

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Annual Report

2016



SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



Crimson-crowned fruit dove *Ptilinopus porphyraceus*. Photo: © Stuart Chape

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

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is the regional coordinating organisation for the protection and sustainable development of the Pacific islands environment.

SPREP was established by its member governments in 1992 to support cooperation and coordination across the region. The agreement establishing SPREP (SPREP Agreement) came into force in 1993, officially making the organisation an autonomous inter-governmental body.

With headquarters located in Apia, Samoa, SPREP works closely with its 26 Member countries and territories - along with partners, donors and local communities - to deliver on environmental management and sustainable development in the region in four priority areas:



BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT



CLIMATE CHANGE



WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL



ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND GOVERNANCE

SPREP LIBRARY – CATALOGUING IN PUBLICATION DATA

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

SPREP Annual Report: 2016. – Apia, Samoa: SPREP, 2017.

64 p. 29 cm

ISSN: 1562-675X

I. Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

II. Title.

III. Series.

363.7099

Copyright © Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), 2017.

Reproduction for educational or other non-commercial purposes is authorised without prior written permission from the copyright holder provided that the source is fully acknowledged. Reproduction of this publication for resale or other commercial purposes is prohibited without prior written consent of the copyright owner.

Cover photo: Manono Island and reefs, Samoa © Stuart Chape

Other photos: Unless otherwise acknowledged, all photographs in this publication were taken by staff of SPREP.



SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme







PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa
+685 21929
sprep@sprep.org
www.sprep.org

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

Contents

Moorea, French Polynesia. Photo: © Stuart Chape

FOREWORD MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR	2
INTRODUCTION MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL	4
OUR PACIFIC ISLAND MEMBERS	6
PACIFIC VOYAGE TO CBD COP13	12
OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:	
 BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT	16
 CLIMATE CHANGE	24
 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND GOVERNANCE	32
 WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL	38
CORPORATE SERVICES	46
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	52
AUDITOR'S REPORT	54
DIRECTOR GENERAL LETTER ON INTERNAL CONTROLS	56
AUDIT COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROLS	57
SPREP PUBLICATIONS	58
STAFF LIST	60
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	64
OUR REGION	65

Foreword

Message from the Chair



Huvalu Forest, Niue. Photo: © Stuart Chape



Dr Josie Tamate

Fakalofa lahi atu kia mutolu oti.

A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures is the new vision for SPREP under its new ten-year Strategic Plan that was endorsed during the SPREP Meeting hosted in Niue in 2016.

In reflection, the year was a big one for SPREP and our Pacific region. The intergovernmental environment organisation began 2016 under the leadership of a new Director-General at the helm, Mr Kosi Latu.

The following months then saw key milestones being reached by SPREP as we all worked together to guide our region toward a resilient Pacific.

The Pacific island family celebrated together when SPREP opened its new office in Fiji, officially housing the three-country Pacific Ecosystem Based Adaptation to Climate Change Project. SPREP history was further made with SPREP hosting the very first Clean Pacific Roundtable on waste management and pollution control in Pacific island countries and territories – this meeting will now be held every two years.

We should also commemorate and congratulate our Pacific islands of Fiji, Nauru, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa and Tuvalu for their display of Pacific leadership to the world, in signing and submitting their ratification to the Paris Agreement when it opened for signing on 22 April 2016. The Paris Agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016, and we are pleased to say that by the end of 2016, all SPREP Members had signed and ratified the Agreement.

Let me stop there. I could share more of some of the key highlights achieved in 2016, but these pages ahead will showcase a lot of the work done by our intergovernmental organisation. This message will not take the story-telling away from these pages, yet one truth rings loud and clear:

Without any of the generous support and kind assistance from our partners, this work would not have been made possible. We would not have been able to achieve very real outcomes that will make our planet a healthier system for us all. We would not have progressed towards helping our regional family achieve a Resilient Pacific.

We say *fakaue lahi* to you all for your foresight and vision in helping us make the world a better place.

Working to bring about a Resilient Pacific for our families and communities is at the core of

our being. Pacific islanders are survivors as we have faced so many challenges especially in the political world, switching colonial rule to independent or self-governed states.

We have also survived many natural disasters, although increasingly, we are starting to feel the cost of such on our economies, environment and our way of life.

We have endured and we have adapted because our people matter, our cultures and traditions matter, and our environment matters.

Therefore, I am pleased that at the core of the Strategic vision for SPREP for the next ten years is a Resilient Pacific.

Yes, we are survivors, and we have endured. However, at some point, we need to take stock of our *fale* and ensure we are bedded down firmly to withstand whatever challenges may continue to come our way.

I do believe we now need to change our tactics and focus on our strengths instead of our vulnerabilities to enhance our resilience. We are resilient, but like any house that has battled cyclones, we need to strengthen and tighten our harnesses so we can survive and endure many more that are yet to come our way.

Together, we can do this. In the face of what seems like endless challenges such as climate change, invasive species, ocean

acidification, waste management problems, and biodiversity loss, we can band together and learn from each other to strengthen our resilience hand in hand with SPREP and our partners.

2016 and the years before this have shown us just what we are capable of, with the right support and the hard work and determination that is ingrained in us as Pacific islanders. Prepared with our new SPREP Strategic Plan in place to guide us on our onward journey ahead, we look forward to sailing toward a more resilient Pacific.

It is at this point that I would like to commend our Members and partners for their strong Pacific familial bonds, bringing us all together to support and guide the work of SPREP.

To end, I would like to commend the staff at SPREP for their dedication and hard work over the last year. The crew has worked tirelessly with us all, to bring us here where we are today, on a path of promise.

Our spirit of togetherness is highly needed to progress towards that future, and we look forward to being on this journey with you all.

Fakaue lahi.

Dr Josie Tamate

On behalf of Niue,
Chair of the 27th SPREP Meeting

Introduction

Message from the Director General



Coral reef, Taveuni, Fiji. Photo: © Stuart Chape



I am pleased to introduce the Annual Report for 2016 and Director General's Overview of Progress since the 27th SPREP Meeting held in Niue in September, 2016. It has been another successful year of implementation and results in support of Pacific island countries and territories.

SPREP Strategic Plan 2017–2026

The completion and endorsement of the new SPREP Strategic Plan 2017–2026 is a key milestone for SPREP, which is the result of an extensive collaborative process with Members, partners and staff. The new plan states the SPREP vision as 'A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our

livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures' which aligns to the SPREP mandate 'to promote cooperation in the Pacific region and provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations'.

As endorsed by Members 'Climate Change' is our principal concern and 'Oceans' a cross cutting theme across all of the work of SPREP. The four key priorities remain as: Climate Change Resilience; Ecosystem and Biodiversity Protection; Waste Management and Pollution Control; and Environmental Governance. The support of the Australian funded Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Regional Advisory Services expert Ms. Annabel Brown, has been instrumental in providing the technical oversight required throughout the vast consultative planning process.

Regional Implementing Entity role of SPREP

The new Strategic Plan will support the role of SPREP, which is currently the only agency of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) accredited as a

Regional Implementing Entity for the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The Vanuatu 'Climate Information Services for Resilient Development' proposal was approved by the GCF Board meeting hosted by the Government of Samoa in December, 2016. The Vanuatu project is valued at USD 23 million and will span four years and support capacity development for effective application of climate information in development planning and implementation. The successful proposal was developed as a collaborative partnership between the Government of Vanuatu and SPREP with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Climate Center.

Furthermore in March, 2017 at the 29th Meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board, the project 'Enhancing the climate change resilience of vulnerable island communities in the Federated States of Micronesia' was approved. This will help towards reducing island communities vulnerability to extreme drought, sea level rise and other climate risks. The project will help respond to climate priorities identified in outer

atoll islands Woleai and Eauripik in Yap; Satawan and Lukunor in Chuuk; Kapingamarangi and Nukuoro in Pohnpei; and include water security and sanitation initiatives and support climate-resilient livelihoods in Kosrae through an inland road initiative.

Strengthening of Regional Linkages

Through enhancing the engagement of SPREP with Members a key milestone for strengthening the regional linkages of SPREP was the signing of the host country agreement with the Government of Fiji and the official opening of the Suva office in 2016. The Suva office has been established to primarily support the implementation of the Pacific Ecosystems-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) Project. The five-year project which began in 2015 is funded by the German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) and is implemented by SPREP in partnership with the governments of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. In 2016 SPREP also signed the host country agreement with the Federated States of Micronesia which further supports the work of the SPREP technical officer situated in Pohnpei.

Governance

As the SPREP Meeting shifts from annual to biennial meetings in 2017, the SPREP governing council approved in 2016 the concept of an Executive Board convening in the alternate years to the SPREP Meeting. This is an important cross roads for SPREP as it moves to enhance its governance arrangements and administrative efficiencies to better support Members.

Multiyear Funding Arrangements

In 2016, SPREP signed with New Zealand the Partnership Arrangement 2016–2018 which

is for three years of funding from the New Zealand Government of approximately NZD 4.6 million. Such partnership arrangements are important to SPREP ensuring a healthy core budget that is flexible and adaptable to meet the environmental needs of Pacific Members. The Secretariat will work closely with the Government of Australia in renewing its multi-year funding agreement and other key partners to further strengthen the core funding support to SPREP.

Partnerships

In 2016 SPREP signed Memoranda of Understanding with the following agencies and institutions to support the vast work of SPREP for the benefit of Members:

- APEC Climate Center
- CSIRO
- Ramsar
- South Pacific Tourism Office
- The Water Institute
- University of Newcastle, Australia
- University of Papua New Guinea
- Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

In addition to the MoU noted above SPREP also signed a Letter of Intent with NOAA and in 2017 have signed the following:

- Blue Planet
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescents Societies
- Island Conservation
- Pacific Community
- South Pacific Whale Research Consortium

Pacific Champion on Climate Change

H.E. Anote Tong, former President of Kiribati was recognised by SPREP as a Pacific Champion on Climate Change in a special ceremony hosted in New Zealand

as part of the Victoria University of Wellington 'In the Eye of the Storm: Pacific Climate Change Conference'. The SPREP award recognised Tong's enormous contribution advocating for Pacific island countries the challenges of climate change, as part of the regional and global agenda. A fitting award following the Paris Agreement adopted in December 2015. H.E. Tong tirelessly championed the impacts of climate change for Kiribati and the Pacific and demonstrated courageous commitment and leadership to the environment including on the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape which was adopted by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in 2010.

Appreciation

SPREP would like to thank all donors and partners for supporting and working with SPREP in our common endeavours to make the Pacific environment a healthy and sustainable one. We value your support and increasing trust in our organisation. We will work hard to ensure that we maintain your trust and confidence as your premiere environmental agency of choice for our Pacific region.

Thank you to our Members, which we as a Secretariat serve in partnership with and for, to ensure 'a resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures'. We appreciate your wise guidance and understand the expectations to address the many environmental challenges in our Pacific region. We will continue our efforts to make SPREP a more efficient and effective organisation that can better serve the needs and priorities of our Member countries and territories.

Thank you, most sincerely.

Kosi Latu

Director General, SPREP

Our Pacific island Members

Working in partnership to achieve shared goals

SPREP is committed to working with our Members to deliver on environmental management and sustainable development in the region. Our work is driven by strategic priorities which are developed in close consultation with all our Pacific island Members and other stakeholders.

Traditional canoe, New Caledonia. Photo: © Stuart Chape

American Samoa strengthening meteorologist communication skills

American Samoa joined regional communications training for Meteorological staff in the Cook Islands aimed at improving the sharing of information from Met staff to different audiences. The Met staff were provided with the basics of graphic design and taught how best to design information so it appeals to their audiences, as well as how to best work with media. The training was supported by the Finnish-Pacific (FINPAC) project.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands a Member of the Micronesia Challenge celebrating Tenth Anniversary

A commitment by the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam and Palau to effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020, celebrated ten years of being in 2016. This was featured during a special high-level event led by the Global Island Partnership celebrating ten years of Leadership at the CBD COP13 in Cancun, Mexico.



Support for the Cook Islands on Ballast Water Convention

The Cook Islands is a Party to the International Ballast Water Management Convention addressing the spread of marine invasive species through ballast water on ships. Training was held in the Cook Islands to help develop their national strategies and guidelines in line with the Convention, which enters into force in September 2017. The training was coordinated by SPREP in partnership with the Cook Islands and the International Maritime Organization.



FSM signs Host Country Agreement with SPREP

H.E. President Peter M. Christian of the Federated States of Micronesia and SPREP Director General Mr Kosi Latu signed the Host Country Agreement in 2016 formalising the establishment of a SPREP office in FSM. A SPREP staff member is based in FSM, and the office will also house SPREP officers that travel into the country on official SPREP business.



Photo: S.Abraham/SPREP

3D Model map of Taveuni Island, Fiji

Communities on Taveuni Island in Fiji have developed a Participatory Three-Dimensional Model mapping tool to better plan and manage their natural resources and development activities. A first of its kind for the island, the model was built by community members on Taveuni with support from SPREP through the Pacific Ecosystem based Adaptation Project (PEBACC).



Photo: PEBACC



Photo: © Stuart Chape

French Polynesia part of Pacific history at First Clean Pacific Roundtable

Representatives from French Polynesia joined the inaugural Clean Pacific Roundtable in Fiji in July 2016, to discuss ways to properly manage waste and pollution. The Roundtable will be held every two years for the duration of the Cleaner Pacific 2025 Strategy and will act as a crucial mechanism for improving and innovating waste prevention and management in the Pacific region.

High School in Guam takes third place in Pacific regional school challenge

Tivan High School in Guam won third place in the Invasive Species Regional Schools Challenge. The SPREP Invasive Species Regional Schools Challenge, a Global Environment Facility Pacific Alliance for Sustainability Invasive Alien Species in the Pacific Islands Project (GEF-PAS IAS) initiative, was held over the duration of 2016. SPREP Members were provided with invasive species toolkits to coordinate the competition nationally with schools. Along with a range of information about invasive species, the toolkits also included a list of 'challenges' for classrooms to select from and complete. These challenges were then entered for judgment at the national level, from which the top three entries were submitted for the regional school challenge competition.



Tivan High School entry.

Kiribati improving Protected Areas

A national stakeholders workshop was held in Kiribati, supported by the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) project, to discuss national and local level coordination arrangements for protected areas, with a particular focus to enhance information available on the Pacific Islands Protected Areas Portal (PIPAP). This included protected areas administration and management, verifying capacity needs, determining gaps in protected area information, identifying current national data repositories and the types of data available and stored. BIOPAMA helps countries to meet their national priorities and regional and global commitments related to protected areas.



Photo: V.Jungblut/SPREP

Conservation success story for Republic of the Marshall Islands

Featured in the State of Environment Report for the Republic of the Marshall Islands is the endemic species *Ducula oceanic radakensis* (Ratak Micronesian Pigeon), known locally as Mule. Their habitat and feeding grounds on Majuro is less than ten square miles. In 2006, the Marshall Islands Conservation Society initiated a project to restore the Mule on Majuro. The population of Mule declined to just eight breeding pairs due to human activity, predators and the loss of habitat. The Mili Atoll bird expedition led by MICS in 2009 confirmed that Majuro and Mili were the only atolls left where the Mule occurs. However, their population on Mili was not known. The Mule campaign has since made significant progress in population recovery where 80 birds were recorded. The restoration of their natural habit and community awareness campaigns made a big difference, with the numbers of Mule increasing.



Photo: Marshall Islands Conservation Society



Training in Nauru opens door for cross-learning across the Pacific

In 2016, Nauru took the first step toward marine spatial planning (MSP), a process that brings multiple users of the ocean together to make informed and coordinated decisions about how best to use marine resources sustainably. The MSP training followed a workshop on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) which was open to Nauru government authorities, communities and NGOs. It also promoted cross-learning and a platform for exchange with other countries, bringing together IIB Project coordinators from the Cook Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu to take part. The workshop was implemented by the Nauru GEF-PAS Integrated Island Biodiversity Project (GEF-PAS IIB) in partnership with SPREP; the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority, Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment, Government of Nauru; and CSIRO.



Photo: R.Wright/SPREP

INTEGRE and PacWaste projects form partnership in New Caledonia

Noumea was the site of the three-day INTEGRE Project workshop which saw engagement from PacWaste. Both projects are funded by the European Union to address waste issues across the Pacific island region: 14 Pacific island countries, four overseas countries and territories and Timor-Leste. This workshop provided an opportunity to help enhance regional collaboration and twinning, which are key components of the two projects.



Photo: © Stuart Chape

New Automated Weather System now in Niue

The iSTAR Automated Weather Station will help improve the safety standards of Niue's aviation and quality of weather and climate data for development planning and early warning services. While this station supplies information that is required for national purposes, much of the data recorded by the iSTAR Automated Weather Station will also help fill gaps in information from the Pacific shared through the Regional Basic Synoptic Network core global weather and climate observations system. This data helps weather and climate forecasts and prediction accuracy as well as our understanding of current atmospheric conditions. Supported by the Finnish-Pacific (FINPAC) Project and the World Meteorological Organization, the iSTAR AWS was installed in June 2016 by the Meteorological Service of New Zealand and was in operation by July.



“Because the Ocean” Declaration signed by Palau

Palau signed the “Because the Ocean” Declaration at the 22nd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Marrakech, Morocco. It was one of two Pacific islands to do so, Republic of the Marshall Islands being the other. “For Palau, as for all island and coastal countries, the Ocean is life. Our long-term prosperity depends on the actions we take today to protect our marine ecosystems,” said H.E. President of Palau, Tommy Remengesau Jr, as he signed the second declaration. “We all know that what is good for the oceans is good for the climate and fundamental for the food security and livelihoods of islands. So, like many islands, we are charting our own unique path to sustainable development.”



Photo: IISD/ENB/MikeMuzurakis



Photo: A. Peterson

Papua New Guinea shows success in Protected Area effectiveness

Ninety-five percent of the Protected Areas in Papua New Guinea were assessed in 2016 (100% by March 2017) by SPREP to determine how well they are achieving their goal of protecting natural or cultural values. A global tool was adapted to suit PNG and used to assess how well conservation areas are being managed and what is needed to assist in improving management. Of the protected areas assessed, more than 70% are reported to be in good or very good condition overall. This activity was carried out by SPREP in partnership with UNDP and the Conservation and Environment Protection Authority of PNG.



Lefaga College entry.

Invasive species school challenge in Samoa

The private sector of Samoa came together with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC), and SPREP through the GEF-PAS IAS Project, to support the invasive species schools challenge. Led by MNRE, with the support of partners, the invasive species challenge toolkit was translated into Samoan and distributed to schools across the country. It was with the help of partners that prizes were also made available to the top three winning entries for the two different categories of primary and second school submissions. The first prize for primary schools went to All Saints Anglican, with Vaitele Uta winning second prize, followed by Vailele, Falealupo, and Faleaseela. For the secondary schools category, the winners were Lefaga for first place, followed by Mataaeavave, Nuausala, Safata, and Chanel. The private sector partners who generously supported the Samoan School Challenge on Invasive Species included ANZ Samoa, Samoa Stationary and Books, Business Systems Limited, and Samoa Commercial Bank.



Photo: PEBACC

Environment resources to promote better decisions in Solomon Islands

A series of environmental fact sheets were released in 2016 by the Solomon Islands Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology. The resources were developed with support from the United States Agency for International Development and PEBACC with input from government and non-government organisations. The six fact sheets are aimed at educating Solomon Islanders to make informed decisions about their environmental resources and span a range of different topics including Environmental Impact Assessment for landowners and an illustrated Summary of the Code of Logging Practice.



