



**SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SPREP)**

1999 ANNUAL REPORT



SPREP member countries

American Samoa
Australia
Cook Islands
Federated States of Micronesia
Fiji
France
French Polynesia
Guam
Kiribati
Republic of the Marshall Islands
Nauru
New Caledonia
New Zealand
Niue
Northern Mariana Islands
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Pitcairn
Samoa
Solomon Islands
Tokelau
Tonga
Tuvalu
United States of America
Vanuatu
Wallis and Futuna

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Foreword



1999 has proven to be another important year for SPREP. As the curtain comes down on the twentieth century we watch the dawning of the new millennium, and wonder what it may hold for the Pacific's environment.

This year, SPREP has reached another stage in its growth. We have increased our involvement on the international stage through the advice and support provided to our Pacific member governments and territories. This involvement has created greater awareness amongst the developed countries of the world about the plight facing Pacific nations and their people. We in the Pacific will be the first to feel the effects of global warming, climate change and sea-level rise; we have more threatened and endangered species per head of population than anywhere else in the world; we are extremely vulnerable to transboundary movements of hazardous wastes, and with an increasing population growth, we are finding that solid waste management will be a key concern for the region in the future.

However, as Pacific islanders we have also been advocates of solutions, and have always been quick to suggest and provide directions for consensus in resolving contentious global issues. In such instances SPREP members provided a Pacific Statement on Climate Change which paints the picture of reality, the direction for a better future, and our willingness to be partners of change. This was presented to the Fifth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bonn, this year. On the practical side, the SPREP initiated post-graduate course, now run by the University of the South Pacific, is the first serious attempt to establish specific details of how island countries might be affected by climate change, and what sort of actions they might need to take in future to deal with the adverse effects.

This is basically the approach SPREP has applied in implementing its work.

In the area of biodiversity and natural resources the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP) has set up 17 Conservation Areas in 12 countries and territories covering about 1.5 million hectares on land and sea. The SPBCP is now in the process of setting up a Trust Fund to provide long-term funding support for conservation activities as the programme winds down its activities by 2001.

The *Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region 1999-2002* also came into effect during the year. It identifies the most critical issues in nature conservation facing the region and suggests the most urgent actions required at the local, national and international levels.

In spreading the conservation message to all levels of the community we have taken a bottom up approach by focusing our educational training programmes on Pacific islands children. Although environmental education and training is yet to be formally included into school curricula in the region, we had this year staged a series of workshops for primary school teachers to encourage a holistic approach to the subject, and in the hope of nurturing tomorrow's generation of environmental citizens. This and other activities are aligned to the *Action Strategy for Education and Training in the Pacific Region 1999-2003*. We hope to create an Environmental Education Network so the skills and knowledge being shared can be duplicated and transferred more easily through the school systems.

Building national capacity underpins all of SPREP's work. To provide us with an objective view of how to better deliver and target our training activities, we conducted a training needs assessment to clearly identify Members' training and capacity building needs. This will help provide a better platform for our training activities in the new millennium. To boost this area of work further, in October this year, SPREP became



the first regional organisation to forge a partnership with the US Peace Corps, under the Peace Corps' Pacific Initiative programme. The Peace Corps volunteers will help serve as environmental educators, community organisers and trainers. Such partnerships are important as capacity building will help Pacific islands people acquire and raise their skills to look after their own environment by combining modern techniques and adapting or modifying traditional practices.

Perhaps the most critical environmental issue on the horizon is waste management and pollution prevention. Many of us living on these islands are finding the increasing amount of hazardous chemicals and solid waste becoming a real concern especially, when coupled with an increasing population. Already anecdotal evidence suggests that the Pacific Islands have turned out more waste in the last 50 years than in the previous 150 years as our lifestyles become more consumer driven.

With hazardous wastes a dozen toxic chemicals have been identified as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) i.e chemicals that do not break down readily in the environment. SPREP has already given its support to the development of a United Nations Convention calling for the control of such materials, while continuing to encourage our own Members to become Party to the Waigani Convention, a regional agreement which deals with transport, transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous materials.

For too long and too often, environmental information is not accorded the importance it deserves. To promote the issue of waste, two SPREP programmes (the EU funded Waste programme and the UNESCO/SPREP Pacific Environment Information Network—PEIN project) collaborated to bring this message to five Members this year.

These two programmes should help increase the flow of information to the public, and

help policy and decision-makers to make informed decisions regarding the environment.

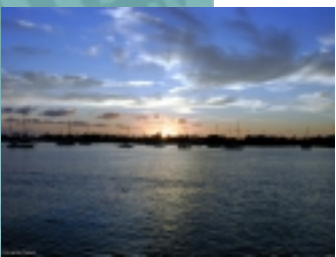
Closer to home, the Government of Samoa and SPREP are host to the World Meteorological Organization's Sub-regional Office for the South West Pacific. The office, located in the SPREP Secretariat, allows closer contact between Pacific island members and WMO. Earlier this year SPREP, WMO and the Bureau of Meteorology in Australia produced the *Strategic Action Plan for the Development of Meteorology in the Pacific 2000-2009*. The vision is to bring on line skilled and fully trained technical and support personnel, who are able to provide the full range of services required from meteorological offices throughout the region.

Finally, on 29 June, work officially started on the construction of our new offices in Vailima. We look forward to moving in mid-way through the new year, after eight years of living in our increasingly crowded temporary home in Vaitele. We sincerely thank the Headquarters Task Force, the donors and the Government of Samoa for making the new SPREP Centre a reality.

As we countdown the last moments of the century we find ourselves in a position of becoming potential victims of our own technological empowerment. But there could hardly be a better way to close out this watershed year than to have the international community putting aside their differences and facing up and finding solutions to the environmental challenges inherited from the 20th century. Through this collective action, perhaps we will also find the answer to help preserve and enhance our environment for our future generations.

Tamari'i Tutangata
Director

Introduction



Top: Samoa PM Tofilau Eti Alesana signs the SPREP Treaty in Apia, in 1993.

Middle top: The last sunrise of the new millennium as seen at Apia Harbour, Samoa, on 31 December 1999.

Middle bottom: Pristine mangrove setting in the Saanapu/Sataoa Conservation Area, Samoa.

Bottom: Media training focusing on Solid Waste Management in Majuro, Marshall Islands.

What is SPREP?

The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme is the intergovernmental organisation charged with promoting cooperation and supporting protection and improvement of the Pacific islands environment and ensuring its sustainable development.

Its members are the Governments and Administrations of 22 Pacific island countries and four developed countries with direct interests in the Pacific islands region.

SPREP's activities are guided by its Action Plan, which is agreed by SPREP member countries. Their vision is that SPREP should work towards achieving a community of Pacific island countries and territories with the capacity and commitment to implement programmes for environmental management and conservation.

A short history

SPREP's evolution as the environmental vanguard for the region was the result of the vision and foresight by a number of Pacific island governments together with a number of environmental groups around the world.

The initial call for a Pacific island environmental organisation first came in 1969 at a World Conservation Union Conference in Noumea, New Caledonia.

Over the next decade, international support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), together with Pacific regional organisations: the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (then known as the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Cooperation), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (formerly the South Pacific Commission), helped the momentum to snowball.

In March 1982, the Ministerial-level Conference on the Human Environment in the South Pacific, held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, led to a formalised agreement from which SPREP officially came into being as a programme hosted by the SPC in Noumea, New Caledonia.

In January 1992 the organisation moved from New Caledonia to Apia, Samoa. SPREP expects to move into its new and permanent headquarters just outside the Samoan capital of Apia by August 2000.

SPREP's mandate

To promote cooperation and to provide assistance in order to protect and improve the Pacific islands environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations.

Programme Areas

SPREP's work falls into the areas of:

- 1 Biodiversity and Natural Resource Conservation
- 2 Climate Change and Integrated Coastal Management
- 3 Waste Management, Pollution Prevention and Emergencies
- 4 Environmental Management, Planning and Institutional Strengthening
- 5 Environmental Education, Information and Training

SPREP's Approach

SPREP recognises the interdependence of environmental issues both within the region and with other regions of the world.

- SPREP encourages cooperation with other organisations to assist Pacific island member countries and territories in developing appropriate programmes, policies and information to solve common problems.
- SPREP actively participates in efforts to protect the global environment.

