

2008 Annual Report

of the Secretariat of the
Pacific Regional Environment
Programme



Celebrating the Pacific Year of the Reef





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Foreword

by the Federated States of Micronesia,
19th SPREP Meeting Chair

2008 ushered in an era of monumental change for the organisation. The completion of the terms of Director and Deputy Director marked the successful conclusion of one important phase. At the same time, the 19th SPREP Meeting in Pohnpei committed to engage in the Regional Institutional Framework (RIF) process and implement the recommendations of the Independent Corporate Review (ICR) processes.

The exemplary service of fellow countryman Asterio Takesy as Director has proven to be the source of great pride for my country and a credit to the entire region. Working with Deputy Director Vitolio Lui and his colleagues from throughout the Pacific, in his six years on the job he reinvigorated the organization during extremely challenging times and streamlined

its work. For his efforts I know I speak on behalf of my fellow Council members in extending our profound gratitude and best wishes for his future endeavors. Similarly, I am appreciative of the distinguished service of Vito Lui as Deputy Director during the same time and acknowledge his stellar work with the Secretariat.

My country and I were similarly proud at the successful hosting of the 19th SPREP Meeting of Officials and Environment Ministers in Pohnpei, FSM, which marked the first time that the annual SPREP Meeting had been held in the FSM. I am particularly thankful to the conference organizers and to the government and people of Pohnpei who outdid themselves in making the delegates and Secretariat feel welcome during their stay.

And what a meeting it was. Never before had a SPREP meeting faced such a full plate of critical organizational issues, including vigorous discussion of the RIF and ICR, which lays the foundation for important reform of the organisation, the need to take significant budget decisions and the appointment of a new Director. With only two days to complete its work, the meeting was tasked, and succeeded, in laying the groundwork for the organization's future.



Scenes from Pohnpei, site of the 2008 SPREP Annual Meeting: (Facing page): Sunrise on Ant Atoll; (this page, clockwise from upper left): Kepirohi Waterfall; Pwusehn Malek; Nan Madol.

During the year, SPREP maintained its active programme of environmental work. Noteworthy undertakings in 2008 included the convening of a Pacific Islands Climate Change Roundtable, adoption of a Regional Marine Species Action Programme for 2008-2012, and a series of initiatives intended to improve the quality of environmental reporting to the region. Implementation of the Pacific Year of the Reef helped to raise awareness of the plight of our reefs and to highlight specific actions that each of us can take to help preserve these priceless resources in our countries.

Consistent with an overall theme of regional integration, the year ushered in a new spirit of cooperation with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Several noteworthy examples of this cooperation included collaboration with FFA, SPC and WCPFC to develop a regional action plan for sharks, cooperation with IFAW to develop guidelines for whale watch tour operators, and new formal cooperation agreements with IUCN.

Throughout this time of change the ship has maintained its course due to the steady hand of Kosi Latu, the new Deputy Director. I join with my colleagues in wishing Kosi a long and fruitful career

with SPREP and we look forward to working with him to successfully implement the changes within the Secretariat requested by Members.

Other important initiatives are far too numerous to detail here, but include the holding of a climate change roundtable and number of initiatives designed to improve the quality of environmental reporting to the region.

In short, 2008 underlined the importance of SPREP to the region and demonstrated its willingness to adapt to changing organisational needs and political imperatives. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as Chair of the 19th SPREP Meeting and delighted to endorse the annual report of the organization for the year. ▲

*Andrew Yatliman
Director, Office of Environment and Emergency
Management of the Federated States of Micronesia
Chair of the 19th SPREP Meeting*

Introduction

by the Director

Director Takesy addresses participants at SPREP media workshop



It gives me great pleasure to present Members with the annual report on activities of the Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme during 2008.

As many of you know, 2008 marked the final year of my term as Director. At the outset please allow me to extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to SPREP Members for allowing me the opportunity to serve the organisation and for your support and understanding during my term. I would also like to warmly thank the staff of the Secretariat for their tireless work toward a sustainable future for the region.

My sadness at leaving SPREP is tempered only by a profound sense of optimism for the future of the organisation. The consequences of anything other than a strong SPREP for the future are too grave to contemplate.

The challenges we face are more daunting than ever. One, climate change, continues to threaten the very existence of some of our members.

The issues we face from climate change will not dissipate in the coming years. Even the strongest

action by our members today will be insufficient to bring about the desired effect. Even more troubling, without a unified global commitment to address the problem in the strongest possible terms, our efforts are meaningless. The stakes couldn't be higher for the peoples of the Pacific.

Climate is added to a list of serious environmental challenges faced by the islands. Indeed, climate change will exacerbate many of these problems.

The year will be remembered as a watershed for the organisation with a degree of change not seen since SPREP was established as a standalone programme in the 1980s.

It was during 2008 that the first steps toward organisational reform were taken through the Independent Corporate Review (ICR) and engagement in the Regional Institutional Framework (RIF) process. I am pleased to have participated in the development of these initiatives and wish Deputy Director Latu and my successor all the best in seeing the outcomes through to implementation. I hold no doubt that implementing these recommendations will significantly enhance the value of services provided to the countries and territories of the Pacific by SPREP and its sister CROP agencies.



Fulaga Atoll, Fiji.

The year also saw a number of notable substantive successes. The Pacific Climate Change Roundtable represented an invaluable opportunity to draw together those in the Pacific working with the issue and its wide-ranging implications and develop a strategy for the region in the international negotiations, which have reached a critical stage. The level of awareness of the issues involved in these negotiations was given a boost through SPREP-coordinated media training that included enhanced reporting to the region on the meetings of parties to the convention. The Pacific Year of the Reef was also successful and notable for its engagement of Pacific youth.

It was also a time of enhanced cooperation with other regional institutions as we join efforts to pool resources and eliminate duplication in our services provided to members. This could be seen in the close collaboration among SPREP, SPC, FFA, WCPFC in the development of a regional action plan for sharks.

These are but some of the concrete examples of SPREP's multi-faceted work. I hope the report before you will shed additional light on the nature and the importance of the organisation's work and why it is critical that SPREP continue to adapt to best address the needs of its members. ▲

Asterio Takesy, Director

2008: A year of unprecedented change for SPREP

Through the recommendations of the Pacific Forum Leaders on implementation of the Regional Institutional Framework (RIF) and the Independent Corporate Review (ICR) processes, 2008 marked the start of the most significant reform of SPREP since its establishment.

Forum Leaders in 2007 decided to rationalise SOPAC into SPC and SPREP, with additional supporting decisions at the 2008 Forum Leaders meeting. The first detailed discussions of options under the RIF began in 2008, with direction to the SPREP Secretariat to fully engage in the RIF planning process.

The ICR was commissioned under the current programme funding triennial agreement with AusAID to review and make recommendations on SPREP's strengths and weaknesses and its ability to adapt to the changing nature of regional environmental work and Members' needs. The comprehensive report of the ICR was issued in June 2008, with implementation of its measures by the Secretariat beginning soon after.

Both processes will be ongoing throughout 2009 and beyond.

Island Ecosystems Programme

Natural arch, Rock Islands, Palau



A key highlight of 2008 was the successful implementation of the Pacific Year of the Reef and, in particular, its activities focused on engaging the region's youth in eight countries and territories.

Other ongoing marine and coastal activities continued to be successfully implemented with Members and partners, including marine species, trade, locally managed marine areas, climate change, mapping of marine conservation priorities and capacity building. French Territory Members continued to be supported through the CRISP project, including a visit by high-level delegation from Wallis and Futuna to study the marine reserves of Samoa.

Programme staff worked closely with our Members at the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) COP9 in Bonn, Germany to ensure that the Pacific voice was heard loud and clear. Our engagement with the CBD Secretariat was further strengthened through revision and extension of the MoU with SPREP to further collaborative work with the Convention.

The partnership has already resulted in a number of joint activities in support of Pacific countries, and we look forward to further productive collaboration with Members as we head towards the next important COP in 2010, which is scheduled to be the International Year of Biodiversity.

Programme staff also worked closely with a number of Members in the development of successful applications for funding under a GEF scheme to support implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas. The partnership with the Ramsar Convention also continued in 2008, with support of Pacific Parties at the Ramsar COP10 meeting.

This year saw the launch of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, managed by SPREP partner Conservation International, which will provide US\$7 million for conservation activities in the Pacific. SPREP was also successful in finalising funding of €1.3 million from the European Commission to implement a MEA capacity building project for Pacific ACP Member countries that will commence in 2009. ▲

2008 Pacific Year of the Reef campaign



The 2008 Pacific Year of the Reef (PYOR08) campaign was developed by SPREP in support of the decision by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), to declare 2008 the International Year of the Reef (IYOR), and endorsed by the 19th SPREP Meeting. The campaign was launched on 28 February 2008 in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

The goal of the regional campaign was to build on the awareness raised during the 1997 International Year of the Coral Reef campaign, which SPREP also celebrated, by encouraging Pacific island countries and territories to take action to reverse the degradation of coral reefs and build their resilience to adverse natural factors such as climate change. Campaign activities were designed to generate action to effectively protect coral reefs and meet three primary campaign objectives:

- promote action to conserve coral reefs at regional, national, and community levels;
- encourage change in behaviour by people towards reefs; and
- raise awareness on economic values of coral reefs and their importance in adapting to climate change.

The variety of SPREP-supported national activities reflected national priorities and local needs. Requested financial support was used to supplement funds for pre-existing activities rather than funding campaign-specific ones. No restrictions were placed on types of activities SPREP would support or fund, and perhaps in response to SPREP-designed campaign material, national activities that SPREP supported generally targeted children or youth and used cultural and creative opportunities to promote their messages.

The most tangible and enduring results of the regional campaign were activities implemented by the 10 participating teams in Phase Two of the regional youth 'challengecoralreef' competition for 13-18 year olds. Funds were provided to teams of secondary school students in Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna to implement activities that they had designed to help save a reef. Their chosen plans of action included community consultation and education visits, shore clean-ups, coral planting, placing signs at marine managed areas, developing an underwater trail for swimmers and divers, improving waste disposal practices in communities and at well-used beaches, and coral and mangrove planting.

Other tangible outputs of the regional campaign included awareness and media resources that were released monthly and quarterly throughout the campaign. Another important achievement of the PYOR08 campaign was the consolidation of an existing network of national SPREP environmental and marine education contacts who enthusiastically worked on their national campaigns. Some were

involved in the 2006 Pacific Year of the Sea Turtle campaign organised by SPREP and others have already expressed interest in working with SPREP on the Pacific Year of Climate Change campaign in 2009.

All SPREP-supported regional and national achievements of the PYOR08 campaign were supported by the CRISP programme which funded the campaigns and provided opportunities for publicising results of the Pacific campaigns at international fora such as the 11th International Coral Reef Symposium, 2nd International Pacific Marine Educators Network (IPMEN) Conference, 2nd International Youth Coastal Conference, and the IUCN World Conservation Congress.

By providing small grants through the CRISP programme for national activities, SPREP enabled national coordinators to promote appropriate messages and action for coral reef conservation that met local needs. These all contributed to the campaign objective of encouraging action for coral reef conservation in the Pacific islands region. ▲



Members of the Mbokona school team from the Solomon Islands, one of the entrants in the "challengecoralreef" competition.



*COP9 Ministerial Meeting
in Bonn, Germany.*

Highlights of CBD COP 9

- The Pacific voice was heard outside the halls of the COP thanks to the presence of the SPREP media officer, sponsored by UNEP, who filed numerous stories from the meeting and were distributed to media outlets throughout the region.
- The Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) was recognised as one of the mechanisms to implement the Island Biodiversity Programme of Work (IBPoW). The COP also recognised initiatives and achievements through voluntary national, regional and multi-country commitments, such as the Micronesia Challenge, the Caribbean Challenge, the Coral Triangle Initiative, and the Phoenix Islands Protected Area.
- The COP stressed that the management and eradication of invasive alien species, climate-change adaptation and mitigation activities, establishment and management of marine protected areas, capacity-building, access to, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources, and poverty alleviation require special attention in the implementation of the IBPoW.
- The COP asked the CBD Secretariat to revise their 2003 Memorandum of Understanding with SPREP, with a view to including specific joint activities on islands, invasive alien species, impacts of climate change, long-term financing of activities, capacity-building and tourism, and support to the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
- Donor countries, regional development banks and other financial institutions were asked to assist island Parties and Parties with islands by providing additional adequate, accessible and timely resources to implement the IBPoW.
- The COP asked that the process for accessing the necessary funds from the Global Environment Facility should be further simplified and expedited in the fifth replenishment.
- After 2010, the SBSTTA has been asked to undertake an in-depth review of the IBPoW to be sent for consideration by COP 11 in 2012.

A Pacific Voice at the Convention on Biodiversity

Ten Pacific Island Countries took part in the May 2008, COP 9 meeting in Bonn, Germany. Following a regional preparatory meeting organised by SPREP and attended by representatives from SPREP, WWF, FIELD, O le Siosiomaga Society, SOPAC, SPC and USP, the Pacific delegations arrived in Bonn with a clear programme of work before them.

Highlights of the Pacific's work on CBD included interagency collaboration and support among CROP agencies, with all working closely in support of delegations. Ms Tania Temata of the Cook Islands was elected as COP Bureau representative for the Asia Pacific region, ensuring a greater voice for the Pacific at the COP. ▲

Members of Pacific delegations to CBD COP9 (L-R): Dr Mary Taylor, SPC; Touasi Tiwok, Vanuatu; Kate Brown Vitolio, SPREP.



New Charter for the Roundtable for Nature Conservation

Following a lengthy review process, the Roundtable for Nature Conservation has ramped up efforts to improve how its members deliver their activities at the country level.

Following the development of a new Action Strategy for Nature Conservation at the region's conservation conference in Alotau, SPREP has joined with other organisations to sign a charter which reflects a code of practice contained in the Action Strategy. This code of practice is based on the collective experience of the more than 400 people participating in the conference.

Coral reefs, like this reef in Palau, are an important focus for conservation.

