



SPREP

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The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.



CIRCULAR

FILE: HR 17
DATE: 18 January 2018
CIRCULAR: 18/02

TO: SPREP National Focal Points
CROP Organisations
SPREP Partner Organisations

SUBJECT: STAFF APPOINTMENTS:

SPREP is pleased to announce the following appointments:

- **Mr. James Atherton, Biodiversity Adviser**
- **Mr. Vainuupo Jungblut, Protected Areas Officer**



Mr James Atherton is a Samoan/UK national who has been appointed to the position of Biodiversity Adviser (BA) within the Island and Ocean Ecosystems (IOE) Department. James holds a Master of Science in Rural Resource Management and a Bachelor of Science in Zoology from the University of Wales, UK. He also has a Post Graduate Diploma in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) from the University of Queensland, Australia. James has years of experience as a consultant in the Pacific region in the areas of biodiversity conservation, forest restoration, invasive species management and GIS training and development. He was also the Terrestrial Programme Director for Conservation International—Pacific Islands Programme from 2006 to 2011. James commenced in his new role on 18 December 2017.

James will lead the Biodiversity Team and provide strategic, policy and technical advice to SPREP Members to support their priorities for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. This includes the Convention on Biological Diversity, the protected areas programme, the GEF ABS Capacity Building Project and the SPREP component of the BIOPAMA protected areas project.



Mr. Vainuupo Jungblut is a Samoan/USA national who has been appointed to the Protected Areas Officer (PAO) post within the Island and Ocean Ecosystems (IOE) Department. Vai holds a Bachelor of Arts majoring in History & Politics from the University of the South Pacific (USP) Suva, Fiji. He is no stranger to SPREP having worked for SPREP in different capacities over the last thirteen years— initially as the Associate Ramsar Officer (and later Ramsar Officer Oceania) and most recently as a

consultant with the GEFPAS Integrated Island Biodiversity and the BIOPAMA Projects. He brings to this role, years of experience in regional environmental and conservation issues. Vai lives in Samoa with his wife Joanne and their two children Sarah-Jane and Grayson. He commenced in his new role on 14 December 2017.

Vainuupo will coordinate the SPREP component of the BIOPAMA phase 2 project and support protected areas management in terms of capacity building, data management, stakeholder coordination and engagement as well as information sharing and reporting.

We congratulate James and Vainuupo on their appointments and we look forward to these positions increasing and strengthening relevant support and services to the region.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart Chape
Acting Director General

