

## CIRCULAR

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**SUBJECT:** SPREP webinar series

**TO:** SPREP National Focal Points  
**CC** SPREP Partners  
CROP Agencies

Dear Members and Partners,

On 12 June 2020 the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme is launching a webinar series focusing on “Transitioning to a post-pandemic Pacific”. This series of webinars focusses on the crucial environmental considerations needed within post-COVID19 recovery planning to ensure we are preparing the way to a sustainable and resilient Pacific future.

Highlighting Pacific island and partner voices, stories and experiences, the “Transitioning to a post-pandemic Pacific” webinar series aims to support Pacific post-COVID19 recovery planning conversations with in-region perspectives on the importance of ‘blue and green’ components in our planning, from climate change responses to pollution control and sustainability of our precious biodiversity.

The first of our webinar series on 12 June will focus on Pacific peoples living sustainably with our precious Pacific ocean.

We invite you to register and be part of our Pacific conversation as we shape a sustainable and resilient Pacific in our transition to a post-pandemic Pacific, our webinar schedule and links are available below.

Please note one week before each webinar, we will be sharing and promoting each webinar topic with fuller details of speakers and topic titles.

We look forward to having you be part of this Pacific conversation with us as we strive for a sustainable and resilient.

Yours sincerely,



Kosi Latu  
**Director General**



## Transitioning to a post-pandemic Pacific SPREP webinar series

<b>12 June 2020, 3 – 4.30pm Samoa time</b>
<b>Our ocean journey for a Bluer Pacific as we navigate through COVID-19</b>
<b>To register:</b> <a href="https://sprep.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_spr6xDGJT1asOJcx_rVZWw">https://sprep.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_spr6xDGJT1asOJcx_rVZWw</a>
The Blue Pacific Vision recognises that a shared stewardship of the ocean is essential for the sustainable future of the Pacific peoples. As we are all aware, the recent COVID-19 has been a very challenging time in many ways. While the Pacific region has largely been spared much of the tragedy due to decisive action by Governments, the economies of the region will be hit hard by this event. Tight border restrictions during this time will have impacts across many sectors of the economy. As we emerge from the pandemic it is absolutely crucial, that sustainability is central to rebuilding our economies. The integrity of our ocean ecosystems must be maintained as we strive to prosper once again. This webinar will examine recent ocean conservation efforts in the Pacific Region as we discuss how to navigate back onto course set by the Blue Pacific.
<b>19 June 2020, 3 – 4.30 pm Samoa time</b>
<b>Maintaining a Cleaner Pacific as we cope with the adversities of COVID-19</b>
<b>To register:</b> <a href="https://sprep.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Yfx6zfoERAKtAC9pH1p2fq">https://sprep.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Yfx6zfoERAKtAC9pH1p2fq</a>
While the health of the Pacific people is paramount in the current COVID-19 crisis, maintaining a cleaner Pacific in the context of managing waste and controlling pollution is similarly important in reducing risks of infection from the virus or any other diseases. Waste, particularly those from medical operation, is always a vector to transmit diseases within contamination pathways and the lack of proper management will expose the Pacific community to such diseases. The forum intends to advocate preparedness of the Pacific community in a pandemic situation despite most countries not being directly stricken by the COVID-19 cases.
<b>26 June 2020, 3 – 4.30pm Samoa time</b>
<b>Double Jeopardy: Covid19 brings heat to Climate Change urgency</b>
<b>To register:</b> <a href="https://sprep.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Qzr8Z5aFSS-fFNVviVE5GQ">https://sprep.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Qzr8Z5aFSS-fFNVviVE5GQ</a>
Even in the face of Covid19, climate change remains the single greatest threat to Pacific livelihoods. While the temporary slowing of emissions of greenhouse gases is a silver lining at least for local air quality from the COVID19 pandemic, the planet is still breaking climate change records. Atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, the underlying factor for climate change, will only be marginally reduced by the pandemic. With the threats and pandemic-induced shutdown all around the globe, how have the Pacific Island States and territories managed and how are they addressing threats to Climate Action and maintaining momentum before COP26? Can COVID19 provide a platform for transformative change and opportunities for green recovery options? Be part of the Pacific conversation within the endeavor to build resilience across this island region and join the webinar to learn more.
<b>3 July 2020, 3 – 4.30pm Samoa time</b>
<b>Environment Impact Assessment Guidelines for coastal tourism in Pacific island countries and territories: a tool to support sustainable tourism</b>
<b>To register:</b> <a href="https://sprep.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_u0OBvPdYR7aS7hvGoDjKMw">https://sprep.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_u0OBvPdYR7aS7hvGoDjKMw</a>
Despite this situation, the Pacific countries' efforts on the sustainable development of the tourism sector from the environment point of view should not be undermined. SPREP in partnership with the South Pacific Tourism Organization (SPTO) developed the Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (Coastal Tourism EIA Guidelines) to guide tourism developers towards better environmental planning. During these challenging times, it is important for the Pacific partners and members to remind each other of



the importance of applying their available tools to safeguard the people and environment from the risks and impacts that may arise from poorly executed tourism development.

The Coastal Tourism EIA guidelines are to increase awareness and understanding of the EIA process across the Pacific region's tourism sector; promote best practice EIA for coastal tourism development; encourage government agencies and tourism developers to comply with national EIA regulatory frameworks and support sustainable and resilient coastal tourism development that protects the environmental, social and cultural assets that provide a foundation for tourism.

**10 July 2020, 3 – 4.30pm Samoa time**

**To register:** [https://sprep.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Ust6DmLuR9ed8rcXCEtE7q](https://sprep.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ust6DmLuR9ed8rcXCEtE7q)

**Healthy environment = healthy humans. Implications of upsetting the balance and what the Pacific islands can learn from COVID19 and other similar disease outbreaks**

We depend on biodiversity and healthy ecosystems for our health and survival. Biodiversity, and the complexity of our landscapes and seascapes, is integral to social and ecological resilience, including the resilience of ecosystem functions and the services that they sustain. As genetic and species diversity is lost and ecosystems are degraded, the complexity of the overall system can be compromised making it more vulnerable, and potentially creating new opportunities for disease emergence and poor health outcomes both in humans and species. This webinar will explore the risks humans are posing to our Pacific ecosystems and species and what that could mean for our own health and wellbeing