

Mr. Kosi Latu, Director-General of SPREP, image courtesy of Samoa Observer

Message from Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP

I am pleased to advise that Mr. Roger Cornforth, a national of New Zealand, has been appointed as SPREP's new Deputy Director General, after a rigorous and transparent selection process which involved a high level selection panel made up of members of the Troika and representatives of SPREP member countries.

Roger is no stranger to SPREP having worked as Programme Officer, South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme from 1993–1997. He joins SPREP with extensive senior leadership experience from various postings within NZ's Department of Conservation, NZAID and the NZ's Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade where he is currently the Deputy Director for the Pacific Development Division, New Zealand Aid Programme since 2013.

He will be starting in his new role with us in SPREP in late May and we look forward to welcoming him to SPREP.

Have a great month ahead and we hope you enjoy this edition of SPREP-Tok.

Soifua.

Kosi

Director General, SPREP

LATEST NEWS



While poor waste management and disposal practices impact negatively on all members of the community, the burden of poor waste management falls most heavily on women and children. Photo: E. Vanderburg/SPREP

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: CELEBRATING THE INCREASED PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN WASTE MANAGEMENT

In the Pacific region, the tide is turning when it comes to the participation of women in waste management. Historically, the solid and hazardous waste management sector has been dominated by men but recent evidence would suggest that female participation is increasing.

The Pacific Hazardous Waste Management project (PacWaste) – a partnership between the European Union and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) – is at the heart of those efforts.

European Union Ambassador for the Pacific, Mr Andrew Jacobs, believes that the increased participation and consideration of women in waste management is something to celebrate.

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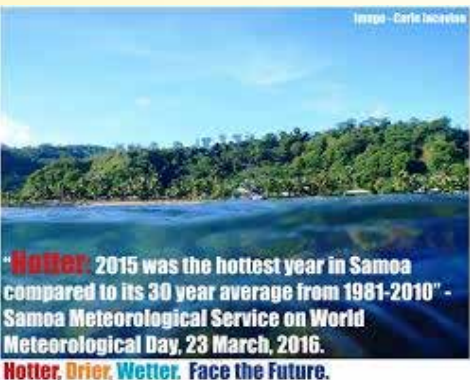
The Tongan Whistler.

BATTLING INVASIVE SPECIES HELPS SAVES THE TONGAN WHISTLER

The endemic *hengahenga*, also known as the Tongan Whistler, and other native bird species have increased in population over the past year on Mt Talau in the Vava'u islands in the Kingdom of Tonga, with support from several projects executed by SPREP in partnership with the Government of Tonga.

Collaboration between two projects Integrated Island Biodiversity (IIB) and Prevention, control and management of invasive alien species in the Pacific Islands (IAS) funded by the Global Environment Fund Pacific Alliance for Sustainability have helped bring about the positive changes in native bird population in Tonga.

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HOTTER, DRIER, WETTER. HELPING YOU TO FACE THE FUTURE

Bridging the science of Meteorological Services with Pacific island communities to help them understand the technical aspects of weather related forecasts is just one of the many goals at the core of a project implemented across 14 Pacific islands.

Known as FINPAC, the **Finnish Pacific Project** funded by the Government of Finland carried out by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), aims to reduce the vulnerability of the livelihoods of Pacific Islanders to climate change by delivering effective weather, climate and early warning services.

As the global community commemorates World Meteorological day on 23, March, the theme of which is **Hotter, Drier, Wetter. Face the Future.**

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Participants at the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation training.

ENHANCING PLANNING AND CONSERVATION OUTCOMES FOR PACIFIC ISLAND BIODIVERSITY

Enhanced planning and delivery of better outcomes for the conservation of Pacific island biodiversity is at the core of training underway this week in New Zealand for Pacific islanders.

The training is focused on Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation, a five-step conservation planning process that combines principles and best practices in adaptive management and results-based management from conservation and other fields. The Open Standards are designed to be applicable at any geographic, temporal, or programmatic scale.

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Image of the Oceania Dance Theatre showcased on the fundraiser flyer.

FUNDRAISING FOR CYCLONE WINSTON'S YOUNGEST VICTIMS IN FIJI

Fundraising for the youngest victims of Tropical Cyclone Winston was never as much fun as it was on a Monday evening in Apia when former University of the South Pacific school friends got together to raise funds for Fiji's Save the Children Fund at a movie screening and auction at Apollo Cinemas.

One of the organisers, Ms Lusiana Ralogaivau, from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) said that the group of friends met a week before to plan the fundraiser which would also raise awareness of the impacts of climate change.

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Participants at the SPREP SI PEBACC inception workshop at the Mendana Hotel, Honiara.

SPREP AND SOLOMON ISLANDS TO STRENGTHEN NATURAL SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The Solomon Islands component of the **PEBACC project** held its inception workshop this month in Honiara. The one day workshop was attended by over 30 participants from government agencies, NGOs, Honiara City Council and representatives from the Choiseul province and Lauru Land Conference of Tribal Community.

