen the management and governance of protected areas in the Pacific region, over 100 participants from governments, NGOs, stakeholders and partners convened in 2018 for the inception workshop of the second phase of the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme.

The five-day event brought together a wide range of expertise from the region to review protected area management capacity needs and priorities, and country data. Participants learnt more about the Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal (PIPAP), and discussed ways to improve data and information sharing and enhancing coordination and collaboration amongst key partners.

The BIOPAMA programme is an initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of states financed by the European Union's 11th European Development Fund (EDF 11), jointly implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (EC-JRC). In the Pacific region, BIOPAMA is implemented by the IUCN Oceania Regional Office (IUCN ORO) in partnership with SPREP.

The partnership between IUCN ORO and SPREP has enhanced the PIPAP, a 'one-stop shop' for information on Protected Areas, maintained by SPREP with partners and Members. Through BIOPAMA, the EC-JRC is also contributing essential technical support to the PIPAP.



Enhancing Protected Areas management in the Pacific.
Photo: BIOPAMA

“The protected areas that exist today were established to protect the best remaining natural terrestrial, coastal and marine areas in our region. This is to ensure sustainability of these areas for the benefit of not only our generation but for many generations to come,”

Afioga Taefu Lemi Taefu, Hon. Associate Minister for Natural Resources and Environment, Government of Samoa

“We have led the world to see that the future of our countries depends on proper management of marine ecosystems, creating and capitalising on the momentum these realisations have created to ensure shark populations are finally getting the proper management they so need. Though much has been achieved, proper shark conservation and management remain a pertinent global issue. Sharks are economically, ecologically and culturally important to us Pacific Islanders, yet many populations are plummeting to frighteningly low levels.”

Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Samoa, Fiaame Naomi Mata'afa.



Pacific Shark Declaration signed!

Pacific declaration of sharks and rays signed by 10 Pacific islands

Global leadership from the Pacific islands was demonstrated with the signing of the Pacific Island Ministers Declaration on the Conservation of Sharks and Rays at the conclusion of a Pacific Ministerial Shark Symposium in 2018.

The Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu signed the declaration to prioritise shark management measures that will reduce the mortality of sharks and rays.

The Pacific Shark Ministerial Symposium was a partnership between the Australian Institute of Marine Science, Government of Samoa, Pew Charitable Trusts, Paul G. Allen Philanthropies, SPREP and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Empowering the Pacific to ratify and implement the Nagoya Protocol

A range of activities were executed by SPREP in 2018 through the GEF-funded project on the Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the countries of the Pacific. The three-year project began in June 2017.

The 2018 achievements of the project included:

- Palau and Tuvalu acceded to the Protocol in 2018, taking the total number of Pacific island Parties to seven.
- Support for the governments of Vanuatu and the Republic of the Marshall Islands for preparation of interim national reports on implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. These reports are mandatory under the Protocol to be submitted by Parties on the progress of the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and capacity building needs.
- National capacity building workshops were conducted in nine countries to strengthen human resources, legal and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol.
- Developing and reviewing legal and policy frameworks in the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Palau is the first country in the Pacific to endorse stand-alone legislation on Access and Benefits Sharing.
- Legal access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as well as the benefits resulting from the use of such resources.



Preparing pure organic oil using Tamanu (*Calophyllum inophyllum*) in Vanuatu. Photo: SPREP/R. Chand

“This is an important milestone for the Government of the Solomon Islands as the people are closely dependent on biological diversity for survival and livelihoods. Ratifying the Nagoya Protocol will provide more clarity, certainty, and transparency on access to the genetic resources as well as benefit-sharing.”

Mr Pita Kenilorea Jr, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Solomon Islands

Environmental Exchange Programme for Fiji’s Taveuni and Kadavu Traditional Leaders

An exchange programme in Fiji for traditional leaders from Taveuni and Kadavu was successful in sharing and learning about sustainable development and planning issues at the island level.

The exchange was supported by SPREP through the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) project, the Pacific Community-implemented Restoration of Ecosystem Services and Adaptation to Climate Change (RESCCUE) Fiji project, and

coordinated by the Institute of Applied Sciences of the University of the South Pacific.

In Fiji, PEBACC project sites are Taveuni island and Macuata Province, while RESCCUE sites are Kadavu island and Ra Province. Stakeholders

from both islands were able to benefit from direct exposure to each other’s ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, as both are exploring interventions to place local agriculture on a more sustainable footing.

Sharing lessons learnt through an exchange across Fiji. Photo: SPREP/PEBACC



Ecosystem-based Adaptation to climate change activities in Solomon Islands

An initiative to establish a nature and heritage park in the Barana area on Mt Austen, outside Honiara town, is being championed by the people of Barana in partnership with SPREP through the PEBACC project. The Barana Nature and Heritage Park is an initiative to promote ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change, reinforcing the role of nature in strengthening community resilience. The park has been commended by the Solomon Islands Government, which encourages a shift towards sustainable natural resource management at both provincial and community levels.

SPREP, through the PEBACC project, also helped to establish a national management committee to oversee the

rehabilitation of the Honiara Botanical Gardens. The committee aims to build urban resilience by restoring and protecting the valuable ecosystem services that the gardens provide to Honiara residents. A key role of the committee is to coordinate activities amongst national stakeholders for the restoration of the botanical gardens. This will include leading in the formulation of a management and business plan, and overseeing its implementation.

PEBACC is a five-year project implemented by SPREP in partnership with the governments of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The project is funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI), administered by the

German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

The Project focuses on strengthening and protecting the role of natural ecosystem

services to enhance resilience to climate change. In Solomon Islands the project is working in Wagina Island, Choiseul Province, and Honiara on Guadalcanal.



Interior forest, Solomon Islands. Photo: S.Chape.

Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership Programme underway

SPREP, the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, the Pacific Community, and the University of the South Pacific signed a landmark agreement in 2018 with the European Union to help promote sustainable management and sound ocean governance in the Pacific islands region.

The Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) programme addresses some of the most serious challenges faced by the region. Among these are the increasing depletion of coastal fisheries resources; the threats to marine biodiversity particularly from fisheries bycatch but including negative impacts of climate change and disasters; the uneven contribution of

oceanic fisheries to national economic development; the need for improved education and training in the sector, and the need to mainstream a rights-based approach and to promote greater recognition of gender issues within the sector.

The PEUMP will promote equitable benefits for the 15 PACP countries whilst recognising the diversity of resources, needs and opportunities across the countries.

This five-year programme is funded by the European Union (EUR 35 million) with additional support from the government of Sweden (EUR 10 million). The programme provides direct assistance through regional organisations to support regional and national level activities in the Pacific.

SPREP is leading Key Result Area 5, the Bycatch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM)

component of the programme in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. BIEM focuses on the sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity through improving marine special planning, increasing climate change resilience, enhancing conservation, mitigation and rehabilitation measures.

Landmark agreement signed. Photo: European Union in the Pacific





Climate Change Resilience



SPREP Strategic Plan Regional Goal 1: Pacific people benefit from strengthened resilience to climate change

As the coordinator for climate change action in the region, SPREP continues to lead the region's response to climate impacts. SPREP promotes the integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management through capacity building, and within an ecosystem-based approach.

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Vio Island, Fiji. Photo: S.Chape

Vanuatu launches Green Climate Fund Project

It was history in the making for SPREP in 2018 with the start of the Climate Information Services for Resilient Development (CISDRP) in Vanuatu Project, the first fully funded Green Climate Fund (GCF) project for SPREP as an Accredited Implementing Entity to the GCF.

The CISDRP (also known as VanKIRAP) will strengthen the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department for enhanced management of climate data and delivery of

services, for which climate and weather information is crucial.

The project will support the mainstreaming of climate change into five key development sectors - tourism, agriculture, fisheries, infrastructure and water - across national, provincial and community levels. This will lead to informed decision-making when it comes to policy, planning, and everyday actions, such as when to harvest crops and timely responses to natural disasters

such as flooding from a cyclone.

The CISDRP runs from 2018 – 2021 with a total budget of USD 20.5 million, including a grant from the GCF of USD 18.1 million. The project is executed by the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department and SPREP, with the delivery partners, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), APEC Climate Centre (APCC) and the Australia Bureau of Meteorology (BoM).



Aftermath of Cyclone Pam in 2015, Efate Island, Vanuatu. Photo: S.Chape



Pacific Ocean, Pacific Climate Conference grows in strength

The second Pacific Ocean, Pacific Climate Conference was held in Wellington, New Zealand hosted by Victoria University (VUW), in partnership with SPREP. The 2018 conference brought together over 150 different voices to exchange ideas on how to address climate change. The three-day event saw keynote speakers lead presentations under different

themes such as modelling of impacts, politics of climate change, sea level and oceanic change, as well as ecosystems and resources, amongst others. The 2020 conference will be hosted by the Government of Samoa and VUW in partnership with the National University of Samoa (NUS) and SPREP, in Apia, Samoa.

“We all have a role to play in seeking the greatest level of ambition from all parties to the Paris Agreement, we understand that there are challenges for all countries but through cooperation, understanding and good faith, we can overcome these. Promises are not enough, now is the time for action and we must all act now.”

Hon. Tuilaepa Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa

Luamanuvao Dame Winnie Laban, Assistant Vice-Chancellor of Victoria University.



Hon James Shaw, Minister for Climate Change, New Zealand.



Performance highlighting the importance of our Pacific ocean and the impacts of climate change upon Pacific lives at the opening of the conference.



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Adaptation Fund Project in Federated States of Micronesia launched

The Enhancing climate change resilience of vulnerable island communities in Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Project, the first ever Adaptation Fund Project in FSM, was launched with an inception workshop in 2018.

The USD 9 million project will fund the delivery of activities to address pressing water security and coastal resilience challenges across the four states, and six outer islands, over five years. Some of the key activities will include legislative and policy reforms, installation of water harvesting and storage systems in Yap, Chuuk and Pohnpei States, and road relocation and coastal protection in Kosrae.

Funded by the Adaptation Fund, the project will be executed by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management on behalf of the Government of FSM, working in collaboration with states, outer islands, municipalities, communities, non-government organisations, private sector and development partners. SPREP is the Implementing Agency for the project.

This project is the first to be approved and implemented by SPREP as an Accredited Entity to the Adaptation Fund.



Enhancing climate change resilience in FSM.

Construction of the Pacific Climate Change Centre begins



L–R Hon. Prime Minister of Samoa, Director General of SPREP, Ambassador of Japan to Samoa, Project Manager Konoike Construction.

An official ground breaking ceremony marked the start of construction of the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC), funded by

the Government of Japan through grant aid to the Government of Samoa. The PCCC is the regional centre of excellence for climate change

information, research and innovation.

A Steering Committee is drawn from a wide range of key stakeholders including SPREP Member countries, partners, donors, the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) and the Government of Japan. The committee is consulting to finalise the details of the role and functions of the PCCC, as well as its governance structure and budget.

The cost of construction of the PCCC is estimated at just under USD 8 million dollars. The work is being undertaken by the Japanese construction company, Konoike Company Ltd.

The building uses green guidelines, with 50% of the energy to be driven by solar panels, and plans for up to 100% renewable energy in the future. This will be a showcase of sustainable building technology in the Pacific.

Funding support for the staffing of the centre to address the key thematic areas has been provided by the Government of New Zealand, with training courses being developed and funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency in consultation with SPREP to build the capacity of Pacific island Members in the areas of Adaptation, Mitigation and Climate Finance.

Working strategically to address climate science in the Pacific region

The Pacific Island Climate Change Science and Services Strategy was developed in 2018 through a special workshop that sought input from a broad range of stakeholders, including representatives from Pacific Island National Meteorological

and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), key national sectors, regional organisations and key development and delivery partners.

The strategy aims to bridge the gaps in research on climate science for the Pacific, and to bring about a strategic

approach to research capacity development, delivery and application.

The workshop was led in partnership by CSIRO and SPREP with funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of the Government of Australia.



Role of Traditional knowledge valuable for building resilience

Over 40 Climate experts and elders from 11 Pacific island countries gathered in Apia, Samoa to share their knowledge and expertise in the collection, monitoring, storage and communicating of traditional knowledge (TK) on weather and climate.

It was an opportunity to collect traditional knowledge indicators associated with forecasting of extreme events, and help the participants to learn more about the value of incorporating TK and responses into early warning systems and risk reduction measures.

Traditional knowledge plays an important role in communicating climate information to local communities in order to enhance and build community resilience. This was acknowledged at a special workshop, which also developed seasonal calendars and short videos on the role of TK in forecasting and disaster risk reduction.