The Roundtable, a membership-based network of donors, NGOs and regional agencies, exists to promote, facilitate and monitor progress on the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region 2008 – 2012 through increased collaboration and partnerships.

Through the new charter, Roundtable members are pledging greater accountability to countries and partners in their work at the national level.

The charter sets out how the Roundtable will serve as a venue for bringing strategic oversight to conservation in the region whilst providing a forum for accountability, transparency and coordination for conservation organisations and donors. It also supports NBSAP implementation and pledges signatories to a series of common principles designed to further a regional approach to conservation.



Revisions to the mandate of the Roundtable are designed to:

- Ensure the Roundtable is maintained as a mechanism for promoting, facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the Action Strategy.
- Develop and strengthen mechanisms for making its membership accountable to Principles of Implementation and its work inclusive of participation by regional and national bodies.
- Increase effective conservation action in the Pacific islands by ensuring that member conservation programmes mobilise resources, adopt a Pacific approach, encourage partnerships, are maintained at a manageable scale and budget, are fully accountable and transparent, contain a strong communications and education component, and forge collaboration with one another while avoiding duplication of efforts.

The Roundtable reports to the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas on the implementation of the Action Strategy.

Current signatories to the charter include: Rare Conservation, TNC, CI, USP, SOPAC, SPREP, IUCN, WWF, LMMA Network and WCS. Other organisations have initiated the process of signing the charter. ▲

Formation of the Pacific Indigenous Tourism and Biodiversity Alliance

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), SPREP and the New Zealand Tourism Research Institute (NZTRI) of Auckland University of Technology (AUT) jointly developed and facilitated a workshop in November 2008 on new information and web-based technologies within indigenous communities relating to tourism and biodiversity. The Samoa workshop was the second in a series organised by the CBD intended to support the sustainable use and management of biodiversity in tourism by strengthening the web-based capacities of indigenous tourism operators.

The workshop focused on new information and web-based technologies and used participative planning with a particular emphasis on islands.

The specific objectives were to:

1. Support the development and management of biodiversity-friendly tourism activities;
2. Support new information and web-based technology capacity of indigenous tourism operators;
3. Support the marketing and development of the culturally and biologically sustainable aspects of indigenous tourism products and experiences via the Internet;
4. Develop a network and exchange information;
5. Share and compile approaches to specific challenges in order to develop best practices;
6. Use successful tools from the first workshop and refine and add to them for application by current participants and in future workshops; and
7. Create a set of on-line resources that can be of value to island-based tourism operators and planners.

A major outcome of the workshop was the formation of the Pacific Indigenous Tourism and Biodiversity Alliance (PITBA). The Alliance will help indigenous and local communities in liaising with decision-makers and lobbying governments to support activities related to indigenous knowledge, tourism and biodiversity. PITBA will also support the development of a closer relationship with SPREP and the South Pacific Travel Organisation (SPTO). ▲



Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund Launched

The Polynesia-Micronesia region will benefit from a US \$7 million five-year investment in nature conservation in the Pacific region by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) launched in September 2008. The investment will be managed through a partnership of CEPF and Conservation International's Pacific Islands Programme based in Apia, Samoa.

The CEPF provides a unique opportunity to conserve the region's biodiversity by engaging and building the capacity of non-government organisations and providing resources for intergovernmental agencies. SPREP is participating as a member of the CEPF Technical Advisory Group, but is also eligible to apply for CEPF funds to assist biodiversity conservation efforts in the region. It is hoped that this investment will make a major contribution to reducing habitat degradation and loss of biodiversity.

The fund will focus on three main elements: the prevention, control and eradication of invasive species in key biodiversity areas; strengthening the conservation status and management of a prioritised set of 60 key biodiversity areas; and building awareness and participation of local leaders and community members in the use of recovery plans for threatened species. ▲

(Facing page): Explaining traditional uses of plants to tourists in Yap.

(Right): Ravilevu Nature Reserve, Fiji. Fiji was one of the countries receiving funding to undertake ecological gap analyses.

Supporting Country Action on Protected Areas

A project to help countries implement the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) was approved by the Global Environment Facility in March 2007. The project's goal is to assist eligible countries to achieve effective national systems of protected areas in accordance with their commitments under the PoWPA, with an emphasis on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Development States (SIDS). The project operates as a grant programme, and is expected to disburse up to US\$ 9.0 million of GEF resources and leverage co-

financing to assist countries in their protected area implementation plans. The disbursement of funds was scheduled to be completed by the end of 2008.

Eight Pacific Island countries received support from this project. They include Fiji, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. SPREP provided technical assistance to Samoa, FSM, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Fiji and Tonga in developing their proposals for this fund. ▲

Eligible PoWPA Activities and countries addressing each activity

Activity	Countries
1.1.1 PA target setting	
1.1.4 Review the forms of conservation	
1.1.5 Ecological gap assessment for PAs and interim action for highly threatened sites	FSM, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Kiribati, Fiji, Samoa
1.2.1 Lessons learning on landscape integration	FSM
2.1.2 Promoting broader set of PA governance types	FSM, PNG
3.1.1 Tackling legal and institutional gaps	Fiji, Kiribati, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu
3.1.2 Assessing PA contribution to national economy and MDGs	Tonga
3.1.5 Tackling perverse PA incentives	
3.1.6 Establishing positive PA incentives	
3.2.1 Capacity needs assessment, development of training curricular and programs	FSM
3.4.1 Study effectiveness of current PA financing, and setting new financing mechanisms	FSM
4.1.2 Monitoring system for PoWPA	FSM
4.2.1 Monitoring of PA management effectiveness	FSM

Regional coordination of invasive species activities reinvigorated

During the year a number of important steps were taken to strengthen regional cooperation and coordination for the effective management of invasive species — pests, weeds and diseases of animals and plants.

In June, at the annual meeting of the Roundtable for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands in Fiji, the constitution of the Roundtable's Invasive Species Working Group (ISWG) was confirmed and draft activities and terms of reference for the group discussed. SPREP's Invasive Species Officer was confirmed as Chair of the group, and the main tasks of the next months were considered to be strengthening regional planning and coordination and re-forming the group with an active membership. A key future role for the ISWG will be to track regional and national activities for invasive species management, identify high priority gaps in action, and seek to fill the gaps through action by its members.

Another welcome event in June was the highly complimentary report of the External Review of the pilot phase of the Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN), which is based at SPREP. The report concluded that the network had far exceeded expectations in providing information and skill-exchange opportunities to Pacific countries and territories recommended PILN should be continued. Following recommendations from the review, the 19th SPREP meeting in Pohnpei in September approved the incorporation of the PILN Coordinator position into SPREP's core programme staffing.

Also in September, the new Guidelines for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific were endorsed

by both the 19th SPREP Meeting and by SPC Heads of Agriculture and Forestry at their meeting in Apia. By the end of the year the document was being prepared for publication. These Guidelines provide a comprehensive framework for all invasive species work in the Pacific and facilitate prioritisation. They should help to increase efficiency and cooperation, and are already being used to guide the work of international and regional agencies, including donors. The guidelines have also been used by a number of Pacific countries to assist the development of country programmes, and to help them identify regional and international agencies that can provide assistance in particular areas. We expect wider application after distribution of the published document.

In November, these strands were brought together at a combined meeting of the partner organisations of PILN and the Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII), with SPREP being a partner in both initiatives. The main business of the joint meeting was to combine the partnerships, but this push for increased cooperation went beyond this objective to the incorporation of the two partnerships with the ISWG, which was renamed the Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP). Now the region has a single, widely recognised coordinating body for regionally led invasive species initiatives. The PIP includes all the major regional organisations working on invasives as members, as well as the important international NGOs that have strong invasives programmes in the Pacific. This process will be taken forward at the next meeting of the Roundtable, scheduled for July 2009, at which time PIP will hold its own session. ▲

Locally managed marine areas: Sharing lessons learned in community marine management across the Pacific

The Indo-Pacific Locally Managed Marine Area Network (LMMA) hosted a regional conference entitled "Locally Managed Marine Areas: Sharing Lessons Learned in Community Marine Management across the Pacific," from 3-7 November 2008 in Fiji. The meeting brought together 108 participants from 22 countries, including local communities, government agencies, NGOs, regional institutions, area universities, and other organisations. Participants shared lessons and discussed progress in community and local stakeholder-led marine resources management and to share ideas on addressing common challenges across the region. This gathering was made possible with support from the Coral Reef Initiative for the South Pacific (CRISP) project, generous core LMMA funding from the Packard Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation, and participant travel support from the NZAID Pacific Island Countries Participation Fund.

The meeting was opened by Fijian Minister for Fisheries and Forests, the Hon. Jocketani Cokanasiga. He lauded the active and important role that the Fiji LMMA Network (FLMMA) has played in the host country. FLMMA, whose secretariat is based at the Fisheries Department, is seen as a significant and supportive civil society partnership to the Ministry.

The Country Networks of the LMMA then presented updates on their activities, focusing on what worked, what did not, and lessons learned. Results of Network-wide data analysis were presented and discussed, as was the concept of community based adaptive management (CBAM). The participants within smaller country-oriented groups explored how and to what extent CBAM had been carried out (or not) in different country contexts. Their reports indicated a wide range of experiences across the Indo-Pacific and highlighted needs for further support of this approach.

The meeting included a two-day session where community representatives met in Vatu-o-lailai village, and support partner agency practitioners in Suva. These arrangements enhanced participation with attendees able to each actively share experiences and lessons learned. The parallel sessions focused on the same topics of resource management initiation and community engagement, management planning, implementation, sustainability and scaling-up.

Community exchange participants visited sites, made presentations and held small group discussions. They developed "take home points" and "self-improvement action plans" based on their sessions. These were designed to help participants to focus on key points they individually found useful, and to bringing these ideas home to share with their communities.

The conference was significant for its emphasis on hearing the perspectives and experiences from those directly involved in marine management, particularly community members and those who work with them in the area of coastal resources management. The high level of participation and the stimulating discussions indicated the necessity for, interest in, and importance of such a forum: a structured but otherwise relatively open and comfortable format that facilitates individual interaction, exchanges and reflection and results in honest sharing of real-life experiences and practical learning from each other and together as peers. The conference highlighted the perspectives of local communities; supported direct exchange of lessons learned and ideas; and, according to evaluations received, served also to encourage and motivate participants, indicating the usefulness and necessity for more such opportunities and forums in the future. ▲

In-country invasive species support to members

Strategic planning workshops were held on Kiritimati Island in Kiribati and in Yap State of the FSM, which resulted in invasive species action plans for those islands. SPREP provided considerable assistance to the implementation of the Kiritimati plan by leading the development of an invasive species management and island restoration project for the northern Line Islands (Kiritimati, Teraina and Tabuaeran). This plan was then approved for funding by the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF). SPREP also led the development of a proposal for rat eradication and invasive ant management on the Aleipata Islands of Samoa, which also received approval for CEPF funding. PILN obtained funding for an exchange programme enabling 10 Pacific invasives workers from 10 member countries and territories to participate in learning exchanges and training.

Wallis and Futuna leaders study Samoan protected areas

A high-level delegation from Wallis and Futuna spent four days in early December studying marine protected area management around Upolu Island in Samoa to gain first-hand insight into community-based marine conservation. Wallis and Futuna are in the process of designing management plans for their coastal and marine resources and had expressed interest in learning from the community-based approach taken in Samoa with a view to replicating it. This high-level visit, organised by SPREP as part of the Coral Reef Initiative for the Pacific (CRISP) project, was designed to convince key decision-makers in Wallis and Futuna of the need to move marine conservation efforts forward.

The choice of Samoa was motivated by the common history of Futuna and Samoa.

The ten-member team was led by some of the highest chiefs representing the Kings of Wallis, Sigave and Alo, and comprised representatives of the Department of Environment, non-government organisations, fishermen associations, members of Parliament, and the Government of France.

The study tour included presentations from the Samoa Fisheries Division on their different activities, which helped inform delegates of the process on setting-up fisheries reserves and how the Samoan Government has worked hand-in-hand with communities to assist them in monitoring and restocking protected areas, including through aquaculture.

Three days were spent in villages visiting fisheries reserves with the Division of Fisheries and the Aleipata-Safata Marine Protected Area with the Conservation Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. These visits provided opportunities for the visitors from Wallis and Futuna to directly discuss issues with, and collect views of, community members on their marine protected areas.

This study tour successfully met its goal of showing Wallis and Futuna participants how Samoa manages its marine resources. Despite differences in the cost of living between the two countries, the learning focused more on community empowerment than management costs. It was made clear both by MNRE and the Fisheries Division that the basic activities of these programmes such as MPA establishment and day-to-day management do not require significant funding. The delegation was surprised that communities do not get paid to take part in a management committee and carry out most of the management activities on a voluntary basis.

The other main issue to deal with in Wallis and Futuna is the local conception of Marine Protected Areas, especially by fishermen. The delegation initially thought that a MPA would ban fishing from the whole lagoon. Samoan community representatives made clear that fishing is still allowed in most of the lagoon and that only a small area was reserved as a no-take zone. The study tour also dispelled any misunderstanding that fishermen would be against a no-take zone and MPA in general. The Samoan communities informed their visitors that fishermen had realised that they had to travel longer distances to get ever smaller and fewer fish and that they agreed that something needed to be done to ensure that their activity would be sustainable for themselves as

well as for future generations. It was also pointed out that fishermen had been fully involved in designing the management plan and choosing the no-take zones and that they fully respected the rules put in place.

It is hoped that the study tour has contributed to changing the participants' perception of marine resource management and that Marine Protected Areas and no-take zones will be recognized as a necessity to sustain the livelihoods of Wallis and Futuna for years to come. ▲



Members of the Wallis and Futuna visiting delegation and their counterparts from Samoa.

SPREP supports sustainability of the marine ornamental trade in the Pacific

In December 2008, SPREP co-hosted, along with SPC and CRISP, a Sub-Regional Marine Ornamentals Trade Workshop which focused on policy and management support for wild capture ornamental fisheries and aquaculture of aquarium organisms for export.