- SPREP works through governments, existing institutions and expertise in the region and in cooperation with appropriate regional bodies and mechanisms, to promote coordination and remove duplication of effort.
- SPREP aims to build national capacity in environmental management at all levels and in all sectors.
- SPREP promotes community involvement in cooperative natural resource management that strengthens local resource ownership rights and uses traditional practises that promote conservation and sustainable development.
- SPREP aims to improve the quality and flow of information, including the appropriate sharing of traditional knowledge, on which environmental decisions and policies are based.
- SPREP encourages the involvement of, and partnerships with, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the implementation of its activities.
- SPREP promotes the use of environmental education and training as primary capacity building tools across the range of its activities.

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Biodiversity and Natural Resource Conservation



Resource Conservation

Pacific island people rely on biological resources to meet their traditional needs and, increasingly, for generating cash income. Rising material expectations and, in many cases, increasing populations are placing considerable pressure on the limited land and coastal marine ecosystems, and the biodiversity they contain. The biodiversity of Pacific islands is characterised by high levels of species diversity and endemism and is among the most threatened in the world. Poor natural resource management and poorly planned or executed development activities are depleting and compromising this natural resource base.

Human capacity and financial resources to effectively tackle these issues remain very limited.

The successful protection and management of natural resources will depend on the involvement and active support of all stakeholders, especially local communi-

ties. Building partnerships and capacities for community-based conservation areas and for species conservation initiatives that can meet the realistic economic and cultural needs of Pacific island communities is a key challenge. Models of successful conservation areas are urgently required.

Implementation of international and regional agreements and action programmes is also an issue of growing concern to Pacific island nations. This includes the protection of intellectual property rights and genetic resources, coral reef and wetlands degradation, endangered species trade, biosafety and problems caused by invasive species. Responding to new issues and threats will require flexibility and innovation. Conserving natural resources without losing the products and services that can be developed and produced sustainably remains the central challenge for all people, communities, countries and territories in the Pacific island region.



Funafuti Conservation Officer teaching young children about the biodiversity of the area



1999 Main Achievements

- Completion of community-based resource management planning and training for all Conservation Area Support Officers (CASOs) and some project managers as part of the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP).
- Growing acceptance among conservation area (CA) representatives of the need to move toward a more systematic and practical management approach to resource conservation that combines the best of sustainable traditional practices and science-based prescriptions.
- New project support from Canada for the Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme.
- Produced a draft Regional Invasive Species Strategy for the Pacific Islands. Also compiled a technical review of invasive species which has been summarised in a non-technical paper for use across the region.
- Produced a report recommending biological indicators and monitoring methods to be used in the Pacific for measuring the impact of conservation interventions at the site level. If accepted, harmonisation among the different organisations will allow comparison of results between different sites managed by different organisations.
- Completed two train-the-trainer Community-based Marine Protected Area Workshops for the subregions of Micronesia (held in Palau) and Polynesia (held in Tahiti) as responses to actions identified in the Activity Plan for the Conservation of Coral Reefs in the Pacific region and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Pacific Regional Strategy.
- Coordination of members' participation in mangrove and wetland conservation and management. A Seagrass factsheet and a motivational mangrove awareness video produced as resource materials for awareness raising.

Regional Activities



Regional workshop on community-based resources management

The workshop focused on strengthening capacity in the use of planning tools and information gathering methods for participatory and community-based planning, as well as in the processes for planning with communities. Participants were introduced to an idealised community-based planning model and a version that was refined and applied in the development of one conservation area in Uafato, Samoa. Participants involved came from the Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu.

Roundtable on Nature Conservation

40 participants from 26 regional organisations and donors focused their attention on addressing critical gaps in regional conservation activities. The areas of concern included establishing a support network for the growing number of community-based conservation areas; building partnerships with the private sector; advancing a regional conservation trust fund; and “mainstreaming” nature conservation into island economic development processes at all levels.

CASO/CACC project management training workshop for SPBCP supported conservation areas

The workshop provided participants, Conservation Area Support Officers and Conservation Area Coordinating Committees (CACCs), with the necessary skills and knowledge to help communities and small operators understand the concepts and issues of conservation enterprises, and develop successful income-generating activities that are based on their natural resources. Funded by the SPBCP, participants came from: Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu.

Sub-regional workshop on community-based marine protected areas

Micronesia and Polynesia workshops were held separately in Palau and Tahiti. The workshops provided extension officers from both government and NGOs with tools to facilitate better coordination of services and activities to communities in terms of using Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as a conservation tool. Participating countries included: (Micronesia) Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, and Palau. (Polynesia): American Samoa, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Niue, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Wallis and Futuna. Donors were the governments of the USA (Department of State) and Canada (C-SPODP II)

Polynesian avifauna conservation workshop

The workshop was held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands to determine how best to implement the Regional Avifauna Conservation Strategy and Programme. The workshop successfully identified priorities in a proceedings document which has been circulated widely and is being used to attract more funds for in-country projects. Similar workshops will be held in Melanesia and Micronesia in 2000. The workshop was funded by NZODA and BirdLife International.

Workshop to create a Regional Strategy

A regional workshop was held to agree on a strategy for dealing with the threats posed by invasive species to give strategic directions for setting priorities for in-country projects. The workshop was principally funded by AusAID with a small top-up from



Top: Cover of Mangrove video. Produced to raise awareness of the benefits and the dangers facing the ecosystem

Middle: Pacific marine resources

Bottom: The endangered Kakerori. It is now thriving under the Kakerori Protection Programme in the Takitumu Conservation Area, Cook Islands

the United States of America. A draft strategy was produced which has formed the basis of planning in-country implementation projects now underway and is also used for bidding for further funds. Delegates from American Samoa, Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, French Polynesia, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu participated at the workshop.

In-Country Activities



Cook Islands

- Community meetings were held by the SPBCP to develop transition strategies for the Takitumu Conservation Area (CA) once project funding runs out in 2001.
- Provided assistance with the production of Takitumu newsletter (*TCA News*).
- Ecotourism infrastructure was developed, and internet marketing tools of the Takitumu CA developed.
- Continued assistance provided to in-country bird recovery programmes.

Federated States of Micronesia

- Community meetings for developing transition strategies once SPBCP project funding runs out in 2001, were conducted for the Kosrae CA and Pohnpei CA.
- Environmental impact assessment of Kosrae eco-tourism development and product assessment were completed.
- Environmental training workshop and two coral reef monitoring clinics were conducted during the year.

Fiji

- Community meetings were instigated by SPBCP to develop transition strategies once project funding runs out in 2001 for the Koroyanitu CA.
- Resource survey of CA conducted.
- Assistance provided to the production of the CA brochure, and a tour guide training programme.
- Improvement of ecotourism facilities at the Koroyanitu CA.
- Provided technical advice to development of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

French Polynesia

- In-country bird recovery programmes initiated.

Kiribati

- North Tarawa and Kiritimati CAs developed.
- Finalised Management Plan for Kiritimati CA including bird survey.

Marshall Islands

- Established the Jaluit CA and instigated community meetings to develop transition strategies once SPBCP funding runs out in 2001.
- Conducted community meetings on CA development and possible replication of CA concept on other islands of the group.

Niue

- Continued assistance provided to the Hakupu CA.
- Monitoring of coconut crab population exercise undertaken and is ongoing.
- Hakupu CA evaluation was carried out and an in-country visit by SPBCP staff to gauge effectiveness of projects implemented in the CA took place.



Top: SPBCP coordinated meeting with villagers in Fiji focusing on the aspect of traditional resource management

Middle: Well worth preserving, the Saanapu/Sataoa CA, Samoa

Bottom: Training in open water SCUBA Diving Certificate with Foua Toloa at the Funafuti CA, Tuvalu



Top: Foraging pigs are a major problem to projects in the Uafato CA, Samoa

Bottom: Field visit to the community of Sara village, in Vanuatu during a “skills development in ecotourism planning and management workshop” facilitated by SPBCP

Below: Montage of Conservation Areas managed by SPBCP

- Installation of a coconut oil production process that uses direct micro-expelling techniques to obtain oil. This is being trialled to gauge its income generating potential.

Palau

- Rock Islands CA Management Plan developed.
- CA biodiversity database set up.
- Community meetings instigated by SPBCP to develop transition strategies for Rock Islands CA once project funding runs out in 2001.
- Rock Islands tourism and Ngaremeduu ecotourism developed.

Papua New Guinea

- Cloudy Bay CA Management Plan development underway.

