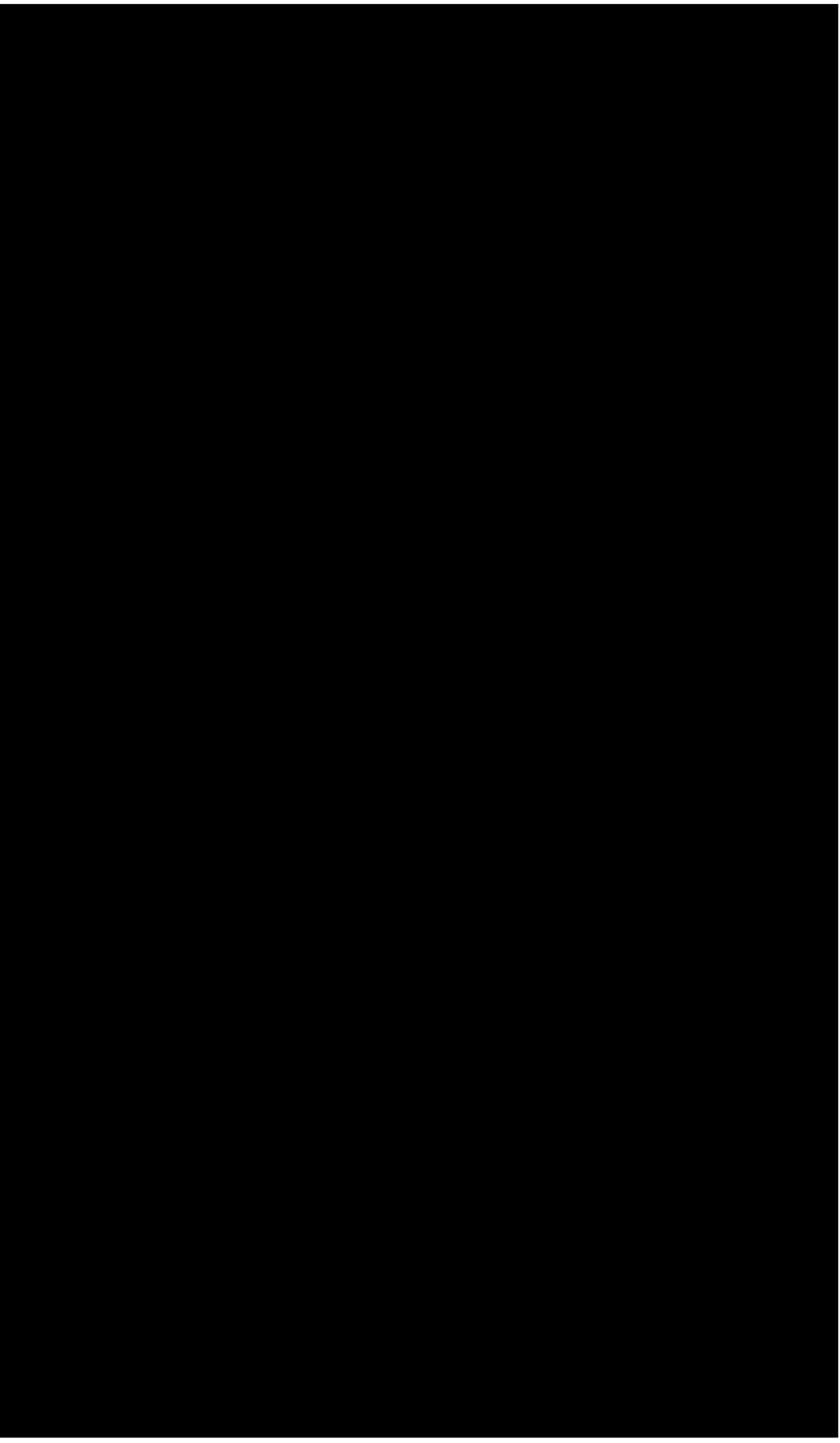


SPREP Annual Report 1995/96



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One of the most widely used posters during the very successful "Year of the Sea Turtle" campaign in 1995. The poster was translated into five languages (based on country requests). These included Tokelauan, Tongan, Samoan, French, English and Bislama. The version on the cover is Bislama.

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Foreword

In a year that covered a wide spectrum of events for SPREP, two events stand out as perhaps the most significant - the entry into force of the SPREP Agreement and the end of the Fuavao era.

The *Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme* (the SPREP Agreement), which was opened for signature on 16 June 1993, entered into force just over two years later, on 30 August 1995, following the tenth ratification by a member government. Since then five more governments (of the eighteen eligible to do so) have either ratified or acceded to the Agreement. This relatively short time span compares more than favourably with the period taken (fifteen and four years respectively) for two of the region's major environmental treaties - the Apia and SPREP Conventions - to enter into force and is further evidence of the region's increasing concern and involvement with environmental issues.

The SPREP Agreement is now the organisation's cornerstone. It creates the legal basis for an autonomous, intergovernmental, regional organisation and defines the organisation's purposes as well as the respective functions of the SPREP Meeting and the Secretariat. Its entry into force is a tribute to the member governments of SPREP and the determination and commitment with which they entered into the complex and sometimes sensitive negotiations leading to the successful conclusion of this landmark treaty.

The departure of SPREP's first Director, Dr. Vili Fuavao in April, after more than six years as head of the organisation, brings to an end an era which saw the transition of SPREP from a small programme located within the South Pacific Commission in New Caledonia to its present, independent status with headquarters in Western Samoa. Vili was a principal driving force behind this historic process. We wish him well in his new career.

The Eighth SPREP Meeting was hosted by the Secretariat in Apia, Western Samoa, in October, together with biennial Meetings of the Parties to the Apia and SPREP Conventions. The Eighth Meeting was the first assembly of SPREP's governing council since the realisation of autonomy was achieved and was notable for the high level of attendance which included participation by the Prime Minister of Tuvalu and Minister of Environment from French Polynesia. With most organisational issues now settled, the Eighth Meeting was able to devote more time than in previous years to the consideration of topics of direct environmental concern to the region. These included adoption of regional strategies for implementation of the outcomes of the Barbados Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island




Developing States, on Nature Conservation, on the Global Environment Facility (GEF), on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment Against Land-Based Activities and on the International Coral Reef Initiative. The Meeting also approved SPREP's Work Programme and Budget for 1996 and appointed a committee to oversee the process of recruiting a new Director. In a significant move, member governments agreed in principle to the annual SPREP Meeting reverting to a biennial basis commencing in 1998.

Highlights of SPREP's working year were the continuation of its coordination, advisory and assistance roles in relation to a range of global activities, in addition to those mentioned above, including the International Coral Reef Initiative, Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Biodiversity Convention. Contact was established with the secretariat of the Basel Convention in Geneva to promote legal and technical links concerning the Waigani Treaty which was signed at the 1995 South Pacific Forum and for which SPREP will act as secretariat on entry into force. A GEF Scoping Workshop convened in Fiji in association with the World Bank and

the United Nations Development Programme, produced a strategy for a regional approach to the Global Environment Facility which was subsequently endorsed by the South Pacific Forum and a regional state of the environment report was produced for the Commission on Sustainable Development which met in New York. On the regional front, a meeting of Directors of Meteorological Services was convened in Apia to promote cooperation in regional meteorology while work continued with the establishment of conservation areas under the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme, on climate change activities, environmental impact assessment, environmental education, population and sustainable development, pollution pre-

gion-wide public relations exercise aimed at the conservation of this endangered species. Building on this experience, the Secretariat is now planning a campaign for 1997 to be called the *Pacific Year of the Coral Reef*.

Three things make SPREP work:

-  its members;
-  its donors; and
-  its staff.


In that regard, SPREP members continued their strong support and encouragement throughout the year, with particular financial efforts by Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States in once more providing substantial assistance towards programme activities over and above their normal contributions to our administrative budget. The Secretariat looks forward to the not-too-distant future when all necessary SPREP Agreement ratification and accession formalities are completed so as to remove present, temporary membership distinctions. The Governments of Canada and Japan also continued to work with us while we welcomed first-time government involvement with Denmark and Republic of China (Taiwan). These sources complemented continuing assistance from a range of other traditional donors to whom we also express thanks - UNDP, UNEP, GEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, IMO, WMO, CFTC, IUCN, WWF and the EU.

SPREP is indebted once more to all its donors which continue to display their confidence by contributing almost 90% of our total annual funding. More about the activities generously funded by donors is contained within this *Annual Report*.


While on the subject of member governments, it would be remiss not to make mention of the significant and continuing role played by our host - Western Samoa. Following entry into force

of the SPREP Agreement, two consequential agreements were concluded between Western Samoa and the Secretariat: a Headquarters Agreement establishing the basis for SPREP's presence in this country and a rent-free, sixty-year lease of a superb site for a new SPREP Headquarters next door to the Robert Louis Stevenson Museum at Vailima, just outside Apia. *Fa'afetai tele lava* to the Government and people of Western Samoa for their generosity and commitment to SPREP. Work began during the year on detailed plans for the new headquarters, and funding options are being pursued.

Finally, a tribute must be paid to the staff of SPREP for another year of tireless and creative work on behalf of our organisation. Toiling in far-from-ideal conditions, and often under hectic circumstances, they continue to evidence dedication and resolution in helping member governments address urgent environmental problems and issues. Their professionalism and teamwork is highly appreciated by SPREP management.

The Ninth SPREP Meeting to be held during November 1996 will be the most significant such gathering in five years. Being convened at Ministerial level, it will, among other matters, review progress with implementing the current 1991-95 SPREP Action Plan and consider and adopt a revised Plan for 1996-2000, as well as appoint a new Director. Both these tasks carry momentous and far-reaching implications for the future of SPREP. The Secretariat encourages the participation of Ministers from all its members so as to ensure the widest possible consultations and agreement on these vital issues. 

Don Stewart
Acting Director



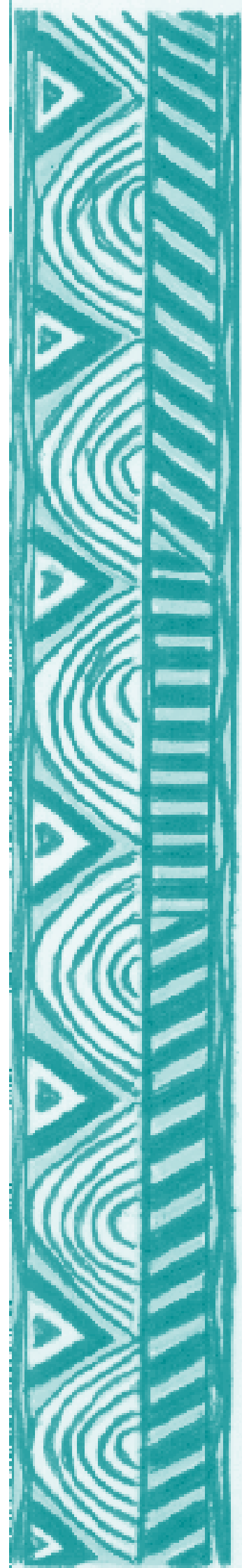
SPREP is indebted once more to all its donors which continue to display their confidence by contributing almost 90% of our total annual funding

vention and waste management and information technology. A feature of these activities was the continuing emphasis on in-country workshops and training in order to build national capacities. This aspect is also the direct focus of SPREP's UNDP-funded *Capacity 21* Project which aims to build national capacities to implement National Environmental Management Strategies. This Project has seen the placement of full-time, sub-regional coordinators in the Federated States of Micronesia, Vanuatu and Western Samoa.

Perhaps the most publicised of SPREP's activities during the year was *The Year of the Sea Turtle* campaign which focused a strong, re-


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What is SPREP?

SPREP is the intergovernmental organisation responsible for environmental matters in the South Pacific region. Its members are the governments and administrations of twenty-two Pacific island countries and four developed countries with direct interests in the region.



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

Solomon Islands

Tokelau

Tonga

Tuvalu

United States of America

Vanuatu

Wallis and Futuna

Western Samoa

What are SPREP's aims?

Promote regional cooperation in environmental matters



Assist members to protect and improve their shared environment

Help members work towards sustainable development for present and future generations.



What are SPREP's objectives?

SPREP was established by its members to promote cooperation in the South Pacific region and to provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations.




SPREP's objectives, set out in its 1994-96 Corporate Plan, include:

-  co-ordinating regional activities that address the environment;
-  monitoring and assessing the region's state of the environment, including the

impacts of human activities on the region's ecosystems, and encouraging development that maintains or enhances environmental qualities;









-  promoting and developing programmes, including research, to protect the atmosphere as well as terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems and species, while ensuring ecologically sustainable use of these resources;
-  reducing pollution in air, land, freshwater and marine

environments by prevention and management;

-  strengthening national and regional capabilities and institutional arrangements;
-  increasing and improving educational, training and public awareness activities; and
-  promoting integrated legal, planning and management mechanisms.

