

# Annual Report

2019



**SPREP**

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme



Upper Lunga River, Solomon Islands.  
Photo: © Stuart Chape

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**

**ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION**

**ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE**

**WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL**

#### SPREP LIBRARY – CATALOGUING IN PUBLICATION DATA

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme  
SPREP Annual Report: 2019. Apia, Samoa: SPREP, 2020.

56 p. 29 cm

ISSN: 1562-675X

I. Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

I. Title.

363.7099

Copyright © Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), 2020.

Reproduction for educational or other non-commercial purposes is authorised without prior written permission from the copyright holder provided that the source is fully acknowledged. Reproduction of this publication for resale or other commercial purposes is prohibited without prior written consent of the copyright owner.

Front cover: O le Pupu Pu'e National Park, Samoa. Photo: © Stuart Chape

Back cover: Upper Lunga River, Solomon Islands. Photo: © Stuart Chape

Other photos: Unless otherwise acknowledged, all photographs in this publication were taken by staff of SPREP.



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



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



Labasa-Wailevu-Qawa river delta mangroves, Vanua Levu, Fiji. Photo: © Stuart Chape

<b>FOREWORD: MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION: MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>FEATURE: MOANA BLUE PACIFIC PAVILION</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>SECRETARIAT HIGHLIGHTS</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>ANNUAL STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>AUDIT COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>AUDITOR'S REPORT</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>STAFF LIST</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>OUR REGION</b>	<b>53</b>



Freycinetia species, Samoa. Photo: © Stuart Chape

## Message from the Chair



Peseta Noumea Simi

The opening of the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme in 2019 marked a major milestone for our Pacific islands. Being amongst the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, the opening of the Centre's doors has opened our region up to the many opportunities to build our collective Pacific capacity and focus on ongoing efforts to address climate change issues, as well as apply the best science to deal with climate change adaptation and mitigation.

A highlight in a year of many challenges and triumphs for our resilient Blue Pacific family, the PCCC is symbolic of an enduring partnership between the governments of Japan and Samoa to serve our Pacific islands family through SPREP. We are pleased to see the PCCC being used by our Member countries with their participation in many training programmes now underway. We are also grateful for the additional support from New Zealand to resource and enhance PCCC capabilities.

Samoa stands with our regional Pacific islands family as we

work to further build our ability to adapt and 'bounce back' from a myriad of growing environmental challenges. Environmental leadership from our Pacific grew in leaps and bounds across 2019 as many Pacific islands developed, commenced or implemented waste policies and programmes to reduce single use plastics. This will see a change in behaviour across our Pacific region as we opt for more environmentally friendly solutions to address our waste challenges.

As host of the 2019 Pacific Games, a collective partnership





was formed between SPREP, Samoa and other partners to help “Green the 2019 Pacific Games” and in particular to reduce the volume of anticipated waste as the country hosted around 4,000 athletes and visitors for the Games. It is estimated that over one million 500ml single-use plastic bottles were not used or discarded as rubbish over the two-week event, as a result of this initiative and partnership.

This demonstrated that through strong partnerships and like-minded goals, we can all work together to reduce the waste burden on our nations when we host regional, international and national events. The support that Samoa received from our partners was overwhelming and very much appreciated, and equally, the support and ‘buy-in’ from our fellow Pacific islands countries. Everyone worked together to lower their environmental impacts in Samoa by using reusable water bottles to stay hydrated and disposing of waste responsibly. We are optimistic about the potential that this model poses for replication across our region to support a resilient Blue Pacific. Thank you all for your collective actions and support, and in helping to keep ‘Samoa Beautiful’.

At their meeting in Tuvalu last August, Pacific Islands Forum Leaders reaffirmed climate change as the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific. While we face challenges, we are also empowered to address these with very real actions on the ground to help our communities both mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Our Pacific Meteorological Services continue to play a crucial role in keeping us informed of developments in weather, climate and early warning systems, as well as identifying our respective needs and priorities in relation to meteorology and related fields. These help to safeguard life and property of our Pacific island countries and at the same time contribute to national sustainable development plans.

As host of the Fifth Pacific Meteorological Council, Samoa was pleased to see outcomes that would pave a way forward towards strengthening our Pacific Meteorological Services under the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership at SPREP.

With the continued support of our partners, we have the opportunity to drive ongoing

efforts to develop and enhance national and regional capacity and advance the sustainability of weather and climate services in Pacific islands for the benefit of our people.

The Twenty-Fifth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Madrid, Spain brought together close to 30,000 delegates. We were proud to see SPREP coordinate the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion for our Blue Pacific region, which gave us a stronger voice at negotiations during the UNFCCC COP25. I commend the one CROP Plus team led by SPREP in supporting our members in the COP25 negotiations. Being able to tell our Pacific stories and showcase our actions to address climate change at the Pacific Pavilion bolstered our Pacific spirits and showed the global community that we can and are able to take action. We are grateful to the governments of New Zealand and Fiji for supporting this initiative since 2018 and look forward to our Secretariat continuing this partnership to build our Pacific profile in the coming years.

Upon reflection, 2019 was a busy year for us all and I commend you, our fellow

Members, for your hard work and dedication towards ensuring a resilient Pacific environment, and in sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

As the Chair of the 29th SPREP Meeting, I wish to express, on behalf of all SPREP Members, our deep appreciation and gratitude to our partners for their unwavering assistance and support. We acknowledge and sincerely thank the hardworking staff at SPREP for their work and support.

We farewelled 2019 on a sombre note as several of our Pacific island countries, Samoa in particular, bore the tragic impacts of the measles epidemic. May we remember those of our Pacific families that we have lost, and extend our gratitude to those that worked with us to contain this health crisis. It is the actions we take to support each other in times of need that are the essence of a resilient Blue Pacific.

May peace prevail upon us all as we look towards a productive 2020.

**Peseta Noumea Simi**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Government of Samoa

# Introduction



Coral reef, Solomon Islands. Photo: © Stuart Chape

## Message from the Director General



Mr Kosi Latu

Successes and challenges were a feature of 2019 as SPREP strengthened its engagement with Members and partners, implemented innovative approaches to key issues, and began a number of major projects.

The 29th SPREP Meeting and Pacific Environment Ministers' High-Level Talanoa agreed to the policies, work programme and budget for the Secretariat under the biennial governance arrangements as well as the environmental priorities affirmed by our Ministers and High-Level Representatives

in their Talanoa communiqué. The occasion also saw the opening of the Pacific Climate Change Centre, a significant milestone for SPREP and the culmination of work since 2011. The PCCC was made possible with the financial and foundational support of Japan and Samoa, and assistance from New Zealand.

The 29th SPREP Meeting highlighted the importance of SPREP management being engaged and responsive to Members. SPREP undertook senior management team missions to Palau, Solomon

Islands and Marshall Islands, to enhance our working relationship and better understand what is happening on the ground.

The mission to the Marshall Islands included the official opening of the SPREP North Pacific Sub-regional Office. Approved by SPREP Members and budgeted for in 2019, the office will complement upcoming projects on invasive species, waste and climate change, and in our roles as an accredited entity for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund. The



Office will ensure greater coordination and visibility of SPREP to support the environmental priorities and aspirations of North Pacific Members, initiated by request of the 12th Micronesian President's Summit.

Providing tangible support for Members is crucial to the work we do. A key example is the 'Greening of the Games' for the 2019 Pacific Games hosted in Samoa. A partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the "Beautiful Samoa – Keep it Clean and Plastic Free" campaign saw around 4,000 regional athletes and officials given free reusable bags to comply with the ban on single-use plastic bags. Water bottles were also provided for use at 350 water dispensers across all venues and accommodation, which helped to avoid over one million 500ml single-use plastic bottles from being used. The model can be adapted for future large-scale events in the Pacific.

SPREP values the coordination of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) to implement Pacific Leaders' decisions and to work collaboratively, recognising and respecting agency mandates. A second joint management meeting was held with the Pacific Community (SPC), which outlined

agreed principles for Pacific resilience, understanding each other's mandates and how we will work together, particularly as accredited entities to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). With a commitment to continued dialogue and for regular meetings every six months, this agreed approach will serve as the foundation of joint work between SPC and SPREP. This includes the proposed GCF Pacific Regional Flagship Programme Framework on mitigation and adaptation to help Pacific island countries realise their climate ambitions.

In 2019 SPREP became a founding partner in the Pacific Learning Partnership for Environmental and Social Sustainability (PLP-ESS). A collaboration with the University of the South Pacific, the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank, the PLP-ESS fosters training, knowledge exchange, technical expertise and capacity building related to environmental and social safeguards and infrastructural development standards in the Pacific region. The World Bank has provided an Environmental and Social Safeguards consultant to be located with the Environmental Monitoring and Governance programme. This partnership will help our Members build the capacity to better plan, implement, monitor and report on projects, as well as comply with donor requirements and

achieve better community and environmental outcomes.

The Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion, managed by SPREP and hosted at the Twenty-Fifth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Spain, is symbolic of the continued confidence from the New Zealand and Fiji governments in choosing SPREP once more, to lead on this initiative. The Pavilion provided a global platform for Pacific delegates to amplify their voice and share their priorities, experience and expertise on oceans and climate change with over 10,000 estimated visitors to the Pavilion. There were 61 events held from 2–13 December with strong Pacific representation and coverage. This was supported by a branded communications strategy from SPREP that included a Pavilion website and app, multimedia and targeted social media engagement and news content, to ensure the voice of the Pacific had an impact within and beyond the negotiations.

While there are many highlights in 2019, the Secretariat was faced with challenges in rolling out new projects across the region, due to unavoidable delays with final agreements. This had a major knock-on effect on our finances resulting in a net deficit of USD 81,977 and reduced total reserves of USD 57,763. The net deficit was the result of delayed project implementation, which

will be addressed as a priority in 2020. The European Union remains the number one donor to SPREP and is a trend likely to continue through 2020. With extra resourcing comes extra reporting and compliance requirements. SPREP is closely monitoring all project expenditure and sharing lessons with our peer CROP agencies.

Our work at SPREP serves the vision of a 'Resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures'. We at SPREP remain committed to serving our Pacific region, but there are many challenges we cannot address alone without the support of our Members and partners. I wish to acknowledge Australia and New Zealand for the multi-year funding support, which gives SPREP the flexibility to do what it does best. I would also like to thank SPREP staff for their continued dedication and hard work to 'protect and conserve the environment for present and future generations'.

I wish to close by acknowledging our colleague and friend Ratu Manasa Ma'afu Tuilau Katonivualiku, who passed away while on mission in Vanuatu. Manasa was a dearly respected colleague, who contributed so much to our Pacific region and shall never be forgotten by his peers, family and friends.

**Kosi Latu**

Director General, SPREP

# MOANA BLUE PACIFIC PAVILION



## Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion at the UNFCCC COP25

The Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion was a Pacific partnership with the governments of New Zealand and Fiji, managed by SPREP with a strong climate change and ocean theme. This is the second time SPREP has managed the Pacific Pavilion space, following the successful coordination of the Pacific and Koronivia Pavilion at the UNFCCC COP24 in Katowice, Poland. The 200 sqm pavilion opened from 2–13 December 2019, with space for events, meetings, a ‘meet and greet’ café and a storeroom. The Pavilion successfully met five objectives to:

1. Provide a platform for discussion, debate and knowledge-transfer on issues important to the Pacific, including options for enhancing mitigation and resilience.
2. Amplify the Pacific’s call for ambitious global action by all.
3. Support collaboration involving Pacific stakeholders to promote a high level of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and to exchange stories of national resilience planning.
4. Use a range of communication mediums to showcase the challenges and opportunities for climate change affected regions in the Pacific.
5. Provide a physical and virtual space for Pacific delegations to meet.

## Working together for a successful Pavilion

Despite challenges posed by the changing of the country venue of the UNFCCC COP25 a month before the event, SPREP was able to rally with partners, the governments of New Zealand and Fiji, and Pacific island Members to move swiftly for a Pacific Pavilion we could call ours. The construction was still underway one week before the COP25 opened, resources and materials were re-ordered, many people worked together to hand-carry our materials to Madrid, and many partners confirmed their side events. The resilience of all involved to change to the new venue at short notice helped ensure a successful Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion.

6

## A united Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion voice

A Steering Committee made up of Pavilion partners and SPREP approved all work on the Pavilion. A Working Group from the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) reviewed side event applications and requests, before making recommendations to the Steering Committee.

The Pavilion Management Group facilitated and managed the Pavilion.

Inclusivity was maintained through several Pavilion events, including a short dedication service on the morning the COP25 opened. The official opening ceremony held that

evening was culturally inclusive, ensuring as many Pacific voices were heard. A New Zealand Maori karakia (prayer) took place to welcome people into the Pavilion. Pacific island Members participated in different ways including the closing of the ceremony with a song by the Tongan delegation. Pacific island

culture was alive at the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion with several members of Rako Pasefika performing cultural items drawing in much interest. Some of the Pacific side events had cultural performances, and each evening was an opportunity for COP delegates to gather around the kava bowl.



## Showcasing Pacific climate actions in our Pacific Pavilion space

Over 80 applications were received to host side events in the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion for which 61 were approved to showcase Pacific climate action and issues. There were also high level ministerial events and official launches in the busy Pacific Pavilion's schedule.

A meeting room which could seat 18 people was also available for Pacific delegations, with over 35 meetings scheduled. When not in use, the meeting room was a quiet space for work by Pacific delegations.

The Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion was a place of pride for many Pacific delegates. Six Pacific island leaders were hosted and presented at the Pavilion, with over 20 High Level delegates from across the world also experiencing presentations, meetings, or evening discussions around the kava bowl. Many Pacific island delegates used the space to host meetings, attend and present at side events, or hold media interviews and network.



## Green principles for a healthy ocean

The Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion encouraged green principles and digital innovation for a healthy ocean. All event organisers were requested to limit paper distribution, select green catering options, ensure a clean side event space after their event, and encourage no single-use plastic. SPREP incorporated a Blue Wave rating system after each side event, provided vacuum cups of water for panellists, and distributed reusable bags with all resources on USB.

This approach was successful, resulting in a “clean” pavilion with minimal daily waste in comparison to the 2018 UNFCCC COP24 Koronivia and Pacific Pavilion. Eleven of the side events received the five-wave rating. While most events did not have waste they were marked down for bringing in paper materials.

Digital innovation was applied through use of the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion Attendify App for mobile phones and integrated with the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion website for content synchronisation. This allowed for interaction amongst app users and for posting regular updates of the Pavilion schedule and side events. There were more than 7,000 engagements of the app over the two weeks.

## Seen at COP25, our Pacific Islands

Materials were freely distributed from the Pavilion to help raise the Pacific islands profile at the COP itself, and ensure the Pacific islands are seen and heard. This resulted in flowers being seen across the conference venue at many different sites and being worn by many different people.

Materials freely distributed over the 11 days period spanned reusable bags, vacuum cups, stickers, pens, USBs, flowers and temporary tattoos.

The design of the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion brought the Pacific islands to Madrid, Spain with wall sized imagery of Pacific island scenery, people and our

marine species. A wall sized map of the Pacific islands region was also on show – the Pavilion itself was a popular backdrop for many visitors to take photos.

From the SPREP communications team alone, there were over 70,000 engagements through social media including Facebook posts,

tweets and news items posted online. A partnership with Radio New Zealand and Pasifika TV saw daily news items on the Pacific at the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion broadcast on Radio New Zealand and TV news items distributed across the region through the Pasifika TV Network.



# Climate Change Resilience



Anibare coastline, Nauru. Photo: © Stuart Chape

## Pacific Climate Change Centre opens!

History was made in 2019 with the opening of the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) in Apia, on 5 September during the Twenty-Ninth SPREP Meeting. The PCCC is a partnership between the Government of Japan and the Government of Samoa, supported by the Government of New Zealand, and is hosted by SPREP.

The journey of the PCCC began over ten years ago, when climate change practitioners from around the region tabled the idea of a Pacific Centre on climate change during the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands.

It was a few years later in 2012 at the SPREP Meeting in Majuro, a proposal by the Secretariat to request support from the Government of Japan

through the Government of Samoa to construct the PCCC on the SPREP campus was endorsed by its Members.

In 2015, Prime Minister of Japan, HE Shinzo Abe announced the Government of Japan had accepted the request from SPREP and the Government of Samoa to build the PCCC.

As the regional Centre of Excellence, it will be a hub for climate change information, research, and innovation. The PCCC will provide practical tools, share knowledge and support capacity building to address the adaptation and mitigation priorities of Pacific island people.

The cost of the construction of the PCCC is approximately USD 8 million. The building follows green guidelines which include a current solar panel



capacity of 20 KW with a target of 100 KW, and has energy and water saving technologies installed. It is a showcase of sustainable building technology in the Pacific, and it is hoped that the centre will operate at 100% renewable energy in the future.

H.E. Maugaoleatuolo Shinya Aoki, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Japan to Samoa; Rev. Nuuausala Siaosi; Hon. Aupito William Sio, New Zealand's Minister of Pacific Peoples; and Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi.

## Pacific Climate Change Centre: building our Pacific capacity

The Government of Samoa, SPREP and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) launched a series of regional trainings under the Project for the Capacity Building on Climate Resilience in the Pacific at the Pacific Climate Change Centre (CBCRP-PCCC) in 2019.

Twelve training courses will take place in the areas of climate change adaptation, access to climate finance and mitigation. All courses are available to SPREP Members across the Pacific.

The first training took place in November, being the Hazard

and Risk Assessment for Coastal Area Management by Using Remote Sensing Technology. This was held in partnership with the SPC and the Remote Sensing Technology Centre of Japan (RESTEC).