The workshop was the result of a partnership between SPREP, BoM, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Government of Samoa.



Learning more about traditional knowledge, weather and climate.

Pacific Climate Change Portal grows with new online support tools

The Adaptation Project Tool and the Climate Finance Navigator housed on the Pacific Climate Change Portal were launched. These tools are designed to help Pacific countries navigate climate change adaptation and finance.

They were developed through the Pacific iCLIM Project, a collaboration between SPREP and Griffith University, funded by the Australian Government's DFAT.



The Adaptation Project Tool provides Pacific focused guidance on scoping, developing and planning climate change adaptation projects, including assisting users to access resources and develop project concept notes and preliminary project proposals.

The Climate Finance Navigator provides a regional snapshot of multilateral climate funds active in the Pacific, creating a platform for exploring current and upcoming projects. It also serves as a hub to get to know Accredited Entities to the Green Climate Fund active in the Pacific, and provides news and events for users to stay up to date with climate finance news.

The Pacific voyage to the UNFCCC COP24

The Pacific islands prepared for the 24th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP24) with the IMPACT Pacific Small Islands Developing States Climate Change Ministers and Negotiators COP24 Preparatory Meeting. This was a partnership between Climate Analytics, the Government of Fiji as the UNFCCC COP23 Presidency, and SPREP.

The three-day event helped the Pacific islands to strategise for enhanced engagement at COP24. It also provided the platform for a united Pacific stance on a number of key negotiation issues.

Overall support provided by Pacific agencies for Pacific island preparations at COP24 was coordinated by SPREP through a One-CROP Plus

plan in partnership with Pacific island Members.

Other partners in the One-CROP Plus partnership were the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Pacific Community (SPC), University of the South Pacific (USP), Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Support to amplify the Pacific voice included development of a range of high-level briefs for Pacific Island Parties, a Pacific exhibition booth to showcase videos and distribute USBs, and flowers to raise Pacific island visibility in Poland. Also held was a Pacific side-event featuring a wide range of presenters including Pacific community practitioners, policy and science speakers from the Pacific.



H.E. President Baron Waqa of Nauru before he presents at the High Level Segment of COP24.

Pacific voice amplified at COP24.

A moment of humour at the COP24. COP23

President Hon Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji, before he hands over Presidency to Poland.



Pacific and Koronivia Pavilion, a success for the Pacific at COP24.

Pacific and Koronivia Pavilion, a first at the International Climate Change Negotiations

A new milestone was reached at COP24 with the Pacific and Koronivia Pavilion space to showcase work in the Pacific islands region to address climate change. This focused on three key areas - the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture, the Ocean Pathway Partnership and the Talanoa Dialogue.

Supported by a partnership between the Government of New Zealand and the COP23 Presidency of Fiji, the Pavilion at 152 square metres was funded by the Government of New Zealand.

Open for 12 days, the Pavilion was successfully coordinated by SPREP with support from the New Zealand Government and the One CROP-Plus team.

Over its course the Pavilion featured 52 side-events and activities, receiving over 6,000 visitors. It facilitated ten special events, other activities and four launches. All events were accessible to those outside COP24 through the Koronivia Pavilion app, which had over 600 active users. The app posted over 200 photos and 52 live streaming events.

The Pacific and Koronivia Pavilion provided an opportunity for Pacific islanders to showcase our Pacific region to the world, not only bringing a taste of the Pacific to Katowice, but also through highlighting the actions taken to both mitigate and adapt to climate change.

SPREP successful delivery partner for the GCF Structured Dialogue

The second Structured Dialogue with the Pacific was hosted by FSM. Over 150 participants met to strengthen the engagement of Pacific island countries and their partners with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and to accelerate the implementation of GCF Projects and Programmes in the region.

SPREP was the delivery partner of the four-day event to assist the GCF's efforts to engage Pacific island countries to achieve their low carbon,

climate-resilient sustainable development goals.

At the meeting, Pacific island countries stressed the importance of building on country systems for effective country programming, the need for multi-year readiness funding towards a more programmatic approach to sustained readiness capacity, and strengthening the GCF's regional presence to bring its opportunities closer to Pacific island countries.



The second GCF Structured Dialogue with the Pacific, hosted by FSM. Photo: GCF.



Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum, keeping us informed

The fourth Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF) was held in 2018 resulting in a regional statement and tropical cyclone outlook to help Pacific islands prepare for the cyclone season. Seven to 11 tropical cyclones were forecast

for the Southwest Pacific region, and three to four for the Northwest Pacific.

The forums are organised annually by SPREP and its partners, bringing together Pacific National Meteorological

and Hydrological Services (NMHS) and relevant sectors, to ensure consistency in the access to, and interpretation of, climate information for all our Pacific island countries.

Also held with the PICOF was training for NMHS officers to enhance their ability for effective communications training through social media platforms. With the growing number of social media users in the Pacific, the opportunity to disseminate and raise awareness of users on weather, climate and climate change issues and hazards, is endless.

The PICOF was supported by SPREP, Pacific Community (SPC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Australian

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and New Zealand National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), Asia-Pacific Economic Corporation (APEC) Climate Center, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) funded Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac), Government of Russia through the United Nations Development Programme Disaster Resilience for Pacific Small Island Developing States (RESPAC) Project, World Meteorological Organization – Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Project and United Kingdom Met Office.



Photo: S.Chape

Republic of the Marshall Islands Readiness

RMI successfully applied for a Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Grant. This was approved for implementation over two years to strengthen the capacity of the National Designated Authority (NDA) to effectively perform its functions and to develop a strategic approach to harmonise these resources and efforts with the country's climate agenda and broader development.

The Programme provides resources for strengthening the institutional capacity of the NDA, developing a strategic framework, country programme and pipeline, and to support direct access to efficiently engage with the Fund.

The RMI NDA Strengthening and GCF Engagement Readiness Project will strengthen the Office of Environmental Planning



and Policy Coordination (OEPPC) as the GCF NDA. It will provide support to establish a strategic approach for the development and

management of RMI's GCF Country Programme, and enhance the engagement within RMI and with the GCF.

The inception workshop for the project was held in April and included consultations with key stakeholders in RMI.



Environmental Monitoring and Governance

Fishing village, Honiara, Solomon Islands. Photo: S.Chape.

SPREP Strategic Plan Regional Goal 4: Pacific people and their environment benefit from commitment to and best practice of environmental governance

SPREP plays a lead role in assisting countries to develop capacity in environmental governance, policy development, planning, monitoring, and reporting for sustainable environmental outcomes and to keep pace with socio-economic development.

Environment indicators developed at SPREP

Core indicators were developed to measure and track environmental health and the response of governments to environment issues, through a workshop by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) with SPREP.

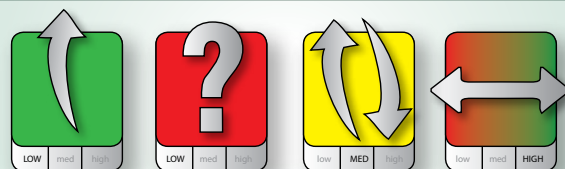
Indicators are grouped in core themes of Environmental Governance, Island and Ocean Ecosystems, Climate Change Resilience, and Waste. These indicators are available to all Pacific island countries for routine monitoring of environmental conditions, and to detect environmental change in the region.

The development of the core environment indicators to be used across SPREP and the Pacific island region was funded jointly under the EU African Caribbean Pacific Multilateral Environment Agreement Capacity Building 2 (ACP MEA2) Project and the GEF regional Inform Project. The ACPMEA 2 Project is an initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, funded by the European Union (EU), and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which funds the Inform Project. Both projects are implemented by United Nations Environment and executed by SPREP.

Environment indicators help track environmental health. Taveuni, Fiji. Photo: S. Chape

WHAT ARE ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS AND WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

Environmental indicators are simple and repeatable measures that tell us what is happening in the environment. Since the environment is very complex, indicators provide a more practical and economical way to track the state of the environment than attempting to record every possible variable in the environment. The indicators have been mapped to Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) so that they can be used for multiple reporting requirements, thus reducing the burden on Pacific island countries.



Inform reaches across the Pacific

Helping the Pacific islands region make informed decisions for improved environmental monitoring and reporting is at the core of the GEF-UN Environment Project, Building National and Regional Capacity to Implement Multilateral Environment Agreements by Strengthening Planning and State of Environment Assessment and Reporting in the Pacific, also known as the Inform Project.

In 2018, Cook Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Solomon Islands held national inception workshops to raise awareness of the project. Its main objective is to establish a network of national environment portals, and a regional portal, for improved data management to support environmental planning,

forecasting and reporting requirements at all levels.

The workshops introduced the national environment portals along with hands-on training and technical support on data management including steps to collate, upload and share data. The national portals and the indicator reporting tool can be used by key government agencies and stakeholders for improved environmental planning, monitoring and reporting. These tools are also useful in preparing reports to meet national and international reporting requirements.

The Inform Project has procured and distributed laptops and software to support data management. This will enhance efforts in the 14 Pacific island countries to consolidate data and information through the environment data portal.



Mangroves in Palau. Photo: SPREP/J.Callebaut



Learning about the Inform Project in RMI. Photo: SPREP/J.Callebaut

“The Nauru Environment database will be useful to share information with relevant agencies like statistics, environment and health in a timely fashion. For our team in agriculture, getting access to existing information will allow us to avoid duplication and focus our efforts on community engagement.”

Ms Lisa Jacob, Development of Sustainable Agriculture Manager of Nauru

“The Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) is very enthusiastic about the new data portal in that it supports the implementation of MEAs, and the drafting of the first State of Environment Report for Papua New Guinea, which is clearly the way forward for reporting on MEAs and environmental Sustainable Development Goals.”

Mr Gunther Joku, Managing Director of CEPA

“This project will help us address a number of challenges we have faced over the years. One of which is the lack of standardised procedures for the collection, storage and management of important environmental data and information.”

Ms Abacca Anjain Maddison, Deputy Chief Secretary, Republic of the Marshall Islands

“For me, the best part about this portal is being able to have a centralised place to get information I need to do all my reporting”

Ms Gwen Sisor, Senior Projects Manager, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism of Palau

Environmental planning tool for sustainable tourism launched

Tourism is an important, growing economic sector within the region with many Pacific islands promoting development in this area. The same drawcards that bring tourists to the Pacific, the rich and diverse flora and fauna dependent on the reefs, mangroves, seagrass and shorelines, also sustain the livelihoods on the islands. Tourism opportunities pose challenges as the majority of development is located in coastal areas, resulting in coastal erosion and increased pollution.

SPREP and the South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) recognised the importance of using Environment Impact Assessments (EIA) to support sustainable coastal tourism development. This led to the development of Environment Impact Assessment Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development in Pacific Island Countries and Territories. The guidelines were launched during the 2018 SPTO Board of Directors Meeting, with the 28th meeting of the Council of Ministers

of Tourism acknowledging the importance of the partnership between SPREP and SPTO. The partnership enhances conservation efforts for sustainable tourism development and supports an inclusive approach for Pacific island communities to benefit more from these developments.

The guidelines are an important tool for promoting mitigation and adaptation to climate change impacts and waste management that threaten our fauna and flora, and reinforces the leaders theme of the meeting “Protecting our Blue Pacific, Our Livelihood and our Home”.

Environment Impact Assessment Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development in Pacific Island Countries and Territories launched.

“As tourism is projected to grow in the coming years, it is crucial that the Pacific takes full responsibility in ensuring that our environment, the land and ocean resources that we depend on for our tourism offering, are protected for future generations.”

Mr Christopher Cocker, Chief Executive Officer of SPTO



Huvalu Forest, Niue. Photo: S.Chape

EIA, a planning and decision-making tool to support sustainable development in the Pacific

SPREP has a long history of leading EIA capacity building across the Pacific region, and providing policy advice and technical assistance, which includes EIA training. An EIA is a principal instrument to support the achievement of sustainable development goals through a systematic process that assesses potential environmental impacts of proposed development projects. Stakeholder engagement and public consultation is an important part of the EIA process, hence the participation of key stakeholders in training workshops is critical to the effectiveness of the training.

This year Nauru, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu received technical assistance from SPREP through capacity building and training workshops on EIA.