Tokelau at UNFCCC COP22

Attending the 22nd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP22), Tokelau was featured during a special press conference sharing their story on living with climate change. Tokelau spent a large part of 2016 developing their *Living with Change: Enhancing the Resilience of Tokelau to climate change and related hazards, 2017–2030 Strategy* to be launched in 2017. A wide consultation process was undertaken as part of development, seeking input from all community members of all ages.

Tonga signs on to CITES

Tonga demonstrated its commitment to protect its natural biodiversity, taking steps to accede to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Tonga became the 183rd Party and is the ninth Oceania Party to the Convention, joining Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Tonga submitted its instrument of accession in June and was made an official Party to CITES in October.



Tuvalu on track for innovative new waste management initiatives

Consultations were held with the government sector, stakeholders and communities in Tuvalu to assist in the development of a Waste Policy and Action Plan. This activity, funded by the European Union as part of a bilateral agreement with the Government of Tuvalu, was supported by SPREP through the provision of technical assistance. The resulting Policy, endorsed by Cabinet in July 2016, will strengthen institutional mechanisms and ensure a collaborative, cross-sectoral effort for dealing with waste in Tuvalu. Also included in the Waste Policy and Action Plan were the results of a Cost Benefit Analysis to explore feasible options for green waste management in Tuvalu. Green waste represents 50% of the waste stream in Tuvalu. The study identified significant conversion of green waste to a recycled product as part of the preferred option using exploitable inputs, such as piggery waste. The study was undertaken in partnership with the Asian Development Bank – Strategic Program for Climate Resilience: Pacific Regional Track.



Photo: A. Carvan

National Environment Management Strategy spotlight on Vanuatu

The Vanuatu National Environment Policy and Implementation Plan 2016–2030 promotes the sustainable conservation, development and management of the country's environment. It is the first national policy of its kind since independence in 1980. The Plan aims to coordinate related activities; promote environmentally sound management and conservation of natural resources and the environment; and outline the means for implementation. The policy was developed through a series of consultations held throughout the country, especially at provincial headquarters. The consultations involved government agencies, provincial governments, communities, donors, non-government organisations and the private sector.



Photo: © Stuart Chape

Wallis and Futuna join Pacific Met colleagues at regional training

Wallis and Futuna was represented at a training workshop for Pacific meteorologists in the Cook Islands in 2016. The training spanned the introduction of a new computer programme for climate forecasting under the Republic of Korea-Pacific Climate Prediction Project, strengthening communications, as well as contributing to the development of a Pacific Women in Meteorology Series to be launched in 2017. The communications training and the Pacific Women in Meteorology Series development was supported by the FINPAC Project.



Pacific Voyage to CBD COP

The 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention

Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Well-Being: Counting down to 2020

From 2–17 December 2016, over 190 parties and approximately ten thousand participants came together for the CBD COP13 hosted in Cancun, Mexico. Fourteen of these were Pacific island countries that are Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, all of whom have committed to achieving the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets with the ultimate goal of reducing biodiversity loss.

Of over 720 recorded animal extinctions in the last 400 years, half of these were island species. Aiming to make a difference, the Pacific islands are working towards achieving the Aichi Targets to curb extinctions by the year 2020.

At CBD COP13 the different opportunities for the Pacific islands to showcase their national achievements at the global level, were well executed.



Preparing to amplify the One Pacific Voice

In August, all Pacific island countries came together in partnership to prepare the Pacific strategy that would amplify the One Pacific Voice at both the CBD COP13 and the 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which was held in September.

This preparatory partnership allowed for countries to develop their joint Pacific approach and to plan their way ahead for both of these global events. One key aspect of this was the development of the Pacific Voyage Communications Campaign, as well as Pacific briefs and other materials that would help guide the Pacific island delegations on their journey at these events.



Top: Mock negotiations training during the preparatory meeting for both the CBD and CITES COPs.

Left: From mock negotiations to real negotiations at the CBD COP13.



13 on Biological Diversity

Cartagena Protocol on the agenda at CBD COP 13

The ten Pacific island parties to this protocol called for targeted technical and technological support for implementation. Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Tonga are party to the Protocol which is linked to the Convention on Biodiversity.

The Cartagena Protocol aims to ensure the safe transport, handling and use of living modified organisms (LMO) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biodiversity. This requires establishing enabling environments through proper legislative frameworks, laboratory facilities and technology including technical capabilities to enable countries to detect, measure, and monitor LMOs that come into the country.

Pacific island parties are at varying stages of implementing the Protocol:

- Consultation with the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture took place in 2016 to progress the Cartagena Protocol.
- As of 2016, in Papua New Guinea, there is a national framework on biosafety as well as a draft bill awaiting approval. The University of Papua New Guinea is also sourcing funds to review all work implemented under the protocol and to recommend a way forward.
- A biosafety legislation has been drafted for Palau, which is still under review. The Palau biosecurity management plan for Palau is in the pipeline.
- Tonga has developed a national biosafety planning framework which needs to be updated.

The Cartagena Protocol was adopted on 29 January 2000 as a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity and entered into force on 11 September 2003.



Pacific island Parties to the Cartagena Protocol with Ms Easter Galuvao of SPREP and the UNEP-GEF Biosafety Portfolio Manager, Mr Alex Owusu-Biney, at a brief meeting at the CBD COP13.

Pacific islands support the Cancun Declaration

The Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable use of Biodiversity for Well-being was officially adopted at the two-day High Level Segment of CBD COP13.

The declaration outlines the commitments of CBD Parties to 18 actions for integration of biodiversity into the agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism sectors to halt the loss of biodiversity across the world. It was adopted after months of consultation with CBD Parties, ending with a series of high level roundtable discussions.

The Pacific islands were represented at these discussions by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Environment for Samoa, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Environment of Tonga and the Associate Minister of Environment of the Cook Islands.



The Deputy Prime Ministers of Samoa and Tonga with the Associate Minister of the Cook Islands as well as Pacific delegates, and the Director General of SPREP and staff.

“Everyone has a role to play. Building partnerships at the national, regional and international levels is key to mainstreaming the preservation of biodiversity for future generations.”

– Associate Minister of Environment, Cook Islands, Hon. Moana Ioane

Wetlands strengthen island resilience through renewed partnerships

The renewal of a partnership between SPREP and the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was signed at the CBD COP13. Both Secretariats are committed to continue working together in partnership for the conservation of Pacific island wetlands and their ecosystems, which also have an important role in climate change and disaster risk reduction. There are currently six Pacific island signatories to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, with Papua New Guinea first signing in 1993 and Kiribati signing in 2013. Other parties include Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa and Palau, all of whom are home to a globally recognised wetland of international importance.



Ms Martha Rojas-Urrego, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention and Mr Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP.

The Pacific Voyage showcased at global biodiversity conference

The Pacific islands led the way at CBD COP13, holding a special event on day one of the global conference that highlighted work undertaken in the region to help achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Special presentations were made by Australia, European Union, Fiji, Samoa and SPREP. The European Union presented on support for BIOPAMA, a project establishing regional observatories for protected areas and biodiversity. In the Pacific islands region, the Pacific Islands

Protected Areas Portal has been developed, a one stop shop of protected areas information to help advance the conservation of nature. Samoa shared its work in mainstreaming biodiversity into different sectors through strategies, policies and roadmaps. Fiji outlined the commitment and progress of their work towards protected areas which is a key priority in Fiji's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and Australia shared their journey of their Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010–2030.



Panellists at the Pacific Voyage to CBD COP13 side event.

Celebrating 10 years of island leadership with GLISPA



The Pacific islands celebrate a decade of the Micronesia Challenge.

The Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) High Level Event held during CBD COP13 commemorated the tenth anniversary of the Micronesia Challenge. The Challenge is a commitment by the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands to effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.

At 6.7 million square kilometres, the Micronesia Challenge area represents over 20% of the Pacific Ocean within the SPREP region and is home to 1,300 species of fish and 483 species of coral. Micronesia itself is home to 66 species recorded on the IUCN Red List, and 1,400 plant species of which 200 are endemic.

The Micronesia Challenge Community is a global network, both on-line and on-the-ground, of islanders and leaders who work with international governments and organisations, corporations, schools, and educators.

Blue Fee to fund conservation and climate adaptation efforts in the Republic of the Marshall Islands

“We strongly feel that the health of our natural resources is our responsibility; our economy, our cultural and traditional heritage, and our future depends on it.”

– Mae Adams on behalf of the late Hon. Mattlan Zackhras, Minister in Assistance to the President of the Marshall Islands

The Blue Fee, an internal financial initiative to use a percentage of the islands tuna fund for financing biodiversity and climate adaptation efforts in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, was announced during the GLISPA High level event at CBD COP13. The Republic of the Marshall Islands also extended marine protection around two of its atolls, Majuro and Kwajalein, by 50 miles (approximately 80 kilometres).



Ms Mae Adams who made the announcement on behalf of the late Hon. Mattlan Zackhras, the Minister in Assistance to the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.



Marine Protected Area, Chelbacheb, Palau. Photo: © Stuart Chape

Protected Areas key to saving Pacific biodiversity

“Partnerships for improving natural wealth for achieving global targets and for addressing global challenges” was the theme of the Protected Areas day at the CBD COP13 Rio Pavilion for which SPREP presented on work undertaken in the region. The forum discussed the status of implementation of Aichi Target 11, which protects 17% of terrestrial and 10% of marine areas, and national “roadmaps” of priority actions; how the roadmaps contribute to achieving the Target; and helping countries in implementing their roadmap in order to achieve multiple benefits.

The Pacific islands region has one of the highest rates of species extinction across the world, being home to over 800 species with a high probability of extinction, and our native forest cover is being lost at up to 4% per year, with less than 30% of our forest remaining in a natural state.



Pacific Islands Protected Areas promoted at the CBD COP13.

“The value of our Pacific biodiversity and ecosystems are extremely high, and the ecosystem services that they provide are irreplaceable.”

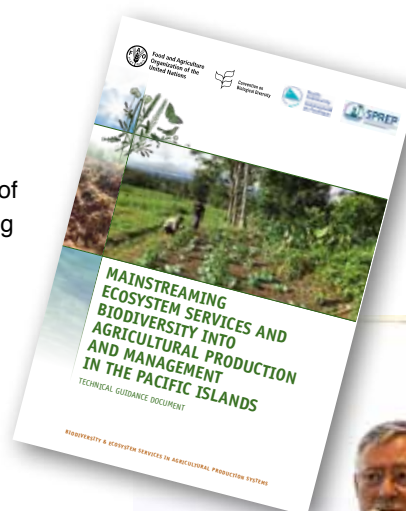
– Mr Stuart Chape, BEM Director, SPREP

Pacific islands technical guide on biodiversity and agriculture launched at CBD COP 13

‘Mainstreaming Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity into Agricultural Production and Management in the Pacific Islands’ was launched at CBD COP13. This was the result of a partnership between the CBD, EU, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), SPREP and the Pacific Community (SPC).

The guide introduces best practices for integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into agriculture for the Pacific region, including

diversification and integration of farming systems; strengthening resilience of production systems and landscapes to the adverse effects of climate change or pest outbreaks; supporting soil biodiversity to enhance soil health, nutrient transformation, soil decontamination, and climate regulation; and ecological management to minimise chemical use.



Mr Stuart Chape, part of panel at CBD COP13 to launch the publication.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem

The Pacific islands region has one of the richest complexes of marine and terrestrial ecosystems on Earth, with habitats ranging from mountain forests to volcanic islands, low-lying coral atolls and the open ocean. Hundreds of plants and animals that inhabit our region are found nowhere else on the planet. Many have adapted to specialised habitats, making them especially vulnerable to the threats and pressures caused by, or derived from, human activities.

Importantly, biodiversity conservation in the Pacific region is a complex ecological issue encompassing social, political and cultural dimensions. Pacific islanders are dependent on natural ecosystems and their resources for livelihoods and national economic development. These natural ecosystems are also a critical component of Pacific island cultures, providing the basis of traditional cultural practices, myths and legends.



Cakaulevu reef, Fiji. Photo: © Stuart Chape

Management

Integrated Island Biodiversity Project creates a positive impact on nature conservation in the Pacific

The Integrated Island Biodiversity (IIB) Project funded by the Global Environment Facility Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (GEF-PAS) was successfully concluded in 2016. It aimed to improve the well-being of Pacific island communities by applying an ecosystem approach to the conservation of ecosystems, species and genetic diversity in the Pacific region.

Launched in 2012, the project was implemented by UN Environment and executed by SPREP in partnership with four Pacific island environment agencies. It supported

the Cook Islands, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu. Country level activities were operationally closed in 2016 with final regional communication and advocacy products to be completed in 2017.

The project has helped these four Pacific island countries achieve the Programme of Work for Island Biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity, which recognises the unique challenges of biodiversity conservation on islands. Key project activities in 2016 included a Biodiversity Conservation Education Training

for Teachers in Tuvalu as well as capacity building and the updating of the national wetland inventory in Nauru.

The final evaluation of the project concluded that “the project has been highly catalytic in influencing and changing community practice at those sites where it has been operating, and has helped catalyse integration of biodiversity considerations with government policy, legislation and regulations.”

Project information and outputs can be found on the SPREP website: www.sprep.org/iib



Biodiversity Conservation Education Training for Teachers with IIB in Tuvalu. Photo: Live and Learn Environmental Education Fiji/IIB

3D maps for conservation planning and management a winner in the Pacific islands



School children on Rarotonga learning how to trace the contour map of their P3D model. Photo: V.Jungblut/SPREP

In 2016, both the Cook Islands and Nauru developed a 3D model to help identify and manage natural resources in their countries, with support from the GEF-PAS IIB Project. These models were developed as part of training in Participatory Three-Dimensional Modelling (P3DM) involving community members, government, non-government organisations and schools in 2016.

Both of these training opportunities saw cross-country learning take place. The Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) helped to facilitate the activity in Nauru, which saw a 3D map of the whole island developed. Both MNRE of Samoa and the Government of Tonga GEF-PAS IIB Project provided assistance with the training in the Cook Islands, which produced a 3D map of Vaka Puaikura, a district on Rarotonga.

P3D mapping was also carried out in Tonga. The island of 'Eua now has a three-dimensional map to help assist the communities with further planning and management of the 'Eua national park and for island-wide conservation planning. This is the second P3D

Map for Tonga developed with support from the GEF-PAS IIB. The first was a 3D Map of the Vava'u Island Group of Tonga developed in 2015. Tonga's success in developing and using the Participatory three-dimensional mapping approach for nature conservation was highlighted during the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress in September with a special presentation from the Tonga IIB coordinator.

Investing in Pacific island capacity to implement the participatory 3D modelling has provided excellent results both in Tonga and the Cook Islands. Tonga has developed a third 3D map of Tongatapu with support and facilitation from the IIB coordinator, and the Cook Islands has developed a second 3D map for the island of Mangaia. Two more 3D maps for the islands of Mauke and Mitiaro are planned for 2017 using lessons learnt from the training in the Cook Islands.

“This model will be very important for our work in mapping out community hotspots for establishing Marine Protected Areas and no-take zones. It was a lot of fun contributing to the construction of the model.”

– Mr Ebelina Tsiode, Coastal Fisheries Officer, Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority.



Cook Island participants with their completed P3D Model. Photo: V.Jungblut/SPREP

Enhancing Pacific island capacity for stronger Pacific conservation

The Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation training course was introduced to participants from the Cook Islands, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu. The five-step conservation planning process combines principles and best practices in adaptive management and results-based management from conservation and other fields.

It is designed to be applicable at any geographic, temporal, or programmatic scale and includes the use of Miradi management

software. Participants entered information on current and future national conservation projects into the programme to understand the software's utility and functions. The training was part of the GEF-PAS IIB project executed by SPREP.

“As a project director, managing the implementation of many environmental projects, I have always hoped to have a one-stop shop programme where I could design, manage and monitor projects. I believe Miradi is just the programme that would assist our work to make it more effective.”

– Ms. Lupe Matoto, Director of Environment, Kingdom of Tonga

Making a difference in the Pacific with the GEF-PAS Invasive Species Project

The Prevention, Control and Management of Invasive Alien Species in the Pacific Islands Project (IAS Project) was implemented by UN Environment and executed by SPREP and national agencies of the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu.

The project goal was to 'conserve ecosystems, species and genetic diversity in the Pacific Region'. The project was launched in 2011 and ended in 2016.

Over the course of the project, over 100 activities were carried out in the 10 Pacific island countries, producing many lasting outcomes. A special publication covering all activities, outcomes and lessons

learnt was released in 2016: *Battling Invasive Species in the Pacific: outcomes of the regional GEF-PAS IAS project*.

The final evaluation of the project concluded that the project was very successful, particularly in the areas of strategic relevance, achievement of outputs, socio-political sustainability, communication and public awareness, and supervision, guidance and technical backstopping.

A key recommendation was to sustain and expand the regional support provided by the Secretariat. This recommendation will be implemented in the Prevention, Control and Management of Invasive Alien Species Project soon to follow, funded by GEF 6.



Laying camera traps to detect wild pigs in Niue with GEF-PAS IAS. Photo: Ministry of Natural Resources Niue/GEF-PAS IAS

Strengthening future invasive species work in the Pacific

A wide range of resources were developed under the GEF-IAS Project as it came to an end in 2016, helping to ensure that work undertaken as part of the project continued and lessons learnt could be replicated in other countries.

Nine publications in the *Pacific Invasive Battler Series* were launched to provide guidance on key invasive species issues such as using economic analysis to battle invasive species and developing national or territorial invasive species strategies and action plans.

The Battler Resource Base was also launched in 2016, a

searchable resource database providing the latest information on invasive species issues, case studies and other resources. It is designed to increase the capacity of Pacific countries and territories in an effective and efficient manner: <https://piln.sprep.org/>.

Also launched in 2016 was the Pacific Invasive Species Guidelines Reporting Database which holds national, territorial and regional progress in implementing the *Guidelines for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific: A Pacific Strategy for managing pests, weeds and other invasive species* that were endorsed in 2009.



Battling invasive species helps save the Tongan Whistler

The endemic Hengahenga, also known as the Tongan Whistler, and other native bird species have increased in numbers over the past year on Mt. Talau in the Vava'u islands in the Kingdom of Tonga, with support from the GEF-PAS IAS Project and the GEF-PAS IIB Project.

Bird surveys in 2016, despite being hampered by Tropical Cyclone Winston, confirmed the ongoing control of rats initiated by the project on Mt. Talau has led to an increase in the number of Tongan Whistlers, Polynesian Trillers and Polynesian Starlings.

Investing in our future: the Pacific schools invasive species challenge

Creativity was the focus of the regional Pacific invasive species schools challenge. Launched in 2015 for school participation at the national level, the top entries were then submitted to SPREP for the regional challenge in 2016.

Lefaga College of Samoa was awarded first place, Maris Stellar School in Koror, Palau took second place, and Tivan High School in Guam won third place. Honourable

mention prizes were awarded to Vaitele Uta Primary School in Samoa and Houma Primary school in the Vava'u Islands of Tonga.

Supported by the IAS Project, a toolkit was developed for schools, providing them with a range of factsheets on invasive species. The challenges were designed to help school children of all ages learn more about invasive species and the best ways to prevent their spread.

Country agencies coordinated the challenges at the national level, for which the top entrants were submitted to SPREP for regional judging. Hundreds of entries from across the region were submitted,

“It is very rewarding to see the entries which have come in from younger primary school aged kids to young adults at college.