The Project for Capacity Building on Climate Resilience in the Pacific conducts one of the first trainings to be held in the PCCC.



## Helping Pacific Members access Green Climate Funds

As a delivery partner to accessing funds under the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to help Pacific islands with their National Adaptation Plans (NAP), SPREP supported five Pacific island Members to do so. The GCF NAP fund is for Parties to establish and strengthen their national climate change adaptation planning processes while developing the National Action Plan.

The Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue,

Republic of Marshall Islands and Tuvalu were helped with technical support through SPREP to shape funding proposals that meet GCF requirements.

The range of activities that SPREP supported included the desktop reviews of national development strategies and climate change action plans such as Joint National Adaptation Plans, as well as gender and youth policies.

National stakeholder consultations were held

to identify climate change adaptation issues, and the capacities, systems and tools required to help countries undertake planning, implementation, delivery and management of climate change adaptation projects.

These activities in the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Marshall Islands and Tuvalu were undertaken in partnership with the IMPACT Project of Climate Analytics and the GCF.



NAP Stakeholder workshop in Pohnpei, FSM. Photo: Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management, FSM

## Write shops for national adaptation in the Pacific

Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu were represented during a regional write shop for National Adaptation Plans coordinated by SPREP.

The write shop saw progress made in GCF concept and proposal development – some

ideas led to an outline concept, whereas others developed specific aspects of their proposal text or refined a full draft proposal.

The write shop also provided training of specific aspects of project planning, including developing a Theory of Change. Due to this training several participating countries

were able to finalise their GCF proposals in 2019 for submission to the GCF in early 2020.

The IMPACT GCF National Adaptation write shop was held at SPREP in Apia, Samoa through a partnership between the IMPACT Project of Climate Analytics, SPREP and the GCF.



Interactive exercises at the NAP workshop.

## Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building

15 Pacific member countries will benefit from the PACRES project which is supporting those countries to increase their resilience to climate change is financed under the European Union's 11th EDF Intra-African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) Programme.

The Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu are the country partners to PACRES, which held its Inception and Planning Meeting at SPREP Headquarters in April 2019.

SPREP is responsible for overall coordination of PACRES with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Pacific Community, and the University of the South Pacific. SPREP and its partner agencies will implement specific activities that will strengthen regional coordination in climate change and disaster resilience through the Pacific Resilience Partnership for the effective implementation of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP). This is an integrated approach to address climate change and disaster risk management to:

- assist national governments in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations.
- scale up Pacific professional resilience capacity, including through enhanced technical and vocational education and training qualifications.
- increase access to climate change and disaster resilience information.
- build the Pacific's resilience to climate change by supporting postgraduate studies through the USP component, and
- strengthen strategic engagement and dialogue with the private sector to deepen regional and public sector



TOP: Consultations by SPREP, PACRES and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Samoa (MNRE) in Taga Village, Savaii, Samoa. BOTTOM: Masamasa-Falelima National Park baseline survey team in Samoa.

understanding of the role and contribution of the private sector with respect to climate change and disaster resilience.

## Science to Services for a Resilient Pacific

The Fifth Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-5) in Apia, Samoa was held from 7–9 August 2019 following a week of meetings and events under the theme 'Science to Services for a Resilient Pacific'.

During this biennial event the second donor and partner tanoa session was held which finalised the PMC Partner and Donor Engagement Strategy to coordinate efforts of partners in the region. This is aligned to the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy and national meteorological priorities. Another highlight of the PMC was endorsement of the Pacific

Climate Change Science and Services Research Roadmap, which is associated with the Pacific Climate Change Centre.

The PMC-5 also saw the inaugural PMC Awards to recognise outstanding services across the Pacific islands region in Meteorology.

The PMC is a specialised subsidiary body of SPREP that meets on a biennial basis. This is the fifth meeting of PMC which brings together the National Meteorological and Hydrology Services (NMHS). SPREP plays a pivotal role in strengthening the functions and services of the NMHS in the areas of

weather, climate, climate change, hydrology and oceans.

The PMC-5 was supported by a strong partnership between the Government of Samoa, SPREP, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Government of Australia through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Government of Canada, Government of Korea, Climate Risk Early Warning Systems (CREWS), Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), IMPACT Project, Varysian, United Nations Development



Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and key regional partners at the PMC5 Opening Plenary.

Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Climate and Oceans Support Programme in the Pacific (COSPPac), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

## Government of New Zealand, newest partner to join the Climate and Ocean Support Programme in the Pacific

New Zealand is the newest partner of the Climate and Ocean Support Programme in the Pacific (COSPPac2) having committed NZD 3 Million to help strengthen training and tailoring of climate change information for sector use across the Pacific islands.

COSPPac2 works with Pacific island stakeholders to

analyse and interpret climate, oceans, and tidal data to produce valuable services for island communities. This information helps Pacific island communities to prepare for, and mitigate, the impacts of severe climate, tidal and oceanographic events.

COSPPac2 is funded with AUD 23.3 million from DFAT

Australia. New Zealand committed NZD 3 million with a letter of agreement signed at the Annual Programme Performance Review and Planning Meeting of COSPPac2 hosted in the Cook Islands in 2019. The meeting brought together the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and Representatives from across 14 Pacific islands



Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and key regional partners meet in the Cook Islands

as well as partners and key stakeholders and collaborators from across the Pacific.

## Cook Islands prepares for Early Action Rainfall Watch

The capacity of the Cook Islands Met Services was strengthened to develop an Early Action Rainfall Watch to better inform disaster managers on the likelihood of a drought in 2019. A workshop for Cook Islands stakeholders was held to identify the impacts of year-to-year rainfall change on a range of environmental variables, for example, taro production.

The consultation was part of a three-step process for the development of an Early Action Rainfall (EAR) Watch by the Cook Islands Meteorological Services (CIMS) with the support of the Australia Bureau of Meteorology, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and SPREP.

The main purpose of the EAR Watch is to provide sectors with information on rainfall variation over the past 12

months and rainfall forecast for the coming months. This will help them better plan, prepare and respond should there be an increased risk of drought or flooding that would likely trigger secondary impacts such as the outbreak of water-borne diseases.

The EAR Watch process has been replicated in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. It is implemented by



Cook Islands prepares for Early Action Rainfall Watch

the Australian government-funded Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific through DFAT.

## Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum keeping the Pacific informed

The Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum is an annual gathering, held several weeks prior to the cyclone season. Climate officers from across the Pacific islands meet with a selected sectoral group to help provide countries with predicted climate and tropical cyclone outlooks so they can better prepare.

In 2019 the Fifth PICOF saw climate officers come together with members of the agriculture sector from the Pacific to work towards developing a Regional Statement to help countries tailor their National Cyclone Outlooks for November 2019 – April 2020.

The 2019 PICOF was an opportunity to agree upon shared goals and help bridge the information needs and gaps when it comes to climate and weather for planning purposes. It also saw the documentation of best practices and lessons learnt for NMHS to tailor information specifically for the agriculture sector.

The priorities identified by the participants were to develop agrometeorology bulletins and early warning systems, basic climate training packages for use with farmers, social media updates, integration of traditional knowledge with scientific information,

and regular national climate outlook forums.

PICOF-5 also provided an opportunity to forge stronger relationships and professional networks between international and regional partners, NMHS and agriculture sectors across the region. Climate Officers from 14 Pacific island countries participated alongside six Agricultural Officers from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu.

This was coordinated by a partnership that included SPREP, WMO, CSIRO, APEC Climate Centre



Illustration during the inaugural Pacific Resilience Meeting by Tui Ledua.

(APCC), SPC, COSPPac and the Pacific National Meteorological Services.

## Write shop to boost Pacific authored peer reviewed literature

The very first write shop was held for Pacific NMHS in the Pacific to drive development of Pacific peer-reviewed papers that are cited in the Assessment Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which help inform policy and decision making.

The write shop hopes to see an increase of Pacific island authors in the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC which is to be released in 2021–2022.

The write shop was also attended by representatives from the Federated University of Tasmania, Fiji National University, University of

Newcastle, University of Papua New Guinea, National University of Samoa, University of Solomon Islands and University of the South Pacific.

The Enhancing Pacific Engagement in the IPCC AR6 Process seminar and training sessions in Apia were held in October 2019.

The initiative was funded by the DFAT (Australia Pacific Climate Partnership), CSIRO, COSPPac, WMO, CREWS, Climate Change Canada and UNDP RESPAC project. PMC Technical partners included CSIRO, Australia Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), SPC, SPREP, Climate Analytics, Pacific and Australia Universities.

## Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification

In 2019, a new project enhanced the resilience to ocean acidification of coastal ecosystems in Fiji, Kiribati, and Tokelau. The Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Government of New Zealand in partnership with the Government of the Principality of Monaco.

In Fiji work was undertaken in partnership with Conservation International Fiji, Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area Network, Wakatu Fiji and the Pacific Ecosystem Based Adaptation to Climate Change Project. Members of different villages in Taveuni were trained to restore mangroves and establish mangrove nurseries to buffer ocean acidification locally.

Villagers were also supported to develop a management plan for the districts of Wainikeli and Vuna using the Open Standards Planning Tool to address direct and indirect threats to their natural resources.

In Kiribati, the partnership worked with the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development to support Nanikai Village on Tarawa Island to develop a Locally Marine Managed Area management plan for the coastal area of Nanikai. This incorporated waste management as well as mangrove, seagrass, and coastal restoration and training. Baseline monitoring transects also took place along with training for local

stakeholders to carry out routine monitoring.

In Tokelau work was supported in partnership with the Ministry of Climate, Ocean, and Resilience as well as the Taupulega of Atafu, Nukunonu and Fakaofu. The partnership assisted in the deployment of three spectrophotometers to measure coastal pH. This saw one for each island deployed, along with the training of local counterparts to operate and maintain them to report this ocean acidification data towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Indicator 14.3.1. Training was also carried out for local counterparts in the restoration of coral at lagoon and ocean sites in Atafu, Nukunonu and Fakaofu.



Collecting data on ocean acidification in Nanikai, Kiribati. Photo: Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development, Kiribati

Educational materials to help raise awareness of ocean acidification were distributed to counterparts in Fiji, Kiribati and Tokelau, in their local languages.

## Preparing our Pacific islands Parties to the Twenty-Fifth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework to the Convention on Climate Change

Support provided by the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) to Pacific island members for the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP) is led by SPREP through a One CROP-Plus mechanism. SPREP is the lead coordinating agency to ensure all support provided for Pacific island Members is effective. This helps ensure the Pacific island Party Members are assisted and resources are used efficiently to complement efforts, rather than duplicate them.

One of the activities led by SPREP as part of the support is helping to prepare the Pacific High Level negotiators through annual training prior to the COP. In 2019, the IMPACT Pacific Small Islands Developing

States Climate Change Ministers and Negotiators Preparatory Meeting and Training for COP25 was held at the Pacific Climate Change Centre in Samoa.

This was supported by the IMPACT Project of Climate Analytics.

The training provides Pacific island Parties with updates on the latest climate science and developments in the climate change negotiations at international meetings. It also provided negotiators and Ministers with briefings on the state of play of the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement negotiations, and the opportunity to agree on Pacific SIDS positions on key issues.

The training prepares Ministers to engage effectively in the high-level events at the COP and helped identify and build

capacity of Pacific SIDS lead negotiators on the key agenda items in the negotiations. It supported the finalisation of the regional strategy for the COP25 negotiations and beyond, as well as provided negotiation role-play exercises to build the confidence of newer negotiators.

Known as the pre-COP this opportunity was made available for two members from each Pacific island Member that is a Party to the UNFCCC, one of which was requested to be a Pacific island Minister attending the COP.

It was agreed at the pre-COP in 2019 that strong engagement by Pacific SIDS was critical to ensure Pacific voices and priorities are heard and adequately reflected in the outcomes of COP25.



Pacific island negotiators at the UNFCCC COP25

## UNFCCC 25 outcomes

Initially organised for Santiago, Chile, UNFCCC COP25 was cancelled by the Chilean Presidency and moved to Madrid, Spain. The 2019 Chile-Madrid Climate Change Conference opened with expectations that negotiations would complete a few key issues, such as the guidance for Article 6 Market and non-market mechanisms. Other issues included the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts and finance - Adaptation Fund Board membership. The Chile Presidency initially declared that this would be the Blue COP, to highlight the role and vulnerability of oceans yet calls

from civil society for greater ambition saw a shift towards the Ambition COP.

Building upon the IPCC's recent release of the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC), the ocean remained a prime theme of the COP, with a record breaking number of side events and high level interventions.

The COP25 outcome decision included a significant section on Ocean and Climate, which was championed by a number of parties.

There were technical challenges given the inter-linkages of so many of the issues. On markets (Article 6) for example, the San Jose principles were finally

introduced on the last day of COP by a group of countries, even though the text had been around since October.

Countries were unable to reach agreement on market and non-market mechanisms under Article 6. The texts will be forwarded to the subsidiary bodies meeting in June 2020. Several other issues were left unresolved, including common time frames, long-term finance, and transparency issues for the Paris Agreement, the report of the Adaptation Committee, Adaptation Fund Board membership, and the report of the Consultative Group of Experts.

Parties also adopted three decisions, each named the

Chile-Madrid Time for Action, which includes a decision to hold a roundtable on oceans and climate change during the June 2020 session, with a report to be considered at COP26.

This is a milestone and in line with one of the ten calls by Forum Leaders in the Kainaki II Declaration in 2019. While the decision related to the Paris Agreement does not specifically call for greater ambition, there is a suggestion for parties to consider increasing their climate ambition.

The UNFCCC COP25 was held in Madrid, Spain from 2–13 December, 2019.

## Combatting climate change by increasing Pacific access to climate finance

In partnership with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), SPREP coordinated a National Designated Authority (NDA) Workshop in 2019 for more than 40 participants from the Pacific islands region, including the Pacific Community, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, USAID Climate Ready Project, Conservation International, UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and UN Development Programme Samoa.

The three-day workshop was an important opportunity for the NDAs to the GCF to collaborate with various regional and international organisation partners that assist with accessing climate finance.

It also led to a strengthened knowledge by the Pacific NDAs of climate finance as well as enhanced partnerships with the GCF and regional accredited agencies, with a team from the Green Climate Fund attending to provide technical expertise.

## Low Carbon Development shared by the Pacific island way

SPREP coordinated the session on 'Navigating a Low-Carbon Future' during the inaugural Pacific Resilience Meeting hosted in Fiji in May 2019. Hosted and facilitated by the renowned Samoan comedian, Tofiga Fepulea'i, the session brought humour and a strong interest in a very technical topic.

Speakers from American Samoa, Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa and Tuvalu talked about progress, the impacts of actions taken, lessons learnt, best practices and approaches and challenges shared in their national efforts for low carbon development. This highlighted the need to promote investment in low carbon development as an opportunity for innovation, and showcased the employment, economic and environmental benefits of low carbon development.

The Navigating a Low-Carbon Future session also called for a youth representative to become a member of the Pacific Resilience Partnership Taskforce to the FRDP to bring new perspectives. The session also sought to strengthen Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) engagement in various climate change and disaster risk management processes, and in the implementation of low carbon development actions.



Participants at the SPREP National Designated Authority Workshop.

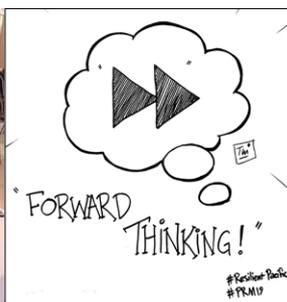


Illustration during the inaugural Pacific Resilience Meeting by Tui Ledua.



Renowned comedian Tofiga Fepulea'i brought humour and strong interest in a very technical topic and dialogue on low carbon development.



The Pacific island way of using humour to engage interest brought the low carbon development session to life.

# Ecosystem and Biodiversity Protection



Island in the Mamanuca Group, Fiji. Photo: © Stuart Chape

## Review and update of Pacific islands protected area data

The protected areas data for Pacific island countries was reviewed and updated on the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). This will help countries accurately inform national planning and decision making for protected area management and future protected areas network expansion. Having up to date country information available

at the global level through the WDPA is also essential as it is the official source of protected area data used by international agencies for various analyses and reporting.

A combination of activities was undertaken including in-country assistance technical missions and remote assistance to review country

data with SPREP Members. Participants included government ministries and relevant non-government organisations in Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu.

The review and update was supported by the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA)

Programme, an initiative of the African Caribbean Pacific Group of States financed by the European Union's 11th European Development Fund. Partners include the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre, IUCN Oceania Regional Office, and The Nature Conservancy.

Central Savai'i Rainforest Key Biodiversity Area, Samoa. Photo: © Stuart Chape



## Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) progresses in the Pacific

Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is supported in the Pacific region by the SPREP executed Regional ABS Project, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Significant progress was made in 2019:

### SOLOMON ISLANDS RATIFIES THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL

Solomon Islands prepared an instrument for ratification to the Nagoya Protocol. A national ABS capacity building and awareness raising workshop on the Nagoya Protocol and its potential implementation in Solomon Islands was held following ratification. In addition, progress was made in the development of other relevant laws including the Traditional Knowledge Bill being developed by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. This work was undertaken in partnership with the ABS Capacity Development Initiative which is funded by the governments of Germany, Denmark, Norway and the EU-ACP Cooperation and implemented by the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).