In Tuvalu, the EIA training focused on showing participants how to apply the new Environment Protection Amendment Regulations 2017. Training covered the importance of public consultation screening of projects through to the review of EIA reports, approval, monitoring and enforcement of EIA approval conditions. Part of the training involved advice on

improving and implementing the functions of the Tuvalu National Environment Council, and formalising the establishment of the Environmental Assessment Taskforce, as required under the Environment Act 2014 and EIA Regulation 2017. SPREP also helped Tuvalu to develop public awareness posters with flowcharts of the EIA process, for display in government offices and public areas.

The Solomon Islands training workshop covered key steps of an EIA with active engagement of participants from government agencies dealing with environment, infrastructure, health, and mining; Solomon water; Solomon power; non-government organisations; private sector consultants, and local media. The EIA training included a field visit to a bridge construction site for participants to see how proper environmental management plans for development are linked to monitoring and enforcement. SPREP also worked with the Department of Environment and Conservation Division to review a proposed mining operation EIA report. The exercise improved the capacity of the EIA unit to review EIA reports.

In Nauru, the EIA training was conducted in partnership with the Nauru Ridge to Reef Project coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by the Nauru Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment (DCIE). The training was in line with the Nauru Integrated Environment Policy, which

emphasises the importance of strengthening environment planning and assessments of DCIE, other government sectors, partners and communities responsible for development in Nauru. A major outcome of the training was the development of two EIA Terms of Reference for a proposed cemetery development and a proposed Nauru port expansion.



Field visit to a bridge construction site as part of EIA training in Solomon Islands. Photo: SPREP/J.Davetanivalu

Funafuti dumpsite, Tuvalu.

TOP: Nauru vegetation regrowth on old phosphate mining area. Photo: S.Chape



Gold Ridge Mine, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. Photo: S.Chape

Pacific islands continue the journey to develop State of Environment Reports

A State of Environment (SoE) report provides information on environmental and social conditions, trends and pressures and suggests appropriate practical responses to improve environmental conditions. It provides baseline data for the formulation of the National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS) and assists the Government to meet its reporting obligations to national, regional and international agreements and instruments. The NEMS provides an overarching environmental policy and planning framework to guide implementation, and

consolidates environmental priorities for effective integration into sectoral and national level planning processes, such as National Development Plans to address SDGs.

The development of the SoE and NEMS for Tonga, Federated States of Micronesia and Solomon Islands are supported by the ACP MEA2 Project, an initiative of the ACP Group of States, funded by the EU, implemented by UN Environment and executed by SPREP.



“I think wide consultation is very important, as much as possible, we want to engage our various stakeholders in this process.”

Mr Josef Hurutaru, Deputy Director, Conservation of the Environment and Conservation Division (ECD), Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM)

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Over 65 government representatives and other key stakeholders attended a workshop in Honiara to provide input to the Solomon Islands SoE and NEMS. The workshop followed numerous consultations on the six key environment themes of biodiversity, coastal and marine, land, inland waters, built environment, and atmosphere and climate.

During the discussions gaps in data and ways to close these gaps were identified. SPREP presented on the Drivers, Pressures, State, Impact, Response model that illustrates how humans and the environment interact.

Data for the 2018 SoE Report will be available on the Solomon Islands national environment portal introduced in February.



Discussing data in Tonga.

TONGA

The first ever workshop on the SoE and the NEMS was held in May 2018, bringing over 30 stakeholders together to discuss the national context and priorities for the environment with linkages to the national, regional and international commitments.

Tonga's first NEMS report was developed in 1993, and the 2018 workshop was to establish the process of developing the Tonga SoE and a revised NEMS. The completion of the two documents will be an important environmental monitoring and planning tool.

“The SoE will provide us with a stocktake and information on the important issues of biodiversity, climate change, pollution and land degradation. For this, we need harmonised data and reporting in order to best represent the state of environment for Tonga.”

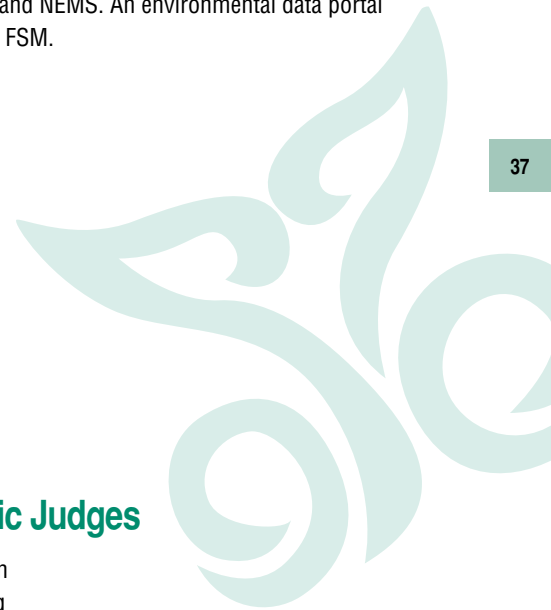
Mr Paula Ma'u, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications



FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

Support was provided to FSM through the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECEM) by involving national stakeholders in consultations to agree on the approach and modality for the FSM SoE report and NEMS.

Representatives from the four states, national government, and individual consultations with key government ministries, NGOs, and relevant stakeholders gathered the necessary data and information for the SoE and NEMS. An environmental data portal was also established for FSM.



Emerging environmental issues an area of interest for Pacific Judges

Seabed mining is an emerging issue for the Pacific. The 27th Pacific Judicial Conference held in Apia deliberated on emerging issues in the Pacific such as seabed mining. A special side event led by SPREP in partnership with the Samoa Government Ministry of Justice and Legislative Assembly raised awareness of Pacific Judges on the emerging environmental threats such as seabed mining in the Pacific islands region. It was the first

time SPREP had engaged with the Pacific judicial audience.

The event underscored the importance of adopting proper environmental management and planning processes, supported by relevant policy tools such as EIA in addressing key environmental issues especially emerging ones.

The judges appreciated the opportunity to learn about the importance of the ocean ecosystem; the Pacific

livelihoods dependent on the ocean, and emerging environmental issues. This reinforces the role of the judiciary in the enforcement of national environmental law.

Working with the Pacific Judicial conference in 2018. Photo: SPREP/E.Adams.





Waste Management and Pollution Control

Vuda Marina and fuel terminal, Viti Levu, Fiji. Photo: S.Chape

SPREP Strategic Plan Regional Goal 3: Pacific people benefit from improved waste management and pollution control

SPREP has the lead responsibility for regional coordination and delivery of waste management and pollution control action. The strategic management framework, Cleaner Pacific 2025, guides regional cooperation and collaboration.

Vanuatu makes history with a global first

On 1 February 2018, Vanuatu's legislation to ban single-use plastic bags, polystyrene takeaway boxes and plastic straws came into effect. Vanuatu was the first country in the world to legally ban the use of plastic straws. The legislation provided a six month grace period for shops and businesses to use up their stocks of single-use plastic bags and polystyrene takeaway boxes, before 1 July.

Working in partnership with the Government of Vanuatu, SPREP developed a draft national communications strategy to help bring about a clean, healthy and sustainable Vanuatu that is free of plastic bags, straws and polystyrene takeaway boxes. A range of consultations took place including a two-day workshop open to all stakeholders to hear their views on target audiences and messaging for the strategy. The feedback and input was included in the draft communications strategy presented to the Government of Vanuatu.

“The ban on these plastics is an opportunity for us to help protect our planet and our island paradise of Vanuatu. It is also an opportunity for us in Vanuatu to strengthen our sustainable cultural practices. The Mamas of Vanuatu can bring to the frontline the use of traditional baskets which are part of our culture. The more we use them, the more we encourage our cultural art of weaving, in turn strengthening the cultural heritage of Vanuatu.”

The First Lady Estella Moses Tallis, of Vanuatu



Vanuatu first in the world to say no to plastic straws.

Moana Taka Partnership cemented in 2018

The China Navigation Company (CNCo) and SPREP signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to address critical waste management in the Pacific islands.

Known as the 'Moana Taka Partnership', the MOU allows for CNCo vessels to carry containers of recyclable waste from eligible Pacific

island ports, pro bono, to be sustainably treated and recycled in suitable ports in the Asia Pacific region.

Under this agreement, Pacific island countries with insufficient or inappropriate landfill space to store waste, have inadequate waste treatment facilities, and the financial inability to ship

recyclable waste, are eligible for this opportunity. The types of materials that are considered recyclable include plastics, aluminium cans, waste oil and ozone-depleting substances.

The signing took place in Samoa and Singapore on 20 March to mark the Global Recycling Day 2018.

First shipment from Samoa under the Moana Taka Partnership.



PhD Scholarships for Pacific Island Nationals to advance Environmental Research in the SPREP Region

A partnership to advance critical environmental research in the Pacific between the University of Newcastle (UON) and SPREP has led to five targeted PhD scholarships for Pacific island nationals, as well as the establishment of a Pacific island research 'node' based at SPREP headquarters in Apia, Samoa.

The node is supporting strategic research and training to promote skills development and innovation in the region. It coordinates activity through UON's Global Impact Cluster for Energy, Resources, Food and Water.

The five PhD scholarships are in the areas of:

- Impact of invasive species on ecosystem recovery
- The effects of plastic pollution on marine food webs and implications for human health
- Coral reef ecosystem adaptation to ocean acidification
- Bioremediation of oil in WWII wrecks
- Monitoring and modelling tools for Ecosystem-based Adaptation in the Pacific islands.



Carried out under the guidance of world-leading UON scholars, the projects will draw upon academic expertise to address key environmental threats in the Pacific region.

L-R Make Movono, Malelili Rokomatu, Awei Bainivalu, three Pacific Island students receiving PhD scholarships through the Global Impact Cluster for Energy, Resources, Food and Water of the University of Newcastle Australia. Photo: University of Newcastle.

Raka 7s Tournament awarded innovator of the year

The first plastic-free sporting event in Fiji received international recognition for its efforts to reduce the amount of waste generated at sports tournaments. The inaugural Raka Rugby 7s plastic-free tournament was held in 2017.

SPREP provided support to the event, aiming to promote good environmental practices amongst the players during the tournament. SPREP also called upon spectators at the

Raka 7s to pledge actions and commitments for a 'plastic-free' Fiji.

The Raka 7s Tournament was granted the 'Innovator of the Year' award during the Green Sports Alliance Summit. The tournament was recognised for collaborating with other partners to advance connections between sports and waste management, and hosting the plastic-free event.



Raka 7s 2017 awarded Innovator of the year for efforts to reduce the amount of waste generated to the sports tournament.



Birdseye view of Apia looking northeast, Samoa. Photo: S.Chape

Samoa's first National Waste Management Strategy 2019–2023

In 2018, the very first National Waste Management Strategy 2019–2023 for Samoa was endorsed, providing a roadmap for waste management activities.

Developed through a multi-stakeholder approach, the development of the strategy was funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Expertise was provided by the Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries Phase II (J-PRISM II), the Government of Samoa and SPREP.

Disaster Waste Management under the microscope

The development of Regional Disaster Waste Management Guidelines was at the core of a three-day regional workshop held in Samoa in 2018.

Participants from Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu gathered to discuss and develop the guidelines. This included the formation of a template for countries to develop their National Disaster Waste Management Plans, leading to actions at the national and local level. The workshop also brought together the Disaster

Management Offices and the Waste Management Offices to address disaster waste issues, in particular, enabling faster recovery after disasters.

The Regional Disaster Waste Management Guidelines will provide a key information checklist to the countries on measures and actions to be undertaken during a disaster response.

The workshop was jointly hosted and facilitated by JICA through J-PRISM II and SPREP.



Developing regional disaster waste management guidelines will help address disaster waste in the Pacific. Photo: S.Chape

Coastal village, Solomon Islands. Photo: S.Chape



Clean Pacific Roundtable 2018

The Clean Pacific Roundtable enables the monitoring and progress reporting of the Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy, known more commonly as the Cleaner Pacific 2025, as well as other activities addressing emerging issues. The Roundtable also provides networking opportunities for regional partners with the many and varied participants representing the private sector, donors and other sectors.

The second Clean Pacific Roundtable (CPRT) opened to a call from the Prime Minister of Fiji, Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, urging delegates to aim for maximum ambition in the quest for a Cleaner Pacific.

Held every two years, the CPRT brought together over 200 people from across relevant sectors including country representatives, donors, private sector, NGOs, community groups, agencies of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP), and academia.

Discussions revolved around the challenges, solutions and actions to address waste issues across the region. The Clean Pacific Roundtable also became a platform for sharing experiences – many demonstrating leadership in waste management initiatives from the Pacific region.