What does SPREP do?

Under the 1991-95 SPREP Action Plan, which is the framework for a regional approach to environmental issues in the Pacific islands, SPREP is required to:

-  monitor the status of the Pacific environment, and the effects of problems on human environments and natural ecosystems;
-  improve national and regional capabilities, links and funding to carry out the Action Plan.
-  provide integrated legal, planning and management methods to protect and use natural resources in an ecologically sound way;
-  provide training, education and public awareness for improving the environment;
-  encourage development that maintains or improves the environment;
-  protect the land and sea ecosystems, and their natural inhabitants that need help;
-  reduce pollution on land, in fresh and sea water, and in the air; and
-  encourage the use of Environmental Impact Assessment and other methods to stop or lessen the effects of humans on their environment.

To complete these activities, SPREP's annual work programme contains nine elements:

1. Conservation of Biological Diversity;
2. Global Climate Change and Sea Level Rise;
3. Environmental Planning and Management;
4. Coastal Management and Planning;
5. Managing Pollution;
6. Managing Pollution Emergencies;
7. Environmental Education and Training;
8. Environmental Information; and
9. Regional Environmental Concerns.

Details of specific activities carried out in 1995/96 in each of these elements are found in the section on **Divisional Activities**.

A short history.....

SPREP originated in 1969 when a *Regional Symposium on the Conservation of Nature* recommended the appointment of a regional ecological adviser to the South Pacific Commission (SPC), which eventuated in 1973. In 1978, SPC, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation (now the Forum Secretariat) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) then agreed on the need for a comprehensive environment programme for the region.

Proposals were submitted to the *South Pacific Forum* (the annual meeting of Heads of Government of Pacific countries) and the *South Pacific Conference* (the annual gathering of representatives of all the region's countries and territories). These resulted in the formal estab-

lishment of SPREP as a joint initiative of the Forum and SPC in 1980, with funding from UNEP and ESCAP. SPREP reported to the South Pacific Forum and the South Pacific Conference, with an executive provided by a co-ordinating group with representatives from these four organisations, chaired by the Forum. This new programme was administered from SPC's headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia.

In 1982, a *Conference on the Human Environment in the South Pacific*, held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, decided to set up SPREP as a separate entity within SPC, and produced an *Action Plan for Managing the Natural Resources of the South Pacific Region* ("the *Action Plan*") to guide its future activities. This document, revised in 1991 and to be revised again in 1996, remains the principle focus of SPREP's activities.

In 1986, the *Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region* ("the *SPREP Convention*") was adopted at a SPREP meeting in Noumea and entered into force in 1990. The Convention aims to protect and manage the natural land and marine resources of the region, and contains two protocols - on waste dumping and on co-operation to combat pollution emergencies.

In 1986, to enable member countries to become more active in setting priorities for and managing SPREP, the first Intergovernmental Meeting (now known as the *SPREP Meeting*) was convened. At first, this was held every two years (in 1986, 1988 and 1990), and then annually from 1990. Also in 1986, the co-ordinating group was replaced by a steering committee of five member representatives: one from each of Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia; one from France/UK/USA; and one from Australia/New Zealand. The group met at least once a year to assist and

provide direction to the SPREP Secretariat in implementing its work programme.

In 1990, the steering committee was abolished when the *SPREP Meeting* became an annual event. At that time, member countries first considered according SPREP the full and formal legal status of an autonomous body, and asked SPC to devolve secretariat functions and administrative autonomy to SPREP. This move was strengthened when the South Pacific Forum established a committee to study and report on strengthening SPREP's capacity.



On 31 August 1995, SPREP officially became autonomous, when Niue became the tenth country to ratify the Agreement.

After considering the *Action Plan* and financial and legal implications, the 1991 SPREP Meeting - held at a ministerial level - agreed that SPREP should become autonomous. Ministers also accepted Western Samoa's offer to host the new regional organisation, and SPREP moved its headquarters from Noumea to Apia in 1992.

To formalise and legalise its new status as an independent intergovernmental organisation, SPREP's members signed on 16 June, 1993 the *Agreement Establishing SPREP* in Apia Western Samoa.

On 31 August 1995, SPREP officially became autonomous, when Niue became the tenth country to ratify the *Agreement*.

"This is an historic occasion for the region and SPREP. This was a process begun by member countries in 1990, culminating in the formal, legal establishment of SPREP as an autonomous intergovernmental organisation." said Dr. Vili Fuavao, SPREP's Director at the time.

How is SPREP structured?



The SPREP Agreement

The *Agreement* which entered into force on 31 August 1995, provides the legal basis for SPREP's existence as an autonomous regional organisation. It also defines the purposes of SPREP and the *SPREP Meeting* and sets out the functions of the Secretariat.

The SPREP Action Plan

The current (1991-95) *Action Plan*, adopted by the 1991 SPREP Meeting, established nine programme areas, each with its own goals and objectives, and provided guidelines for implementing programmes.

The *Action Plan* is now being revised for consideration and adoption by the Ninth SPREP Meeting in November 1996, which will be at ministerial level.

The Corporate Plan

As outlined earlier, the *Corporate Plan*, adopted by the 1994 SPREP Meeting, describes how SPREP will fulfill its mandate and its legal obligations to its members in 1994-96.

The *Corporate Plan*:

- ☉ details the mission, objectives and guidelines of SPREP according to the major issues and events it faces, or is likely to face, during that time;
- ☉ re-defines SPREP's organisational structure, and its responsibilities, tasks and performance indicators; and
- ☉ describes the process followed for developing and implementing SPREP's work programme.

The organisation's objectives are based on the *Action Plan*.

The *Corporate Plan* establishes four functional divisions, which are directed and guided by a small management team. These divisions, effective from October 1994, are intended to ensure that projects are effectively developed, managed and co-ordinated within the scope of the *Action Plan*.

This *Annual Report* details the work carried out by the four divisions:

- ☉ *Conservation of Natural Resources*;
- ☉ *Environmental Education, Information and Coordination*;
- ☉ *Environmental Management and Planning*; and

☉ *Finance and Administration*.

The SPREP Meeting

As SPREP's governing body, the *SPREP Meeting* brings together representatives from all member states and territories. This annual meeting reviews the previous year's activities, adopts a work programme and budget for the following year and considers policy, institutional, administrative, financial, staffing and other matters affecting the organisation.

The *Eighth SPREP Meeting*, held in Apia, Western Samoa, in October 1995, dealt with a wide range of issues. It:

- ☉ evaluated progress on 1994 work programme activities;
- ☉ adopted a work programme and budget for 1996;
- ☉ received the Director's *Annual Report* and his overview of SPREP for 1994/95;
- ☉ approved the *Review of Terms and Conditions of Employment of SPOCC Organisations*;
- ☉ noted the implications for managing the region's resources arising from decisions of world leaders at the 1994 Barbados Conference on the Sustainable Development

of *Small Island Developing States*, establishing a regional mechanism to implement outcomes from that conference;

appointed a Selection Advisory Committee to initiate recruitment procedures for the next Director of SPREP;

approved a process for the design of a SPREP Headquarters complex;

noted developments and reaffirmed its agreement for SPREP to act as the Secretariat of the Waigani Convention;

endorsed regional cooperation of meteorological services and encouraged the Secretariat to continue its efforts in the field of regional meteorology;

endorsed a regional Wetlands Action Plan;

adopted a Pacific Regional Strategy for the GEF;

endorsed regional input to the proposed global programme of action for protecting the marine environment from land-based activities;

gave strong support for SPREP's continued work in coastal management and planning, particularly integrated coastal management, and encouraged the Secretariat to pursue funding for this vital regional activity;

adopted a regional implementation strategy for the *Integrated Coral Reef Initiative*;

expressed its appreciation of the ongoing work of the Secretariat in relation to the FCCC;

noted the high quality of material produced in support of the "Year of the Sea Turtle" campaign and called for continuation of the Secretariat's efforts in the area; and

endorsed the report on the *Convention on Biological Diversity*.

The full report of the *Eighth SPREP Meeting* is available from the Secretariat.

The *Ninth SPREP Meeting* will be held, on 25-28 November 1996 in Tonga.

The Secretariat

Under the *Agreement Establishing*

SPREP, the Secretariat is required to:

promote, undertake and co-ordinate implementation of the *Action Plan*;

carry out research and studies related to the *Action Plan*;

advise and assist members with activities in the *Action Plan*;

provide a means of regular consultation among members;

establish and co-ordinate working arrangements with national, regional and international organisations;

gather and disseminate information for member countries and other interested parties;

promote and develop training, public awareness and education on environmental issues;

help member countries to acquire, interpret and evaluate scientific and technical data; and

seek financial and technical resources for member countries and SPREP.

The Secretariat is also responsible for co-ordinating and implementing functions related to the Apia and SPREP Conventions.

The Secretariat is managed by a Director, assisted by a Deputy Director, aided by a team of professional staff recruited mainly from member countries, and supported by administrative staff recruited in Western Samoa.

The Secretariat now has four functional divisions, directed and guided by the Director and Deputy Director. Each division is headed by a designated professional officer.


The work and staffing of each division over the past year is detailed in the next section. 

Photo Bernard

Photo 10

Photo Bismark

Photo 9

Two of SPREP's professional officers recruited from within SPREP member countries are: Mr. Bernard Moutou (Top) from France and Environmental Information Data Analyst Officer, Mr. Bismark Crawley (Bottom) from Western Samoa.



Conservation of Natural Resources

The Division for the Conservation of Natural Resources has three distinct but inter-related programme areas:

Divisional Staff

Reti, Muliagatele Iosefatu
Head of Division and
Project Manager, SPBCP

Miller, Sue
Biodiversity Officer (Species)

Cornforth, Roger
Biodiversity Officer
(Conservation Areas)

Apis-Overhoff, Lucille
Wetlands and Mangroves
Officer

Tilling, Andrew
Biodiversity Officer (Socio-
economics)

Poibega, Faatupu
SPBCP Secretary

Tupua, Ruta
Divisional Assistant

1. South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP)

The SPBCP is a five-year programme to identify, establish and initially manage a series of large, diverse conservation areas in which human activities are guided so as to protect important ecological features.

The SPBCP covers fourteen member countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa. It is jointly funded by GEF and the government of Australia, administered by UNDP and executed by SPREP.

2. Natural Resource Conservation

This programme covers a wide range of resource conservation issues not dealt with by the SPBCP. It is mainly concerned with implementing the *Action Strategy for the Conservation of Natural Resources in the South Pacific*. It also receives funding from the SPBCP and other sources, for projects to conserve some of the region's endangered species.

3. Coastal Management and Planning

The programme assists member countries to manage and plan for the multiple use, ecologically sustainable development and conservation of coastal areas and habitats.

Objectives and strategies

The Division's objectives are to:

- assist efforts by the local communities and governments to protect the biological diversity of the South Pacific, for the peoples of the region and the world, for now and the future;
- assist in establishing and initially managing conservation areas that will be managed by local communities, NGOs and government agencies;
- protect the rich natural heritage of the region by conserving and sustainably managing its natural resources and biodiversity;
- identify and address the most urgent threats to the region's biodiversity and protect the region's plants, animals and ecosystems for future generations;
- develop and advocate appropriate funding to support conservation and sustainable resource management activities;
- strengthen local expertise and technical ability in planning and carrying out conservation programmes;
- strengthen national capabilities to formulate and implement coastal management and planning programmes;
- coordinate coastal management and planning activities in the region, especially those dealing with projected sea level rise;
- develop and undertake coastal management and planning activities; and
- assist member countries to take all appropriate measures to reduce and control pollution and coastal erosion in the area covered by the *SPREP Convention*.

Divisional activities

1. South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP).

Conservation Area Establishment

As of June 1996, sixteen Conservation Area Projects (CAPs) have been identified, established and supported in thirteen countries of the region. These projects are in Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Tokelau, Vanuatu and Western Samoa. Of these sixteen projects, eight are marine conservation areas.

Assistance to country officials in the preparation of long term plans for the development of the CAPs has been the focus of activities during this period. A number of these plans have since been completed

and are being implemented. Other projects were identified late during the period, plans for which are currently under preparation.

The SPBCP has a strong community focus, hence projects which are owned and managed by the local communities are strongly encouraged. To this end, Conservation Area Coordinating Committees (CACCs) comprising representatives from local communities, relevant government agencies, NGOs and other interested parties have been set up in many of the projects with support from the Programme. Conservation Area

Officers have also been appointed and supported to have overall responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the CAPs. A major responsibility for these officers is the training of local people in resource management and planning thus enhancing their capacity to take over full responsibility for the projects in the future.

