



Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.

MESSAGE FROM MR. KOSI LATU, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SPREP

Talofa from the SPREP campus!

It has been a very exciting month for us at SPREP. We have achieved some great milestones this month, the most memorable one being the signing between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Government of Samoa with SPREP for the construction of a Pacific Climate Change Centre to be based in the SPREP campus here in Apia.

This Centre will become the centralised hub for coordinating all climate change training and capacity building activities within our Pacific region, and will act as a catalyst for the effective delivery and leveraging of climate resources and programmes to enable our members to take on new challenges and developments in relation to climate change. We are thankful to the Government of Japan and our host the Government of Samoa, for their generous assistance with this project which will benefit the entire Pacific region.

Have a great month ahead.

Soifua,

Kosi

Director General, SPREP

LATEST NEWS



SPREP Climate Change Director, Dr. Netatua Pelesikoti, CEO of the Ministry of Finance, Lavea Tupaimatuna Iulai Lavea and Leader of the Preparatory Survey Mission from JICA, Mr. Kazunao Shibata. | Photo: SPREP

PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION IN JUNE NEXT YEAR

The Pacific islands are a step closer to having their very own Pacific Climate Change Centre to be hosted at the SPREP campus in Apia, after a signing to finalise the minutes of discussion which marks the end of the preparatory survey between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Government of Samoa with SPREP.

The Pacific Climate Change Centre will significantly enhance and improve delivery of climate change activities and a centre of all SPREP members. It will provide a dedicated training and meeting space to take on new challenges and development in relation to climate change.

Construction will begin in June 2017.

[Read more ...](#)



Participants of the SmartMET Training.
Photo | SPREP

IMPROVING WEATHER AND CLIMATE FORECASTS FOR PACIFIC COMMUNITIES

Bridging the gap between Information Technology and Pacific Meteorological Services to bring about improved weather and climate forecasts and warnings for Pacific communities was at the core of a training held in Samoa in May.

Twelve Met officers from the Pacific region built their Information and Technology capacity learning about basic computer programming that forms the basis of weather tools used for analysing weather information such as the SmartMet and SmartAlert Integrated Weather Forecasting Systems.

[Read more ...](#)



COLLABORATING FOR IMPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH EFFECTIVENESS, INTEGRATION AND REACH

INTEGRE and PacWaste, two European Union funded projects in the Pacific are working together to expand their effectiveness and reach, and deliver improved environmental and public health outcomes across the region.

[Read more ...](#)



The SPREP Media Outreach Programme.
Photo | SPREP

ENVIRONMENT REPORTING COMMEMORATED FOR WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY, 3 MAY, 2016

Biodiversity, marine pollution, environmental reporting and discerning fact from fiction on climate change, were some of the subjects covered by Media and Journalism students from the National University of Samoa (NUS) in a story-writing competition to mark World Press Freedom Day.

This is was just one of the many activities under the SPREP Media Outreach Programme which has been in place to strengthen and improve environment reporting and communications across the Pacific islands region.

[Read more ...](#)

Protect Pacific Whales
Ocean Voyagers
FACEBOOK COMPETITION

The Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is hosting a Facebook competition for residents of its island member countries and territories* to highlight the beauty and vulnerability of Pacific Whales.

How To Enter:
 Like our page! www.facebook.com/SPREP.PEIN/
 Submit an original artwork or photograph inspired by our Pacific whales to us via private message.
 Get all your friends to LIKE your entry! Most likes wins!
 Entries close 22 June. Voting opens 23 June. Voting closes 16 July (CDB Samoa time).
 Share your entries now and go in to win great prizes including Alcatel Pixi 3 smartphones sponsored by Digicel!!
Terms and conditions apply.

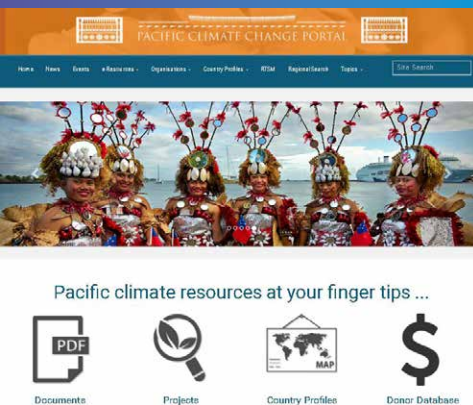
LAUNCH OF PROTECT PACIFIC WHALES FACEBOOK COMPETITION TO CELEBRATE WORLD BIODIVERSITY DAY

In celebration of World Biodiversity Day on 22 May 2016, SPREP in partnership with Digicel launched a Facebook competition as part of the Protect Pacific Whales – Ocean Voyagers campaign.

The competition calls for residents of SPREP’s island member countries and territories to submit either an original artwork inspired by our Pacific whales for the chance to win smartphones compliments of Digicel.

The main aim of the competition is to increase awareness for the Protect Pacific Whales campaign, which deals with whale and ocean conservation. Entries for the competition close 22 June, with voting to be held from 23 June to 16 July.

[Read more ...](#)



Green Samoa Initiative – a national initiative of Samoa to promote the composting activity in communities during Environmental Week in November 2016.



