MESSAGE FROM MR. KOSI LATU, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SPREP

Mauri from the SPREP Campus,

We are fast approaching the last few months of what has been a very unusual year for all of us. The Secretariat continues to work with and provide support to our Member countries with the use of technology, as border closures and travel restrictions continue across the region and the world.

In August we conducted a virtual training for protected area practitioners and stakeholders in the Republic of Marshall Islands. The training aimed to equip them with the skills to produce basic maps of protected and conserved areas and enabled them to make full use of the Pacific Islands Protected Areas Portal.

The European Union (EU)-funded Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) project also held a two-day virtual meeting to update its partner countries and elicit their views on the project’s progress to date, as well as to go through proposed changes to activities. It was the first Steering Committee since the project’s Inception and Planning Meeting in April 2019, and was an opportunity for PACRES to receive guidance, advice, and direction on project activities.

A new project which will assist Pacific island countries to develop national profiles of mercury as a key step in early preparations for acceding to, and effectively implementing the Minamata Convention on Mercury has also gotten off the ground, with an inception meeting convened virtually in August. Representatives from countries involved in the project, as well as the United Nations Environment Programme, Biodiversity Research Institute, and SPREP, attended the virtual meeting, which aimed to inform them of the efforts to be undertaken in the context of the project and to ensure its efficient implementation.

You can read about all these activities and more in this issue of the SPREP-Tok.

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