Sustainable Income Generating Activities

Another important component of the SPBCP is assistance to local communities in the development

of sustainable income generating activities which allow for the protection of biodiversity while at the same time providing some financial returns to the local communities. A number of CAPs have also benefited from eco-tourism and other nature based activities, and a few more are looking into possibilities including whale watching, catch and release sports fishing, sustainable harvesting of indigenous nuts, agroforestry and alley cropping. It is interesting to note here that the Koroyanitu Conservation Area project in Fiji won the award for the best eco-tourism project in the South Pacific last year and could very well provide a model for other projects to follow.

The development of income generating activities within the CAPs provides a major challenge for the Programme. If successful, the CAPs could demonstrate that development and conservation can, in fact, be compatible.

Species Conservation

The SPBCP also provides support for the conservation of threatened and endangered species in the Pacific region. Financial support was provided for the implementation of regional strategies for the conservation of marine mammals, marine turtles and avifauna. Details of these projects are provided in the section on Natural Resource Conservation.

Community Awareness and Training

Community awareness and training has been a key activity for the Programme during 1995/1996. Two regional training workshops were conducted for CACC members in Fiji (for countries of Polynesia and Melanesia) and Palau (for countries of Micronesia) and one regional training workshop for Conservation Area Officers was held in Vanuatu. Study tours were also organised for CACC members from projects in Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. A number of in-country workshops involving local communities

were also conducted in projects in FSM, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Fiji and Western Samoa. Visits by SPBCP staff to a number of projects provided valuable opportunities for project personnel to discuss other issues relating to the management of the projects.

2. Natural Resource Conservation

This programme covered four basic areas:

Regional Marine Turtle Conservation (RMTCP)

Species conservation work continued to focus on the implementation of the "Year of the Sea Turtle" campaign in 1995/96. This initiative is the Pacific island's first region-wide conservation campaign and has significantly increased awareness of the need to conserve sea turtles in Pacific island countries. Two regional highlights included a three country tour (Tonga, Western Samoa, American Samoa) by the Wan Smolbag Theatre Group from Vanuatu and satellite tagging of turtles to follow migration routes.

The "Year of the Sea Turtle" core campaign network numbered 43 agencies covering 24 countries and territories, and 13 NGOs. A further 39 government agencies and NGOs were on a regular information and resource mailing list. Campaign resources, including posters, stickers and videos proved popular for use in these country and NGO campaigns. In all, more than 100,000 units of campaign materials were distributed to agencies participating in the campaign. As a direct result of the Pacific island regional turtle campaign, the Indian Ocean region countries have declared 1998 as their "Year of the Sea Turtle".

In April 1996, the campaign was reviewed as highly successful by the countries, territories and NGOs participating in SPREP's Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme (RMTCP). This review also looked at logistical con-

straints and problems in campaigning in the Pacific Islands with a view to developing future conservation campaigns in the region.

In completing the campaign, participating agencies recommended further urgent action aimed at ensuring long term survival of turtle resources to meet the cultural, economic and nutritional needs of the peoples of the Pacific islands.

These actions are embodied in the new 1997-2001 RMTCP Strategic Plan, which provides a clear vision for turtle resources in the Pacific island region:

"We see a future where generations of Pacific island people will have choices about how they use and interact with sea turtles. This dream will come true if we take action now to ensure that the sea turtle population recovers to become healthy, robust and stable. Turtles will be fulfilling their ecological role and be harvested by Pacific islanders on a sustainable basis to meet their cultural, economic and nutritional needs."

Regional Avifauna Conservation

Funding from the SPBCP continued to provide support for avifauna work in Pacific island countries during 1995/96. In Niue, a field guide to the birds of Niue was produced as well as a research report on the status of birds, peka (bat) and rodents. Western Samoa completed its work on the Manumea (tooth billed pigeon) and possible support for follow-up work is being considered in 1996. Efforts to link bird conservation work with the SPBCP Conservation Area Programme paid off with the development of the Takitimu Conservation Area in the Cook Islands which in part, focuses on endangered birds. Avifauna conservation is increasingly becoming a component of SPBCP Conservation Area work programmes including those in Huvalu (Niue), Arnafon (Solomon Islands) and Vathe (Vanuatu). A partnership with Birdlife International is also being developed to aid

in the implementation of bird conservation work including exchange of information and the Endangered Bird Area database.

Regional Marine Mammal Conservation

Baseline Marine Mammal Review and Field Guide will be published in the latter half of 1996 with funding from UNEP. Support to Tonga's development of whale watching tourism has been finalised and the first workshop aimed at guides and operators will be held in August 1996 (selected guides and operators from other Pacific islands will also be involved in the workshop). SPREP continued to respond to requests for information and advice on marine mammals throughout 1995/96.

Other work

During 1995/96 SPREP continued to provide advice and input to the implementation of the 1994-1998 Action Strategy for the Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific Region. As part of this programme, SPREP provided an advisor for Pacific island parties participating in the Convention on Biological Diversity's Second Conference of the Parties and the first meeting of the Convention's Scientific Advisory Body on Technical and Technological Advice. Pacific Island Parties, and other small island states as part of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), made a significant contribution to the development of the Convention's Marine and Coastal Programme during these meetings. Work has now begun on providing advisory information and guidelines on access to genetic resource, intellectual property rights and biosafety in preparation for Pacific island input into the Third Conference of the Parties to this Convention. SPREP has also provided an advisor to the recent Ramsar Conference of the Parties and gave the keynote address for the Oceania Day.

3. Coastal Management and Planning

Current and future activities include:

Coastal Management Profiles

This project aims to document information on Pacific island government agencies and NGOs that have coastal management related responsibilities.

Coastal Management Training Directory

This project is preparing a Coastal Management Training and Education Directory. The document will be made available both in hard copy and on disk and will be updated regularly as funding permits.

Coral Reef Survey and Monitoring Training

A "train the trainers" workshop was held in Saipan, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), in November 1995. Follow-up training workshops will be held in PNG and Palau in early 1997.

The project supported member governments in preparing, reviewing and implementing coastal management plans, as well as carrying out feasibility assessments for integrated coastal management programmes.

Planned activities for 1996/1997 include projects to demonstrate the management of:

- ☉ mangroves as renewable resources;
- ☉ the sustainable use of coastal resources;
- ☉ coordinating research, monitoring and management activities; and
- ☉ information exchange in the Pacific island region.

An *integrated coastal management and planning programme* to promote the sustainable use of coastal areas and resources was supported by the last SPREP Meeting. It will provide:

- ☉ assistance for integrated coastal management in all member countries; and


- ☉ three national projects demonstrating integrated coastal management practices.

This programme is now being assessed by funding sources.

1997 Pacific Year of the Coral Reef

A Pacific Regional Workshop (Suva, 27 November - 1 December 1995) was called to give direction to ICRI at the regional and local levels by developing an ICRI Pacific Regional Strategy. The Strategy nominated SPREP to host the ICRI Coordinator for the Pacific region and recommended 1997 to be the *Pacific Year of the Coral Reef*. The Secretariat is now actively assisting implementation of the Strategy.

Regional Wetlands Action Plan (RWAP)

The draft RWAP, first circulated at the ICRI Pacific Regional Workshop in Suva, Fiji last year, has been endorsed by SPREP member countries and will be published. There will be follow up in-country activities based on the RWAP. 

A note from the Head of Division.....

1995, has been another successful year for the Division. The SPBCP is on track with two additional conservation areas identified and established bringing to 16 the number of projects established with support from the SPBCP, since 1993.

The "*Year of the Sea Turtle*" campaign attracted world-wide attention to the efforts of the Pacific island countries to protect one of the region's culturally important but now threatened marine species.

The Coastal Management and Planning Programme provided the much needed basic training for government officials in the planning and management of coastal protection and development. This training will need to be put into practice if governments are to ensure the long-term sustainable use of coastal areas and resources.

A big congratulations and thank you to all our supporters and collaborators for making 1995/96 yet another successful year. I look forward to working with you again to make 1996/97 an even more successful year for you and for us.

Iosefatu (Joe) Reti



Environmental Management and Planning

Structure and goals

The Division for Environmental Management and Planning has four distinct but inter-related programme areas:

Divisional Staff

Miles, Gerald

*Head of Division and
Sustainable Development
Officer*

Tongamoa, Taiaimoni

*Population and
Environment Officer*

Kaluwin, Chalapan

Climate Change Officer

Koop, Neville

*Meteorology/ Climatology
Officer*

Onorio, Komeri

*Environment Impact
Assessment Officer*

Crawley, Bismarck

*Environmental Information
Data Analyst Officer*

Ioane, Fiu Petelo

*GIS/Database Assistant
Officer*

Munro, Andrew

*Waste Management and
Pollution Prevention Officer*

Le'apai, Lagi

Divisional Assistant

Patelesio, Sia

Divisional Assistant

1. Climate Change

This programme focuses on strengthening the understanding of climate change in the region through understanding the science, developing impacts and response options to climate change, improving the awareness of decision-makers and the public, assisting countries with international negotiations related to climate change and building the region's capacity to plan and adapt to climate and sea level change.

2. Environmental Impact Assessment

This seeks to establish a sound basis for integrating Environmental Impact Assessment procedures into national planning and to strengthen capacity for environmental assessment and State of the Environment Reporting in the region.

3. Population and Sustainable Development

This programme promotes sustainable development in the wake of the Rio and Barbados Conferences, and assists member countries to incorporate population and environmental considerations into their national planning.

4. Waste Management, Pollution Prevention and Emergencies

This assists countries in preventing, reducing and managing pollution and wastes, including the development and maintenance of national and regional pollution emergency response and planning capabilities.

Goals and Objectives

The overall goal of this Division is to ensure planning and development activities are environmentally sustainable. To achieve this goal, the Division's objectives are to:

- assist member countries to understand and avoid or mitigate the potentially adverse effects of global climate change and to contribute to international efforts to limit human-induced climate change;
- provide the tools and techniques, including EIA, to assist countries further assess their national state of the environment and that of the region;
- assess the impacts of human activities on the region's ecosystems and the effects of these impacts on the quality of the human environment;
- develop and coordinate implementation of a comprehensive framework of action to manage wastes and prevent pollution in the region;
- carry out training activities related to waste management and pollution emergencies;
- prepare national waste management strategies and assess the size of the region's waste problem; and
- assist countries in understanding and responding to significant regional and global environment concerns (e.g. population) and related agreements (e.g. Agenda 21 and Barbados Programme of Action).

Divisional activities

1. Climate Change and Sea Level Rise

Activities included climate and sea level change monitoring and training, vulnerability assessments, review of climate data management and the provision of technical assistance to member countries at international meetings.

A review and inventory of the Climate Computer Project (CLICOM) has been completed and further technical assistance in collaboration with the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) is under development. Fact sheets, a report on a new weather receiving satellite system and monthly data from the *Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project* were published. A quarterly bulletin newsletter is now produced by SPREP.

Training needs for climate change and sea level rise were identified, CLICOM and meteorological applications were assessed and training programmes developed for 14

countries. Training programmes on sea level and climate change were carried out, with participants from 14 countries. Installation of sea level change monitoring stations has been completed in eleven countries, with data on oceanography, sea level rise and weather distributed to member governments and international organisations.

The *Third Meeting of Directors of Meteorological Services* was held in Apia, Western Samoa and covered issues such as training, technical assistance, cooperation and collaboration between member governments and the development of El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) climate prediction capabilities.

Sea level rise vulnerability assessments were completed in Western Samoa and Fiji, bringing the total number of assessments to five since 1992. Climate impacts and response strategies are also being developed for Fiji and Tuvalu.

The *Atmosphere Radiation Measurement Project (ARM)* commenced in 1995. Activities include publishing pamphlets and posters, running national and sub-regional workshops to explain the project to local people. SPREP is assisting the U.S. Department of Energy and the governments of Papua New Guinea, Nauru and Kiribati to identify sites for data-gathering equipment and to help Pacific scientists interpret and use the data for planning purposes.

The *South Pacific Sea Level Monitoring Project* has commenced a training strategy to include attachments from Pacific Island Countries of up to 4-6 weeks at the National Tidal Facility, Flinders University, South Australia. The first such group training will focus on data and management, geodesy/surveying, maintenance and electronics, and coastal planning and management.

Curriculum Writing workshop

Dr. Kalwin, SPREP's Climate Change Officer and coordinator of the "Curriculum Writing Workshop on Climate and Climate Change" in Western Samoa, May 1996 - A strategic regional approach to coordinate awareness on Climate Change. Also present (l-r) are Western Samoa's Minister of Education, Hon. Fiaame Naomi Mataafa; Rev. Onesemo; Acting Director of SPREP, Mr. Don Stewart and Mr Adam Lees for AusAID.

Further activities dealing with changing sea levels will include new sites to be assessed for suitability for sea level monitoring stations and workshops on climate change impacts, planning and adaptation. Data will also be accumulated on the actual sea level change.

Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding of approximately USD\$ 3 million is expected for climate change activities related to the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The two GEF funded projects are *CC: Train* and *the Pacific Island Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP)*.