It shows that they do care about their environment and invasive species. We must foster this interest and transform it into behavioural change as ultimately invasive species are everyone's responsibility.”

– Mr David Moverley,
Invasive Species Adviser, SPREP

highlighting the interest of Pacific island school children in this issue and the key role they play in conserving our environment.



Second place won by Maris Stellar School, Palau.

Invasive species high on the biodiversity agenda with PILN in 2016

The 4th Pacific Invasive Learning Network (PILN) meeting was held in Samoa, a co-host of the event with SPREP, bringing together 50 delegates from 16 Pacific island countries and territories.

The meeting allowed for Pacific island participants and partners to discuss key areas such as regional strategic management, best practice, information exchange, and collaboration and sharing. It recommended that future funding consider professional development to broaden outreach and advocacy and use social media more effectively to get messages across.

“I learned a lot about what our Samoan colleagues are doing. I would like to congratulate the Samoans for the initiative you have been taking, seeing your work is a great learning experience for other Pacific countries.”

– Ms Glarinda Andre, Vanuatu

It also allowed for special sessions to learn more about invasive species from key technical experts.

SPREP coordinates PILN, a peer learning network that brings together expertise in the Pacific region to support invasive species control and management action at national and regional levels. PILN unites the forces of 22 teams

in Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia by connecting in-country practitioners to share effective ways to battle invasive species.

Partners for the 4th PILN Meeting included the Global Environment Facility, Fonds Pacifique, Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, United Nations Environment, New Zealand Department of Conservation, Island Conservation, Pacific Biosecurity, Landcare Research New Zealand, Queensland Government, Flinch Marketing, and Saleapaga Village in Samoa.



PILN Meeting Participants undertake a field trip hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Samoa. Photo: J.Pisi/PILN

Pacific islands leadership shines at CITES COP

The Pacific islands showcased their leadership in protecting marine species at the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

In a proposal for submission by Fiji, and supported by over 50 countries including Samoa and Palau, nine species of mobula rays, also known as devil rays, were listed on Appendix II of CITES.

Thresher and silky sharks were also successfully listed on Appendix II at the CITES COP, a listing proposal that was co-

sponsored by Fiji, Palau and Samoa.

Fiji and Palau also supported the USA and others for the successful listing of the Family Nautilida, the Nautilus shells that have been until now, freely traded with over 100,000 per annum imported into the US alone, onto Appendix II.

Efforts to list the nine species of mobula rays on to Appendix II of CITES undertaken by Fiji, Samoa and Palau were supported by SPREP, the Pew Charitable Trusts, and the World Wildlife Fund.



Fiji makes an intervention at COP17 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Photo: M.Donoghue/SPREP

SPREP opens new project office in Fiji

The new SPREP Office in Fiji was officially opened in July 2016 following the signing of a host country agreement with the Government of Fiji. The office has been established as the base of the Pacific Ecosystem Based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) Project, funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety. The project is implemented by SPREP in partnership with the governments of

Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The special opening ceremony was celebrated by SPREP, Fiji and Germany with partners.

The PEBACC project aims to integrate ecosystem-based adaptation into development, climate change adaptation responses, and natural resource management policy and planning processes in three Pacific island countries providing replicable models for other countries in the region.



Ratu Inoke Kubuabola cuts opening ribbon. Photo: Ministry of Information Fiji



Opening night for new SPREP office in Fiji. Photo: Ministry of Information Fiji



Photo: Ministry of Information Fiji

Understanding ecosystems to strengthen resilience with PEBACC



Dr Tim Carruthers and team measuring plant characteristics on Taveuni.
Photo: Water Institute of the Gulf



Community consultation as part of the ESRAM study, Vuna village, Taveuni.
Photo: PEBACC

Six Ecosystem and Socio-economic Resilience Analysis and Mapping (ESRAM) studies were commissioned by the PEBACC project for Port Vila and Tanna Island in Vanuatu, Taveuni and Macuata Province in Fiji, and Honiara and Wagina island in Solomon Islands.

Key elements of an ESRAM process include linking technical skills with local knowledge using participatory approaches; using the landscape as the level of analysis; focusing on inter-connectivity between systems; and generating future scenarios based on current and anticipated trends.

The results will be finalised in 2017 and will assist the work of PEBACC by helping to guide ecosystem-based adaptation actions that will strengthen national and community resilience.

As part of the ESRAM work, mapping workshops were held to seek the input and contributions from a wide range of community members of the six ESRAM sites in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Through this process, participants were taught about the role of ecosystems in strengthening resilience. Once completed, the ESRAMs and their recommendations will help guide planning and policy in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

“Understanding the different ecosystems at the national level will help decision and policy makers plan better when it comes to sustainable natural resources management, especially in trying to secure long term considerations and solutions to negative environment impacts and climate change.”

– Mr Simba Zamba, Office of the Prime Minister, Solomon Islands

Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal strengthened



PIPAP training underway in Solomon Islands. Photo: V.Jungblut/SPREP

The Protected Areas programme at SPREP helps Pacific island countries with conservation and management. Key support includes the tools, projects and online data in the Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal (PIPAP).

Currently, global datasets on protected areas do not accurately reflect the conservation areas of the Pacific islands. SPREP, through the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) project, is helping countries to record their data and information.

In 2016, the portal was upgraded so that countries and organisations can add their protected areas without GIS software (<http://pipap-tool.sprep.org/>). Resources, tools and data made available through the website were updated, and now thousands of materials on protected areas are accessible from this one-stop-portal. Also commencing in 2016 was a weekly digest of Pacific Islands Protected Areas news and information sent across the region through a mailing list network.

In Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tonga capacity was strengthened in spatial data management and data compilation from government departments and other sources.

PIPAP will store, manage and share data and information on protected areas and will ensure that the security and integrity of national data is properly managed in the long term. Analysis of country data to meet national priorities and regional and global targets will also be a key function of the portal once it is fully operational.

BIOPAMA is an initiative of the EU ACP Group of States, financially supported by the European Union's 10th European Development Fund. It is implemented by IUCN in collaboration with regional partners including SPREP in the Pacific region.

CITES Secretary-General visits Samoa

In 2016, the CITES Secretary-General Mr John E. Scanlon took part in a range of events and meetings with SPREP and partners in an effort to bring about stronger representation of the Pacific island region in CITES and to further support implementation. Tonga acceded to CITES in 2016, becoming the 183rd Party to join.



CITES Secretary-General Mr John E. Scanlon (front row fourth from left) visits SPREP and members.

'Learning through doing' opportunities for strengthening coral reef management across the Pacific

A SPREP partnership with Reef Ecologic and the University of Queensland helped SPREP Member countries to join the International Coral Reef Management and Leadership Fellowship programme in 2016. This programme aims to build capacity to protect coral reefs as a foundation for sustainable development.

The 2016 training course, organised by Reef Ecologic, was held in Townsville and on the Great Barrier Reef in northern Queensland. Five Pacific fellows from Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu joined their peers from the Caribbean and Indian Oceans for the three-week intensive course. The programme included two courses: high-level leadership for marine resource managers, and excellence in reef management.

Shark Protection underway in Kiribati

A Shark Sanctuary Enforcement and Compliance Training workshop was held in Kiribati funded by SPREP with support from the Pew Charitable Trusts. Over 20 workshop participants from across different government ministries learned how to approach different scenarios they may encounter in administering the shark sanctuary.

Since adopting the shark sanctuary regulation in 2015, Kiribati has banned the harvesting of sharks in the Kiribati Exclusive Economic Zone to arrest the rapid decline in their numbers and ensure future conservation.

SPREP is working with the Pew Charitable Trusts to promote shark protection in SPREP Member countries and territories, through the establishment of sanctuaries, the development of new or the amendment of existing legislation, and the implementation of Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) such as the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) and CITES.

Integrated Ocean Management focus of regional gathering

SPREP co-hosted a Pacific Regional Workshop on Integrated Ocean Management in Apia in November 2016, to inform global negotiations on oceans in 2017. This is another step toward a united Pacific perspective for the sustainable use and conservation of global ocean resources.

More than 70 participants attended from 16 Pacific island countries and territories, all marine CROP agencies, other intergovernmental

and non-governmental organisations, as well as industries such as tourism, aquaculture, fisheries and shipping. Participants gained a better understanding of our common futures, and practical options for managing marine ecosystems and economies.

The Pacific Ocean Alliance (POA) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Sustainable Ocean Initiative workshop for the Pacific Islands

was co-organised and funded by the CBD Secretariat, POA, Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC), Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Agence des aires marine protégées (French Agency for Marine Protected Areas), the Pacific Community (SPC), and SPREP. Additional funding came from the Japan Biodiversity Fund and Australian Aid.

Climate Change

Pacific island countries and territories are vulnerable, to varying degrees, to the impacts of climate change, climate variability and other natural disasters. Some of the territories and bigger countries have stronger environmental diversity, social and economic capacity, while others are very fragile and limited.

Although the impacts of climate change are already evident in all continents and the ocean, our region is one of the most vulnerable in the world to the threats of climate change and related disaster risks due to our limited capacities, geological formations and geographical locations, which make us vulnerable to tropical cyclones, typhoons, drought and earthquakes. For this reason, increased awareness and understanding of climate change impacts on Pacific communities and livelihoods are essential, as are activities that foster island resilience to changing weather extremes and climatic conditions.

SPREP is the lead coordinating agency on climate change responses and mainstreaming in the Pacific region. One of our key strategic goals is to strengthen the capacity of our members to respond to climate change. This strengthening is undertaken through policy improvements, implementation of practical adaptation measures, strengthening applications of weather and climate information and knowledge management, growing ecosystem resilience to the impacts of climate change and implementation of initiatives aimed at low-carbon development and emission reduction.

Choiseul Province, Solomon Islands. Photo: © Stuart Chape



Pacific islands ratify the Paris Climate Accord

Pacific island countries were among the first to sign and ratify the Paris Agreement on climate change when it was opened for signature in April 2016. The Paris Agreement set a record for first-day signatures to an international agreement, with 175 parties signing immediately, including 12 of 14 Pacific islands.

The agreement had been earlier endorsed during the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris, France in 2015.

Fiji, Nauru, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa and Tuvalu were six of the 15 countries that submitted their ratification during a special ceremony at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Since then, all 14 Pacific island countries have ratified the agreement, and the Paris Agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016.



Alliance of Small Islands States (AOSIS) commemorates the Paris Agreement coming into force in December 2016.

“It just goes to show if we put our minds collectively to anything as a global family that we can do it. The fact that most of the Small Island Developing States have taken the lead underscores the strength of our own conviction.”

– H.E. Ali'ioaiga Feturi Elisaia, Samoa's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Measuring non-economic losses

A work programme to address non-economic losses from climate change started development in 2016. Non-economic losses refers to loss that cannot be measured in financial terms, such as the loss of culture or artefacts. Given the rich and unique cultural heritage in the Pacific islands, this programme is important for the region.

The work programme for the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage is being shaped by several partners. They include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), United Nations Office of Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), International Maritime Organisation (IMO), Nansen Initiative/Platform on Disaster Displacement, and agencies such as SPREP.

Helping Pacific islands improve climate change knowledge management

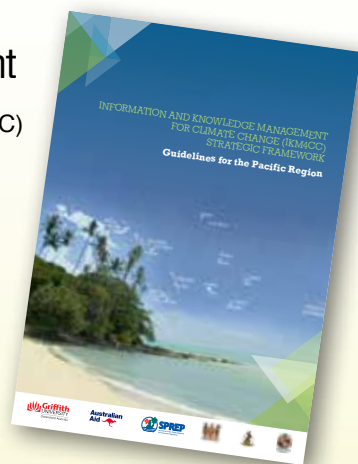
The Information and Knowledge Management for Climate Change Strategic Framework (IKM4CC) and Guidelines were launched in 2016.

These tools were developed in response to challenges identified in the Pacific Climate Information (iCLIM) report “Barriers to Effective Adaptation and Resilience Planning in the Pacific: An Information Management Perspective.”

The IKM4CC is designed to help organisations develop and use good information management practices. The document includes a sample framework that links together information management goals, outcomes, principles, policies and practices. It can be adopted as is or modified by governments, regional bodies and other organisations in the Pacific and also provides advice on key information management tasks and issues.

The Pacific iCLIM IKM4CC Guidelines offer advice on information management topics and practices. They are useful to those who collect, store and share climate change-related information.

The iCLIM Project is funded by the Australian Government and implemented by Griffith University and SPREP. It supports a regional approach to climate change data and information management in the Pacific.



Pacific iCLIM in Tonga

Better information and knowledge management on climate change was the focus of training in Tonga, organised by the Pacific iCLIM project which used the Information and Knowledge Management for Climate Change (IKM4CC) Framework and Guidelines launched in 2016.

The aim of the training was to improve the capacity of government departments and other organisations to manage climate change-related information. The training was supported by Griffith University, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and SPREP.

“Providing information and data on climate change is important so that the public can be aware of the issue and impact.”

– Mr Paula Ma'u, CEO, Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC), Tonga

The Pacific Climate Change Centre

2016 saw everything come together for the Pacific Climate Change Centre which will be a regional hub of excellence for the coordination of climate change initiatives in the Pacific region. In 2016 the Exchange of Notes between the Governments of Japan and Samoa were signed, which effectively ended the preparatory stage and launched the detailed design for the building phase of the PCCC to commence.

The PCCC was also showcased on the global stage with a special event in the Japan Pavilion at the 22nd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change in Marrakech.



L–R Mr Ichiro Satu, Deputy Director, Climate Change Office, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Ms Peseta Noumea Simi, CEO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Samoa, Mr Kosi Latu, Director General SPREP.

A First for the Pacific: Ocean acidification report released in 2016

The Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification Project launched the Pacific Islands Ocean Acidification Vulnerability Assessment in 2016, helping to raise awareness of a key challenge facing the Pacific islands region. The study looked at the vulnerability of the region to increasing ocean acidification, and the likely implications. Ocean acidification, caused by the build-up of carbon dioxide absorbed in the ocean, is expected to impact Pacific island coastal and pelagic ecosystems and the communities that depend on them. This assessment will help guide decision making and planning for Pacific island countries and territories.

The Pacific Islands Ocean Acidification Vulnerability Assessment is an outcome of the New Zealand Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification project. The

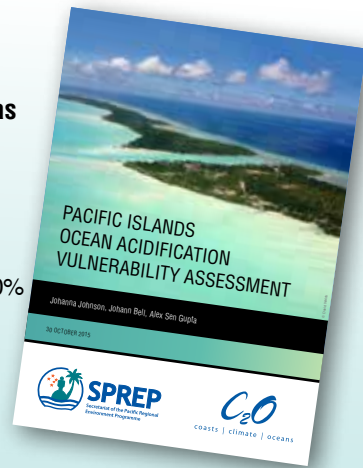
project is coordinated by SPREP in partnership with the Pacific Community and the University of the South Pacific, with support from the Government of New Zealand and the Principality of Monaco.

What is ocean acidification?

Ocean acidification is a result of increasing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The ocean has absorbed approximately 25–33% of the excess carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere since the start of the Industrial Revolution. This excess carbon dioxide, when reacting with seawater, lowers the pH level of the ocean. Lower pH levels increase the solubility of aragonite (a calcium carbonate mineral found in coral skeletons and calcareous shells), impacting coral skeleton growth and shellfish in particular.

Acidification has already started

The pH of the tropical Pacific Ocean has decreased by 30% (0.11 pH units) since the early 19th century, now decreasing by ~0.02 units per decade, and is changing at a rate that is unprecedented for the past 300 million years. A further decline of 0.3 units (150% drop) is expected by the end of this century. Thus, the decrease seen over the last >200 years could now occur every 20 to 50 years. Average ocean pH is now 8.1, varying seasonally and spatially by 0.3 units.



History in the making with the Framework for Resilient Development endorsed

In 2016, Pacific Leaders endorsed the Framework for Resilient Development (FRDP) in the Pacific, the world's first integrated framework to build resilience to climate change and disasters in the Pacific islands. The FRDP was endorsed by Leaders during the 47th Pacific Island Forum meeting in the Federated States of Micronesia.

The FRDP replaces two policy guides which address climate change and disaster risk management: the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC) and the Regional Framework for Action on Disaster Risk Management (RFA), both in use from 2005 to 2016.

The framework aims to ensure that climate change and disasters are understood as a development challenge with priority actions to build resilience across all sectors. It promotes integrated approaches to make better use of resources, rationalise multiple sources of funding, and includes risk assessments in development planning and budgets.

The FRDP was developed in response to recommendations from the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable and the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management in 2011. An extensive and inclusive consultation process was undertaken over a three year period with Pacific island countries and territories.

The Technical Working Group for the FRDP included SPREP, the Pacific Community, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, University of the South Pacific and the United Nations Office of Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

The FRDP is aligned to the SPREP Strategic Plan, Pacific Regionalism Framework, Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework.

The development of the FRDP was funded by the European Union through the Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific (BSRP) project and Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA); the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) through the International Climate Change



Samoa post cyclone Evan, 2012. Photo: © Stuart Chape



Coastal erosion in Samoa. Photo: C.Iacovino.

Initiative (ICCAI) and funding for SPREP and SPC; the Government of Switzerland support for the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable through SPREP; and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the USAID Institutional Strengthening in Pacific Island Countries to Adapt to Climate Change (ISACC) project. A new Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) will coordinate cooperation as well as implement and monitor the FRDP.

Tautu Village in Aitutaki, Cook Islands strengthens resilience with FINPAC

Tautu village in Aitutaki, Cook Islands completed a disaster and climate resilience pilot project with support from the Finnish-Pacific (FINPAC) Project and partners in July 2016.

The project supported the development of a Climate and Disaster Resilience Plan designed with input from the local community to guide them in case of an emergency weather hazard.

A range of equipment was handed to Tautu village to help strengthen the plan, including a warning siren, upgrades to the Tautu

Community Evacuation Centres, emergency kits for the Tautu Disaster Committee, information boards on wind speed, and colour-coded fire and drought monitoring wheels.

Other preparation support included the tie-down of roofs for 80% of the households in Tautu, and plans to plant trees in the schools and along the coast.

As part of the handover activity, a mock drill took place which saw the Tautu Climate and Disaster Resilience Plan successfully put into action.



Dr Netatua Pelesikoti hands over to Mr Rere Mataiti of Tautu Village.



Top: Mr Lesu Waqaniburotu of IFRC and Ms Mata Hetland of Cook Islands Red Cross with solar powered equipment for Tautu Village funded by FINPAC.

“We are so grateful to Tautu village who worked together with the Cook Islands Red Cross on the plan, without their buy-in and input, this plan is just that – a plan. We are glad that there is ownership of this plan so that when it is needed, they will be prepared to use it.”

– Dr Netatua Pelesikoti, SPREP Director of Climate Change Division, SPREP

Predicting the climate

In 2016, 15 Pacific island meteorological services across the region were gifted laptops to help strengthen their forecasting abilities using new ‘downscaling’ climate prediction software which will help provide seasonal climate forecasts for Pacific island communities.

This is part of a project led by SPREP in partnership with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Climate Centre (APCC), called the Republic of Korea-Pacific Climate Prediction Project (ROKPI-CLIPS).

This introduced a new Seasonal Climate Prediction System which gives the option of combining climate models from ten different

global meteorology centres to develop a prediction service over any three-month period.

The establishment of this system, called “CLIK Pacific”, will provide the Pacific islands region with ongoing access to data from state of the art climate models.

Participants from 15 Pacific islands took part in one week of training in the Cook Islands to learn how to use the CLIK Pacific software and how to best communicate the information gathered from CLIK Pacific to share with audiences so it is well understood.



