

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Annual Report

2021



**SPREP
PROE**

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 lead regional organisation for the protection and sustainable development of Pacific Island environments. SPREP was established by its Member governments in 1992 to support cooperation and coordination on environmental matters in the region. The agreement establishing SPREP came into force in 1993, officially making the organisation an autonomous body.

With its main headquarters 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 RESILIENCE



WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND GOVERNANCE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In our efforts to fulfil our vision of ‘a resilient Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures’, as highlighted in this 2021 Annual Report, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment (SPREP) is extremely grateful to our valued Members, development partners, donors, our CROP family, and stakeholders. Without your meaningful, long lasting, and productive partnership and collaboration, we would not have been able to accomplish our key results and outcomes in 2021.

We would also like to thank the Government of Australia (DFAT) and the Government of New Zealand (MFAT) for their significant contribution to SPREP core and programme funding including the annual contribution from the People’s Republic of China. We sincerely appreciate your contribution in supporting our work towards a resilient Pacific environment.

We say fa'afetai, fa'afetai, fa'afetai tele lava!

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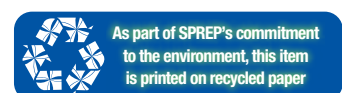
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PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa
+685 21929
sprep@sprep.org
www.sprep.org



OUR VISION: *A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.*



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Message from the Chair



Malo Ni!

For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.

As I sit in tranquil Tokelau contemplating the vast Pacific Ocean, through the wonders of modern technology I have also been observing how the triple crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution impact our daily lives. As I do so, I meditate on the words of King Solomon in Ecclesiastes, written during his twilight years.

Solomon the wise teaches us that there is a time and season for everything: we need to take note and act in a manner fitting the times we face. I see the reality of extreme weather conditions, ocean acidification, coral bleaching, marine litter and pollution and rising sea levels, and I wonder; what time am I in? What purpose do I exist to fulfill in this season?

The questions are existential and necessary for all of us. We all serve different functions, but we are a collective, we contribute and are part of one body with a purpose to fulfill. Our vision: *“A resilient Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures”* is at the heart of what we do, it is what drives our work in priority areas of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management, Waste Management and Pollution Control, Climate Change and Environmental Monitoring and Governance. This is our purpose – to work towards our vision through the

implementation of activities, programmes and projects to achieve the regional and organisational goals in our Strategic Plan.

The Secretariat is in a new season in terms of leadership. I want to acknowledge Mr Leota Kosi Latu for his tireless work over seven years as the Director General. He has brought us safely through his leg of our journey and I wish him well in his future endeavours. Our new Director General, Mr Sefanaia Nawadra, is now at the helm. I congratulate Mr Nawadra and wish him the very best as he steers our *vaka* into the future.

I want to acknowledge all our 26 member countries and territories, and our local communities. Thank you also to all our regional and global partners and donors for their contribution to the protection and management of the environment and natural resources of the Pacific. They are part of our collective bid to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations of our Pacific region. It would be remiss of me not to say a *fakafetai* to the hardworking staff of SPREP in Samoa and all over the world. Know that as the Chair, and from the people of the Pacific region, we value and appreciate your work. *Malo Ni!*

SPREP has come a long way, growing in size and stature, which this 2021 Annual Report attempts to portray. With more

than 130 staff members, our presence in the region has been enhanced, with offices in Fiji, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. I envision that SPREP’s Pacific presence will only grow but this needs to happen to match the environmental challenges before us.

We live in very challenging and uncertain times, exacerbated by the unpredictable nature of the COVID-19 pandemic. Looking at the stories and highlights in this Annual Report, while it cannot be denied that COVID-19 had an impact, SPREP has adapted and found ways to navigate this new normal. I am pleased to say that despite the disruptions, the ongoing work of SPREP reflects a tenacious attitude and an unwavering commitment to fulfill our duty to serve our Pacific people and member countries.

This was evident at COP26 in Glasgow where the SPREP team played a pivotal role in our amplified Pacific voice, which resulted in concrete actions and pledges.

Tokelau as an island atoll nation knows all too well just how vulnerable we are to the impacts of climate change. This is personal for so many of us. We know our future is in all of our hands, we know that to bring a resilient Pacific into being we must see urgent, bold and tangible actions to drastically reduce greenhouse

gas emissions. Especially from our larger contributors.

Despite contributing to less than 0.03% of the world’s total greenhouse gas emissions collectively, our Pacific islands region is amongst the most vulnerable. We also know that we have a role to play. Our Pacific islands can show global leadership in this space, and we are.

In 2013, Tokelau moved from using 100 per cent diesel-generated electricity to 100 per cent renewable energy for our electricity which took us approximately five years to complete. There were many challenges but we persevered and are pleased to have done so. We look forward to seeing more positive actions from across our Pacific islands family, to bring about a difference over the coming years.

As the Chair of the 30th SPREP Meeting, I am excited about the possibilities. The wise King Solomon tells us that among many things, there is a time to cry, a time to mourn, a time to dance and a time to laugh. We have to be strong and remain optimistic despite the uncertainties and the mountain of challenges before us.

We must persevere in the knowledge that while pain might endure during the season of night, on the horizon is the promise of joy and rejoicing with the morning.



Fakafetai Fakafetai lahi lele!


Mika Perez

Chair of the 30th SPREP Meeting
Tokelau’s Director of Natural Resources and Environment

Message from the Director General



Fringing coral reef, Gau Island, Fiji. Photo © Stuart Chape

Talofa lava

It has been a wonderful privilege to have served you all as the Director General of this great organisation. As I reflect, I can definitely say that time has flown by so quickly since 2016 when our member countries placed their trust in me to lead our team. I will always treasure the many wonderful memories. We celebrated many successes and we also shed tears together at our losses, and where we fell short. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity.

I note the message from the Chair about seasons and times, and I concur. This is a new season for SPREP and I congratulate the new Director

General, Mr Sefanaia Nawadra, and wish him the very best in his endeavours. I extend a big *fa'afetai tele lava* to the Chair, our 26 member countries and territories, regional and global partners and donors as well as the SPREP staff and family.

When I started in this role, my goal was to leave SPREP in a better position than it was when I arrived. I would like to think this has been the case. SPREP has come a long way and I believe it will continue to grow from strength to strength. We must never lose sight of our vision “The Pacific environment – sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures”. This is what drives our work.

But times are changing and looking at the future, we need to adapt, adjust and be creative to keep up. For the past two years, the evolving and elusive nature of COVID-19 changed the way we worked. From moving most meetings to virtual gatherings, to enduring isolation, lockdowns, quarantine and working remotely from wherever in the world, the need to prioritise digital transformation and virtual platforms to facilitate the delivery of services to Members, effectively and efficiently, became very apparent. In this regard, SPREP must continue to build up its infrastructural capacity to ensure the virtual delivery of Member priorities. We have

to be innovative and explore new ways of delivering on our priorities. This is the way of today and increasingly so in the future.

Let me revisit our 30th SPREP Meeting and SPREP Environment Ministers High-Level Talanoa, convened virtually in September last year, and chaired by the Hon. Kelihiano Kalolo, Ulu o Tokelau. A number of key decisions to guide our work were made.

Our Members approved the State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands 2020 Regional Report; the Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021-2025; and Pacific Coral Reef Action

Plan. They all connect with the core business of SPREP of ensuring the conservation and protection of our Pacific environment for present and future generations.

The High-Level Talanoa also included the virtual ceremony of the Pacific Island Environment Leadership Awards (PIELA). The PIELA are the only Pacific region focused environment awards, established by SPREP in 2013. The 14 awards recognised outstanding contributions from individuals, communities, non-governmental organisations, countries and territories towards achieving an environmentally sustainable and resilient Pacific.

To plan for the future, it is important to review and reflect upon the journey of SPREP, and the 'Third Independent Corporate Review and Mid-Term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017–2026' was an opportunity to do this. The review assessed the performance of the Secretariat since the last review in 2014 and also undertook the mid-term review of the strategic plan. The review is important to ensure that the Secretariat remains a dynamic and evolving organisation, relevant to the current and changing environmental needs of our Pacific region. Noting the impact of the recommendations a working group has been established to consider three key focus areas for members' endorsement.

In April, the State of Environment and Conservation website was officially launched, making information on environment and conservation in the Pacific more accessible. The report outlines the critical connections between society's actions and the services we receive from nature. The report uses country-endorsed data and information and draws

on input from countries and regional technical experts across many fields, including members of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation. The SOEC indicators are aligned with existing global and regional goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, to serve Pacific decision-makers.

The endorsement of the Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Programme of Investment by Leaders at the 51st Pacific Islands Forum championed by Tonga, is a key highlight for SPREP and the Pacific Meteorological Council. The Decadal Programme seeks to reduce the human and economic cost of severe weather, water and ocean events across Pacific Island communities, by strengthening national meteorological and hydrological organisations and their partnerships with national disaster management organisations. It is a focused and strategic approach to providing a menu of options for Partners to consider for investment in the Pacific.

This year was pivotal for amplifying our Pacific voyage at COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland. SPREP, under the leadership of the Director of Climate Change Resilience, with a team of eight in Glasgow, led the One CROP support to 14 Pacific Small Island Developing States including the Chair (Samoa), as well as 146 Pacific delegates with Leaders from Fiji, Palau, and Tuvalu, and Ministers from Fiji, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea and Tuvalu. As in previous years SPREP managed and coordinated the joint office and meeting spaces, as well as the shared Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion for 15 side events.

Noting most delegates could not travel to Glasgow, SPREP implemented an innovative campaign with the support

of MFAT, New Zealand to amplify the Pacific voice. This included the TikTok campaign of #Flexfor1pt5 which had over 14 million views; 20,000 followers; 230,000 likes; 1.5 hand symbol trending at COP26; and the Tonga Rugby Team and supporters' visibility event in Glasgow; plus content submitted from across our region. This social media campaign was complemented by 'Mana Moana: Pacific Voices', which included 11 digital poems from Pacific poets and artists that featured at COP26 side events, Pasifika TV broadcasts across the Pacific, and featured on the Mana Moana website and SPREP YouTube channel.

In November, we convened the Third Clean Pacific Roundtable, with the theme of sustainable innovations for a clean environment, resilient ocean, and healthy communities. Virtually hosted by the Government of New Caledonia, the CPRT3 was supported with significant financial assistance from New Caledonia (Province Sud, Province Nord, ADEME and Acotred), Fonds Pacifique, JICA, the EU and received contributions from the UN Environment Programme, Australian Government, Ellen Macarthur Foundation and University of Newcastle. Key milestones achieved included adoption of the Cleaner Pacific Implementation Plan 2021-2025, the CPRT3 Outcomes Statement and confirmation of Papua New Guinea as the



host of the 4th Cleaner Pacific Roundtable in 2024.

Our work cannot be done alone and hence the support of core partners is highly valued by the Secretariat. The signing of the Australia and SPREP Partnership Agreement 2021–2031 reaffirms the joint commitment to supporting environmental sustainability and climate change and disaster resilience in the Pacific, and the Multiyear Core Funding Arrangement (2021-2025) worth AUD17,200,000. It also outlines the donor confidence in SPREP in meeting our obligations as a transparent and accountable organisation.

In Samoa, when a high chief returns from a successful fishing trip, the joyful villagers will greet him with the words: "*Tautai a'e.*" But a good "*tautai*" also knows very well that not all fishing trips are successful, hence another Samoan proverb: "*E asa le faiva ae le asa le masalo.*"

In concluding my service at SPREP over these past 13 years, as Director General and Deputy Director General, I am proud of the work that has been done. I wish to again extend my sincere appreciation to our Members, partners, friends and staff for your unwavering support that has enabled a more resilient Pacific environment. But I also know there is a lot more work ahead, and for that I wish you all God's favour and blessings. Soifua!

Kosi Latu

Director General, SPREP

High Level Summary

Key results for SPREP 2020–2021

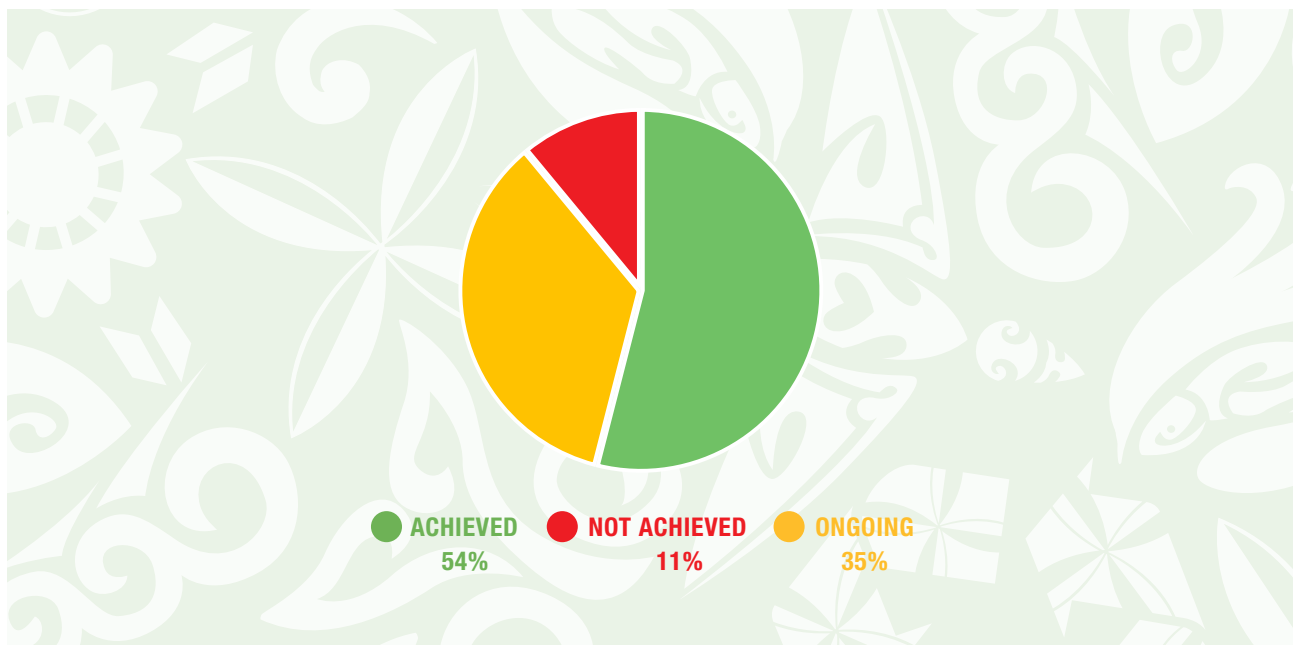
We live in unprecedented times. They are defined by multiple global crises exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and extreme weather events, which have impacted us all. In the Pacific, biodiversity loss, pollution and climate change especially, means the work of SPREP with assistance from all our partners to ensure the conservation and protection of our Pacific environment for present and future generations, has become even more significant than ever before.

There is a renewed sense of urgency to the challenges before us. Our 2017–2026 Strategic Plan underpins this sense of urgency and highlights our commitment to implement the activities, programmes, projects and clearly charts our path forward ensuring that we continue to take a more integrated, focused, programmatic approach to addressing our strategic priorities.

The SPREP Strategic Plan 2017–2026 prioritises four Regional Goals for achieving resilient and sustainable Pacific communities. The goals are interlinked and are supported by a set of key objectives. The Strategic Plan 2017–2026 also identifies key Organisational Goals, which define the policies, processes, and capacity for SPREP to deliver on the strategic priorities.

The implementation of the Strategic Plan 2017–2026 is assessed through the Performance Implementation Plan (PIP), which provides high level planning and reporting to Members on the achievement of progress towards the strategic goals. The PIP process is based on a biennial cycle thus the 2020–2021 PIP and highlights of key results achieved are reported in the SPREP 2021 Annual Report.

The 2020–2021 PIP contains a total of 117 Strategic outcome indicators, 66 of which were for the Regional Goals and 51 for the Organisational Goals. Overall, the SPREP Performance for the 2020–2021 PIP period showed that whilst facing with the challenges of COVID19, 54% of the targets by strategic outcomes were achieved; 35% are reported as on-going; and 11% were not achieved. 41% of the outcome indicators were achieved for the Regional Goals and 71% for the Organisational Goals. The key achievements are highlighted throughout the Annual Report by Regional and Organisational Goals.



OVERALL PERFORMANCE AGAINST OUTCOME INDICATORS 2020–2021



COVID-19 AND OUR RESPONSE

At a glance, it has been challenging. This Annual Report highlights many challenges presented by the unpredictable and unsettling nature of the COVID-19 pandemic. Across the board, it impacted the ability of the Secretariat to deliver and implement in-country activities, including project implementation.

Still, the imperative of progressing work on behalf of

our respective constituencies remained our highest priority. We know our Pacific people are resilient and as such, despite the COVID-19 odds, our commitment to our purpose and work continued; a clear reflection of our resilience. We had to adapt and adjust, as well as being innovative and strategic in our approaches to the delivery of services to Members. Our modus operandi changed significantly with the

increased use of e-learning to deliver trainings, virtual platforms to convene meetings and stakeholder consultations, and the engagement of more local experts to deliver activities on the ground in collaboration with Pacific island governments and partners. Communication and contact with Members and partners were primarily done remotely and virtually.

LIFE ON OUR CORAL REEF





REGIONAL GOALS HIGHLIGHTS

The technical and communication capacity of Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services were enhanced through projects like the Climate and Oceans Support Programme in the Pacific (COSPPac) Phase 2 project funded by the Government of Australia and the European Union-funded Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES).

Our members benefitted from healthy and resilient island and ocean ecosystems through the work of projects like the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC), which was rated as very good by an independent external evaluation team by German International Climate Initiative (IKI). We managed to strengthen national capacity for management of ecosystems and biodiversity on mangrove-sea grass planting and coral restoration

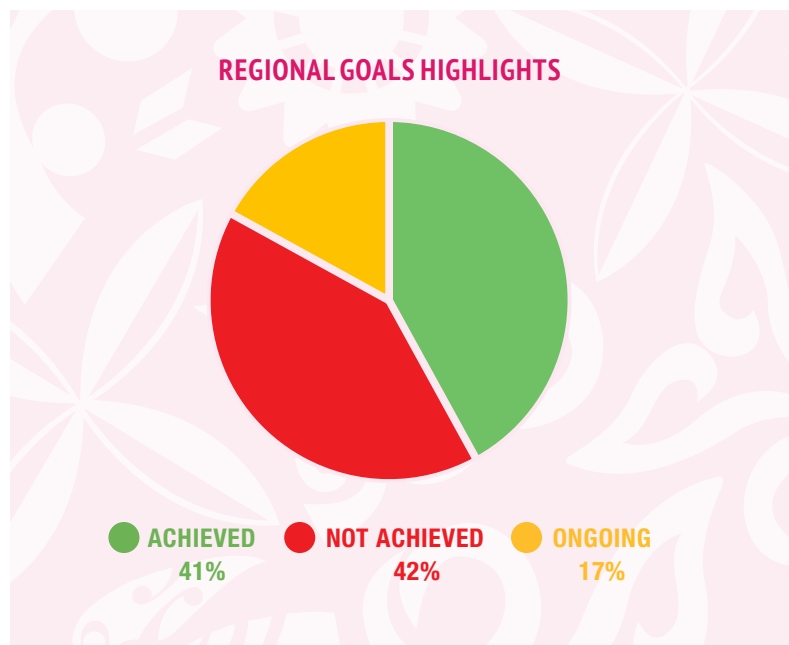
through continued technical assistance and institutional support to Pacific Islands Countries and Territories in addressing threats.

In our pursuit for improved waste management and pollution control for Pacific countries, funding was secured in implementing high priority action under the Regional Pacific Action Plan – Marine Litter as well as the EU ACP-MEA III for the effective implementation of monitoring and compliance with MEAs related to biodiversity and chemicals and waste. The successful conclusion of the 2021 Clean Pacific Roundtable was a highlight.

Pacific Island governments and people at national level also benefitted from improved environmental data collection, monitoring, analysis, and reporting on results through the Pacific Environment Portal network's 12,000 datasets.

The utilisation of the best available data on the Pacific Environment Portal supported national reporting processes in particular the State of Environment reporting process in 13 of the 14 Pacific Islands were supported through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded Inform Project. The Pacific Learning Partnership on Environmental Social

Sustainability (PLP/ESS) a partnership with University of the South Pacific (USP), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank continued to strengthen capacity of national environment regulators including EIA (EIA) practitioners through the second phase of training modules delivered on Environmental Impact Assessment and Social Impact Assessment.



ORGANISATIONAL GOALS HIGHLIGHTS

As an organisation, SPREP has strengthened and realigned its institutional capacities to support our Members through enhanced IT systems and services, increased visibility with Knowledge Management, improved staff digital access and sustained support from the Communications and Outreach to encourage positive environmental behaviour change among members.

In our work to support our Members develop national and regional policies and

strategies; we have initiated the SPREP Country and Territory Strategic Partnership Framework (CTSPF) in five pilot countries. SPREP has also been re-accredited to the Green Climate Fund with conditions to 5-years accreditation status, and signed a new 10-year partnership agreement with the Government of Australia, for which we are extremely grateful.

Ensuring a sustainable funding base to achieve environmental outcomes for the benefit of the

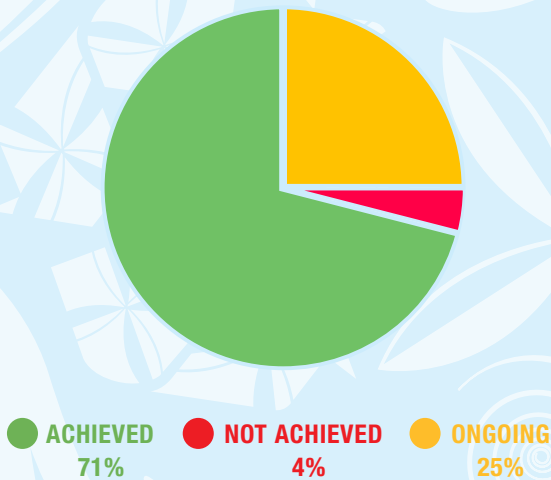
Pacific islands region is key to our work. We are delighted to note a significant improvement in reserves position to USD 1,017,711 at the end of 2021 compared to USD 57,763 in 2019. This reflects SPREP's effective COVID-19 response, securing a surplus and rebuilding reserves.

We maintain that meaningful long lasting and productive partnerships and collaborations are vital to advance our work. More than 20 new partnership engagements with commitment

to support the regional goals in preserving the Pacific environment were signed.

Our People Strategy, developed and endorsed by the second Executive Board meeting, is central to our efforts to access and secure people with the attitudes, knowledge, and skills to help us deliver on our shared regional vision. SPREP employed 125 staff as of end of 2021 with many of our new staff working remotely initially due to border closure.

ORGANISATIONAL GOALS HIGHLIGHTS



PEOPLE STRATEGY 2021-2025

PURPOSE

- To be the premier employer in the Pacific Region.
- Dedicated to providing an inclusive and empowering team culture, that attracts world leading talent, who are encouraged to grow and thrive.
- Sharing our expertise, knowledge and passion to make positive change, for the benefit of our Pacific communities.

SCOPE: All SPREP Employees

OUTCOMES

1. Culture is inclusive and resilient
2. Health, safety and wellbeing is embedded across all locations
3. Robust Workforce Plan is delivered
4. Increased mastery in leadership capability
5. Enhanced people policies, practices and ways of working

IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH: Leader and Team led



LIFE IN OUR VALLEY

CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

Our work across SPREP is interconnected with many key-crosscutting issues including innovation, strategic linkages, risk management and gender mainstreaming.

The Secretariat at the organisational level, continued to support and promote programmatic and strategic linkages, cross programme/department integration, including synergies between and across projects. Risk management is a key requirement of SPREP's effective, efficient, and responsive corporate governance. As part of this, the internal Risk Committee continued to monitor enterprise

risks in particular the top four priority risks, which were approved by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in 2020. Gender mainstreaming also remained a priority focus of SPREP with several key initiatives undertaken and initiated by the organisation as part of its efforts to promote and integrate gender across its programme/project activities, including institutional systems, and processes.

Looking back at the years that have been, there were many lessons learnt. Being receptive and adaptive to the changing business environment and how these could be applied to current frameworks of financial

and procurement policies is one of them. The Secretariat must continue to assess and review SPREP's partnership portfolio and identify key strategic opportunities for expanding partnerships in line with the Partnership Engagement and Resource Mobilisation Strategy and the Strategic Plan 2017–2026.

But given the challenges of COVID-19, the biggest lesson perhaps is that for the Secretariat to remain dynamic, evolving and relevant to the current and changing environmental needs of our Pacific region, we have to be innovative and explore new ways of delivering

priorities to Members. Digital transformation and virtual platforms to facilitate the delivery of services, effectively and efficiently, must form a key part of our infrastructural capacity, as we look to the future. These challenging times have taught us many lessons.

Overall, this Annual Report highlights the resilience of SPREP, our partners and all our Members in responding, adapting, and adjusting the way we work while we continue to diligently work towards achieving our vision; "A resilient Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures."



STAFF SEMINARS



STAFF INDUCTION



**IN-HOUSE
LEARNING**



WEBINARS



**COLLABORATION
WITH PARTNERS**



E-LEARNING



**KNOWLEDGE SHARING
through linking/
coordinating
mechanisms**



**INDIVIDUAL
LEARNING**

LIFE ON LAND





Amplifying our Pacific Voice



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

at the Twenty-Sixth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

Held in Glasgow, United Kingdom from 31 October to 12 November, the priorities for the Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDS) at COP26 were Article 6: Markets and non-market approaches, Loss and Damage, Adaptation, Transparency Global Stocktake and Reporting, Climate Finance, Oceans-Climate Nexus, Capacity Building and Technology as well as Periodic Review, Research and Scientific Observation.

SPREP undertook a wide range of preparatory work to help PSIDS participate at COP26 that included providing logistics briefings, holding successful discussions with the Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade as well as the COP26 President, the United Kingdom seeking support for PSIDS to attend the COP.

SPREP was requested by Members to help ensure PSIDS would be seen and heard in as many spaces possible. This was to help address the lack of visible presence noting many PSIDS delegations were still unable to travel due to COVID-19 restrictions. This saw SPREP embark on ambitious communication activities for COP26.

MOANA BLUE PACIFIC Spaces

While there was no Pacific pavilion in light of the COVID-19 impacts, opportunities were provided for our PSIDS delegations to help strengthen their engagement and presence at COP26.

- The Pacific Office Space and shared meeting room with the Aotearoa New Zealand Delegation provided the private space for PSIDS delegates to strategise, work and host meetings.
- 15 Pacific side event slots were coordinated in a shared side event arena at COP26.

Hybrid events were coordinated within these spaces that were mindful of the COVID-19 social distancing regulations established by the COP26 event coordinators.

The Pacific Office became the coordination headquarters for PSIDS at COP26, it was the private space that allowed Pacific Island delegates to strategise as they negotiated at COP26. Fifty-nine meetings were held in the shared meeting space at COP26, of which 11 were high level meetings noting this meeting room was able to seat eight people while being mindful of the social distancing

MOANA BLUE PACIFIC @COP26

Moana Blue Pacific @COP26 is a partnership with Aotearoa New Zealand managed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

requirements of the COP26 events coordinator. The Pacific Office Space saw 21 meetings held for which eight were high level events. Twenty-one people were able to fit in this space while maintaining social distancing.