In 2018 the Clean Pacific Roundtable spanned three days, followed by associated Pacific regional waste events. The CPRT focussed on six topics: coordinated actions to combat marine debris; regional coordination in recycling; enhancing proper management

of hazardous wastes; planning and responding to disaster wastes; further enhancement of regional capacity in waste management, and boosting eco-tourism through proper waste management.

Leading the coordination of the roundtable was the organising committee and SPREP, with funding support from JICA, European Union (EU), and other partners such as the Fonds Pacifique and UN Environment. The event was held at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in Suva, Fiji.



“When it comes to our oceans, it’s clear that there is still a great deal that’s unknown. Meanwhile, what we do know, and what becomes clearer every year, is that it plays a crucial role in the overall health of our environment and our climate. And we also know that, unfortunately, the ocean bears much of the worst brunt of the damages sowed by man-made emissions and pollution.”

Prime Minister of Fiji, Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama

Learning how to use the Tangaroa Blue (Australian Marine Debris Initiative) app to identify plastics found from the ocean.



Pacific island solutions to solid waste management now available

A 'Practical Guide to Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries and Territories' was launched during the second Clean Pacific Roundtable in Suva in August. The collection features the experiences and lessons learnt from 16 Pacific island waste practitioners in seven Pacific island countries. More importantly, the guidebook presents a how-to in all aspects of Pacific waste management, which can be extended to the whole region.

The guidebook was developed under the first phase of JPRISM from 2011 to 2016, funded through JICA, and was launched under the second phase of the project.

Bringing together 16 national waste practitioners from the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, who documented the different waste processes and activities in their countries, is a great milestone in developing the capacity of the region to manage waste.

There are six chapters to the guidebook which covers topics ranging from 'Basic Surveys and use of information for waste management planning' to 'Waste Financing Mechanisms' and "Emerging Issues". Each chapter draws upon the significant experiences of the waste practitioners themselves.



Practical guide to Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

Reducing Persistent Organic Pollutants in the Pacific

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Raising awareness on Used Oils.

In 2018, the GEFPAS Persistent Organic Pollutants Release Reduction Project (GEFPAS POPs), developed action plans to reduce the release of Unintentional Persistent

Organic Pollutants (uPOPs) for Tuvalu and Vanuatu, covering 2018 to 2020.

Fourteen Pacific islands were provided with drafting instructions on the development of legislation to control the production and release of uPOPs, and the revision of the model Draft Regulation on proper management of used oil.

To help the Pacific safely manage hazardous chemicals over their life cycle, a Best Practice Manual for Chemical Management was developed for the Pacific island

region. The scope included chemicals used for agriculture, household pest control, healthcare such as cancer treatment and other drugs, and utilities such as wastewater and water treatment.

To supplement the promotion of awareness on uPOPs and chemical risks, the Guidelines for uPOPs prevention and awareness-raising campaigns were also developed. These aim to guide national, provincial and local government institutions and other organisations to implement awareness

campaigns on the harm brought by uPOPs. The guidelines were written for a general audience and include measures to prevent and reduce uPOPs emissions, as well as to improve the management of chemicals.

Executed by SPREP, the GEFPAS POPs is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) supported with Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD) co-funding, and implemented by the United Nations Environment and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Introducing PacWaste Plus Project

The European Union-funded Pacific Hazardous Waste management project known as PacWaste, worked to make the Pacific safer and cleaner through its four focus areas: asbestos, e-waste, healthcare waste and integrated atoll waste management. The Euro 7.86 million project ended in December 2017. The success of the PacWaste project paved the way for further resources from the EU through the 11th European Development Fund PacWaste Plus project, valued at Euro 17 million that commenced in 2018.

PacWaste Plus addresses both the cost effective and sustainable management of waste and pollution, as well as broader impacts including human health and wellbeing, gender equality, marine litter, climate change, disaster management, biodiversity conservation, resource recovery, related aspects of wastewater and storm water management. It operates with other regional waste projects, such as JPRISM II, to implement harmonised targets under Cleaner Pacific 2025 using a programmatic approach.



Secretariat Highlights



Communications and Outreach

As well as providing strategic support to projects and programmes within SPREP, the Communications and Outreach team play a key role in raising awareness of SPREP's activities through the media and in supporting the growth of the region's next generation of environmental leaders

In 2018 the Pacific Voyage Campaigns spanned three key conferences - the Clean Pacific Roundtable (CPRT) 2018, the 14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the 25th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Pacific Voyage Campaigns were well attended for the CBD COP14 and UNFCCC COP24 side events, as well as a Pacific and Koronivia Pavilion for the UNFCCC COP24.

The CPRT 2018 included a partnership with the University of the South Pacific School of Journalism, with several journalism students interned with SPREP to build an understanding of waste issues as well as to support coverage of the event.

The CPRT discussions were also visualised by a graphic illustrator who developed artwork highlighting key messages.

SPREP supported the participation of Mr Jorim-Paul Philips to participate in the Young Blake Expedition to the Kermadec Islands in 2018. Mr Philips was the first Pacific Islands representative invited to participate in the Young Blake Expedition, which is part of the Sir Peter Blake Trust. The trust takes young New Zealanders to participate in scientific, environmental and heritage restoration projects throughout New Zealand, the Southern Ocean, the Sub-Antarctic islands, and Antarctica.

The Ocean E-Toolkit for Pacific Media was launched by SPREP, a growing resource to help build the capacity of Pacific island media to report factually on our ocean, developed in partnership with the ACP MEA2 Project. This was launched on World Ocean Day with the Our Pacific Ocean Media Award, a partnership between the Pacific Community, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Pacific Islands News Association, Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner and SPREP.

Activities to build media capacity in reporting on climate change included a one day Media Training for Pacific media, in partnership with the Environment Journalists Network.

SPREP provided communications support in developing draft communication strategies on the Marae Moana for the Cook Islands, and to communicate the single-use plastics ban in Vanuatu.



Mr Jorim Philips.

Developing a communications strategy for the single-use plastics ban in Vanuatu.





Learning about career opportunities with Finance and Administration of SPREP.



Finance and Administration

SPREP's finance and administration section is responsible for managing funds efficiently and transparently through effective financial, risk management and audit systems, integrated with programme management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems. It looks after a wide variety of essential services ranging from financial reporting, procurement, funds management, travel, property and facilities maintenance and the overall financial management of the organisation.

During the year the Secretariat recorded USD 3.56 million in expenditure with collections in income totalling USD 3.75 million thereby generating an overall net surplus for the period of USD 154,273 after factoring in net finance income and foreign exchange exposure. SPREP continues to improve in financial performance for the Secretariat having realised net surplus in performance consecutively for the past 3 years. In terms of total reserves, compared to a balance of USD 5,123 in 2017, there was a significant rebuild in the reserves totalling USD 139,740 in 2018 as a result of the surplus in performance.

The challenge remains for the Secretariat to ensure collective effort by Members

and Executive Management to continue to rebuild total reserves. Thus it is crucial to generate sufficient funds to maintain a stable level of income whilst also controlling costs to avoid deficit situations and thus strengthen and maintain the overall financial sustainability of SPREP in the long term. Based on an increasing portfolio for SPREP which almost doubled to a budget of USD 29 million for 2018 and USD 33 million for 2019, it further reaffirms the need to build a very strong and financially sustainable position for the Secretariat in support of its regional and organisational goals with the view of achieving its overall vision for a resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.



Teams within the Secretariat work across all programmes to support work for the region.





SPREP Advance took place in 2018.

Human Resources

The Strategic Plan's Organisation Goal 5 on "access to a pool of people with the attitudes, knowledge and skills to enable it to deliver on its shared regional vision" guides the work of the Human Resources Department.

With the growth in the Secretariat's project portfolio and new partnerships and engagements, the Secretariat welcomed a record of over thirty new staff and associates. The new organisational

structure came into effect and a number of change management processes were put in place for a smooth transition. They include the Staff Advance to continue on a learning environment of innovation, leadership and management and to build an empowering, constructive and results-oriented culture.

Staff input and contributions to all key institutional and staff arrangements for the Secretariat remain a

significant requirement of SPREP policies, systems and procedures. Resourcing continues to be a challenge in progressing HR development initiatives and in supporting constant professional learning and other staff terms and conditions. The Secretariat continued to collaborate with the Staff Advisory Committee to address, where possible, outstanding staff issues on equity and morale. Despite these challenges, staff

performance remained high with 90% of staff performing at the "Fully Effective" level and above while 5% were On Track as new staff.

The development of the People Strategy pays attention to the Secretariat's staff as its most important asset. Recruitment and retention, as well as the ongoing nurturing and development of talent, remains a priority.

Information and Communications Technology

The Information and Communications Technology team ensures that reliable, secure and effective systems are available to the organisation in order to effectively deliver services to our Members and stakeholders.

Working with the Climate Change Resilience, and Island and Ocean Ecosystems Programmes, several major

achievements were made in 2018. SPREP entered into new digital territory with the use of an event app for the Pacific and Koronivia Pavilion for the UNFCCC COP24. Prepared by the SPREP IT team, the app was the platform for up to date information about events at the Pacific and Koronivia Pavilion, showcased live streaming of side events at the Pavilion,

and also provided space for social interaction amongst users. As part of the greening events, SPREP facilitated similar applications for other SPREP activities in which large numbers of people will be present.

SPREP is now registered as the Global Biodiversity Publishing Host in the region for Biodiversity Data, which

provides open access to country data on biodiversity with 41 datasets now published.

2018 also saw an improved accessibility and availability of information portals providing content for better online browsing, resilient to internet outages and better management of security risks.

SPREP's IT team working across the organisation to support SPREP Members.

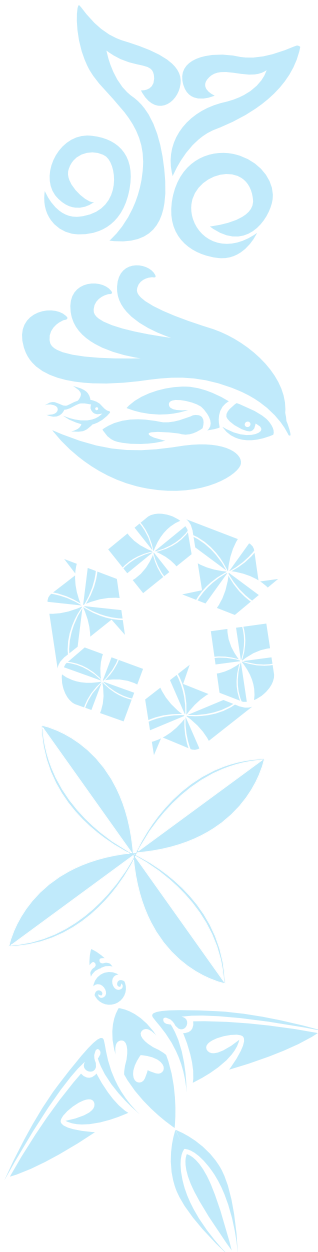




Presentations underway in the Information Resource Centre.



Digital and social media training for staff of SPREP and Samoa Met Service.



Knowledge Management

SPREP's Library and Resource Centre holds a unique collection of publications, periodicals, scientific and technical reports prepared by SPREP, our Members, stakeholders and partners. This vast assembly of environmental information is available to SPREP staff, Members and the public through the virtual library catalogue or by visiting the campus at Vailima.

In 2018 the SPREP Library and Resource Centre had over 1,000 visitors who used the library as a learning centre. They included visits from 33 university students from Engineers without Borders Australia as part of their Humanitarian Design Summit Program Study Tour, and 17 university students from the United States on the School of International Training's Study Abroad programme. Students from Griffith University and Swinsburne University in Australia were also hosted by the SPREP Library and Resource Centre,

along with visitors from local schools in Samoa.

SPREP has used various social media platforms for disseminating and communicating environmental information to enhance awareness of environmental issues in the region. In collaboration with the Communications unit, SPREP manages a Facebook page, Youtube channel and a Twitter page. Collectively this has over 65,000 followers.

A partnership with the Pacific Media Assistance Scheme saw digital and social media training coordinated for SPREP staff as well as members of the Samoa Meteorological Service. This led to an updated Social Media Policy and Roadmap for SPREP and also saw enhanced capacity in this area resulting in social media training for Pacific island countries by SPREP. The Fourth Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum for Pacific Met staff was followed by Social and Digital Media Training for Met Officers. Facilitated

by SPREP with PACMAS the training saw strengthened social media skills for Pacific Met services. This is crucial as social media is a key platform to share weather and climate information.