CC: Train funding will include climate change activities for Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa under the UNFCCC. The programme has a training focus and aims to enhance the capacity of the region to implement the UNFCCC.

Pacific Island Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP) funding has been approved by GEF and is awaiting formal approval of the final project document. The activities supported by PICCAP will facilitate the implementation of national communications obligations under the UNFCCC.

PICCAP will be implemented in the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa.

2. Environmental Impact Assessment

EIA Expert System Software - known as Calyx EA - was demonstrated in Kiribati with the view towards possible regional adaptation. Based on the results of the demonstration, guidance from the Eighth SPREP Meeting, and in-house reviews, a pilot installation of Calyx EA is under consideration.

EIA activities in the current year included:

- the Epau Micro Hydro-Electric Power Project in Vanuatu;
- wharf developments at Anibare and Gabab channels in Nauru; and
- the Neiafu Master Plan for Vava'u in Tonga.

EIA Guidelines for Mine Development and Tailings Disposal for Mine Development at Tropical Coastal Mines were completed and distributed.

Two other EIA guidelines are currently with the printers, these are:

- Guidelines for the Environmental Management of Fish Processing Plants; and
- Environmental Guidelines for Dredging in Funafuti Lagoon, Tuvalu.

The *Pacific Environment and Natural Resource Information Centre (PENRIC)* is part of a global network aimed at strengthening systems for State of the Environment

Reporting and provides SPREP with GIS capabilities for environmental assessment. The Centre supported activities in conserving biodiversity and population issues, with projects in Fiji, FSM, Kiribati and Niue. A pilot national GIS unit was also established in Fiji's Environment Department.

Activities for the coming year include developing further national and local projects to support other SPREP programmes, completing a database of environmental consultants available to the region and coordinating the 1995 regional *State of the Environment Report*. It is hoped that by the year 2000, PENRIC will have established a system for producing annual State of the Environment reports with emphasis on cost effective and robust approaches to data compilation and analysis.

3. Population and Sustainable Development

The *Population and Environment project* addresses the integration of population to environmental management as a key factor in sustainable development. Activities have been directed towards the national capacity of environment departments or units, assisting the coordination of national positions on integrated population and environment policy, assisting research and improved data collection and analysis, and community development training and awareness programmes. Emphasis is placed on ensuring limited resources target the expressed needs of countries rather than attempting to impose activities that may not be seen by coun-

tries as a priority. Some of the activities supported by financial and technical assistance under this project include:

- ☉ Technical advice concerning integrated national population and environment policy in Marshall Islands, Tokelau, Tonga and subsequently for Western Samoa;
- ☉ National in-service training workshops for primary teachers in Vanuatu;
- ☉ Public awareness campaign in Kosrae in the form of an Education Week. The week's theme was "Education for All" and one of the main focuses for the week was population and the environment;
- ☉ Curriculum writing workshop for Micronesia held in Palau aimed at producing a module unit on the linkages between population and the environment which can become part of the existing national school curriculum;
- ☉ A regional GIS workshop held at USP to introduce POPMAP as a planning tool;
- ☉ A short-term fellowship in January-February 1996 for a group of national planners and environment officers at the University of the South Pacific;
- ☉ A community development training manual on participatory approaches to integrated population and environment planning has been produced. This is intended as a handbook for training trainers at the community level; and
- ☉ Socio-economic review of a proposed Tuna cannery in Kosrae.

The project is approaching the end of its first cycle and much remains to be done.

To follow-up Barbados and UNCED, the Advisory Commit-

tee, established by the Forum in 1994 to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action in this region, met for the first time, in Apia, in October 1995. As a result, a report on activities to implement the Barbados Programme of Action was completed and presented to the 1996 session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). This was well received by the CSD in April this year. The Advisory Committee agreed to convene as appropriate in accordance with the review of the Barbados Conference outcomes. The Special Session of the UN General Assembly and related session of the CSD in 1997, provide opportunities to advance the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and related regional priorities at the international level.

Significant progress has also been made to implement the Pacific Strategy for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) drafted by the GEF Training and Scoping Workshop, in August 1995. Assistance to the region of approximately USD 3 million over three years for climate change activities has been approved. Project development funds to prepare a Strategic Action Plan for the protection of international waters are being requested.

In the coming year, work to identify significant trade and environment linkages will be completed along with training material to assist countries mobilise financial resources for environmental investments. The implementation of international environment agreements will continue to require considerable attention. The Special Session of the UN General Assembly will largely determine the priorities for this work over the next five years. Greater effort will be required to address the integration of environment and development issues in the region as the pressure increases to improve economic growth in the Pacific. The current revision of the SPREP Action Plan 1996-2000 provides countries with

the opportunity to define where that effort should be focused.

4. Pollution Prevention and Waste Management

Implementation of the *South Pacific Regional Waste Minimisation, Management and Pollution Prevention Programme* commenced in 1995. The programme has two components - terrestrial and marine. The terrestrial component targets solid waste management and minimisation, chemicals management, waste water management and land use planning. The marine component was drafted with the assistance of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and targets international marine conventions and marine pollution response capabilities. Implementation of the Programme to date has concentrated on demonstration projects under the terrestrial component of the Programme. Funding is being sought to implement other items of the terrestrial component and the marine component. The Programme also provides technical support in response to country requests for assistance with waste management and pollution prevention activities and pollution emergencies.

Implementation of two Agenda 21 derived chemicals management projects is also being undertaken. The National Chemicals Profiles and Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR) projects are both supported by UNITAR and the Australian EPA with additional support to the PRTR project being provided by the OECD. In addition, the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals database has been supplied to SPREP member countries with assistance being available from SPREP and UNEP. These are helping to better equip countries to undertake the complex tasks associated with environmentally appropriate chemicals management.


The *Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities* was signed in December, 1995 and implementation is expected to commence

Information currently being stored in databases has allowed SPREP's PENRIC unit to produce this very accurate representation of specific member country's state of environment.



shortly. The Programme is being co-ordinated by UNEP with the involvement of many other international organisations and SPREP will be involved in its implementation in the South Pacific region. The Programme recognises that the majority of marine pollution is derived from the land and targets many land-based pollutants including sewerage, sedimentation, non-degradable solid wastes and persistent organic pollutants. It promises to be of great benefit in combating pollution of the South Pacific Ocean.

The *Waigani Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region* was signed in Port Moresby in 1995. It will come into force upon ratification or accession by ten countries. Upon entry into force, SPREP will act as the Secretariat. The Convention, which relates to the Basel Convention, was drafted in response to a perception that the increasing generation of hazardous and radioactive wastes world wide posed a threat to the human health and environment of the South Pacific Region, and addresses these issues. To assist its implementation, SPREP has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretariat of

the Basel Convention. This ensures cooperation between the Secretariats of the two Conventions and allows SPREP to utilise many of the resources of the Basel Secretariat. 

A note from the Head of Division.....

To make progress in addressing the critical environment issues of climate change, pollution, population and environmental assessment as well as the international policy matters, Divisional activities have focused largely on training, policy development and curriculum development. This reflects a region-wide need for capacity building in environmental management, technical back-stopping on specific issues at national, regional and international levels, and an “environmentally aware” public. Further work of the Division will strengthen this capacity. Training and awareness raising will continue, particularly in the areas of climate change, environmental assessment and the development of systems for State of Environment Reporting. Emphasis will also be placed on promoting practical solutions and tools for effective planning and management. This will include demonstration projects in waste management.

This steady strengthening of environmental management and planning capacity will certainly be challenged as pressure increases to improve economic performance in the Pacific. Therefore it will be necessary for SPREP's work in this area to reach beyond its traditional partners and to influence all sectors of development in the region, both public and private.

Gerald Miles

Environmental Education, Information and Coordination

Structure and goals

The Division for Environmental Education, Information and Coordination has four distinct but inter-related programme areas:

Divisional Staff

Wendt, Neva

*Head of Division and
Project Manager, Capacity 21*

Salesa-Uesele, Gisa Gaufa

*Environmental Education
Officer*

Moutou, Bernard

Legal Officer

Dosung, Lucas

*Library and Information
Centre Coordinator*

Bentin, Satui

Senior Library Assistant

Taufiafi, Fatu

*Information and
Publications Officer*

Williams, Alex

*Computer/Information
Technology Officer*

Ieremia, Wanda

*Sustainable Development
Network Assistant*

Wilson, Craig

Programme Officer

Valasi, Usugafono

Divisional Assistant

Kilepoa, Susana

Divisional Assistant

1. Environmental Policy/ Strategy Coordination

The *Capacity 21 Project* commenced in August 1994 to implement the institutional strengthening activities identified in the *National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS)*.

2. Institutional Strengthening

This includes *legal activities* and *Australian Volunteer Abroad (AVA)* attachments. Legal activities support national environmental legislation and assist with regional and international conventions. Legal activities are also integrated into the *Capacity 21 Project*.

SPREP works with the *Australian Overseas Service Bureau* to place AVAs in environment units around the region to strengthen the technical capabilities of these units.

3. Environmental Education

This programme develops a wide range of formal and non-formal curriculum resources and provides training activities for teachers, NGOs, church leaders and the media, all aimed at raising environmental awareness.

4. Information and Computer Technology

This covers diverse activities which include the production of public information and educational material, promotion of regional activities and awareness through various media, as well as translating appropriate material into local languages.

This programme also includes SPREP's *Library/Information Centre*, which provides environmental information for SPREP and for Pacific island countries, as well as training in library skills for environment units.

The *Computer Information Technology* section provides technical support in computing for the SPREP Secretariat and provides electronic mail facilities through its role as the host for the Sustainable Development Network (SDN) in Western Samoa.

Objectives

The objectives of the Division are to:

- ☉ strengthen the capacity of formal and informal institutions in member countries to achieve sustainable development in a form suited to the Pacific islands;
- ☉ strengthen national legislation affecting sustainable development;
- ☉ assist member governments to benefit from membership in regional and international conventions;
- ☉ increase awareness and understanding of the region's environment and cultural heritage to promote positive community attitudes towards environmental activities and decision-making in the region;
- ☉ provide specific environmental information in SPREP's mandated role as a regional information clearing house;
- ☉ provide computer information technology services to SPREP staff to ensure that the organisation's computing and telecommunications facilities keep pace with its needs; and
- ☉ provide information to support sustainable development, especially through electronic mail and other communication systems.

Divisional activities

1. Environmental Policy/ Strategy Coordination

Capacity 21 is a SPREP/UNDP project, with the full title of *A Programme of Capacity Building for Sustainable Development in the South Pacific: Building on NEMS*. The Project aims to implement principles of *Agenda 21* which came from the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

The project aims to:

- ☉ create and strengthen national frameworks for sustainable development;
- ☉ assist sustainable development planning and financing;
- ☉ improve national extension and legal capabilities; and
- ☉ increase capacity of local landholders to manage and monitor their land and sea resources.

The project targets six countries: Solomon Islands and Vanuatu (Melanesia), Federated States of Micronesia and Kiribati (Micronesia) and Cook Islands and Western Samoa (Polynesia). Additional activities aim to strengthen the capacity of environment units in some of the smaller Pacific islands.

Capacity 21 work programme activities tailored to suit the specific needs of the target countries, include:

- ☉ development of national frameworks for sustainable development;
- ☉ reviews of policies and procedures of development banks and other lending institutions, reviews of development planning procedures and reviews of extension services;

- ☉ national and regional sustainable development meetings involving planners and financial institutions;
- ☉ training activities to ensure ecologically sustainable development;
- ☉ development of environmental legislation; and
- ☉ community involvement in natural resource monitoring and protection.

A local officer has been employed in each sub-region to work with the SPREP-based Project Manager in implementing the project's activities in their areas.

Over the last year, Capacity 21 has established a collaborative relationship with a number of regional and international organisations and programmes which include the

Pacific Sustainable Development Networking Programme (PSDNP), the Association of Development Financing Institutions in the Pacific (ADFIP), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Pacific Operations Centre (POC), UNDP/Department of Environment and Conservation, PNG Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management Program, New Zealand ODA and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre (ELI/PAC).

Capacity 21 activities in Melanesia undertaken through the work of the Capacity 21 Programme Officer (Melanesia) included:

- ☉ establishment of a National Task Force in Vanuatu to guide implementation of Capacity 21 activities leading up to a National Conference on Sustainable Development held in May, 1996;
- ☉ development of sustainable development guidelines incorporating ni-Vanuatu aspects of sustainable development;
- ☉ review of policies and loan appraisal methods in development banks and other financial institutions in Vanuatu, June 1995;
- ☉ review of sectoral policies and the development plan and convening a Vanuatu National Workshop on Sustainable Development and Planning, March 1996;
- ☉ review of extension programmes of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the Solomon Islands involving outer islands; and
- ☉ community workshop on 'Sustainable Development: Traditional Medicine and

Non-timber Products' in Honiara, October 1995.

Capacity 21 activities in Micronesia, undertaken through the work of the Capacity 21 Programme Officer (Micronesia) included:

- ☉ overseeing of Capacity 21 activities in Federated States of Micronesia by the President's Council on Environmental Management and Sustainable Development (SD Council);
- ☉ awareness raising activities and conferences on sustainable development in Kosrae State, October 1995 and Pohnpei State, May 1996;
- ☉ review of policies and procedures of development bank and other financial institutions in Pohnpei, June 1995;
- ☉ review of sectoral policies and the development planning process in FSM, July 1995;
- ☉ collaboration with the First FSM Economic Summit, assistance with State participation and provision of resource persons;
- ☉ convening a FSM National Workshop on Sustainable Development and Planning, April 1996; and
- ☉ collaboration with UNEP's ELI/PAC to provide assistance to Kiribati with development of draft Environmental Legislation and a related national workshop, April 1996.

Capacity 21 activities undertaken in Polynesia included:

- ☉ review of extension services and training of extension officers in agriculture, forestry and fisheries in relation to sustainable development activities undertaken in Cook Islands, September 1995;
- ☉ review of policies and procedures of development

bank and financial institutions in Cook Islands, June 1995;

- ☉ review of current practices for prevention and resolution of natural resource disputes in Cook Islands with results presented to an Environmental Law Workshop convened in October 1995;
- ☉ continued assistance to the NEMS Task Team in Western Samoa to develop national policies on Waste Management, Land Use, Population and Water Management;
- ☉ review of policies and loan appraisal methods of development bank and other financial institutions in Western Samoa undertaken in June, 1995;
- ☉ review of national development plan and sectoral policies in Western Samoa, July 1995; and
- ☉ convened National Workshop on Sustainable Development: Planning and Financing, December, 1995.

Capacity 21 undertook a number of regional activities including:

- ☉ collaboration with the Association of Development Financing Institutions in the Pacific (ADFIP) in its 10th Annual Conference on the theme of 'Sustainable Development: Financing and Planning', July 1995; and
- ☉ collaboration with the Pacific Sustainable Development Networking Programme (PSDNP) in a series of Desktop Publishing Workshops to produce Sustainable Development awareness raising material in Vanuatu, Western Samoa and Fiji.

2. Institutional Strengthening

SPREP provides Secretariat services for two regional conventions, the *Convention for the Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific (Apia Convention)* and the *Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (SPREP Convention)*, and two related protocols.

A regional convention aimed at controlling movements of hazardous waste in the region, the Waigani Convention, has been established with the collaborative assistance of SPREP. It was officially opened for signature during the 1995 Forum meeting held in Papua New Guinea. SPREP has been designated as the Secretariat for this convention, when it enters into force.

SPREP coordinates Pacific island activities for a number of international conventions, including the:

- ☉ London Convention;
- ☉ Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- ☉ Convention on Biological Diversity;
- ☉ Montreal Protocol;
- ☉ Basel Convention;
- ☉ CITES;
- ☉ Ramsar Convention; and
- ☉ World Heritage Convention.

SPREP is now producing a series of educational pamphlets on these conventions and their significance to the Pacific islands. These also provide information on the consequences and benefits of membership in these international conventions.

The legal services sector has also worked with UNEP's *Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre* on training attachment for legal officers from the region, to enhance national skills in environmental law and to undertake assistance in the development of legislation and assisted national legal training, in association with Capacity 21.

The Australian Overseas Service Bureau, SPREP and member governments have worked together to place a number of AVAs in countries to provide technical support for environment units. Western Samoa was assisted during the past year, and negotiations are now under way for further AVA placements in other member countries.

3. Environmental Education and Training

The Environmental Education Programme continues to run training and production workshops on curriculum development, teacher training, multi-media, public awareness and material production. This training, funded mostly by AusAID, is aimed at addressing each country's pertinent environment issues by targeting the population at large through the media, NGOs, churches and the formal education system. The first participating countries in the AusAID/SPREP Environmental Education project were Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Western Samoa. In 1996, Cook Islands, Vanuatu and Marshall Islands are taking part. Funding negotiations are underway to obtain additional resources for this important area of SPREP's work.

4. Information and Computer Technology

The information and publications section coordinates translation, publishing and communications for SPREP's core activities and programmes. These include the editing of reports, writing press releases on activities involving SPREP, developing campaigns, writing and editing extension materials, completing radio interviews, and writing and editing video scripts.

During the year, SPREP publications and other resource materials were distributed widely in the region, and sold to a diverse audience outside the region. The wide interest shown in the publications area, both regionally and internationally, has highlighted an encouraging awareness of the organisation and its

activities.

Radio is an important communications medium in the Pacific islands. The *One World Project*, with SPREP, Radio Australia and Public News Service, sought to improve environmental radio reporting. The project produced audio tapes and transcripts of a weekly environment programme, in English, French and Tok Pisin, for re-broadcasting by local radio stations and for use in newspapers.

Although the One World programme has now come to an end, there are still links which are being utilised to continue the theme it created when it first began. SPREP developed a project to broaden support for environmental communications and information processing through a *Pacific Environmental Information Network (PEIN)* project, in cooperation with UNESCO and SPC, for which funding is being sought.

The media is vital for disseminating environmental information to the public. The annual *Pacific Island News Association (PINA) Conference* is an important opportunity for presenting environmental issues for newspaper, radio and television and journalists. SPREP has acknowledged the importance of this by attending the annual PINA Conference and by assisting with workshops on environmental reporting. SPREP also remained in regular contact with regional and international print, radio and television media to publicise SPREP activities and regional environmental concerns.

The *SPREP Library/Information Centre (SLIC)* was established in 1994, with sorting and cataloguing being the main initial activities. The collection is now computerised, with nearly 4,000 books and 200 journal titles entered and shelved. During the year, the Centre received and processed around 25 information requests weekly. The Centre has also set up over 25 exchange agreements between SPREP and other libraries with environmental collections, to save ac-

quisition costs.

In 1995/96, SLIC has extended its in-house activities and is seeking to develop a network of information centres in the region. This has initially involved training and technical assistance in the establishment of environment libraries in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Cook Islands, Marshall Islands Kiribati and Western Samoa.

Computers are vital in the daily running of SPREP. On-going support was provided during this period to an increasing number of staff and computers to maintain an operational computing environment. These and other activities included:

Internal Computer Network

Improving communication systems within the SPREP Headquarters has been of paramount importance to the Computer and Information Technology needs of SPREP.

While the UNDP-funded Pacific Sustainable Development Networking Programme executed by the South Pacific Commission facilitated access to information abroad on the Internet, improvement of the current internal flow of information was required. Thus, in an effort to maximize individual and group productivity, the SPREP computer network was installed in mid-1996. Financial reports and databases can now be made electronically available to SPREP officers. These benefits of advanced information access will accrue to SPREP Projects.

Western Samoa Sustainable Development Network

In February 1995, the Pacific SDN Project established an electronic mail hub for Western Samoa, based at SPREP, using the Pactok System. Within eighteen months the network has expanded from nine to

fifty one sites.

With uncertainty over future funding, the Western Samoa User Group met with the PSDNP Secretariat in January 1996 to discuss procedures and a technical upgrade proposed by the PSDNP Secretariat. The Action Plan endorsed by the User Group envisages a fully self funding network by the year 1998, with the User Group gradually undertaking the administration responsibilities and costs currently met by SPC and SPREP. To implement this strategy, a Sustainable Development Network Working Group has been established to provide sound feedback to the SDN Coordinator.

Also discussed was a proposal by SPREP and PSDNP to upgrade the Pactok system to meet the increasingly sophisticated needs of the user group. While discussions and experiments with Internet Service Providers and software manufacturers are still being conducted, the move to on-line interactive services for the Western Samoa Sustainable Development Network is immi-

Assistant Computer Information Technology Position

nent.

With the SPREP operations largely dependent on computer information systems, the need for assistance to the Computer Specialist and Information Technology Officer has been recognised. Currently SPREP's Computer Information Technology work is conducted by the Computer Information Technology Officer and the SDN Officer. In recognition of the increasing demands placed on this important area of SPREP's work, it is proposed to create a position of Assistant Computer Information Technology Officer, with funding secured from AusAID.

A note from the Head of Division.....

This year has been one of increasing activity for the Environmental Education, Information and Coordination Division. Member governments have continued to stress the importance of environmental education activities, not only within the formal school and tertiary institution sectors but also in education, training and awareness raising activities targeting the community. Donor funding has continued to be sought in recognition of the potential future advantages of having an environmentally aware school age population as well as an aware community. The resources required for development and translation of material into local languages already exist at the national level and SPREP continues to provide additional assistance and to seek further funding to broaden the scope of this important area of work.

SPREP's information needs are also increasing substantially as are those of our member governments. Our ability to serve those needs through the Information Technology sector, Publications and Information sector and Library/Information Sector of the Division are currently being put to the test as the technical programme areas within SPREP grow and require higher levels of sophistication in information technology. Recognition of the need to better assist our member governments with interpretation of some of the highly technical information that is increasingly a part of environmental management, is presenting our Division with a challenge - how to disseminate information in a reader-friendly format.

Environmental Policy/Strategy Coordination aspects of the work of the Division are covered mostly under the Capacity 21 Project which is currently seeking funds to reach out to other countries within the region, in a possible Phase II. The importance of capacity building for our member governments is well recognised as is the value of extending out to ensure that sustainable development objectives are covered in all sectors. Continued work with planners and financial institutions is one target area for future environmental policy/strategy coordination activities. Legal aspects of the Division's work, both through provision of assistance with national environmental legislation and with countries' obligations under international and regional environmental conventions, is another form of institutional strengthening which is increasing.

Neva Wendt

Finance and Administration

Structure and goals

The Finance and Administration Division comprises two units.

Divisional Staff

Jones, Nuku

*Head of Division and
Finance Manager*

Devoe, Daniel

Accountant

Hadley, Malama

Administration Officer

Ab Tong, Salafai

Assistant Accountant

Fauatea, Luapene

Accounts Clerk

Chong Wong, Puni

Accounts Clerk

Fereti, Asofa

Accounts Clerk

Silulu, Lupe

Registry Clerk

Reid, Quandovita

Registry Assistant

Matefo, Faaafu T.

Office Assistant

Matau, Samoa

Conference Assistant

Tupai, Monica

Receptionist

Taei, Faalepo

Handyman

Fonoti, Faamanu

Driver

Tuala, Talanoa

Driver

Leaula, Tologauvale

Teaperson

Tootoo, Amosa

Cleaner

Leota, Iakopo

Cleaner

Rusia, Esera

Gardener

Hunt, Elia

Night Watchman

1. Finance

This unit's goals are to monitor, control and implement SPREP's financial obligations and needs according to SPREP's *Financial Regulations*, the financial requirements of donors and member countries and internationally accepted accounting principles.

2. Administration.

This unit is responsible for providing "core" administration services and assisting management in monitoring and implementing obligations and requirements in SPREP's *Staff Regulations* and its internal policies and procedures.

Objectives

The Division's objectives are to:

- provide financial and administrative support and advice to management and staff, according to SPREP's regulations, local conditions and the SPREP work programme;
- safeguard SPREP's financial resources by adopting sound financial and accounting principles and practices;
- provide financial information to member countries and donor organisations on the funds provided to SPREP;
- ensure that SPREP's *Staff Regulations* and internal policies are applied appropriately; and
- provide adequate security and appropriate insurance cover for all SPREP assets and property.

Divisional activities

Systems have been established to meet these objectives. These were monitored and refined during the year, leading to improvements which included:


- review and acquisition of additional accounting software complementary to SPREP's existing software;
- construction of a new Publication storage room;
- installation of a new generator together with its own storage area;
- converting the former publications storage room to a display area;
- facilitating an "In-House" work area for SPREP's travel agent; and
- refurbishing general office space.

The Division will continue to monitor its systems in the coming year, and will change these where necessary.

*Mrs. Monica
Tupa'i
SPREP's
Receptionist.*

Monica
Photo 39

The Division provided the normal services expected from Finance and Administration, including: payment of commitments entered into by SPREP; payment of staff payroll and staff entitlements; provision of monthly financial reports to staff and management; providing financial and administrative assistance to management; liaising with donors on financial matters; provision of financial reports to donors; preparation of annual financial statements; coordination and com-

pilation of the annual work programme and budget working papers, together with other finance and administration working papers required for the annual SPREP Meeting; provision of travel related services to staff; monitoring stationery stock levels; maintaining an effective registry system; maintaining office equipment, furniture and fittings, buildings and grounds in good working order; and facilitating improvements and extensions to SPREP offices. 

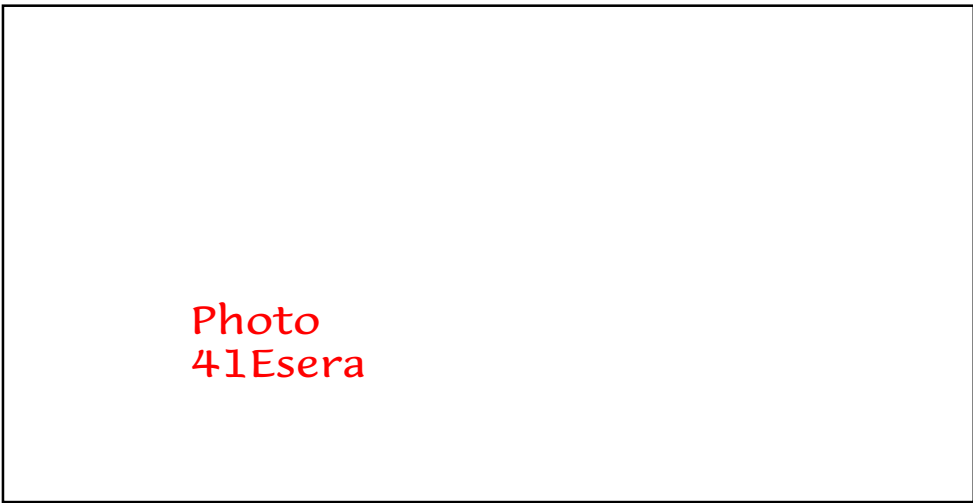


Photo
41Esera

*SPREP's
hard
working
Gardener,
Mr. Esera
Rusia with
the tools of
his trade.*

A note from the Head of Division.....

As with the other Divisions, this was the first complete year of operations for the Finance and Administration Division since the divisional structure became effective. It was a busy period for us, as the Secretariat continued its hectic pace of activities. Demands on the Division's services from staff and management saw us always committed to a full work schedule.

I am very pleased with the manner in which staff in the Division worked during the year. In a working environment in which pressure and urgency are never far away, staff were committed and dedicated to the tasks at hand, often going beyond what would normally be expected from them in order to complete their assigned tasks. The Division is very fortunate to have staff of such high quality and calibre, and as Head of the Division, I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the fine work and for the effort they put into their respective jobs during the past year.

The coming year looks to be just as busy as ever - a year for consolidating and improving the procedures and systems that have been implemented to ensure that work flows smoothly through the organisation.

Nuku Jones

In Country Activities

During the year, from 1 June 1995 to 31 May 1996, SPREP implemented the following projects or activities in member countries and territories that:

American Samoa

- ☉ funded a participant to attend the Directors of Meteorological Services Meeting;
- ☉ participated in the IPCC Meeting on the Impacts of Climate Change and Science;
- ☉ provided capacity building through country attachment (Mr. Vai Aiavao from EPA) to SPREP Secretariat in the Capacity 21 project;
- ☉ funded a participant to attend the sub-regional workshop *“Using GIS to Integrate Population and the Environment”*;
- ☉ funded Wan Smolbag theatre *“Year of the Sea Turtle”* tour of American Samoa, December 1995; and
- ☉ part-funded the Great Sea Turtle Migration Initiative.

Cook Islands

- ☉ funded a local consultant to prepare a review of Extension Services in Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture through the Capacity 21 project;
- ☉ established and trained staff of the Conservation Department in library establishment and management;
- ☉ assisted the Conservation Service in conducting a Media Production Training

Workshop for the journalists and broadcasters from 18-19 September 1995;

- ☉ carried out the Community Development Workshop on a participatory approach to integrate population and environmental management at the country level;
- ☉ funded a participant to attend the Directors of Meteorological Services Meeting;
- ☉ provided satellite receiving equipment;
- ☉ provided training for two staff from the Meteorological Service in *“Satellite Meteorology”*;
- ☉ assisted with application to gain WMO membership;
- ☉ sponsored participant to attend the WMO congress;
- ☉ under the Capacity 21 project, convened a workshop on Environmental Legislation and natural resource dispute resolution;
- ☉ provided assistance for Environment legislation with UNEP ELI/PAC;
- ☉ undertook Capacity 21 Project activities in accordance with a two year work plan tailored to suit Cook Island needs and involving natural resource monitoring on Northern and Southern island groups;
- ☉ coordinated and ran the regional meeting on the

“State of the Environment Reporting/Database”;

- ☉ funded a participant to attend the sub regional workshop, *“Using GIS to Integrate Population and the Environment”*;
- ☉ funded the establishment of the Takitimu Conservation Area in Rarotonga;
- ☉ funded the participation of DOC officials at SPBCP training workshops;
- ☉ funded two participants at Turtle Conservation Meeting in Nadi, April 1996;
- ☉ provided *“Year of the Sea Turtle”* campaign support and materials, including Cook Islands translation of video; and
- ☉ funded participant to Coral Reef Meeting at Suva, Fiji, on November 1995.

Federated States of Micronesia

- ☉ responded to information and publication requests via the Capacity 21 Programme Officer (Micronesia);
- ☉ provided Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) awareness training as part of Capacity 21 *“National Workshop on Sustainable Development and Planning”*;
- ☉ provided a review of an EIA of the proposed Tuna Cannery at Kosrae;

- ☉ assisted Pohnpei Sarawi during the “Reduce - Reuse - Recycle” theme for Earth Day 1996;
- ☉ raised public awareness on the links between population and environmental concerns. Supported promotional media materials e.g. posters, sponsor school competitions (including essay and poster competition) addressing population/environment issues at the Year 9 - 12 level;
- ☉ funded a participant to attend the Directors of Meteorological Services Meeting;
- ☉ assisted in the FSM request to the WMO for satellite receiving equipment;
- ☉ provided funding for the Pohnpei Watershed Project;
- ☉ assisted Kosrae to draft their SPBCP Concept Document which was subsequently approved by the relevant communities (Utwala -Walung) and government who has passed this to SPBCP for TMAG approval;
- ☉ funded a project officer to take part in the regional SPBCP training workshops in Vanuatu and Palau;
- ☉ advanced Pohnpei SPBCP project - PRA work undertaken and catchment management plan approved;
- ☉ funded a Conservation Area Support Officer (CASO) to take part in the regional SPBCP training workshop;
- ☉ provided “Year of the Sea Turtle” campaign support and materials;
- ☉ continued employment of Capacity 21 Programme Officer (Micronesia);
- ☉ undertook review of National Development Plan and Sectoral policies in July 1995 under Capacity 21;
- ☉ under Capacity 21 provided resource person to the First FSM Economic Summit, November 1995 and funded the State participation to assist with the incorporation of sustainable development objectives;
- ☉ undertook review of policies and procedures of development bank and other financial institutions under Capacity 21 during June 1995;
- ☉ convened the National Workshop on Sustainable Development and Planning, Pohnpei 16-18 April 1996 under Capacity 21; and
- ☉ coordinated and ran the regional meeting on the “State of the Environment Reporting/ Database”.
- ☉ funded SPBCP staff member from the Koroyanitu project to take part in the regional “Conservation Area Staff Training Workshop” in Vanuatu;
- ☉ funded Fiji “Year of the Sea Turtle” campaign and provided material;
- ☉ funded the development of a National Turtle Conservation Strategy for Fiji;
- ☉ funded government and NGO participation in turtle meeting;
- ☉ funded participants to SPBCP training workshops in Nadi, Fiji;
- ☉ funded study tour by landowners to Vanuatu; and
- ☉ supported turtle tagging programme.

Fiji

- ☉ carried out the Community Development Workshop on a participatory approach to integrate population and environmental management on the country level;
- ☉ funded a participant to attend the Directors of Meteorological Services Meeting;
- ☉ provided “GIS ARC Information” training for Fiji nationals at the USP GIS Centre, in Suva, Fiji;
- ☉ hosted the workshop “Using GIS to Integrate Population and the Environment”;
- ☉ coordinated and ran the regional meeting on the “State of the Environment Reporting/ Database”;
- ☉ funded Meteorological Service staff on “Tropical Cyclone” awareness mission to Samoa;
- ☉ completed the SPBCP PPD for the Koroyanitu CAP;

French Polynesia

- ☉ supported turtle tagging programme;
- ☉ funded participation to turtle meeting;
- ☉ provided “Year of the Sea Turtle” campaign support and materials;
- ☉ funded a participant to attend the Directors of Meteorological Services Meeting; and
- ☉ assisted environmental legislation elaboration.

Guam

- ☉ provided “Year of the Sea Turtle” campaign support and materials.

Kiribati

- ☉ participated in IPCC *Science and Impacts of Climate Change*;
- ☉ provided training for Meteorological staff in Satellite Meteorology;

- ☉ provided satellite receiving equipment;
- ☉ provided assistance with logframe workshop on Environment with EU;
- ☉ funded local consultant to prepare a review of extension services in Fisheries and Agriculture under the Capacity 21 Project;
- ☉ established an environmental library in Ministry of Environment and Social Development;
- ☉ trained local staff in library database and management;
- ☉ provided library cataloguing tools;
- ☉ assisted in the elaboration of an Environment Bill;
- ☉ initiated and funded the North Tarawa Conservation Area, approved its PPD;
- ☉ established the Conservation Area Coordinating Committee (CACC);
- ☉ funded the Conservation Area Support Officer (CASO) to take part in the SPBCP regional training workshop;
- ☉ provided “Year of the Sea Turtle” campaign support and materials;
- ☉ funded participant to turtle meeting;
- ☉ under the Capacity 21 Project, funded a national counterpart for the ADB technical assistance on “Institutional Strengthening of the Environment Unit, Kiribati”;
- ☉ convened an Environmental Legislation Workshop as a joint Capacity 21/UNEP Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre (ELI/PAC) activity;
- ☉ funded participant to Coral

Reef and Turtle meetings; and

- ☉ assisted preparation of conservation area plan for Cook Islet and Christmas Island.

Marshall Islands

- ☉ established an environmental library and trained local environmental staff in library management;
- ☉ provided guidelines and tools for library cataloguing and management;
- ☉ assisted national population policy workshop on integrating Population/Environmental linkages into national population policy;
- ☉ developed a curriculum mandate on population and environment issues for school students between Years 9-12 level;
- ☉ provided “Year of the Sea Turtle” campaign support and materials;
- ☉ provided funding for participant to attend the Meteorological Service Directors meeting;
- ☉ funded participant to IPCC *Science and Impacts of Climate Change*; and
- ☉ funded 3 participants to CACC workshop in Palau.

Nauru

- ☉ completed an EIA of Port Developments at Anibare and Gabab;
- ☉ provided assistance to draft the Nauru National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS) and State Of Environment (SOE) Report;
- ☉ coordinated the ARM project and worked with the Nauru Government to install the second site of this project;

GIS workshop in Suva Photo 45

- ☉ funded the Environment Officer in the Department of Island Development and Industry through Capacity 21;
- ☉ provided “Year of the Sea Turtle” campaign support and materials;
- ☉ funded a participant to CASO workshop in Vanuatu; and
- ☉ assisted preparation of a conservation area proposal to SPREP.

Participants from the Polynesian sub-region attending the GIS ARC Information workshop held at USP's GIS Centre, Suva, Fiji.

New Caledonia

- ☉ provided funding for participant to attend the Meteorological Service Director's Meeting;
- ☉ provided SPREP's Legal Counsel to lecture on SPREP activities within the region;
- ☉ funded New Caledonia's “Year of the Sea Turtle” campaign;
- ☉ provided “Year of the Sea Turtle” campaign support and materials; and
- ☉ supported turtle tagging programme.

Niue

- ☉ initiated a Population and Environment Awareness Campaign;
- ☉ funded a TV documentary on Population and Environment issues in Niue;

- ☉ assisted in application for membership to WMO;
- ☉ sponsored participant to WMO congress;
- ☉ provided assistance for drafting Environmental Legislation;
- ☉ provided “Year of the Sea Turtle” campaign support and materials;
- ☉ funded Niue’s “Year of the Sea Turtle” campaign project;
- ☉ funded preparation of Niue Field Guide for Birds;
- ☉ provided advice for Niue’s accession to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- ☉ established the conservation area at Huvalu; and
- ☉ funded participant to SPBCP workshops.

Palau

- ☉ initiated the development of a curriculum module on population/environment issues for school students between Years 9-12 level;
- ☉ funded participant to the Meteorological Service Directors Meeting;
- ☉ assisted in the recompletion of the draft Ngaremeduu Conservation Area PPD for the SPBCP;
- ☉ provided “Year of the Sea Turtle” campaign support and materials; and
- ☉ funded participant to the Turtle and Coral Reef meetings.

Papua New Guinea

- ☉ provided “Year of the Sea Turtle” campaign support and materials; and
- ☉ coordinated the ARM Project with the Weather Service and Manus Provin-

cial Government on establishing first ARM Site in Momote Airport, PNG.