Samoa

- **Uafato CA:** development and trialling of CA biological indicators; a pig fencing project and marine resource baseline survey; construction of a CA resource centre (completed and is now in operation); evaluation conducted on the projects implemented and status of the CA; community meetings instigated by SPBCP to develop transition strategies once project funding runs out in 2001; and a bee-keeping pilot study for trial were carried out.
- **Saanapu/Sataoa CA:** community meetings instigated by SPBCP for developing transition strategies once project funding runs out in 2001; a development plan for ecotourism conducted; and evaluation carried out of the projects implemented and status of the CA.

Solomon Islands

- Continued assistance provided to the Komarindi and Arnavon CAs.
- Arnavon CA boundary defined and community meetings held for developing transition strategies once SPBCP project funding runs out in 2001.

Tonga

- Continued assistance provided to the Ha’apai CA and development of CA signage.

Tuvalu

- Marine Resource Monitoring survey and a bird survey of the Funafuti CA conducted.
- Community meetings conducted in Funafuti for developing transition strategies once SPBCP project funding runs out in 2001.
- Geographical Information System (GIS) Coastal Training Workshop conducted.
- Support provided to the Pandanus Conservation Coastal project.

Vanuatu

- Continued assistance to the Vatthe CA.
- Community meetings instigated by SPBCP to help develop transition strategies for when project funding runs out in 2001.



Climate Change and Integrated Coastal Management



The majority of Pacific peoples live in low-lying coastal areas that are vulnerable to sea-level rise and the adverse effects of climate change. The increased frequency and intensity of storms and cyclones combined with even minor increases in sea level may, at worst, threaten the very existence of countries and, at best, be a significant impediment to sustainable development.



At SPREP, Mr Eisa Al Majed and Mr Henry Taiki (right) of WMO's Sub-regional Office for the South West Pacific

In recent years, considerable effort has been made to raise awareness of climate change, monitor research development, develop methodologies for vulnerability assessment, monitor sea-level rise and strengthen national capacity to understand the science, impacts and responses to climate change and sea-level rise. This has involved environment officials, planners, meteorologists and the general public. Pacific island countries and territories have also been closely associated with international efforts to address climate change. Reflecting this concern, most SPREP

members have ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); and through SPREP's Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP), Pacific countries presented their Initial National Communications to the UNFCCC Secretariat during the Fifth Conference of the Parties held in Bonn, 1999. A unified Pacific Statement on Climate Change signed by the Chair of the South Pacific Forum was also published by SPREP in October 1999.

Integrated coastal management (ICM) has been promoted as a means of managing a range of human activities and natural processes which affect coastal systems, including climate change and sea-level rise. The development of national capacity to avoid or mitigate coastal degradation and to develop and implement adaptation strategies will therefore rely greatly upon the development and implementation of ICM approaches relevant to Pacific islands.



1999 Main Achievements

- Establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Sub-regional Office for the South West Pacific within the SPREP Secretariat.
- Strengthening arrangements for support to the Directors of the Regional Meteorological Services and successful development of a 10 year Strategic Action Plan for Meteorological Development in the Pacific (2000—2009).
- Transfer of Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) training programme for PICs to the University of the South Pacific (USP).
- Completion of greenhouse gas inventories; mitigation analysis; Vulnerability and Adaptation assessments; and Initial National Communications for Pacific nations to the UNFCCC.
- Strengthened support to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations.
- Ongoing support to PICs in association with the United States Department of Energy (US DoE) Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM) programme;
- Closer and more transparent links to the National Tidal Facility in the implementation of the South Pacific Sea Level Rise and Climate Monitoring Project.
- Development and inclusion of climate material into school curricula in the Pacific.

Regional Activities



Assistance for nominated government officials to attend training at National Tidal Facility (NTF), Flinders University, South Australia

Training involved interpretation and analysis of sea level and climate variability data from the Pacific Forum countries for policy developments in participants home countries. Countries involved: Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Regional training on vulnerability and adaptation

Funded through PICCAP, participants from the following countries attended training at USP, Suva: Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Regional synthesis of vulnerability and adaptation, and greenhouse gases

Data and reports completed by the following countries: Cook Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Regional mitigation analysis

The following countries: Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, were involved in an analysis to mitigate climate change as part of PICCAP. The same countries later participated in a regional meeting where they endorsed the findings of the study.

Coordinated a regional meeting and training on Pacific Islands Climate Change Impact Assessment Model (PACCLIM)

Attendance by the following countries was funded through PICCAP, the World Bank and the Asia Pacific Network (APN) to the PACCLIM workshop in Auckland, New Zealand: Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Assistance for attendance of officials to the Fifth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC

Attendance by the following countries was funded through PICCAP to participate in COP5 of the UNFCCC: Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu.

Coordinated meetings for climate information, predictions and services/ Sixth SPREP Meeting of Regional Directors of Meteorological Services

The following countries participated in the above two meetings in Tahiti, French Polynesia: American Samoa, Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Regional meeting on national communications to the UNFCCC

Attendance by the following countries funded through PICCAP: Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Delegates from Niue and PNG also attended the workshop with funding from their national governments.



Top: Artwork developed by PICCAP depicting a Pacific perspective of climate change

Middle: Mr Gerald Miles representing SPREP during a visit to the National Tidal Facility in South Australia

Bottom: Burning wood for fuel one of the major contributors of greenhouse gas emissions



Website developed at SPREP and NTF for climate change information

Website development including information and activities on climate change, variability and sea level rise from the following countries: American Samoa, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Northern Mariana, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna.

In-Country Activities



American Samoa

- Provided technical assistance to the Disaster Awareness Week through SPREP's Meteorological Programme.

Cook Islands

- Daily measurement of sea-level rise.
- Requirements to the UNFCCC were completed through PICCAP as follows: greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory; Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) assessment; National Communications submitted to the UNFCCC; and the National Implementation Strategies (NIS) workplan and framework.

Federated States of Micronesia

- Tide gauge set-up installed for the first time to measure sea-level changes by the National Tidal Facility (NTF) Flinders University of South Australia.
- Requirements to the UNFCCC were completed through PICCAP as follows: greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory; Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) assessment; National Communications submitted to the UNFCCC; and the National Implementation Strategies (NIS) workplan and framework.



Fiji

- Daily measurement of sea-level rise at Lautoka and Suva.
- Requirements to the UNFCCC were completed through PICCAP as follows: greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory; Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) assessment; National Communications submitted to the UNFCCC; and the National Implementation Strategies (NIS) workplan and framework.

Kiribati

- Daily monitoring of sea-level changes.
- Requirements to the UNFCCC were completed through PICCAP as follows: greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory; Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) assessment; National Communications submitted to the UNFCCC; and the National Implementation Strategies (NIS) workplan and framework.

Marshall Islands

- Daily monitoring of sea level changes.
- Requirements to the UNFCCC were completed through PICCAP as follows: greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory; Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) assessment; National Communications submitted to the UNFCCC; and the National Implementation Strategies (NIS) workplan and framework.

Top: Mr Gerald Miles and Dr Scherer, Director of NTF fronting up to the Samoa media

Middle: Mr Wayne King highlighting critical concerns for Pacific nations on the issue of climate change

Bottom: Nauru wharf, location of one of the 11 tide gauges installed in the region by the South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project



Palau



Niue



Kiribati



Samoa



Marshall Islands

The small island nations of the Pacific, extremely vulnerable to the effects of global warming especially sea-level rise

Nauru

- Continuous measurement of climate change and sea-level rise at Nauru wharf. Tested the climate change and sea-level rise curriculum modules with teachers.
- Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM) project visit and provided technical support to the Nauru '99 ARM Campaign.
- Requirements to the UNFCCC were completed through PICCAP as follows: greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory; Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) assessment; National Communications submitted to the UNFCCC; and the National Implementation Strategies (NIS) workplan and framework.

Niue

- Produced a report (submitted to government) on climate change, coastal management and population migration in Niue.
- Technical support and training provided through PICCAP on GHG inventory work and on climate change and adaptation.

Papua New Guinea

- Daily measurement of sea-level changes; tested climate change and sea level rise curriculum modules with teachers.
- ARM project visit and review of PNG national weather service; steering committee meeting for EU Cyclone Warning System upgrade and review.
- Technical support and training provided through PICCAP on GHG inventory work and on climate change and adaptation.

Samoa

- Daily measurement of climate change and sea-level rise at Apia wharf.
- Requirements to the UNFCCC were completed through PICCAP as follows: greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory; Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) assessment; National Communications submitted to the UNFCCC; and the National Implementation Strategies (NIS) workplan and framework.