This workshop involved technical consultation between government, private sector and public stakeholders and specialists who are active in the marine ornamental trade within PICTs. Representatives were in attendance from the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Fiji, Hawaii (USA), Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

The workshop was held in response to the pressing need to examine the marine ornamental trade and to identify national and regional initiatives that will ensure the long term ecological, social and economic sustainability of this important fishery.

The Pacific marine ornamental trade has been supplying the world's aquarium industry for over 20 years with a diverse range of wild and cultured commodities such as fish, corals, live-rock, giant clams, and other invertebrates. The industry contributes an estimated US\$20-30 million annually to PICT economies. Due to the relatively high diversity and abundance of coral reefs in the Pacific, the region is in a strong position to grow as a major player in the international market, providing opportunities for much-needed income and revenue.

Nonetheless, public misconceptions or poorly informed government decisions constrain further development of the aquarium trade. Exporters are also facing increasing rigid trade requirements such as the recent regulations by the European Commission for imports into Europe to be accompanied by animal health certificates to comply with the World Animal Health Organisation. Pacific Island non-member parties of the Convention for Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) must also meet strict reporting standards.

The workshop provided a forum for:

- assessing global and regional trends of the aquarium trade in terms of markets and production systems;
- investigating criteria for commercial viability at both community and corporate levels;
- assessing requirements and issues related to international agreements for export;
- determining the role of "eco-certification" programmes;
- assessing resource assessment techniques to ensure sustainability of wild-caught fisheries;
- identifying further opportunities for aquaculture;
- determining base requirements for national management plans; and
- identifying priorities for future research, development and training.

Results of this workshop will be disseminated in 2009 and will help ensure that continued growth of the aquarium trade for PICTs is done in a sustainable manner. This will protect the region's coral reef biodiversity and enable stronger partnerships between private sector, national authorities and regional/international bodies. ▲



Ornamental clams destined for the aquarium trade.

Climate change and biodiversity in Melanesia: Assessing vulnerability of marine and terrestrial ecosystems to projected climate change

SPREP, along with the Bernice P. Bishop Museum in Honolulu, the Pacific Science Association and the Indo-Pacific Conservation Alliance, with financial support from the MacArthur Foundation, undertook a study in 2008 to assess the vulnerability to climate change of biodiversity and island ecosystems in Melanesia. Similar studies are underway in Africa and the Caribbean.

The Climate Change and Biodiversity in Melanesia (CCBM) study has largely focused on climate impacts on marine systems in Melanesia, but also included some terrestrial areas as well. There are three main components to the CCBM:

1. Assessment by the Bishop Museum of the current scientific understanding of the impacts of climate change and other bio-geochemical processes (e.g. ocean acidification) on island and marine ecosystems in Melanesia;
2. Assessment by SPREP on the institutional and socio-economic adaptive capacity of Melanesian countries to effectively respond to climate change impacts including legislation, policies and capacity assessment; and
3. Development by both the Bishop Museum and SPREP of an integrated assessment of the vulnerability to climate change of Melanesia's biodiversity.

For the purposes of this study, SPREP concentrated on the two archipelagic nations of the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu for Component 2, documenting all current and available management policies and programs and identifying impediments to and opportunities for successful biodiversity conservation and management in the face of projected climate change and related effects. Additionally, a detailed socio-economic assessment was conducted of the impacts of climate change on important economic sectors, such as tourism and subsistence coastal fisheries.

A final Integrated Vulnerability Assessment Report will be produced in 2009, including a set of recommendations for policymakers and managers in developing and implementing development and conservation strategies that reflect an appropriate and robust understanding of expected climate change. The final assessment will also be used to support future revisions of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation, the Pacific Islands Framework for Climate Change, and other conservation plans and strategies. This report will also be used to develop a range of communication products for a variety of audiences in Melanesia and beyond. Such assessments are an essential step in ensuring that conservation efforts succeed in the future. ▲

Village boys carrying their father's catch at Mangilulu, Efate, Vanuatu. Food security from coastal fisheries will be impacted by climate change



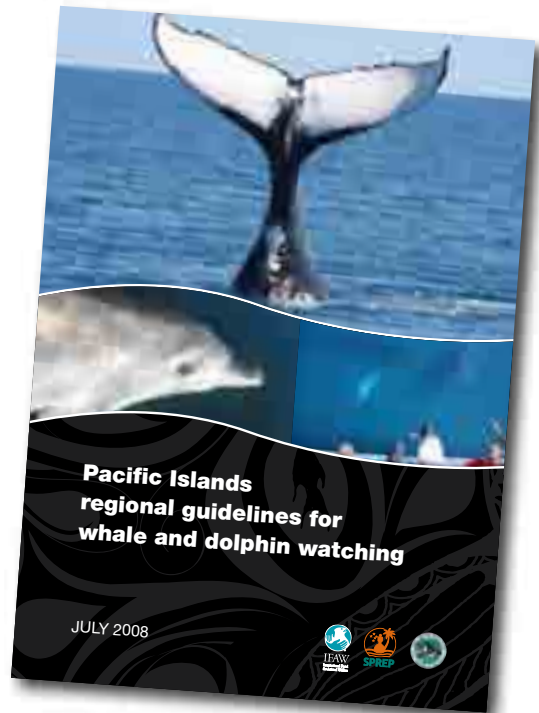
Pacific Islands Regional Whale and Dolphin Watching Guidelines

Whale and dolphin watching is becoming a very important income generating avenue for the Pacific Islands. As such its sustainability is essential. The SPREP *Regional Whale and Dolphin Action Plan 2008-2012* recognises the value of the industry to the region as well as the need to develop guidelines to assist Members in minimising potential impacts on these species. A priority action identified in the Action Plan was the development of region-wide whale and dolphin watching guidelines.

In collaboration with IFAW and Operation Cetaces, regional guidelines for whale and dolphin watching were developed in 2008 with the assistance of a special working group meeting in Auckland, New Zealand. The draft guidelines developed by the working group were circulated to Members for input before finalisation. The guidelines have now been published and will be presented to the 2009 SPREP meeting, encouraging their use nationally.

The guidelines are designed to assist Member countries and territories in developing their own national guidelines for whale watching and encourages development of regulations relevant and appropriate to the situation of each country.

A final Integrated Vulnerability Assessment Report will be produced in 2009, including a set of recommendations for policy-makers and managers in developing and implementing development and conservation strategies that reflect an appropriate and robust understanding of the impact of expected climate change. The final assessment will also be used to support future revisions of the *Action Strategy for Nature Conservation*, the *Pacific Islands Framework for Climate Change*, and other conservation plans and strategies. This report will also be used to develop a range of communication products for a variety of audiences in Melanesia and beyond. Such assessments are an essential step in ensuring that conservation efforts succeed in the future. ▲



Shark Regional Action Plan

The 18th SPREP meeting in 2007 endorsed the Secretariat's proposal to include sharks in its regional marine species programme. The meeting directed the Secretariat to collaborate with other relevant regional IGOs, in particular the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), SPC, and FFA, in progressing an appropriate approach to develop a Regional Action Plan for sharks, noting the decision 2006/05 by the Third Regular Session of WCPFC on Conservation and Management Measures for Sharks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

In early 2008 SPREP invited WCPFC, SPC, and FFA to establish a working group to progress the development of the Action Plan. The working group met in Vanuatu and agreed that a consultant was required to draft the guidelines under the supervision of the working group. A joint funding proposal was submitted to FAO for the consultancy, which was successful, and the Action Plan will be developed in 2009. ▲



Monitoring dugong health during the workshop.

Training attachment in turtle and dugong research

As part of the effort to build national capacity in dugong and turtle research to improve information in the region as highlighted in the regional *Dugong Action Plan 2008-2012*, representatives from Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu participated in a 14-day research attachment in Shoalwater Bay, Queensland in June 2008.

The training was “hands-on” and included lectures on dugong and turtle biology, training in catching, measuring and satellite tagging, skin sampling for

genetic analysis, feeding trail analysis and sea grass taxonomy, dugong survey methodology, life history and habitat information.

The attachment was the result of collaboration with the Australian Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) and the Environmental Protection Agency/Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (EPA/QPWS), and was made possible through funding from DEWHA. ▲

Turtle satellite tagging in Fiji

Two turtle satellite tagging activities were conducted in Fiji in 2008 as part of an effort to improve information on turtle stocks in the region, in particular post-nesting migration movements and identification of nesting and feeding grounds. In one instance, SPREP was requested by the Fiji Department of Fisheries and local partners to undertake a turtle satellite tagging activity as part of Fiji’s national launch of the Pacific Year of the Reef. SPREP’s Marine Species Officer travelled to Fiji to satellite tag a hawksbill turtle caught on South Sea Island after it nested. The other satellite tagging was conducted by WWF SPP and the National Trust of Fiji, with SPREP providing the satellite tags as well as all the material required and the manual for the attachment process.

The satellite-tagged turtles were given the names of “Marama ni Yadua” and “Lady Mamanuca.” Both satellite tags were active for more than 100 days and provided valuable new information concerning post-nesting movement of hawksbill turtles in Fiji.

The national collaborators on these activities included the Fiji Department of Fisheries, WWF SPP, USP, MES (Mamanuca Environment Society), the National Trust of Fiji and NOAA. ▲



Releasing a tagged turtle in Fiji.



Update on CMS Memorandum of Cooperation

In 2005 SPREP signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS).

SPREP was instrumental in the development of the MoC for the conservation of cetaceans and their habitats in the Pacific islands region, which was opened for signing during the SPREP 2006 Meeting in Noumea, New Caledonia. Since that time, the cetacean MoC has been signed by 11 SPREP member countries as well as four other collaborating organizations in the region. In collaboration with CMS, SPREP's efforts during 2008 were centred on developing a proposal to revise the coordination of the MoU as well as other CMS related activities in the region. The coordination proposal will be submitted for consideration by the second meeting of signatories, scheduled to be held in mid-2009. ▲

Regional support for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Through its Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, SPREP has continued to provide support to the Pacific Island Ramsar Parties. Such assistance has included helping Member Parties to access the Ramsar Small Grants Fund and, in the case of Samoa, Fiji and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, providing assistance with the preparation of national reports to Ramsar COP10.

The conservation of wetland ecosystems was promoted throughout the region through media awareness and support for the coordination of national World Wetlands Day 2008 celebrations. SPREP has also supported Oceania representatives on various Ramsar Committees and bodies, specifically regional representatives on the Ramsar Convention's Standing Committee and Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP). ▲

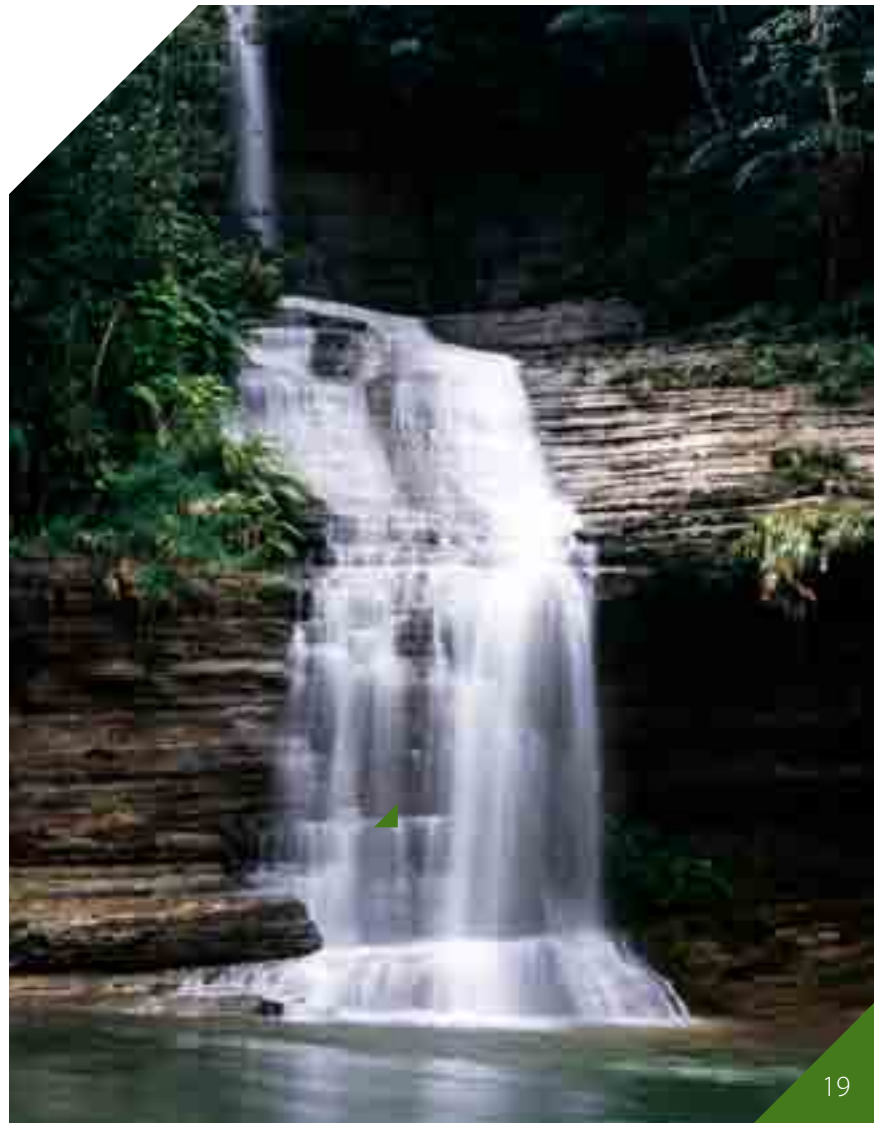
The Navua Ramsar Site in Fiji.