Solomon Islands ratifies the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

### DEVELOPMENT OF ABS POLICY FOR REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

The new ABS Policy for the Marshall Islands addresses pertinent issues with access and utilisation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge in the absence of any national law. The policy outlines the procedures which clearly define the sequence of steps to be followed when a researcher wishes to access genetic resources and traditional knowledge in the Marshall Islands. The policy also identifies gaps, challenges and capacity building needs and priorities. A legal analysis was undertaken as well as three national capacity building workshops, the drafting of the policy as well as facilitation of the validation of the policy workshop.

### ABS ROADMAP FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA

An ABS roadmap for Papua New Guinea was developed to pave the way for ratification and development of an institutional framework and enabling legislation. It was formed in partnership with government ministries as well as education and research institutes and non-governmental organisations through national consultations and bilateral meetings. This process introduced people to the core requirements of the Nagoya Protocol and included key considerations for the designing, reviewing and implementing of the Nagoya Protocol in Papua New Guinea. It also resulted in the formation of an ABS whole of government Technical Working Committee to progress the work of the ABS Roadmap.



ABS roadmap developed for PNG.

### PALAU HAS NEW ABS REGULATIONS

SPREP assisted the Government of Palau by drafting national ABS regulations that incorporate the key requirements of the Nagoya Protocol, the first national regulations in the Pacific region. The regulations were developed through bilateral consultations and a two-day national stakeholder workshop.

The regulations strengthen the ABS Law passed in 2018 by:

- Recognising multi-level institutional frameworks for 'access' to and 'benefit-sharing' from genetic resources and traditional knowledge.
- Addressing legal issues related to access and benefit sharing in the context of nature conservation.
- Legal recognition and reward for sustainable customary use and community-based environmental management practices.
- Protection and promotion of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples in the 16 states of Palau.
- Legal recognition of compliance instruments such as Prior Informed Consent and Mutually Agreed Terms before any access to genetic marine and terrestrial resources and traditional knowledge is granted.
- Recognising monetary and non-monetary benefit sharing from any utilisation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge belongs to the people of Palau.

The regulations are awaiting approval. Palau is the first country in the Pacific region to enforce ABS Law.



Rock Islands, Palau. Photo: © Stuart Chape

## Pacific initiative on biodiversity, climate change and resilience

At the One Planet summit in 2017, President of France Emmanuel Macron committed to launching a new multi-stakeholder international initiative designed to increase the capacities of 19 Pacific states and territories to adapt to climate change impacts; and to protect, restore, and enhance biodiversity to strengthen the resilience of their socio-ecological systems.

During the second One Planet summit held in the margins of the 73rd United Nations General Assembly in New York in 2018 the governments of France, Australia and New Zealand, and the European Union, announced a Joint

Pacific Initiative on biodiversity, climate change and resilience, with a joint endowment of over EUR 21 million.

In November 2018, Canada joined the Initiative with an additional EUR 6.6 million. In 2019, France increased its support by a further EUR 3 million bringing support of the Pacific Initiative to EUR 30.7 million. This will finance projects to strengthen the resilience of Pacific island ecosystems, economies and communities against the effects of climate change.

Agence Française de Développement (AFD) worked closely with SPREP and the



Mangroves in Choiseul, Solomon Islands. Photo: © Stuart Chape

Pacific Community (SPC) in developing the Pacific Initiative Action Document. SPREP, SPC and IUCN are implementation partners for the Initiative.

## Pacific Year of the Coral Reef 2018–2019

Activities for the Pacific Year of the Coral Reef 2018–2019 included:

- Development of country and territory briefs from the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network in partnership with SPREP, and State of Conservation and State of Environment reports, published scientific articles and expert advice. The briefs are currently in draft form for final review and will be distributed in 2020.
- Ongoing monitoring, collection, joint storage and analysis of the regional coral reef database from the Centre de Recherche Insulaire et Observatoire de l'Environnement (CRIOBE) with SPREP is ongoing. CRIOBE provided approval for a portion of the data to be shared with SPREP and will be linked to the SPREP executed Inform and BIOPAMA Projects.
- The first SPREP Executive Board Meeting approved the establishment of a Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan in September 2018. The first phase of the coral reef action plan consisted of a wide consultation of stakeholders in the region in 2019 leading to a first draft. The Action Plan will be finalised in 2020.



Coral reefs and islands. Photo: © Stuart Chape

## Strengthening relations between Wallis and Futuna and SPREP



Enhanced collaboration between SPREP and Wallis and Futuna was demonstrated through a high level visit from SPREP to Wallis and Futuna.

It was the first time that a Director General of SPREP had visited Wallis and Futuna to participate in a range of high level meetings with the King, President, customary chiefs, counsel and the Prefect.

The territory raised Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), invasive species and waste management as areas of support needed from SPREP.

Field trips were also held to Wallis islets to view bird protection and invasive species, as well as the Wallis and Futuna waste management facility and recycling process.

Taro fields in Wallis and Futuna.

## By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Initiative

The By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) Initiative implemented by SPREP focusses on achieving Key Result 5 of the Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme. The PEUMP Programme's overall objective is to 'Improve the economic, social and environmental benefits for 15 PACPs arising from stronger regional economic integration and the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment'. The specific objective outcome is to 'support sustainable management and development of fisheries for food security and economic growth, while addressing climate change resilience and conservation of marine biodiversity'.

In July 2019 the BIEM inception workshop was held which secured support

for activities in the five participating countries of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu targeted at achieving the goals of the PEUMP Programme.

The PEUMP Programme addresses some of the most serious challenges faced by the region. Among these are the increasing depletion of coastal fisheries resources; threats to marine biodiversity, including negative impacts of climate change and disasters; uneven contribution of oceanic fisheries to national economic development; 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.

The 5-year programme is funded by the European Union (EUR 35 million) with



Fish swimming in one of Vanuatu's famous Blue Holes. Photo: P.Marsden

additional targeted 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. The programme combines a regional and national approach, paying specific attention to actions and services delivered at country level to promote

and direct positive changes for target groups, in particular women, youth and the most vulnerable groups.

The PEUMP Programme is working in the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu, Tonga, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste and Vanuatu.

## CONSERVATION AT WORK IN VANUATU THROUGH BIEM

A core component of the BIEM Initiative is the application of community-focused integrated 'ridge to reef' management to promote the conservation and restoration of coastal ecosystems for the benefit of local people and biodiversity in Vanuatu.

At a workshop in 2019, government and NGO representatives identified four potential coastal areas in northern Pentecost, Penama Province and western Malekula, Malampa Province, that would benefit from the approach. Recognising the importance of community support and leadership in the design and implementation of ridge to reef management approaches, BIEM partners travelled to the proposed areas to consult

community representatives about their interest in engaging in the Initiative.

Discussions at each site focused on the empowerment of women, men and the youth to engage in every step of the planning, implementation and evaluation of the initiative. There was wide support for the approach which will see community members involved in gathering baseline data to understand the status of the natural resources they are dependent upon and the threats to these resources as a consequence of climate change and other pressures. They expressed keen interest in the nature-based solutions that could be implemented to address these threats, increase food security and supplement livelihoods.



Representatives from the Department of Forestry and Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation discuss integrated ridge to reef management options on their way to conduct community consultations in South West Bay, Malekula Island, Vanuatu.

Having secured their support, SPREP will work with the communities, government and NGO partners to develop and implement integrated ecosystem management plans

through to the conclusion of the PEUMP Programme in December 2022.



Wallis and Futuna President David Vergé and SPREP Director General Kosi Latu signing the Declaration of Intent for the PROTEGE Programme.

## Funding boost for Pacific invasive species management

Pacific islands intimately connect land and sea. Rats, cats, and other invasive species quickly destroy these links, particularly by preying on native forest seeds, forest birds, sea birds, and other vital ecosystem components. Invasive species are the primary cause of global extinctions in the past five centuries. Island species are particularly vulnerable. Effective management of invasive species is key to protect terrestrial and marine systems, supporting their function and increasing their community's resilience to change.

Fortunately, projects worth approximately USD 12 million, the largest funding boost ever for Pacific invasive species management, began their execution phase in 2019 to help address these critical issues.

The PROTEGE programme, funded by the European Development Fund (EDF11), will increase invasive species management in the French territories of French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna, and the UK territory of Pitcairn Island over the next four years. The project is implemented under a co-delegation agreement

between SPREP, SPC and the European Union, with SPREP executing the invasive species component.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF6) funded project 'Strengthening national and regional capacities to reduce the impact of Invasive Alien Species on globally significant biodiversity in the Pacific' will increase invasive species management in Niue, Republic of Marshall Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu and increase regional capacity over the next five years. The project is implemented by UNEP and executed by SPREP.

## Launch of the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service

The Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) is a regional mechanism that facilitates the scaling up of invasive species management across the Pacific. It provides management support for invasive species actions through streamlining and coordinating activities and invasive species management experts.

PRISMSS provides a comprehensive, cohesive, effective, efficient and accessible suite of management support. Advice, training and operational support is available across the five regional programmes: Protect Our Islands focusses on national and inter-island biosecurity; Predator Free Pacific covers the removal of introduced mammalian predators from islands; War On Weeds targets the

management priority weeds; Natural Enemies – Natural Solutions deals with biological control of widespread weeds; and Resilient Ecosystems – Resilient Communities supports the ecological restoration of priority areas.

SPREP is the coordinating office of PRISMSS which acts as the single point of coordinated service for advice on invasive species activities, development of new projects, training, coaching and support for project execution, and supporting donors by providing customised options and successful outcomes.

Partners to PRISMSS are SPREP, SPC, BirdLife International, Island Conservation, Wellington UniVentures – Pacific Biosecurity, Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research, and the New Zealand Department of Conservation.



Invasive species management at work. Photo: D.Moverley/SPREP

## PRISMSS Invasive Species Programme Management Course

Twenty Pacific invasive species battlers from 11 Pacific islands increased their knowledge and skills in managing a comprehensive practical invasive species management programme through a five-week Invasive Species Programme Management Course.

This training event provided tools and case-studies for common invasive species management practices across the Pacific. It shared regionally tested workflows, noted common logistics issues and emphasised how good planning is the critical

success factor in multi-year invasive species management programmes.

The course modules covered all of the PRISMSS regional programmes: Protect Our Islands, War On Weeds, Predator Free Pacific, Natural Enemies – Natural Solutions and Resilient Ecosystems – Resilient Communities. In addition, programme management, gender and social inclusion, health and safety and effective communication were cross cutting themes in the course.

Invasive species coordinators and practitioners from

American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu took part in the course which was developed to address major gaps in the Pacific.

The training facilitator was seconded to SPREP from the New Zealand Department of Conservation. Training was delivered by BirdLife International, Island Conservation, Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research, New Zealand Department of Conservation, SPREP, SPC,



The PRISMSS training course brought invasive species management officers from around the Pacific region for five weeks

Think Safe, University of Newcastle, and Wellington UniVentures – Pacific Biosecurity.

## Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction

Negotiations on the international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction continued in 2019. The second and third sessions of the intergovernmental conference met at UN Headquarters in New York.

After almost a decade of deliberations by countries and stakeholders, the negotiations are nearing the closing stages as Parties work on the final wording of the treaty.

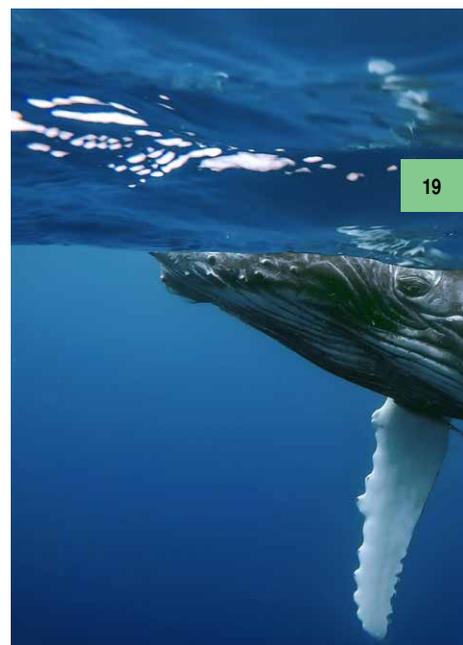
As custodians of almost 10% of the world's ocean area, including many areas of seafloor and high seas beyond their national boundaries, the Pacific islands have a strong interest in this instrument and have been involved since the

beginning of the process to support national and regional interests.

The negotiations are highly technical and SPREP is working with other CROP agencies to provide technical advice, particularly with their expertise on Environmental Impact Assessments, Access and Benefit Sharing and Area Based Management Tools, including Marine Protected Areas.

Negotiations on the international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea are now reaching the final stages as Parties work to agree on the final wording of the treaty.

Photo: P.Marsden



## Pacific voice at Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

The 18th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES COP18) convened in Geneva, Switzerland in 2019.

Representatives from Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga

and Vanuatu took part in the negotiations which led to the COP adopting decisions on the listing of Mako Sharks, Wedgefishes, Guitarfishes and Sea Cucumbers on Appendix II of the Convention. These are species not threatened with extinction but for which trade must be controlled to avoid endangering their survival in the wild.

SPREP provided technical support through a preparatory meeting which also produced a range of resources and promotional materials to assist the Pacific delegates in their negotiations. SPREP collaborated with the governments of Samoa, Palau and Vanuatu to host a

Pacific reception to support Pacific sharks.

CITES COP18 resulted in 18 species of endangered sharks and rays, as well as three sea cucumber species, being listed on CITES Appendix II. After nearly two weeks of negotiations over 70% of votes supported the listings across all species.

## Building resilience to Climate Change through PEBACC

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

Highlights of the PEBACC project in 2019 include:



### BARANA NATURE AND HERITAGE PARK ESTABLISHED IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Barana Nature and Heritage Park, a milestone for community-based conservation in Solomon Islands, was launched in 2019. Owned by the Barana Community, the park covers approximately 5,000 hectares of forest area in the upper catchment of the Mataniko River, one of the largest river catchments draining Honiara city. The initiative included the construction of an 'Environment and Resilience Centre' – a multi-purpose structure built using traditional designs.

Management objectives include the conservation and rehabilitation of vulnerable ecosystems to safeguard

their role in building social and economic resilience to climate change. The park also includes a number of World War II viewpoints and battle sites which makes it an important part of the heritage of greater Honiara.

Development of the park will include reforestation to reduce flood risks, replanting of stream or watershed areas to reduce soil erosion, sustainable land-use management activities, land-use mapping, development of eco-tourism activities and nature based income generation activities.

With support from the Solomon Islands government Climate Change Division the



resource centre has been fully equipped with solar power. This exemplifies government's commitment to forming partnerships and promoting climate change mitigation.

The Barana Nature and Heritage Park project was selected

The Barana Nature and Heritage Park in Solomon Islands official opening ceremony.

following a comprehensive and participatory 'ecosystem and socio-economic resilience analysis and mapping' study carried out for Honiara.

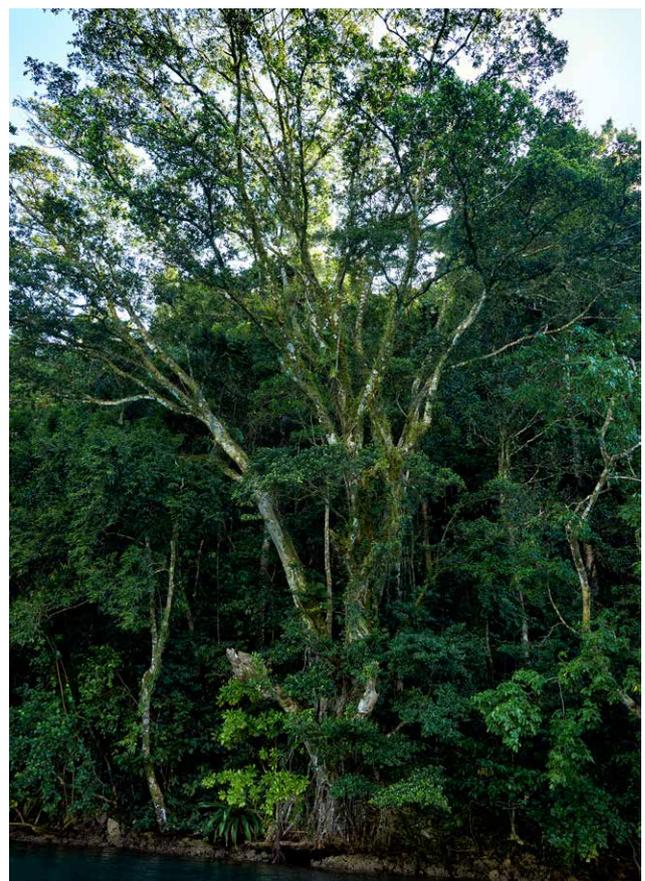
### WAGINA WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AWARENESS CAMPAIGN IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

A highlight of the campaign was a traditional dancing and Water Queen Pageant show held by the four communities on Wagina atoll in Choiseul Province. The event was held to raise awareness of water resource management as an ecosystem service threatened by climate change and human activities. A baseline study conducted by the project identified drinking water quality as the most pressing environmental issue needing to be addressed towards strengthening the community's resilience to climate change.

Over 1,000 people participated in the events which were held over two days.

Each of the four villages organised a cultural performance and presentations on their particular component of the major water sources for Wagina and how to effectively manage them. Judges from major partners scored each community presentation.

This campaign coordinated through PEBACC was successful in that it highlighted how many of the solutions to building resilience can be led by the community. PEBACC is now supporting the communities in developing a community-based water resource management guide and action plan.



## SUSTAINABLE LAND AND FOREST MANAGEMENT TRAINING IN FIJI

Twenty-seven farmers from the districts of Dreketi, Seaqaqa, Macuata and Sasa in Macuata Province were trained in the theory and practice of sustainable land and forest management. An outcome of the training was the establishment of a group of Community Land Care Champions.

