

# SPREP-Tok

A monthly e-bulletin from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

ISSUE 52 • MARCH 2019

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

Kashelelie from SPREP,

In commemoration of International Women's Day on 8 March, I'd like to acknowledge Women across the world working towards a better environment for our global community. Here at SPREP over half of the staff employed are women, with nine of our Senior Management Team comprising five women. Gender and human rights is a crucial pillar for resilient and sustainable communities and has been recognised in the 2017 – 2026 Strategic Plan as well as our SPREP Gender Policy.

We look forward to moving onwards and upwards, ensuring gender equality continues to play a crucial role as we strive for a resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

We hope you enjoy this months edition of our SPREP Tok.

Soifua,



Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.

## SPREP-Tok LATEST NEWS



### THE PACIFIC AND THE EU SIGN PROGRAMMES WORTH ALMOST EUR 32 MILLION FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Two programmes amounting to almost EUR 32 million were signed by the European Union (EU) Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica on the occasion of his visit to the Pacific. The programmes will seek to promote sustainable waste management and support adaptation efforts to the effects of climate change. They underline the EU's strong commitment to the Pacific region, as well as reinforcing the strong cooperation between the Pacific region and the EU.

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ISSN: 2311-861X

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## WORKING TOGETHER FOR NIUE'S PROTECTED AREAS



Niue ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1996 signalling its commitment to conserve and sustainably use its biodiversity. The necessity to conserve biodiversity is a genuine obligation shared by all Niueans, reflected in the establishment of the Huvalu Forest Conservation Area, which protects the largest area of remaining primary forest in Niue, covering 23% of the island's area, and is an important bird area (IBA).

SPREP as part of the EU ACP Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA) was pleased to assist Niue, convening a technical workshop on protected areas in March.

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## COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE BY INCREASING PACIFIC ACCESS TO CLIMATE FINANCE



Climate finance is one important mechanism in place that assists countries, organisations and communities in combating climate change, through the funding of projects which focus on national adaptation, disaster readiness and preparation programmes, and mitigation.

Participants from around the Pacific were in Apia in March to gain better knowledge of climate finance and strengthen partnerships with climate finance organisations such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and regional accredited entities such as SPREP.

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## FSM DEVELOPS KEY ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING DOCUMENTS



The development of two key environment planning and reporting documents – the State of Environment (SoE) report and the National Environment Management Strategy (NEMS) for the Federated States of Micronesia will further strengthen the country's capacity to protect and conserve its pristine environment.

A second round of consultations took place from 28 February to 1 March in Pohnpei with the participation of 40 representatives from environmental agencies of the four States plus DECEM officials. The main focus of the second consultation was to review and validate the draft copies of the two documents and which subsequently confirmed the trend status of the indicators for each SoE thematic area.

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## OCEANIA REGION CONVENE TO SET UNIFIED PRIORITIES AHEAD OF THE 18TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO CITES



SPREP, in collaboration with the Government of Samoa, Wildlife Conservation Society, The Pew Charitable Trusts and the CITES Secretariat, hosted the Oceania Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eighteenth Conference of the Parties (CoP18) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), from 25 – 27 March in Apia, Samoa.

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**CLIMATE REPORTING MASTERCLASS AVAILABLE FOR PACIFIC MEDIA!**



Pacific reporters are being given the opportunity to strengthen their climate change reporting through a two-day masterclass held in April, followed by the opportunity to provide media coverage of the inaugural Pacific Resilience Meeting (PRM) in Suva, Fiji in early May. The masterclass will encourage quality climate change journalism in the Pacific. It is being delivered by the Pacific Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAS) in partnership with SPREP and is supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Pacific Climate Partnership Support Unit.

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**COOK ISLANDS DETERMINED TO INCREASE FINANCING FROM GREEN CLIMATE FUND**



The power of the pen is no truer than when writing proposals seeking funding. Helping the Cook Islands to harness this power was a team from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) walking Cook Islanders through the best ways to structure projects for funding from the GCF.

A team of five from the GCF were in the Cook Islands to help Cook Islanders structure projects seeking financing from the GCF with a three day training from Monday to Wednesday 11 – 13, March 2019. (Photo as seen on Development Coordination Division - MFEM Facebook).

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**REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE: THE PACIFIC JOIN THE GLOBAL STAGE AT THE 3R FORUM**



The Pacific Island countries (Kiribati, FSM, RMI, Palau, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu), the Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association, SPREP and J-PRISM made a strong presence in the recently held 9th 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific held from 4 - 6 March 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Pacific delegation was among the 500 participants who gathered and discussed the transition to a circular economy and sufficiency economy. This year's theme, "3R as a Way for Moving towards Sufficiency Economy – Implications for SDGs", is very relevant considering the global issue on plastic wastes which, if not managed well, is polluting over our valuable oceans and marine resources. The challenge now is to put the circular economy and sufficiency economy philosophies in the Pacific context.

**SPC-SPREP PARTNERSHIP ON OPEN DATA ECOSYSTEM**



The Pacific Community (SPC) and SPREP are strengthening their partnership and leveraging resources and technical expertise to improve services to the Pacific region through improved access to, and the use of, open data. To this end the two agencies of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) are enhancing the Pacific's open data ecosystem. Pacific island countries and territories and partners stand to benefit through enhanced availability of information to facilitate reporting to the SDGs, S.A.M.O.A. Pathway, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and national development targets. Recently, the SPREP Inform team and the SPC Pacific Data Hub team met in Noumea, New Caledonia to advance this initiative.



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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WITH SPREP

In celebration of International Women's Day on 8 March, we asked some of our female staff: "What advice would you give your younger self?"



"You don't have to have it all figured out right now. Life is going to be full of challenges, and you're going to make some mistakes along the way. That's okay! More than that, it is absolutely necessary in order for you to grow into a better person. Just remember to be kind to yourself at every stage, and always do what feels right in your heart."

ANGELICA SALELE-SEFO  
OUTREACH SUPPORT OFFICER



"Follow your dream, don't pursue a career just because it's one of your parents' profession. There are so many other interesting fields out there other than being a doctor, lawyer or an accountant. Travel the world, then settle down and have a family when you're thirty."

SINIVA TUUAU-ENOSA  
PROJECT ACCOUNTANT



"Don't stress out too much, life moves on. You learn a lot and you'll get to where you want to be, if you just keep going. Don't panic, just chill."

TEUILA-JANE FRUEAN  
COSPPAC TECHNICAL AND  
FINANCE ASSISTANT



"It is better to be your authentic self - than try to please people or be somebody else. There is only one you - don't be afraid to be you. For those that don't get you, or always want to change you - remember the main person you need to like you - is you."

AUDREY BROWN-PEREIRA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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