Capacity of the Knowledge Management team in 2018 led to improved services for SPREP Members and clients through staff training opportunities linked to the Pacific Climate Change Portal and the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme. Through this training, the KM team learnt about datasets and how to upload and crosscheck information and data to be loaded to specialised portals.

A SPREP Staff seminar series led by the Knowledge Management team continued in 2018. This increase in knowledge sharing helps to improve SPREP services through understanding lessons learnt and best practices.

Sharing information at the SPREP Information Resource Centre. SPREP's Knowledge Management Team with the Director of Climate Change Resilience.



ANNUAL STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2018

Scope of responsibility

I as the Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP); I am accountable for maintaining a sound system of internal control as specified in Regulation 25 of the SPREP Financial Regulations. I also have responsibility for ensuring that funds are safeguarded and properly accounted for, and that they are used economically, efficiently and effectively.

Purpose of the system of internal control

Internal control is designed to reduce and manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve the Organisation's aims, objectives and related policies. Therefore, it can provide reasonable but not absolute assurance of effectiveness. It is based on an ongoing process designed to identify the principal risks, evaluate the nature and extent of those risks and manage them efficiently and effectively.

The key elements of the internal control environment include:

SPREP has an Internal Control Framework Guideline – that is based on the COSO model of internal control¹ which is the best known basis for understanding an Internal Control Framework (ICF) within an organisation. It sets out five inter-related components of internal control and 17 principles that are required in order to have an integrated and effective internal control system. For each of these components and principles the Guideline elaborates on the significant controls that are in place for SPREP.

Ensuring compliance with established policies and procedures – SPREP has Financial Regulations that were last amended by the SPREP Meeting in 2012, an updated Financial Procedures Manual 2018 and Financial Delegations, which together with a comprehensive framework of human resources regulations and policies are reviewed at regular intervals. These arrangements promote compliance with norms and best practices in order to ensure that member funds are properly safeguarded and are used economically, efficiently and effectively and in accordance with the authority which governs their use.

Organisational Values and Code of Conduct – The principles which must be respected by all staff are stated explicitly in the SPREP's Organisational Values and Code of Conduct that is widely displayed in the SPREP campus. This is supplemented by a Fraud Prevention & Whistle-blower Protection Manual.

Policy and provisions in the SPREP Procurement Manual. The Internal Auditor is tasked with overseeing and coordinating the investigations of all allegations.

Financial Management – The Director for Finance and Administration is responsible for the accounting and has staff for record keeping, financial reporting, procurement and project accounting.

There is adequate segregation of critical duties through Financial Delegation which ensures that commitments are made by authorised staff. SPREP staff uses an enterprise software solution called Tech One which has been in operation since 2014. It produces the data for the financial statements that are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Standards on Auditing (ISA). The system reflects budget information; facilitates the procurement process and bank reconciliations. The system is now linked to the project management information system (PMIS).

¹ Committee of Sponsoring Organisations of the Treadway Commission
(COSO) Internal Control – Integrated Framework, May 2013

Risk Management – SPREP initiated and developed in 2011 a risk management plan which was updated in 2014. More frequent updates are anticipated and will be linked to SPREP's new Strategic Plan projects and programmes. A SPREP revised Risk Management manual was approved in December 2016 and includes a Risk Committee terms of reference that is chaired by the Deputy Director General and a monitoring task by the Audit Committee. SPREP's approach to risk management is an integral and systematic process that seeks to identify, mitigate, monitor and communicate top prioritised risks for the Organisation. An enterprise risks exercise was undertaken in 2018 for the Senior Management team which endorsed the top prioritised risks and was used as the basis for the Internal Auditors audit annual work plan. The Medium-size Consultants recommended the recruitment of a Risk Manager in 2016. This is yet to be effected and the Secretariat will continue to review the prioritised list of vacant positions to be hired.

Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Control

I as the Director General have the responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. My review is informed amongst others by the following sources.

External Audit – the external auditor provides an annual certification of the financial statements that are in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and the International Standards on Auditing (ISA) which guarantees a high degree of transparency. In the 2018 annual management letter, the External Auditors highlighted significant areas of risks and provided recommendations for improvements.

Audit Committee – The Audit Committee has five independent experts and is complemented by the TROIKA members consisting of the past, current and future Chair of the SPREP Meeting. It advises the Director General on the effectiveness of: the integrity of the Secretariat's financial operations and statements; whether operations are conducted within an adequate internal control framework; whether there is compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; the effectiveness of the performance of the external and internal audit functions; whether corporate and project risks, including procurement, are adequately considered and managed; and whether there is an effective fraud prevention system.

Internal Audit Function – An Independent Internal Audit function has been in place since 2012. The Head of the Internal Audit Unit is functionally responsible to the Audit Committee and reports to the Director General on operational matters. This area was highlighted in the management letter in 2017 and 2018 for strengthening in terms of a robust internal audit plan to be developed and adhered to.

The Secretariat in its new organisational structure has factored an additional position to support this function and is part of an organisation-wide prioritised list of positions which will require funding.

Accreditation – SPREP is accredited to implement projects for the Adaptation Fund and for the Green Climate Fund. The accreditation exercise involved a detailed study of SPREP's fiduciary and project management capabilities as well as of its social, environmental and fraud prevention abilities.

Both accreditations demonstrate that SPREP has a strong and effective internal control framework. Through the Medium-size Project (MSP) support from UNDP, SPREP has gone through a change management process which has enabled it to further strengthen and enhance its internal processes and policies in compliance with the requirements of the GEF. Training for staff has been completed and these new policies and processes are now being rolled out and incorporated as part of business as usual for SPREP. SPREP is undergoing a re-accreditation process with the Adaptation Fund in 2018 and was approved in February 2019. It is also progressing a GCF upgrade to ESS Category B projects. This involves a specialised fiduciary grant award or specialised funding mechanism which enables SPREP to create programs and then make calls for sub-project proposals.

Based on these sources, I consider that the internal controls listed above and further elaborated upon in the SPREP Internal Control Framework are adequate for SPREP to carry out its core functions and operate effectively. Improvements needed and identified in this framework are being addressed, as SPREP continues to serve its Members under the new Strategic Plan 2017–2026.



Kosi Latu
Director General
Apia Samoa

Date 9th May 2019



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa
E: sprep@sprep.org
T: +685 21929
F: +685 20231
W: www.sprep.org



A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Introduction

The Audit Committee submit this **Statement of Internal Control for the Financial Year 2018** in compliance with SPREP's Governance Policy and resolutions of SPREP Members.

The Audit Committee operated according to SPREP's Governance Policy that is elaborated upon in the Audit Committee Charter. Together both documents give adequate and clear guidance as mandate for the work of the Audit Committee.

Composition of the 2018 Audit Committee

For the financial year 2018 the Audit Committee consisted of the following members:

Chairman	Mr Tupuola Oloialii Koki Tuala, Koki Tuala Chartered Accountant Firm (KTCA)
Member	Mr Mike Walsh, Deputy High Commissioner, New Zealand High Commission
Member	Mr Seiuli Aleta, Acting General Manager of the Tokelau Office, Apia
Member	Ms Amanda Jewell, Deputy High Commissioner, Australia High Commission
Member	Mrs Rosita Matalavea, ACEO Ministry of Finance, Samoa

The following TROIKA members were present at the Audit Committee meeting on the 18th of April 2018:

TROIKA members	Mr Joe Aitaro, Palau
	Mr David Lowe, Australian High Commission, Apia
	Ms Rosy Mitiepo, Government of Niue

Audit Committee Meetings in 2018

The Audit Committee is required to meet at least three times per financial year and in 2018 the Audit Committee met four (4) times in February, March, April and July 2018. The outcomes of the 2018 Audit Committee meetings were crucial to the final audited results for the year 2018. The Audit committee noted the positive results reflected in the 2018 financial year of USD 139,740 for reserves, which was a significant improvement when compared to USD 5,123 in 2017.

Effectiveness of Internal Control

The Audit Committee has reviewed the statement signed by Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP. The information is consistent with the documents and reports reviewed and the presentations made to the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee wishes to underline the importance of the following matters:

- The Secretariat has developed the project management Information System (PMIS) to further enhance project monitoring and reporting; the Audit committee advises senior management team to encourage all staff to fully utilise this system.
- The Audit committee noted that in accordance with acceptable practice under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) the specific reserve has been removed from the reserves category of the Statement of Financial Position for Financial year 2018 to the core funds.

- It's been highlighted by the External Auditors, KPMG the need for a review of the current in house medical scheme whether to be maintained in house or outsource. This review should properly assess the risk appetite for SPREP through a cost benefit analysis for the organisation to determine the level of risks that could be passed on to an Insurance company.
- Delay in receiving of membership contributions is a continuing challenge for SPREP as well as the amount which is being currently set at. SPREP has been requesting in the past three years a consideration by the SPREP meeting members for an increase to assist with the constraints on the core funding level which to this date, has still not received a consensus support by members. The increase of up to 20% approved at the 28SM in 2017 was although approved, however subject to confirmation from Capitals/Governments. As at 31st December 2018, only Australia, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Samoa and Tuvalu have responded to formalise pledges of approved contribution increases. France continues to pledge an additional 5% to its assessed contributions as in past years. The impact of the voluntary nature of payment for Member contributions continues to provide uncertainty in the core funding for SPREP.
- The Internal Audit Function to continuously focus on the core tasks of carrying out internal audit assignments so that its annual audit program is completed. In 2018 the number of key tasks that were rolled over to 2019 involved two audits namely the IT and Disaster Recovery audits that was combined. There was one investigation completed, received through the whistleblowing protection email for the Secretariat and an additional three project audits were also completed. The challenge remains in the human resources capacity to assist in the implementation of annual audit plans due to the limited financial resources in the core funding for the Secretariat.
- The Secretariat is continuing its excellent efforts to improve the overall financial position of SPREP by actively implementing measures, in controlling operating costs and foreign exchange fluctuations as well as exploring possible opportunities to increase revenues. The Foreign Exchange Exposure is continually monitored noting an increase in foreign exchange losses of USD 15,245 in 2017 to USD 39,388 in 2018. A net surplus of USD 154,273 for 2018 compared to the net Surplus of USD 445,982 in 2017.
- The challenge remains for the Secretariat to ensure collective effort for members and Executive Management to rebuild the total Reserves.
- The Secretariat will continue to prioritise a review of SPREP's core revenue base and other possible income options for the short and long term future of SPREP. The Secretariat will also continue to build up the total reserves from the positive results of 2018.

Financial Statements for 2018

The Audit Committee is satisfied with the content and quality of the internal quarterly statements and the project statements prepared and issued by the Finance and Administration Team relating to the financial year 2018

The Audit Committee has discussed the 2018 audited financial statements and the relevant accounting policies with the Director Finance and Administration and the External Auditors, KPMG. It also reviewed the report of the external auditor on the financial statements and the related management letter.

On this basis the Audit Committee concludes that the 2018 audited financial statements and the audit opinion by the external auditor be accepted by the SPREP members.

This **Statement of Internal Control for the Financial Year 2018** is submitted for the consideration and approval by the SPREP members.

Tupuola Oloialii Koki Tuala

Chairman of the Audit Committee

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Executive Management's Report For the year ended 31 December 2018

The Executive Management present the annual report together with the financial statements of the Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2018 and independent auditors' report as set out on the following pages thereon in accordance with the Secretariat's Financial Regulations.

Executive Management:

The Executive Management in office as at the date of this report are:

- Leota Kosi Latu – Director General
- Roger Cornforth – Deputy Director General
- Tagaloa Cooper – Director Climate Change Resilience (recruited on 5 February 2018)
- Stuart Chape – Director, Biodiversity & Ecosystem Management
- Vicki Hall – Director, Waste Management & Pollution Control
- Easter Galuvao – Director, Environmental Monitoring & Governance
- Clark Peteru – Legal Adviser
- Simeamativa Vaai – Director Human Resource
- Petra Chan Tung – Director Finance & Administration

Principal Activity:

The principal activity of SPREP is to promote co-operation in the Pacific region and to provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations.

Operating Results:

We are pleased to present the following operating results of the Secretariat for the financial year as at 31 December 2018:

- During the year the Secretariat expended US\$3.6 million dollars compared to expenditure of US\$3.7 million in 2017.
- The net surplus for the period was US\$154,273, compared to the net surplus of US\$445,982 in 2017.
- Foreign exchange exposure continues to be controlled and minimized however there was an increase in foreign exchange losses from US\$15,245 in 2017 to US\$39,388 in 2018.
- Management recognizes that there is still a need to maintain sustainability of funding with a view to rebuilding reserve funds and avoiding any further deficient positions in the future to ensure a strong financial position for the Secretariat moving forward.
- The challenge remains for the Secretariat to ensure a collective effort by Members and Executive Management to rebuild the total reserves. Hence, the Secretariat must focus on areas of generating sufficient funds from both Member Countries and Donors to resolve this issue as well as control costs, and thus strengthen the overall financial position and sustainability of SPREP in the long term.

