

SPREP-Tok

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

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MESSAGE FROM MR. KOSI LATU, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SPREP

Greetings from the Secretariat,

It is my pleasure to present this first issue of the SPREP-Tok for the year 2021, and to wish all our Member countries, partners, and readers a belated happy new year from us here in Samoa.

As we head into this new year, we take a moment to look back on the challenges we faced during 2020 a most unprecedented year not only for us in the Pacific, but for the whole world. This year, let us take steps to build back better, and to ensure that we maintain a resilient Pacific environment in the face of all that may come.

We kick off this year by welcoming our newly appointed Deputy Director General, Ms Easter Chu Shing. Ms Chu Shing was selected from a competitive and merit-based process, and assumed her duties on 1 February 2021. I would like to congratulate Ms Chu Shing on being the first female DDG of the Secretariat, while also acknowledging Mr Roger Cornforth, our former DDG, for the important work he has done for the region.

I hope you all enjoy this issue of the SPREP-Tok.

Soifua,



Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.

SPREP-Tok - NEWS FROM SPREP

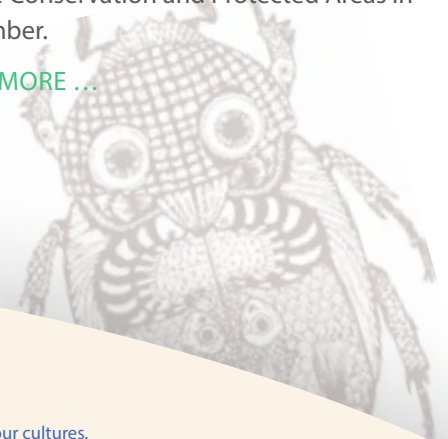


THE VEMÖÖRE DECLARATION FOR THE PACIFIC ADDRESSING BIODIVERSITY CRISIS

Bold, urgent action to protect our biodiversity is being called for in a Pacific declaration to tackle the global biodiversity crisis.

The Vemööre Declaration: Commitments to nature conservation action in the Pacific Islands region, 2021-2025 was endorsed at the 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in December.

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The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

(685) 21929 | PO Box 240 | Apia, Samoa | sprep@sprep.org | www.sprep.org

Our vision: A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

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SUSTAINABLE WASTE ACTIONS IN THE PACIFIC TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Improving sanitation, environmental, social and economic conditions in Pacific islands through proper waste management is at the core of a new four-year project called Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP).

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MARINE TURTLE EXTINCTION RISK ASSESSMENT TO SUPPORT DECISION MAKING IN TURTLE CONSERVATION



To better understand the status of marine turtles in the Pacific islands region, an assessment of their extinction risk in the region was commissioned by SPREP through the BIEM Initiative in May 2020. The assessment is considered an essential step toward strengthening support for marine turtle conservation and management in Pacific island nations.

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SAMOA PRIMARY SCHOOL SCIENCE CAMP: STIMULATING INTERESTS IN DIFFERENT FIELDS OF SCIENCE



More than 20 Year Eight students from Samoa Primary School participated in a Science Camp held at Taumeasina Island Resort on 31 October 2020. The science camp was organised by Samoa Primary School management and teachers in partnership with Artificial Reefs Samoa to stimulate interests in different fields of science.

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TOOLS IMPROVE DATA AVAILABILITY IN PACIFIC FOR DECISION MAKING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING



The Inform project, executed by SPREP, has played a key role in promoting environmental data availability, management, and access in the region by supporting the development of the Pacific Environment Portal, 14 national environment data portals, and the Indicator Reporting Tool.

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LATEST CCM NEWSLETTER PAYS TRIBUTE TO DR NETATUA PELESIKOTI



The latest issue of the Climate Change Matters newsletter is a special one, as it pays tribute to SPREP's former Director of the Climate Change Resilience programme, Dr Netatua Pelesikoti. Dr Pelesikoti was the Director of CCR from 2012 to 2017. Prior to that, she was the SPREP Programme Manager for Pacific Futures from 2009 - 2011. She passed away on 11 November 2020 in her home country of Tonga.

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NEW REPORT SHOWS STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES IN PACIFIC CONSERVATION



Of all the factors considered in an extensive analysis on the state of the environment and conservation in the Pacific Islands, released during the 10th Pacific Islands Conference for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, the reduction of ozone depleting substances has received the only triple gold crown.

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EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION MAKING FOR OUR PACIFIC VIA "NEXT GENERATION"



The Next Generation of Climate Projections for the Western Tropical Pacific project, funded by the Australian Government through the Australia-Pacific Climate Partnership and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation and implemented by the CSIRO Climate Science Centre in partnership with the CCR programme of SPREP provides Pacific Island countries with climate change science to inform decision making at policy and sectoral level

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DEALING WITH DISASTER WASTE THIS TROPICAL CYCLONE SEASON IN THE PACIFIC



Tropical cyclones, floods, and other natural disasters can generate large quantities of waste, including building debris, fallen trees, and hazardous waste. With five Pacific islands ranked in the top 15 countries world-wide with the highest disaster risk, addressing disaster waste is crucial.

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PACIFIC WOMAN NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SPREP, OUR PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT ORGANISATION



Ms Easter Chu Shing has been announced as the new Deputy Director General of SPREP. A familiar face to the Pacific Islands, Ms Chu Shing has worked with SPREP for the past 10 years, originally as the Biodiversity Adviser and then as Director of Environmental Monitoring and Governance

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