

December 4, 2023, 9:00-9:50 am Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion UAE COP28

SIDE EVENT

CONNECTING CLIMATE MITIGATION TO DEPOLLUTING OCEANS THROUGH CONCRETE SOLUTIONS IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS



Moderator:

Dr. Carolyn Deere Birkbeck, Director of the Forum on Trade, Environment, and the SDGs (TESS)

Keynote address:

Hon Prime Minister Mark Brown, the Cook Islands (tbc)

Panelists:

Mr Rolph Payet, the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

Mr Sefanaia Nawadra, Director-General, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Ms Leticia Carvalho, Head of Marine and Freshwater Branch, Ecosystems Division and the SIDS Focal Point, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Ms Ellysar Baroudy, Lead natural resources specialist, World Bank (WB)

Ms Jewel Batchasingh, Director, the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean

Mr Joao Sousa, Senior Programme Manager, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Marine plastic pollution is a global environmental threat. In the Pacific region, which is hard-hit by climate related disasters, marine plastic pollution magnifies climate impacts.

Plastic pollution causes environmental disruption: pollution of soil and water systems, emission of methane gas from landfills, thinning of ozone layer, negative impact on marine environments.

There are exciting initiatives in Pacific Islands to reduce marine pollution, such as the SPREP Moana Taka Partnership providing a regional opportunity to export hazardous wastes for environmentally sound management and disposal elsewhere. Join us to learn more about these initiatives and their role in tackling the plastic waste crisis, climate change and promoting healthy oceans and biodiversity!