

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

Talofa from SPREP,

IWe have hit the ground running this year with not a moment to waste.

In February we took part in the “Enhancing Climate Resilience through Community Awareness” in American Samoa - a three-day summit on enhancing climate resilience through community awareness, aimed at helping the people of American Samoa learn more about climate resilience. A small team from SPREP made the trip over to our neighbouring island of American Samoa and it was a very successful mission. I look forward to the Secretariat working closely together on future projects and programmes.

The first preparatory meeting for the Conference of the Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (Triple BRS) was held in Suva, Fiji, which was an important occasion for the Pacific to ensure that we speak in one unified voice at the COP. In the last COP, the meeting failed to reach a consensus on the listing of chrysotile asbestos in Appendix III which was lobbied for by the Pacific. We are determined to push forward with many more issues pertaining to hazardous waste in the Pacific at this year's COP.

I hope you enjoy this version of the SPREP-Tok. Until next time.

Soifua,



Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.

SPREP-Tok LATEST NEWS



AMERICAN SAMOA STEPS UP TO BUILD CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The very first three-day “Enhancing Climate Resilience through Community Awareness” summit to help build the resilience of people and communities in American Samoa was held in February. Organised in partnership with the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) and the Environment Protection Agency (EPA), the summit was aimed at helping people to learn more about climate resilience.

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The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
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Our vision: A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

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SPREP COMMEMORATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE



"We need more women and girls in science."

This was the main message heard during a special seminar commemorating "International Day of Women and Girls in Science" held at SPREP.

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TUVALU HAS IMPROVED ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION



Tuvalu will have improved capacity in environmental data management under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Tourism, Environment and Labour, with the establishment of the national environmental data portal.

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SPREP PACIFIC ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT IN SOLOMON ISLANDS RECEIVES TOP AWARD



WORKING TO KEEP THE PACIFIC SAFE FROM HAZARDOUS WASTE



An amplified, unified Pacific voice at the global level to protect the Pacific island region from the importation of hazardous chemicals, persistent organic pollutants and the movement of hazardous waste, was on the agenda for the Pacific at the first preparatory meeting for the Triple BRS COP.

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KEEPING ENVIRONMENTALLY INFORMED IN PALAU WITH THE INFORM PROJECT



Palau, home to a rich and unique biodiversity, was the focus of a capacity building workshop held in February to ensure environment data and information is used as a key part in environmental monitoring and decision making.

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An Ecosystem and Socio-Economic Resilience Analysis and Mapping (ESRAM) assessment undertaken by the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) Project in Solomon Islands was presented with the 2018 Sustainable Management Award in the Internationally Funded Category by Australia and New Zealand Institute for Sustainable Management (ANZISM).

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CONSERVING PROTECTED AREAS IN PALAU THROUGH IMPROVING INFORMATION



Palau is a regional leader in the Pacific through its investment in its rich biodiversity by establishing the Palau Protected Areas Network (PAN) in 2003 and creating the world's first shark sanctuary in 2009, banning all commercial shark fishing in its waters.

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SPREP DIRECTOR GENERAL MEETS NEW FORUM FISHERIES AGENCY DIRECTOR GENERAL



The Director General of the Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Dr Manu Tupou-Roosen, paid a courtesy call to SPREP Director General, Mr Kosi Latu in February. They were both present at the signing of two new European Union-funded programmes for the Pacific, held at the SPREP Campus. (Photo as seen on FFA Facebook).



IN MEMORIAM

RATU MANASA KATONIVUALIKU

A member of our SPREP family, our dear colleague Manasa Katonivualiku passed away after a brief illness on 11 February this year while on duty travel in Vanuatu. He was laid to rest in his home island country of Fiji on 16 February 2019.

Manasa was the Project Development Specialist - Climate Resilience and Adaptation within the Project Coordination Unit. He was a valuable member of the PCU team and since joining SPREP in June last year helped make an impact in our region as he worked with our Members and partners primarily to develop relevant projects for the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund in their endeavour to be resilient.

Born to Ratu Eparama Katonivualiku from Naduri, Macuata and Katarina Tinai from Soa, Nakorotubu, Ra, in Fiji, Manasa was the third child in a family of four boys and two girls.

Having worked across the region with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific before joining SPREP, Manasa has touched the lives of many in the Pacific Region. He worked alongside many different Pacific colleagues at workshops and conferences, and was also warmly welcomed by our Pacific island Members in different SPREP missions he was a part of.

Our deepest heartfelt condolences and sympathies go out to Manasa's family and friends. We have lost a true son of the Pacific.



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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WITH SPREP

In celebration of International Women's Day on 8 March, we asked some of our female staff: "What advice would you give your younger self?"



"You don't have to have it all figured out right now. Life is going to be full of challenges, and you're going to make some mistakes along the way. That's okay! More than that, it is absolutely necessary in order for you to grow into a better person. Just remember to be kind to yourself at every stage, and always do what feels right in your heart."

ANGELICA SALELE-SEFO
OUTREACH SUPPORT OFFICER



"Follow your dream, don't pursue a career just because it's one of your parents' profession. There are so many other interesting fields out there other than being a doctor, lawyer or an accountant. Travel the world, then settle down and have a family when you're thirty."

SINIVA TUUAU-ENOSA
PROJECT ACCOUNTANT



"Don't stress out too much, life moves on. You learn a lot and you'll get to where you want to be, if you just keep going. Don't panic, just chill."

TEUILA-JANE FRUEAN
COSPPAC TECHNICAL AND
FINANCE ASSISTANT



"It is better to be your authentic self - than try to please people or be somebody else. There is only one you - don't be afraid to be you. For those that don't get you, or always want to change you - remember the main person you need to like you - is you."

AUDREY BROWN-PEREIRA
EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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