Solomon Islands

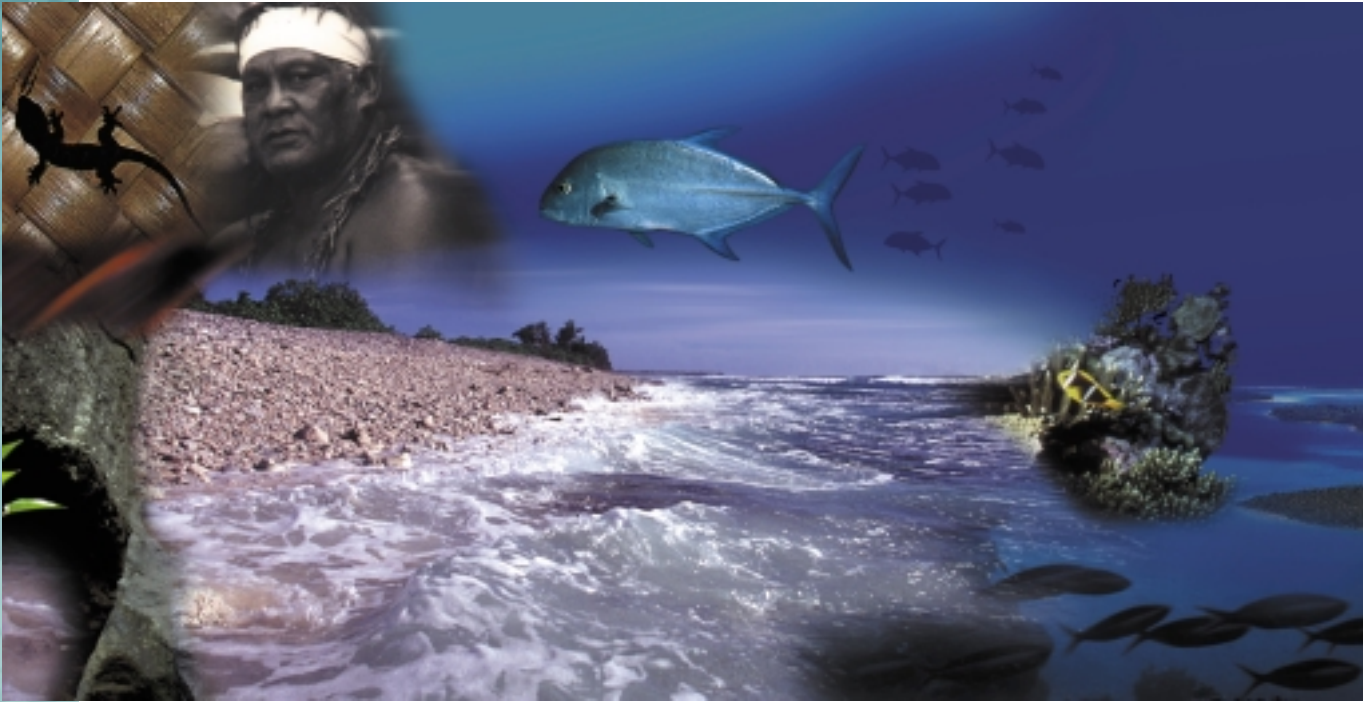
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Tuvalu

- Daily monitoring of climate change and sea-level rise at Funafuti wharf.
- Produced and distributed books on climate change and sea-level rise to schools.
- Requirements to the UNFCCC were completed through PICCAP as follows: greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory; Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) assessment; National Communications submitted to the UNFCCC; and the National Implementation Strategies (NIS) workplan and framework.

Vanuatu

- Daily measurement of sea-level changes.
- Requirements to the UNFCCC were completed through PICCAP as follows: greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory; Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) assessment; National Communications submitted to the UNFCCC; and the National Implementation Strategies (NIS) workplan and framework.



Waste Management, Pollution Prevention and Emergencies



Top: The problem of solid waste management in the region (Photo by John Morrison)

Bottom: PACPOL—A Pacific solution to marine pollution

All Pacific island countries share the problems of waste disposal and pollution prevention. Increasing populations, particularly in urban centres, combined with limited land area and efforts to stimulate economic growth are exacerbating these problems. Disposal of solid waste is a particular problem in very small islands where there is no room or infrastructure for their disposal. Even in the larger islands, recycling is often not economical and most disposal is done through landfill.

A range of liquid wastes pollute fresh water systems, enclosed coastal waters, aquifers and groundwater lenses in this region. Human sewage disposal also poses risks to human health and inshore fisheries. Management of toxic substances, such as pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), waste oil and heavy metals, their transboundary movement, as well as pollution from ships, is a concern to the region. The lack of trained staff, infrastructure and legislation to deal with these problems is a significant constraint to sustainable development.

In the last five years the region has developed a comprehensive South Pacific Regional Pollution Prevention, Waste Mini-

mization and Management Programme and a *Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Waste and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Waste within the South Pacific Region* (Waigani Convention).

In 1998, the Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL) was endorsed by SPREP member countries to minimise and mitigate marine pollution from ship-based sources. Significant progress has also been made to address Chapters 17 to 22 of Agenda 21 and the international community has adopted a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. Consistent with these programmes of action, and to effectively build capacity to manage wastes, prevent pollution and improve preparedness for emergencies, it will be necessary to integrate activities across land and water, coasts and oceans. These activities will include the application of ICM approaches, improving understanding of the waste stream, waste education and awareness campaigns, and the demonstration of viable opportunities for pollution prevention.

1999 Main Achievements

- Completion of an inventory of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in 13 Pacific island countries.
- Preparation of a regional position paper for the third session of the International Negotiating Committee for an Internationally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants.
- Approval of the work programme for the EU-funded Pacific Regional Waste Awareness Solutions and Education (WASTE) programme on solid waste minimisation and management.
- Implementation of the Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL), including production and distribution of education material and development of model marine pollution legislation.
- Development of a Marine Spill Contingency Plan for oil spill responses and training of country personnel in use of the Plan.
- Publication of SPREP/UNEP Guidelines for Municipal Solid Waste Management Planning in Small Island Developing States in the Pacific Region.
- Completion of waste characterisation studies in all eight Pacific ACP countries under the EU-funded WASTE programme.
- Completion of a Regional Programme of Action for implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities.

Regional Activities



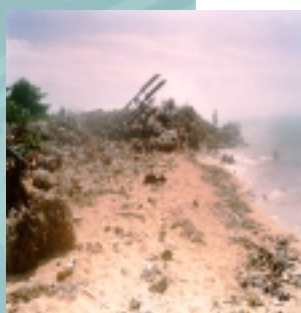
Workshop on development of hazardous waste management strategies in Pacific island countries

This workshop marked the start of the main component of the NZODA funded project on development of Hazardous Waste Management Strategies in Pacific island countries. The project aims to develop hazardous waste management activities throughout the region. Representatives from: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Tonga and Vanuatu participated.



Workshop on global programme of action for protection of the marine environment

This workshop aimed at preparation of a Regional Programme of Action (RPA) for implementation of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) and was attended by delegates from American Samoa, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. A draft RPA was prepared and has since been circulated to participants for comment. The document and a background report (Overview on Land Based Pollutant Sources and Activities Affecting the Marine Coastal and Freshwater Environment in the Pacific Islands Region) will be published in the latter half of 2000.



Second annual PACPOL workshop

The workshop had two major objectives: training participants in marine spill response; and reviewing progress of PACPOL implementation. An outcome of the training component was a consensus to focus future training on actual management, administrative and regulatory processes involved with an oil spill.

PACPOL implementation has slowly gained momentum. Cook Islands became the first country to pass the marine pollution legislation. A significant number of other countries are well on the way to adapting the PACPOL Legislation template. PACPLAN was exercised and no major changes are required prior to official tabling of PACPLAN at the Eleventh SPREP Meeting in Guam, October 2000. Countries involved in the workshop included: American Samoa, Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna.

SPREP/UNEP guidelines for municipal solid waste management planning in small island developing states in the Pacific region

Guidelines on municipal solid waste management planning prepared by SPREP and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to assist small island developing states produce and implement their own solid waste management plans. The Guidelines bring together a number of aspects of solid waste management which are common to all small island states; and provide a process to follow, together with resource material that individual states can use to develop their own Action Plans for solid waste management.