A section of Fiji's Great Sea Reef, known as Qoliqoli Cokovata, has been designated a Ramsar Site under the Ramsar International Convention on Wetlands.

It is Fiji's first marine area designated as a 'wetland of international significance requiring protection and management'.

The Dreketi River Catchment is the largest river catchment discharging into the qoliqoli marine area and is a source of land-based pollution through agricultural activities. The training focused on the ecological and economic significance of Qoliqoli Cokovata and the role farmers play in its protection by improving farming and land

management practices to reduce soil erosion, sedimentation and use of agricultural chemicals.

The Dreketi Catchment Sustainable Land and Forest Management Training was coordinated by SPREP in partnership with WWF Pacific and the Government of Fiji through the PEBACC Project. It forms part of activities for a Catchment Management Plan for the Dreketi River Catchment.



Farmers trained in the theory and practice of sustainable land and forest management. Photo: A.Montoro

## NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT TRAINING IN TAVEUNI, FIJI

Several activities were held in Taveuni in 2019 to build local awareness and capacity for sustainable land and forest management. Over the course of the year more than 100 people representing a diverse stakeholder base underwent Natural Resource Management Leadership Training under the Wakatu Taveuni communication campaign.

The training focused on strengthening awareness on ecological and natural resource management issues and processes with an emphasis on promoting best practice. The participants – who are now Wakatu Champions were trained in a range of skills including public speaking, community facilitation and use of the Wakatu education resources. Using a 'train-the-trainer' approach,

several champions are now training other groups in their communities including church and youth groups. In this way the training has maximised its impact and is building capacity for improved management of natural resources and ecosystems in Taveuni.

The Wakatu communications campaign was established to support the Taveuni Reforestation and Agro-

forestry Programme which built a native tree nursery in 2019 and began planting native trees across the island.

The campaign was conducted in partnership with the Government of Fiji and the communications NGO cChange.

21

## LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER – FIJI, FRENCH POLYNESIA, NEW CALEDONIA, VANUATU AND WALLIS AND FUTUNA

A team from the Vanuatu Department of Forestry visited nursery sites run by the Ministry of Forestry in Fiji to increase their knowledge of native tree nursery establishment, propagation of native seedlings, seed collection and storage techniques. The exchange included visits to the ministry's forest nurseries in Colo-i-Suva, Labasa, Savusavu and Taveuni. They also went on a guided tour of mangrove replanting sites on the Suva coastline.

The learning exchange helped build the capacity of Vanuatu

Department of Forestry technical staff to better equip them to achieve national planting targets as well as to support PEBACC reforestation initiatives in Port Vila.

A second learning exchange saw technical and management officers from French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna visit Vanuatu to study climate change nature-based solutions under the PEBACC and SPC RESCUE projects. The learning exchange in Vanuatu involved a one-day briefing activity following field visits to sites across Efate to learn

about the different nature-based solutions being implemented.

This was the first time for French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna to physically engage with the work in ACP countries. It has resulted in New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna being included in future multi-country EbA projects.

The learning exchange was made possible through PEBACC in partnership with IUCN France, Vanuatu Live and Learn, and local communities.





## Environment Impact Assessment Training for mining in Solomon Islands

Training on the application process of the Environment Impact Assessments and Mining Approvals in Solomon Islands was held in 2019. Participants came from the Environment and Conservation Division, the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification, and mining companies in Solomon Islands.

The Strengthening Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for Pacific Island Countries and Territories (Regional EIA Guidelines) were a key feature of the training. The toolkits were used to show how the EIA screening, scoping, and review of the mining EIA reports could be applied to mining development activities. Field trips were made to a number of mining operations as a practical exercise. Mining operators explained their processes including how the mining environment management plans are used to monitor operations.

A World Bank mining expert provided technical advice on mining closure plans, mining rehabilitation processes and the overall management of mining operations.

This activity was a partnership between SPREP; the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology; Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification; Win Win Mining Industry and Gold Ridge Mines, and the Pacific Learning Partnership for Environment and Social Sustainability (PLP-ESS).



Staff of the Department of Mines from the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification of Solomon Islands undergoing an EIA capacity building training. Photo: J.Davetanivalu/SPREP



## Pacific Learning Partnership on Environmental Social Safeguards

The Pacific Learning Partnership for Environment and Social Sustainability (PLP-ESS) was founded in 2019 by SPREP, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the University of the South Pacific and the World Bank. The PLP-ESS Principles of Collaboration were signed at the 19th annual conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA19).

This partnership brings together key skills, funding and practical experiences. The PLP-ESS will help to ensure that the environmental and social risks of infrastructure are managed effectively for the economic development and the sustainable future

of communities across the Pacific region.

The PLP-ESS will respond to the needs of Pacific island Members to support capacity building, training, knowledge exchange, technical expertise and capacity building related to environmental and social safeguards and standards of infrastructure development.

The support will help to carry out training, exchange experiences and knowledge, mentor trainees, develop curricula, provide venues, and supply trainers and other assistance.

The signing at IAIA19 followed five years of discussions to form a partnership based on the strengths of each partner.



SPREP Director General, Mr Kosi Latu, with Mr Ede Ijjasz-Vasquez, Senior Director Social, Urban and Resilience Global Practice of the World Bank.



Participants of the EIA and SEA training in Yap, Federated States of Micronesia, with Dr Gregory Barbara of SPREP. Photo: G.Barbara/SPREP

## Building Capacity in the Federated States of Micronesia

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) training in Yap State of the Federated States of Micronesia built the capacity of key stakeholders to undertake EIA in Yap. Based on the Regional EIA Guidelines, the training was linked to Yap State legislation to provide participants with an understanding of the legal requirements, social importance and long-term environmental and financial benefits of an EIA.

The EIA and SEA training included participants from Yap Environment Protection Agency, Public Works and Transportation, Environmental Health, Waste Management, Fisheries, the Project Management Office, community representatives and Yap Historical Preservation Office.

Proposed developments in Yap include a new landfill site, solar farm and wharf expansion – these were workshopped during the training to table risks and benefits of the proposals. Drawing upon the range of skills in the workshop, participants planned mitigation measures and options for minimising impacts.

A field trip to the existing wharf and landfill sites reminded the regulatory agencies of the importance of monitoring approval conditions and site management practices. This increased their confidence to apply critical thinking during inspections and make recommendations for improvements.

The training was a partnership between the Yap Environmental Protection Agency and SPREP.

## Developing Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines

Representatives from Departments of Environment from 13 SPREP Member countries met in Auckland in November to review the draft Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines in preparation for endorsement at the 2020 SPREP Executive Board Meeting. This special consultation session was held before the 19th annual conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment in 2019 which was well attended by Pacific island delegates.

The consultation included awareness and training of participants in the SEA process, enabling a better understanding of SEA and its application in the region. Participants provided feedback on the guidelines, and were to add national responses upon their return, to help SPREP finalise the guidelines.

The Swedish Fund through the UN Environment Programme helped to organise and fund the regional consultation workshop in Auckland, New



Zealand which preceded the International Association of Impact Assessment's 19th annual conference (IAIA19).

Discussions underway during the 19th annual conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment in 2019 in Auckland, New Zealand. Photo: F.Tinai/SPREP

## Pacific voice at the Association of Impact Assessment Conferences

The Pacific islands were represented at the 19th annual conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment in 2019 as well as the New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment Conference 2019.

The theme of the NZAIA conference was "Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: Assessing the Impacts" for which strong involvement from the Pacific

islands took place. It focused on good practice for EIA, SEA, as well as lessons learnt from climate change adaptation projects, including coastal infrastructure. This led to improved understanding of the EIA process and mitigation measures for avoiding unintended consequences during coastal infrastructure projects and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The Director-General of SPREP,

Mr Kosi Latu, was one of the keynote speakers for the NZAIA 2019. He reinforced the importance of complying with the EIA process including the ecosystem-based approaches to ensure sustainability and resilience of Pacific communities and the natural environment.

During the conference, Pacific island delegates attended environmental assessment and impact mitigation

training. This was facilitated through a Memorandum of Understanding between SPREP and the NZAIA and included a technical visit to a New Zealand Transport Agency project site for a coastal highway activity as part of a capacity building activity. This provided a platform for Pacific island Members to engage with New Zealand-based agencies to share EIA experiences and learn from each other.



Stone fish traps, Naviti Island, Fiji. Photo: © Stuart Chape

## Mobile devices for data collection

Several Pacific island Members are now exploring the application of mobile data collection for a more streamlined data collection workflow. Cellphones or tablets are used for the identified data gaps.

Cellphones or tablets are used for the identified data gaps.

KoBoToolbox, a free and open source tool, on mobile data collection allows for collecting and managing data in a predefined, standardised way. Every data collector using the mobile app can collect data by answering a set of questions in a pre-developed, project specific form. Data can

be collected offline in remote areas and uploaded once there is a link to cloud servers, where it can be accessed later for analysis.

Users were introduced to the technology by SPREP through the four-year regional Inform project (2017–2022) funded through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by UN Environment. It is free, easy to use and helps Pacific island Members address the issue of environmental data gaps.



Training on mobile data collection with the Inform team.

## SPREP working in partnership with Members towards Open Data in the Pacific

All Pacific island Member countries of SPREP now have a dedicated national environment data portal that allows the management and sharing of data. To help Members build capacity to effectively manage the data on the portals a range of in-country and regional workshops were held with participants from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa,

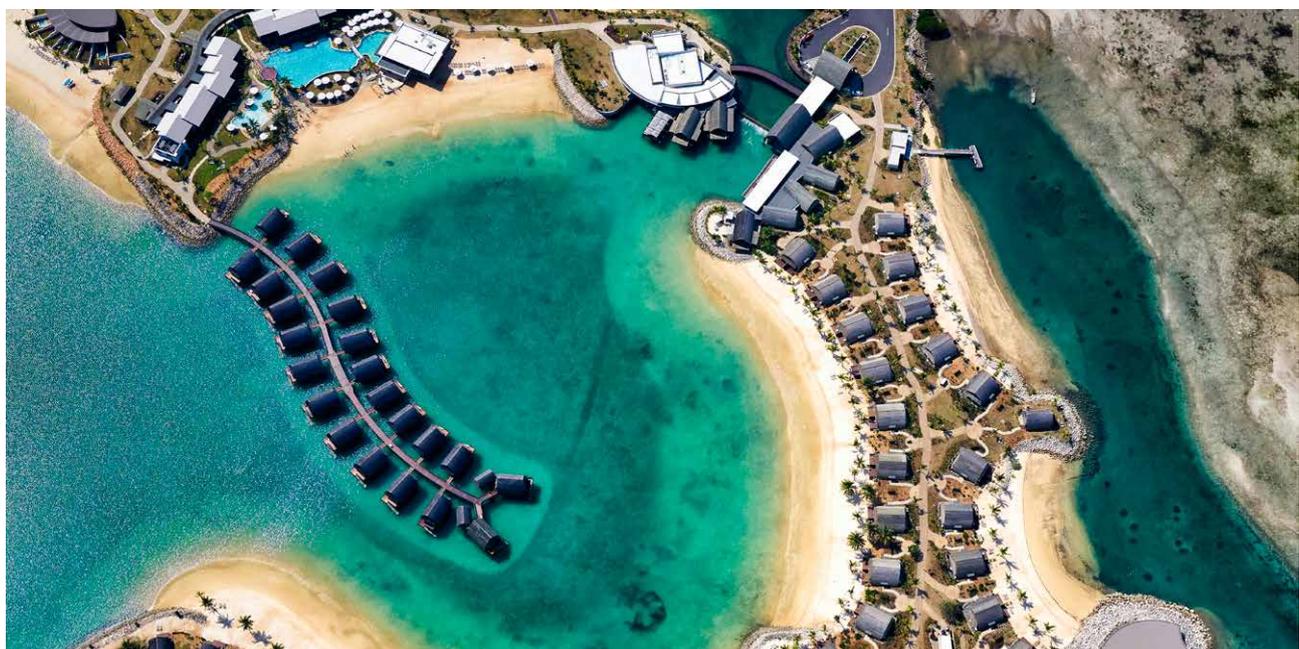
Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

The Pacific Environment Portal (PEP) was also deployed by SPREP to collate and share information from SPREP and the Pacific Community (SPC) at the regional level through a partnership to improve data management in the Pacific. The PEP, together with the country data portals, have made over 8,000 public datasets available on topics ranging from climate change to biodiversity.

A data sharing policy template has also been shared with countries for use. The Conservation and Environment Protection Authority of Papua New Guinea has since modified this document to produce their own Data Sharing Policy which helps promote the sharing of data with the Government of Papua New Guinea.

These activities for open data in the Pacific took place through the four-year regional

Inform project (2017–2022) funded through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by UN Environment. It is executed by SPREP in the 14 Pacific island countries of the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.



Tourist resort, Momi Bay, Fiji. Photo: © Stuart Chape



Director General of the Pacific Community, Dr Collin Tukuitonga, with SPREP Director General, Mr Kosi Latu.

## Partnerships for Pacific access to data

SPREP is coordinating data products internally through supporting better access to data by Pacific islands by working with them to enhance national data management and use. This has also led to a partnership between SPREP and the Pacific Community (SPC) on data management in the Pacific, working together to address the data gap issue that is prevalent in the Pacific.

Through this partnership, the Pacific Environment Portal team of SPREP and the SPC Pacific Data Hub team have worked together to ensure that public data from either organisation is made available to the general public and more importantly to our Members.

They now benefit by having public data originating from national counterparts, SPREP, SPC and their related networks shared with them on their national data portals.

## Data for decision making

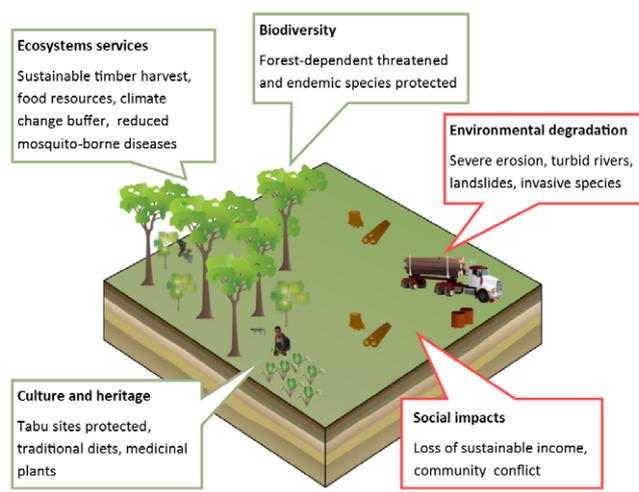
Environmental indicators were developed and are now being applied, these help Pacific Members to track the health of key areas of the environment over time for improved monitoring and management. Mapping indicators to multi-lateral environment agreements and sustainable development goals enables Pacific Members to reuse indicators for multiple reporting obligations which helps reduce the reporting burden of our Members.

These environment indicators were developed in a partnership between SPREP and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation of Australia.

In 2019 the State of Environment Reports endorsed for Pacific islands helped decision makers to synthesise environmental data for informed decision-making, funding allocations and policy development.

The State of Environment briefs in 2019 were developed for the Federated States of Micronesia and Solomon Islands. The briefs were initiated by the European Union's "Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environment Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries Phase II Project" known as ACP MEA 2.

An Indicator Reporting Tool was developed for Pacific island Members to keep their environmental indicators up-to-date and mapped to all national and international reporting requirements. This led to the production of reporting obligations at the click of a button. The tool was developed through the support of the GEF-funded Inform Project.



Upper Mataniko River, Solomon Islands. Photo: © Stuart Chape

## South-South knowledge exchange on open data for the environment

Different South-South exchange opportunities across the Pacific islands provided an excellent platform for participants to learn more about the value of open data and having a centralised place for storing and accessing environmental data. This included ways to interpret, analyse and present data in a simple and meaningful way.

In the Pacific, environment data is often dispersed and stored on personal computers, without a central repository for storage and retrieval. This makes it difficult to access data to support environmental planning, monitoring, reporting and decision-making in the Pacific region.

The South-South knowledge exchange included a 'train-the-trainer' aspect with an action plan linking learning to performance. This helped to ensure trainees shared their new skills with a wider audience in their respective countries. This saw training for the delegate from the Federated States of Micronesia passed on to all four FSM states. Similarly, the Kiribati delegate carried out training to other staff of the Kiribati Environment Department.

The South-South knowledge exchange was organised through the GEF-funded Inform Project, implemented by the UN Environment Programme and executed by SPREP.



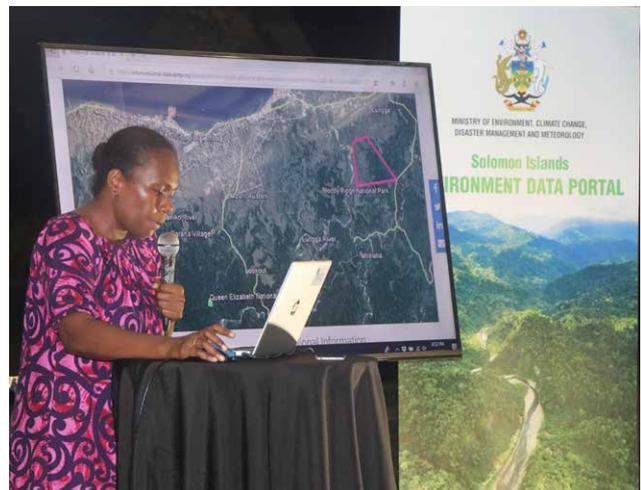
Participants of the South-South knowledge exchange during a group work activity. Photo: L.Reupena/SPREP

## Solomon Islands Environment Data Portal launched!

History was made with the launch of the Solomon Islands Environment Data Portal which is now the repository and official online national tool for centralised environmental data management.

