



### MESSAGE FROM MR. KOSI LATU, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SPREP



*Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.*

Talofa,

In this edition of the SPREP-Tok, we highlight a few stories from the Twenty-second Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP22) which was held in Marrakech, Morocco, in November. One particular achievement is all 14 Pacific island parties to the UNFCCC having ratified the Paris Agreement, which means our Pacific voice is stronger than ever in the fight against climate change. The much anticipated Pacific Climate Change Centre, which will be built at the SPREP campus in Apia, was also featured prominently at COP22, as it will strengthen the Pacific's collective efforts towards the fight against climate change. More stories from the UNFCCC COP22 can be found at [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org) or in the latest issue of Climate Change Matters.

I would like to congratulate Kiribati on their efforts towards their first shark sanctuary enforcement and compliance training workshop, which was held last month. Participants are now fully capable of administering the shark sanctuary, having undergone training during the workshop funded by the Secretariat.

Soifua,

Kosi.

### LATEST NEWS



*Participants of the workshop posing for a group photo after the official welcoming ceremony. Photo: Tim Rasmussen.*

### INTEGRATED OCEAN MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP UNITES THE PACIFIC

Delegates from across Oceania gathered in Apia, Samoa, in November to discuss new and emerging opportunities to increase the economic benefits to Pacific island countries and territories from the sustainable development, management and conservation of the ocean and its resources. The regional unity and cooperation that resulted in the achievements of the Paris Agreement are reminders that integration and commitment to shared values can produce powerful results, especially for indigenous people and developing states.

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Participants of the State of Environment and National Environment Management Strategy workshop in RMI. Photo: SPREP

## STATE OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY WORKSHOP HELD IN REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS

The 2016 State of Environment report workshop for the Republic of Marshall Islands was held on October 17 and was well received by RMI officials and agency representatives. Participating in the workshop were key government ministries and agencies including local mayors and local NGO representatives. The workshop was facilitated by the Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination (OEPPC) along with a team from the Environmental Monitoring and Governance division (EMG) of SPREP.

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Tanna Island, Vanuatu. Photo: © Stuart Chape

## ASSESSMENT OF ECOSYSTEMS ON TANNA ISLAND, VANUATU

A baseline assessment of key terrestrial and marine environments around Tanna Island commenced last month by SPREP through the Griffith University of Australia in order to understand the status of the natural resources and how the communities use these resources. The assessment referred to as Ecosystem and Socio-economic Resilience Analysis and Mapping (ESRAM) aims to provide a holistic understanding of the linkages between ecosystem health, vulnerability and resilience in the context of both climate and non-climate related drivers of change.

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Discussions taking place during the workshop. Photo: SPREP

## SPREP SUPPORTS SPECIAL TRAINING FOR KIRIBATI TO ENFORCE ITS SHARK SANCTUARY

Kiribati has been recognised for the past decade as a regional and global leader in marine conservation through the establishment of large protected areas within its extensive EEZ. The very first shark sanctuary enforcement and compliance training workshop took place in Kiribati last month, funded by SPREP with support from The Pew Charitable Trusts. The workshop participants underwent an intensive hands-on course that guided them through different scenarios they may encounter in administering the shark sanctuary, including reporting of illegal shark fishing, vessel boarding and education and outreach programmes.

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Members of the 'Eua community with their completed P3DM. Photo: SPREP

## FIRST PARTICIPATORY 3-D MODEL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING COMPLETED FOR THE ISLAND OF 'EUA, KINGDOM OF TONGA

Training on participatory Three-Dimensional Modelling or P3DM was successfully completed for the island of 'Eua last month. 'Eua is a small hilly island close to Tongatapu and is home to one of Tonga's four national parks and supports nationally rare and endangered species. The training was coordinated and delivered by the Tonga Department of Environment, Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Climate Change and Communications (DOE-MEIDCEC) with support and assistance from SPREP and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA).

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Participants of the national BIOPAMA stakeholders workshop. Photo: SPREP

## ENGAGING COUNTRIES FOR IMPROVED PROTECTED AREA INFORMATION: BIOPAMA PACIFIC PROGRAMME

A country engagement mission was recently completed to the Kingdom of Tonga to initiate national activities under the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA). This was one of several country missions conducted to consult and engage key stakeholders on protected area management. A national stakeholder's workshop was completed as part of the mission, which brought together various stakeholders to discuss national and local level arrangements for protected areas which included protected areas administration and management, verifying capacity needs, determining gaps in protected area information, identifying current national data repositories and the types of data available and stored.

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Samoa Primary School students taking part in a group activity during their visit to SPREP. Photo: SPREP

## SAMOA PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS VISIT SPREP

Aspiring young environmentalists from the Samoa Primary School Year 7 class gained a wealth of knowledge to help with their studies following a visit to the SPREP headquarters last month. The students learned about endangered species and their migratory patterns from SPREP's Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser, Mr Michael Donoghue, who presented on turtles, sharks, dugongs and whales. Ryan Wright, SPREP's Spatial Planning Officer, then talked to the students about Marine Spatial Planning process which brings together multiple users of the ocean to make decisions on how to better manage marine resources. A short presentation on climate change was given by Mr Peni Leavai, teaching the students about the causes of climate change and solutions to combating this problem.