Update of the *Oceania Wetlands Directory*

A pilot project to update part of the 1993 *Oceania Wetlands Directory* for Fiji, New Caledonia, Samoa and the Republic of the Marshall Islands was completed in July 2008. This project was funded by the Ramsar Secretariat through support to the Pacific Islands Wetland Initiative. Whilst the information compiled through the project was a timely undertaking, the general findings indicated that:

- There is a general lack of new wetland data available for the four PICTs, which may also be the result of the fragmentation of data across different agencies;
- There are major gaps in data for some sites; and
- Most of the national wetland sites have yet to be surveyed, mapped and assessed against Ramsar criteria.

The information compiled through the project serves as a useful baseline reference for determining future Ramsar sites in PICTs and for developing full national wetland inventories. ▲





The Ramsar COP10 meeting in Changwon, Korea.

Support to Kiribati, Nauru and Tuvalu to join the Ramsar Convention

Support was provided to three Pacific Island countries to progress their preparatory activities towards joining the Ramsar Convention during 2008. Assistance was provided to Kiribati to demarcate the boundaries of their first nominated Ramsar site and to draft a submission to Cabinet on Ramsar accession. The Government of Nauru has endorsed joining the Convention; therefore work will

be required toward the completion of an information sheet on their first nominated Ramsar site, an accurate map of the site, an instrument of accession and a landowner consent letter. Preparatory work was also initiated for Tuvalu with support for the drafting of a Cabinet submission on Ramsar accession. ▲

Supporting Oceania parties at Ramsar COP10

Convening of the 10th Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the Ramsar Convention meant that 2008 was a particularly important year for the Convention.

Regional preparations were coordinated by SPREP, beginning with implementation of the 4th Oceania Regional Meeting for Ramsar COP10 (ORM-4) in April 2008. The statement issued by the meeting highlighted regional wetland issues and priorities. A regional brief was prepared to assist Oceania Parties with their negotiations ahead of the COP. SPREP support for Oceania Parties at the COP included preparation of national and, where appropriate, regional positions on relevant Ramsar COP10 draft resolutions; organisation and conduct of regional meetings to discuss and prepare for subsequent plenary sessions of the COP; and provision of updates for delegates on any issues that required their attention and/or action.

All five Pacific Island Parties were represented and engaged actively in COP proceedings. The COP was a good opportunity for PIC parties to make new contacts and to make the voice of the Oceania region heard.

Issues of relevance to the Pacific Islands region included resolutions on regional initiatives; the Ramsar Small Grants Fund, the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2014, the Convention budget for 2009-2012 and its implications, timing and frequency of the COPs, Climate Change and Wetlands, Small Island Developing States, Biofuels and Wetlands.

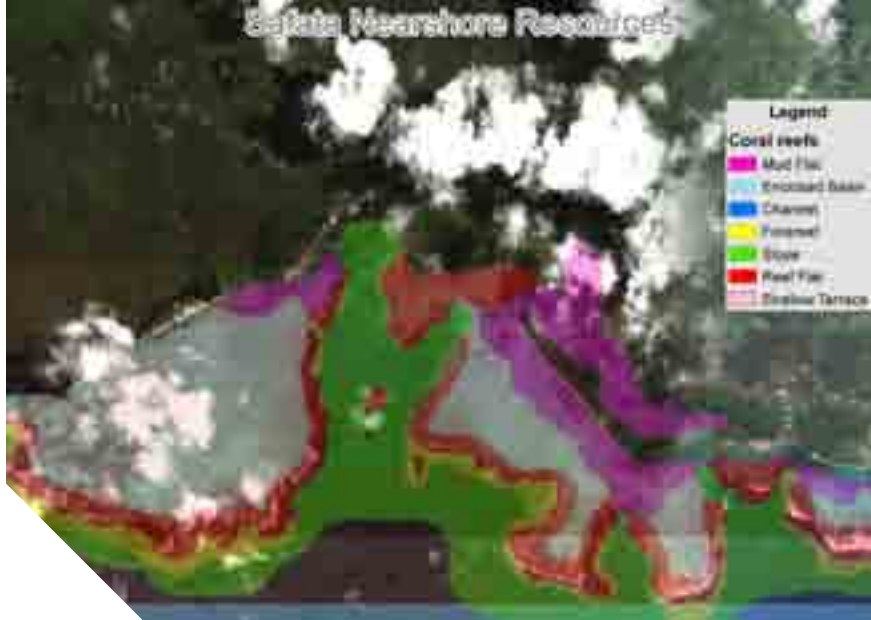
Ramsar COP11 will be held in Romania in 2012. ▲

Addressing marine conservation priorities

SPREP and Conservation International (CI) are collaborating on a project to identify marine conservation priorities in the Pacific. CI generously provided funds to enable SPREP to employ a Marine Conservation Analyst to implement the project. The project has a key role in addressing the 2006 decision of the SPREP environment ministers to develop a regional framework to support the establishment and management of MMAs/MPAs and develop effective tools for the conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity.

The project is also assisting countries in implementing the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA), which requires prioritisation of conservation targets. Prioritisation is undertaken using Key Biodiversity Area

(KBA) criteria and GIS methodology, using GIS to highlight areas where conservation and effective management would best promote the conservation of biodiversity and the protection of threatened species. KBAs are sites of global significance for biodiversity conservation. They are identified using globally standardised criteria and thresholds, based on the needs of biodiversity that require safeguarding at the site scale, triggered by the presence of species on the IUCN Red List. The initial objective of SPREP's GIS analysis is to catalogue and collate information on marine managed areas (MMAs) and develop national plans to expand protected area networks. Work is initially focused on Samoa and Fiji with support to other PICTs to follow.



Map of marine resources for Safata, Fiji.

Products developed in 2008 included the first comprehensive database and maps of protected areas in Samoa including conservation targets and key marine species. This work was undertaken in collaboration with the Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. The GIS database is being developed further as information becomes available, with member PICTs invited to submit GIS files to be archived in the SPREP GIS database. It is hoped that this database will serve as a clearinghouse and archive for national GIS information. Aside from marine managed/protected areas analysis and prioritisation, SPREP's GIS capacity has been utilised to illustrate turtle migration routes in the region, assess cetacean protection status across Pacific EEZs, assist with Ramsar site development in Kiribati, and undertake turtle nesting survey findings in Papua New Guinea. ▲

Education and communications

SPREP's education and communication programme during 2008 focused largely on capacity development for young professionals in the environment field and media training with a focus on climate change.

March 2008 saw the second Pacific Future Environment Leaders' Forum (PFELF) held in Suva, Fiji. Funding provided by the British High Commission in Fiji enabled 40 Pacific Island participants to attend the Forum. Participants were young environmental professionals and university students with majors in environment/sustainable development who have shown leadership in their fields. The Forum aimed to develop leadership skills and equip participants with information on current issues in climate change and sustainable development. A highlight of the three-day Forum was a panel discussion, which addressed the barriers youth face in leadership in the Pacific. A series of group activities, interactive games and impromptu debates added to the dynamic and progressive atmosphere of the event. Participants prepared a vision statement to underscore their commitment to addressing climate change issues in the Pacific and to call for support from Pacific island leaders to give them increased responsibility in conservation and youth development. An electronic network has enabled continued dialogue amongst Forum participants, who are now seeking to establish a more long-term focused network of young environment professionals in the region.

SPREP, in collaboration with the Oceania Regional Office for IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), supported Pacific Youth input to the World Conservation Congress (WCC). Three participants from the PFELF were selected to attend the WCC and present its Vision Statement. The young Pacific representatives used a powerful combination of images, song and dance to convey their message at the Congress in Barcelona, Spain. SPREP encourages the attendance and participation of young people at such events as an effective way to build their confidence and broaden their perceptions of the world thus strengthening their ability to contribute more effectively as leaders in conservation and sustainable development.



SPREP's Kenichi Kasho works with filmmaker Teddy Fong during the Climate Change Film Project.

The year also saw SPREP venture into a new area with an innovative project using the film genre to tell climate change stories. A partnership between the British High Commission (BHC) in Fiji and SPREP brought together Pacific filmmakers and environmentalists in Apia, Samoa, for a week of training on documentary-making as well as learning about climate change and related environmental issues. Following the workshop, participants were provided with start-up funds to enable them to produce their own documentaries and tell the climate change story from their perspective.

The Pacific Climate Change Film Festival, hosted in Fiji in September in partnership with the BHC Fiji and IUCN, provided the platform from which to launch the films and also showcase other films on climate change. Some 15 films were selected for screening over a two-day period to an audience of over 500. Ranging from 5-20 minutes in length, and varying from sombre to emotive, the films depict how Pacific islanders are being impacted by and are coping with climate change.

In 2009, the films will be compiled and distributed for broadcast and use by Pacific Media organisations, National Focal Points and all interested parties including community awareness groups and educational agencies. ▲

Building media capacity to enhance climate change reporting in the Pacific

With climate change an internationally debated topic of extreme significance to Pacific islanders, SPREP embarked upon a two-phased project to help raise awareness of climate change adaptation and mitigation through the media.

In October 2008, SPREP organised a climate change media training programme in parallel with the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR). Participants included 17 reporters from around the region, including seven from the Samoa media; media officers from CROP agencies; and a communications officer from UNEP's Regional Office in Bangkok. The one-week training was implemented by SPREP in partnership with the Canadian Government, UNESCO and PINA (Pacific Islands News Association). Participants took part in daily seminars on a wide variety of environmental topics after a full day devoted to climate change. At the same time, participants were able to attend the PCCR proceedings, establish contacts with the many different people who work on climate change in the Pacific and report on the Roundtable discussions.



Press at the opening of the Poznan Climate Conference.

The workshop resulted in several outcomes including better understanding amongst the media of climate change issues; a resolution from participants committing themselves to strengthening and continuing with climate change reporting in their respective countries; a network of Pacific climate change reporters; daily articles from participants on climate change issues; and the selection of reporters for the Pacific Communications Team.

Selected reporters attended the 14th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Poznan, Poland, to provide the region with constant updates on the outcomes of the meetings. A compilation of these reports is available for download at http://www.sprep.org/documents/highlights/poznan/poznanhighlights_low-res.pdf. ▲

European Commission-funded project to enhance capacity of Pacific countries to implement MEAs

Various national and regional assessments in recent years have continued to identify the ongoing capacity needs of SPREP Members to implement the Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) to which they are Party.

A welcome initiative is the partnership between the European Commission (EC), UNEP, FAO, the UNCCD Global Mechanism and SPREP to plan and implement a four-year project costing €1.3 million to enhance the capacity of Pacific ACP States to enhance to implement MEAs. Similar arrangements have also been made with the African and Caribbean regional organisations.

The initiative is in alignment with a range of EC commitments to international environmental and sustainable development agendas and agreements including the priorities outlined in the EC-ACP Partnership Agreement (Cotonou, June 2000), particularly to “promote environmental sustainability, regeneration, best practices and the preservation of the natural resource base” as set out in Article 20e of the Agreement.

UNEP has been formally designated the overall coordinator and facilitator of the initiative and has undertaken consultations with regional institutions in the three ACP regions to determine the appropriate focal institution for coordination of the project. In the Pacific, consultations between UNEP, the Forum Secretariat and SPREP resulted in the designation of SPREP as the Pacific’s lead CROP agency for the coordination of this initiative. SPREP worked closely with UNEP to develop and finalise a financing proposal for presentation to the EC. This was accomplished through the signing of a financing agreement in December 2007 and a final project document in February 2009. A Contribution Agreement was also reached between the EC and UNEP as implementing agency and overall facilitator and coordinator of the project.

The Programme will be implemented over four years beginning in March 2009. In addition to supporting SPREP Members, the programme will also support the Secretariat as the Pacific Regional Hub for MEA Capacity Building and enhance its ability to work closely with members to address common and specific capacity needs in the areas of negotiations, mainstreaming, reporting, laws and regulations, project management, information management and public awareness. The Programme will also provide SPREP with the opportunity to strengthen partnerships with regional and international agencies, including the MEA Secretariats, to assist its Members in the Pacific. While the project is targeting the Pacific ACP Member States, the Secretariat is also inviting participation from all Member countries and territories. ▲

Pacific Futures Programme

Yasawa Islands, Fiji



The Pacific Futures Programme continued to respond to growing needs in its key areas of climate change, pollution and waste management, and environmental governance.

Widespread environmental and economic damage wrought by climate change and extreme events in the region and beyond has resulted in an outpouring of responses from the international community. Part of the Secretariat's response includes provision of negotiations support at the international level focusing on enhanced mitigation measures and climate change adaptation. These efforts have been complemented by practical action on the ground to promote renewable energy technologies, community based adaptation, and climate observation and monitoring. Work has also progressed on education and awareness on climate change and the mainstreaming of climate change in multiple sectors. Improving access to financial resources for climate change has also been actively pursued through cooperation with multiple development partners.

Pollution, waste and sanitation problems continue to plague Pacific Island countries. In response, the work of the Secretariat is evolving from a purely waste management approach to an approach that is more holistic and integrated. The Secretariat is addressing the full spectrum of waste-related issues, including the prevention of pollution; waste management policy and capacity development in solid waste management; targeted capacity development focusing on specific streams of hazardous waste; assisting member countries to secure resources for waste prevention and management; and the prevention and management of marine pollution from land- and ship-based sources.

The Secretariat's environmental governance work includes promoting the use of environmental management tools (such as environmental impact assessments), encouraging integrated decision making processes (for example in national sustainable development strategies), and assisting with the generation and interpretation of sound basic data in assessing the state of the environment of the region. Supporting countries and territories participating in Multilateral Environmental Agreements and in meeting their obligations under those MEAs



constitutes a key focus of the Programme. Participation and compliance with such agreements may require environmental legal assistance, and/or access to international funding mechanisms such as through the Global Environment Facility. ▲

*(Clockwise from top left):
Harvesting mangrove crabs
in Fiji; Inundation of coconut
plantation in Vanuatu;
Mangroves in Palau; Landfill,
Samoa; Marine port activities
in Port Moresby; PNG.*



Climate Change

Climate change remained a crucially important part of the regional and international agendas for 2008. The need to support Pacific Island countries in the international negotiations, and the increasing workload relating to work in the region, ensured that the year was very busy for SPREP's climate change team. At the same time, support was provided to PICs in international meetings and major projects were being developed or finalised for implementation, such as under PIGGAREP, PACC and PI-GCOS. ▲



The opening of the Poznan Climate Conference.