The GEF-UNEP Inform project executed by SPREP established 14 national portals in the region, including the Solomon Islands Environment Data Portal in 2019. The portal houses both public and private environmental information as well as data used to produce the State of Environment Report for the Solomon Islands.

The Solomon Islands Environment Data Portal launched in June at an event organised by the Ministry of Environment, with support from SPREP through the Inform and Pacific Ecosystem Based Adaptation to Climate Change projects.



Ms Debra Kereseka, Chief Environment Officer, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology of Solomon Islands, during the launch of the Solomon Islands environment data portal. Photo: Inform Project/SPREP

# Waste Management and Pollution Control



## Draft guidelines for disaster waste management

Unmanaged disaster waste can have negative impacts on the recovery of countries affected by natural hazards. This has led to draft Regional Disaster Waste Management Guidelines presented at the 29th SPREP Meeting.

The guidelines are a first for the Pacific region. They were compiled by the Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island

Countries Phase II (JPRISM II), in collaboration with SPREP.

The goal is to improve the skills and knowledge of local officials and staff in handling disaster waste when natural hazards strike. This will help the Pacific islands to develop National Preparedness and Response Plans for disaster waste and improve their resilience to natural hazards. The guidelines focus on the operational aspects. This includes arrangements with

local recyclers for the recovery of recyclable waste, as well as with road maintenance and rubbish collection contractors to assist with the rapid management of waste.

The guidelines are based on lessons learned from past disaster responses during the JPRISM 1 Project from 2011–2016 in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Two sub-regional consultations were also conducted, in Samoa in 2018 and Palau in 2019, with senior officials from the National Disaster Management Offices and National Waste Management Offices who worked on the guidelines.

The strong link between the two offices is very important

in aligning waste management principles and disaster management cycles. This helped them to come up with more planned approaches to disaster waste management as opposed to ad-hoc responses.

The Pacific islands have recorded overwhelming amounts of waste during natural hazards, which experts say can be as much as ten times the average waste generated under normal conditions. Apart from diverting most of the disaster waste away from the disposal facilities through resource recovery, proper disaster waste management can facilitate recovery efforts such as clearing blockages and providing access to affected communities.



Members of the J-PRISM II team with SPREP Deputy Director General, Mr Roger Cornforth, at the official launch of the Guidelines during the 29th SPREP Meeting.

## Vanuatu stakeholders benefit from pilot training on disaster waste management

Members of the government, non-governmental organisations, community, women, youth and vulnerable groups, civil defence, private sector and other stakeholders participated in the Training of Trainers to improve disaster waste management in Vanuatu.

A grant from the Government of Canada, through the Canadian Funding for Local Initiatives (CFLI), helped SPREP to

strengthen the capacity of Vanuatu to deal with the waste created by disasters, such as cyclones, tsunamis, floods and volcanic eruptions.

With technical support from J-PRISM II and the University of Newcastle, Australia, the training was based on the draft Regional Disaster Waste Management Guidelines developed by J-PRISM II and SPREP.

Part of the training involved the removal of salvageable material from disaster waste which includes timber and metal from ruined buildings, green wastes and other reusable materials to reduce the waste going to landfills. Hazardous wastes can be managed properly through the use of temporary disposal sites, as recommended in the guidelines.



Participants of the Pilot Training on Disaster Waste Management in Vanuatu presenting their outputs. Photo: B.Guinto/SPREP

## Sub-regional consultation on the Regional Disaster Waste Management Guidebook in Micronesia

The second sub-regional Disaster Waste Management Workshop was conducted in Palau to seek inputs from the northern Pacific island countries – Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and Republic of Marshall Islands.

This was part of the regional consultation to develop the Regional Disaster Waste Management Guidebook. Officials and representatives from both the Disaster and Waste Management Agencies shared issues and challenges

that affect disaster waste management in their countries.

JPRISM II and SPREP, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization, International Organization for Migration and Kyoto University, gave presentations on Disaster Waste Management and facilitated the discussions on National DWM Action Plans.

The sub-regional workshop followed one in Samoa in October 2018 for the southern Pacific countries.



Participants of the Micronesia sub-regional workshop on Disaster Waste Management.

## Recycling and Waste Management Associations launched in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu

Two Recycling and Waste Management Associations were launched in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in 2019, as outcomes of the Clean Pacific Roundtable held in 2018. Supported by JPRISM II, the two independent recycling associations will help to strengthen recycling operations in the Pacific.

The launch of the Solomon Islands Recycling and Waste Management Association was successfully held with the aspiration to create a circular economy society through

public and private cooperation in the next five years strategy. Working with partners in the waste management field, this will help to overcome the challenges facing the Solomon Islands recycling industry.

The launch ceremony was co-sponsored by the association and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) through J-PRISM II.

More than 60 stakeholders joined the launch of the Vanuatu Recycling and Waste Management Association,



whose first project is likely to be a deposit scheme for beverage containers.

The association will hold a public consultation in 2020 to promote their activities.

Launching of signs for the temporary disposal sites in Vanuatu. Photo: B.Guinto/SPREP

The joint enterprises are funded by JICA through J-PRISM II, in partnership with SPREP.

## PacWastePlus helping to make a difference in the Pacific islands

The Pacific-EU Waste Management Programme (PacWastePlus) is a EUR 16.5 million, 64-month project funded by the European Union and implemented by SPREP. It will address the cost effective and sustainable management of waste and pollution as well as broader impacts including human health and wellbeing, climate change, disaster management, biodiversity conservation and resource recovery.

Priority waste streams include hazardous wastes, specifically asbestos, e-waste and healthcare waste; solid wastes specifically recyclables, organic waste, disaster waste and bulky waste; and related aspects of wastewater.

PacWastePlus works with 14 countries in the Pacific region - Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu as well as Timor-Leste. It aims to capitalise on current waste management systems and programmes to improve these activities, strengthen the capacity of governments, industry and communities to manage waste and to reduce the impact on human health and the environment.

The programme is a continuation of a previous European Union funded Hazardous Waste Management project (PacWaste) that assisted countries to manage asbestos, e-waste and healthcare waste.

The PacWastePlus programme Inception and Steering Committee meeting in 2019 enabled country representatives to identify specific national actions to be delivered across the programmes priority waste streams.



PacWastePlus steering committee meeting in Nadi, Fiji. Photo: N.Narayan/SPREP



The PacWastePlus team with participants of the steering committee meeting in Nadi, Fiji. Photo: N.Narayan/SPREP

These meetings enhanced partner country understanding and input into planned PacWastePlus activities, PacWastePlus Data Strategy and logical framework in particular baselines, targets, risks and assumptions, and also progressed a proposed work plan for 2019–20 through endorsement by the programme steering committee.

It also provided the opportunity to reflect on the PacWaste Project outcomes and delivery methods, discuss key project actions for the PacWastePlus programme, and explore country priorities and desires in a way that increased the knowledge of all participants about the project, and the issues faced by their neighbouring country counterparts.

The meeting was followed by the first workshop on the National Education and Awareness Plans under PacWastePlus.

Partners to the PacWaste Programme inception and steering committee meetings include the Pacific Community (SPC), University of the South Pacific (USP), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), JPRISM II, Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP), Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS).

## University of Newcastle partnership builds Pacific expertise

SPREP has worked closely with the University of Newcastle through its Pacific Node to deliver collaborative solutions to the environmental, social and economic challenges faced by the Pacific islands.

The Pacific Node provides a flexible research framework to harness the capacity of the Pacific and develop collaborative

engagement between academia, industry, government and communities to contribute to and deliver demonstrable impact for the environment, economies, societies, and culture of the Region.

In 2019, five PhD scholarships were awarded to Pacific Island Nationals for projects tied to the environmental protection

priorities of SPREP. The PhD research areas focus on the effects of marine plastics, bioremediation of oil in WWII wrecks, ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change, coral reef adaptation to ocean acidification, and the impact of invasive species on ecosystem recovery.

The PhD project outcomes are set to directly benefit local

communities with students working in the field in Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau and Tonga. Two Masters students, based at SPREP, are also being supported by the Pacific Node in their undertaking of a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Disaster Resilience and Sustainable Development.

## Greening of the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games

The XVI Pacific Games from 7–20 July 2019 in Samoa involved around 4,000 athletes and officials in 27 sports. As host, Samoa committed to a green XVI Pacific Games to support a sustainable Pacific environment, and to address the increase in waste that comes with a large number of visitors over a short period of time. The Greening of the Games activity aimed to bring about better environment behavior by visitors, resulting in a lower environment impact on Samoa. This was undertaken through the ‘Beautiful Samoa – Keep it clean and plastic free’ campaign.

Co-Chairs of the Greening of the Games committee, Ulu Bismarck Crawley, CEO of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Samoa (far left), and Mr Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP (far right) in Savaii during the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games.



*Beautiful*  
**SAMOA**  
*Keep it Clean and Plastic Free*



## Partnerships for positive actions

A Greening of the Games committee was established as a formal sub-committee of the Samoa Pacific Games Office in line with the official structure of the organisation of the XVI Pacific Games. The sub-committee was co-chaired by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Samoa and SPREP. It was tasked with developing an effective, far-reaching, sustainable strategy to address marine pollution, a major issue for the Pacific island region which led to the “Beautiful

Samoa – Keep it Clean and Plastic Free” campaign.

Several international development partners provided support to help execute this inaugural attempt to “Green” the Pacific games. The Beautiful Samoa – Keep it Clean and Plastic Free campaign was actioned through the generous contributions of Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, Government of New Zealand, Government of Samoa, United Nations Environment



Programme and the Clean Seas Programme, British High Commission in Apia, United States Peace Corp Response Volunteers, Swire Shipping and the Moana Taka Partnership, Samoa Pure Water, Pure Pacific, and the Zerobag company in New Zealand.

Mr Rob Contractor (British High Commission), Mr Sefanaia Nawadra (UNEP), Mr Pati Gagau (New Zealand High Commission), Mr Kosi Latu (SPREP), Hon. Loau Solamalealo Keneti Sio (Minister of Education, Sports and Culture, Government of Samoa), and Ms Sara Moriarty (Australian High Commissioner) pledging their support for the Greening of the Games initiative. Photo: A.Salele/SPREP

**GREENING OF THE SAMOA 2019 PACIFIC GAMES**

- 27 Sports
- 20 Venues
- 24 Countries
- 4,000+ Athletes and Officials

Logos: SPREP, Clean Seas, UN Environment

**GREENING OF THE SAMOA 2019 PACIFIC GAMES**

The increase of visitors to Samoa during the XVI Pacific Games means an increase in waste resulting in added stress on waste management infrastructure and services in Samoa.

This will also bring about added stress upon our planet which is already in a plastic waste crisis. About 13 million tonnes of plastic leak into our oceans each year. This is hurting our marine species, our economies and potentially our own health. It is estimated that by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in our ocean.

Samoa is Greening the Games, undertaking a series of waste management and awareness activities under the banner, **Beautiful Samoa, keep it clean and plastic free** to reduce single-use plastic bottles, fasteners and polystyrene packaging at sports venues, accommodation houses and restaurants.

**WHAT IS BEING DONE TO GREEN THE GAMES**

**Choosing to reuse**

- Sporting venue canteens will be single-use plastic-free.
- Free filtered, cold water stations will be available for everyone at the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games Venues.
- Three Samoa community-wide cleaning events in May and June 2019.
- The Beautiful Samoa keep it clean and plastic free messages shared through radio, television, newspapers, billboards and social media campaigns.
- Reusable bags given freely to over 4,000 athletes and officials.

**Carbon offsetting**

- All teams encouraged to participate in the '50 Bags Out' tree-planting initiative to organise tree planting in their home countries before leaving for Samoa.
- Teams and visitors welcome to plant trees for the Samoa 2 million tree-planting campaign, 2015 – 2020 at Samoa's National Reserves.

**Responsible waste management**

- Bins for waste will be labelled and available at all sporting venues for sorting rubbish into Recyclables and General Rubbish bins.
- Volunteers will be on hand to assist spectators in collecting, sorting and depositing of rubbish.
- Food waste bins will be installed at cafeterias and canteens for distribution to local farmers for livestock.
- Waste will be managed in a responsible way in order to divert biodegradable and recyclables from the landfill.
- Recyclables will be collected from sports venues and dining halls to be transported off-shore.
- Only non-organic and/or non-recyclable rubbish will go to the landfill.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP GREEN THE SAMOA 2019 PACIFIC GAMES**

**REFUSE REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE**

- Refill your bottle at free filtered water stations, access all Pacific Games Venues.
- Reuse your bag and support Samoa's ban on single-use plastic bags.
- Reuse your food containers for any food you bring to the XVI Pacific Games.
- Offer your carbon footprint and plant trees with Samoa's 2 million tree-planting campaign. For more information contact [sasa.salele@gov.su](mailto:sasa.salele@gov.su) or [moamua.will@gov.su](mailto:moamua.will@gov.su).
- Practice the 4R's – Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
- Read the signs and put your rubbish in the right bins at any of the Games venues.
- Enter the Play Green Challenge! Take a selfie of yourself, your friends, family or team doing something good for the environment and post it on Facebook or Instagram using the #PlayGreenPacific hashtag. One post equals one entry!

Email [sprep@sprep.org](mailto:sprep@sprep.org) to learn more.

## Achievements at a glance

The following highlights came about from actions undertaken through the 'Beautiful Samoa – Keep it Clean and Plastic Free Campaign.

Over one million 500ml single-use plastic bottles were NOT used or discarded as rubbish during the XVI Pacific Games through the free distribution of 1 litre reusable water bottles to all athletes and officials. There were also 350 free, cold, filtered water stations established across all Pacific Games venues and accommodation sites easily accessible for use.

Over 3,200 native trees were planted in Samoa by visiting athletes and officials, and Samoan students and teachers planted 8,000 trees, to offset carbon emissions as part of Samoa's One Million Trees Campaign. Trees were planted before the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games began, by schools and residents of Samoa who supported the initiative to help offset carbon emissions.

Over eight tonnes of waste were collected in Samoa as part of three clean-up efforts before the XVI Pacific Games began. This brought together many volunteers to clean up along rivers and numerous areas in Samoa.

An audit of litter over one month found a consistent decrease in plastic items across all sites. This shows a degree of positive behaviour towards reducing plastic wastes.

### OTHER ACTIONS

- Reusable bags donated by Zerobag of New Zealand and UNEP were distributed freely to all athletes, officials and other visitors to the 2019 Samoa Pacific Games.
- A waste audit was held from 7–13 July to track waste trends from the Pacific Games venues and accommodation sites.
- Labelled waste receptacles at all Pacific Games venues encouraged people to put waste in either the recyclable or non-recyclable bins.
- A strong communications campaign saw TV and radio ads broadcast across Samoa, billboards strategically placed, as well as social media campaigns and competitions – these all helped to encourage good environment practices during the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games.



One of the 350 water stations which provided cold, filtered water across all Pacific Games venues and accommodation sites.



Over 3,200 native trees were planted by visiting athletes and officials, as part of Samoa's One Million Trees campaign. Photo: R.Sullivan/SPREP



Some of the rubbish collected during one of the three clean-ups conducted as part of the first Greening of the Games initiative. Photo: N.Woonton/SPREP

## CHOOSE TO OFFSET YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

With Samoa's 2 million tree planting campaign 2015–2020



**FREE  
SEEDLINGS**  
available to plant at  
the Fulusou Reserve  
next to the Faleata  
Sports Complex and  
the Mt Vaea Reserve



CONTACT US ON THE PHONE AT  
PH: 685 2220  
E: [office@sprep.gov.ws](mailto:office@sprep.gov.ws), [marketing@sprep.gov.ws](mailto:marketing@sprep.gov.ws)



SPREP Staff with some of the Zerobags donated which were distributed to all athletes and officials. Photo: N.Woonton/SPREP

## Waste audit

SPREP worked with MNRE and volunteers from JICA to build the capacity of 40 students from the National University of Samoa (NUS) to conduct a waste audit during the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games.

Wastes were collected from three sites: Tuinaimato Complex, Apia Park and Faleula Village which housed the athletes. The wastes were sampled daily over a consecutive seven-day period during the busy periods.

Representative samples – around 9% of daily wastes generated in the three sites – were collected, weighed and sorted into categories by the NUS students and volunteers at the Faleata Reserve and Apia Park.

The output of the daily audit was consolidated and reported in the Waste Tracking Station. Analysis of the data showed the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games contributed about

5.9% of wastes daily, with a per capita generation of 0.55 kg per person compared to Samoa's per capita generation of 1.06 kg.

About 12.35% of plastics were sorted from the sampled waste. In the most recent survey in 2017, as stated in the National Waste Management Strategy of Samoa 2019–2023, it showed 16% of plastic in Samoa's household wastes.

The audit showed a steady decline in the proportion of plastics in the sampled waste from both the general and recyclable bins towards the end of the first week (from 14% to 9%). The second week of the games saw a fluctuating daily proportion of plastics ranging from 11 to 12%.

The Greening initiative in the Games focused on promoting a plastic-free event through reusable water bottles, water refilling stations and eco-bags. The data showed less than 4%

of plastic bottles and bags in the collected waste from the venues. The proportion dipped towards the end of the first week of the games and stayed at less than 4% for the rest of the games. The trend for water bottles showed a slight decrease during the games.

