

MESSAGE FROM MR. KOSI LATU, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SPREP

Warm greetings from the SPREP campus!

October was yet another busy month for us at SPREP, as is evident by the multitude of stories in this issue of the SPREP-Tok.

The month kicked off with the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change releasing their special report on the impacts of global warming 1.5° Celsius. The information contained in the report is extremely worrisome, especially for us in the Pacific region. It is a rallying call for the world to come together and put in a collective effort to make sure we avoid climate catastrophe.

The Pacific Climate Outlook Forum was also held in Nadi, Fiji at the beginning of the month and it brought together representatives from Pacific Meteorological and Hydrological Services to discuss the climate outlook for the region.

The SPREP team is preparing for two big meetings in the coming months: the 14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD CoP14) which will be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt in November, followed by the 24th CoP to the UNFCCC in Katowice, Poland. Both are important meetings which we are hoping will have some good outcomes for the region.

Until next time,

Soifua,



Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.

1.5 TO STAY ALIVE: REFLECTING ON THE IPCC SPECIAL REPORT ON GLOBAL WARMING OF 1.5 DEGREES CELSIUS

Column by Mr Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.

As we are faced with darkness, there is hope.

Today a special report from the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the impacts of global warming 1.5 degrees Celsius was released. The messages within the report will generate both hope and fear, and yet abundantly clear in terms of the need for action.

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NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN PLACE TO REHABILITATE HONIARA BOTANICAL GARDENS



A national management committee was established in October to oversee the rehabilitation of the Honiara Botanical Gardens. Established in 1965 by tropical botanist, the late Professor Tim Whitmore, the Botanical Gardens is Honiara's largest green space covering an estimated 19 hectares.

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOL INTRODUCED TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS



SPREP through the Environmental Monitoring and Governance (EMG) programme carried out an Environmental Impact Assessment capacity building workshop in the Solomon Islands for the Environment and Conservation Division (ECD) of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology.

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ENVIRONMENT PLANNING TOOL FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

The Pacific tourism industry took a step forward in protecting the integrity of the environment with the launch of the Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development for the Pacific Islands and Territories, a document to enhance sustainable tourism development.

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BUILDING CAPACITY FOR OCEAN ACIDIFICATION MONITORING IN THE PACIFIC



Efforts to help increase the capacity of scientists in the Pacific islands to measure ocean chemistry has culminated in a partnership between SPREP, the Ocean Foundation and the Global Ocean Acidification Observation Network through the GOA-ON in a Box programme.

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VANUATU CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICES PROJECT BESTOWED LOCAL NAME



Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen blong Redy, Adapt mo Protekt (VAN-KIRAP) is the new name given to the Climate Information Services for Resilient Development Project in Vanuatu. The Bislama name was selected through consultation with local stakeholders to ensure there is community understanding and ownership of the project and its activities.

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PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR THE UPCOMING 2018/2019 TROPICAL CYCLONE SEASON



Weather and climate play a major role in impacting not only the safety of our Pacific people from natural hazards and extreme events such as tropical cyclones, floods and droughts; but also the potential health and economic risks they may face, such as increased vector-borne diseases during periods of heavy rainfall and damage to cash crop during a tropical cyclone event.

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INFORM PROJECT PROVIDE IT SUPPORT TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL DATA MANAGEMENT



The UNEP-GEF Inform regional project executed by SPREP aims to help Pacific island countries enhance their reporting capacity to key multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) including national, regional and international commitments.

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SPREP IN ACTION: SPREP CONTRIBUTES TO SAMOA'S TWO MILLION TREES CAMPAIGN

Samoa is 1,000 trees closer to reaching its target of two million trees, following a tree-planting by the SPREP staff and their families. More than 1,000 tree saplings were planted at Vailima in a bid to help mitigate the negative effects of climate change.

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TUVALU ACCEDES THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL TO PROTECT ITS BIODIVERSITY



There is good news for the people of Tuvalu as it becomes the latest Pacific island country to accede the Nagoya Protocol. This will be in the greater interest of the indigenous and traditional knowledge holders of Tuvalu by ensuring protection of their biodiversity and traditional knowledge relating to the use of biodiversity.

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PACIFIC MET SERVICES PLAY KEY ROLE IN INFORMING A NUMBER OF NATIONAL SECTORS



Warmer temperatures and increased rainfall can pose threats to our livelihoods and health by impacting the quality of water we drink, the food we consume, and the weather we experience.

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NATIONAL MET SERVICES TAILOR CLIMATE INFORMATION



Several Pacific meteorological services are changing the way they communicate technical information in order to reach a wider cross section of the community.

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FSM HONOURS SPREP FOR 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



The Federated States of Micronesia celebrated SPREP's 25th anniversary this month, and it coincided with a mission by the SPREP EMG programme to provide technical support on the FSM State of Environment reporting and National Environment Management Strategy processes.

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PACIFIC ISLANDS PREPARE FOR THE UN CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS, THE BATTLE FOR SURVIVAL



The Pacific islands are strategising a way forward for enhanced engagement at the UN Climate Change Conference in Poland (COP24) this December, the most important session in international climate change negotiations since the Paris Agreement was adopted in 2015.

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GAMES INTEGRATED INTO TECHNICAL TRAINING AT THE 4TH PACIFIC ISLANDS CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM



The Fourth Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum took place this month in Nadi, Fiji, bringing together national meteorological services and technical partners to determine the climate and tropical cyclone outlook for the upcoming season – technical training for officers whose work centres on climate was the focus.

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SPOTLIGHT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF DISASTER WASTE MANAGEMENT IN PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES



Developing of a Regional Disaster Waste Management Guideline was the main purpose of a three-day regional workshop that was held in Apia from 16–18 October 2018.

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TUVALU MOVING FORWARD TOWARDS ACHIEVING GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY TARGET ON PROTECTED AREAS



The Funafuti Conservation Area (FCA) was established in 1996 as the first formal conservation area in Tuvalu, the conservation area supports community livelihoods and has high conservation value as a key habitat for critically endangered and near threatened species.

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SPREP IN ACTION: WORK UNDERWAY IN TUVALU FOR NEW METEOROLOGY SERVICE WEBSITE



The Tuvalu Meteorological Service is one step closer to launching their new website, thanks to a mission to the small island nation from the SPREP Information Technology team in early October.

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SOCIAL MEDIA WORKSHOP FOR MET SERVICES



Social media plays a key role in communicating weather and climate information. Many agencies and organisations now have a social media platform or two, which shows a growing trend of social media as a serious communications and information dissemination tool.

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FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA DEVELOPS KEY ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS



SPREP is helping support the development of key environmental policy documents for its member countries with the aim to strengthen environmental management and planning, monitoring and reporting for informed decision making and effective implementation.

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SPREP SUPPORTS PINKTOBER



SPREP staff came together in October to show their support for those battling cancer, through a fundraising event held at the Secretariat's headquarters in Vailima.

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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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