UNFCCC negotiations

In 2008 the UNFCCC negotiations sought to advance the historic consensus agreement that had been reached at COP-13 in Bali in 2007, known as the "Bali Action Plan." SPREP was involved in many of the preparatory activities and workshops, including providing support to the PIC delegations to the UNFCCC subsidiary bodies and to the COP held in Poznan, Poland in December. In addition SPREP assisted the PICs at an AOSIS preparatory meeting in Singapore in November, to confirm country negotiating positions and align AOSIS positions accordingly. SPREP also actively engaged in the UNFCCC Expert Group on Technology Transfer and the Nairobi Work Programme on Adaptation.

SPREP assisted with information on planned and on-going activities in the region so that PIC delegations could intervene with adequate information where necessary.

The Poznan COP was successful in setting in place many of the building blocks for further work on developing a longer-term agreement beyond the Kyoto Protocol's expiry date of 2012, but much more work needs to be done. For example, COP14 agreed on providing for direct access by developing countries to the Adaptation Fund, but no consensus was reached on how to increase the levels of that fund. As a result, many partial decisions will have to be negotiated further in 2009 so that a comprehensive agreement can be reached at Copenhagen in December. This will present numerous challenges to Member States and the Secretariat in terms of timing and preparations.

The Poznan COP marked the first time that SPREP had been able to fund capacity building and training for Pacific journalists, four of whom were brought

to the COP and reported on activities (see sidebar). This resulted in a vast amount of information on climate change being made available to the region, and provided insight on the challenges facing Pacific delegations in the negotiations. ▲

Poznan media coverage

The Pacific Communications Team in Poznan was the first application of a new SPREP initiative designed to improve the quality of reporting on international environmental meetings of greatest concern to the region.

Under the programme, four of the region's most distinguished journalists worked with SPREP editorial staff to bring updates, as they happened, to the Pacific on the Poznan Climate Conference. The team was an SPREP initiative made possible through the generous financial support of the Government of Canada.



Mangroves planted for shoreline protection, Kiribati.

projects and programmes at the national and regional levels. This will also be complemented by the ongoing work on climate change mainstreaming and support for MEA compliance. ▲

GEF approves the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project

A new five-year regional project on climate change adaptation called the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project was approved by the GEF in October 2008. This project aims to enhance the capacity of participating countries to adapt to climate change, including climate variability, in the food security, water and coastal management sectors. This goal will be realised by focusing on long-term planned adaptation response measures, strategies and policies.

Thirteen Pacific Island Countries (PICs) will take part in the PACC project: the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Although the PACC project is regional in scope, it is best described as an umbrella mechanism for nationally driven and implemented adaptation initiatives. The PACC is one of the few projects globally to access the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) of the GEF, with the Pacific region set to receive US\$13.125 million from the fund through the project.

The PACC is based on country-driven priorities as articulated in national communications to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the National Adaptation Programme for Action (NAPA) for Least Developed Countries, and the nationally-endorsed Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (2006-2015).

With current thinking and development in the adaptation agenda globally, the PACC project is in a good position to pilot an approach to adaptation that fuses the top-down and bottom-up approaches as well as incorporating disaster risk reduction into climate change adaptation. Lessons from this initiative have the potential to be widely disseminated for replication by the GEF, UNDP and the 13 participating Pacific Island countries. ▲

Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC) and the Action Plan

Members will recall that Pacific Island Leaders adopted the *Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change* (PIFACC) 2006-2015 in 2005, that SPREP developed an Action Plan in 2007, and through consultations with relevant stakeholders established a set of national and regional activities to promote implementation of PIFACC. These will be subjected to monitoring through the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR) process and will therefore allow PICTs to gauge the degree to which national and regional actions have achieved the key principles of PIFACC. The first annual PCCR was held in Apia in 2008. Among the key outcomes was an agreement to launch work on a fully interactive and user-friendly climate change portal and to provide climate change information of importance and relevance to multiple user groups in the Pacific. The planned portal will also provide a mechanism for connecting identified needs in countries with access to new and current resources. It is envisaged that the PCCR process will continue in the coming years, providing a forum for discussion of priorities and developments in climate change for the region, and to assist with synergies across different

Renewable technology need not to be complicated or expensive, as this solar panel demonstrates.

The Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP)

PIGGAREP began its implementation stage in 2008 following successful completion of the Inception Phase from June to December 2007. Small island states were beneficiaries of several activities completed during the year.

A study to identify the best means of establishing a Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Unit was completed for the Tuvalu Electricity Corporation (TEC). The report has been approved by the Board of TEC and implementation is currently underway.

A consultancy to conduct a wind power feasibility study at Ijuw, Nauru, was signed and is set to commence in 2009. A topographical and geotechnical study of a proposed wind farm site in Rarotonga, Cook Islands was completed, with the study finding that the site would not be accessible by the heavy equipment needed for construction.

Support was provided to a technician from the Kiribati Solar Energy Company Ltd to participate in a two-week workshop on renewable energy conducted by the Pacific Power Association.

A capacity building workshop for small island states on renewable energy technology applications was completed. General managers of power utilities from Niue, Tokelau and Tuvalu participated, as did representatives from the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tonga.

More than 400 students throughout Samoa participated in the country's first National Energy Awareness Day in April.

The conduct of a feasibility study on the rehabilitation of solar photovoltaic projects in the Mango and Mo'unga'one islands in Tonga was completed as a joint activity with IUCN, with IUCN issuing a tender for the supply of photovoltaic equipment. ▲



Meteorological services and PI-GCOS

The first half of 2008 saw SPREP actively involved in a multi-agency working group formed during the 2007 Smaller Island States (SIS) Leaders Summit held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga. The SIS Leaders directive requested a review of sustainable delivery of regional meteorological services in the Pacific region, which involved an assessment of the role of national meteorological services and their status and interaction with regional meteorological services. With leadership provided by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), SPREP played a strong coordinating role alongside partner agencies SOPAC, the World Meteorological Organisation, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, the Fiji Meteorological Service, the New Zealand Meteorological Service, and the Cook Islands Meteorological Service.

The review found some areas of regional services delivery in need of strengthening and support. It also highlighted the need for increased training opportunities to develop qualified meteorologists in the region in the face of an increasing "brain drain" of professionals in the profession. The SIS Leaders outlined a number of key outcomes requiring further work and follow up in 2009, which SPREP plans to undertake with its partners.



Niue Met Service staff install and calibrate a tipping bucket rain gauge used to record rainfall rates and amounts as part of the PI-GCOS Instrument Project in partnership with SPREP and the University of Oklahoma.

SPREP, together with its NOAA National Weather Service partners, continued its support for regional training in weather forecasting through the training of forecasters from the Solomon Islands and Kiribati at the NOAA Weather Forecast Office in Honolulu, Hawaii. The trained forecasters were also provided with computer equipment from NOAA as post-training support to their offices to continue with the implementation of their newly acquired skills.

SPREP began a partnership with the Finland Meteorological Institute and, in late 2008, began preparing a joint proposal towards an implementation of three activities focused on building capacity of the region's national meteorological services involving communications strategy training for weather forecasters and administrators; capacity building on Quality Management Systems meeting international aviation standards requirements; and a review of a regional strategic action plan for the development of meteorological services in the Pacific region. The proposed project seeks funding of the Government of Finland, and is planned for the period 2009 – 2011.

The PI-GCOS website underwent a transformation in terms of design and its technical aspects. In partnership with the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and US GCOS partners, a newly procured web server was installed and programmed and a new web interface using Joomla was created for the new

PI-GCOS website (found at www.pi-gcos.org). The website continued its support to PIC meteorological services by hosting and continuing access to PIC web pages and support for updated weather and climate information from the PICs. With the transition to the new website design and web editor software, SPREP and NOAA NCDC, with hosting provided by the Fiji Meteorological Service, conducted a sub-regional training workshop of nine PICs on the use of the Joomla software. Key partners supporting this activity were NOAA NCDC, US GCOS, the University of Hawaii's Asia Pacific Data Research Center, and the University of Delaware. This activity also involved the development of the websites of sister programmes PI-GOOS and the Pacific HYCOS.

Other activities of the PI-GCOS included continued support of its Instrument Plan project with the seven participating PICs, through the continued support of the University of Oklahoma and its Environment Verification and Analysis Center (EVAC). PI-GCOS also continued joint activities with its SOPAC sister programmes PI-GOOS and Pacific HYCOS in the production of a joint quarterly newsletter entitled *Vai Pasifika*, and with regard to planning for training and equipment distribution to national meteorological services. ▲



Community volunteer rainfall network volunteers of Samoa Meteorological Division being trained on measurement of rainfall and temperature equipment.

Ozone update

There have been many successes in the implementation of the regional strategy on ozone-depleting substances over the past years, but in 2008 funding finally came to an end. The Associate ODS Officer finished her work in January 2008, and the Secretariat focused on finalisation of the project. Given that there are a number of outstanding reporting requirements from a number of countries participating in the strategy, and that these are required in order to release all the remaining funds earmarked for participating countries, advice was sought from individual delegations at the 19th SM as to the preferred course of action. It was agreed that the Secretariat would liaise with UNEP on possibilities for completing the regional strategy in those

countries that were in a position to do so. Consultations were successful and an effort will be made during 2009 to assist the five countries deemed eligible to complete their customs training and reporting requirements, working in partnership with the Oceania Customs Organization.

SPREP will continue to assist with legal and technical advice on a limited basis, while Institutional Strengthening Funds will be disbursed directly from UNEP to countries that have completed their work under the strategy. The potential for a regional network among ODS professionals will be explored in 2009, pending availability of resources. ▲



Pollution and Waste

Waste management and pollution prevention was again identified as a priority for the region during 2008. While much progress has been made at the regional and national level, this issue still remains a significant challenge requiring substantial resources and support.

Waste volumes continue to rise along with economic growth in the region. More importantly, the waste is also increasing in its toxicity and non-biodegradability as the peoples of the Pacific leave behind traditional ways and materials and take up western lifestyles. Unfortunately, waste is not a problem with a quick fix – it must be managed and its negative impacts addressed every day. The unrelenting nature of waste often seems insurmountable, but the problem must be overcome. ▲

Tafaigata Landfill Rehabilitation Project in Samoa: Installation of semi-aerobic landfill aeration pipes.

Solid waste

Solid waste management is a highly visible issue with the potential for causing direct negative impacts on health and tourism, as well as indirect impacts on a number of other sectors. In 2008, SPREP continued work to implement the Regional Solid Waste Management Strategy with the kind support of development partners, such as AFD, JICA, and NZAID.

For the majority of the PICTs, tourism represents a major sector of the economy and depends on preserving an unspoiled image of the environment. Waste is highly visible and, if not managed properly, tends to translate to an unclean environment distracting potential tourists, investors and developers from doing business in the region and thereby hampering economic development.

During 2008, a number of countries embraced the need for change with respect to current solid waste management practices. As a result, a number of workshops were held to develop national solid waste management strategies. Workshops were conducted in Solomon Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Nauru. Each workshop was an excellent opportunity to encourage cross-sectoral dialogue among key stakeholders and promote private sector involvement in waste management.

Each workshop represented a key capacity building exercise in strategy development, benefitting more than 170 Pacific Islanders. These workshops were also used as avenues for raising awareness of the semi-aerobic (Fukuoka) landfill method. The Fukuoka method has been used in Samoa since 2006 and provides a fairly inexpensive landfill solution that promotes the decomposition of organic material, effective treatment of leachate and rapid stabilisation of waste.

The semi-aerobic landfill site in Samoa was also the site of in-country training for landfill operations and management. Participants in this workshop, which included some from Kosrae State in the FSM, learnt about the some critical aspects of landfill maintenance including conducting landfill and fire risk assessments. The training should improve the successful operation of the landfill and raise its profile as a model for the rest of the region.

Achieving positive changes in solid waste management practices require changes in behaviour and education. To this end, SPREP developed a *Waste Education Kit* targeting educators and community facilitators. The kit will be finalised in 2009 and subsequently translated into local languages to make it accessible to all members. SPREP has also begun work with the University of the South Pacific and other partners on the development of a graduate-level solid waste management course.

Sustaining the positive changes produced through education is a major challenge that will face Pacific island countries and territories in the years ahead, since sustainability requires scarce financial resources to be committed. To provide some guidance on sustainable financing mechanisms, SPREP has produced a draft guideline for application of economic instruments to the waste management sector. SPREP will continue to work closely with members to implement suitable instruments that ensure the sustainability of waste management operations throughout the Pacific island countries and territories. ▲

Kiribati, Palau and Samoa access resources from SAICM QSP Fund

The Secretariat, in collaboration with the Strategic Approaches to International Chemical Management (SAICM) Secretariat and with financial support from JICA and the Government of Australia, organised in late 2007 a sub-regional meeting to raise awareness of SAICM in the Pacific region. The SAICM workshop was organised with the objective of providing Pacific Island stakeholders with an introduction to SAICM and guidance on initial implementation, including through the Quick Start Programme (QSP).

Following the meeting, a number of countries indicated that they would be interested in developing proposals to access resources from the SAICM QSP Fund to help with improving chemical management in their countries. However, to date only Kiribati, Palau and Samoa have developed and submitted proposals to the SAICM QSP Fund and received funding for their respective projects.

A key criterion for countries to access these resources is the appointment of the national SAICM Focal Point. While there are currently five National Focal Points, only three countries have made use of them to access the resources made available to the region through the QSP process.

Hazardous waste

Over the last decade, Pacific Island countries have signed, acceded to and ratified the growing cluster of global and regional agreements that deal with the management of hazardous substances and waste. However, while they have become signatories or parties to these agreements, much work remains to be done at the national level in terms of putting in place regimes and institutional frameworks to assist with the proper management of these substances. There remains a general lack of appropriate legislation regulating the importation of hazardous substances and inadequate regimes to control the exportation of the wastes that emanate from such substances.