Based on this reference value, the Pacific Games significantly reduced plastic wastes by

about 3.65%, which equates to about 1.5 tons less plastic based on the total amount of waste generated. This is a very conservative estimate considering that plastic waste generation is relatively higher in events than in normal households.

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



Students of the National University of Samoa who participated in conducting waste audits during the Games. Photo: B.Guinto/SPREP

## Greening of the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games legacy



Tongan athletes who dropped by at the Greening of the Games booth during the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games. Photo: A.Salele/SPREP

Through this successful activity there has been an increased awareness of the Greening of the Games and what this can achieve for our Pacific islands. It has led to strong interest from across the Pacific region to greening Pacific regional and national events. There has also been a commitment by the Government of Solomon Islands, as host of the next Pacific Games, to Green the Games.

The legacy of the Greening of the Games activities in Samoa has led to positive impacts both in

Samoa and across the Pacific. The 150 free water stations used during the XVI Games will be donated to schools in Samoa, and over 10,000 native trees were planted to help offset carbon emissions.

The Greening of the Games activities saw thousands of Pacific athletes, officials and volunteers equipped with reusable water bottles to use in their home countries. This will help to reduce single-use plastic bottles across the Pacific.

# Secretariat Highlights



Boat on reef, Solomon Islands. Photo: © Stuart Chape

## Communications and Outreach

As well as providing strategic support to projects and programmes within SPREP, the Communications and Outreach team plays 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.

SPREP led a Pacific Media Outreach activity during the inaugural Pacific Resilience Meeting in Fiji in 2019. Funded by the Pacific Assistance Media Scheme (PACMAS), SPREP coordinated a workshop for 12 reporters from across the Pacific islands region who then remained to provide

media coverage of the Pacific Resilience Meeting. This resulted in over 30 news items helping to raise visibility of Pacific resilience.

On World Oceans Day in 2019, five new ocean factsheets were launched as part of the Oceans Toolkit for Pacific Media. The factsheets cover ocean acidification, tides, Pacific Ocean Portal and Pacific Sharks. These were developed with support from the Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific which is funded by the Australian government and implemented by the Bureau of Meteorology. The factsheets on Tides and the Pacific Oceans Portal were based on material by the Pacific Community.

Media Mana Classes were launched by SPREP in 2019 for Directors of Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services. The Mana Classes were held on social media and enhancing communication skills as well as to build the communication skills of women working in meteorology. The Mana Classes were conducted in partnership with the World Meteorological Organization, Pacific Environment Journalists Network (PEJN), Pacific Media Network (PMN) and Radio New Zealand (RNZ). This activity was followed by extensive media coverage of the Fifth Pacific Meteorological Council hosted in Samoa.

Communications support was provided by SPREP

for the Enhancing Climate Resilience through Community Awareness Summit held in American Samoa in 2019. The summit was coordinated by the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) and American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA), with support from SPREP.

SPREP worked in partnership with the Pacific Community to coordinate the media activity of the inaugural Climate Finance Regional Media Masterclass. This produced more than 15 news items for the Pacific Climate Change Portal as well as for print and broadcast media across the Pacific islands region.

Pacific media participants at the Climate Change Reporting Masterclass held prior to the inaugural Pacific Resilience Meeting.

Directors of Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological services with the facilitators of the first Media Mana Class held in Apia, Samoa.

The Pacific media team convened for the 2nd Regional Climate Change and Disaster Risk Finance meeting held in Sigatoka, Fiji.





SPREP staff, 2019.

## Finance and Administration: Fiscally sound and credible SPREP

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 2019, the Secretariat recorded USD 4.18 million dollars in expenditure with collections in income totalling USD 4.15 million. After factoring in net finance income and foreign exchange exposure, the results noted was an overall net deficit for the period of USD 81,977. SPREP saw a lot of improvement in financial performance for the Secretariat having realised net surplus in performance consecutively for the three years 2016–2018. However, performance was slightly impacted in 2019 due to issues with some of its key projects resulting therefore in delayed project implementation and thus overall net income realised relative to overall expenditure. In terms of total reserves, this was impacted by the deficit in performance resulting therefore in a balance of USD 57,763 compared to a balance of USD 139,740 in 2018.

The challenge remains for the Secretariat to ensure collective efforts 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. The continuing increasing portfolio for SPREP

almost doubled to a budget of USD 29 million for 2018 and USD 33 million for 2019, and about USD 37 million for 2020. This reaffirms the need to build a very strong and financially sustainable position for the Secretariat in support of its regional and organisational goals. This will help achieve its overall vision for a resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.



Ms Atitoafaiga Tau, Ms Petra Chan Tung and Ms Maraea Pogi of the Finance and Administration team promoting the "Choose to Reuse" message during the Greening of the Games initiative.





Members of the Project Coordination Unit planting the memorial tree for the late Ratu Manasa Katonivaliku.



The recipient of the Director General's Excellence Award for 2018, Mr Paul Anderson, with SPREP Director General, Mr Kosi Latu.



SPREP Director General, Mr Kosi Latu, with SPREP staff who won medals at the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games, Ms Sabrina Reupena (Touch Rugby), Mr Raymond Schuster (Touch Rugby) and Ms Atitofaiga Tau (Women's Tag).

## Human Resources

The Human Resources team continues to provide strategic advice and planning on all HR matters to ensure the recruitment and retention of highest quality of staff at SPREP and that staff work in a performance oriented culture within a safe and healthy work environment.

2019 began on a sad note with the untimely passing of a dear colleague and a son of the Pacific, Ratu Manasa Katonivaliku, while on an official travel mission. SPREP remembers with love, the beautiful soul and loving person Ratu Manasa was to

the Pacific, his family and all he worked with.

Almost 40 new staff and associates joined the Secretariat in 2019 with existing and new partners through new projects. A similar amount of staff contracts were also renewed, extended, or confirmed for staff completing their probation period.

The Annual Performance Staff Reviews continue to be an integral part of keeping staff performance in check. Over 80% of staff maintained performance at a fully effective level with five per cent rated at 'on track' mainly reflecting those who are new in their roles.

Planning for the Staff Advance as a key part of the ongoing support for continuous Staff Learning and Development was initiated for early 2020. This will address priority areas of capability building identified as requiring attention to support all staff across the five offices of the Secretariat in the region. The Senior Management Team undertook a Leadership Success Profile 360 (LSP360) assessment process for the first time in 2019 as part of this ongoing support for professional development.

Other key achievements included the implementation of a new salary scale for locally recruited staff, the job reclassification organisation-

wide exercise as a result of the new organisation structure, as well as revision of some terms and conditions approved by the SPREP Meeting in 2019. On staffing matters, HR continued to work closely with the Staff Committee to address issues identified through the Staff Engagement Surveys, the Suggestion Box and staff submissions.

The Secretariat celebrated the great achievements of three of its staff in the Pacific Games hosted by Samoa – Atitofaiga Tau received Gold in the Women's Tag while Sabrina Reupena and Raymond Schuster attained Silver in the Women's and Men's Touch Rugby respectively.

## Information Resources

SPREP's Information Resource Centre and Archives (IRCA) 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, Member countries and territories, and members of the public through the virtual library catalogue or by visiting the campus at Vailima.

Over 600 new resources were added to the SPREP Virtual Library in 2019 bringing the total library holdings to 43,000 with over 6,000 records now available in full text. This helped increase the accessibility of Pacific environment resources for all through a single point of access. The SPREP Virtual Library is unique in that it features the only collection of a wide range of environmental information in the Pacific region.

In 2019 the late Dr Arthur Whistler was featured in a

special seminar hosted by the Information Resource team of SPREP. The talk showcased the work of scientists in the area of biodiversity for Samoa, Tonga and Tokelau. Dr Whistler, a botanist whose expertise is the flora of Polynesia worked for over five decades in this area including extensive studies of ethnobotany. He published a number of books in the field including Polynesian Herbal Medicine and Plants of the Canoe People. Dr Whistler's books are available to read from the SPREP Virtual Library.

The IRCA demonstrated its role as a house of learning, knowledge sharing and collaboration in 2019 through the hosting of various international and local schools. Students from the School of International Training, Ceres Australia and schools in Samoa spent time with IRCA to learn more about SPREP and the range of different Pacific environment challenges and actions to address them. The IRCA also hosts monthly staff seminars on work undertaken in partnership with our SPREP Members.



Members of the SPREP IT team supporting the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion at UNFCCC COP25.



Mr Epeli Tagi, SPREP IT Network and Systems Support Engineer, conducting training for ICT staff of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services from across the Pacific.



## Information Communications and Technology

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) team ensure that reliable, secure and effective systems are available to the organisation in order to effectively deliver services to our Members and stakeholders.

A strong digital feature of the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion at the UNFCCC COP24 saw the SPREP ICT team play a key role. The team developed a new mobile app as well as a website to share information about activities and events at the Pavilion. A notable feature of the app was the Blue Wave rating for organisers of side events and activities to rate good environmental practices. The SPREP ICT team were also responsible for the smooth

digital operations of all events, including live streaming.

In 2019 the Office 365 programme was successfully rolled out for all staff of SPREP to help improve email services and productivity tools. This was undertaken to meet projected growth of the organisation as well as minimise risks from outages and hardware failures. This saw an improvement of availability and helped reduce ongoing operational costs.

An online payment gateway was established in 2019 to accept paid online registrations for SPREP events. Supported by the European Union this saw the development of an online payment facility to allow attendees to pay event registrations online. This helped increase efficiency in

collecting funds as well as digital registration for events coordinated by SPREP.

The ICT of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) across the Pacific islands were improved through the very first ICT training coordinated by SPREP. Conducted in partnership with the World Meteorological Organization through the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems Project, the regional training saw eight Pacific island NMHS participate. Eight participants undertook work attachments for an additional week to further strengthen their knowledge of IT technologies. This helped build their capacity to maintain their Meteorological IT tools and support their IT systems.



Ms Siosinamele Lui, SPREP Traditional Knowledge Officer, presenting during the Women and Girls in Science event, which was hosted at the Information Resource Centre and Archives.



Students from the School of International Training during their visit to SPREP.



## ANNUAL STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2019

### Scope of responsibility

As the Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP); I am accountable for maintaining an effective and efficient 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 these 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 control<sup>1</sup> 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 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 Financial Regulations were last amended by the SPREP Meeting in 2012. An updated Financial Procedures Manual 2017 and Financial Delegations, 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 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 authorized staff. SPREP staff use an enterprise software solution called Tech One which has been in operation since 2014. It produces 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).

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

**Risk Management** – The SPREP revised Risk Management manual was approved in December 2016 and includes a Risk Committee and relevant terms of reference that is chaired by the Deputy Director General and supported by 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 for Senior Management Team which endorsed the top prioritised risks and was used as the basis for the Internal Auditors audit annual work plan.

## Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Control

As the Director General, I 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 2019, an unqualified or clean audit opinion was issued with no major control deficiencies noted by the independent external auditor KPMG.

**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. The Secretariat in its new organisation 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 in addition to environmental and social safeguards and fraud prevention abilities. The re-accreditation process for the Adaptation Fund was undertaken in 2018/19 and SPREP was awarded another 5-year accreditation in April 2019. For the GCF, in 2019 the accreditation was upgraded to carry out medium size projects up to US\$250million. In addition to the upgrade, SPREP was awarded accreditation for 'Specialized Fiduciary Standard for Grant Award and/or Funding Allocation Mechanisms'. The GCF re-accreditation process will commence at the end of 2020.

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.



Leota Kosi Latu  
**Director General**

Apia Samoa

Date: 13 July 2020



## AUDIT COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2019

### Introduction

The Audit Committee submits this **Statement of Internal Control for the Financial Year 2019** in compliance with SPREP'S Governance Policy and resolutions of SPREP meetings.

The Audit Committee operates 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 2019 Audit Committee

For the financial year 2019 the Audit Committee consisted of the following members:

<b>Chairman</b>	Mr. Tupuola Oloialii Tuala, Partner, Koki Tuala Chartered Accountant (KTCA) (Re- appointed for second term in November 2019)
<b>Member</b>	Ms. Amanda Jewell, Deputy High Commissioner, Australia High Commission (concluded in November 2019)
<b>Member</b>	Mr. Barry Patterson, Deputy High Commissioner, Australia High Commissions (appointed in November 2019)
<b>Member</b>	Mr. Taimalie Kele Lui, Manager Human Resources, Tokelau Office, Apia (appointed in March 2019)
<b>Member</b>	Ms. Rosalini Moli, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Finance, Samoa (appointed in March 2019)
<b>Member</b>	Mr. Thomas Huw, Second Secretary, New Zealand High Commission (concluded in November 2019)
<b>Member</b>	Ms. Ella Risati, Second Secretary, New Zealand High Commission (appointed in November 2019)

The following TROIKA members were present at the Audit Committee meeting on the 9 April 2019.

<b>TROIKA members</b>	H.E Ms. Lucy B. Bogari, Ambassador accredited to the CROP (SPREP Chair PNG)
	Ms. Gwendolyn Sisor, Senior Projects Manager, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Government of Republic of Palau
	Ms. Desna Solofa, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Samoa

### Audit Committee Meetings in 2019

The Audit Committee is required to meet at least three times per financial year and in 2019 the Audit Committee met in February, April and November 2019.

## Effectiveness of Internal Control

The Audit Committee has reviewed the statement signed by Kosi Latu, the 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 recorded a net deficit of US\$81,977 for the financial year ended 2019 in contrast to a surplus of US\$154,273 recorded for the financial year ended 2018.
- The total income increased by US\$391,634 or 10% from US\$3,754,574 in 2018 to US\$4,146,208 in 2019. However, it was not enough to sustain the relative increase in the operating cost by 17% or US\$615,272 from US\$3,560,316 in 2018 to US\$4,175,588 in 2019. This increase in operating expenses was mainly attributed to the increase in expenditures on repairs and maintenance, travel, workshops, and trainings, SPREP meeting costs and salaries and wages in relation to growth of SPREP.
- The Financial Position needs to be strengthened. The current ratio is 1:1 which is relatively breakeven, and the equity or reserves has declined by 59% or US\$81,977 from US\$139,740 in 2018 to US\$57,763 in 2019.
- Timely membership contributions and the importance of the additional member voluntary contributions to show the solidarity and commitments towards the operations of the SPREP. The Secretariat has been requesting in the past few years for a consideration by the SPREP meeting members for an increase in membership contribution 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 approved in principle, however, was subject to confirmation from Capitals/Governments. As at 31 December 2019, only Australia, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Tuvalu have responded to formalize 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 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 utilize this system.
- The Internal Audit Function to continuously focus on the core tasks of carrying out internal audit assignments so that its annual audit programme is 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 Committee recognizes the need for the increase in number of audit committee meetings from three to at least four on an annual basis to ensure greater oversight and more timely advice to management. The Audit Charter is currently under review and will be benchmarked and aligned to the Institute of Internal Auditors standards and requirements. The updated Charter is expected to be presented to the Audit Committee in July 2020 for consideration and final approval.
- The Committee noted a number of policies are due for review. The Committee is of the view that policies and procedures need to be relevant to address the current needs of the SPREPs; their updated status would be discussed in the next Audit Committee meeting. The aim is to update and finalise all policies now due for review by the end of 2020.
- The Committee noted the great uncertainties due to the impact COVID 19 and the global risk of recession, reduced funding from the affected donors, staff medical evacuation and claims, slow project implementation which was an area of concern in previous years, cash flows; and ability to recruit, retain and pay the salaries and wages of the staff in the medium to long term period.

## Financial Statements for 2019

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 2019.

The Audit Committee has discussed the 2019 audited financial statements and the relevant accounting policies with the Director General, 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 2019 audited financial statements and the unqualified audit opinion by the external auditor be accepted by the SPREP members.

This Statement of Internal Control for the Financial Year 2019 is submitted for the consideration and approval by the SPREP members.

**Tupuola Oloialii Koki Tuala**

Chairman of the Audit Committee

Apia Samoa

Date: 13 July 2020



## EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2019

The Executive Management present the annual report together with the financial statements of the Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2019 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:

<b>Leota Kosi Latu</b>	<i>Director General</i>
<b>Roger Cornforth</b>	<i>Deputy Director General</i>
<b>Tagaloa Cooper</b>	<i>Director, Climate Change Resilience</i>
<b>Stuart Chape</b>	<i>Director, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management</i>
<b>Vicki Hall</b>	<i>Director, Waste Management and Pollution Control</i>
<b>Easter Galuvao</b>	<i>Director, Environmental Monitoring and Governance</i>
<b>Clark Peteru</b>	<i>Legal Adviser</i>
<b>Simeamativa Vaai</b>	<i>Director, Human Resource</i>
<b>Petra Chan Tung</b>	<i>Director, Finance and Administration</i>

### 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 2019:

- During the year the Secretariat expended USD 4.2 million dollars compared to expenditure of USD 3.6 million in 2018.
- The net deficit for the period was USD 81,977, compared to the net surplus of USD 154,273 in 2018.
- Foreign exchange exposure continues to be controlled and minimized however there was an increase in foreign exchange losses from USD 39,388 in 2018 to USD 46,144 in 2019.
- 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.

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 2019;
- 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 2019;
- 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 2019; 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 2019.

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  
27 March 2020



**Roger Cornforth**  
Deputy Director General  
27 March 2020

# 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 2019, 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 2019.