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EIA workshop participants in Republic of Marshall Islands. Photo: SPREP

## STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ENGAGEMENT IN REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS

Excellent engagement and interaction between trainers and participants, was the highlight of recent environmental impact assessment (EIA) training delivered by SPREP for the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The EIA training was organised in response to a survey of government staff and community stakeholders in 2015, which assessed EIA awareness levels and training requirements. The survey identified a need for general EIA capacity-building, so a comprehensive training program was developed to address this need, in consultation with the Republic of the Marshall Islands' Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

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Photo: IISD/ENB/Mike Muzurakis

## MARSHALL ISLANDS AND PALAU SIGN ON TO SECOND “BECAUSE THE OCEAN” DECLARATION

Palau and the Marshall Islands were the two Pacific islands of 15 countries that signed the second “Because the Ocean Declaration” on the edges of the UN Climate Conference in Marrakech last month. The first “Because the Ocean Declaration” was signed by 23 countries in Paris in December last year, which stressed the important role of the Ocean for the climate system. This year, it was signed during the Twenty-second Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP22).

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Mr Sato, Mr Aoyama and Mr Latu. Photo: SPREP

## FEATURED AT COP22: THE PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE

The Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) was the focus of a special event at the UN Climate talks in Marrakech last month. The PCCC is to be the shared regional climate hub for inclusive collaboration and coordination to address and meet adaptation and mitigation priorities of Pacific island countries and territories. It was during the special event titled Climate resilient development in SIDS: Opportunities provided by the Pacific Climate Change Centre that panellists presented from SPREP, JICA and the Government of Samoa.

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Ms Diane McFadzien and Mr Espen Ronneberg of SPREP at the UNFCCC COP22. Photo: SPREP

## TEAM PACIFIC AT THE UN CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS IN MARRAKECH, MOROCCO: SPREP

Mr Espen Ronneberg, the Climate Change Adviser of SPREP first started in the UN Negotiation process in 1992. He was a negotiator for the Marshall Islands for nine years, then worked for six years with UN SIDS Unit providing advice to the AOSIS meetings, and then again with SPREP.

The Climate Change Adaptation Adviser for SPREP, Ms Dian McFadzien first attended her first COP in Bonn in 1999. She has attended the COP in difference roles, as a member of the Cook Islands Government, with WWF and now, in her capacity as a SPREP staff member.

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The Pacific islands with fellow members of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) commemorating the Paris Agreement coming into force in Marrakech, Morocco on 4 November. Photo: SPREP

## PACIFIC ISLANDS HELP BRING PARIS AGREEMENT INTO FORCE

The Pacific islands have helped make world history as the Paris Agreement comes into force, with all 14 Pacific island parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change having ratified the Paris Agreement. Playing a pivotal role with the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) at the Climate Conference in December last year which brought about the Paris Agreement, the Pacific islands have shown solidarity yet again in ratifying the Agreement which starts from the year 2020.

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Some of the Pacific Island delegates to the UNFCCC COP22 with Dr Netatua Pelesikoti and Ms Diane McFadzien. Photo: SPREP

## PACIFIC ISLANDERS ENCOURAGED TO HELP DEVELOP IPCC CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE REPORTS

The call has come for more Pacific island authors and contributors to be part of the science reports released by the Intergovernmental panel on Climate Change. A special IPCC report on the Impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways is to be released in 2018. Two other special reports are also to be released in 2019, one on Climate Change, Oceans and the Cryosphere as well as a special report on Climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems.

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## “1.5 TO STAY ALIVE” TO BE SUPPORTED BY IPCC REPORT

Small, but powerful, the call by the Pacific islands with the Alliance of Small Island States to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, continues to be a priority at the UN Climate negotiations. The chant of “1.5 to stay alive” has been given wider recognition within the Paris Agreement that aims to keep global temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, even further to 1.5.

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## PACIFIC ISLANDERS BENEFIT FROM AOSIS CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAM

From the islands to New York, our very own Pacific islanders have strengthened their professional development through the Climate change Fellowship Program established by the Alliance of Small Island States. Started in 2014, the programme brings earlier career professionals from AOSIS member countries to their country mission offices in New York to undergo comprehensive training on climate change issues, including attendance to the United Nations and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

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## PACIFIC ISLAND WOMEN SHOW LEADERSHIP AT UN CLIMATE TALKS

While women accounted for around 35% of all national party delegates at the 2015 UN climate conference and women’s participation in Eastern and Western Europe is 45% and around 21% in Africa and the Asia-Pacific, the Pacific island region itself can boast of strong women participation, particularly in key roles. This participation is further supported by the Women’s Delegate Fund (WDF), who undertook research resulting in the above statistics.

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H.E Ambassador Marlene Moses of Nauru. Photo: SPREP