Solomon Islands

- ☉ assisted in establishing environmental library;
- ☉ provided cataloguing tools and trained local staff in library management;
- ☉ supported the turtle tagging programme in Solomon Islands;
- ☉ commenced preparations for a contaminated site clean-up at an abandoned pesticide store in conjunction with the World Health Organisation (WHO);
- ☉ coordinated the Community Development Workshop on a Participatory approach to integrate Population and Environmental management;
- ☉ funded weather satellite receiving equipment;
- ☉ provided training for Meteorological staff on Satellite Meteorology;
- ☉ completed the SPBCP Komarindi Conservation Area Project PPD;
- ☉ established the CACC;
- ☉ appointed and funded the CASO for Arnavon CAP;
- ☉ funded a study tour by landowners to Fiji and Vanuatu;
- ☉ provided funding and technical assistance to the Arnavon CA;
- ☉ produced a video on the Arnavon CA;
- ☉ funded the participation of the CASO to the SPBCP training workshop in Vanuatu;
- ☉ provided “Year of the Sea Turtle” campaign support and materials;

- ☉ funded Solomon Islands’ “Year of the Sea Turtle” campaign project;
- ☉ reviewed, through Capacity 21, the extension programmes of agriculture, forestry, and land agencies to recommend ways to incorporate sustainable development objectives;
- ☉ convened the workshop on “Sustainable Development, Traditional Medicine and Non-timber Products,” October 1995 under Capacity 21;
- ☉ convened Provincial workshop on Traditional Medicine, May 1995 under Capacity 21;
- ☉ provided desktop publishing training for NGO training officer through participation in the Vanuatu Sustainable Development Network/Capacity 21 Desktop Publishing Workshop, August/September 1995;
- ☉ provided financial assistance for employment of DSE Training Officer to undertake Capacity 21 activities;
- ☉ coordinated and ran the sub-regional workshop using “GIS to integrate population and the environment”; and
- ☉ funded participant to Turtle and Coral Reef meetings.

Tokelau

- ☉ assisted with the drafting of National Population Policy;
- ☉ provided “Year of the Sea Turtle” campaign support and materials;
- ☉ provided funding assistance for preparation of a conservation area proposed to SPREP; and
- ☉ funded participant to CASO workshop in Vanuatu.

Tonga

- ☉ funded the establishment of the Haapai marine conservation area;
- ☉ funded participant to SPBCP training workshops;
- ☉ funded participants to Turtle and Coral Reef meetings;
- ☉ provided funding for CASO;
- ☉ assisted in developing a whale watching project in Tonga;
- ☉ completed a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Neiafu Master Plan;
- ☉ responded to information and publication requests;
- ☉ provided in-service training for secondary teachers on integrated population and environment issues;
- ☉ carried out a GIS Needs Analysis to identify GIS capability and Data;
- ☉ provided satellite equipment;
- ☉ provided training for Meteorological staff on Satellite Meteorology;
- ☉ assisted with application for WMO membership;
- ☉ sponsored a participant to WMO Congress;
- ☉ coordinated and ran the sub regional workshop using “GIS to integrate population and the environment”; and
- ☉ coordinated and ran the regional meeting on the “State of the Environment Reporting/Database”.

- ☉ completed Funafuti Conservation Area PPD which was sponsored by government;
- ☉ established a CACC;
- ☉ funded participant to Turtle and Coral Reef meetings;
- ☉ coordinated and ran the sub regional workshop using “GIS to integrate population and the environment”; and
- ☉ coordinated and ran the regional meeting on the “State of the Environment Reporting /Database”.

Vanuatu

- ☉ provided EIA awareness training as part of the Capacity 21 National Workshop on Sustainable Development and Planning;
- ☉ provided library cataloguing tools and assisted in establishing an environmental library in the Environment Unit;
- ☉ coordinated a National Environment Education Workshop for primary teachers training on teaching materials and approach to teaching Population and Environment issues;
- ☉ funded a participant to attend the Meteorological Service Directors Meeting;
- ☉ assisted with the elaboration of Environment Legislation;
- ☉ provided expertise on Capacity 21 initiatives through the National Conference on Sustainable Development;
- ☉ completed the Vatthe Conservation Area PPD;
- ☉ provided on-going assistance to project implementation;
- ☉ hosted the regional workshop on staff training which included both

CASO and Project managers;

- ☉ funded participant to Turtle and Coral Reef meetings;
- ☉ provided “Year of the Sea Turtle” campaign support and materials;
- ☉ supported Wan Smolbag’s NGO “Year of the Sea Turtle” campaign;
- ☉ supported the turtle tagging programme in Vanuatu;
- ☉ convened National Conference on Sustainable Development, May 1996 under Capacity 21;
- ☉ convened National Workshop on Sustainable Development and Planning, March 1996 under Capacity 21;
- ☉ employed Capacity 21 Programme Officer (Melanesia);
- ☉ convened regular meeting of Capacity 21 Task Force to guide implementation of Capacity 21 activities;
- ☉ reviewed policies and procedures of development bank and other financial institutions, June 1995 under Capacity 21;
- ☉ convened as a joint undertaking between the SPC Pacific Sustainable Development Networking Programme (PSDNP) and Capacity 21 Desktop Publishing Workshop, August 1995;
- ☉ coordinated and ran the regional meeting on the “State of the Environment Reporting /Database”;
- ☉ produced a video for the Vatthe CA;
- ☉ funded participants to SPBCP workshop in Nadi, Fiji; and
- ☉ funded the study tour by landowners.

Tuvalu

- ☉ assisted with the elaboration of Environmental legislation;

Gisa's workshop Photo 33

*Mrs Gisa Salesa-Uesele
SPREP's Education Officer
conducting one of the many
in-country workshops during
the year.*

Wallis and Futuna

- ☉ funded a participant to attend the Meteorological Service Directors Meeting;
- ☉ assisted with the elaboration of Environment Legislation; and
- ☉ provided "Year of the Sea Turtle" campaign support and materials.

Western Samoa

- ☉ provided EIA awareness training as part of the Capacity 21 National Workshop on Sustainable Development Planning and Finance;
- ☉ established and set-up environmental library in DEC;
- ☉ trained local staff in library database and library management;
- ☉ provided library cataloguing tools and software;
- ☉ hosted library tours for schools, local organisations and general public;
- ☉ provided a weather satellite system;

- ☉ convened the Meteorological Services Director's Meeting;
- ☉ organised the UNEP ELI/PAC DEC assessment mission;
- ☉ under the Capacity 21 Project, assisted policy development activities on Waste Management, Land Use, Water and Population policies through regular meetings of the NEMS Task Team;
- ☉ convened a joint workshop between SPC, SDN and Capacity 21 on Desktop Publishing;
- ☉ provided a resource person in the National Women's Committee seminar held in Savaii and Apia;
- ☉ reviewed policies and procedures of development bank and other financial institutions, June 1995 under Capacity 21;
- ☉ reviewed National Development Plan and Sectoral Policies, July 1995 under Capacity 21;
- ☉ funded participant to the regional meeting on the "State of the Environment Reporting / Database" held in Fiji;
- ☉ coordinated and ran the sub-regional workshop using "GIS to integrate population and the environment";
- ☉ provided funding for the establishment of the Saanapu/Sataoa CA;
- ☉ provided funding for the preparation of the PPD for the Uafato CA;
- ☉ funded the CASO for the Saanapu/Sataoa CA;
- ☉ funded participant to SPBCP training workshops;
- ☉ funded participant to Turtle and Coral Reef meetings;
- ☉ provided "Year of the Sea Turtle" campaign support and materials;
- ☉ funded Western Samoa's "Year of the Sea Turtle" campaign project;
- ☉ supported the turtle tagging programme in Western Samoa;
- ☉ collaborated with SPC and Western Samoa User Group in efforts to develop and sustain the SDNA network;
- ☉ drafted and submitted proposals for upgrading the current Pactok fidotechnology/Software to provide interactive on line services;
- ☉ provided technical assistance to Pactok E-mail sites;
- ☉ accessed and disseminated requested information through the Internet to appropriate bodies;
- ☉ provided advanced training to Sustainable Development Network Members on research methods through the APC bulletin boards; and
- ☉ trained IRETA PEACESAT operators how to conduct on-line information searches via the Internet. 

1995 Funding and Expenditure

SPREP Funding

Funding provided to SPREP during 1995 is tabled below. A total of USD \$7,327,289 was available, comprising funds actually received during the year, or funds carried over from previous years.

Diagram 1

Proportion of Funding from donors for 1995

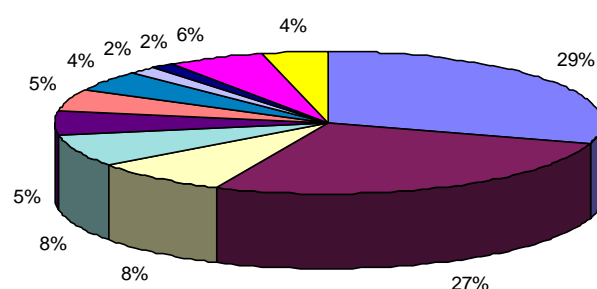


Table 1

Total Funding for 1995

Donor	USD	%
UNDP	2,174,743	29%
AusAID	1,976,875	27%
NZ	586,860	8%
Primary Function-members	563,245	8%
UNEP	392,622	5%
Multiple Donors	364,536	5%
UNFPA	325,645	4%
Primary Function-other	279,959	4%
CORA	119,123	2%
Republic of China (Taiwan)	110,000	2%
Other Donors	433,681	6%
Total Funds	7,327,289	

Funding received during the period was higher than in previous years, with 23% more received than in 1994. SPREP continued to enjoy support from its major donors, while also receiving one-off funding support. During the period, funds were provided from over 30 different donor sources, the major sources are as listed in Table 1 in the previous page.

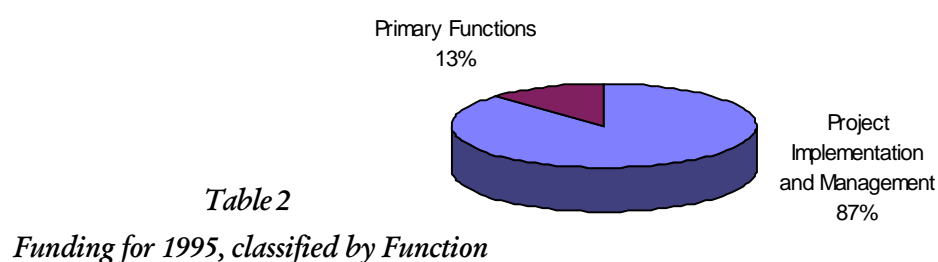
Funding is classified into the following functions:

i) *Project Implementation & Management*

Extra-budgetary funding received from *donors* to fund the implementation and management of particular projects.

ii) *Primary Functions*

Funding provided to SPREP to fund its “core” or primary activities. These funds were provided by member countries and from miscellaneous sources.



Function	USD	%
Project Implementation and Management	6,408,149	87%
Primary Functions	919,140	13%
Total Funds	7,327,289	

Most of the funding received during the period was from donors and was provided for Project Implementation and Management, with a small proportion for Primary Function. 87% was for Project Implementation and Management and 13% for Primary Function and other costs.

Contributions received from members to cover Primary Function activities and costs contributed to only a small part of the total funds received during the period. These are included on Table 1 as “Primary Function - members”.

SPREP Expenditure

USD \$4,684,028 was expended by the Secretariat during 1995 on SPREP's work programme. The following table and diagram provide an overview of this expenditure, classified by Division.

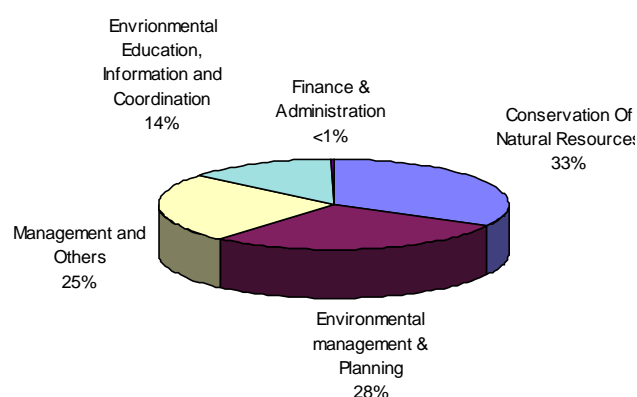



Table 3

Expenditure in 1995, classified by Division

Division	USD	%
Conservation of Natural Resources	1,543,569	33%
Environmental Management and Planning	1,323,656	28%
Management and Others	1,170,681	25%
Environmental Education, Information and Coordination	639,516	14%
Finance and Administration	6,606	< 1%
Total Expenses	4,684,028	

The level of expenditure during the period was much higher than in previous years: 33% being incurred in the Conservation of Natural Resources division, 28% in the Environmental Management & Planning division, 25% in Management & Other costs (which includes SPREP's Primary Function activities).