Fifteen Pacific side events were held within the Moana

Blue Pacific shared side events space for which close to 600 people attended collectively, both physically and through zoom.

The Moana Blue Pacific Spaces were funded by the Government of New Zealand and managed by SPREP.



UNFCCC COP26

Increased Pacific presence and visibility at COP26

- ✓ Twenty-three news items about the Pacific developed during COP26.
- ✓ Over 200,000 people reached on the SPREP Facebook page from 57 posts during COP.
- ✓ Development of a website and a Moana Blue Pacific phone app.
- ✓ 1,000 Flexfor1pt5 face masks and 800 leis (flowers to adorn hair) distributed for free.
- ✓ Flexfor1pt5 hand symbol used by global leaders, and prominent negotiators, featuring in COP26 photo galleries.



#FLEXFOR1PT5

Social Media Campaign

13

As much of the world moved to virtual conversations and presence over the COVID-19 pandemic, SPREP with input from our PSIDS delegations and support from the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, coordinated a successful digital campaign for COP26.

Labelled Flex for 1.5° the campaign encouraged its target audience of social media users to drive public discussion on TikTok, a social media platform, to show how they supported a 1.5 degrees Celsius world.

The World Champion Hip Hop crew, the Royal Family, signed as lead talent, choreographing and dancing a short dance, challenging people to do the dance in support of a 1.5 degrees Celsius world. This resulted in a partnership with TikTok using their new Stitch and Duet functionality using Spark ads. Over 14.5 million people viewed the content on the Flexfor1pt5 TikTok account, with over 20,000 followers joining, and over 200,000 likes – all across a two-week period.

Flexfor1pt5 content creation was also designed at rugby games which featured Tonga in both Murrayfield in Scotland, and Twickenham in London. The Tongan rugby team participated in supporting the Flexfor1pt5 campaign and the dances were performed at the stadiums before, and during, the games.



◀ Delegates from the Republic of Marshall Islands Flexfor1pt5 at COP26.

Working together for our Pacific Voices

A range of preparatory activities were developed by members of the One CROP-Plus, a membership of regional organisations and others, collaborating under the leadership of SPREP, to provide the most effective advice and support possible, for our Pacific Islands' delegations.

Aside from the range of resources developed by SPREP with input from the CROP, 2021 saw the implementation of the Profiling Series. Working with Pacific Islands Parties, SPREP

in partnership with Climate Analytics and One CROP-Plus facilitated half-day virtual sessions on Article 6 on Carbon Markets, Loss and Damage as well as Adaptation, Climate Finance and the Climate and Ocean Nexus. These sessions were designed to help Pacific Islands Parties strengthen their knowledge and understanding of the topics with help from experts at SPREP, Climate Analytics, One CROP-Plus and experts from within the Pacific Islands Parties.

“The sessions are important because they support Pacific Small Islands Developing States delegations get up to speed on the ongoing developments leading up to the Conferences of the Parties. To do this, the technical support team from SPREP, Climate Analytics, and other support agencies and partners do much of the tracking and research in ways that we would not be able to do on our own due to limited time and resources.”

Mr Xavier Matsutaro,
National Climate Change Coordinator, Palau.

Pacific Political Climate Champions amplify Pacific's voice on global stage

The Pacific's collective voice, calling on world leaders to urgently implement the Paris Agreement, found new mana at the UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow, through the work of five Political Climate Change Champions.

The champions, announced prior to COP26, were:

- Cook Islands: Prime Minister Honourable Mark Brown, Champion for Climate Finance
- Fiji: Honourable Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum – Attorney General and Minister of Economy and Climate Change, Champion on Ocean-Climate Nexus and Climate Finance

- Tuvalu: Honourable Seve Paeniu – Minister of Finance and Climate Change, Champion for Loss and Damage
- Palau: Honourable Steven Victor – Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Environment, Champion for Environmental Integrity (Markets, biodiversity, nature-based solutions)
- Republic of the Marshall Islands: Honourable Bruce Bilimon – Minister of Health and Human Services, Champion for Climate Ambition

The champions not only voiced the existing circumstances of their respective countries, but they also voiced the

call of the Pacific as a collective. Technical support was provided for each from different council of regional organisations in the Pacific (CROP), for which SPREP provided technical and other, support for the Minister of the Marshall Islands Hon Bruce Bilimon and the Minister of Palau, Hon Steven Victor.

The President of COP26, Rt. Hon Alok Sharma, acknowledged the commitment, leadership and the amplified voice of the Pacific through the Political Climate Champions, as having played a key role in the “success” of Glasgow.

“The Pacific played a vital role in the success of Glasgow, both in the lead up to, and at the event itself,” said Mr Sharma.

“It was that commitment, the leadership shown by the Pacific and of course the inspirational speeches as well which helped world leaders go further in terms of what they were to do at Glasgow.

A huge, huge thanks from me and the whole of the UK team for being by our side during some very, very challenging discussions we had to have with many parties.”

Samoa's Prime Minister, Hon. Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, who is the Chair of the Pacific Small Islands States (PSIDS), said the Pacific representation at COP26 might have been smaller than what it would have been if it wasn't for COVID-19, but it was a very “effective contingent of High-Level Political Champions, who successfully championed key PSIDS priorities.

“This was viewed as critical for ensuring technical expertise was strongly supported by political will and vice versa. In this respect, and despite the conclusion of COP26, and given both its successes and shortfalls, we must continue our work and maintain our momentum as we now turn our attention and focus on navigating a path to COP27,” she said.

“The Pacific has begun its work towards COP27. Our negotiating priorities remain consistent and our positions united and steadfast in the hope for a 1.5-degree world.”

Hon. Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, Prime Minister of Samoa and Chair of the Pacific Small Islands States (PSIDS)

Mana Moana Pacific Voices

In the endeavour to ensure our Pacific voice was heard in as many spaces as possible at COP26, the Pacific embarked on a new campaign that spoke to the hearts and emotions of people.

The Mana Moana Pacific Voices campaign supported by New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade was a successful partnership between SPREP, MFAT, Mana Moana, Storybox, Pacific creatives, Poet Dr Karlo Mila, and Pasifika TV.

Mana Moana Pacific Voices resulted in a compilation of 11 poems curated and produced digitally in the form of short, artistic videos that tell the Pacific stories of climate change impacts.

These short poetry films were showcased across four different events at COP26 as well as broadcast to Pacific Islands Television Stations through Pasifika TV. The films have also reached over 4,000 views by the end of 2021 on the SPREP YouTube Channel.



Pre-COP Training and virtual participation in COP26 in Glasgow

The EU Intra ACP-GCCA+Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) project is developing the capacity of young Pacific climate negotiators.

As part of this, the University of the South Pacific (USP) organised a virtual pre-COP training over three days from 28–30 September 2021 to train six students and a team of 10 back stoppers on the structure and processes of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties.

26 women and 19 men joined the training. Participants included USP students and representatives from selected PSIDS government delegations, Civil Society Organisations, Pacific Conference of Churches, Pacific Resilience Partnership Youth Hub, and PACRES partners.

Key topics covered during the training included PSIDS COP26 priorities, climate science and findings of the latest Sixth Annual Report of the Intergovernmental Panel

on Climate Change (IPCC AR6), oceans and climate, climate diplomacy, loss and damage, adaptation, gender and climate change, faith-based organisations, and communications. Following the training, the PACRES-supported students joined the virtual UNFCCC COP26 PSIDS Preparatory Meeting from 5–8 October 2021 organised by SPREP to continue their preparations for the Glasgow COP26.

A team of 13 (nine women and four men) students then

joined COP26 virtually. Six of the 13 students provided back-stopping support to the Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu Government delegations, while the remaining students supported the core team of six. Most USP student participants joined the sessions from a central location at USP, while one joined from Solomon Islands and one from New Zealand. Despite the time difference, students managed to follow various discussions and side events throughout COP26.

The Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) aims to deliver better regional and national adaptation and mitigation responses to climate change challenges faced by the 15 Pacific ACP countries. The €12.18 million PACRES is funded primarily by the European Union (Euro 12 million) with targeted support from Monaco and the Swiss Confederation. PACRES is being delivered jointly by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Pacific Community (SPC) and the University of the South Pacific (USP).



Climate Change Resilience



“While COVID-19 has knocked us all back somewhat, we are committed to the positive impact we can make ahead. This is a welcome advancement as we persevere onwards to adapt to, and mitigate, climate change.”

Mr Kosi Latu, Director General, following SPREP's continued accreditation to the Green Climate Fund.

Upper Navua River, Viti Levu, Fiji.
Photo © Stuart Chape

SPREP's reaccreditation to the Green Climate Fund as a Regional Implementing Entity was one of the many highlights for the year as the Secretariat continued to ensure that Pacific people benefit from strengthened resilience to climate change. The work to build the capacity of Pacific Island Members to manage national climate change adaptation (CCA), mitigation (NDCs) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) continues, as well as enhancing the ability of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS). Support was provided for members to access and manage climate change finances and develop policy responses to issues of loss and damage and disaster induced population mobility.

REGIONAL GOAL 1 Pacific people benefit from strengthened resilience to climate change

Pacific people benefitted from strengthened resilience to climate change in areas of meteorology, adaption and mitigation. In meteorology, the technical and communication capacity of more than 200 officials in Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services were enhanced through projects like the Climate and Ocean Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac II) funded by the Government of Australia, and

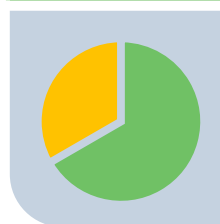
the European Union-funded Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES).

COSPPac II also improved climate science in the Pacific through the Climate Change in the Pacific Report and the communication of climate risks through Early Action Rainfall Watch (EAR Watch), climate bulletin and ocean bulletin with the inclusion of traditional knowledge.

In the area of Adaptation, PACRES funded the implementation of priority ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) initiatives for Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Samoa, which will assist countries in their efforts to adapt to climate change.

Despite contributing less than 0.03% of the World's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, Pacific countries remain at the forefront of climate change

REGIONAL GOAL 1



TOTAL OUTCOME TARGETS		
24		
ACHIEVED 16	NOT ACHIEVED 0	ON-GOING 8

impacts. The Pacific Island Countries have shown their commitment through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), highlighting national commitments to reduce emissions. The NDC Hub funded by GIZ with additional financial support from the Irish Aid, have enabled the construction of biogas systems in two rural educational institutions in Vanuatu, namely Matevulu College and Saint Patrick's College.

OBJECTIVE 1.1

Strengthen the capacity of Pacific Island members to lead, prioritise, and manage national climate change adaptation (CCA), mitigation (NDCs) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) in fulfilment of their national environment and development goals and their voluntary and legal obligations under regional and international agreements.

Pacific Climate Change Centre's e-learning platform an opportunity amidst COVID-19 adversity

An online learning platform where Pacific Island people can access information and engage on climate change impacts, knowledge, capacity needs and innovation has proven to be a game changer.

The Pacific Climate Change Centre's (PCCC) e-learning platform houses executive courses, open learning short courses, a children's education corner and webinar series.

The launch of the platform on 12 March 2021 was conducted in person at the PCCC and online for participants outside of Samoa. Since the launch, 190 participants, 46% male and 54% female, have

benefitted from three executive courses in 2021.

The platform provided opportunities to professionals, practitioners and stakeholders to build their capacity on climate resilience, climate predictions, meteorology, climate science, finance, disaster resilience and other related topics.

E-learning is an innovative solution to challenges faced due to the global pandemic. It uses online technologies to remotely access education, training and workshops on climate change. The platform uses the cloud-based services of Moodle which can cater for 1,000 users at any one time.

The Resident Representative of Japan to Samoa represented the Government of Japan, the Deputy High Commissioner of New Zealand to Samoa represented the Government of New Zealand, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended on behalf of the Government of Samoa. Member countries of SPREP and other partners joined the event online.

Making these online tools and courses accessible by anyone confirmed that the PCCC remains true to the vision of those who worked so hard to create this regional hub of excellence.



SPREP Director General, Mr Kosi Latu, launching the PCCC e-learning platform, SPREP

Republic of Marshall Islands builds capacity on measurement, reporting, and verification of greenhouse gas emissions

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) has benefitted from training on measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the Pacific Regional Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Hub.

Held in February 2021, the training was delivered by the NDC Hub's implementing partner, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), in response to RMI's request to build the capacity of officials involved in implementing and reporting on the country's NDC.

The training focussed on sector based MRV of GHG emissions as per Article

13 of the Paris Agreement, reporting and verifying actual carbon emissions equivalent over a defined period of time. Participants were also trained on collecting, reporting and retention of GHG emissions data, to support national reporting in the respective sectors.

NDC Hub's RMI alternate focal point and Deputy Director of the National Energy Office at the RMI Ministry of Environment, Mr Benjamin Wakefield, applauded the initiative.

"We are very happy to receive this timely training designed for RMI to address

measurement, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions," said Mr. Wakefield. "We are thankful to the Regional Pacific NDC Hub and the Global Green Growth Institute for building on the training hosted in October 2020. Its customisation to suit RMI's needs is a very important first step towards building the capacity of RMI to reach our NDC goals."

RMI will also benefit from enhancing ambition in its mitigation and adaptation priorities as well as boosting the country's readiness to participate in future mechanisms and instruments.



Participants of the virtual MRV training from the Republic of Marshall Islands. Photo: Pacific NDC Hub

The work is part of RMI's GHG reporting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and CCR SPREP is also a member of the Pacific NDC Hub. The partners involved include the Pacific Regional NDC Hub, GGGI, Governments of Australia, Germany and New Zealand.

Vanuatu welcomes Community Climate Centres

More than 20,000 residents of Vanuatu, in the Torba and Sanma provinces, have benefitted from the establishment of Community Climate Centres under the Vanuatu Klaemet Blong Redy, Adapt mo Protekt (Van-KIRAP) project.

The project ensures life-saving weather and climate information reaches the most vulnerable communities.

People at the Provincial Government and Area Council level in Vanuatu have been longing for government services to reach their doorsteps. The establishment of the Community Climate Centre at the Provincial and Area Council level allows Climate Information Services (CIS) to reach the communities who need it the most.

Mr Terry Daniel, the Area Administrator for South Santo Area 2, where the Nakere

Community Climate Centre is established, said South Santo depends heavily on agricultural products for their income.

“Information on tropical cyclone, rainfall and El Niño and La Niña are important to us,” he said. “They help us prepare ourselves. We are delighted to see this development at our doorstep.”

At the Luganville Community Climate Centre, there is a strong partnership between World Vision (NGO) and the Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office (NDMO).

The establishment of the Luganville Community Climate Centre further strengthened and enhanced this working relationship.

“Having the Centre in Luganville allows us (NDMO and WV) to use existing mechanism to channel the CIS products from the Climate



Vanuatu welcomes Community Climate Centres, Nakere Area Council. Photo: Neil Livingstone Malosu

Centre, through our established networks, and to communities throughout Santo,” said Mr Edward Gordon, a staff of World Vision based in Luganville.

“Having the Centre allows the information to flow from the provincial centre to communities. The information builds resilience within our communities in Santo.”

This will create community ownership, long-term

sustainability, and increase the local resilience of communities in Vanuatu. Additionally, it could be used as best practice for other countries in the Pacific.

The work was supported by community leaders in Torba and Sanma provinces, Van-KIRAP, Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department (VMGD), local NDMOs and World Vision Vanuatu.

Long-term strategies for decarbonisation in SIDS developed

To provide guidance for developing long-term sustainable strategies for decarbonisation opportunities in Small Islands States (SIDS), long-term strategies for Decarbonisation in SIDS were developed.

The project carried out by Climate Analytics and SPREP,

through the IMPACT project, was designed to encourage Pacific governments to prioritise and manage climate change mitigation.

Long-term strategies provide a space for governments to set out a visionary blueprint for a resilient, decarbonised future that is compatible with limiting

warming to 1.5°C. By setting out such a vision, long-term strategies can steer near-term ambition and action and obtain political buy-in for a cross-sectoral transformation of the economy that is aligned with the Paris Agreement’s goals.

While these strategies are distinct from the near-term commitments made in countries’ Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), alignment between the vision contained within a country’s long-term strategy and its NDC is crucial and can improve the efficiency and robustness of near- and long-term target setting.

While SIDS contribute an extremely small portion of global emissions, they are

among the first to suffer disproportionate climate impacts. Developing long-term strategies that are consistent with the Paris Agreement temperature limit in an inclusive stakeholder process would allow SIDS not only to demonstrate leadership in the international community, but also to reap the benefits from having a forward thinking and resilience-focused long-term plan in place to guide their development.

The IMPACT Project is funded by the German Ministry of Environment as part of its International Climate Initiative, and is implemented in the Pacific through a partnership with Climate Analytics and SPREP.



Dead forest on disappearing island, Solomon Islands. Photo © Stuart Chape

FSM, Palau and Tonga trial tools for climate change adaption impact assessment

Tools for Impact Assessments of Climate Change Adaptation Projects were rolled out in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Palau and Tonga.

Orientation sessions hosted virtually by the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus – Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) Project team at SPREP in March 2021, prepared the countries to trial the methodology to measure past climate change adaptation interventions.

The impact assessment will help the Pacific communities in collecting systematic data based on health, food and water security, ecosystem services provided by natural environment, infrastructure and build environment that will assist governments in developing sustainable strategies to boost resilience.

GCCA+ SUPA Palau National Consultant, Ms Umai Basilius

said: “Applying the suite of impact tools and methodology can improve or reorient a project, or to inform decisions about whether to continue, discontinue, replicate, or scale up an intervention(s).”

USP coordinator, Ms Aliti Koroi, said practitioners in country were extremely keen and particularly interested in the Kobo toolbox.

“I have been doing manual questionnaires in my area of work, but I think the Kobo toolbox would be more efficient for me.”

Tonga National consultant, Mr. Fuka Kitekei’aho said empowering local communities in their commitment to their local development is the backbone of building resilience.

“Tonga’s Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information and Disaster needs to be involved with the community when providing



training and supervision of community involvement during implementation of such coastal structural measures,” he said.

The GCCA+ SUPA project is four and a half year project (2019–2023) funded with € 14.89 million from the European Union (EU)

and implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) in partnership with SPREP and USP, in collaboration with the governments and peoples of Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu.

Building resilience of Moata'a mangroves in Samoa

A collaboration involving government departments, civil societies, private sector, and academia, to build the resilience of the Moata'a Mangroves and benefit the ecosystem and socio-economic wellbeing of villagers, in Samoa, was initiated.

The Moata'a Mangrove Ecosystem Situational Analysis is being carried out by SPREP, Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and academics from The University of Newcastle and the National University of Samoa.

This responds to the village's desire to conserve the

remaining mangrove area and ensure their future livelihoods by developing the area into an environmental education and eco-tourism site, the Moata'a Living Lab.

The analysis is divided into two phases and baseline studies: human-mangrove relationship and hydro-sedimentation assessment using GIS mapping. These activities will help build the adaptive capacity of the community at Moata'a and restore confidence in their mangrove conservation area.

Member of Parliament of Vaimauga 2 and Moata'a, Mr Lenata'i Victor Tamapua,



Community members from Moata'a, along with staff of SPREP and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) who attended the workshop.

expressed his sincere appreciation for all the efforts. He noted that the benefits would not just be for his constituents but also contribute to international efforts to improve the health of

the ecosystem in Samoa and the Pacific.

He thanked SPREP, MNRE, The University of Newcastle and National University of Samoa for their assistance.

National Recycling Plan for Nauru delivered

The Republic of Nauru has developed a National Recycling Plan with support from the NDC Hub. As one of the smallest independent, democratic states in the world committed to overcoming the enormous challenge of global warming, which threatens their very existence, Nauru signed the contract to develop the plan in June 2021, and six months later, the full National Recycling Plan was approved.

The assistance rendered to Nauru not only ensures they meet their NDC targets, but most importantly the National Recycling Plan will guide all the work in their waste sector given they have very limited land resources.

Nauru's NDC is primarily Adaptation rather than Mitigation due to the limited availability of natural resources on island.

This has led the Nauruan government to have their NDC focus mainly on adaptation with a strong emphasis on building resilience to combat the adverse impacts of climate change on their low-lying island, which is only a few meters above sea level.

Part of strengthening Nauru's resilience includes the formulation of the Nauru Development Strategy 2005–2025, which outlines their commitment to achieving sustainable development in health, education, food security and infrastructure sectors with a focus on addressing vulnerabilities including global environmental challenges, external economic shocks, and climate change. The strategy also identifies as a key priority the need to minimise the negative impacts on public health and the environment

through effective management of waste and pollutants.

In the areas of waste management, this is to be realised by strengthening solid waste and sewage/wastewater management through capacity building and infrastructure development. Nauru's National Solid Waste Management Strategy for 2017–2026 identified six priority thematic areas required to assist the Government in addressing current bottlenecks to successfully implement solid waste management: i) improve regulatory reform; ii) awareness raising and advocacy; iii) capacity building; iv) waste disposal; v) waste reduction, reuse, and recycling; and vi) sustainable financing.

The feasibility study to design and develop the National Recycling Plan addresses the



Recycling stations. Photo: SWRMA

fifth thematic area of “waste reduction, reuse and recycling.”

It can also serve as the basis for financial proposals to overseas donors for funds to implement the recycling plan. The National Recycling Plan will assist in the implementation of the National Solid Waste Management Strategy 2017–2026 for Nauru. This activity was funded by Irish Aid Funds.

Second Pacific Resilience Meeting: Our people, our journey: Nurturing Pacific Resilience from home

Despite COVID-19 challenges, the Second Pacific Resilience Meeting (PRM) convened in July 2021. Physical participation was convened in Suva, Fiji with virtual participants interacting from across the region and attracting global online participation.

The meeting convened under the theme: Our people, Our journey: nurturing Pacific resilience from home. Experiences and learning were shared in order to scale up implementation of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management 2017-

2030 (FRDP). The FRDP is considered the overarching regional framework for guidance on regional, national, and local level actions on Climate Change, Disaster Risk, and Low Emissions Development Pathways.

The Pacific Resilience Meeting serves as a platform for highlighting local, national, and regional level actions in the areas of Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Mitigation. The Regional Goals of SPREP Climate Change Resilience Programme are aligned to the three Goals of the FRDP. These Goals being 1) Strengthened integrated adaptation and risk reduction to enhance resilience to

climate change and disasters 2) Low carbon development and 3) Strengthened disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

SPREP was involved with assisting in coordinating and establishing national virtual hubs for online participation by country participants. Member country initiatives were highlighted in a multitude of panel discussions and side-events, with several members participating as panellists and keynote speakers throughout the three-day Pacific Resilience Meeting event.



Our People, Our Journey: Nurturing Pacific Resilience from home. Live illustration from the Second Pacific Resilience Meeting.

The event although of a hybrid format was highly successful due to the establishment of the virtual online conference platform and national hubs in 11 participating Pacific island countries. The event showcased 26 interactive sessions with more than 150 speakers and 1,700 participants. Of these participants figures showed that Gender approximation was 1,000 female and 700 male.

Building resilience to climate change and natural disasters in Gulf Province, Papua New Guinea

SPREP continues to support Members in the review and development of climate change policies, mainstreaming of climate change at operational level and strengthening of knowledge management through the EU Intra ACP-GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) project.

In August 2021, an assessment team led by Ms Luanne Losi, Acting Manager, Adaptation Branch, Climate Change Development Authority (CCDA) visited the low-lying coastal Karama and surrounding communities in Gulf Province.

They undertook community consultations and field assessments for the PACRES project that will enhance resilience to climate change and natural disasters. SPREP's PACRES Project Officer, PACRES USP (UPNG), our consultant's representative, the Karama community focal point and CCDA personnel made up the team.

After introductory calls on the Provincial Government and district administrations the team spent three days with the communities, assessing flood protection, food and water security options. Options to build resilience will be finalised and implemented with the communities in 2022.

Community consultations confirmed a general understanding of climate change among people, however, there is a need for specific climate change concepts and information to be translated into local languages.

The community favoured a participatory approach to consultations rather than more structured formal interviews.

The contribution of PACRES to Karama will enhance the existing knowledge in the community in terms of mangrove rehabilitation, provide alternative options for water and food security, and



A well supplying a school in Gulf Providence.
Photo: PACRES

enable disaster preparedness for the community.

“The community is already resilient to the impacts of climate change, however, with the right support and training the community will be better able to make decisions to increase their resilience and adaptive capacity”, said Ms Losi. PACRES will fund Vulnerability Needs Assessments for a number of other coastal communities in Gulf Province in 2022.

Development of Port Vila Urban Greening Masterplan

Work is underway to develop a Greening Masterplan for key urban areas in Port Vila, to ensure that Port Vila retains a healthy and attractive urban environment into the future.

“The urban population of Vanuatu is expected to double by 2035,” said Mr Jeffrey Kaitip, Acting Director of the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning. “More and more people are moving to our urban areas in search of economic and educational opportunities. This growth will see more urban and peri-urban housing development, and expansion of infrastructure. However, this growth must be balanced with the need to improve social services, public amenities, green spaces, and recreational areas.”

The Greening Masterplan is being developed under the guidance of a Steering Committee, headed by the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, and will focus on four areas within the city. These four areas include parts of the following Wards: Malapoa-Tagabe Ward, Anamburu-Melcofe Ward, Fresh Wota-Tassiriki Ward, Central Ward, and Southern Ward.

The first area is the Northern Gateway (main road from airport to Tebakor). The second area is the Central Business District (Tana Russet to central Market House). The third area is the Parliamentary and Cultural Institutions Precinct, including Independence Park and Parliament. The fourth and final area is the

Southern Traffic Corridor (ABM roundabout to Wharf Road and to domestic wharves).

The Greening Masterplan is funded by the European Union under the Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building programme funded by the EU, and implemented by SPREP on behalf of the Vanuatu Government. Local consultancy firm, Savvy Vanuatu is leading preparation of the Masterplan in partnership with

the University of the South Pacific (USP).

“An effective greening strategy will offer many benefits to Port Vila communities,” said Mr Semi Qamese, SPREP Project Manager. “For example, a green city will reduce urban heating, can better manage stormwater and help protect the beautiful harbor. Greening also provides opportunities for local communities to relax and enjoy natural spaces within the urban environment.”

OBJECTIVE 1.2

Minimise multiple pressures on vulnerable Pacific Island ecosystems by implementing ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, including responses to ocean acidification and sea level rise, to sustain biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services that support livelihoods and sustainable development.

Dialogue strengthens regional coordination for Ocean Acidification monitoring

Pacific island countries and territories shared lessons learned from Ocean Acidification (OA) monitoring during a Pacific Islands Ocean Acidification Monitoring Dialogue held in May 2021.

The virtual dialogue was organised by SPREP through the New Zealand Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification (NZPPOA) project and the Pacific Island Global Ocean Observing System (Pi-GOOS), with assistance from the Korean

Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KISOT).

The important conversation helps address the on-going need for monitoring of ocean acidification and its impacts on marine ecosystems in the Pacific. The dialogue also enabled in-country participants to further understand ocean acidification in the Pacific and the percentage of acidification currently in the ocean.

The training was well received by participants from around the Pacific. The NZPPOA is supported by the New Zealand



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in partnership with the Principality of the Government of Monaco and implemented by SPREP.

Participants of the regional coordination for ocean acidification monitoring workshop.

The CCR team.



Photo: D.McFadzien



Photo: D.McFadzien

OBJECTIVE 1.3

Enhance National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) capacity in weather forecasting, early warning systems, long-term projections, and improved climate services to support members' decision-making and coordination through the Pacific Meteorological Council.