The PEBACC project is a sub-regional project designed to explore and promote the uptake of ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) approaches in planning for climate change adaptation in the Pacific island region. The 5 year project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) supported by the German Federal Ministry of Environment. It is implemented by SPREP in collaboration with the Governments of Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands and in partnership with a number of conservation and community development NGOs.

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Attendees of the consultation workshops in Tuvalu.

DEVELOPING A WASTE POLICY AND ACTION PLAN FOR TUVALU

Pollution problems can seem overwhelming sometimes, especially when you are a small island country with limited resources, but when you go to the drawing board with a group of experts and start at the beginning, at the policy level, it can help map a way forward for a seemingly daunting task.

Consultations were held between the various government sectors, stakeholders and the community in Tuvalu last month, to help the country develop a Waste Policy and Action Plan to address the pollution problems in the island state.

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L-R: Mr. Stuart Chape of SPREP, Professor Rajesh Chandra of USP, Mr. Taholo Kami of IUCN.

USP BECOMES THE NINTH MEMBER OF THE PACIFIC ISLAND ROUNDTABLE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

The University of the South Pacific (USP) officially became the ninth member of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT). The PIRT Membership Agreement was signed Wednesday 30 March by PIRT Chair and Regional Director of the IUCN Oceania Regional Office, Taholo Kami and Vice Chancellor and President of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra, at the conclusion of the PIRT Planning Meeting with the Heads of Organisation in Suva, Fiji.

PIRT is a coalition of partners who work together to increase effective conservation action in the Pacific Islands region. Formed in 1998 PIRT is the key coordination mechanism for the implementation of the new Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands region 2014–2020.

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A bird's eye view of the SPREP Compound in Samoa. Photo © Stuart Chape

SPREP STRENGTHENING ABILITY TO ACCESS ENVIRONMENT FUNDING

SPREP is on track to building its capacity to meet accreditation standards for the Global Environment Facility. This will allow the organisation to develop projects on behalf of Pacific island members ensuring better access to environment finance.

Work is now underway with two consultancy firms who spent time with SPREP in February as part of their scoping mission to identify the baseline capacity of SPREP in relation to GEF accreditation standards.

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James Fahn interviewed by Samoa media. Image courtesy of Lagipoiva Cherelle Jackson.

STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM TO BUILD COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Finding the ‘right’ angle for your climate change story was a lot easier for members of Samoa’s media after the “Strengthening Environmental Journalism to Build Community Resilience to Climate Change Workshop” held at SPREP in March.

The Pacific GeoJournalism Project is a Pacific American Climate-Fund Project funded by USAID and implemented by the Internews Earth Journalism Network. SPREP partnered with the project in Samoa to help carry out the training which was open to Samoa media and journalism students of the National University of Samoa.

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NIUS FROM VANUATU

FROM THE VANUATU DAILY POST: PROJECT FOCUSES ON RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN URBAN ENVIRONMENT

A new project examining ecosystem services and its contribution to community resilience is underway in Port Vila. The Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) is a five-year project funded by the German Government and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). PEBACC focuses on building resilience to climate change in an urban environment, namely Port Vila and across a whole of island environment on Tanna Island, said the PEBACC Project Manager in Vanuatu, David Loubser.



Project Consultants, Coordinator and Survey Team. Photo: Anita Roberts.

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VANUATU DRAWS THE FACEBOOK HITS ON WORLD MET DAY WITH WMO

World Meteorological Organization added 2 new photos. Published by Comms Wmo (P) · 23 March at 00:01 · 🌐

HAPPY WORLD MET DAY. Working 24/7 to protect lives and property. Photos here from Vanuatu, one of the countries on the frontline of climate change and hazards like Tropical Cyclone Pam. Hotter, Drier, Wetter. Face the Future. <http://www.wmo.int/worldmetday/>

47,253 people reached Boost Post

PACWASTE IN ACTION



After 23 years at Lenakel Hospital, Incinerator Operator Mr Henry Nalpini is looking forward to the new healthcare waste incinerator. Photo: E. Vanderburg/SPREP

POSTCARD FROM TANNA, VANUATU

When the news from Fiji, about the devastation of Cyclone Winston, started to filter through to communities on remote Tanna island in Vanuatu, the mood was sombre and the empathy palpable. Less than one year earlier, Tanna and nearby Erromango had been devastated by Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Pam and today – almost a year on, the re-building continues.

Lenakel Hospital, which services a population of 32,000 people across Tanna and six surrounding islands, was hit hard by Cyclone Pam, with more than one million dollars (US) worth of damage sustained. Staff who were at the hospital when the cyclone hit, clearly remember the sight of nearby homes collapsing and roofing iron “flying around, just like paper.”

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Our vision: *The Pacific Environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.*

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