Working on communications tactics to help make Majuro safer and cleaner for all. Photo: A.Carvan/SPREP



IMPROVED PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE PORTAL NOW AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

The revamped Pacific Climate Change portal is now online and available for use.

The new improved features will enhance the user experience and content discovery through the use of a predefined list of climate change topics, as well as providing a more friendly user interface.

[Read more ...](#)

SHIBUSHI MODEL PROJECT STAKEHOLDER MEETING “GREEN SAMOA INITIATIVE AWARENESS EVENT”

Partnerships and national commitment to promote waste minimisation, especially green waste through composting in communities and the Tafaigata landfill in Samoa, was the theme of the Shibushi Model Project Stakeholder Meeting “Green Samoa Initiative Awareness Event”.

Organised by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Government of Samoa (MNRE) in collaboration with Shibushi City, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Samoa Office, JICA’s Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative Solid Waste Management (J-PRISM), and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the meeting was held in the Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi (TATTE) convention center in Apia, Samoa on 17 May 2016.

[Read more ...](#)

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR PROJECT SUCCESS IN MAJURO

A communications and public engagement plan was discussed for the roll-out of a new waste management initiative which will make rubbish collection more equitable, accessible and self sustaining in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Majuro is the site of the pilot integrated atoll waste management component of PacWaste – a four year project funded by the European Union and implemented by SPREP to improve regional hazardous waste management across the Pacific.

[Read more ...](#)

SPREP FACILITATES RANGE OF TRAINING SEMINARS FOR CREW OF GAUALOFA

SPREP has begun a series of training seminars with the crew from the Samoa Voyaging Society’s traditional sailing vessel, Gualofo, to help strengthen their understanding of environmental issues.

The Gualofo crew will go through each of SPREP’s five divisions covering the areas of Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management, Climate Change, Environmental Monitoring and Governance, Waste Management and Pollution, and Communications and Outreach.

[Read more ...](#)

Protect Pacific Whales Ocean Voyagers FACEBOOK COMPETITION

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How To Enter:

- Like our page! www.facebook.com/SPREP/PEIN/
- Submit an original artwork or photograph inspired by our Pacific whales to us via private message.
- Get all your friends to LIKE your entry! Most likes wins!
- Entries close 3 June. Voting opens 9 June. Voting closes 23 June (ODS Samoa time). Share your entries now and go in to win great prizes including Alcatel Pixi 3 smartphones sponsored by Digicel!
- Terms and conditions apply.

*SPREP island members: Cook Islands, Kiribati, Niue, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa, French Polynesia, French Southern Territories, New Caledonia, New Zealand, New Zealand Tokelau, Samoa, French Polynesia, French Southern Territories, Niue, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa and France.

Terms and conditions

- Entries must not have been previously published in any format and may not have been selected in other similar competitions.
- There is a limit of two entries per person.
- All entries submitted must be your original work and legal property; this must be certified to SPREP through a special form which will be processed upon receipt of your entry.
- All entries must be accompanied by a written or verbal declaration of the entry.
- All entries must be submitted by 23:59 on 23 June 2016 (Samoa time) via private message only to the SPREP Facebook page. Entries posted publicly by visitors will be deemed ineligible.
- All entries received which comply with the competition guidelines will then be uploaded by SPREP to its Facebook page for public viewing and voting as of 10 June 2016.
- The entry with the most likes by 23 June 2016 is the winner. Entries may be shared by members of the public to encourage voting by them, but only the likes on the original entry submitted to SPREP Facebook page will count. Likes or shares on other pages will be disregarded.
- By submitting an entry you are granting explicit rights to SPREP to publish and allow the submitted material for SPREP activities - electronically and to print for promotional, educational and awareness purposes only. The person will retain copyright or other intellectual property and be acknowledged in the winner.
- SPREP reserves the right to alter, remove or display any entries that are found inconsistent with the above rules, or otherwise inappropriate to this competition's theme.
- SPREP acknowledges that this competition is in no way sponsored, endorsed or administered by, or associated with, Facebook.

COMPÉTITION FACEBOOK-PROTÉGEONS LES BALEINES DU PACIFIQUE

Dans le cadre de la campagne Protégeons les baleines du Pacifique, le PROE a lancé une compétition Facebook le 23 Mai en parallèle de la [Journée Internationale de la Biodiversité](#).

La compétition, en partenariat avec Digicel, est ouverte à tous les résidents de pays et territoires insulaires du Pacifique membres du PROE (liste des pays éligibles dans ce flyer).

Les participants doivent envoyer un dessin, peinture, création artistique ou photographie inspiré des baleines du Pacifique, accompagné d'une brève description. La date limite pour envoyer votre œuvre est le 22 Juin 2016.

Le PROE vérifiera ensuite que toutes les œuvres reçues correspondent bien aux Conditions générales (mentionnées dans le flyer).

Les œuvres seront ouvertes aux votes par « Like » sur la [Page Facebook PEIN/SPREP](#) du 23 Juin au 16 Juillet 2016.

L'œuvre qui obtient le plus de Like le 16 Juillet aura gagné ! Digicel a offert trois smartphone Alcatel Pixi 3 comme prix pour les gagnants de la compétition !