The year saw a number of efforts in which a number of important regional plans and initiatives were accomplished. These included the successful holding of the Second Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee meeting for the Waigani Convention (STAC-2), the first meeting of the Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Centre for the Joint Implementation of the Waigani and Basel Convention, and the Fourth Conference of the Parties for the Waigani Convention. As a result of these meetings, the regional hazardous waste management work plan setting out the regional priorities for the biennium 2009-2010 was approved. ▲

E-waste

The Pacific region continues to be flooded with electronic and electrical goods as its residents seek to keep up with the western world in terms of access to modern communications and entertainment. One area that has seen significant progress is that of mobile and wireless communication technology. Unfortunately there has been a significant increase in the number of electronic and electrical products being disposed of in the Pacific region, especially mobile phones and laptop computers.

As part of the Secretariat's effort to assist PICTs with their management of these e-wastes, four countries were assisted in undertaking pilot project to determine the magnitude of the e-waste issue they face. Under the project the four countries (Cook Islands, FSM, Kiribati and Samoa) assessed the amount of e-waste being generated in their countries, evaluated current practices of managing e-waste, assessed recording of imports of electronic and electrical goods, and examined the potential disposal options when these goods ultimately become waste.



Without proper controls, e-wastes often end up in landfills, as here in Tuvalu.



Oil spill deployment exercise in Port Moresby, PNG.

A proactive and full life-cycle approach to these wastes is recommended in which all handling, storage, transport, treatment, reuse, recycling, recovery and disposal of these materials is conducted in a coordinated and environmentally sound manner.

The assessments have shown that there is currently no organised system in existence at the regional level, but that some progress is being made in a number of countries to start the collection and storage of these wastes for exporting to designated facilities for recycling and disposal.

The national projects are now being used to generate a regional synopsis of the magnitude of the problem in the region as well as preparing a regional plan on how this category of wastes can be managed. ▲

Marine pollution

SPREP continued its Marine Pollution work through its Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Program (PACPOL) in partnership with the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Highlights during the year included assistance to countries in meeting obligations under the OPRC, MARPOL and other Marine Pollution Conventions. Part of this assistance included conducting oil spill training in Papua New Guinea, updating NATPLANS in PNG, Fiji and Kiribati, and the institutionalisation of Regional Port Waste Reception Facility arrangements.

During 2008, the Secretariat conducted environment and marine pollution enforcement training in Kiribati. The training was the first of its kind in the Pacific and involved classroom sessions focusing on illegal oil discharges from ships as well as practical hands-on training at the local oil terminal, vessel and port area.

The training was modelled on the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, MARPOL 73/78 & the *Interpol Manual – Illegal Oil Discharges from Vessels*. These useful training materials will be further adapted for implementation in the Pacific region. ▲

Environmental Governance

Work under environmental governance encompasses a range of cross-cutting activities that aim to link efforts relating to international sustainable development policy and environmental law, promote tools for good decision-making, and help mobilise resources to build capacity on the ground throughout the region. ▲



Environmental mainstreaming is aimed at improving the lives of future generations in the Pacific islands, like these schoolchildren in the Cook Islands.

NSDS, mainstreaming and the Pacific Plan

SPREP continues to assist Pacific island countries in developing, strengthening and implementing their National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS) and in mainstreaming environmental concerns in their national development planning and decision-making processes.

SPREP provided technical assistance to Niue for the review of its current Niue Integrated Strategic Plan (NISP) and development of a new NISP for 2009-2012. In addition, technical advice was provided towards the development and implementation of NSDS strategies for Kiribati, Tuvalu and the Solomon Islands through participation at their respective national donor roundtable meetings.

SPREP, in conjunction with CROP agencies and other partners, began work on developing common approaches and guidelines for mainstreaming environmental issues into national planning. Capacity in this area was enhanced through a regional training workshop.

In promoting greater awareness of sustainable development and environmental considerations at the regional level, SPREP has taken a proactive approach towards ensuring Pacific Plan initiatives relating to climate change, biodiversity, waste and environmental financing are implemented, monitored and reported. This has resulted in greater awareness of sustainable development and environmental considerations at the regional level. An important element of this work is the identification and development of regional priority initiatives for endorsement by the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders through the CROP Heads and Pacific Plan Action Committee. ▲

Support for national and regional integrated monitoring, assessment and reporting

Programme work during 2008 focused on two main objectives: completion of the review of the status of progress and capacities for integrated environmental assessments – with an emphasis on assessing national capacities for EIAs and SEAs, and on initial steps to develop an effective long term capacity building strategy for environmental assessment and planning in the region. The results of this review, together with the preliminary findings of the review of capacities for national SoEs, were incorporated into the review of SPREP's Strategic Programmes 2004-2013 (SPREP-SP_2004-2013), the Regional Institutional Framework (RIF), and SPREP's response to the Independent Corporate Review (ICR) report.

These reviews also set the stage for in-country training and consultations that began during 2008, whereby the development of human resources was undertaken in tandem with in-country stakeholder consultations to construct a coherent strategy to systematically increase individual and organisational capacities for impact assessment and planning within countries and the region.

Training and consultation activities included the participation of environmental assessment and planning staff of 10 Pacific Island Countries in the training and conferencing activities of the 28th Annual Meeting of the International Association for Impact Assessment; the start of national EIA training for trainers courses (with regulatory reviews) in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Niue; reviews of EIAs and major developments in Kiribati and the Marshall Islands; and correspondence with countries to formulate plans for training and other activities for 2009 and beyond.

Participation and support were also provided for global assessments and reporting frameworks such as the UNEP-GEO system, the *UN Global Marine Environment Assessment of Assessments*, streamlined reporting to biodiversity MEAs managed by Australia's DEWHA; and support and or follow-ups for national SoE processes. ▲



*Inset: Training materials used for sessions in Vanuatu and Niue.
Right: a session in Vanuatu.*



Commission on Sustainable Development

The 16th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-16) was held in May 2008 and provided a focal point for evaluating progress in implementing Agenda 21, the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the Mauritius Strategy. CSD-16 focused on the review of issues and challenges in the thematic clusters of agriculture, rural development, land management and degradation, and drought and how they have been addressed at the national and regional levels. SPREP provided support to those PICTs participating in CSD-16 through regional policy briefings. ▲

Conventions

Countries are gradually developing a framework of modern environmental statutes. Tuvalu is the latest on the list with the passage of its Environment Act at the end of the year. An important aspect of such laws is the ability to extend the act to new MEAs as they become ratified. An amendment to the Act or administrative notice can achieve this, thereby avoiding the need to pass a separate Act for every MEA ratified. A well drafted Act provides the institutional and functional framework for effective environmental management.

Kiribati's Environment Act has been strengthened in recent years through amending laws and regulations. While the Act covers a wide range of environmental issues, to be effective, enforcement Officers need to understand their powers, how to exercise them and, if necessary, how to conduct prosecutions. A workshop held in conjunction with the Kiribati Attorney-General's Office was conducted in Tarawa in June for this purpose, involving a detailed analysis of their Act.

The environmental impact assessment (EIA) is another important device in the environmental protection armoury. Despite its evolution into several more specialised assessments, the basic EIA remains a cornerstone of environmental planning. During the second half of 2008, two joint SOPAC/SPREP training workshops were held in Niue and resulted in the drafting of an EIA regulation.

The Secretariat made presentations in a workshop run by IUCN Oceania in November, which brought together environment officers and lawyers. The aim was for the participants to better understand the policy process involved with environmental legislation, from the drafting stage through to passage. The greater the understanding between these environmental staff and legal drafters the better the chances of drafting effective environmental laws.

SPREP provided assistance with a comprehensive review of waste legislation in Samoa and the subsequent drafting of a waste law.

Secretariat support was provided for the several waste-related meetings (mentioned in the Hazardous Waste section of the report) as well as the Ninth Conference of the Parties to the Noumea Convention in September.

In the biodiversity negotiations, support was provided to the April workshops of the Ramsar Convention and the CBD COP.

Assistance was also provided to New Caledonia through participation in a workshop on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing. The legislative situation in this area is complicated in New Caledonia, as each province has jurisdiction over its environment. The issue of ownership of genetic resources is also highly sensitive. Despite these complications, the territory is boldly embarking on a programme of regulation in this area. ▲

Global Environment Facility (GEF) update



SPREP involvement with GEF intensified during the year. Coordination continued with the GEF Secretariat, the World Bank - which had been chosen to play the lead role in the development of the Global Environment Facility Pacific Alliance for Sustainability umbrella programme (GEF-PAS), and other Implementing Agencies and international NGOs. SPREP's close working relationship with the World Bank and GEF Secretariat culminated in a Pacific Regional Workshop held in Koror, Palau during March 2009, at which time the GEF-PAS Programme Framework was endorsed by the GEF Focal Points of Pacific SIDS.

The GEF-PAS Programme Framework, together with finalised Project Identification Forms (PIFS), were submitted to the GEF Council Meeting in April and subsequently approved. The total value of the GEF-PAS umbrella programme is US\$98,837,920, including projects in the focal areas of Biodiversity (\$37,715,220), Climate Change Adaptation (\$30,392,000), Climate Change Mitigation (\$14,700,000), International Waters (\$10,722,950), and POPs (\$5,307,750). These amounts may vary slightly subject to final PIF submissions, review and approvals.

By the end of 2008 approximately 63% of the indicative total amount for the GEF-PAS had been approved by the GEF Council or the GEF CEO, a total of approximately US\$62,188,700 involving 13 country and multi-country projects targeting 14 Pacific nations. SPREP works closely with countries, the GEF Secretariat and Implementing Agencies to identify in-country project priorities. SPREP technical staff have been available to assist in the development of PIFs, and are expected to also be involved in the more detailed tasks of developing project designs and frameworks for inclusion in final project documents.

Activities related to GEF-PAS continued to intensify as the year came to a close. Following the November GEF Council Meeting, the Asia/Pacific Council Representative, Pacific SIDS Representative to the Council, the GEF Secretariat GEF-PAS Coordinator and SPREP cooperated in framing a roadmap for Pacific SIDS Focal Points and Implementing Agencies to progress development of outstanding PIFs in order to meet submission timelines. Agreement was reached to hold a strategically-timed Constituency meeting and sub-regional workshops that would facilitate and achieve that purpose.

The approved GEF-PAS Programme Framework also allowed for the establishment of a Monitoring and Evaluation Coordination Unit for the umbrella programme. By the end of the year this proposed arrangement had yet to be put in place. AusAID and NZAID, which fund the position of regional GEF adviser with SPREP, in consultation with the GEF Secretariat, the Pacific SIDS Representative to the GEF Council, and SPREP, considered the interim arrangement of delegating GEF-PAS coordination to the SPREP GEF Adviser.

The GEF-PAS umbrella programme is funded from the GEF-4 replenishment, which comes to a close in 2010. During the November 2008 Council Meeting, GEF donors also had the opportunity to hold preliminary discussions on an approach and strategy for resourcing GEF-5. These consultations are planned to continue throughout 2009 and to culminate with an agreed framework arrangement in 2010. As Pacific SIDS and Implementing Agencies progress the development of GEF-PAS PIFs and project documents, and their subsequent implementation, it is appropriate that thought also now be given to GEF-5 opportunities from a Pacific perspective. ▲

Corporate Services

SPREP staff at 19th SPREP Meeting in Pohnpei.



The year saw the successful conclusion of the terms of both the Director and Deputy Director.

Both Deputy Director F. Vitolo Lui and Director Asterio Takesy bid farewell to SPREP after six years of distinguished service. The new Deputy Director, Kosi Latu, took up the post in the latter half of the year, shortly before his first SPREP Meeting in September.

The resounding success of the 2006 staff retreat held at Namuá Island, Aleipata prompted Management to hold another – this time on the Island of Savaií in March 2008. It was another overwhelming success, as it succeeded in uplifting staff morale, bringing about stronger team bonding, producing plans for personal and professional development, and helping staff to understand and reinforce the positive qualities which contribute to a successful working environment. The goal that was set for the 2008 retreat had been “to have fun, as the SPREP team that has fun together, works well together”.

Throughout the year Executive and Corporate Services continued to provide effective services to support the delivery of the Secretariat’s strategic programmes and to maintain an efficient and effective organisation. Several recommendations of the 2006 internal review of the organisation were carried out in order to optimise the Secretariat’s service to Pacific Island members and stakeholders.

The Independent Corporate Review (ICR) was commissioned by members at the annual meeting in 2007, with a team of consultants engaged in 2008 to review the processes of the organisation and the Secretariat. Their report was issued mid-year and was the subject of vigorous debate by Members at the SPREP Meeting of Officials.

The highlight of the year was the successful completion of the 19th SPREP Meeting, held by the Federated States of Micronesia in Pohnpei in September. ▲

Budget and audit

The 18th SPREP meeting approved the Secretariat's budget of US \$7.77 million for the year 2008. Of the total approved budget expenditure, approximately 27% was allocated to Executive, Corporate and Programme support while 73% was allocated to programme implementation.

On the Income side, 12% (\$935,572) was to be financed from membership contribution, 12% from other sources, 5% from surpluses from previous years, and 71% (\$5,515,007) was to be raised through donor support. In terms of actual budget performance at the end of the year, SPREP was able to raise funds and implement programmes at 96% of the level of the approved work programme and budget.

In terms of the audit for the 2008 accounts, the Secretariat once again is pleased to advise that, as in past years, auditors Lesa and Penn provided an unqualified audit opinion on the Secretariat's operations. ▲

Human resources

Human Resource Management continued its work to strengthen and raise the profile of human resource management as a key functional area within Corporate Services, rather than merely focusing on administration processes and procedures. The revision of major policies such as Recruitment/Selection and the Performance Management System were considered by Management towards the end of the year and further refinements continue to be implemented to the policies and trialed processes before finalisation.

Policies and procedures on staff working conditions continue to be reviewed and monitored to ensure that Executive decisions are fair and consistent for all staff, as well as reflecting best practices internationally. Ongoing assessment of the needs of the organisation led to a trimming of some areas, particularly in Corporate Services where focus was placed on optimum utilisation of available and qualified resources in the provision of efficient services.