Solid waste characterisation studies undertaken and management plans finalised for all Pacific ACP states

In the Pacific island countries (PICs) one of the factors that contributes to relatively poor waste management is a lack of consistent data on the quantity and composition of the solid waste stream. A good database is a prerequisite to setting realistic targets for waste

Top and bottom: Reality of waste and pollution in the Pacific

Middle: The reality of what the Pacific nations through SPREP are trying to preserve for current and future generations



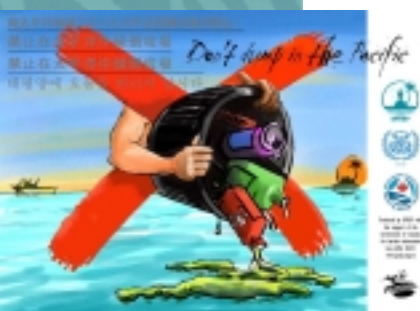
reduction, reuse and recycling, and to be able to measure success rates against. The measurement of the waste stream on a regular basis, say every three years, would enable planners to better monitor the efforts made to minimise and better manage waste in a municipality or on an island. Whilst a database on the waste stream does not necessarily mean that the stream would be better managed, it is virtually impossible to manage and monitor the same stream without a good baseline database.

Solid waste management plans

The Plans contain the following information: results of the audit and characterisation of the solid waste streams; analysis of current solid waste disposal practices, methods, and regulations; evaluation of existing waste management systems and markets for recyclable materials; evaluation of alternative integrated solid waste management systems; and guidelines for developing rate structures to finance waste management activities.

A separate solid waste management plan report was prepared for each of the eight countries in close consultation with the stakeholders. The findings of the reports were presented to government officials and other stakeholders by the project coordinator, and the consultants at the conclusion of the fieldwork in each country.

The findings of the characterisation studies as well as the Management Plans have been accepted by all participating countries.



In-Country Activities



American Samoa

- Conducted a workshop on the development of hazardous waste management strategies in Pacific island countries, and a global Plan of Action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities. American Samoa hosted the US/Oceania Regional Response Team (USORRT) meeting.

Federated States of Micronesia

- Audit of environment marine pollution for Semo-Micronesia Pty Ltd ship repair facility at Okat Harbour, Kosrae. Presentation of a workshop on the management of waste oil and PCBs. Follow up visit for the “Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants in Pacific Island Countries” (POPs in PICs) project, including re-packing of two major stockpiles of surplus and obsolete chemicals.

Fiji

- Fiji Solid Waste Education and Awareness Project (SWEAP) was an in-country project funded by WASTE that focused on solid waste education and awareness. Provided part funding for the Pacific Environmental Information Network (PEIN) Workshop to improve public awareness of environmental issues and to help Pacific journalists in the area of environmental reporting. Specifically helped to focus the training on the issue of solid waste management.

Nauru

- Presentation of a one day workshop on the management of waste oil. This resulted in the formation of a local committee to investigate and develop appropriate oil management programmes.



Report and awareness material produced to aid the protection efforts and message

Papua New Guinea

- Papua New Guinea's SWEAP was an in-country project funded by WASTE that focused on solid waste education and awareness.

Samoa

- Provided part funding for the PEIN workshop to improve public awareness of environmental issues and to help Pacific journalists in the area of environmental reporting. Specifically helped to focus the training on the issue of solid waste management.

Solomon Islands

- Follow up visit for the POPs in PICs programme to review remedial actions taken at two pesticide storage sites.
- Completed the solid waste characterisation study.
- Solomon Islands' SWEAP was an in-country project funded by WASTE that focused on solid waste education and awareness.

Tonga

- Waste implementation country visit;
- Provided part funding for the PEIN workshop to improve public awareness of environmental issues and to help Pacific journalists in the area of environmental reporting. Specifically helped to focus the training on the issue of solid waste management; and
- Completed the solid waste characterisation study.

Tuvalu:

- WASTE implementation country visit; and
- Completed the solid waste characterisation study.

Vanuatu

- Commencement of the Vanuatu SWEAP focusing on solid waste education and awareness for the general public using radio and theatre groups. The project was implemented by the Port Vila Municipal Authority under the coordination of the Environment Unit.
- Completed the solid waste characterisation study.
- The projects which are ongoing into 2000, are in the process of producing the following outputs: methodologies for waste awareness and education; a more aware and better educated target groups; and more emphasis on waste minimisation and reducing, reusing, recycling in Port Vila.
- Vanuatu Waste Minimisation and Management Consultation. The aim of the project which is being executed by the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific (FSP Vanuatu) is: (i) providing a high level forum for discussing the priorities of a waste prevention, minimisation, reuse and recycling strategy and to formulating an Action Plan, with feedback and reporting procedures; (ii) strengthening the capabilities of participants in identifying and redressing their purchasing behaviour, and avoiding the importation of high waste or dangerous products; and (iii) assisting participants (leaders) in updating their knowledge of waste prevention minimisation, reuse and recycling activities.



Top: Solid waste management, a similar problem throughout the Pacific

Middle: Part of the solution is training the media to focus on environment reporting such as this workshop in the Marshall Islands funded by UNESCO

Bottom: The lifestyle and environment we are trying to protect or develop in a sustainable manner

Environmental Management, Planning and Institutional Strengthening



Top: Vanuatu traditional dancing

Middle: Food market in Samoa

Bottom: Peace Corps and their Pacific colleagues working together as environmental educators

The need for environmental management and planning to become an integral part of the development process will be essential to the long-term economic growth of the Pacific region. This integration must occur across macro-economic, sectoral and community levels.

The National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS), completed for 13 Pacific island countries, in the mid-1990s, identified priorities for institutional strengthening and effective environmental management and planning in both the public and private sectors.

These priorities include the training of staff, the development and extension of appropriate tools and techniques for environmentally-sound decision making, the establishment of a comprehensive legal framework that meets national needs and is consistent with international environment agreements and ongoing support to assist island countries and territories develop regional positions and meet their obligations under international or regional agreements.

In 1998, the Capacity Building for Environmental Management in the Pacific (CBEMP) project was established to help

12 Pacific island countries to address some of these needs. The project aims to strengthen the capacity of government institutions and communities within countries of the region to achieve sustainable development through the integration of traditional and non-traditional environmental management practices

As population dynamics can largely determine the nature and extent of environmental impacts, there is a need to strengthen environmental assessment capabilities at the national and regional levels, and to integrate population and environment linkages at all levels. This will include the development of State of Environment (SOE) reporting systems, as part of a global network, through specific training and targeted case studies and facilitate the development of the SOE database. A limited set of indicators must be developed for senior decision makers specifically related to planning tools that treasury and finance can use to better plan sustainable development.

The Secretariat is encouraged to strengthen its Geographical Information System (GIS)/remote sensing capability to facilitate SOE reporting.

1999 Main Achievements

- Secondment of a SPREP officer to Samoa mission to the United Nations, New York.
- Monitoring and evaluation of State of the Environment (SOE) capacity in the region.
- Agreement by trade ministers to a significant programme of work on trade and the environment linkages.
- Completion and launch of the Pacific Islands Environment Outlook.
- Input to briefing and participation in the UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on Small Island Developing States in New York and Display of SPREP activities as part of the CROP display in New York to coincide with the 22nd session of UNGASS.
- Drafted the Regional Model Marine Pollution Legislation for Pacific island countries.
- Through the CBEMP project, SPREP formalised a new partnership with the US Peace Corps to promote natural resource management. This is the first partnership undertaken by the Peace Corps with any regional organisation in the Pacific.

Regional Activities



Capacity Building for Environmental Management in the Pacific (CBEMP) Regional Training Workshop

The CBEMP Regional Training Workshop held in Samoa over a three week period trained member country participants along with CBEMP Peace Corps volunteers from FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, and Tuvalu.

Legal environmental advice and support to Pacific island countries

Assisted with Draft Regional Model Marine Pollution Legislation. The draft legislation is an important development and effort by Pacific nations to protect coastal and marine environments. Through legislation they are able to prevent and respond to the dangers of marine pollution.

Collaborated with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention to assess SPREP's capacity and needs to act as Secretariat to the Waigani Convention.

Provided Briefing Paper on the Biosafety Protocol for Pacific island country delegates attending the first Extraordinary Meeting (resumed session) of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Legal presentation of Pacific perspective at international fora

Presentation at Pacific Island Law Officers Meeting *entitled Challenges to the Environment in the New Millennium: The Pacific Perspective*.

