

## CIRCULAR

**FILE:** HR 17 – Circulars **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points  
CROP Organisations  
SPREP Partner Organisations

**DATE:** 4 July 2023

**CIRCULAR:** 23/55

### **SUBJECT: Introducing the following**

SPREP is pleased to announce the following appointments within the Secretariat:

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE PROGRAMME**



**Mr. Terry Atalifo** has been appointed as the Regional Climate Change Coordinator (RCCC), ClimSA. Terry is a Fijian national and joins SPREP from the Fiji Meteorological Service where he has been working for the last 16 years and recently in the role of Acting Director since November 2020. Mr. Atalifo will start in his new role remotely in July 2023 and will relocate to Samoa later on in the year.

In this position, Mr Atalifo will coordinate the Regional Climate Centre (RCC) operations, RCC consortium and related activities. He will also support the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership (PMDP) and Pacific Island National Meteorological Services.

#### **ISLAND AND OCEAN ECOSYSTEMS PROGRAMME**



**Ms. Isabell Rasch** has been appointed as the Project Manager, Regional Invasive Species Project (RISP). Ms. Rasch is a national of Samoa and has been with SPREP since 2017 in various roles and more recently as the GEF 6 Regional Invasive Species Coordinator. She started in her new role on 6 May 2023.

As the new Project Manager, RISP she will lead and manage the project team to implement a suite of activities to achieve project outcomes.



**Mr. Josef Pisi** has been appointed as the GEF 6 Regional Invasive Species Coordinator, RISP. Mr. Pisi is a national of Samoa. He has been with SPREP since 2019 where he has been the Invasive Species PRISMSS Associate. He started in his role on 31 May 2023.

He will coordinate project delivery in the four project countries namely Niue, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu and will support the countries to implement their activities and reporting requirements.



**Ms. Loraini Sivo** has been appointed as the Project Manager, PEBACC+. Ms. Sivo is a Fiji national and joined SPREP from the United Nations Development Programme where she worked as the Programme Analyst for the Resilience and Sustainable Development Unit for the last eight years. She started official duties on 1 May 2023. She is based at SPREP's project office in Fiji.

In her role, she will lead, manage and implement the Ecosystem-based climate change adaptation in the Pacific Islands (PEBACC+) project and project team in Fiji, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Wallis & Futuna as well as coordinate the project implementation in Fiji.



**Ms. Joanne Aihunu** has been appointed as the Solomon Islands Country Coordinator (SICC), PEBACC+. Ms. Aihunu is a Solomon Island national. She joins SPREP from the United Nations Development Programme where she has been the Team Leader for Resilient Sustainable Development Programme in the Solomon Islands for the past four years. Ms. Aihunu is based at SPREP's project office in the Solomon Islands. She started in her new role on 8 May 2023.

As the SICC, PEBACC+ she will supervise and monitor the implementation of the PEBACC+ Project in the Solomon Islands.



**Mr. William Arudovo** has been appointed as the Vanuatu Country Coordinator, PEBACC+. Mr. Arudovo is a Vanuatu national and joined SPREP from the Food Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Vanuatu where he has been the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster Consultant for over a year. Mr. Arudovo started official duties on 15 June 2023. He is based at SPREP's project office in Vanuatu.

In his role, he will supervise and monitor the PEBACC + project implementation in Vanuatu.



**Ms. Setaita Tavanabola** has been appointed as the Communications Officer, PEBACC+. Ms. Tavanabola is a Fijian national and was most recently with the United Nations Development Programme working as the Communications Associate since 2016. She is a familiar face to SPREP having worked previously as the Pacific Adaption to Climate Change Project, Communication Coordinator from 2010-2012. She will start in her new role on 3 July 2023 and will be based at SPREP's project office in Fiji.

In her role, she will develop and deliver communication and outreach content, products, media, synthesis material and training to support the outcomes of the PEBACC+ Project.

## **WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL (WMPC) PROGRAMME**



**Ms. Lilian Penaia** has been appointed as the Technical Waste Officer, Pacific Adoption of Waste-to-Energy Solutions (PAWES) Project. Ms. Penaia is a Samoan national and she joins SPREP from Samoa's Ministry of Finance, Energy Policy Coordination and Management where she was the Principal Energy Policy and Sector Coordination Officer for the past three years. Ms Penaia started in her new role on 12 June 2023.

She will be working closely with the WMPC Programme in leading the implementation of the PAWES Project.

## **NORTH PACIFIC OFFICE**



**Mr. Dale Withington** has been appointed to the position of Manager, SPREP North Pacific Office. Mr. Withington is an American national and will join SPREP from the U.S Peace Corps where he was the Eastern Caribbean Country Director based in St. Lucia since 2019. He has also had extensive experience in the region including being the US Peace Corps Country Director in Samoa, Kiribati and the Republic of the Marshall Islands as well as engagements in the Federated States of Micronesia as the North Pacific Country Director for Australia Volunteers International and as the Development Aid Coordinator for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Embassy to the North Pacific (Palau, FSM and RMI). He holds a Master in Environmental Journalism from the University of Wisconsin, USA, and a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources Management and Fisheries Management from the University of Michigan, USA. He has a son and a daughter. Dale will be starting in his new role on the 24 July 2023, and will be based in the SPREP North Pacific Office in Majuro with Kilom and Kennedy.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH**



**Mr. Sosikeni Lesa** has been appointed to the position of Media and Public Relations Officer. Mr. Lesa is an award-winning Samoan journalist with more than 25 years' experience in the media industry, having worked as Editor of Samoa's only daily newspaper, the Samoa Observer Newspaper Group, for 15 years as well as for Reuters, Radio Australia, AAP, the Associated Press and Radio New Zealand as a foreign correspondent. Keni is no guest to SPREP as he has been a Communications Consultant for SPREP over the last couple of years. Keni is married to Laufaleaina and they have two daughters. He will be working closely with Nanette and the rest of the Communications and Outreach team and will start work in his new role on 3 July 2023.

We look forward to these positions increasing and strengthening relevant support and services to Members and the region.

We would also like to acknowledge the following individuals' services and contributions to SPREP and the region as their contracts have come to an end as they pursue other career and professional developments:

1. Ms. Dannicah Chan – *GCCA+ SUPA Finance and Administration Officer*
2. Ms. Faasipa Tinai - *Environmental Monitoring and Governance Programme Assistant*

To meet our full team at SPREP please visit <https://www.sprep.org/our-team>.

Yours sincerely,

Easter Chu Shing  
**Acting Director General**

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