Gender equality and social inclusion enhances climate information and service delivery

Critical steps were taken to enhance Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in the Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) through training.

Integrating gender perspectives into climate change and development priorities is vital for addressing underlying inequalities between men, women, youth and people with disabilities.

With that in mind, the Australia Pacific Climate Partnership, in collaboration with Climate and

Oceans Support Programme in the Pacific II (COSPPac II) and Talanoa Consulting, provided training for representatives from NMHSs to better understand the core concepts of GESI, including the relevance to NMHSs climate information and service delivery.

Participants also engaged in identifying organisational opportunities and barriers to social inclusion. Pacific NMHSs provide weather, climate, water and ocean services to help people make informed decisions for their safety,

socio-economic wellbeing, prosperity, and sustainable livelihoods. Therefore, the training was critical to ensure GESI is incorporated into all operations.

The training targeted mid-upper management at Pacific NMHSs to ensure the sustainability of GESI incorporation into the core work of these institutions.

“Our vulnerability to climate change means an increased demand on NMHSs to deliver effective climate information



Training for NHMS representatives to better understand concepts of GESI.

and services within the next decade. We're doing what we can to ensure that GESI is a core foundation of our work,” said Mr Salesa Nihmei, SPREP's Meteorology and Climatology Adviser.

Pacific authors contribute to literature on tropical cyclones and drought



Pacific authors told their stories on the science and impacts of climate change with the publication of two new peer-review papers on “Tropical cyclones contributing to extreme rainfall over the southwest Pacific nations” and “Historical and future drought impacts in the Pacific islands and atolls”.

The papers were the result of a year-long process of the Next Generation of Climate Projection for Western Pacific

project implemented by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIRO) and SPREP and funded by the Government of Australia.

The goal is to increase the number of peer-reviewed papers on the Pacific and climate change. This initiative was made possible by the contributions of Pacific National Meteorological Services, Pacific and Australia Universities and technical partners from around the region.

The papers provide Pacific stories on weather and climate events and impacts that can be cited in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report.

This will also facilitate Pacific publications and authorship of journal articles for IPCC AR6 reporting, leveraging off both the outcomes of the previous Pacific-Australia Climate Change Science Adaptation Planning (PACCSAP) outreach project plus investment through the National Environmental Science Program Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub.

The work on the research papers involves collaboration between research institutions and weather climate experts around the Pacific to collect data, develop methodology and write stories that can be cited by the IPCC.

One other benefit is continuous mentoring of NMHS officers by experts in publication especially on how to find appropriate journals and to develop a format accepted by the reviewers. This work contributes to improve capacity to carry our research and publication.

Ms Kisolet Posanau from the Papua New Guinea National Weather Service is a member of the team that developed a drought paper. She acknowledged the opportunity to be part of the publication.

“This is my first publication, and I am proud of it, especially when cited in the IPCC report. At last, we can have our stories from our region in the IPCC AR6,” she said.

OBJECTIVE 1.4

Support Pacific Island Members to access and manage climate change finances and their national accreditation processes.

Green Climate Fund strengthens climate and oceans observation in Vanuatu

In 2015, Vanuatu was identified by the United Nations University as having the highest natural disaster risk of all countries it measured.

Natural disasters like Category 5 severe Cyclone Pam and Cyclone Harold, which caused extensive damage to all the islands, are examples. The La Niña episode has influenced the climate and brought more than average rainfall over the country causing flash flooding, landslides and damage to roads and crops.

The good news is that Vanuatu has found help. Through SPREP as the Accredited Entity, the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department (VMGD) under the Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen Blong Redy, Adapt mo Protekt (Van-KIRAP) project, received grant funding of USD 18,106,905 from the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The funding for the four-year project, which has been extended to December 2023, has strengthened Vanuatu's climate and traditional knowledge observations network.

Eight new automated weather stations, eight new automated rainfall gauges, automated river monitoring gauge, and six SOFAR wave buoys are key equipment acquired through the project and implemented before the 2021/2022 tropical cyclone season. Two new sites were established in Sanma and Shefa Provinces to collect traditional knowledge on weather and climate in February 2021.

The equipment is critical to disaster risk reduction in Vanuatu, bolstering the capacity of the VMGD to monitor and make more accurate forecasts on weather and climate, therefore, increasing the capacity of communities in Vanuatu to become more resilient to weather and climate changes. It also responds to priorities identified in the Vanuatu Sustainable Development Plan (VSDP) and the Vanuatu Framework for Climate Services (VFCS).

The five targeted sectors of agriculture, fisheries, tourism, infrastructure and water,



Installation of weather and climate monitoring systems in Vanuatu.

and last mile communities benefitted from the weather and climate information to strengthen resilience.

Three community climate centres were established as conduits for weather and climate information support systematic integration of climate risk and resilience, and raises awareness among local communities on climate-induced changes, which exacerbate

existing environmental and socioeconomic problems.

The project is supported by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), VMGD, Vanuatu Fisheries Department, Department of Tourism, Public Works Department, Department of Water Resources, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, CSIRO, Australia Bureau of Meteorology, APEC Climate Centre (APCC) and SPREP.





Nauru coastline. Photo: © Stuart Chape

SPREP reaccredited to world's largest Climate Fund

SPREP has been reaccredited to the Green Climate Fund as a Regional Implementing Entity.

Pacific island Members can apply for GCF funding for climate change adaptation and mitigation projects through SPREP. To renew accreditation, SPREP had to meet strict and extensive

fiduciary, governance, project management and other organisational performance standards.

“We’re very pleased to have successfully had our accreditation renewed with the Green Climate Fund. This is a collaborative effort from across our SPREP team,

working in partnership with our Pacific Island Members who have supported us,” said Director General Mr Kosi Latu. “While COVID-19 has knocked us all back somewhat, we are committed to the positive impact we can make. This is a welcome advancement as we adapt to, and mitigate, climate change.”

SPREP was first accredited by the Green Climate Fund Board in 2015, and currently has six concept notes in the pipeline with the GCF. As a Regional Implementing Agency, SPREP will continue to strengthen human resourcing and capacity to support future GCF projects.

Private sector experience in accessing the GCF's readiness grant

To address one of the common barriers to effectively engage the private sector in the discussion and accessing climate finance, PACRES in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) Office in Vanuatu and the Vanuatu Business Resilience Council (VBRC) organised a Talanoa session for the private sector in the region on 18 May.

The focus of the session was to allow GGGI as the delivery partner and VBRC as the executing agency to share their experiences on how Vanuatu managed to secure the readiness grant from the GCF.

The virtual Talanoa session was attended by more than 20 representatives from the private sector and representatives of the GCF's National Designated Authority in some countries. Similar sessions are planned for the private sector in the future

to learn from the experiences of Cook Islands and Tonga as the national Chambers of Commerce are keen to explore

the opportunity from the GCF to strengthen capacity and help build resilience of the private sector.



Vaisigano river wall. Photo: R.Setu

Island and Ocean Ecosystems

“Conservation is not just about saving trees and natural resources; it is more about saving lives. As future leaders, it is your God-given responsibility to ensure that you pass on to the next generation a Pacific region that is safe and bountiful for generations to come.”

Words of wisdom from Mr Tusanilefaia’ao Reti, one of the winners of the Lifetime Achievement for Excellence in Pacific Environmental Leadership during the Pacific Islands Environment Leadership Awards (PIELA).

The awards highlight the work, dedication to environment sustainability and nature conservation by your Secretariat, members, partners and donors, to ensure Pacific people benefit from healthy and resilient island and ocean. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, the following stories point to persistence and a real commitment to make a difference.

Mangroves in the Rewa River delta, Fiji. Photo © Stuart Chape

REGIONAL GOAL 2 Pacific people benefit from healthy and resilient island and ocean ecosystems

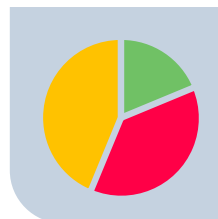
Border closures and travel restrictions as a result of COVID-19 had quite an impact on the outcomes for Regional Goal 2. Still, member countries benefitted from healthy and resilient island and ocean ecosystems through a number of targeted initiatives including projects like the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) which is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) and funded by the German Federal Ministry

for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), which strengthened national capacity for management of ecosystems and biodiversity on mangrove-sea grass planting and coral restoration through continued technical assistance and institutional support to Pacific Island Countries and Territories in addressing threats. Member countries also adopted the Vemoore Declaration on Nature Conservation at the 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature

Conservation and Protected Areas, which was a very successful virtual conference.

The socio-economic and ecological impact of invasive species on land and water ecosystems in the Pacific was decreased by controlling and eradicating priority species through the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) and the implementation of the GEF6 project “Strengthening national and regional capacities to reduce the impact of Invasive

REGIONAL GOAL 2



TOTAL OUTCOME TARGETS

16

ACHIEVED

3

NOT ACHIEVED

6

ON-GOING

7

Alien Species on globally significant biodiversity in the Pacific.” Pacific priorities for oceans and coastal ecosystems inclusion in the Global Biodiversity Framework were submitted to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) secretariat. The Pacific priorities include 30% marine protected areas in countries like the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu.

OBJECTIVE 2.1

Effectively manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems; mitigation of the impacts of fisheries activities to ensure healthy populations of threatened species and reduce the release of marine pollutants that increase human health risks in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans that support food security and sustainable development.

Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan endorsed by Members

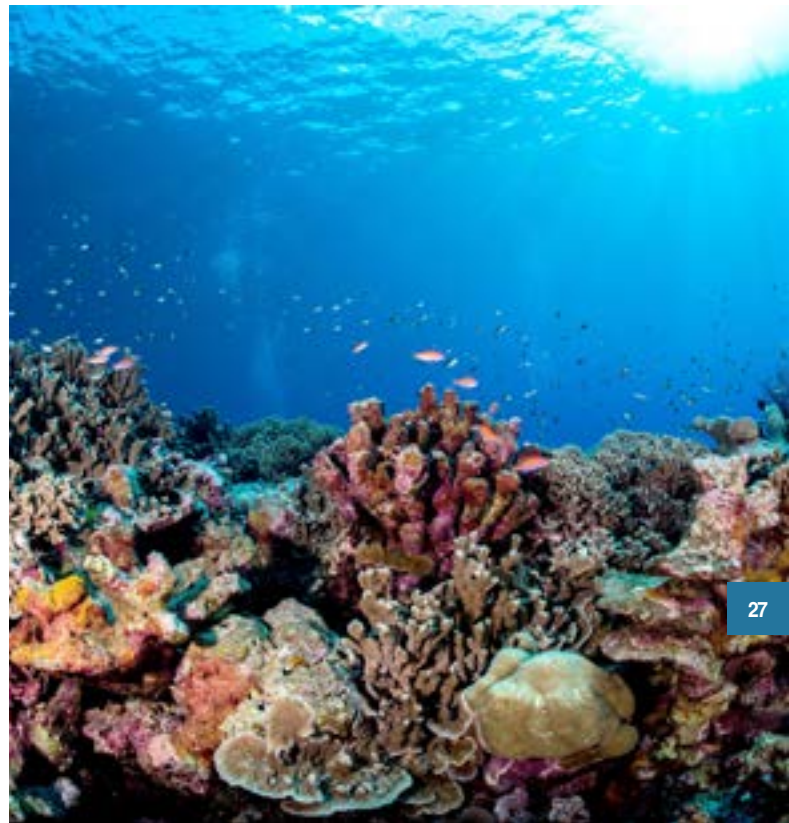
A Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan 2021-2030 was endorsed by the 30th SPREP Meeting in 2021.

The plan was developed in consultation with Member countries and the final draft was circulated widely for review. Many comments from different sectors were gratefully received and incorporated into the final version of the plan. The plan is intended to galvanise efforts for coral reef management across the region by supporting cooperation, transfer of knowledge and resource mobilisation.

SPREP recognises the good work by governments and communities across the region to manage coral reefs

through policy and traditional practices. This plan outlines eight Action Areas that will benefit the region through economies of scale and a more uniform approach.

Corals are under increasing threat from climate change, coastal pollution, resource extraction and development pressures. The rate of change requires urgent action using best available science and technology. Through engagement with the international science community through the decade for ocean science, the decade for ecosystem restoration and we can ensure that efforts across the region have maximum success.



Coral reef, Solomon Islands. Photo: Tracy Jennings/Ocean Image Bank

27

Training on Geographic Information Systems to enhance service delivery

Twenty-two SPREP staff learned how to use geospatial tools and analysis for improving technical assistance to Member countries to increase the resilience of their coastal and marine ecosystems.

This was the result of two days of training on Geographic Information Systems (GIS), including the basic operation of Open-Source GIS software, facilitated by the SPREP GIS Team.

Staff also learned how to access and share data on the Pacific Environment Data Portal managed by SPREP.

The training was supported by the EU-Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA) programme in collaboration with the UNDP-Global Environment Facility (GEF) Inform project. The training demonstrated

tools and techniques in using GIS applications and spatial datasets.

Furthermore, the training provided guidance to SPREP staff on accessing and sharing data available on the Pacific Environment Data Portal managed by SPREP.

The training strengthened SPREP internal GIS technical capacity to support geospatial work and related analysis for stakeholders in member countries.



SPREP staff attend GIS training.

OBJECTIVE 2.2

Support the conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal, and terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity, consistent with regional and international commitments.

Ensuring Pacific priorities in new Global Biodiversity Framework

Despite the delays with convening the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) due to COVID-19, SPREP continued to assist Pacific signatories in CBD negotiations to finalise a new 10-year Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

Providing technical assistance to the Pacific ensures national and regional priorities are reflected in the GBF and are consistent with other regional and international commitments.

The Global Biodiversity Framework will be adopted

at CBD COP15. This will set the agenda for biodiversity conservation and financing to 2030, including catalysing new investments to support implementation.

Negotiations on the GBF have been ongoing for two years amongst uncertainty of when the CBD COP15 would be held in 2022.

The discussions, negotiations and continuing CBD COP15 work involves 14 Pacific CBD signatories, and regional partners, through the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation.



Sopo'aga Falls. Photo: C.Netzler

Samoa advances Access and Benefit Sharing aspirations

Samoa has taken a significant step to advance how providers and users of their genetic resources can agree on fair and equitable sharing of benefits that may arise from their use.

This is thanks to the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Policy, community bio-cultural Protocol and Traditional Knowledge Guidelines in Samoa. These were developed by the GEF Regional ABS Regional Project implemented by UNEP and executed by SPREP.

As part of the project, Faleaseela and Aopo villages now have protocols to guide how they apply ABS.

These are one of four achievements made since Samoa became a Party to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In 2021 the Prime Minister of Samoa launched four key achievements commemorating the work to advance the Nagoya Protocol: Guidelines for Access and Use of Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources; Biocultural Community Protocols for Faleaseela and Aopo; Bio-discovery Analysis Report, and the Access and Benefit Sharing Database.

Kiribati ratifies Nagoya protocol

Kiribati has ratified the Nagoya Protocol, becoming the tenth Pacific country to do so.

The Government of Kiribati, through the Ministry of Environment, deposited its instrument of accession to the depositary in New York, with technical support and guidance from SPREP.

Ratification presents natural resources owners and associated traditional knowledge holders with a

greater opportunity in the decision-making process through a consultative arrangement called the 'Prior Informed Consent'.

The owners of both natural resources and associated traditional knowledge will have a stake in sharing benefits arising from the use of Genetic Resources through mandatory contracts called the 'Mutually Agreed Terms' under the framework of the Protocol.



Aerial view of Marakei atoll in Kiribati. Photo: George Stenmetz/Getty Images

OBJECTIVE 2.3

Prevent the extinction of threatened species and support measures to sustain their conservation status.

Workshops to protect and conserve threatened and migratory species

The Pacific Island Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (PIRMSP) containing five species action plans (RMSAPs) focuses on the protection and conservation of threatened and migratory species to support Pacific countries to protect and manage their iconic marine species.

A series of PIRMSP workshops were held from 28 July – 3 August 2021 to discuss with partners, experts and stakeholders five Regional Marine Species Action Plans

(RMSAPs) on threatened and migratory species in the region including for the first time one for seabirds.

The RMSAPs address dugongs, seabirds, marine turtles, sharks and rays, and whales and dolphins. For the first time the plans included one for seabirds.

The regional action plans present a framework that national governments can use as guidelines for their own national action plans, to achieve the objectives in the regional action plans.

They are also guidance for partners, funding agencies and researchers on regional priorities to support conservation of marine species.

The workshops were made possible through collaboration with BirdLife Pacific, which assisted in drafting the Seabird Action Plan and facilitating the Seabird Action Plan workshop.

The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Secretariat assisted SPREP in hosting the fourth Meeting of Signatories

to the Pacific Island Cetacean Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which took place after the workshops.

The new Whale and Dolphin Action Plan also becomes the Action Plan for the MoU. SPREP Member government ministries, regional universities, NGOs and individual professionals also assisted.

SPREP is grateful to the New Zealand Department of Conservation seconded for assisting to develop the new plans.



Humpback whales, Mo'orea, French Polynesia. Photo: Toby Matthews/Ocean Image Bank



Upgrade to Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System

An upgrade to the Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System (TREDS) has allowed users to record a greater variety of data collected from their turtle monitoring activities. Offline data entry capability has also been added.

Additional data fields allow improved analysis of turtle migration, population dynamics and new genetic data

collection. This will support efforts to reduce illegal trade in hawksbill turtles.

New genetic techniques enable scientists to analyse turtle products that end up in trade and can determine which breeding population they originate from. This helps government wildlife enforcement agencies to investigate potential illegal trade routes.

The project involved SPREP, the consulting company Eighty Options, and expert advice from Christine Madden Hof, Global Marine Turtle Conservation Lead, WWF.

SPREP is grateful for the financial contributions from Fonds Pacifique, and the European Union and Swedish Government-funded Pacific-European Marine Partnership (PEUMP) programme.



A green sea turtle which had been caught in a fisher's net was tagged and released back into the ocean in the village of Salelesi, Samoa. Photo: U.Roebeck/SPREP



Young turtle coming up for air. Photo: N.Pilcher/SPREP

Survey on cultural use and trade of marine turtles in Tonga

A survey in the Kingdom of Tonga is shedding more light on the motivation of coastal communities for the use and trade of marine turtles; the patterns and levels of direct and indirect take of different turtle species.

The project is supported by the PEUMP programme By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) Initiative, the Vava'u Environmental Protection Association (VEPA), SPREP and the Tonga Ministry of Fisheries and Department of Environment.

The work assesses the regional extinction risk, and policy aimed at reducing the exploitation of marine turtles, and contributes to marine turtle management.

There were 223 community use surveys undertaken in June-July 2021 across Tongatapu, Vava'u and Ha'apai, with a report to be published in 2022.

Sand temperature data was collected and the results of analysis are expected in 2022. This will help determine the sex of the turtles hatching in Tonga and whether there is any bias towards male or female

hatchlings, which will affect future breeding patterns.

Marine turtles have played a significant role in the customs and traditions of Pacific island communities for thousands of years, featuring in myths, legends, songs and traditions. Marine turtles were traditionally considered a sacred food item for those of noble birth.

Over time, marine turtles have been subjected to increasing pressure as customary practices have eroded and their popularity in commercial markets has increased.

Marine turtles are integral in the functioning of marine habitats. They are highly migratory, capable of traveling thousands of miles across jurisdictional boundaries. Few survive to adulthood, with estimates ranging from one in 1,000 to one in 10,000. Their natural lifespan is estimated to be 50-100 years, spending most of their life at sea, except when coming ashore to lay their eggs.

The survey in Tonga is part of a regional information gathering exercise to inform an extinction

risk assessment of the six IUCN Red Listed species of marine turtles found in the Pacific:

- Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*): Oceania subpopulation Critically endangered (2018)
- Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*): critically endangered
- Loggerhead *Caretta caretta*: Vulnerable
- Green (*Chelonia mydas*): Endangered
- Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*): Vulnerable
- Flatback (*Natator depressus*): Data deficient

While some information exists with respect to the by-catch of marine turtles in the Pacific from industrial fisheries, such as the tuna purse seine and to a lesser extent the long line sector, less is known about the inshore by-catch or use of marine turtles by coastal communities and small-scale fisheries across the Pacific.

Other surveys were undertaken in 2021 in Fiji and Vanuatu, adding to data collected in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

“Marine turtles are one of many endangered species here in Tonga due to its overuse for many purposes, especially cultural and commercial use, said Ms Susana Ika, a VEPA staff member. “I think conducting this survey will provide us some useful data from the local communities to better understand the reasons behind turtles being endangered in Tonga. Also, we hope that the report will assist us in applying for funds to help with the conservation management of turtle species here in Tonga.”

The project is funded by the European Union and the Swedish Government, through the Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) programme. The BIEM Initiative is Key Result Area 5 of this programme. The Vava'u Environmental Protection Association (VEPA) is contracted by SPREP to conduct the work while Tonga's Ministry of Fisheries and the Department of Environment are key stakeholders and have been involved in the inception, planning and implementation of the surveys and the report's approval.

Sustainable management of the wedge-tailed Shearwater in Vanuatu

With the support from the SPREP BIEM Initiative, BirdLife International is working with the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation to strengthen the traditional management of wedge-tailed shearwater (*Ardenna pacifica*) chick harvesting to support community food security on Laika, a small uninhabited island off Tongoa Island in the Vanuatu Shepherd Islands Group.

Locally known as the *korolika*, the wedge-tailed shearwater is a seabird with a very large range throughout the tropical Pacific and Indian Ocean between latitudes 35°N and 35°S, breeding on many oceanic islands and in Australia.

The global population is estimated at over 5 million individuals, but the population is declining with threats from

commercial fisheries, invasive alien species such as rats and human disturbance at breeding colonies, plastic ingestion and climate change.

In Vanuatu the chicks are harvested by island communities for food as well as being sold for income in the capital Port Vila.

An important first step is to estimate the number of breeding pairs and the number of chicks harvested by the community. In May–June 2021, the first survey was conducted on Laika with the permission of the Kurumambe community.

This survey trialed monitoring methodology and focused on raising community awareness on the importance of monitoring of the bird population. A second survey was planned for the November breeding season.

The results of the surveys will inform next steps in the development of a management plan for the Laika-Tevala island wedge-tailed shearwater colony, in collaboration with the community, and establish long term monitoring to support its implementation.

The Eco-Livelihood Development Association is working in partnership with BirdLife to carry out observations and to document the harvest and nesting of the wedge tailed shearwater on Laika.

“I think it is important because it helps us to better understand and manage the colony on Laika through observation, monitoring and planning,” said EDA Community Liaison and Project Officer Mr Kingsley Baereleo.

“For the community of Kurumambe on Tongoa this seems to be an extra source of income and also good source of protein for the community. Through community activities, workshops and awareness programmes, we are trying to help the community develop better ways to manage their harvest and distribution in a way that will allow them only a limited number to harvest every year.”

The project is funded by European Union and the Swedish Government Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) programme. BirdLife International is leading the contract with Vanuatu based Eco-Livelihood Development Association (EDA) while the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation is a key stakeholder in the project.

Vanuatu wedge tailed shearwater in nest. Photo: T.Morris



OBJECTIVE 2.3

Significantly reduce the socio-economic and ecological impact of invasive species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate priority species.

Pacific countries benefit from a new Pacific Marine Biosecurity Toolkit

The Pacific region's battle against marine invasive species received a boost with the launch of the Pacific Marine Biosecurity Toolkit.

Developed by a team from the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA, NZ) the toolkit will assist with the management of marine invasives in Pacific island countries and territories.

The toolkit is based on a Marine Biosecurity Toolkit developed by the United Kingdom for its Overseas Territories and was finalised in December 2021. It has also

been developed into a SPREP Battler Series publication.

SPREP is grateful to the UK's Non-Native Species Secretariat for permission to adapt the toolkit for use in the Pacific.

One of the best features of the toolkit is that it is user-friendly, making it easy for countries to meet environmental obligations, while identifying and defining best practice with regard to marine biosecurity. This allows Pacific people to benefit from healthy and resilient islands and ocean.



SPREP is grateful to the governments of Tuvalu and the Republic of the Marshall Islands for committing project funds to develop the toolkit.

Blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*).
Photo: Sean Krieg (CC BY-SA 4.0)

Pacific Biodiversity Information Facility available in Pacific languages

A Pacific Biodiversity Information Facility has been launched as a one-stop-shop for biodiversity data from around the Pacific.

The facility is available in 10 Pacific languages thanks to SPREP Member countries providing translations.

It provides access to all Pacific data hosted on the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and makes it available in a Pacific friendly interface.

SPREP hosts the only GBIF node in the Pacific governed by a Memorandum of

Understanding between GBIF and SPREP.

GBIF offered SPREP the chance to design and develop a thematic portal, fully hosted by GBIF, that reduces the technical threshold for nodes and their partners to maintain a branded, multilingual web presence with a defined subset of GBIF-mediated data.

The SPREP Invasives Team recognised the opportunity to develop a resource for the Pacific that presents biodiversity data in an easy to access format that is available in Pacific languages. Since its launch in 2021, quantitative analytics provided by the SPREP Invasives Team show a dramatic increase in user numbers.

A GBIF project focused on developing capacity throughout the Pacific is being delivered by the SPREP Invasives Team and is expected to contribute to increased interest and usage.

The project includes a significant focus on capacity development for data use to support better decision making.

(L-R) SPREP Invasive Species Adviser Mr David Moverley, former SPREP Director General, Mr Kosi Latu, and Regional Invasive Species Project Manager Mr Bradley Myer at the launch of the PBIF.



PRISMSS better equipped to deliver invasive species management

Invasive species are the leading driver of biodiversity loss in the Pacific. They have a significant impact on ecosystem resilience leading to a loss of ecosystem services and a reduced ability to adapt to climate change.

The Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) assists Pacific countries with the management of invasive species.

It provides support to 22 Pacific Island countries and territories across its five regional programmes.

To complement the funding from the GEF6 Regional Invasives Project the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (NZMFAT)

funded 'Managing Invasive Species for Climate Adaptation in the Pacific' (MISCCAP) project is increasing the functionality of the PRISMSS.

In 2020, PRISMSS established a dedicated office at SPREP for PRISMSS staff, partners, project personnel and researchers.

In 2021, the PRISMSS team welcomed an IT and Administration Officer, Communications Officer and a Capability Development Adviser seconded from the NZ Department of Conservation.

PRISMSS systems are being built to manage requests, track progress, and provide information to enhance the capability to secure additional funding.



The SPREP PRISMSS team.

Managing Invasive Species for Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific project partners are Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, New Zealand Department of Conservation and SPREP.

PRISMSS partners include BirdLife International, Island Conservation, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, New Zealand Department of Conservation, Pacific Community, Wellington UniVentures and SPREP.

Wallis and Futuna win Battler of the Year Award

The 2021 Pacific Invasive Species "Battler of the Year" Award was awarded to the Wallis and Futuna Environment Service (STE) for its work to manage invasive species.

STE successfully eradicated rodents from four islets and started a pig and cat removal project on two other islets, the first of eight targeted for eradication in 2022.

An activity to manage ground weeds was supported by SPREP's Invasive Species team. This helped in the removal of 30 large century plants, 12-medium sized plants and over 1500 seedlings from Mt Lulu on Wallis, and close to 5,500m² of invasive vines.

Some 1500 native plants were planted on Mt Puke in Futuna by the Taoa village association

to restore the forest and increase resilience.