Nous espérons recevoir des œuvres de tous les pays et territoires du Pacifique !

TRIBUTE



IN MEMORY OF NANNETTE DILLY MALSOL

Nannette Dilly Malsol passed away on Thursday 26 May after a long battle with cancer. She was a champion of threatened marine species – she was at the forefront of the bold moves taken by Palau in recent years to protect large sharks and marine mammals and to establish a 630 million sq km Marine Sanctuary in its EEZ, banning all foreign fishers and reducing the annual catch by 90%.

In her role as Fisheries Law Compliance Officer for Palau, Nannette was a driving force for sustainable fisheries and represented her country at numerous international gatherings. She was widely respected and admired by her Pacific colleagues, many of whom shaved their heads in solidarity during the 12th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Tuna Commission six months ago, as she entered her third round of chemotherapy.

Nannette was the one who brought together representatives of Pacific islands and foreign fishing fleets at the 2014 meeting of the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission in Apia, and against the odds achieved a consensus to adopt a conservation measure on sharks that was the first ever adopted to protect sharks by any regional tuna management authority.

To remind herself why she pushed so hard, Nannette's favourite pastime was to dive on the Peleliu Wall in Palau, hanging on tightly as the current rushed by, carrying with it large bull, tiger and hammerhead sharks. Her passion and commitment will be missed, but her spirit and example will stay with us.

Michael Donoghue, SPREP



Protect Pacific Whales – Ocean Voyagers Campaign

Did you know?

The closest living relative to cetaceans (whales and dolphins) are hippos.



Saia from Tonga and Sosefo from Wallis and Futuna set a rat trap to determine whether the eradication on Motutapu Island was successful. Monitoring consists of setting rat traps and looking for rat sign all over the island. It takes about 8 months for the rat population to build up to a detectable level on small islands following the eradication operation.

One of the many elements of biodiversity that benefits from removing rats is the birds and their ability to nest and raise their young chicks. Both islands had nesting Black-naped terns (*Sterna sumatrana*) with intact eggs.

RAT ERADICATION IN TONGA A SUCCESS

Recent monitoring has resulted in the confirmation that rats have been eradicated from the islands of Malinoa and Motutapu in Tonga following a successful eradication operation in 2015.

“We are very pleased with the result and it’s great to see the motivation to do more. Invasive vertebrates are a major threat to much of the Pacific’s biodiversity, but with community buy-in combined with increased skills and experience we can turn the tide,” said Mr. Richard Griffiths, Project Director, Island Conservation.

The islands of Malinoa and Motutapu were assessed by completing day and night surveys for rats and rat sign, and setting rat traps that were checked the following day.

Observations were also made of the noticeable increases in the different species of birds such as the wattled honeyeater also known as the fulaehetu (*Foulehaio carunuculata*) and Polynesian starlings also known as Misi (or *Aplonis tabuensis*). It was also noted that Black-naped terns (*Sterna sumatrana*) were nesting and had eggs on the beaches of both islands.

Other observations made include the uncommonly seen Ghost crabs (*Ocypode ceratophthalmus*) and (*Ocypode pallidula*) during the beach surveys, these usually remain hidden in their burrows during the day. Also noted were the increase in numbers of fruit and flowers that would have previously been eaten by rats.

This activity began in August last year with a special training to help countries with many small islands to be able to complete small and simple eradications themselves with limited resources and very little assistance from outside organisations.

Participants from Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Tonga and Wallis and Futuna took part in the capacity development workshop that included a practical activity of removing rats from the islands of Malinoa and Motutapu in the Tongatapu island group of Tonga.

“It is important that Pacific countries have the capacity to manage invasive species. This project is aimed at facilitating countries to

succeed in meeting meaningful conservation goals, eventually on their own accord, in bite size chunks,” said Mr. David Moverley, the Invasive Species Adviser of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

“This will compliment more complex projects and conservation goals which require more extensive resources, technical assistance and finance.”

“Tonga can do this. With what we have learned and the skills we now have we can protect our smaller but important islands and their biodiversity from the many impacts of rats,” said Mr. Viliami Hakaumotu, Invasive Species Coordinator of Tonga.

With the positive outcomes of the rat eradication in Malinoa and Motutapu, the program was replicated last month on two further islands – Fangasito and Luahaipo in the Vava’u island group.

These islands were determined as priorities for protection during the Vava’u BIORAP, or Biodiversity Rapid Assessment, completed by SPREP and the Tongan Government under the Global Environment Facility – Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (GEFPAS) Integrated Island Biodiversity Project.

It is anticipated that this work will be similarly successful and provide protection to the biodiversity of these important islands which are also important nesting sites for the critically endangered hawksbill and green turtles.

The rodent eradication from small islands initiative was a partnership between SPREP, Island Conservation and the Government of Tonga. It is supported by the “Global Environment Facility Eradication, Management and Control of Invasive Alien Species in the Pacific Islands Project”, United Nations Environment Program, Vava’u Environmental Protection Agency and Fonds Pacifique.

For further information please contact David Moverley, SPREP Invasive Species Adviser, at davidm@sprep.org