Responsibility for Financial Reporting and State of Affairs

The accompanying financial statements are the responsibility of management. The financial statements have been prepared according to International Financial Reporting Standards and include amounts based on management's best estimates and judgments.

Management has established and had been maintaining accounting and internal control systems which include clearly stated policies and procedures. These systems are designed to provide reasonable assurance that our financial records are reliable and form a proper basis for the timely and accurate preparation of financial statements, and that our assets are properly safeguarded.

SPREP Members oversee management's responsibilities for financial reporting. The financial statements have been reviewed and approved by the SPREP Members on recommendation from management.

**Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
Executive Management's Report
For the year ended 31 December 2018**

Our independent auditors KPMG, Fiji, having been appointed by the SPREP Members, have audited our financial statements. The accompanying independent auditors' report outlines the scope of their examination and their opinion.

In our opinion:

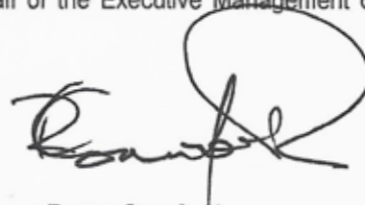
- a. The accompanying statement of comprehensive income is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the results of the Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2018;
- b. The accompanying statement of financial position is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of the Secretariat's affairs as at 31 December 2018;
- c. The accompanying statement of movement in reserves is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the movement of funds and reserves of the Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2018; and
- d. The accompanying statement of cash flows is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the cash flows for the Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2018.

We are not aware of any circumstance which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We authorize the attached financial statements for issue on behalf of the Executive Management of the Secretariat.



Kosi Latu
Director General



Roger Cornforth
Deputy Director General

26TH March 2019

AUDITOR'S REPORT



Independent Auditors' Report on the Summary Financial Statements to the Members of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at 31 December 2018, the summary statements of core fund comprehensive income, changes in funds and reserves and cash flows for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme ("the Secretariat") for the year ended 31 December 2018.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Reading the summary financial statements and our report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and our report thereon. The summary financial statements and the audited financial statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to that date of our report on the audited financial statements.

The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated 27th March 2019.

Members and Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Members and Management are responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 810 (Revised), "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements."

KPMG

30 April

Suva, Fiji

, 2019

Michael Yee Joy, Partner

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2018

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Statement of Core Fund Comprehensive Income For the year ended 31 December 2018

	2018	2017
Income	\$	\$
Member contributions	1,172,741	1,350,062
Programme management charges	1,059,865	1,227,455
Other donor fund income	1,315,096	1,322,651
Amortisation of deferred income - Property and Equipment	82,151	82,151
Other income	124,721	189,751
Total income	3,754,574	4,172,070
Expenses		
Advertisements	41,642	29,067
Consultancies	10,585	29,599
Depreciation and amortisation expense	238,753	252,702
Donation & Sponsorship	115	35,914
Electricity & Water	66,823	65,446
Freight and Postal Expenses	1,124	8,684
Insurance	64,110	89,618
Licences & Registration	36,957	28,084
Printing, Stationery and Office Supplies	74,819	75,064
Professional Services	111,187	91,209
Program Support Costs	109,822	71,795
Repairs & Maintenance	23,697	17,567
Salaries and wages	2,162,664	2,231,537
Superannuation expense	151,386	155,720
Other employee expenses	134,023	153,537
SPREP Meeting	44,399	94,640
Telephone and Internet	83,909	91,772
Travel	121,568	95,971
Workshops & Trainings	41,045	38,782
Other Expenses	41,688	67,906
Total expenses	3,560,316	3,724,614
Surplus before net finance income and foreign exchange	194,258	447,456
Net finance income	(597)	13,771
Foreign exchange loss	(39,388)	(15,245)
Net Surplus	154,273	445,982

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2018

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Non current assets		
Property plant and equipment	2,853,289	2,936,529
Intangible Assets	93,772	187,547
	<u>2,947,061</u>	<u>3,124,076</u>
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	8,503,117	6,935,388
Term Deposits	-	6,678
Receivables and prepayments	87,108	61,887
	<u>8,590,225</u>	<u>7,003,953</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>11,537,286</u>	<u>10,128,029</u>
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES		
Reserves		
Core Funds	139,740	(684,065)
General	-	501,425
Specific Fund	-	187,763
Total reserves	<u>139,740</u>	<u>5,123</u>
Non Current Liabilities		
Employee benefits	347,164	223,610
Deferred income - property plant and equipment	2,585,190	2,667,341
Total non current liabilities	<u>2,932,354</u>	<u>2,890,951</u>
Current Liabilities		
Programme/Donor funds	6,049,956	4,857,807
Payables and accruals	351,623	725,784
Employee benefits	535,462	566,213
Deferred income – property plant and equipment	82,151	82,151
Income received in advance	1,446,000	1,000,000
Total current liabilities	<u>8,465,192</u>	<u>7,231,955</u>
TOTAL RESERVES AND LIABILITIES	<u>11,537,286</u>	<u>10,128,029</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2018

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Statement of Changes in Funds and Reserves For the year ended 31 December 2018

	Core Fund \$	General Reserve \$	Specific Reserve \$	Total \$
Balance at 1st January 2017	(1,130,047)	501,425	184,860	(443,762)
Net Deficit for the year	445,982	-		445,982
Reserves used during the year			2,903	2,903
Balance at 31st December 2017	(684,065)	501,425	187,763	5,123
Balance at 1 January 2018 as previously reported	(684,065)	501,425	187,763	5,123
Adjustment on initial application of IFRS 9	(19,656)			(19,656)
Restated balance at 1 January 2018	(703,721)	501,425	187,763	(14,533)
Transfer from general reserve	501,425	(501,425)		-
Transfer from specific reserve	187,763		(187,763)	-
Net surplus for the year	154,273			154,273
Balance at 31 December 2018	139,740	-	-	139,740

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Statement of Cash Flows For the year ended 31 December 2018

	2018 \$	2017 \$
Cash flows from operating activities		
Member contributions	1,172,741	1,350,062
Interest received	5,483	15,383
Non programme donor funds received	1,315,096	1,322,651
Other receipts	99,497	98,919
Personnel costs - Corporate Services	(2,543,352)	(2,352,563)
Corporate Services costs	(449,143)	479,226
Programme Income/(Expenditure)	2,085,336	(1,242,047)
Net cash flows from operating activities	1,685,659	(328,369)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Reserves added/(used) during the year	-	2,903
Purchase of property and equipment	(61,738)	(9,468)
Net cashflows for investing activities	(61,738)	(6,565)
Net change in cash held	1,623,921	(334,935)
Cash at beginning of the year	6,942,066	7,292,246
Effects of foreign exchange	(39,388)	(15,245)
Ending cash balances	8,526,599	6,942,066

Publications 2018

TITLE	ISBN / ISSN / LINK	PAGES	TITLE	ISBN / ISSN / LINK	PAGES
TECHNICAL REPORTS			TECHNICAL REPORTS		
A preliminary case study assessment of climate change impacts and risks for cocoa farming in Guadalcanal Plain, Solomon Islands	http://bit.ly/2XZ65zh	16 p.	Regional distribution and status of asbestos-contaminated construction materials and best practice options for its management in Pacific island countries: status report	http://bit.ly/2v1jNy4	162 p.
Assessment of management effectiveness for Papua New Guinea's protected areas 2017	978-982-04-0733-6 (print) 978-982-04-0734-3 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2Vwozu	182 p.	Review of natural resource and environment related legislation: Cook islands	978-982-04-0880-7 http://bit.ly/2GUN1fT	20 p.
Ecosystem and socio-economic resilience analysis and mapping (ESRAM): Solomon Islands – Vol 1	978-982-04-0757-2 (print) 978-982-04-0758-9 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2GDih0	139 p.	Review of natural resource and environment related legislation: Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)	978-982-04-0878-4 http://bit.ly/2GLa23p	17 p.
Ecosystem and socio-economic resilience analysis and mapping (ESRAM): Solomon Islands – Vol 2, Wagina Island (Choiseul Province)	978-982-04-0759-6 (print) 978-982-04-0760-2 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2XPvo6L	156 p.	Review of natural resource and environment related legislation: Fiji	978-982-04-0879-1 http://bit.ly/2UNaZoi	18 p.
Ecosystem and socio-economic resilience analysis and mapping (ESRAM): Solomon Islands – Vol 3, Honiara	978-982-04-0761-9 (print) 978-982-04-0762-6 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2UKPCN9	103 p.	Review of natural resource and environment related legislation: Kiribati	978-982-04-0877-7 http://bit.ly/2ZMk4u2	17 p.
Ecosystem based adaptation options assessment and masterplan for Wagina Island, Solomon Islands	978-982-04-0771-8 (print) 978-982-04-0772-5 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2voTOb7	50 p.	Review of natural resource and environment related legislation: Marshall islands	978-982-04-0877-7 http://bit.ly/2XUa4kw	21 p.
Ecosystem based adaptation options assessment and masterplan for Honiara, Solomon Islands	978-982-04-0755-8 (print) 978-982-04-0756-5 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2V25SOE	65 p.	Review of natural resource and environment related legislation: Niue	978-982-04-0872-2 http://bit.ly/2XVcQIG	24 p.
Ecosystem, Climate change and development scenarios, Port Vila, Vanuatu	978-982-04-0739-8 (print) 978-982-04-0740-4 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2La4IBl	96 p.	Review of natural resource and environment related legislation: Palau	978-982-04-0866-1 http://bit.ly/2PDw8sw	16 p.
Ecosystem and socio economic resilience analysis and mapping, Vanuatu	978-982-04-0735-0 (print) 978-982-04-0736-7 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2vp9eMf	98 p.	Review of natural resource and environment related legislation: Papua New Guinea	978-982-04-0875-3 http://bit.ly/2WgKUbw	24 p.
Echange de donnees sur les especes envahissantes du Pacifique dans le cadre du Systeme mondial d'information sur la biodiversite GBIF	978-982-04-0785-8 (print) 978-982-04-0786-2 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2VCIrWC	28 p.	Review of natural resource and environment related legislation: Samoa	978-982-04-0874-6 http://bit.ly/2DD1pas	21 p.
Environmental impact assessment guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development in Pacific Island Countries and Territories	978-982-04-0886-9 (print) 978-982-04-0885-2 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2ydiSml	40 p.	Review of natural resource and environment related legislation: Solomon Islands	978-982-04-0873-9 http://bit.ly/2wvP0K	19 p.
National Waste Management and Pollution Control Strategy 2017-2026 – Solomon Islands	978-982-04-0734-2 (print) 978-982-04-0732-9 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2XXfGLT	119 p.	Review of natural resource and environment related legislation: Tokelau	978-982-04-0867-8 http://bit.ly/2M8RHTh	13 p.
Planning for Ecosystem based adaptation in Honiara, Solomon Islands: synthesis report	978-982-04-0753-4 (print) 978-982-04-0754-1 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2IXnAM5	20 p.	Review of natural resource and environment related legislation: Tonga	978-982-04-0870-8 http://bit.ly/2J3pxq7	21 p.
Planning for Ecosystem based adaptation in Taveuni, Fiji: synthesis report	978-982-04-0749-7 (print) 978-982-04-0750-3 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2J3k9Dt	20 p.	Review of natural resource and environment related legislation: Tuvalu	978-982-04-0869-2 http://bit.ly/2ZHO7Ve	17 p.
Planning for Ecosystem based adaptation in Port Vila, Vanuatu: synthesis report	978-982-04-0753-4 (print) 978-982-04-0754-1 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2ZKLbMr	20 p.	Review of natural resource and environment related legislation: Vanuatu	978-982-04-0868-5 http://bit.ly/2IPDCs0	22 p.
Pacific marine climate change report card 2018	http://bit.ly/2vtwzgw	9 p.	Share Pacific Invasive Species Data using the Global Biodiversity Information Facility	978-982-04-0785-5 (print) 978-982-04-0786-2 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2GRIE9Z	30 p.
Pacific Regional Action Plan: Marine Litter 2018-2025	978-982-04-0884-5 (print) 978-982-04-0883-8 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2INg5Im	44 p.	Status and Trends of Coral Reefs of the Pacific	http://bit.ly/2Qcuqptg	220 p.
Practical guide to solid waste management in Pacific island countries and territories	978-982-04-0765-7 (print) 978-982-04-0766-4 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2XXvQ2Z	152 p.	uPOPs prevention and chemical awareness: considerations for awareness-raising campaigns	http://bit.ly/2URbAxK	17 p.
Prevention, control and management of Invasive Alien Species in the Pacific Islands: Terminal evaluation of UN Environment Project	http://bit.ly/2vsssRe	103 p.	SERIES		
Republic of the Marshall Islands: State of Environment Report – synthesis	http://bit.ly/2L7FDk	6 p.	Climate Change Matters (Issues 62) January – July 2018	2227-6947 http://bit.ly/2DAP5r8	6 p.
Republic of the Marshall Islands National Environment Management Strategy (NEMS) 2017-2022	978-982-04-0767-1 (print) 978-982-04-0768-8 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2LdERn	24 p.	COSSPac Monthly Bulletin, October 2018	http://bit.ly/2GPW3cy	18 p.
Regulating plastics in Pacific Island Countries: a guide for policymakers and legislative drafters	978-982-04-0888-3 (print) 978-982-04-0884-6 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2UNhgce	62 p.	Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) newsletter, Issues 5 & 6	http://bit.ly/2IYJILm http://bit.ly/2ZNIH25	8 p.
			Rapport annuel du PROE 2017	1562-675X http://bit.ly/2ZCYBDH	70 p.
			SPREP Annual Report 2017	1562-675X http://bit.ly/2vsasXm	70 p.
			SPREP Tok (Issues 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50)	2311-861X http://bit.ly/2J1ePR4 ; http://bit.ly/2ZKrdau ; http://bit.ly/2GD0i6Y ; http://bit.ly/2PBh6DS ; http://bit.ly/2XTEU8U ; http://bit.ly/2GS67Dn ; http://bit.ly/2LcxX1k ; http://bit.ly/2Vu8G9 ; http://bit.ly/2WeBNb0 ; http://bit.ly/2UMU6CW	4 p.
			Soundbites, December 2018	http://bit.ly/2XW9rCO	15 p.