The eradication activities removed invasive predatory mammals from islets which are important nesting sites for sea birds and turtles and are used by communities for leisure and food gathering. Removing invasive weeds allows sites to recover and be more productive and resilient.

Following the rat eradication, STE received reports of turtles hatching on the four islets

that had been targeted. During their routine visits to the islets to resupply bait stations, the team reported more fruit on the trees.

The work by STE was assisted by remote technical support from the PRISMSS Predator Free technical lead, Island Conservation, and funding from the European Union through the PROTEGE project.

SPREP provided remote technical assistance for weed management, reporting,

procurement and translation. Taoa village planted and maintained the planting site on Mt Puke. Sensé Consultant was the consortium in charge of Wallis and Futuna's biosecurity legislation review.



Commitment to environment conservation and sustainability in the Pacific region honoured

Fourteen individuals and non-governmental organisations from seven Pacific countries have been awarded the prestigious Pacific Islands Environment Leadership Awards (PIELA).

The winners were announced virtually by the Advisor to the President of the Government of New Caledonia, Mr Charles Wea, at the conclusion of the Environment Ministers' High-Level Talanoa, during the 30th SPREP Meeting of Officials.

The PIELA was established by SPREP in 2013 to recognise outstanding contributions of individuals, communities, non-governmental organisations, private enterprises and countries and territories towards achieving an environmentally sustainable and resilient Pacific.

The Awards were presented in five categories: Excellence in National Leadership in Environmental Sustainability and Conservation; Excellence in Community Leadership in Environmental Sustainability and Conservation; Excellence in Youth Leadership in Environmental Sustainability and Conservation; Champion of the Environment, and Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Pacific Environmental Leadership.

For Excellence in National Leadership in Environmental Sustainability and Conservation, Dr Patrick Pikacha from Solomon Islands, Mr Hubert Geraux from New Caledonia, and Ms Nunia Thomas-Moko from Fiji, were the recipients.

Three winners received the Award for Excellence

in Community Leadership in Sustainability and Conservation: Mr Timmy Sowang from Papua New Guinea, Mr Henry Kaniki from Solomon Islands, and NatureFiji-MareqetiViti, Fiji's first national conservation NGO.

The award for Excellence in Youth Leadership in Environmental Sustainability and Conservation, a new category added to the PIELAs in 2020, was presented to the Erakor Bridge Community in Vanuatu, Mr Solomon Yeo from Solomon Islands, the Matautu Lefaga Youth Group from Samoa, and Caledoclean from New Caledonia.

The Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Pacific Environmental Leadership Award was presented to Dr. Dick Watling from Fiji, Tusanilefaia'ao Iosefatu Reti from Samoa and Jean Kape from French Polynesia.

Tusanilefaia'ao Reti has worked in the conservation space for more than 40 years. He has played an instrumental role in progressing the environment and conservation agenda in the Pacific. His many

notable achievements include the establishment of the Environment and Conservation Agency of the Government of Samoa and being appointed the first Head of the Environment Agency in 1989.

His biggest highlight was being able to work with remote isolated communities to protect the resources they own and depend on from big money such as government supported logging companies.

"Conservation is not just about saving trees and natural resources; it is more about saving lives. As future leaders, it is your God-given responsibility to ensure that you pass on to the next generation a Pacific region that is safe and bountiful for generations to come," he said.

Mr Jean Kape of French Polynesia said his biggest highlight as a Pacific Environment Leader was his contribution to the successful translocation of 27 'Ura birds from Rimatara, Austral Islands to Atiu, Cook Islands in April 2007.

"I returned to Rimatara in 2009 to organise a trip to Atiu for a



Recipient of the Champion of the Pacific Environment Award, the late Ms Sue Miller-Taei. Photo: G. Taei

few school children to see their 'Ura, and again to Rimatara in 2017 for the 10th anniversary of the 'Ura translocation," he said.

The Champion of the Pacific Environment Award was presented to the late Ms Sue Miller-Taei. Ms Taei was of New Zealand and Samoan heritage, and worked to advance Pacific conservation throughout the region for over 30 years. She served the Pacific through various roles in the conservation space, from Conservation International to WWF, SPREP and the Pew Foundation.

In receiving the award on behalf of her late mother, Ms Gyllian Taei expressed how her mother always loved the ocean and would talk about the summers she used to spend with her grandparents and siblings near the ocean every day. Her love for the ocean led to a career working in Samoa and around the Pacific.

The Pacific Islands Environment Leadership Awards are the only Pacific region focused environment awards. They support Regional Goal 2 through recognising and

promoting successful case studies of ecosystem and species conservation work across the region by highly motivated and dedicated individuals, and initiatives.

These awards serve to inspire further success to bring about healthier and more resilient island and ocean ecosystems for the benefit of Pacific peoples.

Former President of the Republic of Palau, His Excellency President Tommy Remengesau, Jr. won the Pacific Champion Award in 2013 at the first PIELA presentation.

"Now, more than ever, action is needed to address the challenges we face in stopping our environment from being destroyed. The Pacific islands face these challenges from the frontlines, with battles that put our very existence at risk," he said.

"The PIELA puts our efforts to meet these challenges front and centre, recognising the actions that we Pacific islanders take to fight the threats of climate change,



Joske's Thumb rock formation, Viti Levu, Fiji. Photo © Stuart Chape

pollution, and the illegal and over-harvesting of resources. Recognition brings encouragement, and encouragement is an important accelerating factor in getting things done. The Pacific is fighting as a united front against these challenges.

"The PIELA reminds us Pacific islanders, and the rest of the world, that we need to take

and accelerate meaningful action, and that we need to do it together as citizens of this planet."

The awards were made possible through a partnership between SPREP, the Government of New Caledonia and the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation.



The IOE team.

Waste Management and Pollution Control



Honiara harbour. Photo: B.Nolan, SPREP

“We’ve talked a lot about the heavy reliance on importation which is what characterises us in the region, it is one-way traffic. Something needs to change in terms of that system. I think it begins with changing our thinking in terms of what we really do need and influencing consumer choices.”

SPREP’s Director General, Mr Kosi Latu

The highly successful Third Clean Pacific Roundtable (CPRT) saw the adoption of the Cleaner Pacific 2025 Implementation Plan 2021–2025 and the Clean Pacific Roundtable 2021 Outcome Statement. These documents will drive and guide the work that is required to advance the Pacific region’s efforts for a cleaner future as the Secretariat strives to ensure Pacific people benefit from improved waste management and pollution control by minimising the adverse impacts of chemicals and all wastes, strengthening national, regional, and international mechanisms for waste management, recovering resources from waste and pollutants and improving waste and pollution monitoring.

REGIONAL GOAL 3: Pacific people benefit from improved waste management and pollution control

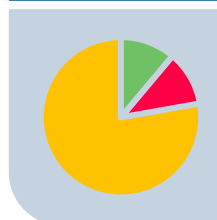
The 2021 Clean Pacific Roundtable was a key highlight in SPREP’s pursuit for improved waste management and pollution control for Pacific countries. The meeting adopted the Cleaner Pacific 2025 Implementation Plan 2021–2025 and the Clean Pacific Roundtable 2021 Outcome Statement, which

are key documents to advance the Pacific region’s push for a cleaner future.

Funding from the Government of Australia worth AUD 8M was secured to implement the Regional Pacific Action Plan – Marine Litter through Pacific Ocean Litter Programme.

Eur 3 million was secured from Agence Française de Développement (AFD) for the Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP) project, designed to improve sanitation, environmental, social and economic conditions in Pacific Island countries and territories. The inception meeting and consultation of the three-year

REGIONAL GOAL 3



TOTAL OUTCOME TARGETS
16

ACHIEVED
2

NOT ACHIEVED
2

ON-GOING
12

project approved the work programme.

WMPC was also actively engaged with members through waste management and pollution projects. A Monitoring and Evaluation system for PacWastePlus to track programme interventions was also developed.

OBJECTIVE 3.1

Minimise the adverse impacts of chemicals and all wastes on human health and the environment via environmentally sound life-cycle management in accordance with agreed regional and international frameworks, including Cleaner Pacific 2025, and significantly reduce the release of pollutants to air, water, and soil.

Community cleanup, keep Pacific Ocean clean

Marine litter is a global issue that negatively affects the environment, people and coastal economies. In the Pacific region, the problem is even more severe given the reliance of countries on healthy ocean ecosystems and services.

With that in mind, through the Committing to Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP) project, funding support was provided to ten groups from four Pacific countries and territories to carry out cleanup activities, including the production of awareness materials.

The goal was to involve local communities in the protection of their environment by having them participate in waste collection. It also produced communication materials to raise awareness on marine litter as well as share data on collected waste through a regional network.

The result was cleaner coastal areas in the participating countries.

Thanks to the work of nearly 600 volunteers, some 5.6 tons of waste including tyres, electronic equipment, clothing, cans, and plastics of all types, were collected.

The cleanup activities in Wallis and Futuna involved A Vaka Heke, FSE Lavegahau, Mouvement du Focolare, Association du Village de Vaitupu and FALEFĀ O MAKINĪ.

“My first thought in participating in today’s action is what we will leave to our children – the island they will inherit. The message we are sending today is not just about cleaning up,” said Leone Foloka of Wallis and Futuna. “Cleanliness is a wider-ranging message, which must become a part of children’s DNA. We must all wake up to reality – better late than never.



Volunteers who participated in the clean-up in Vanuatu. Photo: SWAP

The planet belongs to everyone. In order to preserve it, we must take responsibility for all of our actions.”

In Samoa, the cleanup activities were carried out by the Laumei Outrigger Canoe, Samoa Recycling Waste Management Association (SRWMA) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Samoa (MNRE).

“All the litter ends up in the sea, and is then carried to various shores. Microplastics are eaten by fish, which we in turn eat, and this can lead to cancer,” said Filimo Sialefalaleu. “Think about your health, your children, the future, your *Fenua*. Pick up and sort your waste.”

In the Kingdom of Tonga, the cleanup was carried out by the No Pelesitiki Campaign. For Vanuatu, the activity was implemented by the Vanuatu Environmental Science Society (VESS).

Videos are available where the participants share how the activity impacted them. SWAP is funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and executed by SPREP.



Collecting waste in Tonga on International Coastal Clean Up. Photo: Tapuaki Mei Langi

The Pacific-European Union Waste Management Programme (PacWastePlus) is a 72-month programme funded by the EU and implemented by SPREP to address cost effective and sustainable management of waste and pollution as well as broader impacts including human health and wellbeing, climate change, disaster management, biodiversity conservation and resource recovery. Priority waste streams include hazardous wastes (asbestos, E-waste and healthcare waste), solid wastes (recyclables, organic waste, disaster waste and bulky waste) and related aspects of wastewater. Countries participating in the PacWastePlus are: Cook Islands, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu. Learn more about the PacWastePlus programme by visiting pacwasteplus.org

OBJECTIVE 3.2

Strengthen national, regional, and international mechanisms for waste management including for chemicals, hazardous wastes, ships, and aircraft generated waste, marine plastic litter, and other marine debris.

Helping Pacific people deal with disaster waste management

When natural disasters strike in the Pacific region they generate large amounts of waste, including hazardous waste.

To help people get back on their feet, appropriate and speedy disaster waste management steps are crucial. For this reason, three activities were held to assist Pacific countries deal with waste from natural disasters.

The Disaster Waste Management (DWM) session, held during the 3rd Clean

Pacific Roundtable in November 2021, discussed the complexities associated with disaster waste streams. It highlighted the challenges in addressing disaster waste in Pacific countries and the importance of an holistic approach to build resilience.

The session was facilitated by PacWastePlus and J-PRISM II/ JICA for waste management officers, disaster management officers and the Regional DWM Technical Working Group.

In September and December 2021, training on the use of the Kobo toolbox Data Collection Technology for DWM was held for Vanuatu and Samoa respectively. The Kobo toolbox is used by United Nations humanitarian programmes during disasters.

The training sessions were facilitated by J-PRISM II/ JICA and the Ministry of Environment of Japan for waste management officers and disaster waste management officers.



Volunteers cleaning up disaster waste after TC Harold in Vanuatu. Photo: PacWastePlus

Participants welcomed the opportunity to learn, and expressed their desire to use that knowledge to help their communities.

Sustainable financing schemes improve waste management, encourage recycling



PacWastePlus is working with member countries and partners to introduce sustainable financing for waste management schemes.

Sustainable financing schemes benefit Pacific people by providing long-term financing for improved waste management, incentivising community members to recycle, and providing sustainable funding to enable recycling activities. They also provide the ability for disadvantaged members of the community to supplement their

income, through the collection of discarded recyclable items and claiming the deposit.

In 2021, encouraging progress for sustainable financing for waste management schemes was achieved through the rollout of several activities. The PacWastePlus Sustainable Financing Regional Project completed five feasibility studies, established or expanded Sustainable Financing Working Groups in five Pacific countries, and provided legislative guidance for scheme implementation.

Feasibility studies were completed on sustainable financing schemes in Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, and one commenced in December in Papua New Guinea.

In 2020, three feasibility studies were completed in the Cook Islands, Republic of Marshall Islands and Samoa. Feasibility studies included detailed guidance on legislative implications and recommended principles to be included in the legislation.

Five Working Groups were established or expanded in Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to assist partners in the introduction of national mechanisms for waste management

Expert assistance was provided to the Cook Islands and Vanuatu during the design of their scheme and drafting of regulations or legislation. Other highlights by PacWastePlus include the delivery of Sustainable Financing “Deep Dive” at the Cleaner Pacific Roundtable, hosted by PacWastePlus and J-PRISM II with more than 80 participants. PacWastePlus also released “Design it Yourself” resources to assist decision-makers during the initial stages of the 21-Step Pathway to design a sustainable financing scheme:

1. Guidance on the 21 Step Pathway to implement sustainable financing legislation – decisions and actions needed
2. Sustainable financing policy and drafting instructions
3. Designing a sustainable financing scheme
4. Determining scheme partners – roles and responsibilities
5. Build it yourself- guidance to draft a sustainable financing policy

A contract is underway to develop toolkit resources for governments to consider Gender Equality Disability Social Inclusion (GEDSI) in sustainable financing scheme design, to be published in June 2022. Linkages were also developed with the UNEP Green Forum / Community of Practise and Webinar.

Feasibility studies were completed remotely using data from recent waste audits after Members requested PacWastePlus support. Pacific island countries are faced with the increasing issue of stockpiles of recyclable materials. Without a regular funding mechanism, it is difficult for countries to implement a sustainable scheme to export or recycle items. Such items are generally disposed to landfills, comprising up to 20% of volume, or dumped on vacant land.

From the success of current sustainable financing schemes in FSM, Kiribati, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu, other Pacific Island countries are looking to these mechanisms as a solution to collect and process recyclable materials. PacWastePlus

seeks to provide resources and knowledge to increase the capacity of Pacific decision-makers to enable the design, implementation, and operation of successful sustainable financing schemes for improved waste management.

Infrastructure Cook Islands used PacWastePlus “do it yourself” resources during Working Group consultations to guide discussion and extract key decisions and outstanding actions.

Actions planned to engage members and partners include the following:

- Conclusion of Papua New Guinea sustainable financing scheme, planned for limited (PNG) release in June 2022.
- Publish resources to assist Members with the design and implementation of their schemes – GEDSI Toolkit Publication (June 2022), “Design it Yourself” Workbook (September 2022), self-paced learning training modules (November 2022).
- Online learning sessions to include webinar and launch of sustainable financing under the UNEP Green Forum (July 2022), and hosting online training modules

for designing sustainable financing schemes (October 2022)

- Technical assistance was provided to Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to implement their Sustainable Financing scheme.

The partners in the feasibility study and establishment of Working Groups include the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development in Kiribati, the Nauru Department of Commerce Industry and Environment, Niue’s Department of Environment, Solomon Islands Ministry of Environment Climate Change Disaster Management and Meteorology, Vanuatu’s Department of Environment Protection and Conservation and Papua New Guinea’s Conservation and Environmental Protection Agency. Infrastructure Cook Islands and National Environmental Service and Vanuatu’s Department of Environment Protection and Conservation used PacWastePlus support and resources for legislative guidance.

The WPMC team.



OBJECTIVE 3.3

Recover resources from waste and pollutants through composting (nutrient recovery), recycling (material recovery), energy recovery, and other measures to minimise waste and contribute to economic and social development.

Project rids Samoa of 40,000 litres of waste oil, Deposit and Levy systems encouraged in the Pacific

The shift from a traditional society to a consumer society has resulted in an influx of commodities and goods, with an unprecedented increase in wastes and pollution. This comes at a huge cost and requires urgent action.

To help address this issue, a Pilot Project on waste oil collection was implemented in Samoa to collect waste oil and export it. The project was implemented by the Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste

Management in Pacific Island Countries Phase II (JPRISM II), the Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association (SRWMA) and private companies with support from Samoa's MNRE.

Some 40,000 litres of waste oil was collected from private premises and stored at the SRWMA facility, demonstrating how to reduce the risks associated with storing oil, and to promote recycling.

The message was further promoted during the Global Recycling week which saw

SRWMA, MNRE, J-PRISM II/Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), UNDP, the US Embassy, Embassy of Japan, European Union and British High Commission join forces with school teachers, students and members of different communities to make a difference.

Activities included the collection of bulky waste for recycling, the 3R Competition for Primary Schools and the 3R Family Fun Day Cleanup. The activities targeted the improvement of public awareness through promotional materials which emphasised innovative actions to improve recycling in Samoa.

J-PRISM II/JICA and PacWastePlus also conducted a sustainable financing session during the Third Clean Pacific Roundtable for member countries to understand Deposit and Levy systems operating in the Pacific. It also raised awareness about options and opportunities to implement or expand their own systems.

Advance Recovery Fee and Deposits schemes provide an ability to sustainably fund the collection and recycling of end-of-life products that would have ended up in landfills, stockpiled, or released into the

environment creating pollution and environmental harm.

The intent of sustainable financing mechanisms for waste management is to create an "Extended Producer Responsibility" framework where importers and in-country manufacturers share the management and cost burden for end-of-life products accepted by Pacific Island countries and territories. The purpose of these mechanisms is to charge the true cost of management, transport, and recovery or final disposal, and apply this fee to the importer or manufacturer.

An additional 'deposit' is then added to the sale of the product, which is refunded, when the product is returned for recycling, incentivising recycling behaviour. This system is more commonly known as a 'Container Deposit' system applied to beverage containers.

Countries that contributed to the Deep Dive sessions included FSM, Kiribati, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu.

Discussions during the session included details of the systems operating in the Pacific, what items are included, how the fee is collected, who manages the fund including options, and opportunities to implement or expand systems.



Containers of used oil at the SRWMA storage facility. Photo: J.Pillet/SPREP

OBJECTIVE 3.4

Improve waste and pollution monitoring of receiving environments to enable informed decision-making on appropriate measures to protect human health and the environment and to reduce associated environmental damage.

Waste audits in member countries protect human health, environment and build national capacity

Understanding the quantity and composition of waste streams in Pacific Island countries provides great insight into all elements of waste management. It can assist with building business cases for system changes, encourage private industry investment, identify locations, or waste types that may pose environmental risk, and identify changes to the legislative environment to manage risks and services to the community.

PacWastePlus, with co-financing support from the Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP), completed waste audits in FSM, Nauru, Niue, PNG, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu. The audits were completed in partnership with UNEP, World Bank and ABD. The Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) facilitated audits in seven additional countries in the same period.

The data collected from the audits was deposited into individual country portals, which will enable informed decision-making on appropriate measures to protect human health and the environment, and to reduce associated environmental damage. This data will also be used as baseline data for future waste and pollution monitoring of receiving environments.

In FSM, the audit was undertaken in all four states and conducted with the states' Environment Protection Agency. Audits commenced in the second quarter and

were completed on 30 April 2021. As part of the National Waste Audit, PacWastePlus trained 65 officers from the four states to conduct future audits. These officers were with the Environment Protection Agency, Health Department, Public Works Department and Resource Management Authority.

The audit in Nauru was conducted with Nauru's Department of Environment (DoE) and completed on 15 December 2020. Twelve officers from the DoE and the Nauru Rehabilitation Cooperation were trained to conduct future audits.

In Niue, the audit through the Department of Environment was completed on 31 March 2021. Seven officers were trained on conducting future audits.

In PNG, the audit was undertaken with the Conservation and Environment Protection Agency (CEPA), National Central District Commission, Goroka Urban Local Level Government, Kokopo Urban Local Level Government, and Lae Urban Local Level Government. The consultant also worked closely with JICA which funded audits in Lae and Alotau. TWM (PNG) Ltd conducted audits in Port Moresby and Roku Village in the Central Province, and sourced historical data from audits conducted in Kokopo (2018) and Goroka (2019) while JPRISM II conducted audits in Lae and Alotau. The audit was completed in May 2021.

Fourteen officers from the Urban Local Level Government (Alotau, Goroka, Kokopo), CEPA and the National Central District Commission, received training on conducting further waste audits.

In the Republic of the Marshall Islands, audits with the Majuro Atoll Waste Company and the Kwajalein Atoll Local Government were completed in April 2021. Twenty-eight officers from the Majuro Atoll Waste Management Company, Kwajalein Atoll Local Government and the Red Cross received training for future audits.

The audit in Solomon Islands was undertaken in four provinces in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change Disaster Management and Meteorology. All the audits were completed in December 2021. Additional audits planned for four provinces were cancelled due to COVID-19.

In Timor-Leste, the National Focal Point, National Authorising Office (NAO) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation conducted the audit in Bacau and Covalima. The audit in Ermera was cancelled due to COVID-19. Twelve officials from the NAO and ANAS.IP, the National Authority for Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Waste Management Division offices in Dili received training to conduct future audits.

The audit in Vanuatu was undertaken with the Department



Volunteers conducting a waste audit after a community clean-up in Apia, Samoa.

of Environment Protection and Conservation and the Port Villa Municipal Council. This was a reduced scope focusing on landfill and Customs data assessment to complement the audit conducted by the CEFAS project. The audit was completed in October 2020 and was undertaken in Efate and Santo. PacWastePlus trained six from the Port Villa Municipal Council on conducting waste audits.

Information from the audits is being used by development partner projects to address problem waste streams, and manage environmental risks from waste generation.

The PacWastePlus Programme Management Unit is a founding member of a regional waste audit Steering Committee (established by PacWastePlus and PRIF) and includes representatives from JPRISM II, UNEP, Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) and SPREP.

The Steering Committee has worked to develop a regional waste audit methodology. The data and reports from the various data gathering exercises will be loaded onto the Inform data portal.

The PacWastePlus PMU has ensured that all waste data from the suite of regional audits is deposited into individual country portals for future use. The World Bank funded audits in Kiribati, Samoa and Tonga; PRIF funded audits in Fiji, Cook Islands and Tuvalu; while UNEP funded an audit in Palau.



3rd CleanPacific ROUNDTABLE

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
16–25 November 2021

The work to advance the Pacific region's push for a cleaner future took a big step forward with the successful hosting of the 3rd Clean Pacific Roundtable (CPRT). The meeting adopted the Cleaner Pacific 2025 Implementation Plan 2021–2025 and the Clean Pacific Roundtable 2021 Outcome Statement.

Hosted virtually from 16–25 November 2021, more than 100 participants from the region and beyond benefited from the technical sessions, roundtables, side events, deep dive sessions and the *talanoa* sessions, based on the theme “Clean Environment, Resilient Oceans, Healthy Communities.”

The participants represented the public sector, waste and environmental practitioners, development partners, private sector, community, NGOs, academic and research institutions and members of the Pacific communities.

The 3rd CPRT was a partnership between SPREP and the Government of New Caledonia as host, and Acotred Pacific, the cluster of Pacific waste collection and treatment professionals. It provided a vehicle to facilitate networking and dialogue amongst waste management stakeholders, improve donor coordination, mobilise technical and financial resources and develop monitoring and reporting methods.

WMPC Director, Mr Anthony Talouli said the meeting achieved these aims.

“The meeting agreed that waste and pollution issues continue to be a grave concern with increasing impacts to Pacific people including cultural, social, economic, human health, biodiversity, the environment and food security,” Mr Talouli said.

The 3-CPRT also agreed that a safer circular economy is essential as an approach to

A step towards achieving a Cleaner Pacific 2025

address waste and pollution, highlighting the need for products that are safe, toxic and hazard free at all stages of the value chain. The role of key partnerships between the government and private sector is another critical piece of the puzzle.

An enabling robust legislative framework based on the precautionary and polluter pays principles is a useful tool to encourage investment and partnerships whilst ensuring the protection of human health and the environment. This should be aligned where possible with other measures including the asbestos code of practice, container deposit schemes and reverse logistics, and used oil management incentives.

“One of the best things about these meetings is that as a region, it provides a very honest picture of where we are in dealing with waste management and pollution,

what we need to do and how we go about addressing the challenges before us,” Mr Talouli said.

New Caledonia's Minister of Environment, Hon. Joseph Manaute, opened the meeting with a call for an ambitious global and coordinated response to waste management and pollution control.

“Although our local contexts are different, all our countries are faced with global challenges requiring local responses,” he said. “We need to be more ambitious, to act effectively and to form regional coalitions to raise awareness on waste management issues and change mindsets, to find political and technical solutions to this environmental crisis.”

The Director General of SPREP, Mr Kosi Latu, said the Pacific has witnessed the increase of unprecedented waste and pollution pressures from human induced activities such





as industrial and agricultural run-off, marine debris, oil and chemical pollution, population growth, coastal development and modernisation, over-fishing and resource extraction.

“These pressures have been exacerbated by the challenges of climate change (sea level rise, sea temperature rise, ocean acidification, extreme storms and droughts) as it is fresh in our minds from COP26 in Glasgow where the region, together with Alliance of Small Islands States (AOSIS) and others, called for a 1.5 degree goal to stay alive. The impact of all these activities threatens our environmental, social and economic resilience,” he said.

One of the highlights was a special session featuring global rugby legend, Fesola’i Vaaiga Tuigamala, who drew parallels between his health experiences and the Pacific environment.

“I liken what happened to my body to the earth,” he said. “When we don’t look after our environment, when we don’t take care of our own

backyard then we will suffer the consequences. I had to learn to get my health back physically, mentally and spiritually. We need to do the same for our environment.” Sadly, Fesola’i passed away this year, but he inspired behavioural changes among Pacific Island populations, in dealing with waste management and pollution.

Women leaders featured prominently during the discussion, including Ms Nua Va’ai, the Vice President of the Samoa and Tokelau Association of Recyclers (STAR), and the co-owner of Samoa Pure Water, a bottled water company based in Samoa.

“In 2015 we expanded our business, and it was then that reality kicked in for me as a businesswoman and as a mother because I saw the accumulation of waste. I asked myself, what am I doing? At the end of the day, what am I portraying to my kids?’ It dawned on me then to think outside of the box as to how this accumulated waste can be handled,” she said. “As much as I wanted

to stop what I was doing, I couldn’t because this is my bread and butter and how I provide for my family.” She realised that the only way forward was for her to be innovative, and that is where her journey began into waste management and researching ways to manage plastic wastes.

Ms Rendy Solomon, the Founder and Chairwoman of PlasticWise Gizo, encouraged the Pacific community to see the possibilities in waste management, particularly the chance to empower women and young people in the process.

“We recognise that women are limited in terms of decision making,” she said. “So we see PlasticWise Gizo as an empowering tool for women in different ways, including the ability to earn income to look after their families. One of the engagement strategies is to recognise women leadership and empowerment capacity. It allows sustainability in whatever policy that we implement to advance our cause.”