Learning about CLIK Pacific in the Cook Islands.

The ROK-PI CLIPS Project is a partnership between the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Climate Centre and the Government of the Republic of Korea with SPREP and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

“This revolutionary new programme will help us all immensely, our work is crucial to our communities in so many different ways, every bit of support or assistance we receive to better our services for our communities is very much appreciated.”

– Mr. Arona Ngari, Director, Cook Islands Meteorological Service

FINPAC helps to walk the weather talk in the Pacific islands

“Many of our people are in rural areas, media is very important in reaching them. So we need to make sure the work we do is translated in the manner appropriate and is heard or read by those that need it the most.”

– Mr Samuel Maiha, PNGNWS Director

2016 saw the staff of Papua New Guinea’s weather service (PNGWS) and the Solomon Islands Meteorological Services (SIMS) strengthen their communication skills with special training supported by the FINPAC Project.

Differences in the meanings behind meteorological terms such as “isolated showers”, “scattered showers”, “light showers” and “brief showers” were at the centre of discussions during the training, helping to form a glossary for use in country work.

In Papua New Guinea, the training embraced the input from members of the PNG national media and the Red Cross Society

to help build confidence when the PNGWS work with media to ensure communication is clear and understood by relevant audiences. The training also created a list of terms for use by the PNGWS.

In Solomon Islands, the training served as the opportunity for the different national media organisations and the SIMS, National Disaster Management Office and the Climate Change Division to learn more about each agency and strengthen ways of working together for clearer communications for national audiences. A glossary list of meteorological terms was also developed.



Walking the Weather Talk Training in PNG.

“It’s very important for the Meteorology staff to be able to talk to the media; with increased weather events affecting our islands, we need to work with the media to raise awareness and educate communities.”

– Mr David Hiba Hiriasia, Director, Solomon Islands Meteorological Service

FINPAC in the Pacific islands

The Finnish-Pacific Project (FINPAC) aimed to reduce the vulnerability of Pacific islanders to the impacts of climate change by strengthening the Meteorological Services.

FINPAC is a four year regional project ending in 2017, funded by the Government of Finland and coordinated through SPREP. It commenced in 2013.

The two key components of FINPAC were (1) providing National Meteorological Services with the capacity and tools to deliver and communicate weather and climate services in a timely manner to support communities and (2) working with communities to strengthen their ability to use and apply meteorological data and information and to develop appropriate plans to address climate change and disasters.

Community resilience at the core of the FINPAC Project.
Artwork by Tui Ledua.



COMMUNITY Resilience

Green Climate Fund makes huge strides in the Pacific islands

In December 2016, Vanuatu was awarded a USD 23 Million dollar grant for the Climate Information Services for Resilience Development Project, for which SPREP is the Accredited Agency.

The project will be implemented with the Vanuatu Meteorological and Geohazards Department in the Ministry of Climate Change with support from partners.

The Climate Information Services for Resilient Development Project will span four years and focus on the delivery of practical tools and resources to support climate-resilient planning and management decisions at national, provincial and community levels.

The project will enhance the ability of VMGD to deliver tailored information to support, for example, climate early warning systems, infrastructure developments, management of local fisheries, and seasonal planning in the agriculture sector.

As a Regional Implementing Entity to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), SPREP is able to submit applications for funding of projects and programmes on behalf of countries, of up to USD 50 Million.



Vila Bay, Port Vila, Efate Island, Vanuatu. Photo: © Stuart Chape

GCF funding approved for the Pacific islands in 2016

Pacific firsts:

- In April 2016, the Cook Islands were the first Pacific island country to receive financial resources in form of readiness funding support to strengthen their capacity to access finance through GCF.
- Vanuatu was the first Pacific island country awarded an Activity 4 grant to support project development which led to the Climate Information Services for Resilient Development Project.

Other Pacific projects approved in December:

- A USD 57 Million grant was approved for a project in Samoa with UNDP for integrated flood management to enhance climate resilience of the Vaisigano river catchment.

- A USD 22 Million grant for a multi-country renewable energy programme with the Asian Development Bank with a focus on Cook Islands, and support for the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tonga, was also approved.

What is the Green Climate Fund?

The GCF was established in 2010 by the 194 countries that are parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as part of the Convention's financial mechanism.

The GCF has mobilised 10.3 billion USD in resources which aims to support the efforts of developing countries in their response to climate change challenges, helping



to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.

The Fund pays special attention to the needs of those highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, in particular Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States and African States.

The GCF can disburse grants, loans, equity or guarantees.

Second Pacific Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF-2) hosted in Fiji

The PICOF-2 brought together national and regional Pacific island meteorological staff, international experts, and representatives of key Pacific island priority sectors, including disaster management.

The sole purpose of which was to discuss the seasonal climate outlook and the application of this information to sectoral decision-making, in particular, that in the disaster risk reduction sector.

To help Pacific island communities prepare and respond to the upcoming cyclone season, PICOF-2 released a Consensus Regional Statement on the Impacts of the 2015/16 El Niño and the 2016/17 Climate and Tropical Cyclone Outlook for the Pacific Islands.

The Pacific Islands Consensus Regional Statement was to help guide actions and preparations for these events to ensure islands communities are as resilient as possible.

The PICOF-2 was coordinated by SPREP and partners with the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Federal Department of the Environment and with financial contribution by the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of Australia.



Group work in PICOF-2.

Traditional and modern forecasting

In 2016, SPREP welcomed a new project into the fold, integrating traditional knowledge on weather and climate with modern forecasting to improve community resilience to extreme weather and climate services.

The rapid disappearance of traditional knowledge (TK) on weather and climate in the Pacific is a concern because it could lead to the loss of traditional predictions, strategies, mechanisms and practices that enabled many Pacific communities to cope. This loss may contribute to the reduction of a community's resilience to extreme climate events.

To address these concerns, SPREP in partnership with the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), the national meteorological services (NMS) and communities from Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are collaborating on a Climate Traditional Knowledge (CTK) project. The main objectives of the project are:



- to preserve weather and combine TK with contemporary meteorological forecasts;
- to encourage local communities to use NMS forecasts as well as traditional forecasts to increase community resilience to extreme events; and
- to increase the recognition of the value of TK for resilience to extreme events.

To increase community resilience, SPREP and the Bureau (BoM) have been working with the four NMSs to identify local communities that use TK for environmental forecast applications.

Traditional Knowledge on weather and climate is important for Pacific resilience. Photo: Pauline Marsden

Work will include collecting, documenting, storing and analysing TK stories to identify climate indicators used by pilot communities. There will also be a verification of the indicators to check the accuracy of data collected before TK is integrated with modern forecasting.

Since July 2016, training on survey methods, monitoring of indicators, and database use has been carried out for the Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu National Meteorological Services.

Environmental Monitoring

Strengthening the capacity of our Pacific island members for environmental monitoring and governance is crucial to achieving sustainable development.

One of SPREP's key strategic goals is to ensure that the region has the capacity to develop and implement transparent and robust environmental governance and management frameworks and processes. This goal is achieved through facilitating stronger legislation, implementation, monitoring and reporting.

These targeted capacity building activities also assist our Members in mainstreaming environmental issues as well as in meeting their national environmental and sustainable development priorities.

Qamea Island, Fiji. Photo: © Stuart Chape



and Governance



Rock Islands, Palau. Photo: © Stuart Chape

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): paving the way for sustainable development

SPREP continues to provide technical assistance and advice on EIA to strengthen the capacity of Members in environmental planning and management for sustainable development.

What is an EIA?

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) systematically assesses the impact of any development upon the environment, and it examines how the local environment might affect a development, before a decision is made. It also recommends the best steps to take in planning resilient development while maintaining environmental integrity.

New milestone achieved in Tokelau

SPREP helped make history in Tokelau with the very first EIA training conducted for residents of Nukunonu Atoll in Tokelau. Delivered by SPREP, it was initiated by the Nukunonu *Taupulega*, a local district authority.

The training brought together representatives from the health, youth, education, economic development, fisheries, and environment sectors, including participants from the *Taupulega* and women's groups.

A 2012 EIA policy framework developed for an airstrip on Nukunonu was reviewed as part of the training, and as a consequence, the policy was applied to other development activities. The training also included practical field exercises to enable participants to use their new EIA knowledge to assess existing developments and related environmental issues.

Similar EIA workshops are planned for the remaining Tokelau atolls of Fakaofu and Atafu.



Participants taking part in a group activity during the first ever Environmental Impact Assessment workshop held. Photo: J.Davetanivalu/SPREP

Enhancing EIA capacity in the Republic of the Marshall Islands

EIA training led by SPREP in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) aimed to support more effective implementation of the EIA regulations. The training workshop was in response to a needs assessment survey of government staff and community stakeholders in 2015, on their level of EIA awareness and training needs.

Delivered by SPREP for government staff, the training was based on the country's own legislation and EIA process, combined with a series of practical exercises that focussed on screening development applications, developing terms of reference for EIA reports, and reviewing EIA reports.

A field trip to a proposed new landfill

site and to existing dredging sites gave participants the opportunity to identify and discuss typical challenges they may encounter when administering an EIA.

SPREP also assisted the RMI Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) with the development of an EIA flowchart, to be used as a communication tool to promote and increase national awareness of and compliance with the EIA process.

Representatives from the EPA; Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office; Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority; Marshall Islands Visitors Authority; RMI Historic Preservation Office; Majuro Water and Sewer Company; Marshall Islands Mayors Association; and the Marshall



Participants of the Environmental Impact Assessment workshop held in RMI.

Islands Conservation Society were actively engaged in the training.

The European Union is acknowledged for providing financial assistance for the EIA training workshop, with support from the United Nations Environment Programme through the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States Multilateral Environmental Agreements 2 Programme (ACP MEAs 2).

Niue EIA training supports policy development

In Niue, future investments in renewable energy are likely to have an impact on the local environment.

This has led to the delivery of a three-day EIA training workshop by SPREP, in partnership with Niue's Department of Environment and the Sustainable Energy Programme at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The training increased participants' understanding of the EIA process and how it can be effectively applied to developments in all sectors, including renewable energy.

The EIA capacity-building

complemented the enactment of Niue's revised Environment Act and supported the finalisation of Environment (Development Consent and Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations. Practical exercises were used to explain the EIA process and to build the skills of the participants in EIA administration.

Funding Representatives from the Department of Environment; Department of Transport; Department of Justice, Lands Survey and Communication Services; Tāoga Niue; Project Management and Coordination Unit; and Niue Meteorological



EIA workshop field trip in Niue. Photo: M.Bradley/SPREP.

Service attended the workshop.

Support for the training was provided by the Sustainable Energy Programme, IUCN and the European Union and by the United Nations Environment Programme through the ACP MEAs 2 Programme.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) taskforce to benefit from SPREP expertise

SPREP is now part of a taskforce responsible for developing environment indicators for national and regional decision-making toward sustainable development. The indicators will measure progress against the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, the 2030 Agenda/Sustainable Development Goals and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action SAMOA Pathway. In 2015, Pacific Islands Forum Leaders committed to the full implementation of the SDGs. The Leaders called for an open and inclusive process to identify regional indicators that account for national priorities. Actions to achieve sustainable development should be country-led and regionally supported.

This initiative draws in partners such as the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Pacific Community (SPC), and a number of Pacific island countries.

Sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity beyond borders

SPREP was part of the regional team coordinated by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) to provide technical support and advice to the Pacific Small Island Developing States during the BBNJ Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) meetings 1 and 2 sessions held in April and August of 2016.

BBNJ refers to marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

With ocean regions being highly interconnected, the conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ has implications for the health and status of marine biodiversity within the Pacific islands region. This is a key reason why SPREP Members are keen to see a sound international regime for Area Based Management Tools and EIAs established under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

SPREP Members are also seeking a fair share of any benefits that might be derived from marine genetic resources (MGR) obtained from areas beyond national

jurisdiction. Such benefits could include the sharing of research results; training and capacity-building related to MGR development and commercialisation; and a share in royalty income from MGR-related discoveries.

The regional team was drawn from the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP), of which SPREP is a member. In 2016, the first and second BBNJ PrepCom meetings were held at UN Headquarters in New York.

The meetings discussed the components of an international legally binding instrument under the UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ.

There were four elements of the discussions: marine genetic resources; area-based management tools; environmental impact assessments; and capacity building and marine technology transfer. All of which are closely linked to SPREP's core activities.

Special recognition was given



Participants of the RMI SOE and NEMS workshop.

to SPREP from the Chair of the Pacific Small Islands Developing States, in particular the Permanent Missions to the United Nations.

SPREP provided support to Pacific island governments at the first BBNJ PrepCom Meeting in New York in April. The quality of support and service was highlighted in a letter of commendation from the Permanent Mission of Nauru along with a request for further support to help prepare for the second PrepCom Meeting in August.

This recognition was well received from the organisation that strives to continue providing quality service for its Members.

Database network vital for environmental monitoring in the Pacific islands

Three years in the making, a project led by SPREP to establish environment databases was approved for funding by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in September 2016.

This project will see the establishment of both national and regional databases within countries to support work on State of Environment (SoE) reports and National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS).

The goals are to:

- strengthen the legal, policy, and planning frameworks to support collection and sharing of environmental data;
- establish a network of national and regional databases for

monitoring the state of the Pacific environment;

- strengthen Convention reporting, policy development, and monitoring and evaluation requirements on the state of the global, regional, and national environment;
- facilitate the use of environmental data for national planning and sustainable development;
- generate data through the planning and impact assessment processes;
- assist Pacific island countries with meeting legislated national reporting requirements including SoE reporting;
- establish capacity at the national

and regional levels to manage a network of national and regional databases; and

- build institutional capacities of governments to share data, information, and knowledge to enable streamlined reporting and informed decision-making.

The project will address common problems such as a lack of evidence of trends in environmental resources and drivers of change; a lack of standard procedures for collecting and sorting data; and information not reaching technical staff, government, or the public.

This effort is a partnership between the GEF, SPREP, United Nations Environment Program, and all 14 Pacific island Members.

Republic of the Marshall Islands State of Environment Report now complete

SPREP presented the final SoE Report 2016 for the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The key findings of the SoE report were that out of 38 environmental indicators, 25 per cent were classified as 'good', 25 per cent as 'poor', and half were 'fair' in status.

The aim of the SoE is to present a basis for effective environmental management planning.

Highlights from the report show that coral reefs were generally in good condition except for reefs around Kwajalein and Majuro. Water quality continued to be a problem, especially in urban centres such as Majuro, with about half of freshwater sources contaminated. There has also been significant conservation success with the *mule* (Micronesian pigeon).

One of the biggest challenges outlined in the SoE is the nuclear legacy which continues to be a major ongoing environmental concern. In recognition of this, the 2016 RMI SoE is the first to incorporate a nuclear section. Other concerns highlighted were the gaps in data such as the lack of an agricultural census.

The development of the RMI SoE began in 2014 with a request for assistance from the RMI Office of Environment Protection and

Policy Coordination. Extensive consultations were then held in 2015 and 2016, involving more than 16 government departments, civil society groups and four local governments.

The SoE includes environmental data for 38 nationally selected indicators. It provides the current state of the indicators based on the best available data, the impacts this has on the country, and the current response from government as well as recommendations.

The action areas in the SoE Report are now the strategic focus areas of the RMI National Environmental Management Strategy 2017–2022. These focus areas are aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals, the SAMOA Pathway, and other multilateral environmental agreements.

What is an SoE?

State of Environment (SoE) reporting is an internationally recognised reporting method that provides a health check of a geographic area and its ecosystems and natural resources.

The SoE analyses data from local, national, regional, and international sources to provide an environmental health overview. The



Developing the RMI State of Environment Report during a workshop coordinated by SPREP's EMG division. Photo: M.Bradley/SPREP

report also identifies trends, both natural and those influenced by people, and how these might have an environmental impact.

The reports usually include the condition of flora and fauna, habitats such as native forests, marine and inland waters, soils and vegetation, and other factors.

An SoE provides or updates a baseline which can help to predict the future state of an environment, based on existing or emerging problems.

SoE reports are a useful planning tool for managers in sectors such as natural resources, urban planning, tourism, and resource development.

Labasa, Vanua Levu, Fiji. Photo: © Stuart Chape



National Environment Management Strategies to benefit Pacific islands

It has been over 20 years since the first sets of National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS) were produced for Pacific island countries in the early 1990s. However, minimal efforts were put in place by countries to monitor and evaluate the implementation of NEMS and their contribution to national, regional and global development.

There has since been a renewed interest to review and update the NEMS to reflect critical and emerging environmental challenges and issues facing Pacific island countries. In 2016, SPREP worked with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Niue and Vanuatu to harness this renewed interest and provide support with NEMS development.

Multi-stakeholder consultations were undertaken to verify and confirm environmental issues to be included in the NEMS. These

topics were based largely on priorities expressed in existing national sustainable development plans, international agreements and environment thematic strategies and plans.

Climate change was identified as a key priority along with waste management, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management. The process and approach used were designed to suit each country's context and were carried out in an integrated manner.

One of the issues identified from the NEMS review process was the need to establish robust monitoring and reporting frameworks to track progress, and to inform planning and decision-making.

SPREP's support to the NEMS process was made possible through financial support from the European Union and UN Environment ACP MEAs 2 Programme.

What is a NEMS and why is it important?

A National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS) lays out a policy platform for planning and action to respond to key environmental problems. The NEMS can serve as a guide to mainstream environmental concerns into national development planning.

A NEMS also provides a roadmap to assist countries in meeting their international commitments, including commitments under Multilateral Environmental Agreements, the SAMOA Pathway and Sustainable Development Goals.

The guiding principles for the NEMS development process are leadership and governance; collective responsibility for the environment; indigenous knowledge, practices and innovations; and integration of the environment and development.



Niue coast.

NEMS Spotlight on Niue

In Niue, the first NEMS dates back to 1993. SPREP assisted with the NEMS update in 2016 which included a national consultation with the Department of Environment and key stakeholders. The consultation examined linkages between the environment, development and conservation. The aim was to design a plan to safeguard the environment.

Major environmental concerns were identified which included global warming and sea level rise; population growth; decline of traditional resource management practices; unsustainable use of natural resources; and waste management and pollution control.



Aerial view of Majuro, RMI. Photo: M.Bradley/SPREP

NEMS Spotlight on the Republic of the Marshall Islands

In RMI, the State of Environment report shows that environmental quality is deteriorating. This is due partly to increased development and population growth, as well as the limitations imposed by a small and low-lying land area.

National NEMS consultations were held in Majuro in 2015, with a second round of consultations in October 2016. The NEMS was developed from the issues identified in each of the thematic areas in the 2016 State of Environment report. The key risks identified include sea level rise as a result of climate change; climate variability and disaster; rising population density in Majuro; decline in traditional resource management; unsustainable use of natural resources; and poor waste management and pollution control.

The development of the NEMS will assist the RMI Government to address the deteriorating environment. The strategy identifies stakeholders who will assist in the implementation of key priorities thus allowing for better coordination of activities.

Waste Management and

Pollution and the growing volumes of solid and hazardous wastes are major threats to the environments and sustainable development of Pacific islands.

Globalisation is accelerating the transition of Pacific communities toward consumer economies, with increasing urbanisation, migration and participation in international trade.

This change produces increased quantities of solid and liquid wastes, and these wastes increase the risk of coastal and marine pollution. The lack of controls on imported chemicals and the lack of national capacity for managing pollutants threaten to undermine the quality and health of vulnerable ecosystems on which Pacific people depend.

Improved pollution and waste management was a priority focus for SPREP in 2016. SPREP continued to assist countries through the provision of technical advice, programmes and institutional support as well as assistance securing funding to provide these services.