Presentation in workshop on the Implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). This workshop addressed delimitation issues, marine scientific research and the development of an Oceans Policy for the Pacific Region. Addressed linkages between the SPREP Convention and UNCLOS.



In-Country Activities

Cook Islands

- Assistance with computer purchase phase for the Cook Islands Environment Service.
- Provided briefing and advice to country delegate to the fifth *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Biosafety Protocol.

Federated States of Micronesia

- Implemented CBEMP training workshop for government and NGOs to improve survey skills for the collection of traditional information which will be incorporated into educational resource material.
- Provided briefing and advice to country delegate to the fifth *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Biosafety Protocol.
- Attended and sponsored FSM's attendance to a UNITAR Workshop on Implementing Chemicals Management Legislation in Developing Countries taking into account existing multilateral instruments dealing with chemicals management. Regional Hazardous waste workshop specifically focusing on needs of small island developing states held later in the same year.

Fiji

- Implemented CBEMP training workshop for government and NGOs to improve survey skills for the collection of traditional information which will be incorporated into educational resource material.

Top: Many traditional Pacific values are based on the church

Middle: Everyday life is constantly dependent on the environment and what it provides (Photo by Paddy Ryan)

Bottom: Construction of the Utwa-Walung Conservation Centre building is based on a traditional Kosraean house, the last time a building of this type was built to live in was over 100 years ago

- Provided briefing and advice to country delegate to the fifth *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Biosafety Protocol.

Kiribati

- Implemented CBMEP training workshop for government and NGOs to improve survey skills for the collection of traditional information held in Kiribati. Information gathered from the review and during the surveys will be used to develop educational resource materials.
- Provided a briefing paper and advice to country delegate to the fifth *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Biosafety Protocol.

Marshall Islands

- Set up the SOE database.

Niue

- Implemented CBEMP training workshop for government and NGOs to improve survey skills for the collection of traditional information held in Niue. Information gathered from the review and during the surveys will be used to develop educational resource materials; state of environment reporting follow up visit; and a review of the environment bill was conducted by SPREP's Legal Section.

Samoa

- CBEMP project carried out a literature review of traditional information. Implemented a community survey to collect information on traditional knowledge related to the use of marine resources. The information collected will be used to develop educational resource materials.
- Provided a briefing paper and advice to country delegate to the fifth *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Biosafety Protocol.

Solomon Islands

- Provided a briefing paper and advice to country delegate to the fifth *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Biosafety Protocol.

Tonga

- Under the CBEMP project a community survey was undertaken to determine the potential for establishing income generating opportunities using sustainable tourism in Ha'apai and Vava'u. Following the survey, workshops were held to increase the awareness of the importance of conserving the natural environment to support nature based tourism activities.

Tuvalu

- Under the CBEMP project implemented a training programme to improve skills in the collection of traditional information relating to the use and management of marine resources.

Vanuatu

- Under the CBEMP project traditional knowledge relating to forests and trees was collected and compiled onto a database. The information will be used to develop educational resource materials and awareness raising information for decision makers at the government and community level.



Top: Vanuatu dancers

Bottom: Samoan carvers at work

Environmental Education, Information and Training



Top: People of One Village in the Solomon Islands meet to find ways to rejuvenate their dwindling marine resources (Photo by WWF)

Bottom: Media training on environmental reporting

The importance of environmental education and awareness raising, training and information technology is increasingly well understood throughout the region. It forms an integral element of support to all SPREP programmes. In recognition of the role to be played by children, as future custodians of the Pacific environment, the formal education system will continue to be a major area of focus with emphasis on curriculum development and teacher training. To achieve maximum benefit from education, awareness raising and training activities continued partnerships with churches, women and youth groups will be encouraged to disseminate environmental information at the village and community level. SPREP Training and Country Attachment schemes help strengthen the skills of environmental officials by exposing them to environmental management

work at the Secretariat. Public media (newspapers, radio and television) will increasingly be used and additional resources sought to produce material in local languages.

Awareness raising of decision makers in the public and private sector also forms an important element in this Programme, facilitated through better packaging, interpretation and dissemination of technical information, using the Internet and through strengthening information dissemination capabilities within member country environment units, other government sectors and NGOs. This Programme provides the specialist support in these areas required for the effective education, training and clearinghouse functions of other SPREP Programmes.

1999 Main Achievements

- Curriculum material was produced for Vanuatu and the Marshall Islands, together with regional material on population and water resources.
- Environmental media workshops conducted in five countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Samoa, and Tonga) with UNESCO assistance.
- An extensive number of media releases, published material and selected feature articles were produced creating international, regional and local awareness of environmental issues of concern to the Pacific.
- Corporate design for SPREP material produced.
- Completed update of the University of South Pacific Alafua Campus (Samoa) environmental information database.
- Established national environment resource database in American Samoa, and trained staff members of the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) in basic cataloguing skills, inputting, searching and dissemination of information using Inmagic Plus.
- Coordinated the national environmental information sharing workshop in Vanuatu in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information Systems (PIMRIS) Coordinator. Workshop concentrated on using InmagicPlus and WinISIS to access environmental information available on the national, regional and international levels.
- SPREP IT infrastructure and corporate database were made Y2K compliant.
- Reviewed the Information Management needs of SPREP.
- 2 country attachments (Solomon Islands and Niue Island, 2 months each) hosted in SPREP for IT capacity building.
- Conducted the Environmental Training Needs Assessment (TNA) in eight countries and territories (American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Vanuatu).

Regional Activities



Top: Peace Corps volunteers and their local counterparts at the CBEMP workshop



Middle: The practical approach by the SPBCP during one of its training workshops in Vanuatu

Bottom: Participants of the PEIN workshop gathering material for their environmental stories

Sub-regional environment education workshop for primary school teachers held in Tonga

Participants were able to learn the latest environmental education training techniques for primary school children, plus skills in organising their own in-country training programmes. Teachers involved came from the following countries: Cook Islands, Kiribati, Niue, Nauru, Tuvalu and Tonga.

Training coordination and delivery in SPREP Workshops

Assisted in the coordination and delivery of training sessions in *the Workshop for Conservation Area Support Officers (CASOs) and Conservation Area Coordinating Committee (CACC) Members* under the SPBCP-supported Conservation Areas training. Feedback from the workshop as well as the preliminary assessment of their training needs has been incorporated into the Regional Environmental Management Training Needs Assessment (TNA) Report.

Assisted in the coordination and delivery of training sessions in the *Capacity Building for Environmental Management in the Pacific (CBEMP) Workshop* held from September to October in Apia, Samoa. Training sessions included facilitation and meeting management skills for Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) and their local counterparts with guidance provided to PCVs on culturally appropriate ways to document traditional knowledge and carry out activities in their host countries.

Workshop on Facilitation Skills for Pacific Island Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP) Coordinators

Organised and conducted facilitation skills training session with PICCAP Coordinators from ten Pacific Island Countries. The training was to prepare the Coordinators to play a lead role in the Pacific Islands Conference on Climate Change, Climate Variability and Sea-Level Rise scheduled for April 2000 in the Cook Islands.

In-Country Activities

American Samoa

- Provided assistance for participation of a staff member from the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources to the Pacific Environmental Information Network (PEIN) workshop in Apia, Samoa.
- Conducted a technical assessment of the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources environmental collection and the subsequent establishment of its national environment resource database.
- Provided information technology assistance in network development.
- Conducted the Environmental Training Needs Assessment (TNA) with the assistance of SPREP's National Focal Point. The assessment involved meetings and interviews with a cross-section of government departments, environmental NGOs as well as in-country training providers.

Cook Islands

- Coordinated the PEIN workshop for media, non-governmental and government officials funded by UNESCO. The workshop aimed at providing tools and technical expertise to help participants report and produce awareness material that will promote environmental issues of concern in the Cooks to the relevant target audiences.





Top: The SPREP corporate display. Material for public viewing during the Samoa Disaster Awareness Programme. A collaborative effort between SPREP and the Samoan government

Bottom: SPREP staff with staff members from the University of Newcastle, Australia. Seeking areas where the two institutions could join their efforts in environment protection

- Through the SPREP Information Resource Centre, Ms Apii Pakitooa was able to participate in the Vanuatu National Information Sharing Workshop conducted by SPREP and the Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information Services (PIMRIS). This helped update Ms Pakitooa's skills on InmagicPlus and reinstated Cook Islands interest in joining the environmental information database network.
- Conducted the Environmental Management Training Needs Assessment (TNA) with the assistance of SPREP's National Focal Point. The assessment involved meetings and interviews with a cross-section of government departments, environmental NGOs as well as in-country training providers.