The meeting delved into several critical issues pertaining to waste management and pollution control. They ranged from the role of governments, disaster waste, asbestos, the value of the private sector, waste and recycling associations in the Pacific, the role of youth, healthcare waste, plastic bottle buyback schemes, waste management sustainable finance, mercury, oil spills, the role of churches and communities and the emerging issue of circular economy.

“We’ve talked a lot about the heavy reliance on imports which is what characterises us in the region, it is one-way traffic,” Mr Latu said. “Something needs to change in terms of that system where everything comes into the Pacific, very little leaves the region. I think that is a very fundamental issue that needs to change, and I think it begins with changing our thinking in terms of what we really do need and influencing consumer choices.”





Findings from the CPRT3 Session Discussions



Technical Session 1 – Governance

There is strong political will to identify and manage problem waste streams which enables ministries to build robust sustainable finance systems embedded in legislation. Successful schemes partner with industry – governments are good at governing; industry is good at waste management and commodity trading.

Technical Session 2 – Private Sector

The private sector is key to making things happen on the ground, with their innovation, resourcefulness and ingenuity.

Technical Session 3 – Academia and Tertiary Research Institutions
Academia and tertiary institutions are important partners to develop innovative solutions. Building and nurturing Pacific waste management champions are crucial for both building and maintaining capacity, and raising awareness, in Pacific communities.

Technical Session 4 – Civil Society

Civil society is essential to get communities involved and be part of the solution.

Roundtable Session 1 – Circular Economy

Circular economy by design is to keep the product in circulation for as long as possible and not use virgin products. The circular economy is a global framework to address the largest challenges facing the planet including the triple threat of climate change, biodiversity loss and waste management, which are driven by development, manufacturing and food production. 45 per cent of production is driving major ecological issues. The circular economy is therefore crucial in helping to achieve the 1.5 degrees pathway.

Roundtable Session 2 – Innovation and Public Partnerships

Innovation is fostered when there is confidence in the legislative frameworks, political will for systems to succeed, financing of the idea, markets for manufactured product, industry as a partner, and an informed and engaged

community. Development partners such as the IFC are willing to support countries with strong project ideas that will divert waste from landfill and create, as well as support, a circular economy.

Roundtable Session 3 – Bridging people and waste
Enhancing consciousness in waste management: Addressing the challenges of waste management, requires collaboration with the community, through genuine engagement and building of relationships and trust, and that some of the most sustainable and effective plastic pollution responses come from local initiatives offering locally derived and nature-based alternatives. There is a recognised need to nurture the role of champions at the community and national level, to advocate for and enhance awareness on waste prevention and management in the Pacific. Ecological integrity is at the heart of both indigenous culture and Pacific spirituality. The analogy of Pacific indigenous communities caring for the *fanua*, *whenua*, *fenua* and faith practice of caring for creation.

Side Event on Sustainable Financing (Deposit and Levies)

A common barrier for waste management faced by Pacific islands countries is the lack of finance to provide for the collection and management of recyclable items. There is too much dependency on disposal at landfill. Sustainable financing through deposit and advance recovery schemes are seen to provide an economically viable solution for the end-of-life management of recyclable items. They also assist with providing a framework for product stewardship and extended producer and importer responsibility. These schemes are currently working in the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands and Tuvalu. The region is encouraged to learn from these countries, as they develop their own sustainable financing system.





History of the Clean Pacific Roundtable

The inaugural Clean Pacific Roundtable in 2016 was followed by the second Roundtable hosted at the Pacific Islands Forum in 2018, which included the keynote address by Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji.

The 49th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Communique reaffirmed Leaders' commitment to eliminate marine litter; recognised the

urgency of implementing the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan and stated that waste is a critical issue for the Blue Pacific.

Since then, the role of the Clean Pacific Roundtable has grown in recognition of the complex challenges of the waste sector in the Pacific, and urgency in meeting these challenges for effective planning, coordination and financing for

a Clean Environment, Resilient Ocean, and enabling Healthy Communities.

The Third Clean Pacific Roundtable 2021 was led by the ad-hoc Clean Pacific Roundtable Organising Committee with generous support, coordination and financial assistance from the Government of New Caledonia, Acotred Pacific, Agence Francaise de Development, European Union, Fonds

Pacifique, Government of Australia, Japan International Cooperation Agency, UN Environment Programme, Province Sud, Province Nord, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, The University of Newcastle, Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association and SPREP.

Papua New Guinea (PNG) will host the Fourth Clean Pacific Roundtable in 2024.



Environmental Monitoring and Governance



“In FSM we have levels of government – local, state and national. Data sharing in FSM is a challenge through these three levels of government. With the interactive webpage, the SOE report is now accessible to all the states and to all levels right down to communities and schools.”

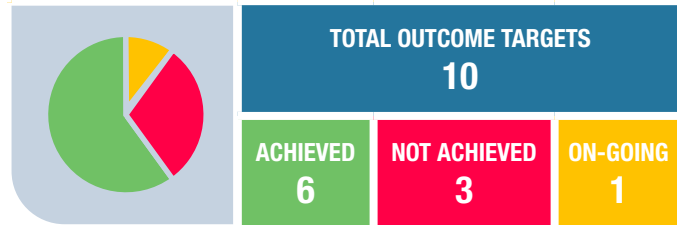
Mr Snyder Biza, of FSM

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Mr Snyder Biza, of FSM shared how the State of Environment (SOE) interactive webpages has made life easier for them, by making information on the state of the environment more accessible. It is one of the innovative but practical ways the Pacific people and the environment have benefitted from a commitment to and best practice of environmental governance. There were many notable achievements through SPREP’s assistance working closely with partners in assisting and developing capacity of Member on environmental governance, policy development, planning, monitoring, and reporting for sustainable environmental outcomes.

REGIONAL GOAL 4

Pacific people benefit and their environment benefits from commitment to and best practice of environmental governance.



Meeting six out of 10 outcome targets for Regional Goal 4 represented many benefits for our Pacific members from our commitment to best practice of environmental governance. The Pacific Environment Portal network's 12,000 datasets supported national reporting processes in particular the State of Environment reporting process in 13 of 14 Pacific Island countries. The Pacific Learning Partnership on Environmental Social Sustainability (PLP/ESS) delivered the second phase of training modules on Environmental Impact Assessment and Social Impact Assessment, strengthening national sustainable development planning

using Environmental Impact Assessments, Strategic Environmental Assessments and Social Impact Assessment.

The completion of the Kiribati Integrated Environment Policy and the Tuvalu National Environmental Management Strategies were important achievements. These policy frameworks set clear direction for improving national capacity for good environmental governance and efforts to strengthen policy and legislation for environment sustainability.

The 16th Meeting of the Parties to the Noumea Convention (COP16) was successfully held. The meeting considered

the progress of the review of the Noumea Convention, the need to develop a regional framework to address marine litter and microplastics as well as opportunities to implement the convention through the ACP MEA III programme. The significance of the ACP MEA III Programme to the COP meeting was its unique feature focusing on the Pacific Hub regional seas convention known as the Noumea Convention. A key outcome of the Noumea Convention was the strengthening of the capacity of the Noumea Convention Secretariat within SPREP with the Environmental Monitoring and Governance Programme taking over the Secretariat role supported

by the ACP MEA III project coordinating team.

A milestone achievement under Regional Goal 4 was the completion of the first regional State of Environment and Conservation Report, which was launched during the 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. The report was subsequently endorsed by Members at the 30th SPREP Meeting. The report revealed the region's progress in achieving more effective sustainable environmental management of our islands and reminds of the need to intensify and amplify efforts to address the many outstanding issues including emerging challenges.

OBJECTIVE 4.1

Strengthen national sustainable development planning and implementation systems through use of Environmental Impact Assessments, Strategic Environmental Assessments and spatial planning.

Member countries applaud Interactive State of Environment Report webpages

Information on the state of the environment in Pacific countries is now even more accessible to policy and decision makers, stakeholders and the public, with the launch of State of Environment (SOE) interactive webpages.

SOE reports can strengthen the environmental sustainability of national development plans and policy decisions, while the SOE process can streamline the monitoring and reporting requirements under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

The SOE process is carried out by the Environmental Monitoring and Governance (EMG) programme, which executes the Global Environment Facility-funded and United Nations Environment Programme-implemented Inform project.

Mr Snyder Biza, of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), said the interactive webpages address the challenge of data sharing and referred to the development as a milestone in the process of developing data for use in

his country and international reporting requirements. "FSM have levels of government – local, state and national. Data sharing in FSM is a challenge through these three levels of government," he said. "That's why when we first went through the process of developing our SOE, it took us almost a year to get the text to SPREP who assisted us in completing that report."

Since the launch, FSM, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu have webpages, with the one

regional interactive webpage, the Regional State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands, being accessed by all.

Now with the interactive webpage, the SOE report is accessible to all the states and to all levels right down to communities and schools."

Ms Debra Kereseka,
Chief Environment Officer
of Solomon Islands

Sustainable Tourism Development and Planning training makes a difference for public service in Samoa

Public servants in various government ministries in Samoa have been equipped with new knowledge on sustainable development and planning.

This was one of the outcomes of the "Sustainable Tourism Development and Planning" training organised by SPREP, bringing together representatives from the Samoa Tourism Authority (STA), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure (MWTI), Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Samoa Hotel and Hospitality Association (SHHA).

The three-day training at the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) was attended by 38 participants, 25 women and 13 men.

Sustainable tourism and development rely on good planning. Tools such as environmental impact assessments (EIA) support good planning and SPREP's wider expertise in conservation, waste management and climate change actions provided deeper knowledge of sustainability for the participants.

The training was conducted by the Environmental Planning unit of SPREP along with leads from SPREP's Waste Management and Pollution Control, and Project Coordination Unit. The South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) provided a regional perspective of sustainable tourism.

The objective of the workshop was to improve the knowledge and awareness of key tourism stakeholders and environmental regulators in Samoa on the importance of sustainable development, the use of EIA as a sustainable planning tool as well as their roles and functions in line with the PUMA Act 2004.

It provided an opportunity to expand training to include best practices from the tourism and development sectors for renewables and waste management. These have a key role in providing both environmental and economic

benefits. Participants also discussed the potential application of Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) as a tool for sector wide planning and reform.

The training provided a unique opportunity for Samoan regulatory agencies to be better positioned to administer environmental impact assessment (EIA) and environmental and social sustainability (ESS) tools to address the environmental and social impacts of tourism activities in Samoa, aligning the industry with Samoa's sustainable development goals.



OBJECTIVE 4.2

Improve national capacity for good environmental governance supported by technical assistance for the development of policy and legislation, and implementation of Member international and regional commitments.

Inform e-learning platform supports enhanced environmental data access for Pacific countries

The Pacific Inform e-learning platform was launched in 2021 as a tool for the management of environmental data and the application of indicator reporting.

“With the launch of this new platform we look forward to seeing more users access and use these tools on their own,” said Mr Skiis Dewey of GIS and IT, FSM Department of Environment. “We hope environment data collection and access will no longer be an issue for FSM in the future.”

An E-Learning Module with a new Geographical Information System was also launched in May 2022.

The Inform e-learning platform was developed as an open access and free course to support enhanced environmental data access, analysis and use for decision making and reporting by SPREP Members.

Unit 1 focuses on Environmental Data Management. Unit 2 deals with the Indicator Reporting Tool. Both Units are divided into five modules each, which introduce operational processes on how these tools work. When the Inform project ends, the course will continue as a capacity building mechanism.

Inform E-learning introduces professionals to the importance of environmental data portals

in the Pacific context, and how to use national and regional data management portals. Knowledge and understanding are important for driving and bringing about informed decision making. The e-learning provides capacity building for member countries to use existing tools such as national portals developed under Inform for data management.

The Inform e-learning course is additional to the existing SPREP E-learning platform under the Pacific Climate



Launching of the Pacific Inform e-learning platform.

Change Centre (PCCC). The course was developed by the Inform Project team with input and guidance from the project’s 14 Pacific member countries. Other key partners include the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Global Environment Facility and the PCCC.



Environmental Impact Assessment training helps Tokelau build sustainable future

Tokelau's quest for sustainable development was strengthened by EIA and SEA training delivered by the Environmental Monitoring and Governance (EMG) programme.

The virtual three-day training attended by staff from the Tokelau Department of Economic Development, Natural Resources and Environment (EDNRE) focused on the environmental assessment process. They also learnt skills to identify and assess environmental impacts and implement effective mitigation strategies.

The Director of EDNRE, Mr Mika Perez, said the training was extremely useful. "We acknowledge the new Director General and the team from SPREP for offering to train our trainers to develop their understanding of EIA during these difficult times of the pandemic. The training has provided very valuable strategic information for

Tokelau in its quest for sustainable development," Mr Perez said.

With SPREP's assistance, Tokelau has developed a draft EIA policy which is currently undergoing review and consultations before being presented to the Tokelau General Fono later this year. The training was also an opportunity to socialise the draft EIA policy with Tokelau EDNRE staff and assist with their roles and responsibilities as the primary EIA regulators under the new policy.

The training and capacity building event has increased Tokelau's capacity to institutionalise and implement EIA and SEA tools to support strong environmental governance in the territory.

Using the virtual platform SPREP was able to provide live support to all three remote



atolls of Tokelau at the same time. This was particularly important due to both SPREP staff and Tokelau EDNRE staff being confined to their homes during the training under their islands' State of Emergency requirements. SPREP staff members based in Samoa and Australia used a virtual link to deliver PowerPoint presentations, and share screens, documentation and conduct talanoa Q&As with the trainees.



Site visits for the Environment Impact Assessment Training in Tokelau.



Progress highlighted during COP16 of the Noumea Convention

The 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Noumea Convention (COP16) was convened virtually on 2 September 2021, chaired by the Government of Samoa.

Held every two years pursuant to Article 22 of the Convention and Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure, the meeting was attended by 12 parties to the Convention. The Noumea Convention is the governing framework for the Pacific environment adopted in 1986 and entered into force in 1990.

During the meeting, SPREP highlighted key activities undertaken to assist Parties in the implementation of obligations under the Noumea Convention. The work includes a strong and significant focus on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) emphasising the support to address marine litter and plastic pollution through the implementation of the Pacific Regional Marine Litter Action Plan 2018–2025.

The programme on capacity building, related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, recruited personnel to coordinate the implementation of activities under this programme.

An oil spill response agreement was established with Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL) for all Pacific island countries and territories, including Parties to the Noumea Convention, with funding support from the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and technical sponsorship from Maritime New Zealand. This will allow for better protection of the marine environment from the impacts of oil spills.

As part of this, during the recent grounding of Samoa's police patrol boat, the Secretariat provided technical assistance and advice to Samoa's national emergency and disaster authorities.

The Regional Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidelines on "Strengthening Environmental Impact Assessment: Guidelines for Pacific Islands Countries and Territories" continue to be highly valued and referenced by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank as good practice in their new shared approach.

SPREP worked with Parties to the Noumea Convention, such as Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, to complete their National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS).

The Noumea Convention is the Pacific's legal instrument for the protection of the natural resources and environment of the South Pacific region. It is also the Regional Seas Convention for the Pacific region and as such, focuses on areas of marine pollution, land-based sources of pollution, environmental impact assessment, biodiversity, invasive species, protection and conservation of marine resources and coastal environments.

The work of the Noumea Convention is reflected in all SPREP's activities and service to our Pacific member countries. The Noumea Convention, also known as the SPREP Convention, seeks to improve the national capacity of Pacific member countries to ensure good environmental governance through technical assistance to develop policy and legislation. These national



16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Noumea Convention.

legal instruments implement international and regional obligations and commitments.

Through the Waste Management and Pollution Control (WMPC), Islands and Ocean Ecosystems (IOE) and the Environmental Monitoring Governance (EMG) programmes at SPREP, the capacity of Pacific member countries is supported with various projects, programmes and activities to protect their natural environments.

These range from marine pollution, pollution from land-based sources, biodiversity, marine protected areas, invasive species, marine species, as well as regional cooperation, monitoring and environmental impact assessments. The activities undertaken by the three technical programmes at SPREP address the greatest threat of our time – climate change.

Lately, the importance of Oceans is being promoted through various platforms to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14 – Life below Water. This is directly linked to the Noumea Convention as the legal

framework in the Pacific that supports the protection, conservation and sustainable use of the marine ecosystems and the ocean environment in general. Ocean governance directly links to climate change in that the call to reduce the risks and threats to our oceans is urgent given the critical role oceans play in the global environment.

The COP16 of the Noumea Convention informed the Parties on the progress of the review of the Noumea Convention. Adopted in 1986, some of the environmental threats were not present or known during that time. Parties to the Noumea Convention during COP15 acknowledged the gaps in the present Noumea Convention and called for a review. The review was completed in November 2021 with a report to be tabled for the Parties' discussion and approval in an ad hoc meeting to be organised by the Secretariat.

The 12 parties to the Noumea Convention are Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and the United States of America.

OBJECTIVE 4.3

Strengthen environmental data collection, monitoring and analysis and reporting on results, nationally and regionally.

Environmental Indicators Guidebook makes implementing and tracking environmental indicators easier

The Environmental Indicators for Pacific Island Countries guidebook was launched as a tool to help SPREP member countries implement and track environmental indicators.

The guidebook explains the use of environmental indicators and summarises 34 core indicators across six themes. These thematic areas are used in EIA and SEA to provide consistent standards of environmental monitoring and governance over time.

The virtual launch was hosted by the Inform project, a

five-year project funded by the Global Environment Fund and UNEP and implemented by SPREP.

An environmental indicator is a measurement that provides insight into a matter of larger environmental significance, so its significance is readily apparent, and trends can be determined over time. The indicators also simplify complex phenomena which help in communicating messages to decision makers and the public.

Through the Inform project, SPREP programmes developed



SPREP Staff at the launch of the Environment Indicators for Pacific Island Countries Guidebook.

34 indicators that were endorsed by Members at the 2018 SPREP Meeting. These indicators are intended for use in State of Environment Reports and other reporting obligations.

Copies of the Guidebook have been provided to 14 Pacific Island countries under the Inform project, and a free e-copy can also be downloaded from the Pacific Environment Portal.

Tuvalu applauds upgrade to PNEA Portal, bringing new functionalities and improved security

The Pacific Network for Environmental Assessment (PNEA) Portal was upgraded in the first quarter of 2022, improving functionality and security.

The upgrade was delivered by an Australian-based web developer and managed by the PNEA co-ordinators. Funding support came from the EU project titled “Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries” (ACPMEAs Phase 3).

The PNEA portal and upgrade is making a big difference in Pacific countries like Tuvalu. “The PNEA and SPREP are extremely useful to countries such as Tuvalu who experience a high turnover of skilled EIA staff,” said Tuvalu’s Acting Director of Environment, Ms Tilia Tima. “We rely on them to

support our capacity building and training needs and look forward to their continued support and expansion of the PNEA.”

The upgrade enhanced SPREP’s environmental assessment capacity and technical support to its Members by building and maintaining the online community of practice.

The portal runs on the latest Drupal 9 platform, incorporating the latest security updates and other features from the global open-source community. Along with a revamped user interface, the portal also hosts a discussion forum for networking as well as improved resource library search functions and automated harvesting of EIA-related records from the Pacific Environmental Portal (PEP).

The upgrade improves SPREP’s regional capacity building support to increase access to environmental impact assessment data, reports, and guidance for sound environmental planning, monitoring, reporting and decision making.

Also new to the portal are events and stories, a refined search function, and a new resource management system which improves data management and synchronisation from the Pacific Environment Portal and the SPREP virtual library.

Since its launch in 2016, the PNEA now boasts over 250 members and 600 subscribers across the Pacific, becoming the largest and fastest growing community of practice for EIA and ESS in the region. The role of the PNEA portal has also



Talanoa between SPREP, partners and member countries on the PNEA Portal. Photo: SPREP

grown since the COVID-19 pandemic as border restrictions have prevented Pacific practitioners from attending face to face trainings or conferences and have become reliant on virtual support.

The PNEA hosts embedded video recordings of virtual training sessions including almost 20 modules delivered as part of the Pacific Learning Partnership for Environmental and Social Sustainability (PLP-ESS), a partnership between the World Bank, Asia Development Bank, the University of the South Pacific and SPREP.

OBJECTIVE 4.4

Strengthen access to funding mechanisms and using funds effectively and efficiently to deliver required interventions.

OBJECTIVE 4.5

Strengthen synergies between science, policy, and traditional and local knowledge to guide decision-making.

Work to build stronger national capacities of the Pacific to implement effective EIA/Safeguard management tools

As the scale and impacts of developments in the Pacific region continues to grow, it has become imperative to ensure the adverse environmental and social impacts are properly identified and mitigated.

The Pacific Learning Partnership for Environmental and Social Sustainability (PLP-ESS) consisting of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, SPREP and the University of the South Pacific (USP) are working to build stronger national capacities to achieve their national sustainable development goals and priorities.

The partnership collaborates to deliver virtual training modules addressing a wide range of topics and capacity gaps faced by Pacific Island safeguards practitioners and administrators.

Building on the success of the regional training series held in 2020 and 2021, the final series of the PLP-ESS virtual training was from 30 March to 25 May 2022. The training sessions were delivered weekly by presenters from either of the four partners: World Bank, ADB, SPREP and USP.

Through its virtual mode of the delivery, the partnership has been successful in reaching participants across



Participants of the PLP-ESS virtual training modules.

the region with an average of 65 participants per session, and some sessions with over 90 attendees. SPREP has contributed to the partnership

by hosting the PLP-ESS co-ordinator, hosting the venue for the training, and providing specialists to deliver some modules.



The EMG team.



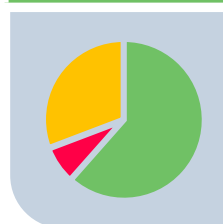
Secretariat Highlights

Photo: D.McFadzien

ORGANISATIONAL GOAL 1

SPREP has information, and communication systems that get the right information to the right people at the right time and influence positive organisational, behavioural, and environmental change.

ORGANISATIONAL GOAL 1



TOTAL OUTCOME TARGETS
13

ACHIEVED
8

NOT ACHIEVED
1

ON-GOING
4

Overall, for Organisational Goal 1, of the 13 outcome targets, eight were achieved, one was not achieved and four are ongoing. In spite of the challenges still experienced from COVID-19, work continued for the Communications and Outreach, Information Technology and Knowledge Management teams that moved quickly to apply innovative techniques to ensure this happened. The activity that was not achieved was for at least five Pacific Island Members to have implemented national communications strategies applying the SPREP model. Across this period, our Pacific Island Members were also undergoing their own national actions necessary, to remain COVID-19 free, or manage COVID-19 nationally.

Information Communications and Technology: Connecting across the Pacific

Goal 1.1 of SPREP to improve quality and interoperability of information and communications technology infrastructure in the region directed the work of the Information Communications and Technology (ICT) team at SPREP. Working to ensure that reliable, secure and effective systems are available to the organisation to effectively deliver services to our Members and stakeholders continued to be of priority as 2021 saw a continuation of virtual working as Members slowly opened borders in times of COVID-19.

SPREP's information communications technology is reconceptualising the way SPREP does business in this digital age through digital transformation. This started in 2021 with a phased approach, implementing low-lying priorities that were an identified need for better effectiveness of SPREP's work that is feasible with current available resources.

SPREP IT continued to support Meteorological and Climatology

services for members with the Climate Change Resilience Programme through the Pacific Met Desk Partnership and climate projects such as the Climate and Oceans Support Program for the Pacific (COSPPac) and Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS). Four websites have been developed for Pacific Islands National Hydrology and Meteorology Services (NHMSs) to be launched in 2022. The websites aim to disseminate

climate information and weather forecasts including warnings and alerts to local communities and national agencies such as aviation and shipping. Ensuring this valuable service by NHMS's and Climate Departments to its stakeholders is sustainable after launch, SPREP IT have also partnered with these departments to continually provide remote support and hosting of their websites through Support Agreements and training.

Recognising the limited IT resources available and the growing demand on IT from projects, innovative solutions and different working modalities had to be explored, trialed and adopted. Several IT development and upgrade activities were undertaken

simultaneously with IT personnel working closely with Projects playing more of an oversight role, providing systems specifications and standards, monitoring and evaluation, acceptance testing while outsourcing the development work. This allowed IT to focus more supporting strategic interventions and Member country priorities. Some examples of innovative solutions include the repurposing of the regional technical support mechanism to the regional expert database now called Tomai Pacificque, launch of the virtual library to improve accessibility and visibility of information and knowledge resources and the development of mobile friendly applications to support meetings and conferences.

Communications and Outreach

The journey towards achieving Organisational Goal 1.2 of the SPREP Strategic Plan in partnership with SPREP Members was a continued unusual one in 2021. Influencing positive behaviour change through persuasive, purposeful and integrated communications continued in the virtual theme in the COVID-19 climate where online communication became the norm. Upon fast adoption of digital processes within the Secretariat, the Communications and Outreach Unit adapted their work to suit while ensuring support continued for SPREP Members. This has continued.

The Communications and Outreach Team supported the communications activities of key regional events led by SPREP, as well as regional projects. This included the Third Clean Pacific Roundtable (3CPRT) as well as the Twenty-Sixth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26). Support was further provided by the Communications and Outreach Unit implementing these campaigns.

As the Pacific islands delegations would not be strong physically in numbers, there was a strengthened impetus towards ensuring the Pacific Islands were still seen and heard across these spaces. The Communications and Outreach Unit led major initiatives supported by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to help make this happen. The Flex for 1pt5 digital campaign on TikTok resulted in over 14 million views and 20,000 followers garnered over the two-week period

of the UNFCCC COP26. The campaign worked with Augusto Creative Agency, and the world-renowned hip-hop dance crew The Royal Family, challenging people to show their Flexfor1pt5.

Over 30 members of the Pacific Islands media attended seven virtual Media ManaClasses to build the knowledge and capacity of Pacific Islands media to report on the different issues of relevance to the Pacific at COP 26. It also helped build their networks with technical experts in the specific areas.

Successful partnerships formed also resulted in over 10 Pacific Islands poems curated and produced digitally for showcase across four events at COP26 as well as being broadcast to Pacific Islands Television stations. These partnerships were formed between New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade,



Pacific Islands poets, Pasifika TV and Mana Moana Storybox.

SPREP was open for school visits again in 2021, over 200 students visited the Secretariat including over 100 school students from Pesega School in Samoa. Hosted at the Secretariat, the students learnt about environmental issues impacting the Pacific region, and actions being done to address these.

Knowledge Management

SPREP's Knowledge Management holds a unique collection of publications, periodicals, scientific and technical reports prepared by SPREP, our Members, stakeholders and partners. Goal 1.3 is to share and use knowledge through the development and maintenance of reliable systems and processes for the effective collection, storage and access to critical information. This vast assembly of environmental information is available to SPREP staff, Member countries and territories, and members of the public through the virtual library catalogue or by visiting the campus at Vailima.

The new and improved SPREP Virtual Library platform was launched in 2021. This has equipped staff, SPREP Members and the public with the latest information to make well informed decisions about critical environmental issues in the Pacific. This has ensured information is easily accessible and discoverable. The virtual library is now available on the website. The launch was held virtually and saw the participation of SPREP Members from

American Samoa, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Over 140 school students from Samoa students visited SPREP during its open day to commemorate the anniversary of SPREP, the very first such event since COVID-19 was declared as a pandemic. The milestone moment also celebrated new innovative approaches that allowed students from across the Pacific islands to engage virtually for the very first time. School

students from American Samoa, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu took part in the event through the virtual component of the SPREP Open Day undergoing a virtual tour and taking part in the interactive sessions of the SPREP Open Day. On the ground in Samoa, the students were hosted by SPREP staff who undertook sessions helping them to learn more about good environment practices for a resilient Pacific. The theme of the Open Day was "We are part of the solution." The open day had a component which saw students participate virtually from Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

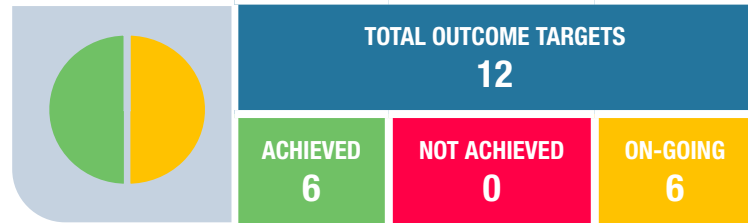
There are enhanced practices of good governance, transparency, and accountability internally due to an improvement in the accessibility of official internal

documentations in the new intranet system. The new system is the single source of truth for all internal policies, guidelines, templates, etc. It is also a gateway to all the information systems, web portals, tools and applications that exist within SPREP.



ORGANISATIONAL GOAL 2

SPREP has multi-disciplinary processes in programme delivery, regional policies and strategies.



Of the 12 targets, half of these were achieved, and the other half remain as on-going work. The targets were changed and rolled out to PIP3.

Monitoring and Evaluation: A results-focused Pacific environment

Goal 2.3 to “Strengthen SPREP’s learning and outcomes reporting framework, integrating organisational and environmental performance” helped steer the Monitoring and Evaluation (M and E) work of the Secretariat. M and E is instrumental in leading SPREP towards a results-focused programme and department performance measures for members. In 2021 synergies were sought through open dialogues, binary insights and addressing challenges faced when institutionalising monitoring and evaluation processes.

Ensuring that the Secretariat’s performance is reported to Members accurately, a results-focused assessment of indicators by strategic goals came affront in 2021. Reflections on how the indicators were rated as achieved, not achieved, or on-going prepared the Secretariat into its next action that is to sustain the delivery of the organisation’s mandate.

SPREP process engaged a participatory approach with the

commitments of Programmes, Departments, and work units in the institutionalisation of an operationalised Results-Focused Monitoring and Evaluation System. One of the crucial elements of the system is the adoption of additional step – which is the integration of the Results Framework in the Performance Implementation Plan (PIP) process as approved in Second Executive Board Meeting in 2020. The approved Results

Framework (RF) is fully aligned to the Strategic Plan with Annual Workplan and Budget. The RF comes affront as basis of an adaptive learning framework that addressed the flexibility of targets per PIP phase specifically on relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact

The Thirtieth SPREP Meeting in 2021 endorsed an updated Results Framework 2017–2026 based on initial outcomes of the 2020–2021 PIP2. While the key outcomes were unchanged, there were 22 sub-outcome indicators which underwent changes with 15 deleted indicators and seven new indicators agreed to be adopted and rolled out for the third Performance Implementation Plan from 2022–2023.

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade approved a new SPREP-DFAT Results Framework 2021-2025 for the new Grant Agreement 2021-2025 aligned to a new SPREP-Government of Australia 10-year partnership arrangement 2021-2031 which was signed in May 2021. The new SPREP-DFAT Results Framework will be used as an instrument to report on the investments of achievements, and or progresses on the Secretariat’s engagement for this partnership arrangement. As a norm, the SPREP’s PIP reporting showcased the streamlined approach and mainstreamed to reporting to donors and partners. The PIP Report is used to inform the annual report to DFAT including the Investment Monitoring Report (IMR).

The Governance and Operations team.



ORGANISATIONAL GOAL 3

SPREP has a reliable and sustainable funding base to achieve environmental outcomes for the benefit of the Pacific islands region and manages its programmes and operations to stay within its agreed budget.

For Goal 3, all 10 outcome targets were achieved.



Finance and Administration: Fiscally sound and credible SPREP

Directly in support of Organisational Goal 3, SPREP's finance and administration section is responsible for managing funds efficiently and transparently through effective financial, risk management and audit systems, integrated with programme management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems. It looks after a wide variety of essential services ranging from financial reporting, procurement, funds management, travel, property and facilities maintenance and the overall financial management of the organisation. The goal is for SPREP to have a reliable and sustainable funding base to achieve environmental outcomes for the benefit of the Pacific islands region and that it manages its programmes and operations to stay within its agreed budget.

During the financial year 2021, the Secretariat recorded USD 4.87 million dollars in expenditure with collections in income totalling USD 5.32 million. After factoring in net finance income and foreign exchange exposure, the results noted was an overall net surplus for the period of US 570,573 compared to a net surplus of USD 389,376 in 2020. This is a notable achievement for the Secretariat given the huge challenges over cashflows during the year as a result of the continuing adverse impacts of COVID 19 which saw prolonged and significant effects on programme implementation and thus overall income for SPREP than budgeted.

To address the situation, the mitigating measures put in place by the Secretariat in response to COVID-19, included appropriate review and adjustments on a timely basis of both programme implementation plans as well as regular monitoring of budget and cash flows including strict controls on core expenditure which proved to be effective and resulted in the overall positive results at year end. Meanwhile, these measures are temporary and thus unlikely to be sufficient to see the organisation through the crisis if continuing to persist in the longer term. In terms of total reserves, the surplus in performance increased the balance to USD 1,017,711 compared to

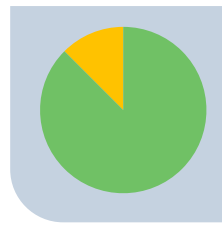


a balance of USD 447,139 in 2020. Whilst these measures are temporary and insufficient to sustain SPREP over a long-term crisis such as COVID 19 should it persist, the financial indicators surely provide a means to maintain confidence amongst the donors and partner community of SPREP's resilience and ability, through their determination to deliver and sustain itself despite the current challenging environment.

The challenge remains for the Secretariat to ensure collective effort by Members and Executive Management to continue to rebuild total reserves to ensure financial sustainability in the longer term. Hence, it is crucial to work together to find ways

to secure sufficient funds to maintain a stable level of income whilst also controlling costs to avoid deficit situations and thus strengthen and maintain the overall financial sustainability of SPREP in the long term. Based on a continuing increasing portfolio for SPREP which is now USD 35 million for 2022 compared to USD 19 million five years ago, it further reaffirms the need to build a very strong and financially sustainable position for the Secretariat in support of its regional and organisational goals with the view of achieving its overall vision in the long term for a resilient Pacific environment for sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

ORGANISATIONAL GOAL 4 SPREP is leading and engaged in productive partnerships and collaborations.



TOTAL OUTCOME TARGETS		
	8	
Achieved	7	
Not Achieved	0	
On-Going	1	

Overall, for the Organisational Goal 4, of the eight outcome targets, seven were achieved and one is ongoing, having been impacted by the pandemic COVID-19.

Partnerships: genuine, durable and productive

Committed to effective coordination of regional efforts in the spirit of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism within SPREP's mandated areas of focus, the Secretariat has, and is, collaborating with other regional organisations and partners who provide additional expertise and capacity. Working towards Goal 4, SPREP often acts as a gateway for partners at the national level, and we will continue to build genuine and productive partnerships that support the advancement of Members' national and regional priorities.

The approved SPREP Partnership Engagement and Resource Mobilisation Strategy (PERMS) provided the framework for assessing new partnerships for SPREP. New partnerships were assessed against the principles and goals of PERMS, except for those agreements with SPREP Members. The process for assessing new partnerships was established by the SPREP Partnership and Resourcing Reference Group, an internal committee responsible for

providing a) support to SPREP's strategic engagement in the region and internationally; b) strategic guidance and cohesiveness to SPREP's development and maintenance of partnerships as envisaged in Organisational Goal 4; c) SPREP is leading and engaged in productive partnerships and collaboration.

The Secretariat continues to remain a partner of choice as demonstrated through the increasing number of diverse partnerships that SPREP

engages in. As at the end of 2021, SPREP had a total of 75 active partnerships with 23 new partnership agreements signed, commitments to support the regional goals in preserving the Pacific environment. Overall SPREP has partnership agreements with a wide range of partners including bilateral development partners and donors, non-governmental organisations, governments, international, multilateral, and regional organisations and universities and research institutions.

Engaging with the private sector, SPREP joined the ANZPAC Plastics Pact Action Collective Group as a supporter in 2021. ANZPAC comprises Governments and private sector industries. This was a positive step for SPREP

noting the important role and contribute the private sector plays in supporting and promoting good environmental practices and building resilient communities.

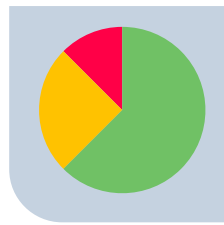
A ten-year partnership was signed for the first time, between the Government of Australia and SPREP from 2021 to 2031. The key objectives of the partnership include a strong relationship between SPREP and the Government of Australia, effective and efficient programme management to meet programme objectives, enhanced SPREP capabilities and effective and efficient service delivery. The SPREP partnership is aligned and contributes to the achievement of SPREP goals and priorities of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017–2026.



Kosi Latu with school students in Samoa.

ORGANISATIONAL GOAL 5

SPREP has access to a pool of people with the attitudes, knowledge, and skills to enable it to deliver on its shared regional vision.



TOTAL OUTCOME TARGETS		
8		
ACHIEVED	NOT ACHIEVED	ON-GOING
5	1	2

For Organizational Goal 5, eight of five outcome targets were achieved, one was not achieved, and two are ongoing. In 2021, the staff engagement survey was not conducted as the Secretariat transitioned to implementing the new People Strategy, therefore the assessment of staff morale was not possible.

Human Resources: Valuing our people

Goal 5 of the SPREP Strategic Plan aims for “access to a pool of people with the attitudes, knowledge and skills to enable it to deliver on its shared regional vision.” 2021 was a challenging year due to the impact of COVID-19 with States of Emergency and border closures. This called for new ways of working and innovation in all aspects of our work.

A major milestone in 2021 was the roll out of the People Strategy endorsed by the Second Executive Board Meeting in 2020. The purpose of the People Strategy is to “be the premier employer in the Pacific Region; Dedicated to providing an inclusive and empowering team culture, that attracts world leading talent, who are encouraged to grow and thrive; and, sharing our expertise, knowledge and passion to make positive change, for the benefit of our Pacific communities.”

An inclusive approach ensures the People Strategy is owned, and led, by all SPREP staff and the Senior Leadership Team. This includes Outcome Groups made up of staff members to

progress implementation of the strategy. Key priorities include the development of policies, systems and processes relating to:

- Flexible and remote work arrangements
- Occupational Health, Safety, Security, Environment and Wellbeing Management
- Robust Workforce Plan
- Grievance Management

A key activity for the People Strategy in its first year was the completion of the Remuneration Review traditionally done jointly with other participating Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) agencies. In line with a decision of the SPREP Meeting in 2019, SPREP



The Human Resources team.

undertook this independent and comprehensive review to align with the spirit and purpose of the People Strategy. While a decision of Members is pending on this matter, SPREP acknowledges the 2.5% general salary increase approved by the Special SPREP Meeting in October 2021 as a key achievement for the People Strategy.

Empowering a SPREP organisational culture that fully aligns to the values of SPREP saw over 80 per cent of staff

at headquarters in Samoa attended the First Aid and Emergency Training.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, staff health, safety and wellbeing have been prioritised so that staff are supported at the office and in their homes. A COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Response Contingency Plan was endorsed by the Senior Leadership Team to provide staff with a healthy and safe environment in line with the spirit of the People Strategy.



Crosscutting issues and lessons learnt

Our work across all of SPREP is interconnected with many key crosscutting issues. This section highlights key crosscutting issues which includes innovation, strategic linkages, gender mainstreaming, risk management, and some of the lessons learnt as we continue to work towards a more resilient Pacific environment.

Our Lessons Learnt

COVID-19 pandemic impacted the ability of the programme to deliver in-country activities. This called for innovative and strategic approaches to the delivery of programmatic services and implementation of projects such as the use of e-learning to deliver trainings, virtual platforms to convene meetings and stakeholder consultations, and engagement of more local experts to deliver activities on the ground in collaboration with Pacific Island governments and partners.

Working with other CROP agencies on issues of ocean governance for environmental outcomes has highlighted the need for more cross-sectoral collaboration to achieve environmental outcomes.

Regional-International acceptance of biodiversity-ecosystem restoration as a key nature-based solution for adapting to climate change is still not fully accepted or supported thus requiring more effort to ensure nature-based solutions are fully integrated and adopted in adaptation to climate change responses.

SPREP continued to maintain a good reputation in responding to Members as demonstrated through the work of the EMG Programme for example on SOE and NEMS development for Members and environmental legislative support, national and regional virtual, previously face to face, workshops and EIA capacity building. EMG was also able to use its existing network with partner organisations such as UNEP, ADB, World Bank and USP to mobilise support to assist Members on EIA.

The virtual platforms made it easier for many more participants to learn, exchange information and knowledge, best practices, among others. But at the same time, the virtual platforms underscored the importance of relationship building and face-to-face interactions.

The changing priorities of countries require a more adaptive and flexible approach to be adopted to ensure plans and services to be provided are adjusted accordingly. In some cases, these changes affect contractual work timelines thus the need to ensure proper monitoring of contracts and continued communication with all parties involved.

Being receptive and adaptive to changing business environment and how these could be applied to current frameworks of financial and procurement policies.

The increase in the use of virtual platforms to deliver services would require SPREP to ensure effective and efficient capacity and resources are available to support on-line trainings, seminars, workshops, missions, conferences and meetings.

Whilst SPREP continues to improve and increase its partnerships, it is important for SPREP to continue to assess and review SPREP's partnership portfolio and identify key strategic opportunities for expanding partnerships in line with the Partnership Engagement and Resource Mobilisation Strategy and the Strategic Plan 2017–2026. Partnership with the private sector is another potential area to be explored on its contribution to improving environmental sustainability and resilience in the Pacific Island region.

The results focused and outcome-oriented People Strategy need to be sustained and strengthened by ensuring dedicated and adequate resourcing is secured to implement key priorities of the People Strategy particularly on issues like remuneration and salary scale movements, health and safety, leadership talent and capacity building.

Internal coordinating mechanisms on strategic issues

In ensuring SPREP continued to operate and deliver its work and services in a more integrated and cohesive manner through key internal coordinating mechanisms which were established since 2018. Key highlights of results achieved through these internal coordinating mechanisms are outlined below:

- The **Blue Team-Ocean Coordinating Team** continued to provide policy and technical advice on ocean and related issues including support to international fora and events such as the UN Ocean Conference, BBNJ negotiations, UNEA 5.2 to name a few.
- The **Climate Change Coordination Committee (4Cs)** continued to ensure streamlined and coordinated approach to supporting PICTs in implementing their national climate change agenda. The 4Cs continue to facilitate and coordinate through an integrated approach on climate change resilience-related programmes, projects, and activities across the work of SPREP.
- The **Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Group (EMRCG)** continued to ensure a coordinated approach to data management and reporting across SPREP. The SPREP Environmental Data Policy was developed under the guidance of EMRCG.
- The **Communication and Advocacy Group** continued to ensure SPREP communication and advocacy are well coordinated and implemented across the organisation. Key events included support to key SPREP events such as the SPREP Open Day, the 2020 SPREP Annual Report, events at regional and international fora including national level events.
- The **Partnership and Resourcing Reference Group** continued to provide advice and guidance on SPREP partnerships including the review of new proposed partnerships in line with the approved Partnership Engagement and Resource Mobilisation Strategy. In 2021, a total of 23 new partnerships were signed with a wide range of partners.
- The **Gender Equality and Inclusion Mainstreaming Group (GEIM)** was established to provide guidance and cohesiveness to gender equality and social inclusion internally and externally. Most of the work of GEIM is ongoing and is supported by its members under the leadership of the two Gender Champions – the Deputy Director General and the Manager of the PCCC.



Photo: D.McFadzien

Risk Management

Risk management is a key requirement of SPREP's effective, efficient, and responsive corporate governance. Below are examples of how SPREP is managing risks at the organisation, programme, and project levels:

- The internal Risk Committee continued to monitor enterprise risks in particular the top four priority risks which were approved by SLT in 2020.
- In 2021 the SPREP Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Manual were endorsed by SLT and approved by the Director General for implementation.
- The Risk Management Policy aims at establishing and maintaining an effective and structured approach to risk management ensuring that all risks which could affect the achievement of SPREP's strategic objectives are identified, mitigated, and managed. It was developed in line with the ISO31000:2018.
- The Risk Management Manual was updated and aligned to the ISO31000:2018 and staff training on risk management is ongoing.
- Project risks continued to be monitored at the project level and are also discussed by the Project Monitoring and Review Group.
- The Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) adopted the Thinksafe system for managing health and safety across the 5 PRISMSS regional programmes. This provides a platform and tools for identifying and managing hazards in the workplace, recording, securing and aggregating data for analysis, reporting, and the identification of trends leading to continuous improvement.
- Waste Management and Pollution Control project risks are recorded and managed through the Monday.com project management online tool.
- Risks with respect to financial operations are already reflected in the Enterprise Risk Register for SPREP.
- Risk management is an integral part of the SPREP PERMS and its implementation. It is carried out as part of the assessment of new proposed partnerships and when existing partnerships are renewed.
- Risk management plans are included as key elements on the partnership agreements. But on-going work is required to be carried out in 2022 to ensure the SPREP PERMS are aligned to the new SPREP Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Manual which was approved in October 2021.

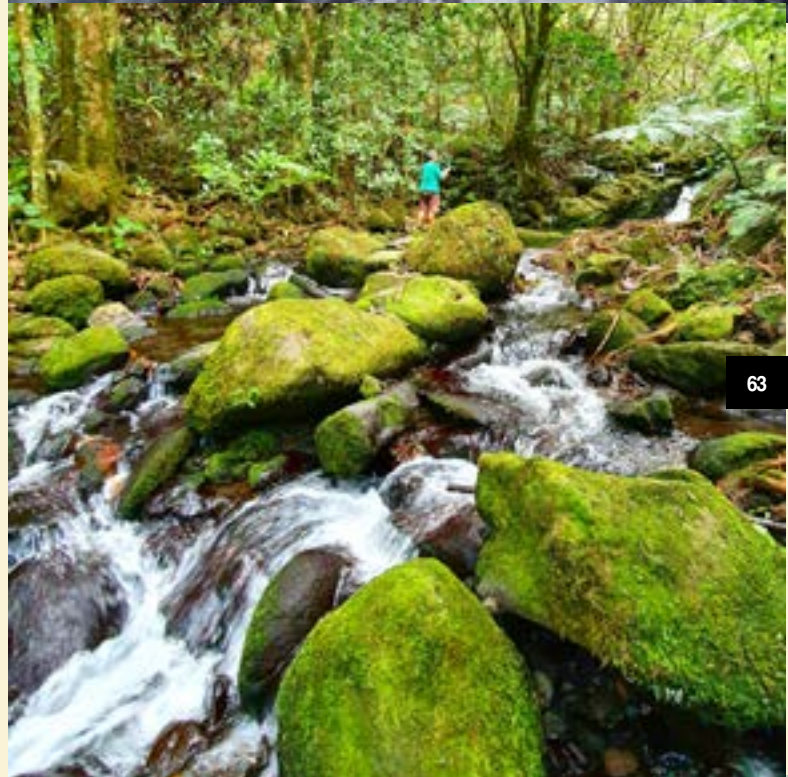




Photo: D.McFadzien

Innovation

Innovation and flexibility in delivering services to Members amidst COVID-19 continued with key highlights. These include interactive hybrid learning using virtual platforms delivered to a wider audience across the region reaffirming SPREP's commitment in responding to critical environment issues amidst the challenges of COVID19.

Webinars and virtual events were successfully organised and delivered by SPREP Programmes and Departments in 2020–2021.

- The Pacific Climate Change Centre e-learning platform increased the reach of the climate change trainings and learning programmes across the region. A total of 381 participants from 15 PICTs registered for seven courses delivered during 2020–2021 period.
- The 10th Pacific Islands Nature Conference was convened virtually utilising a virtual platform, which facilitated the active engagement and interaction of conference participants resulting in the success of the conference and the achievement of key conference outcomes.
- The increased use of virtual platforms for workshop, trainings, and meetings resulted in significant cost savings, thus reducing carbon footprints.
- Virtual meetings, workshops, and conferences for example capacity building workshops by the SPREP IOE programme had enabled a broader participation from Member countries which would not have been possible if these were held in person.
- Cleaner Pacific Roundtable (CPRT) 2025 led to the development of a regional Implementation Plan 2021-2025 after the completion of the Cleaner Pacific 2025 mid-term review. CPRT 2021 was successfully delivered virtually with four technical and three roundtable sessions resulting in an outcome statement. 45-55% women were engaged in CPRT from various sectors.

- The Pacific Learning Partnership for Environmental and Social Safeguards (PLP-ESS) successfully carried out a series of virtual training throughout 2020–2021 pandemic period engaging the wider participation of engineers; EIA consultants, projects managers; and government officials and regulators. This also resulted in the increased number of subscribers to the SPREP Pacific Network for Environmental Assessment (PNEA).
- Participation in virtual regional and international EIA conferences and forums, increased and raised the profile of SPREP's work on EIA. The SPREP Regional SEA Guidelines was acknowledged in the BBNJ intersessional by New Zealand and Canada as an example of how SEA could be applied at the international level.

Technical competency in the approach, delivery, management of projects: investments and opportunities

- The Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Programme of Investment is a 10-year programme of investment USD 165 million to strengthen the region's ability to anticipate, plan for and respond to high impact and extreme weather, water, and ocean events. This comprehensive investment plan enabled potential partners and investors to identify specific areas for investment. The investment plan was informed by a comprehensive scoping exercise undertaken by SPREP in collaboration with its partners – WMO, Bureau of Meteorology and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services.



Photo: D.McFadzien

- The Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) is a new innovative regional mechanism that facilitates the scaling up of invasive species management on the ground. It is a collaboration of leading organisations supporting invasive species management for biodiversity protection in the Pacific. This has focused opportunities for donors to contribute to rapidly developing initiatives and increased the support capability of the region to address national cross-sectoral priorities.
- Strengthened partnerships by supporting National Recycling Associations for example Samoa, which allowed recyclers to promote their business and speak in one voice with the related government agencies and international donors on their aspirations and concerns for the recycling business through JICA 3R+Return methodology.
- PNEA online Talanoa and portal of EIA resources has grown to a mailing list over 300 members from government and donor agencies linked to EIA implementation and approvals with now close to 190 registered portal members who can access exclusive regional relevant EIA content and guidance.
- In sustainable financing, the technological enhancements because of changing working environment during COVID-19, utilised a safe and secure technological environment for finance and procurement to operate while considering privacy and security of personal data as SPREP move towards technological advancements.
- The inaugural People Strategy in One Page endorsed and operationalised with milestones instituted and the first for SPREP since its establishment. The People Strategy is an organisation wide led approach with the active engagement of staff.
- An amplified Pacific voice at UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland with a strong communications campaign capitalising on a sustained partnership approach.
- Flexfor1pt5 Campaign on TikTok targeting a virtual audience on social media.
- The Mana Moana Pacific Voices campaign appealing to the emotions of decision-makers, negotiators, and policymakers at COP26.
- Increased Pacific islands visibility at COP26.
- Digital outreach encouraged positive environmental behaviour change across 2021 as the Secretariat embarked on a series of activities which built the capacity of our Pacific media stakeholders to develop environment related news driving awareness and ownership of good environmental behaviours.
- The SPREP Open Day commemorating 28 years since the signing of the SPREP Agreement saw a wider and active engagement of selected schools and universities from around the region connected virtually to activities at SPREP HQ using latest technology – a first for SPREP.
- SPREP joined the ANZPAC Plastics Pact Action Collective Group as a supporter. ANZPAC comprised of Governments and industries from the private sector. Working with the private sector is one area which needs to be further explored given the important role and contribution that the private sector plays in supporting and promoting good environmental practices and in building resilience of communities.



Photos: D.McFadzien

Strategic linkages

- The Secretariat at the organisation level, continued to support and promote programmatic and strategic linkages, cross programme/department integration, including synergies between and across projects as demonstrated through the following examples
- CCR collaborated with EMG in building the capacity of national stakeholders on the Inform Portal, data and information management, and development of data and information sharing policy in RMI through its GCF Readiness and Support Programme. Additionally, this collaboration ensured that data and information portals are streamlined alleviating the burden on countries to operate and maintain multiple portals and databases.
- CCR is collaborating with the Waste Management and Pollution Control Programme (WMPC) toward the potential establishment of a Disaster Waste Technical Working Group under the umbrella of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP). The rationale centres on advocating and enhancing coordination, collaboration and potential partnerships between regional and national disaster and waste practitioners, development partners, CSO's, Private Sector, and Academia in their efforts in dealing with post-disaster waste.
- IOE secured NZMFAT funded project- Managing Invasive Species for Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific (MISCCAP) project acknowledges the clear links between invasive species management and climate change adaptation. This project supports these links through an invasive species mainstreaming strategy.
- WMPC worked with EMG/INFORM to ensure all data generated through country waste audits inputted in the Pacific Environment Portal
- The Regional State of Environmental and Conservation Report which was endorsed in the 30th SPREP meeting was developed with cross programme support between the IOE and EMG Programme and involve the participation of member countries and partners in the region. The Regional SOCE Report provides a SPREP wide status check on critical environmental indicators.
- The successful delivery of the PLP-ESS virtual training programme led by SPREP with World Bank and ADB to delivery EIA capacity training to the region for sustainable developments.
- The ACP/MEA 3 involved the engagement of the IOE, Waste Management Programme and EMG Programme on the delivery of its activities under the Noumea and SPREP component of the programme.

Gender mainstreaming

Gender mainstreaming remained a priority focus of SPREP with several key initiatives undertaken and initiated by the organisation as part of its efforts to promote and integrate gender across its programme/project activities, including institutional systems, and processes.

- 52% of 381 total participants who registered for the climate change trainings and learning programmes offered through the PCCC were women from 15 Pacific Islands.
- Out of 200 participants who were trained on seasonal forecasting using sophisticated models like SCOPIC and ACCESS-S, 54.88% were women compared to 45.55% trained during 2018-2019 period.
- Supported gender inclusion for Government of Australia and EU funded projects. Its capacity building initiatives established women profiles in MET, TK, EAR Watch, and others. A new focus on empowering coalition of young women in MET. More number of women MET directors (NI, FP, PL, NC) were engaged in consultation process. CCR activities considered gender grouping women, men, youth, people with disabilities in its in-country activity implementations and workplans. GESI courses developed and implemented to support gender mainstreaming policies and practices.
- 10th Pacific Islands Nature Conference had more than 55% participation by women contributing to the substantive discussions and outcomes of the conference.
- Through the BIEM Initiative, gender and human rights-based approaches have been integrated in the design and implementation of activities where possible and appropriate. This has involved securing advice from experts in the development of Terms of Reference, specific contractual requirements to adopt appropriate approaches, as well as recording impacts of the approach.
- Initiated a SPREP-University of Newcastle research programme on the human-invasive species relationship. This research will provide protocols to ensure gender equality and contextual social inclusion is integrated into current and future projects. This is being implemented under the NZMFAT MISCCAP project.
- The GEF6 Regional Invasive Project has both a gender and youth strategy which is being implemented throughout the project. Invasive species is an inter-generational issue, the youth strategy aims to develop a cohort of youth Battlers and provides opportunities for them to develop leadership skills and a chance to establish networks across the region. The use of gender disaggregated data and the inclusion of women in key decision-making bodies ensures that project challenges that prevent gender equality are overcome.
- WMPC developed and is implementing a Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion Guideline. All PacWastePlus (PWP) country projects have embedded GESI activities and requirements that will be monitored and reported with guidelines available from PWP website.
- Gender and youth engagement in WPMC activities in 2021 for example PWP had 50% of engagements were with women (341 compared to 336 for men) in addition to 12 youth engaged during the reporting period.
- Data from the 2021 PLP webinars run by SPREP in partnership with World Bank collected gender demographic data with results showing a 45% to 55% female to male representation respectively across the series. With increased female participation during the GIS module to 55% while the Gender Based Violence training had the highest male participants at 62%.
- The ACP MEA III side event to the 3rd Clean Pacific Roundtable showcased women's involvement and engagement in the management and reduction of waste in the East African region, Caribbean and in the Pacific. Programmes to reduce and manage waste in the Caribbean and in the East African region featured women groups in Barbados, Antigua, and Barbuda in the Caribbean and for the East African region, the women groups in Comoros.
- Virtual platforms and proactive selection of highly skilled female presenters to showcase their experience and relevant training opportunities has led to a robust gender balance not only in trainings but also in the PNEA portal membership. The PNEA website now holds over 190 members with a 44% female representation and 6% undisclosed with the remaining 50% identifying as male.
- The Information Resource Centre and Archives (IRCA) presents equal opportunities to both men-women participation.
- SPREP PERMS has gender and social inclusion as one of its goals. In 2021, new proposed partnerships were assessed against the gender and social inclusion goal. This was to ensure gender and social inclusion were properly integrated and addressed in SPREP partnerships.
- Gender is a cross cutting issue embedded in the People Strategy.



Annual Statement on Internal Control for the Financial Year 2021

Scope of responsibility

As the Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP); I am accountable for maintaining an effective and efficient system of internal control as specified in Regulation 25 of the SPREP Financial Regulations. I also have responsibility for ensuring that funds are safeguarded and properly accounted for, and that these 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 Organisation'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 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 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 is undertaking a comprehensive review of all its policies, procedures, and manuals to ensure its consistency, relevance, and effectiveness.

Organisational Values and Code of Conduct – The principles which must be respected by all staff are stated explicitly in the SPREP's Organisational Values and Code of Conduct that is widely displayed throughout the SPREP campus. This is supplemented by a Fraud Prevention and Whistleblower Protection Manual.

Policy and provisions in the SPREP Procurement Manual – SPREP has a stringent procurement and vetting process in place to promote compliance with manual and best practices 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.

Financial Management – The Director for Finance and Administration is responsible for the accounting and has staff for record keeping, financial reporting, procurement, and project accounting.

There is adequate segregation of critical duties through Financial Delegation which ensures that commitments are made by authorized staff. SPREP staff use an enterprise software solution called Tech One which has been in operation since 2014. It produces data for the financial statements that are prepared in accordance with International Financial reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Standards on Auditing (ISA). The system reflects budget information; facilitates the procurement process and bank reconciliations.

Risk Management – The SPREP revised Risk Management manual was approved in November 2021 and is aligned to the ISO 31000:2018 standards. It includes relevant terms of reference that is chaired by the Deputy Director General and supported by the Risk Committee. SPREP's approach to risk management is an integral and systematic process that seeks to identify mitigate, monitor, and communicate top prioritised risks for the Organisation.

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

Annual Statement on Internal Control for the Financial Year 2021 *cont.*

Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Control

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

Senior Leadership Team meetings – The Secretariat leadership teams meets monthly and as and when the need arises. The objective of this meeting is to make decisions, bring up and solve issues, align cross-functionally, and gain insights into every programme and department.

Audit Committee – The Audit Committee has five independent experts and is complemented by the Troika members consisting of the past, current and future Chair of the SPREP Meeting. The Audit Committee meets three to four times in a year and 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 Internal Auditor is functionally responsible to the Audit Committee and reports to the Director General on operational matters.

External Audit – the external auditor provides an annual certification of the financial statements that are in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and the International Standards on Auditing (ISA) which guarantees a high degree of transparency. In 2021, an unqualified or clean audit opinion was issued with no major control deficiencies noted by the independent external auditor KPMG.

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, manage its risk and operate effectively. Improvements needed and identified in this framework are being addressed, as SPREP continues to serve its Members under the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017–2026.



Kosi Latu
Director General

Apia, Samoa

Date: 1 April 2022

Audit Committee Statement on Internal Control for the Financial Year 2021

Introduction

The Audit Committee submits this Statement of Internal Control for the Financial Year 2021 in compliance with SPREP's Governance Policy and resolutions of SPREP meetings.

The Audit Committee operates 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 2021 Audit Committee

For the financial year 2021 the Audit Committee consisted of the following members:

- Chairman** Mr. Tupuola Oloialii Koki Tuala, Partner, Koki Tuala Chartered Accountant (KTCA)
(Re-appointed for second term in November 2019)
- Member** Mr. Barry Patterson, Deputy High Commissioner, Australian High Commission (Appointed in November 2019)
- Member** Mr. Taimalie Kele Lui, Manager Human Resources, Tokelau Office, Apia (Appointed in March 2019)
- Member** Ms. Rosalini Moli, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Finance, Samoa (Appointed in March 2019)
- Member** Ms. Ella Risati, Second Secretary, New Zealand High Commission (Appointed in November 2019)

Audit Committee Meetings in 2021

The Audit Committee is required to meet at least three times per financial year and in 2021 the Audit Committee met in March, August, and December 2021.

Effectiveness of Internal Control

The Audit Committee has reviewed the statement signed by Kosi Latu, the Director General of SPREP. The information is consistent with the documents and reports reviewed and the presentations made to the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee wishes to underline the importance of the following matters:

1. The Secretariat recorded an increase in net surplus by 46% or USD 181,197 from USD 389,376 recorded for the financial year ended 31 December 2020 to USD 570,573 recorded for the financial year ended 31 December 2021. This was mainly attributed to:
 - a. Increased Funds received from aid agencies, for 2021 funds received were from Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), NZAid, China, UNEP and other partnership agreements. The total other income from donor funds for the year ended 31 December 2021 was \$2,388,092 when compared 31 December 2020 it was \$2,133,269.
 - b. The Project Management fees which is a major revenue stream for Secretariat improved by 27% or USD 279,403 from USD 1,033,668 in 2020 to USD 1,313,071 in 2021. This was mainly attributed to the measures put in place by the Secretariat to manage the impact of COVID-19, engagement with donor to address alternative arrangements for project delivery and agreed changes to workplans, delivery through virtual means and working with the country partners and national focal points.
 - c. Recognition of the membership contribution on accrual basis with effect from 2020.
2. The outstanding membership contributions for the period ended 31 December 2021 amounted to USD 299,129. The Committee would like to thank members for their timely contribution and support despite the COVID-19 impacts and urges the Secretariat to continue following up and make arrangements with those members facing difficulties in clearing their outstanding member contributions.

3. The increase of up to 20% was approved in principle at the 28SM in 2017 but was subject to confirmation from Capitals/Governments. The Committee would like to urge all Members for their consideration of an additional voluntary contribution to the core to ensure the continued financial sustainability and strengthening of the SPREP operations in support and response to members need.
4. The current ratio¹ is 1:1 which is relatively breakeven, or just sufficient to cover our immediate liabilities. The equity or reserves has strengthened by USD 570,573 from USD 447,138 in 2020 to USD 1,017,711 in 2021. This was attributed to net surplus recorded for the year ended 31 December 2021.
5. The Committee is of the view the reserve position of USD 1,017,711, though improved significantly in 2021 when compared to 2020 is still at a critical level when benchmarked against the Secretariat average annual expenditure for last five years (2017–2021) of \$4.3 million. The Committee views strong reserve position is vital to sustain the current operations, existing infrastructure and to support the future Secretariat expansion and growth.
6. The Committee urges the Secretariat to maintain vigilance and continue improving its revenue stream, maintain existing and explore new partnership support arrangement, improve project delivery and efficiency, manage its expenditure and risk exposure arising from COVID-19 and impending global recession and inflation which would impact the Secretariat future cost of operations.
7. The Committee noted the Secretariat developed the Project Management Information System (PMIS) for effective project monitoring, status tracking and dashboard reporting in 2017. The Committee is concerned on low utilization of the PMIS since its inception and its full benefit not capitalised. The Secretariat is in process of reviewing and revamping the system to address its need.
8. The Committee understands the dynamic nature of the risks and impact it could have on the operation; hence the Committee urged the Secretariat to be risk savvy and review and monitor its risk register and risk management plan(s) at the enterprise, programme and project level on a more regular interval to check the relevance of the existing risks, adequacy of controls and measures put in place and account for new emerging risks. The Committee noted that the Secretariat has reviewed its risk policy and risk management manual which was approved in November 2021 and is currently in progress with reviewing its risk register and developing risk management plan.
9. The Committee in November 2019 noted 62 policies were due for review. The Committee is of the view that policies and procedures need to be relevant to address the current needs of SPREP. As at the date of report, the Secretariat has undertaken in-house reviews leveraging on its existing expertise and completed review of 9 policies and manuals while remaining policies and manuals are in work in progress or scheduled for third and fourth quarter of 2022.
10. The Secretariat Fraud Prevention and Whistle-blower manual is in review process. The review will ensure that the manual is aligned and benchmarked; to the current development in the International Financial Institutions Principles and Guidelines for Investigations which is used by major international institutes such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank and with our major partners and donors' fraud prevention requirement.
11. The Committee did not receive any fraud complaint through its dedicated channel during the current reporting period. Three dedicated fraud staff awareness session was conducted to encourage staffs to take the necessary action to mitigate the risk of fraud occurring or, when it does occur, the reporting options and mechanisms in place to address it and the safeguards in place to protect the whistle-blower.
12. The Committee encourages the continuation of regular consultations with the Director General and the senior management team during the committee meetings; and annual consultation with the external auditor all have proven useful and valuable in improving dialogue, forming effective decisions, and expediting practical solutions to challenges faced by SPREP especially moving forward with numerous risks and uncertainties caused by the impact of COVID-19.
13. The Committee has discussed the 2021 audited financial statements and the relevant accounting policies with the Director General, Director Finance and Administration and the External Auditors, BDO Samoa. It also reviewed the report of the external auditor on the financial statements and the related management letter.
14. On this basis the Audit Committee concludes that the 2021 audited financial statements and the unqualified audit opinion by the external auditor be accepted by the SPREP members.

This Statement of Internal Control for the Financial Year 2021 is submitted for the consideration and approval by the SPREP members.

Tupuola Oloialii Koki Tuala
Chairman of the Audit Committee

Apia, Samoa

Date: 22 July 2022

¹ The current ratio is a liquidity ratio that measures a company's ability to pay short-term obligations or those due within one year. A good current ratio is between 1.2 to 2, which means that the institute has 2 times more current assets than liabilities to covers its debts. A current ratio below 1 means that the institute does not have enough liquid assets to cover its short-term liabilities.

Executive Management Report for the Financial Year 2021

The Executive Management present the annual report together with the financial statements of the Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2021 and independent auditors' report as set out on the following pages thereon in accordance with the Secretariat's Financial Regulations.

Executive Management

The Executive Management in office as at the date of this report are:

Leota Kosi Latu	<i>Director General</i>
Easter Chu Shing	<i>Deputy Director General</i>
Tagaloa Cooper	<i>Director, Climate Change Resilience</i>
Stuart Chape	<i>Director, Island and Ocean Ecosystems</i>
Clark Peteru	<i>Legal Counsel</i>
Simeamativa Vaai	<i>Director, Human Resources</i>
Petra Chan Tung	<i>Director, Finance and Administration</i>

Principal Activity

The principal activity of SPREP is to promote co-operation in the Pacific region and to provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations.

Operating Results

We are pleased to present the following operating results of the Secretariat for the financial year as at 31 December 2021:

- During the year the Secretariat expended USD 4.7 million dollars compared to expenditure of USD 4.4 million in 2020.
- The net surplus for the period was USD 570,573, compared to the net surplus of USD 389,376 in 2020.
- Foreign exchange exposure continues to be controlled and minimised and there was a foreign exchange gain of USD 66,406 in 2021 relative to a gain of USD 92,226 also recognised in 2020.
- Management recognises that there is still a need to maintain sustainability of funding with a view to rebuilding reserve funds and avoiding any further deficient positions in the future to ensure a strong financial position for the Secretariat moving forward.
- The challenge remains for the Secretariat to ensure a collective effort by Members and Executive Management to rebuild the total reserves. Hence, the Secretariat must focus on areas of generating sufficient funds from both Member Countries and Donors to resolve this issue as well as control costs, and thus strengthen the overall financial position and sustainability of SPREP in the long term.

Executive Management Report for the Financial Year 2021 *cont.*

Responsibility for Financial Reporting and State of Affairs

The accompanying financial statements are the responsibility of management. The financial statements have been prepared according to International Financial Reporting Standards and include amounts based on management's best estimates and judgments.

Management has established and had been maintaining accounting and internal control systems which include clearly stated policies and procedures. These systems are designed to provide reasonable assurance that our financial records are reliable and form a proper basis for the timely and accurate preparation of financial statements, and that our assets are properly safeguarded.

SPREP Members oversee management's responsibilities for financial reporting. The financial statements have been reviewed and approved by the SPREP Members on recommendation from management.

Our independent auditors BDO Chartered Accountants, Samoa, having been appointed by the SPREP Members, have audited our financial statements. The accompanying independent auditors' report outlines the scope of their examination and their opinion.

In our opinion

- The accompanying statement of comprehensive income is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the results of the Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2021;
- The accompanying statement of financial position is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of the Secretariat's affairs as at 31 December 2021;
- The accompanying statement of movement in reserves is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the movement of funds and reserves of the Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2021; and
- The accompanying statement of cash flows is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the cash flows for the Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2021.

We are not aware of any circumstance which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We authorize the attached financial statements for issue on behalf of the Executive Management of the Secretariat.



Kosi Latu
Director General

1 April 2022



Easter Chu Shing
Deputy Director General

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements



Tel: +685 24337
Tel: +685 24575
www.bdo.ws

BDO House
Chartered Accountants
Vaitele Street,
Lalovaea.
PO Box 859.
Apia, Samoa.

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (the Secretariat), which comprise: the statement of financial position as at 31 December, 2021; the core fund statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in funds and reserves, and statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 December 2021; and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies as set out on pages 9 to 27.

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Secretariat as at 31 December, 2021 and (of) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year ended 31 December 2021 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.

The opening balances on 1 January 2021, were audited by other auditors who issued an unqualified audit opinion on the 26th March, 2021 for the audit for the year ended 31 December, 2020.

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the executive management's report 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT



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 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 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'BDO'.

BDO
Chartered Accountants

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ernest Betham'.

Ernest Betham
Engagement Partner

Apia,
Samoa
1 April, 2022.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2021



Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
Core Fund Statement of Comprehensive Income
For the year ended 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
Income			
Member contributions	5	1,183,955	1,026,444
Programme management charges	18 (b)	1,313,071	1,033,668
Other donor fund income	6	2,388,092	2,133,269
Amortisation of deferred income - Property and Equipment	8	239,474	239,474
Other income	7	197,823	236,794
Total income		5,322,415	4,669,649
Expenses			
Advertisements		13,486	10,240
Consultancies		31,025	22,087
Depreciation	11/13	309,278	317,262
Electricity & Water		57,076	80,916
Freight and Postal Expenses		978	925
Impairment Expense		132,780	36,346
Insurance		204,419	134,331
Licences & Registration		11,313	16,383
Printing, Stationery and Office Supplies		78,950	82,772
Professional Services		382,426	96,689
Program Support Costs		141,819	57,484
Repairs & Maintenance		27,918	46,416
Remuneration Costs		2,957,526	3,021,597
Superannuation expense		280,971	240,639
SPREP Meeting		50,032	14,821
Telephone and Internet		81,276	63,076
Travel		-	10,292
Workshops & Trainings		10,874	10,803
Other Expenses		98,794	119,823
Total expenses		4,870,942	4,382,904
Surplus/(Deficit) before net finance costs and foreign exchange		451,473	286,745
Net finance costs	10	52,693	10,404
Foreign exchange gain		66,406	92,226
Net Surplus /(Deficit)		570,573	389,376

This statement and the accompanying notes to and forming an integral part of the financial statements can be found on the SPREP website: www.sprep.org.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2021



Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property and Equipment	13	10,124,198	10,367,880
Right of Use Asset	11	22,769	52,799
Total non-current assets		10,146,967	10,420,679
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	14	32,191,284	23,952,324
Receivables and prepayments	15	195,619	86,417
Total current assets		32,386,904	24,038,741
TOTAL ASSETS		42,533,870	34,459,420
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES			
Reserves			
Core Funds		1,017,711	447,139
Total reserves		1,017,711	447,139
Non-Current Liabilities			
Employee benefits	16	273,054	375,640
Deferred income - Property and Equipment	8	9,680,534	9,920,008
Lease liability	11	-	23,341
Total non-current liabilities		9,953,588	10,318,989
Current Liabilities			
Programme/Donor funds	18 (b)	26,238,836	19,270,660
Payables and accruals	17	953,951	1,683,445
Employee entitlements	16	960,847	1,011,690
Deferred income - Property and Equipment	8	239,474	239,474
Income received in advance	9	3,144,683	1,455,833
Lease liability	11	24,779	32,190
Total current liabilities		31,562,571	23,693,291
TOTAL RESERVES AND LIABILITIES		42,533,870	34,459,420

Signed on behalf of the SPREP Members


Kosi Latu
Director General


Easter Chu Shing
Deputy Director General

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2021



Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
Statement of Changes in Funds and Reserves
For the year ended 31 December 2021

	Core Fund	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1st January 2020	<u>57,763</u>	<u>57,763</u>
Net Surplus for the year	<u>389,376</u>	<u>389,376</u>
Balance at 31st December 2020	<u>447,139</u>	<u>447,139</u>
Balance at 1st January 2021	447,139	447,139
Net Surplus for the year	<u>570,573</u>	<u>570,573</u>
Balance at 31 December 2021	<u>1,017,711</u>	<u>1,017,711</u>

This statement and the accompanying notes to and forming an integral part of the financial statements can be found on the SPREP website: www.sprep.org.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2021



Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Member contributions		1,061,994	1,192,974
Interest received		40,294	29,654
Core donor funds received	6	2,388,092	2,133,269
Other receipts		227,486	466,659
Personnel costs - Corporate Services		(3,412,682)	(2,797,377)
Corporate Services costs		290	(25,508)
Programme Income/(Expenditure)		8,068,484	8,235,921
Net cash flows from operating activities		8,373,957	9,235,592
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property and equipment		(27,047)	(65,377)
Proceeds from drawdown of term deposit		4,471,874	1,363,884
New term deposit		(3,124,683)	(4,471,874)
Net cashflows for investing activities		1,320,144	(3,173,367)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Lease payments - principal	11	(39,270)	(37,151)
Lease payments - interest	11	(2,306)	(3,828)
Net cashflows for financing activities		(41,576)	(40,978)
Net change in cash held		9,652,526	6,021,247
Cash at beginning of the year		19,558,030	13,444,557
Effects of foreign exchange		66,406	92,226
Cash balance at the end of the year	14	29,276,961	19,558,030

This statement and the accompanying notes to and forming an integral part of the financial statements can be found on the SPREP website: www.sprep.org.

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TITLE	ISBN / ISSN / LINK	TITLE	ISBN / ISSN / LINK	TITLE	ISBN / ISSN / LINK
TECHNICAL REPORTS					
Waste to Energy Research Report	https://bit.ly/3xYmJsD 978-982-04-1025-1 (print) 978-982-04-1026-8 (ecopy)	Green Climate Fund Handbook for the Republic of the Marshall Islands: the RMI GCF handbook	https://bit.ly/3LxiF1K 978-982-04-0959-0 (print) 978-982-04-0960-6 (ecopy)	Stocktake report: Available Tertiary & Vocational Waste management courses in the Pacific Region	https://bit.ly/3F7o25o 978-982-04-0941-5
Waste Audit Report Nauru 2020	https://bit.ly/3kqyheZ 978-982-04-1021-3 (print) 978-982-04-1022-0 (ecopy)	RMI Green Climate Fund Handbook: Summary for National Stakeholders	https://bit.ly/3s1u9TA 978-982-04-0973-3 (print) 978-982-04-0962-0 (ecopy)	Évaluation Environnementale Stratégique (ÉES) Directives Pour Les États Et Territoires Insulaires Océaniens	https://bit.ly/37Wipe8 978-982-04-0911-8 (print) 978-982-04-0912-5 (ecopy)
Waste Audit Report Vanuatu 2020	https://bit.ly/3KhQmDb 978-982-04-2029-0 (print) 978-982-04-1020-6 (ecopy)	RMI Green Climate Fund Handbook: Melele Ko Kin Green Fund	https://bit.ly/3vJMXaU 978-982-04-0963-7 (print) 978-982-04-0964-4 (ecopy)	Seagrass Restoration Guidelines for Kiribati	https://bit.ly/3vJ722t
Waste Audit Report Papua New Guinea	https://bit.ly/3vRYWDe 978-982-04-1017-6 (print) 978-982-04-1018-3 (ecopy)	Waste Legislative Review: Regional Solutions Assessment PacWastePlus	https://bit.ly/3MG0g1k 978-982-04-0973-6 (print) 978-982-04-0974-3 (ecopy)	Mangrove planting guidelines for Kiribati	https://bit.ly/3OUAGZR
Asbestos Management Policy and Regulation for Pacific Island Countries and Timor-Leste	https://bit.ly/30I2kJB 978-982-04-1005-3 (print) 978-982-04-1004-6 (ecopy)	Living Safely with Asbestos	https://bit.ly/3xVCFaq 978-982-04-0969-9 (print) 978-982-04-0970-5 (ecopy)	Healthcare Waste: Waste Technology Management Options	https://bit.ly/3OR9Guj 978-982-04-0924-8
A Review of the Status of Sea Turtles in the Pacific Ocean 2021	https://bit.ly/3vM09Mx 978-982-04-1009-1 (print) 978-982-04-1008-4 (ecopy)	State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional report	https://bit.ly/3rZ0t7M 978-982-04-0905-7 (print) 978-982-04-0906-4 (ecopy)	Assessment of Small-Scale Technology Suitable for Waste Management in the Pacific and Timor-Leste	https://bit.ly/3ybNwNt 978-982-04-0920-0
Asbestos Management Legislative and Regulations Analysis – Policy Recommendations	https://bit.ly/3vq6kqG 978-982-04-1003-9 (print) 978-982-04-1002-2 (ecopy)	State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report: All Indicators	https://bit.ly/39euJ9M	Organic Material: Waste Technology Management options	https://bit.ly/3MIZmmf 978-982-04-0922-4
Cadre du Pacifique insulaire 2021-2025 pour la conservation de la nature et les aires protégées	https://bit.ly/3rZhdUp	Assessment of Legislative Frameworks Governing Waste Management in Kiribati	https://bit.ly/3Fd0YIX 978-982-04-0945-30 (ecopy)	SERIES	
Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021-2025	https://bit.ly/3Lk0tBP 978-982-04-1007-7 (print) 978-982-04-1006-0 (ecopy)	Assessment of Legislative Frameworks Governing Waste Management in Samoa	https://bit.ly/3vrhCuL 978-982-04-0951-4 (ecopy)	PRISMSS Newsletter – August and December	https://bit.ly/3Kn3SFw https://bit.ly/3MCbc1q
Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan 2021-2030	https://bit.ly/3oFdfcm 978-982-04-0987-3 (print) 978-982-04-0988-0 (ecopy)	Assessment of Legislative Frameworks Governing Waste Management in Solomon Islands	https://bit.ly/3KqQcJF 978-982-04-0952-1 (ecopy)	COSPPac Monthly Climate Bulletin: January – December	https://bit.ly/3tgESKj 2617-3557
Plan d'action pour les récifs coralliens du Pacifique 2021-2030	https://bit.ly/3FOCMDDe	Assessment of Legislative Frameworks Governing Waste Management in Timor-Leste	https://bit.ly/3y1P9NR 978-982-04-0953-8 (ecopy)	Climate Change Matters, Issues: 68, 69, 70, 71	https://bit.ly/395XG8f 2227-6947
A guide to Developing Project Engagement Plans: Stakeholder Education and Awareness	https://bit.ly/3LrPHjX 978-982-04-0979-8 978-982-04-0980-4	Assessment of Legislative Frameworks Governing Waste Management in Tuvalu	https://bit.ly/3EzvjUX 978-982-04-0956-9 (ecopy)	SPREP-Tok Issues: 71, 72, 63, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81	https://bit.ly/3xcUYal 2311-861X
Model Regional Education and Awareness Plan	https://bit.ly/3y1HmZA 978-982-04-0977-4 (print) 978-982-04-0978-1 (ecopy)	Assessment of Legislative Frameworks Governing Waste Management in Vanuatu	https://bit.ly/3LxhRdc 978-982-04-0950-7	ACP MEAs Monthly Information digest: Vol 1: Issues: 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11	https://bit.ly/3mchHwK
Environmental Indicators Guidebook: Pacific Island Countries	https://bit.ly/3EV6AKq 978-982-04-0975-0 (print) 978-982-04-0976-7 (ecopy)	Assessment of Legislative Frameworks Governing Waste Management in the Republic of the Marshall Islands	https://bit.ly/3y7RWWt 978-982-04-0949-1	ACP MEAs Quarterly Newsletter: Vol 1: Issues: 1, 2, 3, 4	https://bit.ly/38N2vTU 2617-3565
PROE Annuel Rapport 2020	https://bit.ly/3KvxQqS 1562-675X	Assessment of Legislative Frameworks Governing Waste Management in Palau	https://bit.ly/30QniWN 978-982-04-0948-4	Regional Early Action Rainfall Watch: Monthly Seasonal Rainfall watch: Oct–Dec, Nov 2021–Jan 2022, Dec 2021–Feb 2022	https://bit.ly/3GZSU93
SPREP Annual Report 2020	https://bit.ly/3Kn4GtX 1562-675X	Assessment of Legislative Frameworks Governing Waste Management in Niue	https://bit.ly/379TmDC 978-982-04-0947-7	JPRISM Newsletter Buzz: no. 9 March, no. 10 July, no. 11 October	https://bit.ly/3xYzLh https://bit.ly/3klRpaH
Whales in a changing Ocean: Nukualofa Tonga 4-6 April 2017	https://bit.ly/3y1CP06	Assessment of Legislative Frameworks Governing Waste Management in Nauru	https://bit.ly/3y7WeMQ 978-982-04-0946-0	PACRES newsletter: Volume: 2, 3	https://bit.ly/3MzDaeg https://bit.ly/3kqeKru 2413-5534
Ecosystem-based Adaptation Options Assessment and Masterplan, Wagina	https://bit.ly/36WeX2y 978-982-04-0771-8 (print) 978-982-04-0772-5 (ecopy)	Assessment of Legislative Frameworks Governing Waste Management in the Cook Islands	https://bit.ly/3LAIMmT 978-982-04-0942-2	CORPORATE DOCUMENTS	
Gender & Social Inclusion (GESI): guiding document	https://bit.ly/3MHM4GN 978-982-04-0983-5 (print) 978-982-04-0984-2 (ecopy)	Assessment of Legislative Frameworks Governing Waste Management in Federated States of Micronesia	https://bit.ly/3kuDoHN 978-982-04-0944-6	Report of the Thirty SPREP Meeting of Officials and Environmental Ministers' High-Level Talanoa, Apia, Samoa. 2–10 September 2021	https://bit.ly/3Kov9aL 978-982-04-1011-4 (print) 978-982-04-1010-7 (ecopy)
Global and Regional Frameworks: Chemicals and Waste Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)	https://bit.ly/3KluKez 978-982-04-0830-2 (ecopy)	Situational Analysis of Human Rights issues in the Waste Management sector: literature review	https://bit.ly/3kd5jq 978-982-04-0958-3 (print) 978-982-04-0957-6 (ecopy)	Rapport conjoint de la Trentième Conférence du PROE : 7–9 Septembre 2021 et Conférence extraordinaire du PROE : 15 Octobre 2021 – Reunions Virtuelles	https://bit.ly/3OAC7fU 978-982-04-1027-5 (print) 978-982-04-1028-2 (ecopy)
The Republic of the Marshall Islands: Green Climate Fund Programme	https://bit.ly/30JMMi7 978-982-04-0965-1 (print) 978-982-04-0966-8 (ecopy)			Outcome Statement – Clean Pacific Roundtable 2021	https://bit.ly/36UzEMI
User guide for SPREP PCCC e-learning	https://bit.ly/3v2ZsI			Releve de conclusions – Table ronde pour un Pacifique propre 2021	https://bit.ly/38uZ0B4
Niue State of Environment report 2019	https://bit.ly/37PJgZj 978-982-04-0971-2 (print) 978-982-04-0972-9 (ecopy)			Vemoore Declaration: Commitments to Nature Conservation Action in the Pacific Islands region 2021-2025	https://bit.ly/3yholJF

TITLE	ISBN / ISSN / LINK	TITLE	ISBN / ISSN / LINK	TITLE	ISBN / ISSN / LINK
CORPORATE DOCUMENTS cont.		FLYERS, BROCHURES, FACTSHEETS cont.		FLYERS, BROCHURES, FACTSHEETS cont.	
Declaration de Vemore Engagements en faveur de l'action pour la conservation de la nature et les aires proteges dans le Pacifique insulaire, 2021-2025	https://bit.ly/3xZo7GI	State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report: Indicator 3 – Terrestrial Wildlife Protection	https://bit.ly/3rYAZsV	State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report: Indicator 26 – Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)	https://bit.ly/3LriAws
The Virtual 10 th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas : 24-27 November 2020	https://bit.ly/3rY48nY	State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report: Indicator 4 – Native Forest cover	https://bit.ly/38yCYg0	State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report: Indicator 27 – Renewable Energy	https://bit.ly/3kooR00
PacWastePlus (PWP) steering committee: meeting report 9 March 2021, zoom teleconference	https://bit.ly/3y1uf11 978-982-04-0967-5 (print) 978-982-04-0968-2 (ecopy)	State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report: Indicator 5 – Freshwater Quality	https://bit.ly/30GVxQm	State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report: Indicator 28-29 – Per Capita Generation of Municipal Solid Waste	https://bit.ly/3MDyZl5
Building a Resilient Blue Pacific: 2020 CROP Annual Report to Pacific Islands Forum Leaders	https://bit.ly/3MKZTEa	State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report: Indicator 6 – Land under cultivation	https://bit.ly/3y1yzNZ	State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report: Indicator 30 – Hazardous Waste	https://bit.ly/38yHmfM
Pacific Islands Climate Change Insurance Facility (PICCIF) report	https://bit.ly/3s81NXM 978-982-04-0907-1 (print) 978-982-04-0908-8 (ecopy)	State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report: Indicator 7 – Wetlands	https://bit.ly/3y5teo0	State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report: Indicator 31 – Access to and Quality of Sewage Treatment	https://bit.ly/3MHVQbX
FLYERS, BROCHURES, FACTSHEETS		State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report: Indicator 8 – Live Coral Cover	https://bit.ly/3kp9u7K	PacWastePlus country profile snapshot – Republic of Marshall Islands	https://bit.ly/3F6RkB4 978-982-04-0928-6
Project Snapshot – Samoa	https://bit.ly/3EU0Wys 978-982-04-0997-2	State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report: Indicator 9 – Lagoon Water Quality	https://bit.ly/3y29SB8	PacWastePlus country profile snapshot – Solomon Islands	https://bit.ly/3KCLXe9 978-982-04-0934-7
Project Snapshot – Kiribati	https://bit.ly/3ESHZg0 978-982-04-0982-8	State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report: Indicator 10 – Commercial Pelagic Fish	https://bit.ly/36WGL6X	PacWastePlus country profile snapshot – Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)	https://bit.ly/3kCh2nH 978-982-04-0927-9
Project Snapshot – Nauru	https://bit.ly/30UeKjy 978-982-04-1014-5	State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report: Indicator 11 – Coastal Fish Biomass	https://bit.ly/3kmlGu	PacWastePlus country profile snapshot – Vanuatu	https://bit.ly/3KwJiTj 978-982-0938-5
Project Snapshot – Cook Islands	https://bit.ly/3vxgPsl 978-982-04-1001-5	State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report: Indicator 12 – Marine Plastic Pollution	https://bit.ly/3vPJ8Ru	PacWastePlus country profile snapshot – Tuvalu	https://bit.ly/3y9NiQ0 978-982-04-0935-4
Project Snapshot – Fiji	https://bit.ly/3F2TBgM 978-982-04-1012-1	State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report: Indicator 13-18 – Protection of Pacific Spaces	https://bit.ly/3vLh2NT	PacWastePlus country profile snapshot – Timor-Leste	https://bit.ly/3FjdJlam 978-982-04-0932-3 (PNG)
Project Snapshot – Niue	https://bit.ly/3klaxWb 978-982-04-0999-6	State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report: Indicator 19-20 – Managing Invasive Species in the Pacific	https://bit.ly/38tx54I	PacWastePlus country profile snapshot – Papua New Guinea	https://bit.ly/3s5Wlis 978-982-04-0931-6
Project Snapshot – Palau	https://bit.ly/3skbYbZ 978-982-04-0995-8	State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report: Indicator 21 – Status of Migratory Species of Concern	https://bit.ly/3ku8TRX	PacWastePlus country profile snapshot – Palau	https://bit.ly/3vUau98 978-982-04-0930-9
Project Snapshot – Papua New Guinea	https://bit.ly/30MmLk 978-982-04-1016-9	State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report: Indicator 22 – IUCN Red List summary	https://bit.ly/37PNrnX	PacWastePlus country profile snapshot – Niue	https://bit.ly/3vUau98 978-982-04-0930-9
Project Snapshot – Republic of Marshall Islands	https://bit.ly/3MChOge 978-982-04-0994-1	State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report: Indicator 23-25 – Climate Resilience through Environmental Management	https://bit.ly/30Mwpl7	PacWastePlus country profile snapshot – Nauru	https://bit.ly/3LG1MSu 978-982-04-0929-3
Project Snapshot – Solomon Islands	https://bit.ly/3kCOxwF 978-982-04-0996-5			PacWastePlus country profile snapshot – Tonga	https://bit.ly/3MLEMBP 978-982-04-0936-1
Project Snapshot – Federated States of Micronesia	https://bit.ly/3Kmeswr 978-982-04-0998-9			PacWastePlus country profile snapshot – Fiji	https://bit.ly/3MG5D1W 978-982-04-0926-2
Project Snapshot – Tuvalu	https://bit.ly/3vq88A0 978-982-04-0993-4			PacWastePlus country profile snapshot – Kiribati	https://bit.ly/3s4rBEg 978-982-04-0939-2
Project Snapshot – Vanuatu	https://bit.ly/3Mxpvo4 978-982-04-1000-8			PacWastePlus country profile snapshot – Samoa	https://bit.ly/3KDWfug 978-982-04-0933-0
SWAP – S'engager pour une gestion durable des dechets dans le Pacifique	https://bit.ly/30TKoMi			PacWastePlus country profile snapshot – Cook Islands	https://bit.ly/3kwkfoH 978-982-04-0925-5
SWAP – Committing to Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific	https://bit.ly/3LxjQhS			Clean Pacific Roundtable side event #5	https://bit.ly/3vSz6Po
Pacific Conversations Noumea Convention Part 1 – Know more, Do more, Togethe	https://bit.ly/3KpNNyY			Rats, Reef and Resilience	https://bit.ly/3rYXTQN
Our Pacific Ocean, Our Stories: Understanding Marine Heatwaves and how they Impact the Pacific, Factsheet 11	https://bit.ly/3KnHQIX			Waste-to-Energy Information Booklet	https://bit.ly/3xyJ7xl 978-982-04-1023-7 (print) 978-982-04-1024-4 (ecopy)
State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report: Indicator 1 – Environment Ministry budget allocation	https://bit.ly/3vsJy1o			Decarbonisation in the Pacific takes centre stage during Move from Promise to Action Webinar	https://bit.ly/3LrKFE4
State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report: Indicator 2 – MEA Reporting Requirements	https://bit.ly/3xXSoFN				

STAFF MEMBER	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	CONTRACT EXPIRY
SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM			
Kosi Latu	Director General	Samoa	3 Apr 22
Easter Chu Shing	Deputy Director General, Governance and Operations	Samoa	9 Feb 24
Stuart Chape	Acting Deputy Director General, Technical Programmes/ Director Island and Ocean Ecosystems	Australia	30 Sep 24
Tagaloa Cooper-Halo	Director Climate Change Resilience	Niue	30 Jun 24
Joep Davetanivalu	Acting Director Environmental Monitoring and Governance/ Environmental Planning Adviser	Fiji	30 Sep 22
Anthony Talouli	Acting Director Waste Management and Pollution Control/ Pollution Adviser	Fiji	31 Mar 24
Clark Peteru	Legal Counsel	Samoa	30 Sep 24
Petra Chan Tung	Director Finance and Administration	Samoa	31 Dec 24
Simeamativa Vaai	Director Human Resources	Samoa	31 Dec 24
EXECUTIVE OFFICES			
Executive Support			
Audrey Brown-Pereira	Executive Officer	Cook Is.	31 Oct 23
Rosanna Galuvao-Ah Ching	Executive Assistant to the Director General	Samoa	30 May 22
Apiseta Eti	Executive Assistant to the Deputy Director General	Samoa	31 Dec 24
Legal			
Everett Sioa	Legal Officer	Samoa	21 Feb 24
Internal Audit			
Niraj Kumar	Internal Auditor	Fiji	30 Jul 22
Communications and Outreach			
Nanette Woonton	Acting Communications and Outreach Adviser/ Media and Public Relations Officer	Cook Is	31 Oct 23
Leanne Moanau	Communications Support Officer	Samoa	31 Dec 22
Sosikeni Lesa	Communications Consultant	Samoa	30 Sep 22
TECHNICAL PROGRAMMES			
CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE			
Foinjancey Fesolai	Climate Change Resilience Programme Assistant	Samoa	1 Oct 23
Filomena Nelson	Climate Change Adaptation Adviser	Samoa	8 Oct 23
Ofa Kaisamy	Manager Pacific Climate Change Centre	Tonga	4 Oct 23
Yvette Kerslake	Technical Adviser – Science to Services, Pacific Climate Change Centre	Samoa	11 Apr 24
Rachel Nunn-Crichton	Technical Adviser – Information Knowledge Management and Brokerage, Pacific Climate Change Centre	Fiji	12 Sep 24
Naoafioga Feu'u	Finance and Administration Officer, Pacific Climate Change Centre	Samoa	30 Mar 24
Salesa Nihmei	Meteorology and Climatology Adviser	Vanuatu	31 Mar 22
Sunny Seuseu	Acting Project Manager/ Climate Information Services Officer, Vanuatu CISRD Project	Samoa	10 Mar 24
Connie Sewere	Technical and Finance Assistant, Vanuatu CISRD Project	Vanuatu	10 Dec 23
Azareel Mariner	COSPPac Capacity Development Officer	Samoa	30 Jun 22
Siosinamele Lui	COSPPac Climate Traditional Knowledge Officer	Samoa	30 Jun 22
Philip Malsale	COSPPac Climatology Officer	Vanuatu	30 Jun 22
Teuila-Jane Fruean	COSSPac Technical and Finance Assistant	Samoa	30 Jun 22
Patrick Pringle	Climate Analytic Consultant (On Secondment from Climate Analytics)	UK	31 Jul 22
Ella Strachan	Climate Analytics Junior Research Associate (On Secondment from Climate Analytics)	Australia	31 Jan 22
Tile Tofaeono	Climate Prediction Services Coordinator	Samoa	31 Dec 22
Raymond Schuster	PPQA Project Technical Assistant	Samoa	31 Dec 22
Martin Sharp	Project Manager – GCCA+ Intra ACP Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience	Australia	7 Jan 22
Semi Qamese	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	Fiji	15 Mar 22
Laura Mitchell	PACRES Finance and Administration Officer	Samoa	24 Apr 22
Emma Arasi-Sua	PACRES Information and Knowledge Management Officer	Samoa	24 Nov 22
Sione Fulivai	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) Coordinator	Tonga	30 Jun 22
Fred Patison	Climate Change Finance Readiness Adviser	Solomon Is.	20 Sep 23
Vanda Faasoa-Chan Ting	Technical Adviser – Pacific Nationally Determined Contributions Hub	Samoa	30 Jun 22
Florette Tuuau-Tiperia	Finance and Administration Officer – Pacific Nationally Determined Contributions Hub	Samoa	30 Jun 22
Monifa Fiu	Impacts Analysis Adviser	Fiji	15 Mar 23
Dannicah Chan	GCCA+ Scaled Up Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (SUPA) Project, Finance and Administration Officer	Samoa	3 May 23
Gloria Roma	GCCA+ Scaled Up Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (SUPA) Project, Information and Research Officer	Samoa	12 Jul 23
Kayla Economou	Pacific MetDesk Partnership Intern (under Joint CROP SIS Attachment Programme)	Samoa	31 Dec 21
Masako Ogawa	Chief Advisor, Project for Capacity Building on Climate Resilience in the Pacific JICA	Japan	17 Jan 23
Yuji Ueno	Project Coordinator, Project for Capacity Building on Climate Resilience in the Pacific JICA	Japan	31 Dec 22
Christine Tuioti	Project Assistant, Project for Capacity Building on Climate Resilience in the Pacific JICA	Samoa	27 May 22
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND GOVERNANCE			
Faasipa Tinai	Environmental Monitoring and Governance Programme Assistant	Samoa	25 Aug 22
Gregory Barbara	Environmental Assessment and Planning Officer	Australia	14 Apr 24
Paul Anderson	Inform Project Manager	USA	31 Dec 22
Tavita Su'a	Environmental Information System Developer and Analyst	Samoa	31 Dec 22
Lagi Reupena	Inform Project, Environmental Data Officer	Samoa	31 Dec 22
Jonathan Porter	Inform Project, Finance and Administration Officer	Samoa	31 Dec 22
Vani Koroisamanunu	Environmental GIS Specialist, Inform Project	Fiji	31 Dec 22
Ivan Diarra	Pacific Network for Environmental Assessment – Technical Support Officer	Nigeria	31 Dec 22
Anastacia Amoa-Stowers	Multilateral Environmental Agreements Coordinator – ACPMEAs3 Project	Samoa	7 Mar 25
Flavia Vaai	Multilateral Environmental Agreements Coordinator – ACPMEAs3 Project	Samoa	14 Feb 25
ISLAND AND OCEAN ECOSYSTEMS			
Makerita Atiga	Island and Ocean Ecosystems Programme Assistant	Samoa	2 Aug 23
David Moverley	Invasive Species Adviser	New Zealand	30 Nov 24
Peter Davies	Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Adviser	Australia	26 Apr 22
Karen Baird	Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser	New Zealand	26 Apr 22
Unity Roebeck	Turtle Database and Conservation Officer	Samoa	1 Jun 22
Amanda Wheatley	Biodiversity Adviser	Australia	16 Dec 23
Juney Ward	Biodiversity Officer	Samoa	30 Jun 22
Vainuupo Jungblut	Protected Areas Officer	Samoa	31 May 23
Kasaqa Tora	Spatial Analyst Specialist – Protected Areas	Fiji	9 Aug 23

STAFF MEMBER	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	CONTRACT EXPIRY
TECHNICAL PROGRAMMES			
ISLAND AND OCEAN ECOSYSTEMS cont.			
Rahul Chand	ABS – Capacity Building Officer	Fiji	31 Dec 22
James Faiumu	ABS – Technical and Finance Officer	Samoa	31 Dec 22
Isabel Rasch	GEF 6 Regional Invasive Species Coordinator	Samoa	6 Jan 23
Jamie Davies	Project Manager – By-Catch and Intergrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) Project	UK	3 May 22
Rohit Prasad	BIEM, Finance and Administration Officer	Fiji	25 Aug 22
Bradley Myer	Project Manager – Regional Invasive Species Project	New Zealand	1 Jun 22
Josef Pisi	Invasive Species PRISMSS Associate	Samoa	17 Jun 22
Wayne Asera	Information Technology and Administration Officer, PRISMSS	Samoa	24 Jul 24
Jordan Schuster	Communications Officer, PRISMSS	Samoa	30 Jun 24
Jessica Kay	Capability Development Adviser, PRISMSS (On Secondment from the Department of Conservation, NZ)	New Zealand	30 Apr 22
Kennedy Kaneko	National Invasive Species Coordinator – RMI	RMI	4 Nov 22
Dominic Sadler	Invasive Species Component Manager	Switzerland	31 Jan 22
Mathilde Kraft	Project Development Coordinator	France	31 Mar 25
Nicolas Rocle	Marine Environment and Conservation Specialist (On Secondment from the Ministry of Ecological Transition, France)	France	18 Apr 23
William Young	Researcher, PRISMSS Resilient Ecosystems (PhD Student University of New Castle)	Fiji	31 Oct 24
Carrol Chan	Researcher, PRISMSS Natural Enemies (PhD Student University of New Castle)	Fiji	31 Dec 24
Siosina Katao	Researcher, PRISMSS Predator Free Pacific (PhD Student University of New Castle)	Tonga	31 Dec 24
WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL			
Davina Bartley-Tiitii	Waste Management and Pollution Control, Programme Assistant	Samoa	25 Mar 22
Joshua Sam	Hazardous Waste Management Adviser	PNG	15 Jul 22
Ngaira Ah Ching	Clean Pacific Roundtable (CPRT) Coordinator	Samoa	31 Mar 22
Susana Telakau	Solid Waste Management Adviser	Tuvalu	7 Nov 24
Bradley Nolan	Project Manager PacWastePlus	Australia	1 Sep 24
Sela Simamao	PacWaste Plus, Finance and Procurement Officer	Tonga	30 Jun 22
Crystal Schwenke	PacWaste Plus, Technical and Administration Officer	Samoa	14 Apr 22
Lance Richman	PacWaste Plus, Technical Waste Project Officer – Hazardous Waste	USA	28 Nov 22
Sainimili Bulai	PacWaste Plus, Technical Waste Project Officer – Solid Waste	Fiji	2 Nov 22
Hilary Boyes	PacWaste Plus, Technical Waste Project Officer – Resource Recovery	New Zealand	13 Jan 23
Nitish Narayan	PacWaste Plus, Communications Officer	Fiji	3 Aug 22
Vira Atalifo	PacWaste Plus, Regional Project Officer (Fiji)	Fiji	6 Oct 22
Michael Taiki	PacWaste Plus, Regional Project Officer (Vanuatu)	Vanuatu	22 Jan 23
Julie Pillet	Technical Waste Project Coordinator, Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific	France	31 Dec 23
Atitofaiga Tau	Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific, Project Support Officer	Samoa	16 Aug 23
Sascha Fuller	Pacific Node Coordinator (On Placement from University of Newcastle, Australia)	Australia	30 Apr 22
GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS			
Regional Office			
Kilom Ishiguro	Acting Manager/ Technical and Liaison Officer – North Pacific Office	RMI	31 Dec 22
Strategic Planning			
Rebecca Polestico	Monitoring and Evaluation Adviser	Philippines	1 Mar 24
Project Coordination Unit			
Melanie King	Manager, Project Coordination Unit	Australia	30 Jun 24
Rupeni Mario	Project Development Specialist – Climate Change Mitigation	Fiji	30 Jun 24
Vitolina Samu	Project Implementation Support Officer	Samoa	30 Jun 24
Information Technology			
Christian Slaven	IT Manager	Samoa	30 Nov 24
Eveli Tagi	IT Network and Systems Support Engineer	Fiji	30 Apr 23
Billy Chan Ting	Web Applications Developer Specialist	Samoa	30 Apr 23
Ainsof So'o	Systems Developer and Analyst	Samoa	31 Oct 22
Charlie Reed	IT Support Officer	Samoa	3 Feb 22
Knowledge Management			
Miraneta Williams-Hazelman	Knowledge Manager	Samoa	30 Nov 24
Lupe Silulu	Records and Archives Officer	Samoa	31 Dec 24
Ane Ah Poe	Knowledge Management Officer	Samoa	31 Dec 23
Aleluia Seiuli-Vaega	Records and Archives Assistant	Samoa	8 Mar 23
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT			
Veronica Levi	Financial Accountant	Samoa	10 Apr 22
Maraea Slade-Pogi	Procurement Officer	Samoa	5 Jan 23
Siniva Tuuau-Enosa	Project Accountant	Samoa	26 Jun 22
Alvin Sen	Project Accountant	Fiji	16 Jun 22
Rachel Levi	Accountant	Samoa	30 Jun 24
Hetta Fuimaono	Finance Officer	Samoa	19 Jun 22
Emmaflora Ah Tong	Finance Officer	Samoa	30 Sep 22
Pata Mase	Finance Officer – Projects	Samoa	15 Sep 22
Mercy Tausili	Finance Officer – Projects	Samoa	19 Sep 24
Monaicis Asiata	Finance Officer	Samoa	19 Sep 24
John Fetisone	Finance Officer	Samoa	19 Sep 24
Lawrence Warner	Property Services Officer	Samoa	4 Dec 24
Faamanatu Sititi	Driver/ Clerk	Samoa	5 Dec 23
Iosefa Tootoo	Cleaner/ Teaperson	Samoa	21 Jul 22
Cynthia Ah Loo	Cleaner/ Teaperson	Samoa	31 Dec 23
Ivoga Sefa	Cleaner/ Teaperson	Samoa	5 Jan 23
Tagiilima Enele	Groundsman	Samoa	12 May 23
Isaia Talaitau	Groundsman	Samoa	11 Sep 22
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT			
Luana Jamieson	Senior Human Resources Officer	Samoa	5 Jan 23
Marion Tuipulotu-Chan Chui	Human Resources Officer	Tonga	8 May 23
Sepasitiano Paulo	Human Resources Officer	Samoa	24 Nov 22
Roger Warren	Human Resources Officer	Samoa	7 Jun 23
Monica Tupai	Human Resources Assistant	Samoa	21 May 22

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing	IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
ADB	Asian Development Bank	JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
AFD	Agence Française de Développement	MC	Micronesia Challenge
APCC	APEC Climate Center	MEAs	Multilateral Environment Agreements
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation	MEIDECC	Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications
APCP	Australia-Pacific Climate Partnership	MNRE	Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
APOD	A Pattern of Whales and Dolphins	MPA	Marine Protected Area
BBNJ	Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction	NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
BIEM	By-catch and Integrated Management Initiative	NCOC	Niue Chamber of Commerce
BIOPAMA	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management	NEMS	National Environment Management Strategies
BMU	German Federal Ministry for the Environment Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.	NIP	National Implementation Plan
BoM	Australia Bureau of Meteorology	NIWA	New Zealand National Institution of Water and Atmospheric Research
CBCRP-PCCC	Project for Capacity Building on Climate Resilience in the Pacific through the Pacific Climate Change Centre Communications and Engagement Sub-Committee	NMHS	National Meteorological and Hydrological Services
CESSC	Communications and Engagement Sub-Committee	NOAA	United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CFLI	Canadian Funding for Local Initiatives	OACPS	Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States
CBD-COP	Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties	One CROP+	The grouping of agencies of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific, plus others
COP25	Twenty Fifth Conference of the Parties	OSM	Open Street Map
COP26	Twenty Sixth Conference of the Parties	PACRES	Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building Project
COP27	Twenty Sevenths Conference of the Parties	PacWastePlus	Pacific Waste Management Programme
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019	PALRC	Protected Area Learning Research Collaborative
CPRT	Clean Pacific Roundtable	PCB	Polychlorinated biphenyl
CREWS	Pacific SIDS Climate Risk Early Warning System	PCCC	Pacific Climate Change Centre
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific	PEBACC	Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organisation	PEUMP	Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership
DDT	Dichlorodipenyltrichloroethane	PIELA	Pacific Islands Environment Leadership Awards
DFAT	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	PICOF	Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum
DEPC	Vanuatu Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation	PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
DPSIR	Drivers, pressures, state, impact and response model of intervention	PIP	Performance Implementation Plan
EbA	Ecosystem-based adaptation	PIPAP	Pacific Islands Protected Areas Portal
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	PIRT	Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation
EMG	Environmental Monitoring and Governance	PLP-ESS	Pacific Learning Partnership for Environmental Sustainability
ENSO	El Niño Southern Oscillation	PNG	Papua New Guinea
EU	European Union	POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
EU ACPMEA2	European Unions Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environment Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries Phase II Project	POPCC	Pacific Ocean Pacific Climate Change
EU ACPMEA3	European Unions Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environment Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries Phase III Project	POLP	Pacific Ocean Litter Project
FOSS4G	Free and Open-Source Software for Geospatial	PPOA	Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia	PSIDS	Pacific Small Islands Developing States
FRDP	Framework for Resilience Development in the Pacific (2017–2030): An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management.	PRISMSS	Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Services Programme
GCCA+ SUPA	Global Climate Change Alliance+ Scaling-up Pacific Adaptation	SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
GEF	Global Environment Facility	SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
GEF6 RIP	Global Environment Facility 6 Regional Invasives Project	SIDS	Small Island Developing States
GFC NDA	Green Climate Fund National Designated Authority	SILO	Salon international du Livre océanien
GIS	Geographical Information Systems	SIMS	Solomon Islands Meteorological Services
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	SOEC	State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands
GPS	Global Positioning System	SotM	State of the Map
IAMSLIC	International Association Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers	SPC	Pacific Community
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
IKI	International Climate Initiative	SWAP	Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific
ILBI	Internationally Legally Binding Instrument	TREDS	Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System
IOE	Island and Ocean Ecosystems	UN	United Nations
ISLANDS	Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
		UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
		UNFCCC COP25	Twenty-fifth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
		UNFCCC COP26	Twenty-sixth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
		UNFCCC COP27	Twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
		UNICEF	United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
		USP	University of the South Pacific
		Van-KIRAP	Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen blong Redy, Adapt mo Protekt
		WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
		WMO	World Meteorological Organization
		WMPC	Waste Management and Pollution Control
		WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature



Our Region

The Pacific is the world's largest ocean, covering nearly a third of the Earth's surface. About 30,000 islands of varied shapes and sizes lie across its vast expanse. The Pacific island Members of SPREP 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

SPREP also has five metropolitan Members:

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





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