Ship wrecks, Honiara, Solomon Islands. Photo: © Stuart Chape



Pollution Control

Inaugural Clean Pacific Roundtable makes Pacific history



In July 2016, the very first Clean Pacific Roundtable was held in Suva, Fiji. The milestone event, attracting around 100 participants from 21 different countries and territories, was coordinated by SPREP with generous support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the European Union (EU).

The Clean Pacific Roundtable is a key mechanism for coordinating the implementation of the Pacific Regional Waste Management and Pollution Control Strategy 2016–2025—known as Cleaner Pacific

2025, adopted by the Twenty-sixth SPREP Meeting of Officials in 2015.

Joining SPREP, JICA, EU and country and territory delegates at the Roundtable were representatives from World Bank, Asia Development Bank, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, PRIF Coordination Office, Melanesian Spearhead Group, University of the South Pacific, University of Newcastle, Griffith University, the Pacific Community, International

Union for the Conservation of Nature, POETCom and a range of private sector organisations.

Hot topics of conversation included the improved management of disaster waste and green waste, the importance of establishing public-private partnerships, the viability of a regional recycling network and the emerging threat of marine debris.

The Roundtable will be held every two years for the duration of the Cleaner Pacific 2025 Strategy and will act as a crucial mechanism for improving and innovating waste prevention and management in the Pacific region.

“The Roundtable is a forum to share experiences and to disseminate information. We want to hear from you, not just about the challenges, but about the innovative solutions that you have had to adopt to address these challenges. We also want to make sure that whatever we do is aligned completely with the priorities of our Member countries.”

– Mr Kosi Latu, Director General, SPREP

“The European Union remains committed and will continue to support Pacific countries to implement Cleaner Pacific 2025. We view this Roundtable as an essential platform that consolidates and further strengthens collaboration and coordination between countries and various partners supporting the vision of a cleaner Pacific.”

– Mr Christoph Wagner, Head of Cooperation at the European Union Delegation for the Pacific

“The Clean Pacific Roundtable serves as a good example to other countries and agencies to work in coordination and cooperation - not competition. On behalf of JICA, I extend my deep appreciation to everybody involved in the success of this meeting.”

– Mr Shiro Amano, former Chief Advisor of the JICA-funded Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries (J-PRISM) project

CleanPacific **ROUNDTABLE HIGHLIGHTS**

Committing to solutions for a sustainable Pacific

SPREP and the University of Newcastle signed a Memorandum of Understanding, signifying the start of a new partnership to implement solutions for the benefit of both the environment and Pacific island communities.

The University of Newcastle's excellence in applied research, development and problem solving

will be used by SPREP in a number of environmental fields. These include energy efficiency and renewable energy, resource management, contaminated land and hazardous wastes, sustainable environmental practices, disaster preparedness and risk reduction and connections to business and the private sector.



Dr Alan Broadfoot from the University of Newcastle, with Director General of SPREP, Mr Kosi Latu, at the Clean Pacific Roundtable in Suva. Photo: A.Carvan/SPREP



During the side event Mr Camille Laude (UNDP), Dr Graham Brewer (University of Newcastle) and Mr Makoto Tsukiji (J-PRISM) emphasised the importance of establishing a regional framework on disaster waste management. Photo: A.Carvan/SPREP

Disaster waste in the spotlight

The critical importance of managing the vast quantity of waste caused by cyclones, flooding and tsunamis was highlighted at a special side event of the Clean Pacific Roundtable.

With natural disasters in the Pacific region increasing in frequency and severity, the issue of disaster waste has developed a greater sense of urgency. Natural disasters create a huge volume of intermingled waste types—comprising solid, green and hazardous waste—which often need to be cleared very quickly to allow for relief efforts.

Celebrating women in waste

In the Pacific region, and across the globe, gender plays a crucial role in waste management. The increased participation of women in the planning and implementation of waste management projects means better, and more meaningful, outcomes for all members of the community.

During day three of the Roundtable, femLINKPacific interviewed a group of participant women about their career paths and their recommendations for Pacific island communities on improved waste management. Key issues raised include waste management as a cultural concept and common wastes as not something to throw out but rather re-use.



When the voices of women are heard and taken into consideration, waste management initiatives are more likely to meet everyone's needs. Photo: A.Carvan/SPREP



The opening of the Clean Pacific Roundtable. Photo: A.Carvan/SPREP



Ms Susana Telakau (Director, Solid Waste Agency of Tuvalu), Ms Mafile'o Masi (Chief Environmentalist, Tonga) and Ms Patricia Pedrus (Sustainable Development Planner, Federated States of Micronesia) being interviewed for radio at the Roundtable. Photo: Sian Rolls/femLINKPacific

PacWaste 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

PacWaste making a difference in the Pacific

In 2016, the European Union funded Pacific Hazardous Waste Management project, known as PacWaste, continued to make the Pacific safer and cleaner for all, with major milestones completed in all four of the project's focus areas: asbestos, E-waste, healthcare waste and integrated atoll waste management.

These successes were highlighted at the project's fourth annual Steering Committee Meeting in Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu. The meeting attracted delegates from 13 of the 15 countries participating in the PacWaste project, as well as representatives from the European Union, SPREP, Government of Vanuatu and the JICA-funded J-PRISM project.



Participants at the Fourth Annual Steering Committee Meeting of the PacWaste Project in Santo, Vanuatu. Photo: A.Carvan/SPREP

Healthcare waste

PacWaste continued its roll-out of high-temperature, dual-chamber healthcare waste incinerators and the provision of specialised training.

In June 2016, visiting European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Mr Neven Mimica, formally handed over new PacWaste high-temperature incinerators to Tungaru Central Hospital in Tarawa, Kiribati and Princess Margaret Hospital in Funafuti, Tuvalu.

At the commissioning ceremony, Mr Mimica spoke of the importance of waste management to public health and the environment and praised SPREP for effectively delivering results through the PacWaste project in the Pacific region.

Since the project commenced, PacWaste has conducted healthcare waste training at 42 locations in 15 countries. The positive impact of the provision of technical equipment and specialised training was evident at Lenakel Hospital, which services a population of 32,000 people across the island of Tanna in Vanuatu.

"We have porters, drivers, nurses, laundry staff, cleaners, a radiographer, a pharmacy officer, lab technicians all at the training, so that everyone at the hospital understands what is expected of them when it comes to managing our waste properly."

– Ms Betty Simon, Midwife at Lenakel Hospital, reflects on the very thorough healthcare waste training.

Asbestos

In 2016, action against asbestos was firmly on the PacWaste radar. *The State of Asbestos in the Pacific*, a new publication produced in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), synthesises data about the location and relative risk of asbestos materials on 25 different islands across 13 Pacific countries.

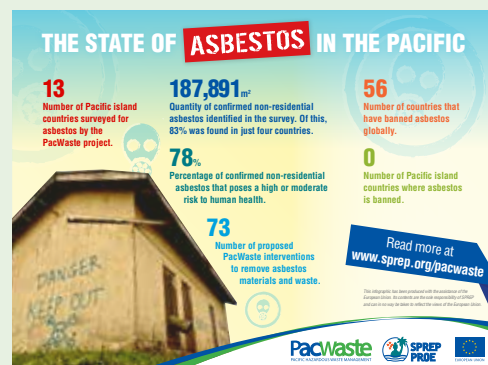
This was followed in June with the release of the findings from a Pacific-wide survey on asbestos awareness which indicated that six in ten people under 30 years of age have little or no knowledge about asbestos and its health risks.

Since the project commenced, PacWaste has coordinated asbestos remediation activities at 73 locations across 11 different Pacific island countries.

Additionally, contingency resources were mobilised to assist Pacific island countries in unanticipated instances of potential asbestos exposure. For example, PacWaste deployed a team of qualified experts to the site of the Old Gizo Hospital Building in Solomon Islands after a fire revealed asbestos materials in the debris, likely from newly installed asbestos cladding.

This incident, along with findings from the PacWaste regional asbestos baseline survey, highlighted the urgent need for controls on the importation and sale of new building materials containing asbestos in the Pacific.

In October, PacWaste supported proactive efforts by the Government of Nauru in asbestos remediation by training representatives from Nauru's Department of Commerce,



Globally, more than 100,000 people die each year from illnesses related to asbestos exposure.

Industry and Environment, relevant government sectors and interested community representatives in the safe removal, storage and handling of asbestos materials. These individuals will now be charged with ensuring that Nauruan contractors undertaking asbestos removal on the island are, at all times, adhering to international best-practice.

PacWaste 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

E-waste

Globally, E-waste is a growing problem that has negative effects on both human and environmental health. In the Pacific, efforts to manage this hazardous waste stream are complicated by challenges such as limited access to disposal points or recycling markets and the high cost of transporting E-waste out of the region.

PacWaste has trialled a range of small-scale and locally targeted E-waste management activities.

In Vanuatu, a partnership was

forged with the Department of Environment Protection and Conservation and RecycleCorp Vanuatu Ltd to collect and recycle E-waste in Port Vila. The free E-waste collection service will operate on a trial basis until March 2017. A similar scheme in Rarotonga has proven hugely successful and has led to a move by the Government of Cook Islands to work towards legislating for an advance disposal fee on bulky products and e-waste when they are imported.



In just six weeks, the ULAB buy-back scheme in Republic of the Marshall Islands saw the collection, safe packaging and export of 515 batteries. Photo: T.Hartley/SPREP

In the Republic of the Marshall Islands, PacWaste partnered with the Majuro Atoll Waste Company to introduce a Used Lead Acid Battery buy-back scheme through which people can take old batteries to a central site and be paid for them.

Atoll waste

Majuro atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands is the site of the PacWaste project's integrated atoll waste management pilot programme. With 0.9 kilograms of waste generated per person per day, Majuro has the highest per capita rate of waste generation in the Pacific island region. While the island does have a waste collection service, it is under-resourced and does not service all areas.

In December 2016, PacWaste and local project partners launched the lokwe Bag, a pre-paid garbage bag made specifically for Majuro. Money from the sale of the lokwe Bag will be used to pay for an expanded household waste collection service across the entire atoll, ensuring that the system is both universal and cost-effective.

“The slogan ‘Erreo eo, ñian emman eo’ roughly translates as ‘a cleaner environment is better/healthier’. The rainbow was chosen as a symbol as it represents hope, unity and optimism. We love this design because we are hopeful, optimistic and united in our desire to make a cleaner Marshall Islands.”

– Ms Linda Tomeing, PacWaste Support Officer, WUTMI

Central to the success of the lokwe Bag has been a strong focus on communication and public engagement, managed on the ground by the local NGO Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI).

Work to shift public attitudes toward waste is taking place on numerous fronts, with partners working together to complement and cross-promote behaviour change and awareness-raising activities already in action at the national level.



With key partners joining forces to tackle the issues of waste, rubbish on the streets of Majuro may soon be a thing of the past. Photo: A.Carvan/SPREP



Investing in Pacific islanders with the Pacific POPs Release Reduction Project

In 2016, the Pacific POPs Release Reduction Project continued with its innovative programme of activities designed to help countries reduce emissions of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), particularly those that are created unintentionally as a result of poor solid and hazardous waste management practices.

Trainers from 12 Pacific island countries received new skills in how to manage solid and hazardous waste in a Train the Trainers workshop in Fiji in November. The programme focused on semi-skilled waste workers in the Pacific, helping to teach them best-practice



landfill management and hazardous waste handling techniques.

A component of the training programme also taught participants communication skills so they can effectively pass on useful information and skills to their colleagues.

The training programme was developed with the help of many partners, including Fiji

National University, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Griffith University, UN Environment Programme and JICA.

The 12 successful graduates join more than 60 others who have completed the Train the Trainers programme since 2013 as part of the four-year POPs Project.

Keeping Pacific islanders safe with training on dangerous chemicals

The countries and territories of the Pacific are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of improper chemical management due to poorly maintained storage facilities, limited resource capacity and the porous nature of many of the islands which threatens their water security. This vulnerability is exacerbated by the region's exposure to storm surges and tropical cyclones.

To assist, a new training programme developed in 2016 in collaboration by SPREP and the University of the South Pacific (USP) taught laboratory workers, science teachers, and others how to safely store, handle, use and dispose of dangerous chemicals.

The Best Practice Chemical Management Training was

successfully run in Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

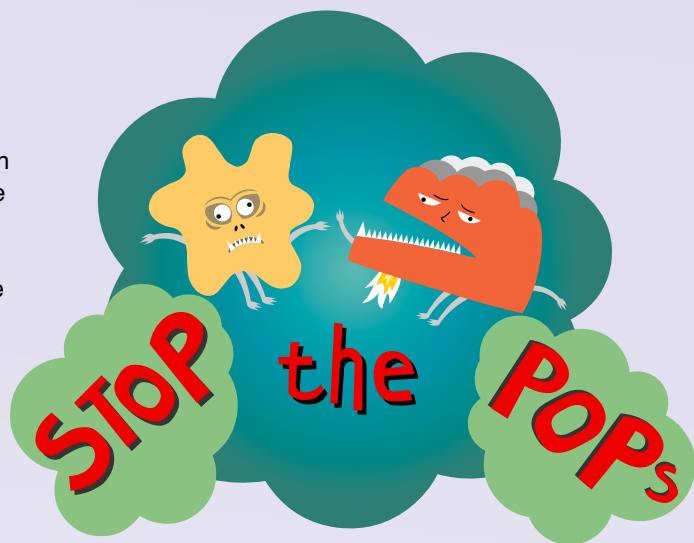
It was developed and delivered by USP's Institute of Applied Science as part of the Pacific POPs Release Reduction Project.

POPs in the Pacific

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are toxic chemicals that can travel long distances through air and water and accumulate in the fatty tissues of humans and other animals. They do not degrade quickly over time and therefore can increase people's risk of serious health issues, including cancer, birth defects and immune system impairments.

The Pacific POPs Release Reduction Project is co-funded through the Global Environment Facility – Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (GEF-PAS) and AFD. It is executed by SPREP and implemented by the UN Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Other project activities in 2016 included support for Waigani Convention Training in Tuvalu, the continuation of the pilot project on composting on Niue and the implementation of a regional pesticide container management survey.



Hands across the Planet, the Pacific joins the international coastal cleanup

In September 2016, Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu helped celebrate the 30th anniversary of The Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup thanks to support from PacWaste.

The activity saw volunteers collect waste from the coast and waterways, then sort and record the collected waste for the Ocean Trash Index which provides a global snapshot of the marine debris found across the world.

Marine debris is one of the most pressing ocean issues across

the planet. A hundred years ago, plastics barely existed. Today, most marine debris is plastic. This emerging threat hurts wildlife, changes ecosystems, and can hurt humans as well. Plastics have been found in the guts of fish caught for food. Plastics have been found in phytoplankton, which produce almost half of the oxygen we breathe. Plastic is everywhere.

In Samoa, over 2,100 kilogrammes of rubbish was collected along 1.5 kilometres of beach.

Over 40 volunteers from the Ministry of Natural Resources and

Environment, SPREP, Pualele Outrigger Canoeing Club and members of the public united with the global community to help clear waste across our coasts.

In 2016, the International Coastal Cleanup recorded 1,578,834 plastic beverage bottles, 822,227 plastic bottle caps, 762,353 food wrappers and 520,900 plastic grocery bags collected from shorelines.

Samoa held two coastal cleanup activities in 2016: a local event for the International Coastal Cleanup in September and a follow up activity in October.

Oil spill training needs in Fiji addressed with help from New Zealand

The 2015 Oil Spill Environmental Risk Assessment Report developed from a study by SPREP, Fiji's Department of Environment and the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji has led to funding from the Government of New Zealand.

The report highlighted oil spill risks in the ports of Lautoka, Levuka, Malau and Suva, recommending more equipment and training which was subsequently funded and provided by the New Zealand

Foreign Affairs and Trade Aid Programme in 2016.

A contribution of NZD 850,000 will go toward equipment and training to help the four ports deal with Tier 2 and 3 marine spills. Tier 2 spills are defined as spills that are within the national capability and resources of Fiji to manage, and Tier 3 spills are those beyond the national capability and resources of Fiji to manage.

Training was also held for staff of

each of the four ports to familiarise them with the new equipment, review standard operating procedures, develop site safety plan deployment techniques and identify options such as how to safely and effectively deploy equipment.

Operators were also trained to develop and implement a preventative maintenance programme as well as how to conduct periodic maintenance checks.

The Pacific islands, International Conventions and waste at sea

In March 2016, representatives from ten Pacific Islands met in Fiji to discuss the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Waste and Other Matter 1972, also known as the London Convention.

This convention is designed to protect the marine environment from human activities and has been in force since 1975. It was updated in 1966 with the London Protocol

which will eventually replace the Convention.

Two back-to-back meetings were held. A regional workshop helped participants learn about the benefits and implications of joining the London Protocol, the more modern of the two instruments, and how it fits into wider issues of marine environmental protection. The second was the annual Joint Session of the Scientific Groups

under the London Convention/Protocol, which is a subsidiary body that provides advice on scientific matters and emerging issues of relevance to the Parties to the treaties.

While several Pacific island countries are party to the London Convention, three have already acceded to the Protocol: Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

Partnerships helping Waste Management in the Pacific islands

SPREP JICA partnership grows from strength to strength

In August 2016, representatives from SPREP and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) formally signed the Meeting Minutes related to the formulation of the second phase of the Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries, known as J-PRISM II.

The formulation of J-PRISM II involved more than 200 interviews with key project stakeholders across the region. This process, also involving surveys across all Pacific island countries, ensured that the J-PRISM II project design reflects

the needs of Pacific island countries.

The regional activity of J-PRISM II will have four main components, all of which are aligned with the Cleaner Pacific 2025 strategy as well as the outcomes of the Clean Pacific Roundtable. The key regional areas of focus are capacity development, disaster waste management, strengthening of regional recycling networks and the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for Cleaner Pacific 2025.

JICA and SPREP have enjoyed a close working relationship for many years, especially with the location of J-PRISM staff within the Waste



Mr Kosi Latu (SPREP) and Mr Satoshi Shigiya (JICA) at the signing of the J-PRISM II Meeting Minutes. Photo: L.Moananu/SPREP

Management and Pollution Control Division at SPREP.

J-PRISM II was formally launched at the Twenty-seventh SPREP Meeting in Niue.

PacWaste and INTEGRÉ: Collaborating for improved environmental and health effectiveness, integration and reach

Two European Union funded projects in the Pacific are working together to expand their effectiveness and reach and to deliver improved environmental and public health outcomes across the region.

The INTEGRÉ project, which promotes integrated coastal zone management, and the Pacific Hazardous Waste Management (PacWaste) project are providing 20 million euros in support to 14 Pacific island countries, four overseas countries and territories, and Timor-Leste.

A workshop at the Pacific Community headquarters in Noumea, attended by SPREP, looked at legislation and governance, financial and economic aspects of waste management systems, hazardous waste, landfill management and strategies for engaging communities in waste reduction.