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 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

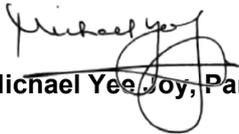
### Members and Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

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  
27 March, 2020  
Suva, Fiji

  
Michael Yee Joy, Partner

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2019

### Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Core Fund Statement of Comprehensive Income For the year ended 31 December 2019

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>		
Member contributions	1,270,103	1,172,741
Programme management charges	1,281,790	1,059,865
Other donor fund income	1,249,147	1,315,096
Amortisation of deferred income - Property and Equipment	134,562	82,151
Other income	210,606	124,721
<b>Total income</b>	<b>4,146,208</b>	<b>3,754,574</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Advertisements	19,525	41,642
Consultancies	9,650	10,585
Depreciation and amortisation expense	308,635	238,753
Donation & Sponsorship	-	115
Electricity & Water	72,491	66,823
Freight and Postal Expenses	2,478	1,124
Insurance	80,707	64,110
Licences & Registration	19,964	36,957
Printing, Stationery and Office Supplies	67,560	74,819
Professional Services	124,154	111,187
Program Support Costs	89,985	109,822
Repairs & Maintenance	69,776	23,697
Salaries and wages	2,476,435	2,162,664
Superannuation expense	185,733	151,386
Other employee expenses	126,094	134,023
SPREP Meeting	107,611	44,399
Telephone and Internet	47,757	83,909
Travel	222,055	121,568
Workshops & Trainings	95,689	41,045
Other Expenses	49,289	41,688
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>4,175,588</b>	<b>3,560,316</b>
<b>(Deficit) / Surplus before net finance income and foreign exchange</b>	<b>(29,380)</b>	<b>194,258</b>
Net finance income	(6,453)	(597)
Foreign exchange loss	(46,144)	(39,388)
<b>Net (Deficit) / Surplus</b>	<b>(81,977)</b>	<b>154,273</b>

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2019

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)  
Statement of Financial Position  
As at 31 December 2019

	2019	2018
<b>ASSETS</b>	\$	\$
<b>Non current assets</b>		
Property and Equipment	10,582,071	2,853,289
Right of Use Asset	73,511	-
Intangible Assets	-	93,772
	<b>10,655,582</b>	<b>2,947,061</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	14,767,207	8,503,117
Receivables and prepayments	495,273	87,108
	<b>15,262,480</b>	<b>8,590,225</b>
	<b>25,918,062</b>	<b>11,537,286</b>
<b>RESERVES AND LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Reserves</b>		
Core Funds	57,763	139,740
Specific Fund	-	-
	<b>57,763</b>	<b>139,740</b>
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>		
Employee benefits	405,050	347,164
Deferred income - Property and Equipment	10,159,482	2,585,190
Lease liability	45,301	-
	<b>10,609,833</b>	<b>2,932,354</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Programme/Donor funds	11,973,632	6,049,956
Payables and accruals	908,834	351,623
Employee entitlements	714,229	535,462
Deferred income - Property and Equipment	239,474	82,151
Income received in advance	1,383,884	1,446,000
Lease liability	30,413	-
	<b>15,250,466</b>	<b>8,465,192</b>
	<b>25,918,062</b>	<b>11,537,286</b>

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2019

### Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Statement of Changes in Funds and Reserves For the year ended 31 December 2019

	Core Fund \$	General Reserve \$	Specific Reserve \$	Total \$
<b>Balance at 1st January 2018</b>	<b>(703,721)</b>	<b>501,425</b>	<b>187,763</b>	<b>(14,533)</b>
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
<b>Balance at 31st December 2018</b>	<b>139,740</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>139,740</b>
<b>Balance at 1st January 2019</b>	139,740	-	-	139,740
Net Surplus for the year	(81,977)	-	-	(81,977)
<b>Balance at 31 December 2019</b>	<b>57,763</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>57,763</b>

### Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Statement of Cash Flows For the year ended 31 December 2019

	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Member contributions	998,028	1,172,741
Interest received	1,543	5,483
Non programme donor funds received	1,249,147	1,315,096
Other receipts	86,979	99,498
Personnel costs - Corporate Services	(2,550,964)	(2,543,352)
Corporate Services costs	(389,947)	(449,143)
Lease payments	(40,978)	-
Programme Income/(Expenditure)	7,014,833	2,085,336
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>6,368,641</b>	<b>1,685,659</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Purchase of property and equipment	(40,655)	(61,738)
<b>Net cashflows for investing activities</b>	<b>(40,655)</b>	<b>(61,738)</b>
Net change in cash held	6,327,986	1,623,921
Cash at beginning of the year	8,526,599	6,942,066
Effects of foreign exchange	(46,144)	(39,388)
<b>Cash balance at the end of the year</b>	<b>14,808,441</b>	<b>8,526,599</b>

# Publications 2019

TITLE	ISBN / ISSN / LINK
<b>TECHNICAL REPORTS</b>	
Assessment of the coconut crab ( <i>Birgus latro</i> ) in Mauke, Cook Islands	978-982-04-0672-8 (print) 978-982-04-0673-5 (ecopy) <a href="http://bit.ly/2YsF7mt">bit.ly/2YsF7mt</a>
Biodiversity in Schools – report on training of trainers workshop: integrating biodiversity into school programs	978-982-04-0694-0 (print) 978-982-04-0695-7 (ecopy) <a href="http://bit.ly/319cfSb">bit.ly/319cfSb</a>
Catchment management and restoration plan for Rarotonga cloud forest ecosystems, Cook Islands	978-982-04-0674-2 (print) 978-982-04-0675-9 (ecopy) <a href="http://bit.ly/2zWletu">bit.ly/2zWletu</a>
Cook Islands turtle project: nesting suitability survey of Rarotonga, Cook Islands	978-982-04-0676-6 (print) 978-982-04-0677-3 (ecopy) <a href="http://bit.ly/2V9ssDa">bit.ly/2V9ssDa</a>
Directory of wetlands of Nauru: 2016	978-982-04-0680-3 (print) 978-982-04-0681-0 (ecopy) <a href="http://bit.ly/37UfMFe">bit.ly/37UfMFe</a>
Directives pour les études d'impact environnemental du développement du tourisme côtier dans la région du Pacifique.	978-982-04-0862-3 (print) 978-982-04-0861-6 (ecopy) <a href="http://bit.ly/2AVZtM5">bit.ly/2AVZtM5</a>
Field surveys to complete the permanent vegetation plots of 'Eua National Park	978-982-04-0688-9 (print) 978-982-04-0689-6 (ecopy) <a href="http://bit.ly/2zYwWVN">bit.ly/2zYwWVN</a>
GEF-PAS Integrated Islands Biodiversity (IIB) Project: Nauru Training Workshop on Marine Spatial Planning	978-982-04-0684-1 (print) 978-982-04-0685-8 (ecopy) <a href="http://bit.ly/3drYv7q">bit.ly/3drYv7q</a>
Management plan for the Ijuw/Anabar wetlands proposed conservation area (PCA), Republic of Nauru	978-982-04-0682-7 (print) 977-981-03-0682-4 (ecopy) <a href="http://bit.ly/3dnlG2M">bit.ly/3dnlG2M</a>
Marine ecosystem health monitoring program: Kingdom of Tonga, 2016	978-982-04-0690-2 (print) 978-982-04-0691-9 (ecopy) <a href="http://bit.ly/3hXWyTA">bit.ly/3hXWyTA</a>
Mainstreaming Ocean Acidification into National Policies: a handbook for Pacific Islands	978-982-04-0838-8 (print) 978-982-04-0837-1 (ecopy) <a href="http://bit.ly/3fxqxPY">bit.ly/3fxqxPY</a>
National Waste Management and Pollution Control Strategy 2017-2026: Solomon Islands	978-982-04-0731-2 (print) 978-982-04-0732-9 (ecopy) <a href="http://bit.ly/2YUuZcF">bit.ly/2YUuZcF</a>
National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS) for Pacific island countries and territories.	<a href="http://bit.ly/3hRfgMS">bit.ly/3hRfgMS</a>
Participatory 3-dimensional modelling: Vaka Puaikura, Rarotonga, Cook Islands	978-982-04-0678-0 (print) 978-982-04-0679-7 (ecopy) <a href="http://bit.ly/3fP5FUX">bit.ly/3fP5FUX</a>
Pacific Marine Climate Change: report card 2018 (revised)	<a href="http://bit.ly/2BWJZrB">bit.ly/2BWJZrB</a>
Report on a visit to Niuafo'ou Island, Kingdom of Tonga: the Polynesia Megapode Megapodius pritchardii, monitoring and conservation of Malau on Niuafo'ou Island	978-982-04-0692-6 (print) 978-982-04-0693-3 (ecopy) <a href="http://bit.ly/3iaMbuW">bit.ly/3iaMbuW</a>
Review and recommendations regarding Human Activity Surveillance Technologies in Pacific Marine Protected Areas	<a href="http://bit.ly/2zQ6kGf">bit.ly/2zQ6kGf</a>
SPREP Environment Ministers and High-Level Representatives Talanoa Communique 2019	<a href="http://bit.ly/3hHR3sa">bit.ly/3hHR3sa</a>
State of the Environment report 2018: Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)	978-982-04-0836-4 (print) 978-982-04-0835-7 (ecopy) <a href="http://bit.ly/2NIIIiG">bit.ly/2NIIIiG</a>

TITLE	ISBN / ISSN / LINK
<b>TECHNICAL REPORTS</b>	
State of the Environment report: Solomon Islands	<a href="http://bit.ly/3fuQNua">bit.ly/3fuQNua</a>
Stratégie nationale sur la gestion de l'environnement à l'intention des états et territoires insulaires Océaniens	<a href="http://bit.ly/2Bz6536">bit.ly/2Bz6536</a>
Synthèse et recommandations sur les technologies de surveillance des activités humaines dans les aires marines protégées du Pacifique	<a href="http://bit.ly/3etjvw8">bit.ly/3etjvw8</a>
Terminal evaluation of UN Environment project: Prevention control and Management of Invasive Alien Species in the Pacific Islands	<a href="http://bit.ly/3fInZg">bit.ly/3fInZg</a>
Wetlands of Wallis and Futuna 2017	978-982-04-0747-3 (print) 978-982-04-0748-0 (ecopy) <a href="http://bit.ly/3hQojxC">bit.ly/3hQojxC</a>
<b>SERIES</b>	
COSSPac Monthly Climate Bulletin: January, May, August, September, October,	2617-2557 <a href="http://bit.ly/2ZaiHWz">bit.ly/2ZaiHWz</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/2Yk2j6o">bit.ly/2Yk2j6o</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/2zQyWzc">bit.ly/2zQyWzc</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/3hRsQzA">bit.ly/3hRsQzA</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/2V5EsoY">bit.ly/2V5EsoY</a>
Climate Change Matters: May (64),	<a href="http://bit.ly/37ZYImV">bit.ly/37ZYImV</a>
Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) newsletter; Issues 8,	<a href="http://bit.ly/3do7Ddp">bit.ly/3do7Ddp</a>
Rapport Annuel du PROE 2018	1562-675X <a href="http://bit.ly/2V6pWxo">bit.ly/2V6pWxo</a>
SPREP Annual Report 2018	1562-675X <a href="http://bit.ly/30tvQvK">bit.ly/30tvQvK</a>
SPREP Tok (Issues 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61	2311-861X <a href="http://bit.ly/3etdpvK">bit.ly/3etdpvK</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/37QEJS8">bit.ly/37QEJS8</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/3enKXv8">bit.ly/3enKXv8</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/2Nik9Au">bit.ly/2Nik9Au</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/314bcCM">bit.ly/314bcCM</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/2NkDpgN">bit.ly/2NkDpgN</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/2Buo2iY">bit.ly/2Buo2iY</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/2BuoihW">bit.ly/2BuoihW</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/3hVqhn8">bit.ly/3hVqhn8</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/3hTsdpn">bit.ly/3hTsdpn</a>
The Connection: September-October	<a href="http://bit.ly/2V6ukwm">bit.ly/2V6ukwm</a>
<b>MEETING REPORTS</b>	
Regional Joint meeting of the ACPMEA2 and Inform Projects, 17-21 September 2018, Apia, Samoa	<a href="http://bit.ly/2zS2fBB">bit.ly/2zS2fBB</a>
Report of the Executive Board Meeting (EBM), 10-11 September 2018, Apia, Samoa	<a href="http://bit.ly/37NNGvi">bit.ly/37NNGvi</a>
Report of the Twenty-ninth (29th) SPREP Meeting of Officials and Environment Minister's High-Level Talanoa, 3-6 September 2019, Apia, Samoa	<a href="http://bit.ly/2V3w5dA">bit.ly/2V3w5dA</a>

TITLE	ISBN / ISSN / LINK	TITLE	ISBN / ISSN / LINK	DURATION
<b>FACT SHEETS</b>		<b>VIDEOS</b>		
Our Pacific Ocean, Our Stories: the challenges our coral reefs face (rev)	<a href="http://bit.ly/2XyGKyf">bit.ly/2XyGKyf</a>	Negotiations Skills training, Palau	<a href="http://youtu.be/sm4Tg9KX-QI">youtu.be/sm4Tg9KX-QI</a>	00:01:06
Our Pacific Ocean, Our Stories: Getting to know Ocean Acidification (Factsheet 6)	<a href="http://bit.ly/3fKdWJF">bit.ly/3fKdWJF</a>	ACPMEA Capacity Building benefits the Cook Islands	<a href="http://youtu.be/x2K8S0qv21o">youtu.be/x2K8S0qv21o</a>	00:00:44
Our Pacific Ocean, Our Stories: Learning more about Ocean Acidification (Factsheet 7)	<a href="http://bit.ly/2DfqcMP">bit.ly/2DfqcMP</a>	ACPMEA Capacity Building benefits Niue	<a href="http://youtu.be/7exU-PH7f18">youtu.be/7exU-PH7f18</a>	00:01:54
Our Pacific Ocean, Our Stories: Sharks in the Pacific media (Factsheet 8)	<a href="http://bit.ly/3i7CL3p">bit.ly/3i7CL3p</a>	ACPMEA Capacity Building benefits Tuvalu	<a href="http://youtu.be/oY4ubwy33o8">youtu.be/oY4ubwy33o8</a>	00:00:47
Our Pacific Ocean, Our Stories: Tides and Extreme tide Events (Factsheet 9)	<a href="http://bit.ly/31ms06L">bit.ly/31ms06L</a>	ACPMEA Capacity Building benefits the Solomon Islands	<a href="http://youtu.be/fUEUfbKHme4">youtu.be/fUEUfbKHme4</a>	00:00:52
Our Pacific Ocean, Our Stories: Know your Ocean with the Pacific Ocean Portal (Factsheet 10)	<a href="http://bit.ly/30ZWJlh">bit.ly/30ZWJlh</a>	ACPMEA Capacity Building benefits Samoa	<a href="http://youtu.be/ZxBQHG3WPeY">youtu.be/ZxBQHG3WPeY</a>	00:02:46
The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing	<a href="http://bit.ly/3i1AK8W">bit.ly/3i1AK8W</a>	Mobile data collection	<a href="http://youtu.be/YQFDPG8g6HY">youtu.be/YQFDPG8g6HY</a>	00:02:31
Nagoya Protokol Io Akses an Benefit Sharin (Vanuatu)	<a href="http://bit.ly/3a3da9e">bit.ly/3a3da9e</a>	Cook Islands Meteorology Service Website Launch	<a href="http://youtu.be/qCbX9yQLaY">youtu.be/qCbX9yQLaY</a>	00:02:06
Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization	<a href="http://bit.ly/2YmE3AQ">bit.ly/2YmE3AQ</a>	Greening the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games (English)	<a href="http://youtu.be/MOdmrslQnf4">youtu.be/MOdmrslQnf4</a>	00:00:39
Samfala wei fo aksesim wanfala ikol benefit searing taem yumi yusim Genetic Risosis	<a href="http://bit.ly/3enDc8q">bit.ly/3enDc8q</a>	Greening the Games (Samoan)	<a href="http://youtu.be/5W33i_FOk00">youtu.be/5W33i_FOk00</a>	00:01:10
<b>BROCHURES</b>		Choose to Reuse Water Bottles at Pacific Games 2019	<a href="http://youtu.be/qvLMj01Bf98">youtu.be/qvLMj01Bf98</a>	00:00:31
National Environmental Management Strategy for Pacific Island Countries and Territories	<a href="http://bit.ly/2BvH2hm">bit.ly/2BvH2hm</a>	Choose to Reuse Shopping Bags at Pacific Games 2019	<a href="http://youtu.be/CYiRoNvn5no">youtu.be/CYiRoNvn5no</a>	00:00:30
Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS)	<a href="http://bit.ly/2YVxOTI">bit.ly/2YVxOTI</a>	Taofi le fa'aogaina o fagu uga	<a href="http://youtu.be/Ebg2_hT6mo8">youtu.be/Ebg2_hT6mo8</a>	00:00:39
Invasive Species Programme Management course (flyer)	<a href="http://bit.ly/312ola5">bit.ly/312ola5</a>	Pacific Climate Change Centre Showcase	<a href="http://youtu.be/Oyat7jEKFX0">youtu.be/Oyat7jEKFX0</a>	00:06:34
<b>POSTERS/BOOKLETS/BANNERS</b>		Pacific Islands Environment Leadership Awards (PIELA)!	<a href="http://youtu.be/vttxz-wmYjc">youtu.be/vttxz-wmYjc</a>	00:00:59
Oceans acidification – poster	<a href="http://bit.ly/3hKJAsB">bit.ly/3hKJAsB</a>	2nd Pacific Islands Environment Leadership Awards (PIELA)	<a href="http://youtu.be/3QE114pl2zM">youtu.be/3QE114pl2zM</a>	00:01:35
Keep it Clean and Plastic Free: choose to use a reusable bag, cardboard box, or traditional woven baskets! (banner)	<a href="http://bit.ly/3fvlyz9">bit.ly/3fvlyz9</a>	Traditional knowledge on weather and climate in the Pacific	<a href="http://http://bit.ly/3361qPc">http://bit.ly/3361qPc</a>	00:08:00
Choose to use a reusable water bottle: Keep Samoa clean and plastic free (banner x2)	<a href="http://bit.ly/2NriJnc">bit.ly/2NriJnc</a>	Climate Change Science in the Pacific (5mins)	<a href="http://youtu.be/Um-YvoQ5kaQ">youtu.be/Um-YvoQ5kaQ</a>	00:07:14
		Climate Change Science in the Pacific (60sec)	<a href="http://youtu.be/cbCoEcMGUAE">youtu.be/cbCoEcMGUAE</a>	00:01:46
		SPREP Greening the Samoa XVI Pacific Games: 2 million trees initiative	<a href="http://youtu.be/p-nW0f2LDus">youtu.be/p-nW0f2LDus</a>	00:07:04
		SPREP Greening the XVI Pacific: Games: The Clean-up	<a href="http://youtu.be/fD8zYaqmEP8">youtu.be/fD8zYaqmEP8</a>	00:06:04
		SPREP Greening the Samoa XVI Pacific Games: Thank you- Fa'afetai!	<a href="http://youtu.be/akbWd5fH6I1">youtu.be/akbWd5fH6I1</a>	00:05:06
		SPREP Greening of the XVI Pacific Games: Kosi Latu	<a href="http://youtu.be/rAF3PcZ1YsU">youtu.be/rAF3PcZ1YsU</a>	00:05:11
		SPREP Greening of the XVI Pacific Games: Opening Samoa's First Cleanup Results	<a href="http://youtu.be/jsssQmbP4Sk">youtu.be/jsssQmbP4Sk</a>	00:05:04
		Climate Predictions in Pacific Island Countries	<a href="http://youtu.be/cUapFrvyvOM">youtu.be/cUapFrvyvOM</a>	00:08:06
		Opening of the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion	<a href="http://youtu.be/zqifxa01iy0">youtu.be/zqifxa01iy0</a>	00:01:12
		COP25 Vox Pops: As a Pacific islander, what would you like to see come out of COP25?	<a href="http://youtu.be/VEnW2LC1WE8">youtu.be/VEnW2LC1WE8</a>	00:02:11
		<b>SPREP PODCASTS</b>		
		Ocean acidification and the threat to coral reefs	<a href="http://bit.ly/33yONAR">bit.ly/33yONAR</a>	00:04:08
		Social media and poor radio service hamper Pacific meteorological services	<a href="http://bit.ly/3gBluOI">bit.ly/3gBluOI</a>	00:03:25
		Tipping point reached for Pacific waste problems	<a href="http://bit.ly/3gsFt3i">bit.ly/3gsFt3i</a>	00:04:35
		Support for Pacific stance at Bonn climate round	<a href="http://bit.ly/2C1vcMt">bit.ly/2C1vcMt</a>	00:03:48
		Call for more investment to cope with extreme weather in Pacific	<a href="http://bit.ly/31qk1rC">bit.ly/31qk1rC</a>	00:03:38
		Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) opens in Samoa	<a href="http://bit.ly/3icxBU2">bit.ly/3icxBU2</a>	00:03:29