TITLE	ISBN / ISSN / LINK	PAGES	TITLE	ISBN / ISSN / LINK	DURATION
MEETING REPORTS			VIDEOS		
Report of the First Executive Board Meeting, 10-11 September 2018, Apia, Samoa	978-982-04-0863-0 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2J0fQsx	33 p.	ACPMEA2 workshop interview: Ms Kathleen Taituave	http://bit.ly/2Z2Uav	2:01
Regional joint meeting of the ACPMEA2 and Inform Projects, 17-21 September 2018, Apia, Samoa	http://bit.ly/2PxxzmK	32 p.	Bring your own bag	http://bit.ly/2L9SYcU	5:02
Report for the BIOPAMA Pacific Regional Inception Workshop Apia, Samoa. 11-15 June, 2018	http://bit.ly/2XZiDUF	58 p.	Examining our environment through data for decision-making	http://bit.ly/2IMJa6E	0:05
FACT SHEETS			Inform project: Data Portal Tutorial 1 – How to add a dataset	http://bit.ly/2VwhhFU	3:19
Clean Pacific Roundtable 101	http://bit.ly/2IPAmgg	2 p.	Inform project: Did you know that we now have environmental data portals in some Pacific Islands? Find out more	http://bit.ly/2GRZroQ	1:07
Our Pacific Ocean, Our Stories: Why we should tell our stories about our Pacific Ocean (Factsheet 1)	http://bit.ly/2vktBTC	2 p.	Inform project to provide quality data – Charlene Mersai, Palau	http://bit.ly/2GQL6Jb	27sec
Our Pacific Ocean, Our Stories: Pacific Ocean or Plastic Ocean? (Factsheet 2)	http://bit.ly/2IPAYIU	2 p.	Inform project to provide us with the central database to manage environmental data – Soseala Tinilau, Tuvalu	http://bit.ly/2LdEtVs	27sec
Our Pacific Ocean, Our Stories: A Plastic-Free Ocean, Our Actions, Our Responsibility (Factsheet 3)	http://bit.ly/2IOZaVE	2 p.	Little giants – Little fire ants (<i>wasnannia auropunctata</i>) : Vanuatu / by Alain Simeon	http://bit.ly/2LdFuwK	23:40
Our Pacific Ocean, Our Stories: Learning more about Coral Reef (Factsheet 4)	http://bit.ly/2GUuS10	2 p.	Nauru BIORAP – Part 1	http://bit.ly/2J278tQ	17:45
Our Pacific Ocean, Our Stories: The challenges our coral reefs face (Factsheet 5)	http://bit.ly/2J5PRQn	2 p.	Nauru BIORAP – Part 2	http://bit.ly/2V2biPT	11:44
Pacific Conversation with SPREP: Healthy Reefs, Healthy People	http://bit.ly/2DBvsRv	1 p.	Outcomes of the Pacific Biodiversity Blue Belt Project BEST 2.0 in French Polynesia	http://bit.ly/2GzDAkk	1:11
Pacific Conversation with SPREP: Learning more about asbestos	http://bit.ly/2DDpA8R	1 p.	Pacific Voices in Unison: Stories from the Republic of Kiribati	http://bit.ly/2GHdFal	3:29
Pacific Conversation: Ocean acidification	http://bit.ly/2Vvvlzr	1 p.	Pacific Voices in Unison: Stories from the Marshall Islands	http://bit.ly/2GL4dmr	3:55
Pacific Conversation: Pacific Ocean or Plastic Ocean?	http://bit.ly/2LcMEkM	1 p.	Pacific Voices in Unison: Stories from Samoa	http://bit.ly/2DEpwp9	2:43
Pacific Conversation: Pacific Protected Areas – protecting our natural heritage for future generations	http://bit.ly/2ZJPwZz	1 p.	Pacific Voices in Unison: Stories from the Solomon Islands	http://bit.ly/2V7NqV2	3:35
Pacific Conversation: Congratulations to our Pacific islands! We're saving sharks!	http://bit.ly/2ZGQYMI	1 p.	Pacific Voices in Unison: Stories from Vanuatu	http://bit.ly/2J13JLN	4:04
Pacific Conversation: Our Pacific, Our sharks, Our Responsibility	http://bit.ly/2ZFY3wR	1 p.	Pacific Voices in Unison: Turning back the tide	http://bit.ly/2V1Owi7	0:12
BROCHURES			Pacific Voices in Unison: Stories from Fiji	http://bit.ly/2XT9LCA	4:49
Cook Islands State of the Environment (SOE)	http://bit.ly/2DEonOM	6 p.	Résultats du projet Pacific Biodiversity Blue Belt BEST2.0 en Polynésie française	http://bit.ly/2WizRyB	1:11
Choosing a career in meteorology	http://bit.ly/2GRuf9c	1 p.	Stop the POPs	http://bit.ly/2IY0x3w	0:04
Inform project	http://bit.ly/2ZJpYwW	2 p.	SPREP's Inform Project indicator reporting tool overview	http://bit.ly/2ZIQxRC	3:02
Protecting Pacific environments from pollution	http://bit.ly/2ZFIZzb	2 p.	The Pacific adventures of the climate crab (Niuean)	http://bit.ly/2Vzy234	4:50
Shark Beats	http://bit.ly/2UL20MZ	4 p.	The Pacific adventures of the climate crab (Pidgin)	http://bit.ly/2vskZwV	5:11
POSTERS/BOOKLETS/FLIPCHARTS			The Pacific adventures of the climate crab (Tuvaluan)	http://bit.ly/2ZH7N9T	4:54
Conservation measures for sharks and rays in the Pacific – poster	http://bit.ly/2GEP4TT	1p.	The Pacific adventures of the climate crab (Samoan)	http://bit.ly/2V3coEW	5:35
Set size: a guide for more & bigger fish	http://bit.ly/2DEwBpG	16 p.	SPREP Director General, Kosi Latu on the 49th Pacific Islands Forum	http://bit.ly/2V2di4h	5:37
Wakatu Taveuni: growing the Fiji we deserve	http://bit.ly/2XWCw1h	24 p.	SPREP Director General Statement at the CVF Virtual Summit 2018	http://bit.ly/2LsA9k9	2:28
			Tonga data portal demo	http://bit.ly/2XPTEwf	11:08
			Traditional knowledge on weather and climate in the Pacific	http://bit.ly/3361qPc	0:08
			Using science-based climate information for decision making: cocoa case study in Samoa	http://bit.ly/2V3eSTM	9:59
			STAFF PODCASTS		
			Pacific aims to up influence in fight against climate change	http://bit.ly/2WcrY8K	0:05:26
			State of Pacific marine science analysed	http://bit.ly/2PGZZAE	0:04:14
			Samoa to join other Pacific countries in battle against plastic	http://bit.ly/2W9IEr4	0:04:23
			ILO and SPREP encourage promotion of 'green jobs'	http://bit.ly/2INrEiB	0:05:56
			Waste as critical as climate change for the Pacific – Bainimarama	http://bit.ly/2DBhAFa	0:05:08
			Rule book essential to avoid global climate disaster	http://bit.ly/2IOFvFk	0:03:54



Staff List

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018

STAFF MEMBER	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE
SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM			
1 Kosi Latu	Director General	Samoa	31-Dec-19
2 Roger Cornforth	Deputy Director General, Strategic Planning and Project Coordination and Information Services	New Zealand	05-Jun-19
3 Stuart Chape	Acting Deputy Director General, Strategic Policy and Technical Programmes/ Director Island and Ocean Ecosystems	Australia	30-Jun-21
4 Tagaloa Cooper - Halo	Director Climate Change	Niue	04-Feb-21
5 Easter Galuvao	Director Environmental Monitoring and Governance	Samoa	07-May-20
6 Vicki Hall	Director Waste Management and Pollution Control	Australia	12-Jun-20
7 Clark Peteru	Legal Counsel	Samoa	31-Dec-19
8 Petra Chan Tung	Director Finance and Administration	Samoa	24-Jul-19
9 Simeamativa Vaai	Director Human Resources	Samoa	28-Feb-20
EXECUTIVE SUPPORT AND REGIONAL OFFICES			
Executive Support			
1 Audrey Brown-Pereira	Executive Officer	Cook Islands	19-Mar-20
2 Rosanna Galuvao-Ah Ching	Executive Assistant to the Director General	Samoa	30-May-19
3 Apiseta Eti	Executive Assistant to the Deputy Director General	Samoa	31-Dec-21
Internal Audit			
1 Selesitina Reti	Internal Auditor	Samoa	31-Mar-19
Subregional Offices			
1 Kilom Ishiguro	Republic of the Marshall Islands – SPREP Technical Expert (Water Sector)	RMI	31-Dec-19
Communications and Outreach			
1 Nanette Wootton	Media and Public Relations Officer	Cook Islands	06-Aug-20
2 Leanne Moananu	Communications Support Officer	Samoa	31-Dec-19
3 Angelica Salele	Outreach Support Officer	Samoa	08-Apr-19
STRATEGIC POLICY AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMMES			
CLIMATE CHANGE			
1 Foinjancey Fesolai	Climate Change Resilience Programme Assistant	Samoa	1-Oct-20
2 Espen Ronneberg	Climate Change Adviser	Norway	31-Dec-20
3 Filomena Nelson	Climate Change Adaptation Adviser	Samoa	8-Oct-20
4 Salesa Nihmei	Meteorology and Climate Officer	Vanuatu	31-Mar-19
5 Robert D. McIntosh	Oceanography Officer	USA	13-May-21
6 Johanna Johnson	Project Manager, Vanuatu CISRD Project	Australia	10-Jul-21
7 Sunny Seuseu	Climate Information Services Officer, Vanuatu CISRD Project	Samoa	04-Apr-21
8 Jamila Sese	Technical and Finance Assistant, Vanuatu CISRD Project	Vanuatu	08-Apr-21
9 Azarel Mariner	COSPPac Capacity Development Officer	Samoa	30-Jun-21
10 Siosinamele Lui	COSPPac Climate Traditional Knowledge Officer	Samoa	30-Jun-21
11 Philip Malsale	COSSPac Climatology Officer	Vanuatu	30-Jun-21
12 Teuila-Jane Fruean	COSSPac Technical and Finance Assistant	Samoa	30-Jun-21
13 Makelesi Gonelevu	Knowledge Management Officer	Fiji	31-Dec-18
14 Patrick Pringle	Climate Analytic Consultant (On Secondment from Cimate Analytics)	UK	30-Sep-19
15 <i>Vacant</i>	Manager Pacific Climate Change Centre		
16 <i>Vacant</i>	Meteorology and Climatology Adviser		
17 <i>Vacant</i>	Climate Prediction Services Coordinator		
18 <i>Vacant</i>	PPOA Project Technical Assistant		
19 <i>Vacant</i>	Project Manager – GCCA+ Intra ACP Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience		
20 <i>Vacant</i>	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer		
21 <i>Vacant</i>	PACRES Finance and Administration Officer		
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND GOVERNANCE			
1 Pauline Fruean	Environmental Monitoring and Governance Programme Assistant	Samoa	24-May-21
2 Jope Davetanivalu	Environmental Planning Adviser	Fiji	30-Sep-19
3 Gregory Barbara	Environmental Assessment and Planning Officer	Australia	14-Apr-21
4 Paul Anderson	Inform Project Manager	USA	24-Sep-20
5 Julie Callebaut	Inform Project, Environmental Monitoring and Reporting – GIS Specialist	Belgium	13-Jun-21
6 Peter McDonald	Inform Project, Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Specialist	Australia	08-Jun-21
7 Sela Simamao	Inform Project Finance and Technical Assistant	Tonga	09-Jan-21
8 Tavita Su'a	Environmental Information System Developer and Analyst	Samoa	14-Oct-21
9 Lagi Reupena	Inform Project, Environmental Data Assistant (Temp)	Samoa	05-May-19
ISLAND AND OCEAN ECOSYSTEMS			
1 Makerita Atiga	Island and Ocean Ecosystems Programme Assistant	Samoa	01-Aug-20
2 David Moverley	Invasive Species Adviser	New Zealand	30-Nov-21
3 Amanda Wheatley	Biodiversity Adviser	Australia	16-Dec-20
4 Ofa Kaisamy	ABS – Legal Adviser	Tonga	10-Sep-20
5 Rahul Chand	ABS – Capacity Building Officer	Fiji	20-Oct-20
6 Isabel Rasch	ABS – Technical and Finance Assistant	Samoa	22-Aug-20
7 Juney Ward	Shark and Ray Conservation Officer	Samoa	31-Mar-19