In respect of the staff establishment, SPREP had a total of 64 positions at the end of the year – 59% at the professional level and 41% at the support services level. At the end of the year, 86% of the positions

were filled and 8% were under recruitment whilst the remaining 6% (all within Corporate Services) were put on hold for further reassessment on the need to continue, reclassify or disestablish. A total of 10 new staff joined SPREP during the year. In addition, two short-term interns were recruited – one for the coordination of the Pacific Year of the Reef Campaign and one to assist with the Reef-Based Pacific project. A total of 12 staff left the organisation during 2008 including the former Deputy Director, whose 6-year term completed mid-year. Of those who left the organisation, 33% were professional staff.

Of the total occupied professional staff positions, 74% were Pacific Islanders, 20% were from other Member countries and 6% from non-member countries; 29% of the positions were held by females and 71% by males. However there was an equal distribution of males and females across the total workforce (both professional and support staff).

The HR section continues to revise existing staff policies and procedures and where possible and relevant to explore other opportunities for strengthening its human resource management policies and processes, particularly in line with harmonised principles across CROP agencies and in light of generally accepted international best practices.

The organisation's General Records section continues to provide registry and archival services. The management and maintenance of the Secretariat's properties continued to be a particular challenge given the increasing needs for major repair and improvement with limited funding available. ▲

SPREP staff improve teamwork at Savai'i retreat.



Information and communications

Information technologies (IT)

The Information Technology Team completed their IT Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP) after several months of work documenting processes and systems recovery procedures. The IT Team also created a Disaster Recovery Plan Repository accessible through a web interface to enable future IT staff to easily refer to the DRP and update when the need arises.

The IT team also conducted several weeks of training for Secretariat staff. Participants found the training to be extremely useful, and it was ultimately decided that similar sessions should be held every year. Similarly, the IT team conducted training at headquarters for participants of the PEIN program and FAO staff. ▲

Publications and Media

The year saw a continued movement toward electronic publications in an effort to minimise costs and facilitate wider distribution to stakeholders. Consistent with this mandate, the monthly e-newsletter, *SPREP Highlights*, was reformulated as a quarterly publication with periodic special editions. During 2008, special editions were published in conjunction with the COPs to the CBD and UNFCCC.

The SPREP annual report was, for the first time in several years, designed and edited exclusively using in-house resources. This resulted in significant savings for the organisation without compromising the high standards of the publication.

After a hiatus of several years, the *SPREP Fact Sheet* series was redesigned around a common format and made available for download from the SPREP web site. In all, 10 titles were released during the year on topics ranging from turtle tagging to the Waigani Convention.

Other key print publications produced during the year included the *Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme* and the *Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change*.

The division also embarked on several innovative media capacity-building and public awareness initiatives (described on pp. 22-23). ▲

Information Resource Centre (IRC) and Library

In 2008 The Information Resource Centre (IRC) and Library strengthened its access to journal literature by acquiring subscriptions to the OARE periodicals database and continued to expand its suite of available databases and e-repositories. Retrospective digitisation of SPREP publications was a major focus of the year as was the continued identification of electronic resources to integrate into the PEIN online library suite. IRC and library staff continued to identify, acquire and catalogue critical Pacific environment information and supported numerous reference and research requests from throughout the region in addition to filling requests for SPREP publications and information. During 2008 the IRC and Library continued to expand and strengthen its links with national and tertiary libraries across the region, thereby renewing its commitment to provide easy access to SPREP materials and critical environment information to Pacific communities, both online and in traditional formats. ▲

Pacific Environment Information Network (PEIN)

Development and coordination of the Pacific Environment Information Network (PEIN) again proved to be a challenging and rewarding focus for the SPREP Information Resource Centre (IRC). Hardware and software installations, database development, in-country assistance and regional training attachments featured prominently throughout the year. A highlight of the year was the development and launch of Virtual Environment Libraries for each of the SPREP member countries. The virtual environment libraries include deep links to environment profiles and indicators, full text country reports, links to reports published by SPREP and the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) and to documents hosted on Moana, Reefbase Pacific and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Digital Library. The libraries also include access to academic literature and research, multimedia materials and an inventory of environment-related websites for each country. ▲

Regional and International Cooperation

SPREP continued and enhanced its cooperation with sister CROP agencies and international development institutions working in the Pacific region to further the development of Pacific Island member countries.

During 2008, SPREP participated in annual meetings of Chief Executive Officers, working groups and regional roundtables to enhance the delivery to the region of its environment-related services. Better delivery was achieved through better coordination of efforts, minimisation or elimination of overlaps or competition, and building synergies with partners.

Through formal memoranda of understanding (MOUs), SPREP undertakes joint projects with several international, governmental and non-governmental organisations. In this way SPREP has contributed to regional efforts related to sustainable development in the context of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA), the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Pacific Plan, oceans policy, climate change and nature conservation, to name but a few.

The Secretariat relies heavily on donor and international development agencies to support its programmes. Thus SPREP continued its engagement in collaborative work with a host of international development agencies, bilateral donors, non-governmental organisation, and other stakeholders to address priority needs of the Pacific Island countries and territories by bringing to bear international resources in combination with SPREP's technical expertise and regional knowledge. ▲

SPREP Officials at the 19th SPREP Meeting in Pohnpei.



Finance 2008

Donor Funds and Member Contributions (US\$)

	Balance at 1-Jan-08	Income	Expenses	Other Adjustments	Balance at 31-Dec-08
Asian Development Bank	-4,508				-4,508
AusAID Extra Budget	85,826	1,121,550	-1,113,001		94,375
AusAID Extra Extra Budget	92,530	239,972	-156,347		176,155
Bishop Museum	0	52,500	-42,915		9,585
British High Commission	0	55,471	-46,263		9,208
Commonwealth Secretariat	14,045				14,045
Conservation International Development	17,016	72,600	-95,010		-5,394
Core Funds	0	1,849,135	-1,846,551	132,051	134,635
Department of International Development	1,387				1,387
European Union	56,516	155,133	-229,753		-18,104
Food and Agriculture Organization	0	49,959	-38,616		11,343
Government of Canada	0	51,709	-71,562		-19,853
Government of France	197,121	220,433	-267,215	-9,423	140,916
Government of Japan	11,622	52,533	-44,529		19,626
Government of Switzerland	0	96,132	-109,115		-12,983
Government of the United Kingdom	8,806				8,806
International Maritime Organization	-366	38,121	-20,601		17,154
John D & Catherine T MacArthur Foundation	19,245	75,000	-22,879		71,366
Multiple Donors	-633,507	71,760	-649,551	1,363,821	152,523
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	-1,106		-17,907		-19,013
Netherlands Red Cross Society	5,918		-5,520		398
NZAID Pacific Initiative for the Environment	10,221		-7,736		2,485
NZAID Extra Budget	-10,042	746,151	-693,515		42,594
NZAID Extra Extra Budget	65,059	433,190	-454,858		43,391
Pacific Development & Conservation Trust	1,279				1,279
Packard Foundation	-209	3,252			3,043
People's Republic of China	240,000	80,000	-320,000		0
Other Funds (includes core funds)	1,181,490	127,163	177,796	-1,486,449	0
Ramsar Secretariat	8,614	106,779	-75,780		39,613
The Christensen Foundation	28,370	231	-3,734		24,867
The Nature Conservancy	16,230	31,567	-62,889		-15,092
UN Convention to Combat Desertification	1,592				1,592
UN Development Program	109,641	567,670	-561,586		115,725
UN Environment Program	152,138	381,081	-405,165		128,054
UN Institute of Training and Research	38,915		-12,357		26,558
UN Economic & Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific (UNESCAP)	6,646	5,286			11,932
UN Office of Project Services	-2,386	10,887	-536		7,965
US Additional Member Contributions	2,577	6,213	-8,790		0
US Department of Energy/Los Alamos University	4,801				4,801
US Department of Land and Natural Resources	0	28,000			28,000
US Department of State	0	60,000			60,000
US Fish & Wildlife Service	14,625				14,625
US Forest Service	10,000				10,000
US National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration	25,358	150,000	-144,061		31,297
US Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council	12,718	78,434	-86,247		4,905
World Conservation Union (IUCN) Regional Office for Oceania	1,254		-343		911
World Health Organization	2,456				2,456
Total	1,791,892	7,017,912	-7,437,136	0	1,372,669

Member Contributions (US\$)

American Samoa	12,456
Australia	185,106
Cook Islands	10,184
Federated States of Micronesia	8,335
Fiji	10,332
France	134,202
French Polynesia	20,360
Guam	20,360
Kiribati	10,184
Marshall Islands	10,184
Nauru	0
New Caledonia	23,113
New Zealand	134,202
Niue	10,165
Northern Marianas	0
Palau	0
Papua New Guinea	0
Samoa	20,360
Solomon Islands	104,023
Tokelau	10,184
Tonga	10,184
Tuvalu	10,184
United States of America	193,000

Vanuatu	0
Wallis and Futuna	10,373
Total	947,510

Parties Contributions (US\$)

Parties to the Noumea Convention	
Samoa	671
United States of America	7,000
Total	7,671

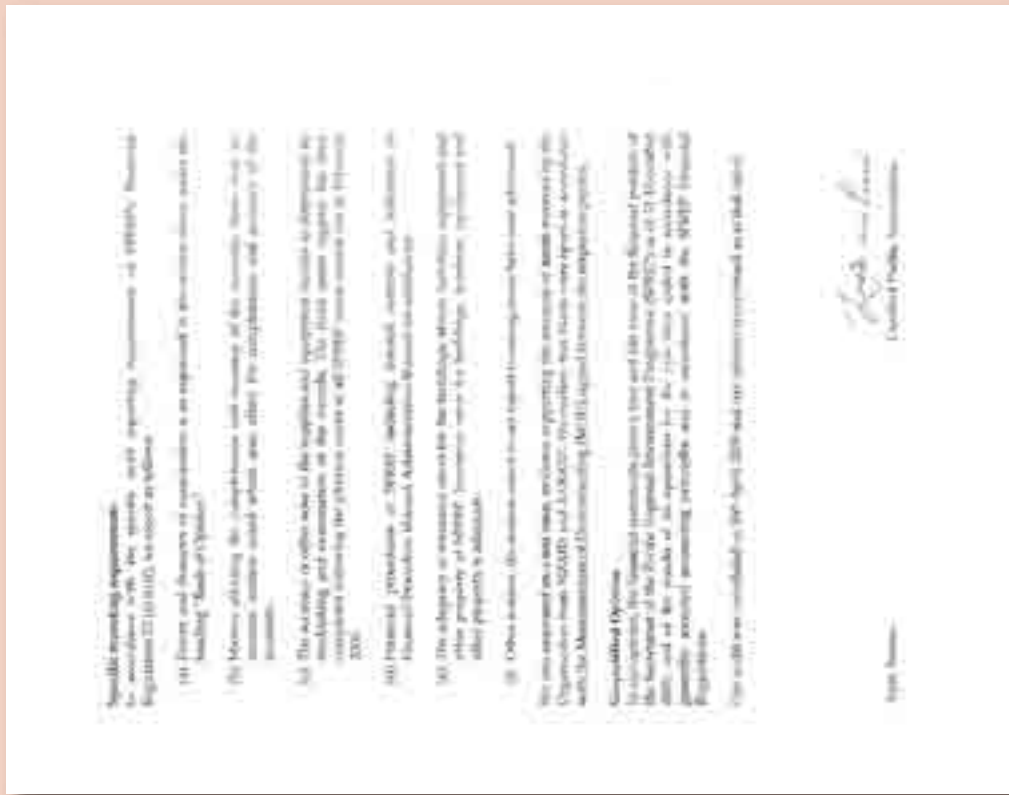
Parties to the Waigani Convention	
Niue	820
New Zealand	2,690
Samoa	55
Total	3,565

Income and Expenditure (US\$)

	Actual 2008
Income	
Members Contributions	947,510
Program Management Charge	500,489
Interest	293,348
Exchange Gain	10,743
Other Income	103,258
Donor Funds	5,162,564
Total Income	7,017,912

Expenditure	
Programme Implementation	5,028,125
Executive Management & Corporate Support	2,409,010
Total Expenditure	7,437,135

