

MESSAGE FROM MR. KOSI LATU, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SPREP

Greetings from the SPREP campus.

We're gradually winding down to the end of the year, but that doesn't mean things are slowing down at SPREP. We had a month full of important meetings in September, three of which were the Pacific Island Forum Leaders Meeting in Nauru, the Clean Pacific Roundtable in Fiji, and the Preparatory meeting for the 14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD CoP14) in Samoa.

The Pacific leaders gathered in the island of Nauru for the Pacific Island Forum Leaders Meeting in September, where climate change was declared the single biggest threat to the security of the Pacific. SPREP stands strong in its resolve to lead the way in the region, to encourage a resilient Pacific environment in the face of this threat to our livelihoods.

The second Clean Pacific roundtable was held in Suva, Fiji at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. It was a momentous occasion as it provided a chance for Fiji and the Forum Secretariat to hold their first bilateral meeting in a number of years. This year's roundtable was also of particular significance, as members of the private sector from around the Pacific were invited to participate and be part of the discussions.

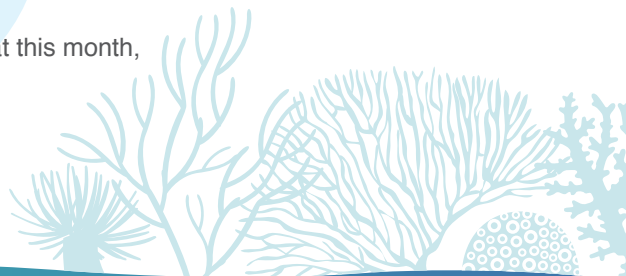
The preparatory meeting for the 14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was also held at the SPREP campus. Pacific island delegates to the CBD CoP14 were given the chance to discuss biodiversity issues that are of importance to the region ahead of the CoP14 in Egypt this November.

There were many and more notable developments in the work of the Secretariat this month, which I hope you will all enjoy reading about in this issue of the SPREP-Tok.

Soifua,



Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.



SPREP HOSTS INAUGURAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING IN APIA

SPREP hosted its first ever Executive Board Meeting in Apia in September. The Executive Board Meeting (EBM) replaces the larger SPREP meeting of officials, after Members made the decision in 2016 to shift the larger SPREP meeting to be held biennially, with the EBM to be held in the alternate years.

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The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
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Our vision: A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

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A GOOD POLICY IS BASED ON GOOD DATA



A data collection mission to help inform environmental policies in Tonga took place in September led by the Environmental Monitoring and Governance programme of SPREP in partnership with the Department of Environment of Tonga.

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SIGNATURE OF A HISTORIC PACIFIC-EUROPEAN UNION MARINE PARTNERSHIP (PEUMP)



The Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Pacific Community (SPC), SPREP and the University of the South Pacific (USP) signed a landmark agreement with the European Union to help promote sustainable management and sound ocean governance in the Pacific region.

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PROTECTED AREAS IN THE COOK ISLANDS



The Cook Islands has a long history of caring for its natural environment and resources through cultural and traditional customs. This has been transformed over the years, becoming ingrained in the Cook Islands national framework through the development of Protected Areas and commitments to global agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES GATHER TO SHARE INFORMATION ON MEA NEGOTIATION AND IMPLEMENTATION IN THE REGION



A regional meeting was held at the SPREP headquarters to review the results of the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) capacity building project, and also served as the first review meeting of the Inform project. Both meetings were coordinated by the Environmental Monitoring and Governance Programme of SPREP.

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NEW ONLINE TOOLS TO CAPTURE ENVIRONMENT INFORMATION INTRODUCED TO PALAU

The SPREP Inform team project recently visited Palau to launch the Inform Project to government and national stakeholders and conduct training on the environment data portal, and on-line reporting tool.

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SPREP 2017 ANNUAL REPORT RELEASED



The 2017 Annual Report of SPREP was officially released in September, after it was tabled at the inaugural SPREP Executive Board Meeting held in Apia from 10 – 11 September 2018.

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URBAN FORESTRY PROJECT COMMENCES IN PORT VILA, VANUATU



SPREP and Vanuatu's Department of Forestry signed a letter of agreement for the commencement of an urban forestry project in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

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SUCCESSFUL VANUATU FOREST WEEK PROMOTES RE-PLANTING OF TREES



The Vanuatu Government through the Department of Forestry led a successful national forestry week in Port Vila at the end of August with the theme of "Forest and Sustainable Cities."

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PACIFIC ISLAND SOLUTIONS TO SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT NOW AVAILABLE IN NEWLY LAUNCHED GUIDE



A "Practical Guide to Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries and Territories" was launched during the second Clean Pacific Roundtable in Suva in August. The compendium features the experiences and lessons learnt from 16 Pacific island waste practitioners across seven Pacific islands.

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PACIFIC ISLAND PREPARATIONS FOR CBD COP14 UNDERWAY



Providing Pacific island countries with an opportunity to review and discuss biodiversity issues that are of importance to the region, specifically those which will be negotiated at the 14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD CoP14) was the goal behind a preparatory meeting held in Apia in September.

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ENVIRONMENTAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME FOR FIJI'S TAVEUNI AND KADAVU TRADITIONAL LEADERS, A SUCCESS



An exchange programme in Fiji for Taveuni and Kadavu traditional leaders has proven a huge success in encouraging sharing and learning about sustainable development and planning issues at the island level. The exchange was organised to better equip them to integrate environmental management into their respective development planning process.

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IMPORTANCE OF MANGROVE ECOSYSTEMS HIGHLIGHTED IN WALLIST ET FUTUNA



A new mangrove trail along the coast of Vaiteolo village in Wallis and Futuna was launched this month which highlights the value and fragility of mangrove ecosystems. The 800-meter long trail leads to a fresh water source that holds significant importance to the history of the community.

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“FIRST OF ITS KIND” REPORT ON THE PACIFIC CORAL REEFS LAUNCHED



The Pacific Ocean holds one quarter of the world’s coral reefs, and these reefs provide around 25 to 100 percent of the dietary protein of Pacific islanders, as well as provide livelihoods, shoreline protection and economic opportunity in the form of tourism. They are an integral part of the life and culture of 8 million Pacific islanders, and this is evidenced in the collection of data and analyses in the “Status and Trends of Coral Reefs for the Pacific” report.

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EMERGING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, A SUBJECT OF INTEREST FOR PACIFIC JUDGES



The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme under an invitation from the Samoa Ministry of Justice hosted a luncheon event for delegates of the Pacific Judicial Conference on Tuesday 25 September 2018 to raise awareness on emerging environmental threats within the Pacific region.

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