STAFF MEMBER	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE
8 Vainuupo Jungblut	Protected Areas Officer	Samoa	13-Dec-20
9 Herman Timmermans	PEBACC – Project Manager	South Africa	30-Jul-19
10 David Loubser	PEBACC – Vanuatu Country Manager	New Zealand	30-Jul-19
11 Fred Patison	PEBACC Solomon Islands Country Manager	Solomon Is	30-Jul-19
12 Allan Dan	PEBACC Vanuatu Project Officer	Vanuatu	14-Aug-19
13 Filomena Serenia	PEBACC Fiji Project Officer	Fiji	31-Jul-19
14 Miriama Turagava	PEBACC Finance and Administration Officer	Fiji	01-Jul-19
15 Carmen Fepulea'i	Shark Outreach Assistant (Temp)	Samoa	30-Jun-19
16 David Sakoda	Invasive Species Specialist (Peace Corp Response Volunteer)	USA	23-Aug-19
17 Akiko Hamada-Ano	Coastal and Marine Management Specialist (Peace Corp Response Volunteer)	USA	10-May-19
18 Franck Connan	Marine Environment and Conservation Specialist (On Secondment from MEEM, France)	France	28-Feb-21
19 Margaret Morris	AVID Volunteer	Australia	04-Apr-19
20 <i>Vacant</i>	Invasive Species Coordinator		
21 <i>Vacant</i>	Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Adviser		
22 <i>Vacant</i>	Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser		
23 <i>Vacant</i>	Project Manager – By-Catch and Intergrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) Project		
24 <i>Vacant</i>	Ecosystem and Biodiversity Officer		
WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL			
1 Leinaiotleitoga Eteuati	Waste Management and Pollution Control, Programme Assistant (Temp)	Samoa	31-Dec-18
2 Anthony Talouli	Pollution Adviser	Fiji	31-Jul-20
3 Ma Bella Guinto	Solid Waste Management Adviser	New Zealand	16-Sep-20
4 Frank Griffin	Hazardous Waste Management Adviser	PNG	20-Sep-19
5 Bradley Nolan	Project Manager PacWastePlus	Australia	08-Nov-21
6 Raymond Schuster	GEF Project Assistant (<i>Temp</i>)	Samoa	06-Jun-19
7 Phillipa Tulilo	PacWaste Plus Intern (<i>Work Attachment</i>)	Samoa	25-Jan-19
8 <i>Vacant</i>	PacWaste Plus, Finance and Procurement Officer		
9 <i>Vacant</i>	PacWaste Plus, Technical and Administration Officer		
STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROJECT COORDINATION AND INFORMATION SERVICES			
Strategic Planning			
1 Rebecca Polestico	Monitoring and Evaluation Adviser	Phillipines	01-Mar-21
Project Coordination Unit			
1 Melanie King	Manager, Project Coordination Unit	Australia	22-Oct-21
2 Manasa Katonivualiku	Project Development Specialist – Climate Resilience and Adaptation	Fiji	26-Jun-21
3 Rupeni Mario	Project Development Specialist – Climate Change Mitigation	Fiji	17-Jul-21
4 Vitolina Samu	Project Implementation Support Officer	Samoa	18-Apr-21
Information Technology			
1 Christian Slaven	IT Manager	Samoa	30-Nov-21
2 Epeli Tagi	IT Network and Systems Support Engineer	Fiji	30-Apr-20
3 Billy Chan Ting	Web Applications Developer Specialist	Samoa	30-Apr-20
4 Ainsof So'o	Systems Developer and Analyst	Samoa	05-May-19
5 <i>Vacant</i>	IT Support Officer		
Knowledge Management			
1 Miraneta Williams-Hazelman	Knowledge Manager	Samoa	31-Oct-21
2 Lupe Silulu	Records and Archives Officer	Samoa	31-Dec-20
3 Emma Arasi	Knowledge Management Officer	Samoa	31-Jul-21
4 Faasipa Lemalu	Records and Archives Assistant	Samoa	31-Jul-21
Finance and Administration Department			
1 Veronica Levi	Financial Accountant	Samoa	10-Apr-19
2 Maraia Slade-Pogi	Procurement Officer	Samoa	05-Jan-20
3 Siniva Tuuau-Enosa	Project Accountant	Samoa	26-Jun-19
4 Alvin Sen	Project Accountant	Fiji	16-Jun-19
5 Rachel Levi	Accountant	Samoa	29-Apr-21
6 Dannicah Chan	Finance Officer	Samoa	22-Oct-20
7 Atitoafaiga Tau	Finance Officer	Samoa	06-Nov-20
8 Naoafioga Feu'u	Finance Officer	Samoa	10-Sep-20
9 Hetta Fuimaono	Finance Officer	Samoa	19-Jun-19
10 Anuilagi Tyrell	Finance Officer	Samoa	26-Jun-19
11 Lawrence Warner	Property Services Officer	Samoa	4-Dec-21
12 Faamanatu Sititi	Driver/ Clerk	Samoa	05-Dec-20
13 Amosa To'oto'o	Cleaner/ Teaperson	Samoa	31-Dec-19
14 Cynthia Ah Loo	Cleaner/ Teaperson	Samoa	05-Mar-20
15 Tagiilima Enele	Groundsman	Samoa	12-May-20
16 Isaia Talaitau	Groundsman	Samoa	11-Sep-19
Human Resources Department			
1 Luana Jamieson	Human Resources Officer	Samoa	05-Jan-20
2 Jolynn Managreve-Fepuleai	Assistant Human Resources Officer	Fiji	08-Jul-21
3 Marion Chan Chui	Assistant Human Resources Officer	Tonga	08-May-20
4 Monica Tupai	Human Resources Assistant	Samoa	21-May-19
SPREP-based Consultants			
1 Bradley Myer	Invasive Species Consultant	New Zealand	16-Apr-19
2 Emile Adams	Project Communications Support Specialist	Samoa	31-May-19

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ABS	Access and Benefits Sharing	ISA	International Standards on Auditing
ACP MEA2	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States Multilateral Environmental Agreements 2 Project	ISSG	Invasive Species Specialist Group
ADB	Asian Development Bank	JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
AFB	French Agency for Biodiversity	J-PRISM II	Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries Phase II
AIMS	Australian Institute of Marine Science	MACBIO Project	Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in the Pacific Project
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States	MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
APCC	APEC Climate Centre	MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
BECQ	CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality	MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Government of Samoa
BID	Biodiversity Information Development Programme	MOC	Memorandum of Cooperation
BIOPAMA	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme	MWCSD	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development of the Government of Samoa
BRS Triple COP	Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	NMHS	National Meteorological and Hydrological Services
CBD	Convention on Biodiversity	NEMS	National Environment Management Strategies
CBD COP14	Fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity	NSDP	National Sustainable Development Plan
CEN	New Caledonia Conservatory of the Natural Environment	NOAA	U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CEPA	Conservation and Environment Protection Authority	PACMAS	Pacific Media Assistance Scheme
CI	Conservation International	PACWASTE	Pacific Hazardous Waste Management Project
CNMI	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	PEBACC	Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change
COSPPac	Climate and Oceans Support Programme for the Pacific	PICOF-4	Fourth Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum
CPRT	Clean Pacific Roundtable	PNG-METT	Papua New Guinea Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific	PIEC	Pacific Island Environment Conference
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	PIRT	Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas
DFAT	Australian Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade	PMC-4	Fourth Pacific Meteorological Council
DWM	Department of Waste Management	PMMM-2	Second Pacific Meteorological Ministerial Meeting
EDF11	Eleventh European Development Fund	RC COP-8	Eighth Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	SCS	Samoa Conservation Society
EMG	Environmental Monitoring and Governance	SCOPIC	Seasonal Climate Outlooks in Pacific Islands Countries (SCOPIC)
ESRAM	Ecosystem and Socio-economic Resilience Analysis and Mapping Reports	SREEM	Sustaining Renewable Energy Efficiency Measures
EU	European Union	SRWMA	Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association
FRDP	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific	SAMOA Pathway	Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities for Action
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia	SoE	State of Environment Report
GEF	Global Environment Facility	SDG	Sustainable Development goals
GEF-PAS	Global Environment Facility – Pacific Alliance for Sustainability	SPC	The Pacific Community
GEFPAS POPs	GEFPAS Persistent Organic Pollutants Release Reduction Project	SPTO	South Pacific Tourism Organisation
GPS	Global Positioning System	TCF	Technical Cooperation Facility
GBIF	Global Biodiversity Information Facility	28SM	Twenty-Eighth SPREP Meeting
GIS	Geographic Information Systems	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	UN Environment	United Nations Environment
GPML	Global Partnership on Marine Litter	UNFCCC COP24	Twenty-fourth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
ICF	Internal Control Framework	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework on the Convention on Climate Change
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards	UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
IKI	International Climate Initiative	UON	University of Newcastle
ILO	International Labour Organization	uPOPs	Unintended Persistent Organic Pollutants
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
IMMA	Important Marine Mammal Areas	WB	World Bank
IKI	International Climate Initiative	WMO	World Meteorological Organization
IPT	Internet Publishing Tool	YCAN	Youth Climate Action Network of Samoa
IMO	International Maritime Organization		



Our Region

The Pacific is the world's largest ocean, covering nearly a third of the Earth's surface. About 30,000 islands of varied shapes and sizes lie across its vast expanse.

The Pacific island Members of SPREP are:

- American Samoa
- Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- Cook Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Fiji
- French Polynesia
- Guam
- Kiribati
- Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Nauru
- New Caledonia
- Niue
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tokelau
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu
- Wallis and Futuna

SPREP also has five metropolitan Members:

- Australia
- France
- New Zealand
- United Kingdom
- United States of America



This map is indicative only of agreed and potential maritime jurisdictional limits within the Pacific region. It does not imply the expression of an opinion by SPREP on the legality of any boundary shown.

HAWAII



SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

Equator

KIRIBATI

KIRIBATI

TOKELAU

U
★ Funafuti

LIS AND FUTUNA

Mata-utu ★

Apia

SAMOA

AMERICAN SAMOA

★ Pago Pago

Suva

TONGA

Nuku'alofa

NIUE

Alofi

COOK ISLANDS

Avarua

Papeete

FRENCH POLYNESIA

0 500 1,000 2,000
Kilometres

natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

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Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme