

CIRCULAR

FILE: HR 17 – Circulars **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points
DATE: 1 August 2025 **CROP**
CIRCULAR: 25/65 **SPREP Partner Organisations**

SUBJECT: New Senior Leadership Appointments

I am pleased to announce the following appointments within the SPREP Senior Leadership Team:



Ms. Tagaloa Cooper-Halo has been re-appointed to the position of **Director, Climate Change Resilience (CCR)**. Tagaloa is a Niue national who initially joined SPREP in August 2012 as the Climate Change Coordination Adviser under the European Union Global Climate Change Alliance project. She was first appointed to the Director, CCR role in February 2018. She is a graduate of the University of Waikato, New Zealand (NZ) with a Bachelor of Social Science (Sociology and Political Science).



Mr. Clark Peteru, has been promoted to the position of **Director, Legal Services and Governing Bodies (LSGB) Department**. Clark is a Samoa national who initially joined SPREP in August 2003 as the Environment Legal Adviser. He was transferred to head the new Legal Unit as Legal Counsel in January 2018. While the recruitment of the Director, LSGB remains in progress, Clark's promotion to this position is in recognition of his long, loyal and distinguished service to SPREP and the region. He is a graduate of Dalhousie University, Canada with a Post-graduate Diploma in Marine Affairs and the Victoria University, NZ with a Bachelor of Law.



Mr. Nihmei Salesa has been promoted to the position of **Director, Climate Science and Information (CSI)**. Salesa is a Vanuatu national who initially joined SPREP as the Meteorology and Climatology Officer in 2013, and later as the Meteorology and Climatology Adviser in 2019. Salesa's appointment is in recognition of his work in the facilitation and formation of the new CSI Programme especially in guiding the formulation, approval and launch of the Weather Ready Programme. He has been the Officer in Charge of the CSI Programme since December 2024. Salesa is a graduate of the University of

the Philippines with a Master of Science (Meteorology) and Lincoln University, NZ with a Bachelor of Science (Environmental Science).




Mr. Amena Yauvoli has been appointed to the position of **Director, Biodiversity Conservation Programme and Fiji Office**. Amena is a Fiji national and will join SPREP from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fiji where he recently completed his term as the Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary to Indonesia, High Commissioner to Singapore and Permanent Representative to UNESCAP in Bangkok; posts he had held since 2021. He is a highly decorated diplomat with over 15 years of Executive level Leadership experience, having also served as Permanent Secretary of Fiji Foreign Affairs, Director General of the Melanesian Spearhead Group Secretariat and Secretary General of the Pacific

Islands Development Forum, to name a few. Amena is a graduate of the University of Wollongong, Australia with a Master of Commerce (Honours) and Master of Commerce (Development Economics). He also holds a Bachelor of Arts (Economics/Management) from the University of the South Pacific, Fiji. Amena will start in his new role on Friday, 1 August 2025.

I look forward to working with the Senior Leadership Team as they continue to provide the support for me in steering the SPREP Va'a in addition to their leadership and management of their respective Programmes and Departments.

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

Yours sincerely,



Sefanaia Nawadra
Director General