Federated States of Micronesia

- Assistance provided through the Australian Volunteer technical attachment of three volunteers to Environment Agencies (Yap, Kosrae and Pohnpei).
- Responded to environmental information requests using the Pacific Environmental Information Network (through SPREP's Information Resource Centre).

Fiji

- Coordinated the PEIN workshop for media, non-governmental and government officials funded by UNESCO. The workshop aimed at providing tools and technical expertise to help participants report and produce awareness material that will promote environmental issues of concern in Fiji to the relevant target audiences.
- Follow up and assessment of relocation of Fiji's Environment Department library;
- Small Grants Scheme (SGS) assistance to assess sugar mill pollution;
- Attended the South Pacific Organising Committee on Gender at the Forum Secretariat in Suva, Fiji. The meeting discussed the organisational surveys carried out for regional organisations by their respective Gender Focal Points.
- Conducted the Environmental Management TNA with the assistance of SPREP's National Focal Point. The assessment involved meetings and interviews with a cross-section of government departments, environmental NGOs as well as in-country training providers.

French Polynesia

- Conducted the Environmental Management TNA with the assistance of SPREP's National Focal Point. The assessment involved meetings and interviews with a cross-section of government departments, environmental NGOs as well as in-country training providers.

Guam

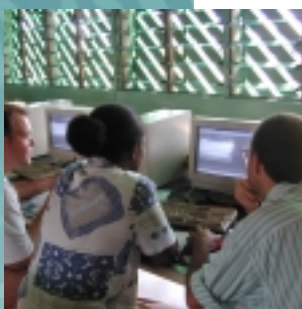
- Undertook a TNA and an Institutional Capabilities Assessment.
- Responded to environmental requests via the SPREP Website.

Kiribati

- Provided volunteer technical assistance through attachment to the Kiribati Environment Department of an Australian Volunteer.

Marshall Islands

- Coordinated the PEIN workshop for media, non-governmental and government officials funded by UNESCO. The workshop aimed at providing tools and technical expertise to help participants report and produce awareness material that will promote environmental issues of concern in the Marshall Islands to the relevant target audiences.



Nauru

- Published the Nauru National Environmental Management Strategies and State of Environment Report.

Niue

- Environmental education in-country visit.
- Provision of a digital camera to Niue Environment Unit for awareness and promotional activities (following Niue IT country attachment to SPREP).
- An eight week Information Technology attachment to SPREP.
- Applications of traditional knowledge and management of coastal and environmental systems to education and method management.
- Niue Constitution Day celebrations–environment exhibition assistance.
- Provision of a computer to “house” the national resource database.

Papua New Guinea

- Responded to environmental information requests through inter-library loan via the IRC quarterly List of Additional Holdings.
- Conducted the Environmental Management TNA with the assistance of SPREP’s National Focal Point. The assessment involved meetings and interviews with a cross-section of government departments, environmental NGOs as well as in-country training providers.

Samoa

- Provision of Judge, National Environment Week, Primary school competition: guest speaker at Leififi secondary school for environmental impacts of the Afulilo project; resource person provided for DEC Secondary School Teachers Environment Education Workshop.
- Coordinated the PEIN workshop for media, non-governmental and government officials funded by UNESCO. The workshop aimed to provide tools and technical expertise to help participants report and produce awareness material that will promote environmental issues of concern in Samoa to the relevant target audiences.
- Fostered an early relationship with the National University of Samoa (NUS) to provide a range of collaborative activities including video production expertise for PEIN Workshops.
- DEC resource person exposure to National Information Sharing Workshop in Vanuatu.
- Environmental awareness float support at the Teuila Festival.
- Responded to environmental information requests using the Pacific Environmental Information Network via SPREP’s Information Resource Centre (IRC).
- Samoa Polytechnic scholarship provided by SPREP.

Solomon Islands

- Provided capacity building to Country Attachment in SPREP’s IT unit.

Tonga

- Coordinated the PEIN workshop for media, non-governmental and government officials funded by UNESCO. The workshop aimed at providing tools and technical expertise to help participants report and produce awareness material that will promote environmental issues of concern in Tonga to the relevant target audiences.
- Conducted the Environmental Management TNA with the assistance of SPREP’s National Focal Point. The assessment involved meetings and interviews with a cross-

Top: Niue country attachment, Ms Tagaloa Cooper, with SPREP’s GIS officer, Mr Petelo Ioane

Middle: Desktop publishing basic training for Peace Corps and Pacific colleagues provided by SPREP’s publication unit during the CBEMP workshop

Bottom: Assistant IT officer, Ms Matilda Tapusoa (back) working with consultant Raju on the new financial package for SPREP



Top: Resource person, Ms Leilani Duffy of Samoa's Department of Environment and Conservation, presenting at the National Information Sharing Workshop in Vanuatu

section of government departments, environmental NGOs as well as in-country training providers.

Tuvalu

- Provided assistance for World Environment Day celebrations.

Vanuatu

- National Information Sharing Workshop.
- Conducted the Environmental Management TNA with the assistance of SPREP's National Focal Point. The assessment involved meetings and interviews with a cross-section of government departments, environmental NGOs as well as in-country training providers.



Management and Corporate Services



Acting Chair of the SPREP Meeting, Ms I'o Tuakeu Lindsay, at the Work Programme and Budget Sub-committee meeting



Mr Ray Ah Liki of CARE construction signing the contract to start work on the new SPREP Centre



Samoa PM Susuga Tuilaepa Malielegaoi officiating at the "Soil turning" ceremony to officially signal the construction of the new SPREP centre



Donor roundtable at the Secretariat

Management and corporate service activities reflect the SPREP action plan guiding principle that the Secretariat will work through governments, existing institutions, and regional experts. In line with the Agreement Establishing SPREP the Secretariat provides professional advice, coordinates environment activities and facilitates the implementation of the Action Plan.

Most activities are of an ongoing nature and are funded from the core budget,

Main Achievements

- draft 2000 work programme and budget consolidated and finalised for transition.
- construction of new SPREP centre started, 42 per cent completed by December.
- participated in, and assisted members at international meetings.
- ongoing discussions with donor agencies, including member governments for extra budgetary funds for work programme.
- regular meetings held with donors to provide updates on funded projects and programmes.
- 1998 accounts finalised, submitted to auditors and audit completed.
- draft 2000–2002 budget sent to members with the work programme and budget papers.

Relations with other organisations

SPREP's annual budget relies heavily on the support of a range of donors for the implementation of programmes. Contributions come from international organisations and a number of member and non-member Governments.

Donors

Major donors include the Australian Agency for International Development, Canada–South Pacific Ocean Development Program, Global Environment Facility, New Zealand Official Development Assistance, and the United Nations Development Programme.

Member Governments also contribute funds, with other donor funds for specific activities from various Governments and international and regional organisations in-

cluding: Danish Government, European Union, French Government, United States Government, Los Alamos National Laboratories, Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation, United Nations Environment Programme, World Meteorological Organization, UK Department of International Development, and the International Maritime Organization.

Collaborating institutions

As well as these donor governments and organisations, many regional and international institutions assist SPREP by providing technical expertise, in-kind contributions or sub-contracting and consultancy arrangements.

SPREP has collaborated with regional institutes and technical agencies for a long

time. These include the Universities of the South Pacific, Papua New Guinea, Guam and Hawai'i, the Community College of Micronesia, the East-West Center in Honolulu, the Laboratoire d'étude et de surveillance de l'environnement in Tahiti, the Institute for Research and Development (formerly ORSTOM), the Université Française du Pacific Sud in Nouméa, and the Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information Service (PIMRIS).

Other collaborative partners include the Flinders University of South Australia, the University of Auckland and Waikato University, in New Zealand, and the National University of Samoa, in Samoa.

SPREP works closely with other regional intergovernmental organisations in the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP), including the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Forum Secretariat, as well as the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) in Suva, the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) in Honiara, the South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) in Suva, and the Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP) in Honolulu.