Division	Project	Donor
Conservation of Natural Resources	South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme	GEF/Australia/UNDP
Environmental Education, Information and Coordination	Capacity 21	UNDP
Environmental Management and Planning	PMI/Population and Environment Project	UNFPA
Environmental Management and Planning	Funding of Climate Change Officer	AusAID
Environmental Management and Planning	EIA in National Planning Project	AusAID
Management and Others	SPREP Primary Function activities	Primary Function
Management and Others	Funding of various SPREP staff positions	NZ

These projects contributed to 65% of all expenditure during 1995. 

Relations with other Organisations

Donors

Contributions from international donor organisations are a significant part of SPREP's annual budget, as are contributions from member and non-member governments.

A major contributor is **UNDP**, which substantially assisted with the institutional strengthening of SPREP in its first years in Apia, through the *Planning and Implementation of Pacific Regional Environment Programme*. During the same period, UNDP provided similar support through SPREP to environment units of member governments, via the *National Environmental Management Strategies Project*.

Continuing this tradition of support, the Administrator of UNDP and the Director of SPREP signed an agreement for SPREP to implement the Capacity 21 project in Barbados in 1994. The project aims to follow up and implement decisions of the 1992 *Earth Summit*.

The **Global Environment Facility**, administered jointly by the World Bank, UNEP and UNDP, co-funds the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme, SPREP's largest single project, with Australia.


Australia, New Zealand and France, as member governments, continued to contribute generously towards a wide range of programme activities, as well as making voluntary member contributions towards the Secretariat's operating costs in the Primary Function. Some of the extra-budgetary assistance funded vital programme staff positions.

UNFPA provided assistance to SPREP, funding a project aimed at *Integrating Population and Environment Issues*. A series of workshops and related activities are now being conducted throughout the region.

UNEP continued its ongoing support to SPREP via the *PENRIC* project, which is now into its fifth year. This project provided SPREP with GIS capabilities for environmental assessment. The Centre supported activities in conserving biodiversity and population issues, with projects conducted in Fiji, FSM, Kiribati and Niue.

Canada and Japan, both non-member governments, continued to contribute towards projects in coastal management, and marine turtle conservation. In association with other regional organisations, discussions continued with Canada on the funding of a future regional programme.

Funding was also received during the year from the **Republic of China (Taiwan)**, the **Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation**, the **Los Alamos National Laboratories**, and the **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)**.

SPREP gratefully acknowledges the generous and invaluable assistance provided by these donors. 

Collaborating institutions and consultants

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

SPREP has received considerable assistance from regional institutes and technical agencies for a long time. These include the Universities of the South Pacific, Papua New Guinea, Guam and Hawaii, the Community College of Micronesia, the East-West Center in Honolulu, the Laboratoire d'étude et du surveillance de l'environnement in Tahiti, and ORSTOM and the Université français du Pacifique Sud in Noumea.

Other institutions which support SPREP include the University of Sydney, Macquarie University, University of Wollongong and James Cook University, in Australia, and the University of Auckland and Waikato University in New Zealand.

SPREP also works closely with other regional intergovernmental organisations in the *South Pacific Organisations Coordinating Committee*, including the South Pacific Commission in Noumea and the Forum Secretariat in Suva, as well

as the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission in Suva, the Forum Fisheries Agency in Honiara and the Pacific Islands Development Program in Honolulu.

Through memoranda of understanding, SPREP undertakes joint projects with several international, governmental and non-governmental organisations, including IUCN in Geneva, The Nature Conservancy in Honolulu, the Department of Conservation in New Zealand and the Australian Nature Conservation Agency.

Many individuals from the region undertake consultancy work for SPREP in specialist areas not readily available in the Secretariat. This useful practice is contributing to a growing expertise in environmental issues now available in the Pacific islands region.


SPREP thanks all its collaborating institutions and consultants for their efforts and assistance during the year. 

Photo 51 a (slide)

The award winning Koroyanitu Conservation Area in Fiji. This and other Conservation Areas in the region are under the management of the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Project, SPREP's largest single project. This is funded jointly by the Global Environment Facility (administered by UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank) and Australia.

SPREP Secretariat Staff

During the period under review, the Secretariat had:

Management

Stewart, Donald
Acting Director

Heads of Division

Reti, Muliagatele Iosefatu
Head of Conservation of Natural Resources

Wendt, Neva
Head of Environmental Education, Information and Coordination

Miles, Gerald
Head of Environmental Management and Planning

Jones, Nuku
Head of Finance and Administration

Personal Assistants

Kamu, Dorothy
Personal assistant to Director

Eti, Apiseta
Personal assistant to Deputy Director

New Recruits

Nine new staff were recruited: Mrs. Malama Hadley as Administration Officer, Mr. Andrew Munro as Waste Management and Pollution Officer, Mr. Fatu Tauafiafi as Information and Publications Officer, Mr. Craig Wilson as Project Officer, Mrs. Susana Kilepoa and Ms. Lagi Le'apai as Divisional Assistants, Mr. Puni Chong Wong as Accounts Clerk and Mrs. Lucille Apis-Overhoff as Wetlands and Mangroves Officer.

Promoted

Two Divisional Assistants were promoted: Ms. Apiseta Eti to Personal Assistant to Deputy Director and Ms. Saunoa Mata'u to Conference Assistant.

Temporary


Three staff were recruited on a temporary basis, Mrs. Mausali Pu'epu'ema'i and Mrs. Tumema Fuimaono as Accounts Clerks as well as Mr. Aso Sione as Assistant Handyman.

Departed

SPREP lost the valued services of the following individuals during the year:

- ☛ Director, Dr. Vili Fuavao, who has been at the forefront of the organisation during the past six and half years. He now takes over as Head of the FAO Sub-Regional Office in Apia;
- ☛ Information and Publications Officer, Mr. Wesley Ward, who has returned to Australia;
- ☛ Coastal Management Officer, Dr. Andrew Smith, now working in Palau;
- ☛ Programme Officer (Socio-economic) Dr. Andrew Tilling, who has returned to New Zealand;
- ☛ Assistant Coastal Management Officer, Mr. Asipeli Palaki, who has returned to Tonga;

- ☛ Conference Assistant Ms. Maria Cavanagh, who has returned to New Zealand;
- ☛ Accounts Clerk, Ms. Miriama Savelio, who has returned to New Zealand;
- ☛ Administration Officer Mr. Eneliko Seiuli, who has departed to pursue other career opportunities;
- ☛ Personal Assistant to the Deputy Director, Mrs. Fa'apio Sagaga, who left to join her family in the Solomon Islands; and
- ☛ Cleaner Mr. Iakopo Leota, who left to pursue other career opportunities.

SPREP now has 53 Professional and Administrative staff. 

Vili Fuavao ~ a salute

Dr Vili Fuavao left SPREP at the end of April 1996 after heading SPREP since 1990. He was the first Director of SPREP and played an enormous role in its recent development.

Vili was born in Tonga and received all his primary education in the Kingdom. Moving to the United States for secondary schooling, he obtained a B.A. in mathematics and chemistry from Chadron State College in Nebraska in 1977, followed by an M.Sc. and a Ph.D both in chemistry from New Mexico State University. Following post-doctoral research in California, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, he joined the staff of the University of the South Pacific in Suva in 1984 and taught there until he was appointed Coordinator of SPREP - then a programme within the South Pacific Commission in Noumea - in 1990. His vision and dedication played major roles in promoting and planning the metamorphose of the organisation to its current status as an independent, regional, inter-governmental organisation with 53 staff at its headquarters in Western Samoa.



Vili Fuavao and Don Stewart in Apia, Western Samoa. Vili had just performed his last opening address as Director of SPREP.

SPREP and its staff owe an enormous debt to Vili for his commitment to the organization and its members and for his perseverance in achieving its independence. He is truly the father of the present SPREP. Without his special combination of idealism and practicality, and his skills in leadership and diplomacy, it is doubtful if such early progress would have been achieved with the establishment of the region's newest inter-governmental organisation.

Vili is now Sub-regional Representative for the Pacific Islands for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and is in the process of establishing yet another new regional headquarters in Apia - this time for FAO. We convey to him our thanks for a job extraordinarily well done in SPREP and send our very best wishes to him and to his wife, Sonia, and children Peter, Joe and Taisa, for the future. 🌺

Back Row (l-r) Alex Williams, Fatu Taufiaki, Esera Rusia, Satui Bentin, Amosa Tootoo, Faalepo Taii,

Asofa Fereti, Daniel Devoe, Petelo Ioane, Puni Chong Wong, Lucas Dosung, Andrew Munro.

Third Row (l-r) Roger Cornforth, Sue Müller, Faatupu Poibega, Samoa Mata'u, Fono Valasi,

Lucille Apis-Overhoff, Dorothy Kamu, Quandovita Reid, Leigh Pu'epu'ema'i, Tumema Fuimaono, Ruta Tupua.

Second Row (l-r) Aso Sione, Taiafoni Tongamoa,

Malama Hadley, Don Stewart, Vili Fuavao, Neva Wendt, Iosefatu Reti.

Sitting (l-r) Monica Tupu'a, Faaafu Matafao, Apiseta Eti, Tologavale Leaula, Lupe Silulu.

Absent: Bernard Moutou, Bismark Crawley, Chalapan Kaluwin, Elia Hunt, Faamanu Fonoti, Gerald Miles,

Gisa Salesa-Uesele, Komeri Onorio, Lagi Le'apai, Neville Koop, Nuku Jones, Salafai Ab Tong,

Sia Patelesio, Talanoa Tuala, Susana Kilepoa and Wanda Ieremia.

Looking to the Future . . .

A Final Word

During 1996, SPREP member governments, together with other concerned parties and secretariat staff, will undertake the vital task of evaluating progress with implementing the provisions of the *1991-1995 Action Plan for Managing the Environment of the South Pacific Region*, more commonly known as the SPREP Action Plan.

This is the document, adopted at Ministerial-level during the Fourth SPREP Meeting in 1991, which defines the “strategies and objectives for the conservation and enhancement of the South Pacific environment taking into account the need for ecologically sustainable development.” It “provides a framework for a regional approach to address environmental issues of the South Pacific region, complementing the unique needs and concerns of the countries and people in the region and enhancing their own environmental capabilities” and mandates SPREP to address a range of nine priority programmes over a five year period. From this review, a revised Action Plan for the period 1996-2000 will be drafted for consideration and adoption by Ministers at the Ninth SPREP Meeting in November 1996.


There have been enormous global, regional and national changes, political, economic and envi-

ronmental, since the current Action Plan was adopted in 1991. We can be sure that changes will continue. Some can reasonably be foreshadowed, others will take us by surprise as they sometimes have in the past.

In light of such changes, the challenge for authors of the new Action Plan will be to foresee a clear vision for SPREP not just as it might be in the year 2000, but what it should be when inherited by the next generation. To achieve this will not be easy, yet it is the task we must set ourselves if our continued existence is to have any purpose.

The keys will be flexibility and adaptation. We must also focus very clearly on what our priorities are, particularly in view of the likelihood of declining donor commitments in the future. We must, as one of these priorities, foster the building of national capacities as quickly and effectively as possible

so that countries are able to tackle their own environmental problems. It may mean that in the long term SPREP should become entirely a facilitating and coordinating organisation with all projects implemented by countries themselves.

We look forward to as broad a range of consultations as possible in the coming months in order to address these issues and to an informed and constructive debate at the Ninth SPREP Meeting with outcomes that will take us as confidently as possible into the next century of change. 

Don Stewart
Acting Director

Common Acronyms

ANCA	Australia Nature Conservation Agency	NEMS	National Environmental Management Strategies
ADB	Asian Development Bank	NGO	Non-government Organisation
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States	NZODA	New Zealand Overseas Development Assistance
ARM	Atmospheric Radiation Measurement	PEACESAT	Pan-Pacific Education and Communication Experiments by Satellite
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development	PEIN	Pacific Environment Information Network
AVA	Australian Volunteers Abroad	PENRIC	Pacific Environment and Natural Resource Information Centre
CACC	Conservation Area Coordinating Committee	PICCAP	Pacific Island Climate Change Assistance Programme
CAP	Conservation Area Project	PNG	Papua New Guinea
CASO	Conservation Area Support Officer	PPD	Project Preparation Document
CFTC	Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation	PRTR	Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	PSDNP	Pacific Sustainable Development Networking Project
CLICOM	Climate Computer Project	RMTCP	Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme
CORA	Canadian Ocean Research Associates	SDN	Sustainable Development Network
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development	SLIC	SPREP Library/Information Centre
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation	SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	SPBCP	South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme
ELI/PAC	Environmental Law and Institutions/Programme Activity Centre	SPC	South Pacific Commission
ENSO	El Nino Southern Oscillation	SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
EU	European Union	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
FCCC	Framework Convention on Climate Change	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility	USP	University of the South Pacific
GIS	Geographical Information Systems	WMO	World Meteorological Organisation
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative	WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
IMO	International Maritime Organisation		
INC	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee		
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change		
IUCN	World Conservation Union		

