MESSAGE FROM MR. KOSI LATU, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SPREP

Talofa lava and welcome to the first issue of the SPREP-Tok for 2019.

The SPREP family had a restful festive season and are now rejuvenated to take on the challenges that lie in store for us this year.

2018 was a busy year for the Secretariat, and this year is shaping up to be even more full-on. This is just a testament of how SPREP is continuing to grow and take on more responsibilities in ensuring that the Pacific sustains a healthy environment in harmony with our cultures. We look forward to what lies ahead for us this year and I believe that the SPREP family, as one va’a and one crew, will be able to take on each challenge in stride.

In this issue of the SPREP-Tok, we recap on some of the stories from the end of 2018, and also a few that we kick-started the year with. We anticipate a lot more stories to come on the many works the Secretariat will be undertaken, and we look forward to sharing them all with you this year.

Soifua.

SPREP-Tok LATEST NEWS

PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR ENHANCED CLIMATE ACTION IN THE PACIFIC

Continued relations between the People’s Republic of China and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme were further strengthened with the official handover of USD 200,000 support to SPREP.

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PACIFIC ISLANDS PROTECTED AREAS FEATURED AT GLOBAL UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

The spotlight was on the Pacific islands at the Protected Areas Day during the 14th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP14) in Sharm El Sheikh. CBD COP14, 17–29 November 2018. Having committed to Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 of protecting 17 percent of terrestrial and 10 percent of marine areas, the Pacific islands have been working towards achieving this goal.

READ MORE …
SPREP SIGNS ON TO GLOBAL PROTECTED AREAS PARTNERSHIP LAUNCHED AT THE UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

The countdown is on with only two more years to go to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as committed to by over 190 Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, including the Pacific island parties.

To help propel Parties to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 on Protected Areas in the next two years is the newly launched global partnership for Achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 with Attendant Multiple Benefits which brings together 37 Partners, including the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

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SPREP STAFF TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY

The staff of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment and Programme conducted a tree planting at the Vailina Reserve as one of its final activities to finish off the year. The tree planting, which is an initiative of the SPREP Le Coral Social Club, brought together SPREP staff and families in an effort to contribute to Samoa’s 2 million tree campaign and the support the current restoration works at the Vailima Reserves.

READ MORE …

PAPUA NEW GUINEA CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY HOSTS IMPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL DATA PORTAL

Officers of the Conservation and Environmental Protection Authority (CEPA) of PNG received capacity development on the use of the national environmental data portal, an on-line tool built to address the on-going challenge of compiling high-quality, and up to date data on the environment including a place to store data.

READ MORE …

Christmas is a time for giving.

This rang true in December as the staff of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) visited the Mapuifagalele Home for the Aged to hand over their donation collected from the SPREP staff and community.

READ MORE …
SPREP AND WAN SMOL BAG SIGN AGREEMENT FOR URBAN FOOD GARDEN SITE AND TURTLE MONITORING IN VANUATU

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and Wan Smolbag Theatre (WSB) signed an agreement this month to work together to establish a demonstration site for urban food gardens in Port Vila and to support the turtle monitoring programme in Vanuatu.

READ MORE …

“WE ARE THE OCEAN AND THE OCEAN IS US”

A gathering of the Ocean experts from eight countries was held in Auckland, New Zealand from 19–20 November to discuss the feasibility of recognising the Pacific Ocean as a legal entity with its own legal rights.

The gathering produced a Statement on collective thinking, which recognises and acknowledges our kinship with the Ocean, and our responsibilities to the Ocean.

READ MORE …

MOU TO INCREASE COLLABORATION ON CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which was signed between the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and L’Agence Française pour la Biodiversité (AFB) formally recognised the intent of SPREP and AFB to work together on environmental issues, particularly in the fields of conservation and management of biodiversity.

READ MORE …

SAMOA JOINS THE FIGHT AGAINST PLASTIC POLLUTION

Samoa has become the latest Pacific Island country to enforce a ban on single-use plastics in a bid to address the growing issue of plastic pollution.

The Waste (Plastic Ban) Management Regulation 2018 was officially endorsed by the Cabinet of the Government of Samoa in 2018 to manage the plastic problem in Samoa with commitment to protect the country’s oceans and marine environment.

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