Other collaborating partners are the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Foundation of International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United States Environment Protection Agency (US EPA), Whales Alive, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Through memoranda of understanding (MOUs), SPREP undertakes joint projects with several international, governmental and non-governmental organisations, including the IMO, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) in Geneva, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Honolulu, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) in Cambridge, the International Centre for Protected Landscapes (ICPL) in Wales, Australian Volunteers International (AVI), the Canada-South Pacific Ocean Development Program Phase Two (C-SPODP II), the Department of Conservation (DoC) in New Zealand, Australian Nature Conservation Agency, and US Peace Corps.

The Secretariats of the World Heritage Convention (WHC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) work closely with SPREP to assist Pacific island countries in implementing these conventions.

Individual Pacific island countries have assisted SPREP's programmes and training by willingly hosting both regional and sub-regional meetings. In addition, many skilled individuals from the region undertake consultancy work for SPREP in specialist areas not readily available in the Secretariat. SPREP thanks all its collaborating institutions and consultants for their efforts and assistance during the year.



Officially welcoming the WMO Sub-regional office, Mr Tutangata with Eisa Al-Majed, Sub-regional office Director



Signing the MOU with International Centre for Protected Landscapes (ICPL)



Mr Rico Tupai of Samoa's National University (right), providing assistance during SPREP consultation with Japanese mission on the proposed Environmental Education and Training Centre complex

Workshops conducted by SPREP in 1999

No	Month/Duration	Title of Workshops and Training Programmes	Country Venue	Target Group	Number of Participants
1	5–27 January	Forum Secretariat/SPREP Trade and Environment Seminar	Fiji	Environment and Trade Officials	30
2	8–12 February	National Biodiversity and Action Plan Strategy (NBSAP) - Regional Workshop	Fiji	NBSAP Coordinators	15
3	24–26 March	National Workshop on Communicating Environmental Information UNESCO/SPREP/EU	Samoa	Government officials, NGO Representatives and Journalists	55
4	12–30 April	Regional Modular Training Attachment under the South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project	Australia	Government officials (technical)	14
5	26–30 April	Birds Avifauna, Polynesian Sub-regional Workshop	Cook Islands	Conservation Officers Polynesia	20
6	17–28 May	CASO/CACC Project Management Workshop for SPBCP-supported Conservation Areas	Fiji	CASOs/CACC and Community Representatives	49
7	19–21 May	National Workshop on Communicating Environmental Information UNESCO/SPREP	Marshall Islands	Government officials, NGO Representatives and Journalists	18
8	19–30 July	Sub-regional Workshop on Community-based Resource Management	Fiji	CASOs, CACC Members and Project Managers	24
9	26–30 July	WMO/SPREP/Meteo France Climate Information, Predictions, and Services (CLIPS) Regional Workshop; and Sixth SPREP Meeting of Regional Meteorological Service Directors	French Polynesia	Meteorological Services Directors from SPREP Member countries	60
10	27–30 July	National Workshop on Communicating Environmental Information UNESCO/SPREP/EU	Fiji	Government officials, NGO Representative and Journalists	21
11	23–25 August	Training Workshop under PICCAP on V&A PACCLIM	New Zealand	SIDS, Donor Countries and Organisations	75
12	23–27 August	Sub-regional Primary School Teacher Training Resource Workshop	Tonga	Teachers, Six Pacific island countries	15
13	16–20 August	NZODA/SPREP Inaugural South Pacific Guide Trainers Workshop	Fiji	Tour Guides and SPBCP participants	20
14	13–17 September	National Workshop on Communicating Environmental Information UNESCO/SPREP	Cook Islands	Government officials, NGO Representative and Journalists	27
15	20 September–1 October	Conservation Enterprises and Income Generating Activities Development Programme and Workshop for SPBCP-supported Conservation Areas	Samoa	Conservation Area staff, CASOs, Community Members	22
16	20 September–8 October	CBEMP Regional Training Workshop for Peace Corps Volunteers and CBEMP National Counterparts and the UNDP Multipartite Review Meeting	Samoa	CBEMP Peace Corps Volunteers Counterparts and National participants	30
17	26 September–1 October	Regional Workshop on Invasive Species Strategy for the South Pacific Islands	Fiji	Conservation and Quarantine Officers	20
18	11–30 October	Regional Modular Training Attachment under the South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project	Australia	Government officials (technical)	15
19	11–15 October	Micronesia Community-based Marine Protected Areas Workshop	Palau	Fisheries, Environment, and NGO Extension Officers of Micronesia	20
20	12–16 October	Global Programme of Action (GPA)/Hazardous Waste Management Workshop	Samoa	Pacific island countries	27
21	25–30 October	Annual Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL) Workshop	Samoa	Annual event on going: Oil Industry, Maritime Administrations	29
22	8–12 November	National Workshop on Communicating Environmental Information UNESCO/SPREP/EU	Tonga	Government officials, NGO Representative and Journalists	25
23	15–19 November	Polynesia Community-based Marine Protected Areas Workshop	French Polynesia	Fisheries, Environment and NGO Officers Polynesia	20
24	15–19 November	Vanuatu National Information Sharing Workshop	Vanuatu	Information Officers from government, Librarians, Teachers and Media personnel	15
25	13–15 December	Pacific Islands Regional Workshop on Ships' Waste Reception Facilities	Australia	Port Authority staff from PICs	11

Staff members

Management

Tamari'i Tutangata	Director
Apiseta Eti	Personal Assistant to the Deputy Director
Dorothy S. Kamu	Personal Assistant to Director
Pisaina Leilua-Lei Sam	Executive Officer Management

Corporate Services

Ray Wright	Head of Division, Finance and Administration
Amosa Tootoo	Cleaner
Aso Sione	Handyman
Daniel Devoe	Accountant
Elia Hunt	Night Watchman
Faamanu Fonoti	Driver/Messenger
Helen Tuilagi	Registry Assistant
Juliana Mikaele	Senior Accounts Clerk
Luapene Lefau	Assistant Accountant
Lupe Silulu	Registry Clerk
Malama Hadley	Administration Officer
Monica Tupai	Receptionist/Fax Operator
Montini Smith	Driver/Messenger
Oketi Maiava	Accounts Clerk
Puni Chong Wong	Accounts Clerk
Saunoa Matau	Conference Assistant
Silupe Gafa	Groundsman
Theresia Purea	Divisional Assistant, Finance and Administration
Tologauvale Leaula	Cleaner/Tealady

Biodiversity and Natural Resources Conservation

Francois Martel	Programme Officer, Socio-Economics
Greg Sherley	Project Officer, Avifauna Conservation/Invasive Species
Helen Ng Lam	Divisional Assistant, SPBCP
James Aston	Coastal Management Officer
Joe Reti	Project Manager, SPBCP
Lucille Overhoff	Wetlands Management Officer
Ruta Couper	SPBCP Secretary
Samuelu Sesega	Programme Officer, Resource Management
Selesitina Pule'aga	Executive Officer, SPBCP
Sue Miller	Project Officer, Marine Species

Climate Change and Integrated Coastal Management

Chalapan Kaluwin	Climate Change Officer
Fono Valasi	Divisional Assistant, Climate Change Group
Graham Sem	Scientific Adviser, PICCAP/CC:TRAIN
Mahendra Kumar	International Negotiations Officer
Penehuro Lefale	Meteorology/Climatology Officer
Wayne King	Project Manager, PICCAP

Waste Management, Pollution Prevention and Emergencies

Andrew Munro	Waste Management and Pollution Prevention Officer
Sefanaia Nawadra	Marine Pollution Project Officer
Sina To'a	Divisional Assistant
Stephen Raaymakers	Marine Pollution Advisor
Suresh Raj	Project Coordinator, Waste Awareness and Education

Environmental Management, Planning and Institutional Strengthening

Gerald Miles	Head of Division, Environmental Management and Planning
Alisa Nickel	Secretary, EMP Division
Andrea Volentras	Environmental Legal Officer
Craig Wilson	Project Manager, Capacity-building for Environmental Management
Petelo Ioane	GIS/Database Assistant Officer

Environmental Education, Information and Training

Neva Wendt	Head of Division, Environmental Education, Information and Capacity-building
Fatu Tauafiafi	Information and Publications Officer
Herve Dropsy	Computer/Information Technology Officer
Jan Sinclair	Editorial and Publications Officer
Matilda Tapusoa	Assistant Computer/Information Technology Officer
Miraneta Williams	Library Assistant
Quandovita Tuala	Divisional Assistant, EEIC Division
Seema Deo	Environmental Education Officer
Satui Bentin	Librarian
Winona Alama	Divisional Assistant, EEIC Division
Audrey Dropsy	Training Officer