# Staff list AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

STAFF MEMBER	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE
<b>SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM</b>			
1 Kosi Latu	Director General	Samoa	31-Dec-21
2 Roger Cornforth	Deputy Director General, Strategic Planning and Project Coordination and Information Services	New Zealand	31-May-20
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 Resilience	Niue	04-Feb-21
5 Easter Chu Shing	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	30-Jun-20
8 Petra Chan Tung	Director Finance and Administration	Samoa	31-Dec-21
9 Simeamativa Vaai	Director Human Resources	Samoa	31-Dec-21
<b>EXECUTIVE SUPPORT AND REGIONAL OFFICES</b>			
<b>Executive Support</b>			
1 Audrey Brown-Pereira	Executive Officer	Cook Is.	30-Jun-20
2 Rosanna Galuvao-Ah Ching	Executive Assistant to the Director General	Samoa	30-May-22
3 Apiseta Eti	Executive Assistant to the Deputy Director General	Samoa	31-Dec-21
<b>Internal Audit</b>			
1 Niraj Kumar	Internal Auditor	Fiji	30-Jul-22
<b>Subregional Offices</b>			
1 Kilom Ishiguro	Republic of the Marshall Islands, SPREP Technical Expert (Water Sector)	RMI	31-Dec-22
<b>STRATEGIC POLICY AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMMES</b>			
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE</b>			
1 Foinjanacey 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 Sione Fulivai	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) Coordinator	Tonga	30-Jun-22
5 Salesa Nihmei	Meteorology and Climatology Adviser	Vanuatu	31-Mar-22
6 Sunny Seuseu	Acting Project Manager/Climate Information Services Officer, Vanuatu CISRD Project	Samoa	04-Apr-21
7 Connie Sewere	Technical and Finance Assistant, Vanuatu CISRD Project	Vanuatu	31-Mar-22
8 Azarel Mariner	COSPPac Capacity Development Officer	Samoa	30-Jun-21
9 Siosinamele Lui	COSPPac Climate Traditional Knowledge Officer	Samoa	30-Jun-21
10 Philip Malsale	COSPPac Climatology Officer	Vanuatu	30-Jun-21
11 Teuila-Jane Fruean	COSPPac Technical and Finance Assistant	Samoa	30-Jun-21
12 Patrick Pringle	Climate Analytic Consultant (On Secondment from Cimate Analytics)	UK	31-Dec-20
13 Tile Tofaeono	Climate Prediction Services Coordinator	Samoa	28-Aug-22
14 Robert D. McIntosh	Oceanography Officer	USA	13-May-21
15 Raymond Schuster	PPOA Project Technical Assistant (Temp)	Samoa	30-Apr-20
16 Martin Sharp	Project Manager, GCCA+ Intra ACP Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience	Australia	07-Jan-22
17 Semi Qamese	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	Fiji	15-Mar-22
18 Laura Fepuleai	PACRES Finance and Administration Officer	Samoa	24-Apr-22
19 Emma Arasi-Sua	PACRES Information and Knowledge Management Officer	Samoa	31-Jul-21
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND GOVERNANCE</b>			
1 Faasipa Lemalu	Environmental Monitoring and Governance Programme Assistant	Samoa	31-Jul-21
2 Jope Davetanivalu	Environmental Planning Adviser	Fiji	30-Sep-22
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 Tavita Su'a	Environmental Information System Developer and Analyst	Samoa	14-Oct-21
8 Lagi Reupena	Inform Project, Environmental Data Officer	Samoa	31-Jul-21
9 Sabrina Reupena	Inform Project, Finance and Administration Officer	Samoa	29-Jul-21
<b>ISLAND AND OCEAN ECOSYSTEMS</b>			
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 Peter Davies	Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Adviser	Australia	26-Apr-22
4 Karen Baird	Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser	New Zealand	26-Apr-22
5 Amanda Wheatley	Biodiversity Adviser	Australia	16-Dec-20
6 Juney Ward	Biodiversity Officer	Samoa	30-Jun-22
7 Vainuupo Jungblut	Protected Areas Officer	Samoa	13-Dec-20
8 Ofa Kaisamy	ABS, Legal Adviser	Tonga	10-Sep-20
9 Rahul Chand	ABS, Capacity Building Officer	Fiji	20-Oct-20
10 Isabel Rasch	ABS, Technical and Finance Assistant	Samoa	22-Aug-20
11 Jamie Davies	Project Manager, By-Catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) Project	UK	03-May-22
12 Rohit Prasad	BIEM, Finance and Administration Officer	Fiji	25-Aug-22
13 Herman Timmermans	PEBACC, Project Manager	South Africa	31-Jul-20
14 Fred Patison	PEBACC, Solomon Islands Country Manager	Solomon Is.	31-Jul-20
15 Allan Dan	PEBACC Vanuatu Project Officer	Vanuatu	31-Jul-20
16 Filomena Serenia	PEBACC Fiji Project Officer	Fiji	31-Jul-20
17 Miriama Turagava	PEBACC Finance and Administration Officer	Fiji	31-Jul-20
18 Bradley Myer	Project Manager, Regional Invasive Species Project	New Zealand	01-Jun-22
19 Josef Pisi	Invasive Species PRIMSS Associate	Samoa	17-Jun-22

STAFF MEMBER	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE
20 Kennedy Kaneko	National Invasive Species Coordinator, RMI	RMI	04-Nov-22
21 Dominic Sadler	Invasive Species Coordinator	Switzerland	31-Jan-22
22 Carmen Fepulea'i	Shark Outreach Assistant (Temp)	Samoa	31-Mar-20
23 Franck Connan	Marine Environment and Conservation Specialist (On Secondment from MEEM, France)	France	28-Feb-21
24 Margaret Morris	AVID Volunteer	Australia	13-Dec-20
25 Shannan Mortimer	Invasive Species Specialist (On Secondment from DOC, NZ)	New Zealand	06-Jun-20
26 Oliver Lilford	BIEM Project Intern	Australia	30-Apr-20
<b>WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL</b>			
1 Davina Bartley-Tiitii	Waste Management and Pollution Control, Programme Assistant	Samoa	25-Mar-22
2 Anthony Taloui	Pollution Adviser	Fiji	31-Jul-20
3 Ma Bella Guinto	Solid Waste Management Adviser	New Zealand	16-Sep-20
4 Joshua Sam	Hazardous Waste Management Adviser	PNG	15-Jul-22
5 Bradley Nolan	Project Manager PacWastePlus	Australia	08-Nov-21
6 Sela Simamao	PacWaste Plus, Finance and Procurement Officer	Tonga	30-Jun-22
7 Crystal Schwenke	PacWaste Plus, Technical and Administration Officer	Samoa	14-Apr-22
8 Lance Richman	PacWaste Plus, Technical Waste Project Officer, Hazardous Waste	USA	28-Nov-22
9 Sainimili Bulai	PacWaste Plus, Technical Waste Project Officer, Solid Waste	Fiji	02-Nov-22
10 Nitish Narayan	PacWaste Plus, Communications Officer	Fiji	03-Aug-22
11 Vira Atalifo	PacWaste Plus, Regional Project Officer (Fiji)	Fiji	06-Oct-22
12 Mark Skinner	Implementation Manager, Pacific Ocean Litter Project (On Secondment from DOEE, Australia)	Australia	18-Dec-22
13 Sascha Fuller	Pacific Node Coordinator (on Placement from University of Newcastle, Australia)	Australia	Jul-20
<b>STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROJECT COORDINATION AND INFORMATION SERVICES</b>			
<b>Strategic Planning</b>			
1 Rebecca Polestico	Monitoring and Evaluation Adviser	Phillipines	01-Mar-21
<b>Project Coordination Unit</b>			
1 Melanie King	Manager, Project Coordination Unit	Australia	22-Oct-21
2 Rupeni Mario	Project Development Specialist, Climate Change Mitigation	Fiji	17-Jul-21
3 Vitolina Samu	Project Implementation Support Officer	Samoa	18-Apr-21
<b>Information Technology</b>			
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	31-Oct-22
5 Charlie Reed	IT Support Officer	Samoa	03-Feb-22
<b>Knowledge Management</b>			
1 Miraneta Williams-Hazelman	Knowledge Manager	Samoa	31-Oct-21
2 Lupe Silulu	Records and Archives Officer	Samoa	31-Dec-20
<b>Communications and Outreach</b>			
1 Nanette Woonton	Acting Communications and Outreach Adviser/Media and Public Relations Officer	Cook Is.	06-Aug-20
2 Leanne Moanau	Communications Support Officer	Samoa	31-Dec-22
3 Angelica Salele	Outreach Support Officer	Samoa	08-Apr-21
4 Robert Sullivan	Communications and Behavioural Specialist (Peace Corps Response Volunteer)	USA	Apr-20
<b>FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION</b>			
1 Veronica Levi	Financial Accountant	Samoa	10-Apr-22
2 Maraia Slade-Pogi	Procurement Officer	Samoa	05-Jan-20
3 Siniva Tuuau-Enosa	Project Accountant	Samoa	26-Jun-22
4 Alvin Sen	Project Accountant	Fiji	16-Jun-22
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-22
10 Emmaflora Ah Tong	Finance Officer	Samoa	30-Sep-22
11 Pata Mase	Finance Officer, Projects	Samoa	15-Sep-22
12 Lawrence Warner	Property Services Officer	Samoa	4-Dec-21
13 Faamanatu Sititi	Driver/Clerk	Samoa	05-Dec-20
14 Iosefa Tootoo	Cleaner/Teaperson	Samoa	21-Jul-22
15 Cynthia Ah Loo	Cleaner/Teaperson	Samoa	05-Mar-20
16 Tagiilima Enele	Groundsman	Samoa	12-May-20
17 Isaia Talaitau	Groundsman	Samoa	11-Sep-19
<b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b>			
1 Luana Jamieson	Senior Human Resources Officer	Samoa	05-Jan-20
2 Jolynn Managreve-Fepuleai	Human Resources Officer	Fiji	08-Jul-21
3 Marion Tuipulotu-Chan Chui	Human Resources Officer	Tonga	08-May-20
4 Sepasitiano Paulo	Human Resources Officer	Samoa	24-Nov-22
5 Monica Tupai	Human Resources Assistant	Samoa	21-May-22
<b>SPREP-based Consultants</b>			
1 Emile Adams	Project Communications Support Specialist	Samoa	31-Dec-19
2 Wouter Van Damme	Conference Coordinator, 10th Pacific Islands Nature Conservation	Belgium	30-Jun-20
3 William Arudovo	PEBACC, Vanuatu Country Manager	Vanuatu	31-Jul-20

# Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>ABS</b>	Access and Benefit-Sharing	<b>MNRE</b>	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Government of Samoa
<b>ACP</b>	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States	<b>NAP</b>	National Adaptation Plan
<b>ACP MEA2</b>	Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environment Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries Phase II Project	<b>NDA</b>	National Designated Authority
<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank	<b>NDC</b>	National Determined Contributions
<b>AFD</b>	Agence Française de Développement	<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>APCC</b>	APEC Climate Centre	<b>NMHS</b>	National Meteorological and Hydrology Services
<b>AS-EPA</b>	American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency	<b>NOAA</b>	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<b>BIEM</b>	By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Initiative	<b>NUS</b>	National University of Samoa
<b>BIOPAMA</b>	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme	<b>NZAIA 2019</b>	New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment Conference 2019
<b>BoM</b>	Australia Bureau of Meteorology	<b>PACP</b>	The Pacific countries from the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
<b>CBCRP-PCCC</b>	Project for the Capacity Building on Climate Resilience in the Pacific at the Pacific Climate Change Centre	<b>PACRES</b>	Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building
<b>CFLI</b>	Canadian Funding for Local Initiatives	<b>PCCC</b>	Pacific Climate Change Centre
<b>CITES COP18</b>	18th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	<b>PEBACC</b>	Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change Project
<b>COP25</b>	Twenty-Fifth Conference of the Parties (to the UNFCCC)	<b>PEJN</b>	Pacific Environment Journalists Network
<b>COSPPac</b>	Climate and Oceans Support Programme in the Pacific	<b>PEP</b>	Pacific Environment Portal
<b>CREWS</b>	Climate Risk Early Warning Systems	<b>PEUMP</b>	Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership
<b>CRIOBE</b>	Centre de Recherche Insulaire et Observatoire de l'Environnement	<b>PICOF</b>	Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum
<b>CROP</b>	Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific	<b>PIFS</b>	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
<b>CSIRO</b>	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	<b>PLP-ESS</b>	Pacific Learning Partnership for Environmental and Social Sustainability
<b>DFAT</b>	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Government of Australia	<b>PMC-5</b>	Fifth Pacific Meteorological Council
<b>DMWR</b>	American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources	<b>PMN</b>	Pacific Media Network
<b>DWM</b>	Disaster Waste Management	<b>POLP</b>	Pacific Ocean Litter Project
<b>EAR Watch</b>	Early Action Rainfall Watch	<b>PRIF</b>	Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility
<b>EbA</b>	Ecosystem-based Adaptation	<b>PRISMSS</b>	Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service
<b>EDF11</b>	11th European Development Fund	<b>PRP</b>	Pacific Resilience Partnership
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment	<b>RNZ</b>	Radio New Zealand
<b>FRDP</b>	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific	<b>RESCCUE</b>	Restoration of ecosystem services and adaptation to climate change project
<b>FSM</b>	Federated States of Micronesia	<b>RESPAC</b>	Disaster Resilience for Pacific Small Island Developing States
<b>GCCA+</b>	Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Programme	<b>RESTEC</b>	Remote Sensing Technology Centre of Japan
<b>GCF</b>	Green Climate Fund	<b>SEA</b>	Strategic Environmental Assessment
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility	<b>SIDS</b>	Small Islands Developing States
<b>GIZ</b>	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	<b>SPC</b>	Pacific Community
<b>IAIA19</b>	19th Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment	<b>SROCC</b>	Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate by the IPCC
<b>IPCC</b>	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature	<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>JICA</b>	Japan International Cooperation Agency	<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>JPRISM II</b>	Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries Phase II	<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>MPA</b>	Marine Protected Areas	<b>USP</b>	University of the South Pacific
		<b>WDPA</b>	World Database on Protected Areas
		<b>WMO</b>	World Meteorological Organization





**SPREP**

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme