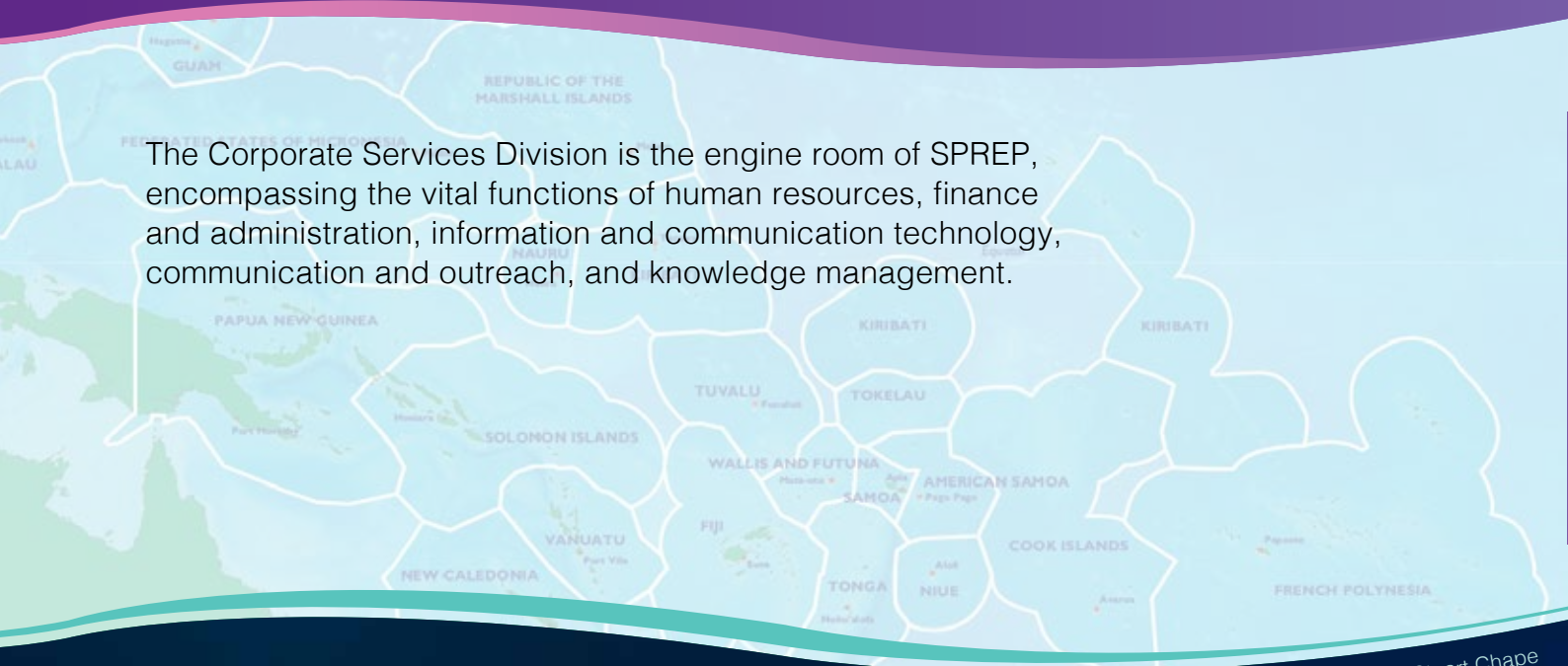
PacWaste is a 7.85 million euro project, funded by the EU and implemented by SPREP, to improve regional hazardous waste management across the Pacific.



INTEGRÉ is a 12 million euro project, funded by the EU and implemented by SPC, to promote integrated coastal zone management in nine pilot sites across four overseas countries and territories.

Corporate Services

The Corporate Services Division is the engine room of SPREP, encompassing the vital functions of human resources, finance and administration, information and communication technology, communication and outreach, and knowledge management.



Mangrove island, Fiji. Photo: © Stuart Chape



Telling the Pacific story with Communications and Outreach

As well as providing strategic support to projects and programmes within SPREP, the Communications and Outreach team plays a key role in raising awareness of SPREP's activities through the media and in supporting the growth of the region's next generation of environmental leaders.

Over 100 school students visited SPREP to celebrate SPREP day on 16 June. Committed to investing in our Pacific future, SPREP invited four schools to visit the compound and spend time with the four different divisions of SPREP at interactive stations.

"All four stations were great. Staff did a great job breaking down topics to cater to our younger group. The balance between presentations, talking and activities

was really good too." – *Vaiala Beach Primary School staff feedback*

"The Pacific Voyage" Campaigns coordinated by SPREP to support Pacific island countries attending multi-lateral environment meetings with targeted communications activities, were successfully run in 2016. Support for the Pacific Voyage to CBD COP13, CITES COP17 and the UNFCCC COP22 saw side events, exhibition booths and news items shared from the events, raising the profile of the issues in the region.

Annual training for the Media and Journalism School of the National University of Samoa in 2016



Learning about the 4R's at the WMPC station on SPREP Day. Photo: L.Curry/SPREP

included a special Environment Media Award for the students. A special prize-giving with the school was held in commemoration of World Press Freedom Day on 3 May, with the top five entries winning awards.

Protect Pacific Whales, our Ocean Voyagers Campaign was launched in 2016 with a Facebook competition being one of the first activities; winners were awarded prizes co-sponsored by Digicel Samoa. The competition called for entries in the forms of artwork inspired by Pacific whales to help gain more awareness for whale and ocean conservation. Prize winners were based in Samoa and New Caledonia.



NUS Journalism students.

Human Resources: One Va'a, One Team—Charting an onward course

Human Resources

The Human Resources team take the lead on ensuring we recruit and retain the highest quality of staff at SPREP. They look after our staff during recruitment and induction and handle all staffing and employment matters. The HR Team are also in charge of HR policies, performance and professional development and act as the official channel for information about staff-related matters at SPREP.

2016 saw the farewell of SPREP's longest serving staff member, Ms. Tologauvale Leaula. She had been with SPREP since the very beginning, having started in February 1992 and remained with

SPREP until she passed away in September 2016. She worked with all of SPREP's four Director Generals, both at the original office in Vaitele and in Vailima. Tolo was an important figure in the SPREP community, and her loss was deeply felt. May she forever rest in peace.

The 2016 Staff performance appraisals showed good results: 84% of staff are at the 'Fully Effective' level with 7% at the 'Exceeds' level. Two of the SPREP staff received the Director General's Award of Excellence in recognition of exceptional performance. Ongoing efforts to continue improving SPREP's Performance Development System helps to enhance a high-performing culture.

Memoranda of Understanding with the Universities of Newcastle, Australia and Victoria University in

New Zealand saw the first interns from Victoria University attached to the Waste Management and Pollution Control Division as well as the Climate Change Division. Internships from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies that began in 2014 continued. An increase in the intake of students under work attachment arrangements with other potential partner institutions saw 11 students joining SPREP throughout the year on short-term work attachments with different divisions. These arrangements provide opportunities for professional exposure and capacity development for students from the Pacific region and Member countries and at the same time promote SPREP's work and especially regional environmental issues and priorities.



Ms. Tologauvalu Leaulu.



Mr Epeli Tagi and Dr Melanie Bradley awarded the Director General's Award of Excellence.



Mr Kosi Latu presents former President of Kiribati, Anote Tong with certificate, acknowledging his role as a Pacific Champion on Climate Change.



One Team, One Va'a, walking the talk at SPREP.

Finance and Administration: Fiscally sound and credible SPREP

Finance and Administration

SPREP's finance and administration section looks after a wide variety of essential services ranging from travel, facilities and management, property maintenance and internal auditing to day-to-day financial management of the organisation.

During the year, the Secretariat expended USD 16.04 Million dollars with collections in income totalling USD 16.48 Million, thereby generating a net surplus for the period of USD 346,898 after

factoring in net finance income and foreign exchange exposure. This is indeed a remarkable achievement for SPREP given deficits in financial performance in past years.

The challenge for the Secretariat moving forward is the collective effort by Members and Executive Management to continually generate sufficient funds as well as target areas for cost savings or improved cost recovery, to avoid deficit situations and thus maintain the overall financial sustainability of SPREP in the long term.

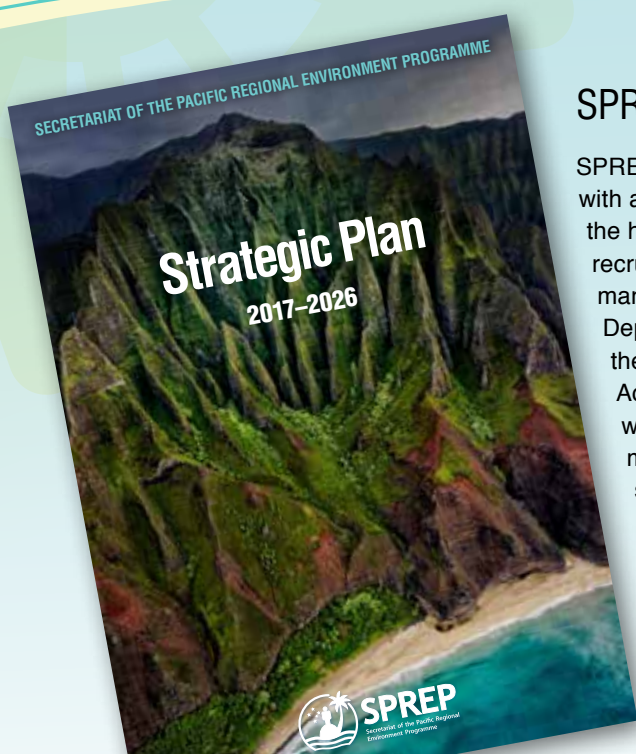
A suite of policies approved in December 2016 as part of the GEF MSP Project, although primarily

intended to cover areas required to secure GEF accreditation, also helped SPREP to improve its internal processes, systems and capacity which will ensure enhanced corporate governance and credibility of the organisation.

More particularly, the financial management process for SPREP was further enhanced by key policies revised as part of this project including the Foreign Exchange Policy, Procurement Policy, Financial Procedures Manual, Cost Recovery Procedures, Grant Mechanisms Procedures, Risk Management Manual and Travel Policy.



SPREP's Finance team.



SPREP STRATEGIC PLAN 2017–2026

SPREP embarked on its journey with a new Director General at the helm in 2016 and with the recruitment of two key senior management positions, the Deputy Director General and the Finance and Administration Adviser. Having operated with only half the senior management team for the first six months, SPREP's crew was strengthened by the recruitment of the new senior management positions. This

new team heralded a significant change for SPREP as the formation of a new Strategic Plan at the same time helps to set the course for the organisation over the next ten years.

Strategic planning and team building were the priority of development workshops for all staff that allowed staff to contribute to the development of the new Strategic Plan, ensuring ownership and empowerment as a team.

SPREP's Internal Audit functions continue to operate with one staff

Internal Audit

SPREP's governance function includes an Internal Audit unit, which assists the Secretariat to strengthen and improve organisational governance, risk management monitoring, and internal controls.

In 2016, a revised risk management manual was completed under the Medium Size Project (MSP). This manual includes Enterprise; Division and Project risks. These new risks identified are incorporated into the

risk register in alignment with the new strategic plan 2017–2026.

The Audit Committee consists of a new Chair, Mr Tupuola Oloiali'i Koki Tuala and Deputy High Commissioner of NZ Mr Mike Walsh, replacing the two members who resigned from the committee in 2015. The Audit Committee held three meetings in 2016 and attended a training conducted by the MSP consultants on the revised Secretariat policies pertaining to the Internal Audit Unit.



The Corporate Services Team at the start of 2016.

ICT walking the talk at SPREP

Information and Communication Technology

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) team ensure that reliable, secure and effective systems are available to the organisation in order to effectively deliver services to our members and stakeholders.

An online information system is providing a faster and better picture of projects undertaken by SPREP. The project management information system (PMIS) was developed jointly by SPREP and Eighty Options Ltd, using open source technology. The PMIS integrates key information about SPREP projects with other systems, such as Finance and Records. This provides both management and staff a much better overview

of how a project is progressing at various levels. The information can be accessed online by SPREP staff, speeding up access and analysis. The PMIS has made it easier to report on projects delivered by SPREP in Pacific island countries. It has also helped to support the monitoring and evaluation of the projects.

Six SPREP Members have improved their meteorological services with help from SPREP and the Finnish Meteorological Institute. ICT staff from SPREP helped to install meteorological tools and deliver training for National Meteorological Services in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. The tools included SmartAlert and Smart Met applications,

which improve the information made available to the public. These include better online graphics for weather alerts and other features which make the information easier to understand and display.

SPREP ICT staff has been trained in the use of climate service tools under the Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac). The training at the Bureau of Meteorology in Melbourne, Australia focused on maintaining databases and providing technical support to Pacific island countries using the COSPPac tools. This will sustain the service beyond the life of the project. The database is now housed at SPREP.



Our IT team helping to build capacity across the Pacific region.

Information Resource Centre and Archives: Vessel of knowledge

Information Resource Centre and Archives

SPREP's Information Resource Centre and Archives (IRCA) holds a unique collection of publications, periodicals, scientific and technical reports prepared by SPREP, our members, stakeholders and partners. This vast assembly of environmental information is available to SPREP staff, Member countries and territories, and members of the public.

Information on invasive species has been improved in the Pacific Environment Information Network (PEIN). Tagging the invasive species resources on the PEIN repository will make it easier to search for the information via the Invasive Species Resource base now available on the SPREP website. The initiative was developed under the GEF-PAS IAS programme.

New publications by SPREP are being widely distributed in print form, with even greater distribution online. The publications go to SPREP member country focal points, depository libraries in

and beyond the region, as well as to schools, non-governmental organisations and government offices in Samoa. Print copies are still valued because not all member countries have adequate IT infrastructure to download publications from the SPREP website. Hard copies help to fill this information gap.

The IRCA also played a vital role in collaboration with the Communications team in raising the visibility of SPREP, its work and products, through regular updates on the SPREP/PEIN Facebook page. The page currently has close to 60,000 followers from around the world.

The SPREP Librarian was given the opportunity to attend an eight-week training on Information Management and Control conducted by Griffith University through the iCLIM project. The training introduced managing, controlling and auditing complex information in modern organisations. This will help the Resource Centre deal with various issues arising from the rapid changes in information



SPREP often receives school visits coordinated by IRCA,

technology by developing appropriate practical skills in this area.

We continued to strengthen our collaboration with the Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information System (PIMRIS) network, with the SPREP Librarian attending the 17th PIMRIS Executive Meeting in Fiji in October. There is still much work to be done, including digitising country collections and updating the Pacific Islands Marine Portal.

SPREP Staff celebrating fellow colleague Miss Priscilla Olano, awarded the Miss Samoa crown in 2016.



Mt Vaea, southeast to northwest, Upolu, Samoa. Photo: © Stuart Chape



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2016

DONOR FUNDS AND MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS (USD)

DONOR/PROGRAMME	Balance 1-Jan-16	Actual Funds Received	Total Funds Available	Programme Support	Programme Expenditure	Other Adjustments	Balance 31/12/16
Asian Development Bank	252,239	712,751	964,990	(86,322)	(729,060)		149,608
Australian Bureau of Meteorology	1,626	894,782	896,408	(19,997)	(202,683)	(250)	673,479
Govt. of Aust. Extra Budget	421,334	1,036,974	1,458,308	(103,698)	(1,179,578)	(175,033)	0
Govt. of Aust. Extra Extra Budget	90,680		90,680	(710)	7,555	(775)	96,750
British High Commission	3,233		3,233				3,233
Climate Analytics	32,124	133,635	165,759	(21,865)	(150,598)		(6,704)
Commonwealth Secretariat	11,175		11,175				11,175
Conservation International	(5,689)		(5,689)		(450)		(6,139)
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	202,885	42,848	245,733	(18,183)	(125,862)		101,688
European Union	2,270,962	3,561,167	5,832,129	(170,316)	(2,468,080)		3,193,733
Food and Agriculture Organization	95,206		95,206	(4,406)	(66,415)		24,385
Government of Canada	9,932		9,932				9,932
Government of Finland	395,724	913,670	1,309,394	(46,783)	(612,909)		649,702
Government of France	173,032	99,451	272,483	(3,365)	(250,611)		18,507
Government of Germany	(17,740)	1,402,830	1,385,089	(119,773)	(1,005,279)		260,037
Government of Japan	112,348		112,348	(2,831)	(28,306)		81,212
Government of Sweden	-	2,175,103	2,175,103		(1,576,586)		598,517
Government of Switzerland	301		301		199		500
Government of Wallis and Futuna	6,892		6,892		10,910		17,802
Institute of Global Environment Strategies	8,320		8,320	(692)	(10,964)		(3,336)
International Fund for Agricultural Development	2,641		2,641				2,641
International Maritime Organization	21,237	108,670	129,907	(14,292)	(101,794)		13,821
International Union for Conservation of nature	71,470	233,550	305,020	(14,389)	(114,002)		176,630
John D & Catherine T MacArthur Foundation	6,304		6,304				6,304
NZ Aid PIE	4,812		4,812				4,812
NZ Aid Extra Budget	75,444	888,736	964,180	(85,058)	(827,595)	5,917	57,443
NZAid Extra Extra Budget	532,708	312,964	845,672	(27,042)	(371,050)	(10,000)	437,580
PACMAS	5,769	15,117	20,885		(115)		20,771
Pacific Islands Development Cooperation Fund	24,562		24,562		257		24,818
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat	21,761	163,968	185,729	(26,151)	(201,313)		(41,735)
Packard Foundation	837		837		2,500		3,337
People's Republic of China	160,266	149,968	310,233		(77,378)		232,855
PEW	60,107	259,970	320,077	(26,982)	(215,723)		77,372
Other Funds	(361,022)	325,872	(35,151)	(22,234)	(138,995)	180,447	(15,932)
Ramsar Secretariat	(205,153)	120,388	(84,765)				(84,765)
The Pacific Community	(15,311)	337,536	322,226	(12,763)	(125,248)		184,215
The Christensen Foundation	1,146		1,146				1,146
United Kingdom Meteorology Office	149,593	266,910	416,503	(33,833)	(282,013)		100,657
United Nations Development Programme	221,079	889,486	1,110,565	(17,999)	(935,231)		157,335
United Nations Environment Programme	578,892	1,616,682	2,195,573	(51,654)	(2,111,175)	(56)	32,689
United Nations Institute for Training and Research	1,631		1,631				1,631
UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)	3,500		3,500				3,500
UN Office of Project Services	3,029		3,029				3,029
US Department of Energy/Los Alamos University	738		738				738
US Fish & Wildlife	14,625		14,625		(220)		14,405
US Department of State	(39,727)		(39,727)		(1,700)		(41,427)
USAID	(47,374)	262,856	215,482	(1,697)	(149,568)		64,217
US National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration	11,525	54,993	66,517	(10,378)	(86,656)		(30,517)
US Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council	(164)		(164)				(164)
World Meteorological Organization	98,449	25,000	123,449	(10,128)	(97,919)		15,402
TOTAL	5,467,956	17,005,874	22,473,831	(953,541)	(14,223,653)	250	7,296,887

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS (USD)	
American Samoa	10,184
American Samoa – voluntary contribution	509
Australia	185,106
Australia – voluntary contribution	9,256
Cook Islands	10,184
Cook Islands – voluntary contribution	489
Federated States of Micronesia	10,184
Fiji	20,344
France	134,172
France – voluntary contribution	6,711
French Polynesia	20,360
Guam	20,353
Guam – voluntary contribution	1,018
Kiribati	10,184
Kiribati – voluntary contribution	509
Marshall Islands	–
Nauru	9,358
New Caledonia	24,122
New Caledonia – voluntary contribution	1,018
New Zealand	134,202
New Zealand – voluntary contribution	6,711
Niue	20,340
Northern Marianas	–
Palau	19,491
Palau – voluntary contribution	509
Papua New Guinea	8,754
Papua New Guinea – voluntary contribution	–
Samoa	40,680
Samoa – voluntary contribution	2,004
Solomon Islands	20,328
Tokelau	10,184
Tokelau – voluntary contribution	509
Tonga	10,185
Tonga – voluntary contribution	449
Tuvalu	10,184
Tuvalu – voluntary contribution	501
United Kingdom	–
United States of America	194,663
Vanuatu	–
Wallis & Futuna Islands	30,537
Wallis & Futuna Islands – voluntary contribution	509
Samoa Host Country Contribution	20,307
TOTAL	1,005,105

PARTIES TO THE NOUMEA CONVENTION (USD)	
Australia	3,778
TOTAL	3,778

PARTIES TO THE WAIGANI CONVENTION (USD)	
Australia	23,583
Fiji	1,075
Vanuatu	3,132
TOTAL	27,790

Note: The income received shown above can be located in the Donor Funds schedule in the rows titled 'Other Funds'.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME (USD)	
Members contributions	1,005,105
Programme management charges	953,541
Programme/donor fund income	12,728,902
Other donor fund income	1,519,341
Amortisation of deferred income	83,275
Other income	191,218
TOTAL INCOME	16,481,381

EXPENDITURE (USD)	
Executive management & corporate support	3,060,920
Climate change	3,730,512
Biodiversity	3,554,534
Waste management	4,256,753
Environment monitoring	1,187,103
Depreciation and amortisation expense	253,961
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	16,043,783



AUDITOR'S REPORT



Tel: (+685) 24337
Fax: (+685) 24336
www.bdo.ws

BDO Samoa
Vaitele Street, Lalovaea
P.O. Box 859
Apia, Samoa

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of SPREP (Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme)

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of SPREP (the Secretariat), which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2016;
- the statement of income, statement of changes in equity, and statement of cash flows for the year then ended; and
- notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Secretariat as at December 31, 2016, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Secretariat in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Samoa, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Executive Management's Report included in the financial statements, but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRSs, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Secretariat's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Secretariat or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Secretariat's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Secretariat's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Secretariat's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Secretariat to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Report on SPREP's Financial Regulation Requirements

In accordance with SPREP's Financial Regulation 32 we report on specific matters as follows. Our audit opinion is not modified in relation to these matters:

- a) The extent and character of our examination has been explained in the section on *Auditor's Responsibility* above and is based on the International Standards on Auditing. The financial statements for the year end of 31st of December, 2016 have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.
- b) There are no matters affecting the completeness and accuracy of the accounts.
- c) We confirm the accuracy of the equipment records as determined by physical inspection of additions to assets and verification of disposals during the reporting period.
- d) The financial procedures of SPREP are adequate based on our examination of the financial procedures necessary for the purposes of formulating the auditor's opinion expressed above.
- e) Based on our examination of the insurance documentation the insurance cover for SPREP's assets is adequate.
- f) SPREP recorded a negative Reserves balance at 31st December 2016 of (\$468,160) dollars. This is an improvement in the negative Reserves position reported at 31st December 2015 of (\$778,112) dollars. Furthermore, SPREP has recorded a net surplus of \$346,898 dollars for the year ended 31st December 2016 compared to a net deficit of (\$261,729) dollars in the previous year.

Despite the improvement in the financial results for 2016, SPREP's ability to continue operating on the going concern basis is dependent on the continued funding from Member countries and Donors. Additional funding is required to enable the Secretariat to restore a positive Reserves position.



BDO Samoa
Chartered Accountants



Ernest Betham
Partner

Apia, Samoa
30th March, 2017

BDO, Chartered Accountants, a Samoan Partnership, is a member of BDO International Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, and forms part of the international BDO network of independent member firms.

DIRECTOR GENERAL LETTER ON INTERNAL CONTROLS, 2016



Annual Statement on Internal Controls for the Financial Year 2016

Scope of responsibility

I as the Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP); I am accountable for maintaining a sound system of internal control as specified in Regulation 25 of the Financial Regulations. I also have responsibility for ensuring that funds are safeguarded and properly accounted for, and that they are used economically, efficiently and effectively.

Purpose of the system of internal control

Internal control is designed to reduce and manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve the Organization's aims, objectives and related policies. Therefore, it can provide reasonable but not absolute assurance of effectiveness. It is based on an ongoing process designed to identify the principal risks, evaluate the nature and extent of those risks and manage them efficiently and effectively.

The key elements of the internal control environment include:

SPREP has an Internal Control Framework Guideline – that is based on the The COSO model of internal control¹ which is the best known basis for understanding an Internal Control Framework (ICF) within an organisation. It sets out five inter-related components of internal control and 17 principles that are required in order to have an integrated and effective internal control system. For each of these components and principles the Guideline elaborates on the significant controls that are in place for SPREP.

Ensuring compliance with established policies and procedures – SPREP has Financial Regulations that were last amended by the SPREP Meeting in 2012, an updated Financial Procedures Manual 2017 and Financial Delegations, which together with a comprehensive framework of human resources regulations and policies are reviewed at regular intervals. These arrangements promote compliance with norms and best practices in order to ensure that member funds are properly safeguarded and are used economically, efficiently and effectively and in accordance with the authority which governs their use.

Organisational Values and Code of Conduct – The principles which must be respected by all staff are stated explicitly in the SPREP's Organizational Values and Code of Conduct that is widely displayed in the SPREP campus. This is supplemented by a Fraud Prevention & Whistle-blower Protection Manual Policy and provisions in the SPREP Procurement Manual. The Internal Auditor is tasked with overseeing and coordinating the investigations of all allegations.

Financial Management – the Financial and Administrative Advisor is responsible for the accounting and has staff for record keeping, financial reporting, procurement and project accounting. There is an adequate segregation of critical duties and the Financial Delegation ensures that commitments are made by authorized staff. SPREP staff uses an enterprise software solution called Tech One which has been in operation since 2014. It produces the data for the financial statements that are prepared in accordance with International Financial reporting Standards (IFRS) and Internal Auditing Standards (IAS). The system also produces the budget, facilitates the procurement and bank reconciliations. The system will be linked to a project management information system for project management. In 2017 the reporting capability of Tech One will be further explored.

Risk Management – SPREP initiated in 2011 a risk management plan and updated this in 2014 and more frequent updates are anticipated and will be linked to the SPREP's new Strategic Plan and to the projects and programmes managed by SPREP. A SPREP revised Risk Management policy was approved in December 2016 and includes a Risk Committee terms of reference that is chaired by the Deputy Director General and a monitoring task by the Audit Committee. SPREP's approach to risk management is an integral and systematic process that is identifying, mitigating, monitoring and communicating top risk events to the Organization.

Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Control

I as the Director General have the responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. My review is informed amongst others by the following sources.

External Audit – the external auditor provides an annual certification of the financial statements that are in accordance with IAS which guarantees a high degree of transparency. In the 2016 annual management letter, the External Auditors highlights significant areas of risks and provides recommendations for improvements.

Audit Committee – The Audit Committee has three independent experts and is complemented by the TROIKA members consisting of the past, current and future Chair of the SPREP Meeting. It advises the Director-General on the effectiveness of: the integrity of the Secretariat's financial operations and statements; whether operations are conducted within an adequate internal control framework; whether there is compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; the effectiveness of the performance of the external and internal audit functions; whether corporate and project risks, including procurement, are adequately considered and managed; and whether there is an effective fraud prevention system.

Internal Audit Function – An Independent Internal Audit function has been in place since 2012. The Head is functionally responsible to the Audit Committee and reports to the Director General on operational matters.

Accreditation – SPREP is accredited to implement projects for the Adaptation Fund and for the Green Climate Fund. The accreditation exercise involved a detailed study of SPREP's fiduciary and project management capabilities as well as of its social, environmental, fraud prevention abilities.

Both accreditations demonstrate that SPREP has a strong and effective internal control framework. Through the Medium Size-project (MSP) support from UNDP, SPREP has gone through a change management process which has enabled it to further strengthen and enhance its internal processes and policies in compliance with the requirements of the GEF. Training for staff has been completed and these new policies and processes are now being rolled out and incorporated as part of business as usual for SPREP.

Based on these sources, I consider that the internal controls listed above and further elaborated upon in the SPREP Internal Control Framework are adequate for SPREP to carry out its core functions and operate effectively. Improvements needed and identified in this framework are being addressed, as SPREP prepares to serve its members under the new Strategic Plan 2017–2026.

Leota Kosi Latu
SPREP Director General
Apia Samoa

Date: 21 March 2017

¹ Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) Internal Control – Integrated Framework, May 2013

AUDIT COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROLS



Audit Committee Statement on Internal Controls for the Financial Year 2016

Introduction:

The Audit Committee submit this Statement of Internal Control for the financial year 2016 in compliance with SPREP's Governance Policy and the decisions of SPREP Members.

The Audit Committee operated according to SPREP's Governance Policy that is elaborated upon in the Audit Committee Charter. Together both documents give adequate and clear guidance as mandate for the work of the Audit Committee.

Composition of the 2016 Audit Committee:

For the financial year 2016 the Audit Committee consisted of the following members:

Chairman Mr. Tupuola Oloialii Koki Tuala, Koki Tuala Chartered Accountant Firm (KTCA)

Member Mr. Mike Walsh, Deputy High Commissioner New Zealand

Member Mr. Jovilisi Suveinakama, General Manager of the Tokelau Office; Apia

TROIKA members Dr Josie Tamate, Director-General, Ministry of Natural Resources, Government of Niue

Mr. Michael Appleton; Unit Manager; Pacific Regional Institutions

Ms. Gwendalyn Sisior; Senior Projects Manager; Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism

Audit Committee Meetings in 2016:

The Audit Committee is required to meet at least twice per financial year and in 2016 the Audit Committee met three times in April, July, and November 2016. The special meeting in November focused on the financial results for the year, review of the outcome in relation to the recommendations presented to Management in the beginning of the year; and determined the appropriate actions for improvement of the financial position of SPREP moving forward. The outcomes of the November meeting were crucial to the final audited results for the year 2016 and have been fully implemented by end of first quarter of 2017.

Effectiveness of Internal Control:

The Audit Committee has reviewed the Statement signed by Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP. The information is consistent with the documents and reports reviewed and the presentations made to the Audit Committee. During 2016 the following Policies, Charters; and Guideline Manuals were developed, revised and issued which contribute to a strong internal control framework as implemented under the Medium Size Project (MSP).

- Audit Committee Charter
- Child Protection
- Cost Recovery Procedures
- Environment and Social Safeguards Management Systems
- Financial Procedures Manual
- Foreign Exchange Policy & Operational Guide
- Fraud Prevention & Whistle-blower Manual
- Gender Policy
- Governance Policy
- Grant Mechanism Procedures
- Guidance Note on Implementing and Executing Functions
- Internal Audit Charter
- Internal Control Framework Guideline
- Procurement policy
- SPREP Risk Management Manual
- SPREP Travel Policy
- SPREP Sub-Delegation Guidance Note
- SPREP Operations Manual

Nevertheless, the Audit Committee wishes to underline the importance of the following matters:

- Having an appropriate accounting software system for efficient reporting compliance, an up to date and continuous risk management system that has a strong focus on operations including projects and programmes.
- The Internal Audit Function to focus on the core tasks of carrying out internal audit assignments so that its annual audit program is completed. In 2016 the number of key tasks was restricted to three investigations completed and two Audits that continued to the first quarter of 2017.
- The Secretariat continuing its excellent efforts to improve the overall financial position of SPREP by reducing operating costs and foreign exchange losses by continuous monitoring of its Foreign Exchange risk Exposure. There has been a substantial improvement of a 71% reduction in the Exchange losses for 2016 from USD\$ 344,333 in 2015 to USD\$98258 in 2016.
- The Secretariat must prioritise a review of SPREP's core revenue base and other possible income options for the short and long term future of SPREP. The Secretariat must resolve the negative Reserve position of USD\$468,160 in 2017/2018 which will require the collective effort of all SPREP Members.
- Making greater use of the reporting module of the Tech One enterprise software by Finance and project Officers.

Financial Statements for 2016:

The Audit Committee is satisfied with the content and quality of the internal quarterly statements and the project statements prepared and issued by the Financial and Administration Advisor and team relating to the financial year 2016.

The Audit Committee has discussed the 2016 audited financial statements and the relevant accounting policies with the Finance and Administrative Advisor and the External Auditor. It also reviewed the report of the external auditor on the financial statements and the related management letter.

On this basis the Audit Committee concludes that the 2016 audited financial statements be accepted and read in conjunction with the audit opinion of the external auditor.

This Statement of Internal Control for the financial year 2016 is submitted for consideration and approval by the SPREP members.

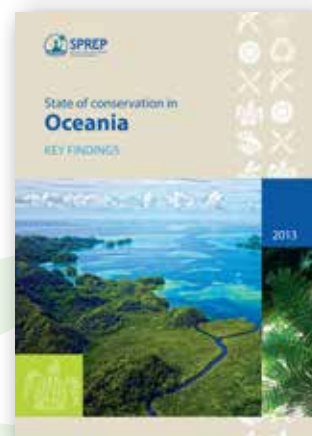
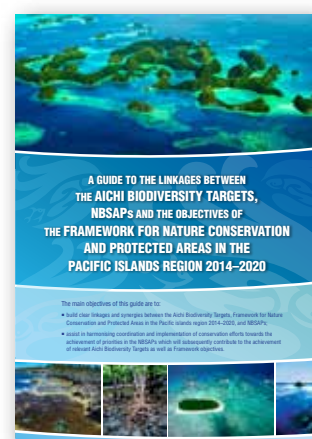
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kotuala', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tupuola Oloialii Koki Tuala

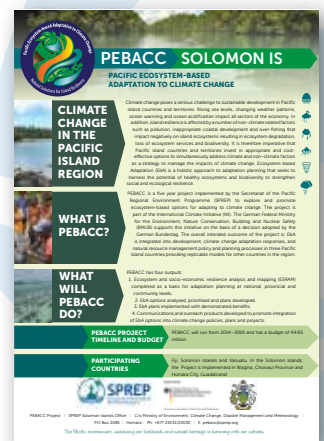
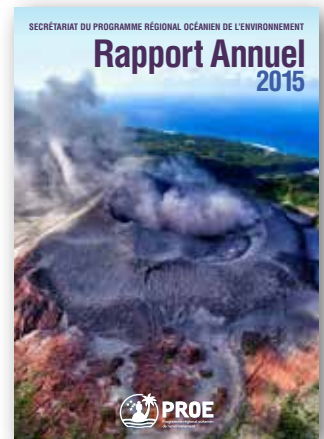
Chairman of the Audit Committee

SPREP PUBLICATIONS 2016

TITLE	ISBN / ISSN / LINK	PAGES
Technical Reports		
Battle invasive species that threaten marine managed areas	978-982-04-0607-0 (print) 978-982-04-0608-7 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2nByKaQ	16 p.
Battling invasive species in the Pacific: outcomes of the Regional GEF-PAS IAS Project	978-982-04-0617-9 (print) http://bit.ly/2oFTUGw	40 p.
Beach ecosystem-based adaptation: Abaiang, Kiribati	978-982-04-0574-5 (print) 978-982-04-0573-8 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2o0KmHL	29 p.
Catch it early: Invasive species early detection and rapid response	978-982-04-0605-6 (print) 978-982-04-0606-3 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2oX9vAM	20 p.
Campaign to battle invasive species in the Pacific	978-982-04-0601-8 (print) 978-982-04-0602-5 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2n8OLKf	16 p.
Cleaner Pacific 2025: Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy: 2016–2025	978-982-04-0572-1 (print) 978-982-04-0571-4 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2nBvgWO	72 p.
Cleaner Pacific 2025: Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy – implementation plan, 2016-2019	978-982-04-0590-5 (print) 978-982-04-0585-1 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2o0jJTy	24 p.
Develop a national or territorial invasive species strategy and action plan	978-982-04-0611-7 (print) 978-982-04-0612-4 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2oXnEHh	16 p.
Find answers online to common invasive species questions	978-982-04-0603-2 (print) 978-982-04-0604-9 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2oz45zY	16 p.
A guide to the linkages between the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, NBSAPs and Objectives of the Framework of Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2014–2020	978-982-04-0567-7 (print) 978-982-04-0568-4 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2oFLXRW	4 p.
Integrated vulnerability assessment framework for atoll islands: a collaborative approach	978-982-000987-5 http://bit.ly/2o6R6o5	74 p.
Manage myna birds in the Pacific	978-982-04-0607-0 (print) 978-982-04-0608-7 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2oX9QUb	20 p.
Removing rodents from small tropical islands with success	978-982-04-0613-1 (print) 978-982-04-0614-8 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2ozbZcs	20 p.
Pacific Islands Ocean Acidification Vulnerability Assessment	978-982-04-0577-6 (print) 978-982-04-0578-3 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2ozSosz	40 p.
The State of Asbestos in the Pacific	http://bit.ly/2nBDvBk	6 p.
State of Conservation in Oceania: key findings	http://bit.ly/1FyQ9Fm	6 p.
State of Conservation in Oceania: regional report	978-982-04-0586-8 (print) 978-982-04-0587-5 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2o0aFhw	180 p.
Strengthening environmental impact assessment: guidelines for Pacific Island Countries and Territories	978-982-04-0593-6 (print) 978-982-04-0594-3 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2oXksTc	64 p.
Using anticoagulant rodent bait safely	978-982-04-0599-8 (print) 978-982-04-0600-1 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2nHloLb	16 p.
Use economic analysis to battle invasive species	978-982-04-0615-5 (print) 978-982-04-0616-2 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2nUWpER	16 p.



TITLE	ISBN / ISSN / LINK	PAGES
Series		
Climate Change Matters (Issues 42–51)	2227-6947 http://bit.ly/1HPsTqM	11 p.
PacWaste News (Issues 3–5)	http://bit.ly/2nULzPj	4 p.
Rapport annuel du PROE 2015	1562-675X http://bit.ly/2d6TOC9	70 p.
SPREP Annual Report 2015	1562-675X http://bit.ly/2dfglxb	70 p.
SPREP Tok (Issues 20–30)	2311-861X http://bit.ly/1cMbbGT	4 p.
Meeting reports		
Report of the Twenty Seventh (27th) SPREP Meeting, 19–22 September, Apia, Samoa	978-982-04-0638-4 (print) 978-982-04-0639-1 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2wIWejk	67 p.
Rapport de la 27th Conference des représentants officiels du PROE et de la Reunion ministerielle de haut niveau, 19–22 Septembre, 2016, Alofa, Niue	978-982-04-0638-4 (print) 978-982-04-0639-1 (e-copy) http://bit.ly/2oXTVfG	67 p.
Promotional Materials		
Kiribati: Adaptation to Climate Change	http://bit.ly/2nHMPeS	poster
Smart choices for a cleaner and safer Pacific	http://bit.ly/2oAP0gY	poster
Smart Choices for a Cleaner and Safer Pacific: Commit to composting	http://bit.ly/2nCem9G	sticker
Smart Choices for a Cleaner and Safer Pacific: Switch Off	http://bit.ly/2nHNahS	sticker
Smart Choices for a Cleaner and Safer Pacific: Bring your own bag	http://bit.ly/2o7uiEU	sticker
Smart Choices for a Cleaner and Safer Pacific: Keep rubbish out of our oceans	http://bit.ly/2nCGRbQ	sticker
Smart Choices for a Cleaner and Safer Pacific: Say no to burning	http://bit.ly/2oXZPpQ	sticker
Smart Choices for a Cleaner and Safer Pacific: Recycle what you can	http://bit.ly/2o0UoZr	sticker
Asbestos awareness in the Pacific	http://bit.ly/2ozU6KM	infographic
Communication guidelines for PacWaste partners	http://bit.ly/2o7vqYP	13 p.
Fact sheets		
Pacific Ecosystem-Based Adaptation to Climate Change PEBACC – Regional	http://bit.ly/2oGnRpV	
PEBACC – Solomon Islands	http://bit.ly/2oGnRpV	
PEBACC - Vanuatu	http://bit.ly/2o7gV7C	
Videos		
PacWaste in Kiribati: Fostering regional collaboration for a cleaner and safer Pacific	http://bit.ly/2oTHQEP	2 p.
PIGGAREP Cook Islands Part 1	http://bit.ly/2nvnwG	2 p.
PIGGAREP – Solomon Islands	http://bit.ly/2oTN57f	2 p.
PIGGAREP – Tonga	http://bit.ly/2oPZ8D5	



STAFF LIST (AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016)

STAFF MEMBER	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE	
SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM				
1	Kosi Latu	Director General	Samoa	31-Dec-18
2	Roger Cornforth	Deputy Director General	New Zealand	05-Jun-19
3	Stuart Chape	Director Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management	Australia	4-Sep-17
4	Netatua Pelesikoti	Director Climate Change	Tonga	30-May-17
5	Clark Peteru	Legal Adviser	Samoa	31-Dec-19
6	Petra Chan Tung	Finance and Administration Adviser	Samoa	24-Jul-19
7	Simeamativa Vaai	Human Resources Adviser	Samoa	28-Feb-17
8	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Director Environmental Monitoring and Governance</i>		
9	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Director Waste Management and Pollution Control</i>		
EXECUTIVE SUPPORT				
10	Simon Wilson	Climate Finance Adviser	Australia	01-Nov-18
11	Audrey Brown-Pereira	Executive Officer	Cook Islands	31-Dec-17
12	Rosanna Galuvao-Ah Ching	Executive Assistant to the Director General	Samoa	30-May-19
13	Apiseta Eti	Executive Assistant to the Deputy Director General	Samoa	31-Dec-18
14	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Monitoring and Evaluation Adviser</i>		
SUBREGIONAL OFFICES				
15	Simpson Abraham	Solid Waste Management Expert – FSM	FSM	31-Dec-17
16	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Technical Expert (Water Sector) and Liaison Officer – RMI</i>		
INTERNAL AUDIT				
17	Selesitina Reti	Internal Auditor	Samoa	25-Jun-18
BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT				
18	Makerita Atiga	Secretary to Division Director / Division Assistant	Samoa	02-Aug-17
19	Warren Lee Long	Coastal and Marine Adviser	Australia	28-Jun-17
20	Michael Donoghue	Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser	New Zealand	19-Oct-19
21	Juney Ward	Shark and Ray Conservation Officer	Samoa	31-Mar-18
22	David Moverley	Invasive Species Adviser	New Zealand	13-Oct-18
23	Easter Galuvao	Biodiversity Adviser	Samoa	31-Dec-19
24	Amanda Wheatley	Ecosystem and Biodiversity Officer	Australia	13-Jun-17
25	Herman Timmermans	PEBACC – Project Manager	South Africa	19-May-18
26	David Loubser	PEBACC – Vanuatu Country Manager	New Zealand	04-Jul-18
27	Fred Patison	PEBACC – Solomon Islands Country Manager	Solomon Islands	30-Sep-18
28	Jilda Shem	PEBACC Communications Officer	Vanuatu	16-Jul-19
29	Allan Dan	PEBACC Vanuatu Project Officer	Vanuatu	14-Aug-19
30	Filomena Serenia	PEBACC Fiji Project Officer	Fiji	31-Jul-19
31	Roneel Prasad	PEBACC Finance and Administration Officer	Fiji	24-Jul-19
32	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Ecosystem-based Adaptation Officer</i>		
33	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Turtle Database Officer</i>		
34	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Coral Reef Management Officer</i>		
35	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Invasive Species Officer</i>		
36	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Marine and Conservation Management Specialist</i>		
CLIMATE CHANGE				
37	Espen Ronneberg	Climate Change Adviser	Norway	31-Jul-17
38	Tagaloo Cooper-Halo	Climate Change Institutional Strengthening Adviser	Niue	18-Aug-19
39	Christina Leala-Gale	Finland Project – Project Manager	Samoa	31-Dec-16
40	Salesa Nihmei	Meteorology and Climate Officer	Vanuatu	18-Jan-19
41	Tommy Moore	Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System Officer	USA	11-Jul-17

STAFF MEMBER	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE	
42	Sunny Seuseu	Climate Prediction Services Coordinator	Samoa	29-Mar-18
43	Azarel Mariner	COSPPac Capacity Development Officer	Samoa	30-Jun-18
44	Siosinamele Lui	COSPPac Climate Traditional Knowledge Officer	Samoa	30-Jun-18
45	Sela Simamao	Pacific Met Desk Project Assistant	Tonga	30-Jun-18
46	Makelesi Gonelevu	Knowledge Management Officer	Fiji	14-Jul-17
47	Priscilla Olano	Pacific Climate Change Portal Technical Assistant	Samoa	31-Dec-17
48	Aoyama Michinobu	Pacific Climate Change Adviser (On Secondment from JICA)	Japan	24-Apr-17
49	Philip Marsden	Climate Information Knowledge Specialist (On Secondment from GIZ)	Germany	31-Jul-18
50	Alexander Montoro	Technical Expert on Climate and Weather Services (Peace Corp Response Volunteer)	USA	09-Mar-18
51	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Climate Change Adaptation Adviser</i>		
52	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Pacific Islands Global Climate Observing System Officer</i>		
53	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Secretary to Division Director / Division Assistant</i>		
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND GOVERNANCE				
54	Pauline Fruean	Secretary to Division Director / Division Assistant	Samoa	24-May-18
55	Jope Davetanivalu	Planning and Capacity Development Adviser	Fiji	30-Sep-19
56	Melanie Bradley	Environmental Planning Officer	Australia	08-Feb-17
57	Meapelo Maiai	Global Environment Facility Support Adviser	Samoa	31-Oct-18
58	Paul Anderson	Environmental Monitoring and Officer	USA	31-Dec-17
59	Ryan Wright	Spatial Planning Officer	Australia	31-Dec-18
60	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Sustainable Development Adviser</i>		
61	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Adviser</i>		
WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL				
62	Faailo Maiuu	Secretary to Division Director / Division Assistant	Samoa	20-Sep-18
63	Anthony Talouli	Pollution Adviser	Fiji	31-Jul-17
64	Ma Bella Guinto	Solid Waste Management Adviser	New Zealand	16-Sep-17
65	Frank Griffin	Hazardous Waste Management Adviser	PNG	20-Sep-19
66	Lusiana Ralogaivau	Global Environment Facility – Project Coordinator	Fiji	31-Dec-16
67	Stewart Williams	PacWaste Project Manager	Australia	31-Dec-17
68	Elizabeth Vanderburg	PacWaste Project Officer	New Zealand	06-Feb-17
69	Tim Hartley	PacWaste Solid Waste Project Officer	Australia	16-Mar-17
70	Amber Carvan	PacWaste Communications Officer	Australia	31-Dec-17
CORPORATE SERVICES				
INFORMATION RESOURCES AND ARCHIVES				
71	Miraneta Williams-Hazelman	Information Resources Centre and Archives Manager	Samoa	9-Aug-18
72	Angelica Salele	Information Management Officer	Samoa	18-May-17
73	Lupe Silulu	Registry and Archives Officer	Samoa	31-Dec-18
74	Emma Arasi	Assistant Registry and Archives Officer	Samoa	11-Jan-18
COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH				
75	Nanette Woonton	Media and Public Relations Officer	Cook Islands	31-Jul-17
76	Leanne Moananu	Communications Support Officer	Samoa	31-Dec-17
77	Leilani Curry	Outreach Support Officer	Samoa	10-Apr-17
78	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Communications and Outreach Adviser</i>		
79	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Publications Officer</i>		
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY				
80	Christian Slaven	IT Manager	Samoa	02-May-18
81	Epeli Tagi	IT Network and Systems Support Engineer	Fiji	30-Apr-17
82	Billy Chan Ting	Web Applications Developer Specialist	Samoa	30-Apr-17
83	Ainsof So'o	Systems Developer and Analyst	Samoa	05-May-19

STAFF MEMBER	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE	
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION				
84	Veronica Levi	Financial Accountant	Samoa	10-Apr-19
85	Maraea Slade-Pogi	Procurement Officer	Samoa	05-Jan-17
86	Siniva Tuuau-Enosa	Project Accountant	Samoa	26-Jun-19
87	Alvin Sen	Project Accountant	Fiji	16-Jun-19
88	Rachel Levi	Finance Officer – Projects	Samoa	24-Jun-19
89	Penina Matatumua	Finance Officer – Projects	Samoa	16-Mar-17
90	Sabrina Reupena	Finance Officer – Bank Reconciliations	Samoa	16-Mar-17
91	Hetta Fuimaono	Finance Officer – Travel	Samoa	19-Jun-19
92	Anuilagi Tyrell	Finance Officer – Data Processing	Samoa	26-Jun-19
93	Lawrence Warner	Property Services Officer	Samoa	4-Dec-18
94	Faamanatu Sititi	Driver / Clerk	Samoa	05-Dec-17
95	Amosa To'oto'o	Cleaner / Teaperson	Samoa	31-Dec-19
96	Tagiilima Enele	Groundsman	Samoa	12-May-17
97	Isaia Talaitau	Groundsman	Samoa	11-Sep-19
98	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Administration and Conference Officer</i>		
99	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Finance Officer Payroll and Accounts Receivable</i>		
100	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Finance Officer Accounts Payable</i>		
101	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Procurement Assistant</i>		
102	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Cleaner / Teaperson</i>		
HUMAN RESOURCES				
103	Luana Chan-Jamieson	Human Resources Officer	Samoa	05-Jan-17
104	Christine Purcell	Assistant Human Resources Officer	Samoa	04-Mar-18
105	Jolynn Managreve-Fepuleai	Assistant Human Resources Officer	Fiji	08-Jul-18
106	Monica Tupai	Corporate Services Assistant	Samoa	21-May-19
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS / ATTACHMENTS				
107	Kilom Ishiguro	Spatial and Data Technician	Marshall Islands	31-Jan-17
108	Ana Markic	PhD Work Placement with Waste Management and Pollution Control Division	Croatia	31-Jan-17
TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS				
109	Tavita Su'a	IT Assistant	Samoa	31-Jan-17
CONSULTANTS				
110	Andrea Volentras	Programme Manager – PCCR	Samoa	1-Aug-17
111	Aaron Buncle	Mainstreaming Specialist – PCCR	Australia	1-Jun-17
112	Ane Moananu	Procurement and Financial Management Specialist – PPCR	Samoa	1-Aug-17
113	Satui Bentin	Regional Technical Support Mechanism Coordinator – PCCR	Samoa	1-Jun-17
114	Vainuupo Jungblut	BIOPAMA Engagement Consultant	Samoa	30-Jun-17
115	James Jamieson	MSP Financial Consultant	Samoa	30-Jun-17



ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAMP	Agence des Aires Marines Protégées	MNRE	Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
ACP countries	African, Caribbean and Pacific countries	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
AFD	Agence Française de Développement	MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority	MSP	Medium Sized Project
APCC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Climate Center	NEMS	National Environment Management Strategies
BCDRP	National Broadcast and Climate Disaster Resilience Plans	NISSAP	National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan
BIOPAMA	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Programme	NZ PPOA	New Zealand Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification
BMUB	German Government Federal Ministry of Environment and Buildings	P3DM	Participatory Three-Dimensional Model
CFF	Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security	PACIOCEA	Pacific Ocean Ecosystem Analysis
COP	Conference of the Parties	PACPOL	Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention
COP22	22nd session of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties	PCCC	Pacific Climate Change Centre
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific	PCCP	Pacific Climate Change Portal
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation of Australia	PCCR	Pacific Climate Change Roundtable
CTI	Coral Triangle Initiative	PICAN	Pacific Island Climate Action Network
DBCP	Data Buoy Cooperation Panel	PICOF-1	Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation	PIDF	Pacific Islands Development Forum
EDF	European Development Fund	PIDOC	Pacific Islands Database of Capacity Development Activities
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	PIFACC	Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
FINPAC	Finnish-Pacific project	PIGGAREP	Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project
FNU	Fiji National University	PINA	Pacific Islands News Association
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia	PIRT	Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation
GCF	Green Climate Fund	PMC-3	Third Pacific Meteorological Council
GEF	Global Environment Facility	PMMM-1	First Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology
GEF-PAS	Global Environment Facility – Pacific Alliance for Sustainability	PNGNWS	Papua New Guinea National Weather Service
GEF-PAS IAS	Global Environment Facility Pacific Alliance for Sustainability Project titled 'Prevention, eradication and control of invasive alien species in the Pacific islands'	POETCom	Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community
GEF-PAS IIB	Global Environment Facility Pacific Alliance for Sustainability – Integrated Island Biodiversity Project	POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
GFCS	Global Framework for Climate Services	PRC	Pacific Regional Centre
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	PSSA	Particularly Sensitive Sea Area
HLSM Project	High Level Support Mechanism Project	ROK-PI CliPS	Republic of Korea-Pacific Islands Climate Prediction Services Project
ICT	Information and Communication Technology	RRIS	Regional Reference Information System
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management	RTSM	Regional Technical Support Mechanism
IMO	International Maritime Organization	SAMOA Pathway	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions	SOE	State of Environment
INTEGRE	Initiative des Territoires pour la Gestion Régionale de l'Environnement	SPC	The Pacific Community
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission	SRDP	Strategy for Resilient Development in the Pacific: an Integrated Approach to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
IRD	Institute de Recherche pour le Développement Institute of Research for Development	TNC	The Nature Conservancy
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
J-PRISM	Japanese Technical Cooperation for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries project	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
LMO	Living Modified Organisms	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
MECDM	Solomon Islands Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology	UNFCCC COP22	22nd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
MEIDECC	Tongan Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communication	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
		USP	University of the South Pacific
		VEPA	Vava'u Environmental Protection Agency
		WCA	World Cetacean Alliance
		WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
		WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
		WMO	World Meteorological Organization
		WWF	World Wildlife Fund for Nature



Our region

The Pacific is the world's largest ocean, covering nearly one-third of the Earth's surface. About 30,000 islands of varied shape and size lie across its vast expanse.

The Secretariat's Pacific island members are:

- ☉ American Samoa
- ☉ Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- ☉ Cook Islands
- ☉ Federated States of Micronesia
- ☉ Fiji
- ☉ French Polynesia
- ☉ Guam
- ☉ Kiribati
- ☉ Republic of the Marshall Islands
- ☉ Nauru
- ☉ New Caledonia
- ☉ Niue
- ☉ Palau
- ☉ Papua New Guinea
- ☉ Samoa
- ☉ Solomon Islands
- ☉ Tokelau
- ☉ Tonga
- ☉ Tuvalu
- ☉ Vanuatu
- ☉ Wallis and Futuna

In addition to this, SPREP also has five metropolitan members. These are:

- ☉ Australia
 - ☉ France
 - ☉ New Zealand
 - ☉ United Kingdom
 - ☉ United States of America
- 
- 



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANAS**

Saipan

Hagatna

GUAM

Melekeok

PALAU

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

Palikir

**REPUBLIC OF THE
MARSHALL ISLANDS**

Majuro

NAURU

Nauru

KIRIBATI

Tarawa

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Port Moresby

Honiara

SOLOMON ISLANDS

TUVALU

WALLIS AND FUTUNA

VANUATU

Port Vila

NEW CALEDONIA

Noumea

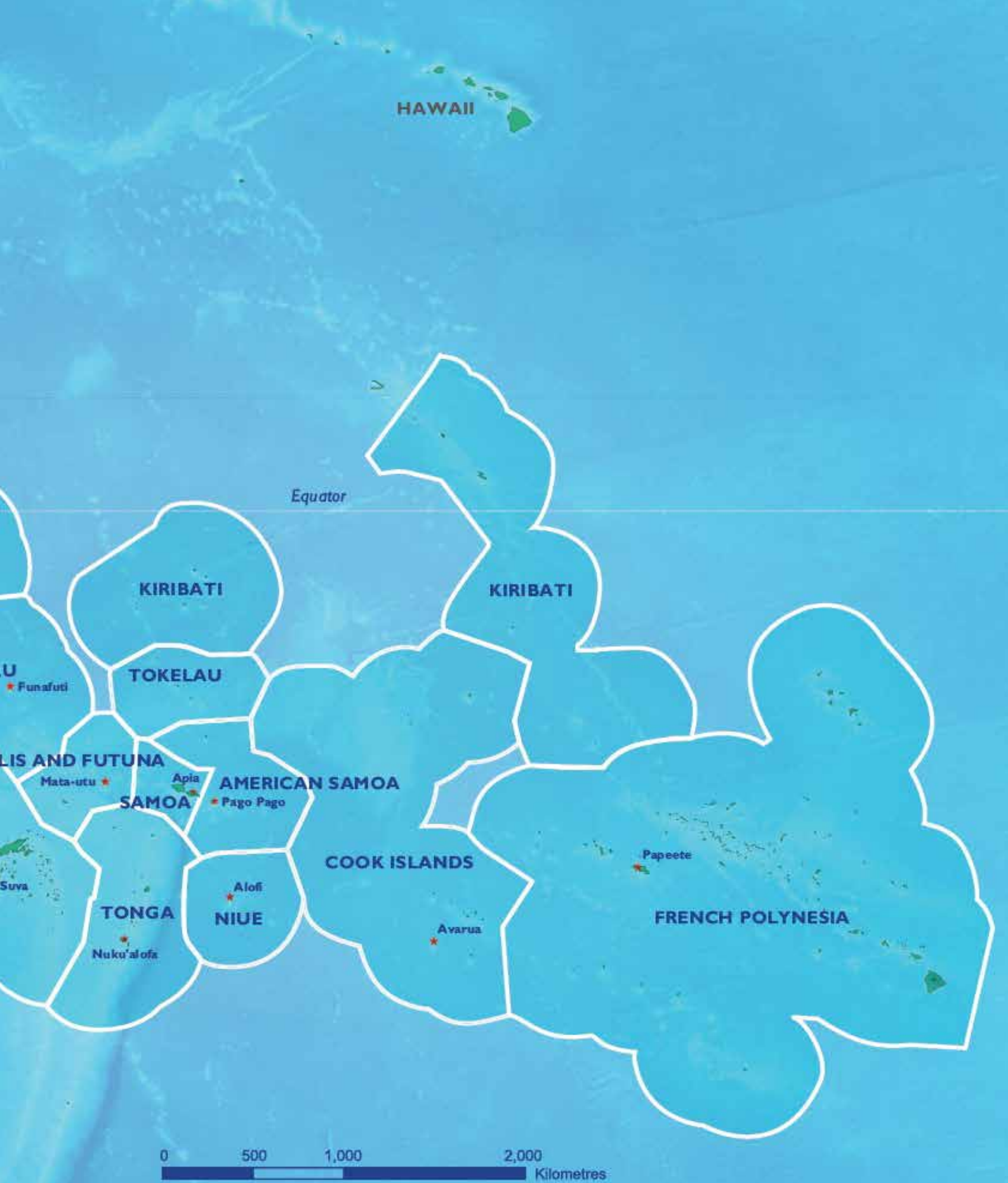
FIJI

AUSTRALIA



SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



This map is indicative only of agreed and potential maritime jurisdictional limits within the Pacific region. It does not imply the expression of an opinion by SPREP on the legality of any boundary shown.

www.sprep.org



Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme