

CIRCULAR

FILE: HR 17 – Circulars
DATE: 3 May 2022
CIRCULAR: 22/39
SUBJECT: **Introducing the following:**

TO: SPREP National Focal Points
CROP Organisations
SPREP Partner Organisations

SPREP is pleased to announce the following appointments within the Secretariat:

CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE PROGRAMME



Mr. Naheed Hussein has been appointed **Project Manager of the Intra-African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Climate Services and related Applications (ClimSA) Project**. Mr. Hussein is a Fiji national and holds a Master of Business Administration from the Atlantic International University, United States of America, and a Postgraduate Certificate in Business Management (Accounting) from the University of Southern Queensland, Australia. He re-joins SPREP from the Pacific Community (SPC) where he has held a number of roles since 2017

and most recently as the Team Leader for Safe Agricultural Trade Facilitation through Economic Integration in the Pacific (Land Resources Division). Before joining SPC, Mr. Hussein worked under the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project at SPREP. He started work remotely on 2 May 2022 until such a time when he can relocate safely with his family to Apia.

The overall goal of ClimSA is to support the climate information services value chain with technical and financial assistance, infrastructure and capacity building which will result in improved understanding and use of climate information in planning and decision making across the 14 Pacific ACP States including their respective Disaster Risk Reduction and Agriculture sectors. The project is implemented within the framework of an existing Financing Agreement between the Organisation of ACP States Secretariat and the European Union. In his role, Mr. Hussein will lead the project team and delivery of the Intra-ACP ClimSA Project.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL (WMPC) PROGRAMME



Ms. Susana Telakau started work as the **Solid Waste Management Adviser** with the WMPC Programme in November 2021. Ms. Telakau is a national of Tuvalu and joined SPREP from Tuvalu's Ministry of Public Works, Infrastructure, Environment, Labour, Meteorology and Disaster where she was the Assistant Secretary. She is a graduate of the University of the South Pacific with a Bachelor and Postgraduate Diploma in Arts. Ms. Telakau is currently on remote work until such a time when she can relocate safely with her family to

Apia.

In her role, Ms. Telakau leads the Solid Waste Management Team of the WMPC Programme and provides strategic, policy and technical advice, support and assistance to SPREP Members on solid waste management issues, programmes and projects.



Mr. Paul Irving, a New Zealand (NZ) national, has been appointed **Marine Pollution Project Officer (MPO) of the PACPLAN Project**. Mr. Irving holds a Master of Science in Natural Resources Management from the University of Canterbury and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Auckland, NZ. He joins SPREP from the Australian Maritime Safety where he has been the Senior Adviser, Science and Technical Response Group for over 10 years. Mr. Irving started work remotely on 15 March 2022 until such a time when he can relocate safely to

Apia.

PACPLAN is a regional mechanism that provides the framework for co-operative regional responses to major marine spills in the Pacific Islands region and provides guidance on the roles and responsibilities of relevant organisations, regional linkages, and mechanisms for accessing regional and international assistance for pollution incidents. The project will focus on assisting Australia's six PACPLAN primary response countries (Nauru, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Kiribati) to fully implement the oil spill response mechanism. In his role, Mr. Irving will provide technical advice to the PACPLAN Project and participating Countries as well as implement agreed PACPLAN project activities and deliverables.



Mr. Edward Nicholas is the new **Project Manager, Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island Developing States (ISLANDS) Pacific Child Project**. Mr. Nicholas is a Papua New Guinea national and holds a Bachelor of Science in Applied Chemistry from the PNG University of Technology. He joins SPREP from the EnviroMin Management Services Limited where he has been the Principal Consultant in the Social Performance and Environment Services Division for the past six years. He brings to SPREP over 20

years of environmental project management work experience including areas relating to chemicals management, solid waste management and pollution control. Mr. Nicholas started work remotely on 30 March until such a time when he and his family can relocate safely to Apia.

The Global Environment Facility has recognised the challenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and is supporting the ISLANDS Programme with a five year global initiative to manage the growing impacts of chemicals and waste in 30 SIDS including 14 SPREP's members. ISLANDS will have a Child Project for each of the SIDS with the overall objective of the Pacific Child Project to assist countries move into a safe chemical development pathway. In his role, Mr. Nicholas will lead the ISLANDS Pacific Child project and project team to implement the suite of activities that achieves project outcomes and results.



Mr. Andrea Volentras has been appointed **Project Manager of the Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP)**. Mr. Volentras is a Samoan national and holds a Master of International Law from the Australian National University and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in International Relations from Victoria University in Wellington, NZ. He is no stranger to SPREP having held various positions with the Secretariat over the past years including: Legal Counsel (1998-2003); Climate Change Coordinator (2003-2005) and as the Pacific Climate Change

Resilience, Project Manager (2013-2017). Mr. Volentras re-joins SPREP with extensive programme and project management experience in the region having worked with the Pacific Community and most recently from the Leung Wai Law Firm where he was an associate Barrister, Solicitor and Consultant. He started in his role on 25 April 2022.

The POLP aims to build the capacity of SPREP and Pacific Island countries to plan and successfully implement measures to reduce single-use plastics by providing assistance to achieve a number of

agreed outcomes. In his role, Mr. Volentras will lead the POLP and project team to implement the suite of activities that achieves project outcomes and results.

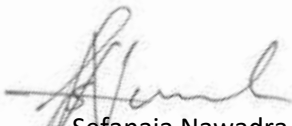
We look forward to working with our new team members to increase and strengthen the relevant support and services to the region.

We would also like to acknowledge the following individuals' services and contributions to SPREP and the region as their contracts have since come to an end and as they pursue other career and professional developments, in particular the last Director General for SPREP, Mr Kosi Latu, who completed his term on 3rd April 2022:

1. Mr. Peter McDonald - *Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Specialist*
2. Ms. Kayla Economou - *Pacific Met Desk Partnership Intern* as part of the joint CROP SIS Attachment Programme
3. Dr. Martin Sharp – *Project Manager, Intra-ACP Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building*
4. Ms. Vira Atalifo – *PacWaste Plus Regional Project Officer - Fiji*
5. Ms. Ella Strachan - work attachment as the *Climate Analytics Junior Research Associate*
6. Mr. Iosefa Tootoo – *Cleaner/Teaperson*
7. Ms. Atitoafaiga Tau – *Project Support Officer, Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific Project*

To meet our full team at SPREP please visit <https://www.sprep.org/our-team>.

Yours sincerely,



Sefanaia Nawadra
Director General