Auditors' Report



Staff List as at 31 December 2008

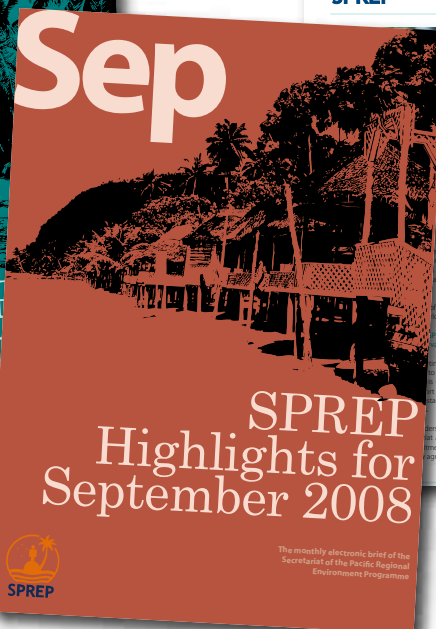
NAME	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE
Executive			
Asterio TAKESY	Director	Federated States of Micronesia	21 January 2009
Kosi LATU	Deputy Director	Samoa	21 July 2011
Ruta TUPUA-COUPER	Personal Assistant to Director	Samoa	31 December 2011
Apisetā ETI	Personal Assistant Deputy Director	Samoa	31 December 2010
Island Ecosystems Programme			
Stuart CHAPE	Programme Manager, Island Ecosystems	Australia	4 August 2011
Makerita ATIGA	Secretary to Programme Manager	Samoa	2 August 2011
Jeffrey KINCH	Coastal Management Adviser	Australia	30 July 2011
Lui BELL	Marine Species Officer	Samoa	2 October 2011
Caroline VIEUX	Coral Reef Management Officer	France	2 January 2010
Anne Patricia TREVOR	Associate Turtles Database Officer	Samoa	30 April 2009
Seiuli Vainuupo JUNGBLUT	Associate Ramsar Officer	Samoa	22 February 2009
Kate BROWN-VITOLIO	Action Strategy Adviser	Australia	24 November 2009
Anna TIRAA	Islands Biodiversity Officer	Cook Islands	14 August 2009
Dr Alan TYE	Invasive Species Officer	United Kingdom	29 June 2010
Frank WICKHAM	Capacity Development Adviser	Solomon Islands	7 September 2010
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Education & Social Communications Adviser</i>		
Paul ANDERSON	Marine Conservation Analyst	United States	17 March 2011
Theresa FRUEAN	Programme Assistant	Samoa	13 April 2009
Interns			
Sereima SAVU	Pacific Year of the Reef Coordinator	Fiji	January 2009
Ewan CAMERON	Reef-Based Pacific Project Assistant	Cook Islands	April 2009
Pacific Futures Programme			
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Programme Manager, Pacific Futures</i>		
Rosanna GALUVAO	Secretary to Programme Manager	Samoa	10 September 2009
Dr Frank GRIFFIN	Pollution Prevention & Waste Management Adviser	Papua New Guinea	22 March 2009
Anthony TALOULI	Marine Pollution Adviser	Fiji	20 April 2010
Esther RICHARDS	Solid Waste Officer	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	11 August 2011
Espen RONNEBERG	Climate Change Adviser	Marshall Islands	28 October 2009
Taito NAKALEVU	Climate Change Adaptation Officer	Fiji	3 April 2009
Dean SOLOFA	Pacific Islands - Global Climate Observing System Officer	Samoa	16 October 2011
Clark PETERU	Environmental Legal Adviser	Samoa	12 August 2009
Solomone FIFITA	Project Manager - Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP)	Tonga	7 July 2010
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Project Manager - Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change</i>		
Joseph STANLEY	GEF Support Adviser	Samoa	18 March 2010
Seve PAENIU	Sustainable Development Adviser	Tuvalu	4 March 2010
Tepa SUAESI	Environmental Officer	Samoa	27 May 2010
Joyce TULUA	Programme Assistant	Samoa	20 July 2011

NAME	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE
Corporate Services			
Taito John ROACHE	Corporate Service Manager (CSM)	Samoa	29 May 2009
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Secretary to CSM</i>		
Information, Communication & Publication			
Kapeni MATATIA	IT Manager	Samoa	11 September 2011
Allitasi UESELE-PETAIA	IT Network Officer	Samoa	7 January 2010
Christian SLAVEN	Database & Systems Administrator	Samoa	9 April 2009
Kemueli QOROYA	Information Technology Officer	Fiji	4 June 2010
Peter MURGATROYD	Information Resource Centre Manager	New Zealand	3 January 2010
Miraneta WILLIAMS	Assistant Librarian	Samoa	31 March 2011
Lance LAACK	Editor and Publications Officer	United States	31 December 2010
Nanette WOONTON	Associate Media & Publications Officer	Cook Islands	15 June 2010
Kenichi KASHO	JOCV Audio/Visual Technician	Japan	October 2009
Finance			
Alofa TU'UAU	Finance Manager	Samoa	23 July 2011
Makereta KAURASI-MANUELI	Project Accountant	Fiji	14 April 2009
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Assistant Accountant</i>		
Ioane IOSEFO	Finance Officer	Samoa	2 March 2011
Leilani CHAN TUNG	Finance Officer	Samoa	27 October 2011
Linda ALAPAE	Finance Officer	Samoa	6 December 2011
Pauline FRUEAN	Conference/Travels Officer	Samoa	8 February 2010
Administration			
Simeamativa LEOTA-VAAI	Senior Administration Officer	Samoa	7 January 2010
Luana CHAN-JAMIESON	Personnel Officer	Samoa	11 August 2011
Lupe SILULU	Registry Supervisor	Samoa	31 December 2009
Helen TUILAGI-AH KUOI	Registry Management Assistant	Samoa	27 April 2009
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Records Clerk</i>		
Monica TUPAI	Receptionist/Fax Operator	Samoa	31 December 2009
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Property Services Officer</i>		
Faamanatu SITITI	Driver/Clerk	Samoa	5 December 2009
Silupe GAFA	Gardener/Groundskeeper	Samoa	31 March 2011
Tologauvale LEAULA	Cleaner/Teaperson/Clerical Assistant	Samoa	31 December 2009
Amosa TOOTOO	Cleaner/Teaperson	Samoa	31 December 2011
Sione LEVU	Cleaner	Samoa	6 April 2010
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Handyman/Relief Driver</i>		
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Maintenance/Tradesman</i>		

SPREP Publications 2008

All publications are available as pdf files from the SPREP website, <http://www.sprep.org>. Most publications are also available in print form, while stocks last, from the Information Resource Centre: irc@sprep.org.

PUBLICATION TITLE	PAGES	ISBN
Rubbish is a Resource! : a waste resource kit for the Pacific islands	DVD	978-982-04-0323-9
Rubbish is a Resource! : a waste resource kit for the Pacific islands	64 p.	978-982-04-0324-6
Leatherback turtles (their future is in our hands) : a resource material	10 p.	978-982-04-0385-7
Report of the Ninth (9th) meeting of the Conference of the parties to the Noumea Convention, 4 September 2008, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia	40 p.	978-982-04-0386-4
Report of the Fourth (4th) Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention, 5th September 2008, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia	52 p.	978-982-04-0387-1
Rapport de la dix-neuvieme Conference des representants officiels et de la Conference des ministres de l'environnement, 8-12 September 2008, Pohnpei (Etats federes de Micronesie)	77 p.	978-982-04-0384-0
Report of the Nineteenth SPREP Meeting of Officials and Meeting of Environmental Ministers, 8-12 September 2008, Federated States of Micronesia	77 p.	978-982-04-0384-0
Rapport de la neuvieme Conference des Parties a la Convention de Noumea, 4 septembre 2008, Pohnpei, Etats federes de Micronesie	40 p.	978-982-04-0386-4
Approved Work Programme and Budget for 2009 and Indicative Budgets for 2010 and 2011	53 p.	xxxx
Programme de travail et budget approuves pour 2008 et budgets previsionnels pour 2009 et 2010	35 p.	xxx
Guide regional pour l'observation des baleines et des dauphins dans les iles du Pacifique	18 p.	978-0-9806235-0-5
Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2008-2012	ii+48 p.	978-982-04-0383-3
Degradable plastics	i+33 p.	978-982-04-0390-1
The applications of economic instruments to solid waste management in Pacific island countries and territories	ii+16 p.	978-982-04-0389-5
Celebrating Pacific Island biodiversity: case studies of island life	64 p.	978-982-04-0327-7
Series		
SPREP Annual Report 2007: Conserving and managing our Pacific environment in changing times	48 p.	ISSN 1562-675X
Rapport annuel du PROE 2007: Conserver et gerer l'environnement oceanien dans un monde en mutation	48 p.	ISSN 1562-675X

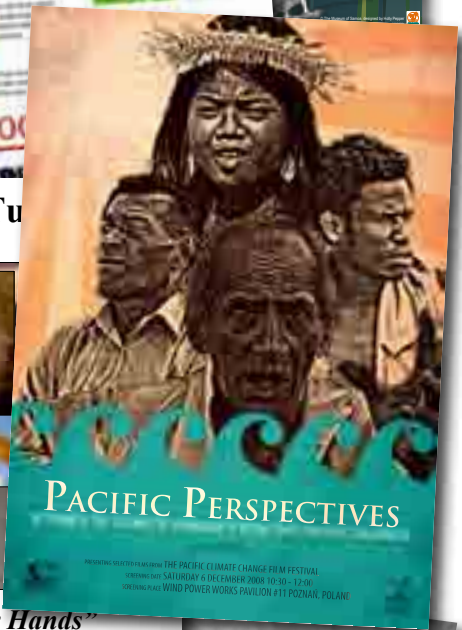
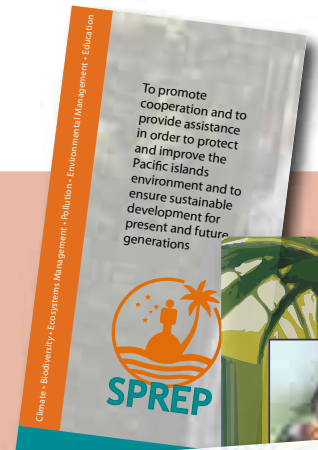


Articles and newsletters

- Monthly "Director's Column" in *Island Business* magazine
- SPREP Highlights
- ReefTalk quarterly newsletter
- SPREP Waste Update
- "Strong Reefs, Strong Islands" Pacific Year of the Reef poster
- SPREP Fact Sheets

Electronic publications and online resources

- Pacific Environment Information Network (PEIN) Country Profiles Directory: http://www.sprep.org/publication/pub_top.asp
- PEIN Virtual Environment Libraries: http://www.sprep.org/publication/pub_top.asp
- PEIN Regional Frameworks and Strategies Directory: http://www.sprep.org/publication/PEIN_Regional_Frameworks.asp
- PEIN Digest: <http://www.sprep.org/publication/Digest.asp>
- PEIN Virtual Library of Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Environment Management: <http://www.sprep.org/publication/Lessons.asp>
- PEIN YouTube environment directory: http://www.sprep.org/publication/PEIN_You_Tube.asp
- What's New @ your Library/IRC



Acronyms Used

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States	NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategy
AFD	French Development Agency	NZAID	New Zealand Agency for International Development
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States	NZTRI	New Zealand Tourism Research Institute
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development	OARE	Online Access to Research in the Environment
BHC	British High Commission	ODS	Ozone-depleting substances
BPOA	Barbados Plan of Action	ORM	Oceania Regional Meeting (Ramsar)
CBAM	Community based adaptive management	PA	Protected area
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	PACC	Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project
CCBM	Climate Change and Biodiversity in Melanesia	PACPOL	Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund	PCCR	Pacific Climate Change Roundtable
CI	Conservation International	PEIN	Pacific Environment Information Network
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species	PFELF	Pacific Future Environment Leaders' Forum
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals	PICs	Pacific island countries
CNMI	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	PICTs	Pacific island countries and territories
COP	Conference of the Parties	PIFACC	Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change
CRISP	Coral Reef Initiative for the South Pacific	PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific	PI-GCOS	Pacific Islands-Global Climate Observing System
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development	PIGGAREP	Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project
DEWHA	Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (Australia)	PIF	Project Identification Form (GEF)
DRP	Disaster recovery plan	PII	Pacific Invasives Initiative
EC	European Commission	PILN	Pacific Invasives Learning Network
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	PINA	Pacific Islands News Association
EIA	Environmental impact assessment	PIP	Pacific Invasives Partnership
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	PITBA	Pacific Indigenous Tourism and Biodiversity Alliance (PITBA)
EU	European Union	PNG	Papua New Guinea
EVAC	Environmental Verification and Analysis Center (University of Oklahoma)	PYOR	Pacific Year of the Reef
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency	QPWS	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (Australia)
FIELD	Foundation for International Environment Law and Development	QSP	Quick Start Programme (SAICM)
FLMMA	Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area Network	Ramsar	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat [not an acronym: a city in Iran]
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia	RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
GCOS	Global Climate Observing System	SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (CBD)
GEF	Global Environment Facility	SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund (GEF)
GEF-PAS	Global Environment Facility Pacific Alliance for Sustainability Programme	SEA	Strategic environment assessment
GEO	Global Environmental Outlook (UNEP)	SAICM	Strategic Approaches to International Chemical Management
GIS	Geographic information systems	SIDS	Small island developing states
GLIPSA	Global Island Partnership	SIS	Smaller Island States
HYCOS	Hydrological Cycle Observing System	SoE	State of the environment
IBPoW	Island Biodiversity Programme of Work	SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
IFAW	International Fund for Animal Welfare	SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
IMO	International Maritime Organization	SPP	South Pacific Programme (WWF)
IPMEN	International Pacific Marine Educators' Network	SPREP	Pacific Regional Environment Programme; or: Secretariat of the ...
IRC	Information Resource Centre (SPREP)	SPTO	South Pacific Travel Organisation
ISWG	Invasive Species Working Group	STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (Waigani Convention)
IT	Information technology	STRP	Scientific and Technical Review Panel (Ramsar)
IUCN	The World Conservation Union	TEC	Tuvalu Electricity Corporation
IYOR	International Year of the Reef	TNC	The Nature Conservancy
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
KBA	Key biodiversity area	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
LDC	Least Developed Country	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
LMMA	Locally Managed Marine Area Network	UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution From Ships	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
MES	Mamanuca Environment Society (Fiji)	USA	United States of America
MoC	Memorandum of Cooperation	USP	University of the South Pacific
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding	WCC	World Conservation Congress
MPA	Marine Protected Area	WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action	WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
NATPLAN	National plan	WHO	World Health Organization
NCDC	National Climatic Data Center (USA)	WMO	World Meteorological Organization
NGO	Non-governmental organisation	WWF	Worldwide Fund for Wildlife
NISP	Niue Integrated Strategic Plan		
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (USA)		

2008

Annual Report

of the Secretariat of the
Pacific Regional Environment
Programme

Celebrating the Pacific Year of the Reef



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

The Secretariat runs two programmes. Island Ecosystems works to assist Pacific island countries and territories to manage island resources and ocean ecosystems, so they can support life and livelihoods. Pacific Futures works to assist Pacific island countries and territories to plan and respond to threats and pressures on island and ocean systems.

Staff are drawn from within the Pacific basin and operate in fields such as:

- Terrestrial island ecosystems;
- Coastal and marine ecosystems;
- Species of special interest;
- People and institutions;
- Multilateral agreements and regional mechanisms;
- Environment monitoring and reporting;
- Climate change and atmosphere;
- Pollution prevention and waste management;
- Knowledge management.

For a map and listing of SPREP Member countries and territories, refer to inside back cover.

