



South Pacific Regional Environment Programme

**Fourth
Intergovernmental Meeting**

(Noumea, New Caledonia, 3-9 July 1991)

Report of the Meeting of Officials

(Noumea, New Caledonia, 3-5 July 1991)

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**South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
(SPREP)**

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South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
Noumea, New Caledonia
July 1991

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Agenda Report

Item 1: Official Opening

1. The Meeting was opened by Dr Vili A Fuavao, Director of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), who welcomed delegates and called upon them to make firm decisions to facilitate both the implementation of the Action Plan and the inevitable evolution of SPREP into an autonomous regional organisation. Outlining the numerous tasks to be undertaken by this Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM), Dr Fuavao referred to the two options identified by the Legal Working Group under which SPREP could evolve into an autonomous body. He highlighted the importance of reaching agreement on this important matter so that the ambiguities, uncertainties and confusion faced by the Secretariat were resolved, providing the Secretariat with clear operational direction for its future work.
2. Dr Fuavao called upon delegates to make firm decisions on the recommendations of the Finance Working Group and alerted the meeting to sensitive issues such as language policy, office space and staff expansion. These decisions needed to be made with reference to the Secretariat's fund-raising efforts and the donor confidence which existed for SPREP. He referred to the preparations for South Pacific participation in the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and the strong indications already received that additional financial resources would be available to SPREP from the international community following UNCED.
3. Dr Fuavao thanked the Government of France and the Territory of New Caledonia for hosting the IGM at short notice and acknowledged, with gratitude, the financial contributions of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Governments of France and Australia which had enabled the Secretariat to convene the IGM and the Meetings of the Parties to both the SPREP and APIA Conventions.
4. The delegate of French Polynesia expressed deep regret that his territory had found it necessary to cancel its original offer to host this Fourth IGM in Tahiti.

Item 2: Adoption of the Agenda

5. The Agenda was adopted as amended and appears as Annex I to this report.

Item 3: Election of the Drafting Committee

6. An open-ended, bilingual drafting committee was elected comprising France (Chair), Kiribati, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Tokelau, Tonga, Vanuatu and United States of America. Open-ended Legal and Financial Working Groups were also elected comprising:

Legal: Western Samoa (Chair), New Zealand (Rapporteur), Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, France, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

Finance: French Polynesia (Chair), Australia, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Niue, Tuvalu and United States of America.

UNCED: An open-ended Working Group was later established to review the draft *Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development and the South Pacific Regional Statement to the Third Meeting of the UNCED Preparatory Committee*. This comprised New Zealand (Chair), American Samoa, Australia, France, Kiribati, Tonga and United States of America.

Item 4: Hours of Work

7. The hours of work were established as:

8.30 - 10.00	Plenary
10.00 - 10.30	Morning Tea
10.30 - 12.00	Plenary
12.00 - 1.30	Lunch
1.30 - 3.00	Plenary
3.00 - 3.30	Afternoon Tea
3.30 - 5.30	Plenary

8. The meeting reaffirmed its 1990 decision to conduct the IGM without closed sessions.

Item 5: Director's Annual Report

9. The Director presented his Annual Report, highlighting the following areas:

- the coming into force of the SPREP and Apia Conventions;
- progress in implementing the work programme;
- meetings attended by the Secretariat;
- progress in developing institutional arrangements of the Secretariat, particularly the addition of new staff and recruitment of additional staff;
- the success of Secretariat fund-raising efforts; and
- the development of working relationships with other organisations, especially NGOs,

and concluded by noting the importance of SPREP keeping in touch with its members as the programme evolved.

10. During discussion on the Annual Report, it was noted that it would be valuable for SPREP to provide regular information material for Environment Day/Week activities. The Director also clarified the proposed position of Community Development Officer by explaining that the post would be filled by a Pacific Islander and would focus on work with NGOs, particularly women's and youth groups.

11. The meeting expressed its appreciation to the Director and Secretariat for the preparation and presentation of a high quality, thorough Annual Report.

Item 6: Broad Presentation of the March 1991 Working Group Reports

12. The Chairman of the Legal Working Group gave a brief summary of its activities. He noted that the 1990 IGM established a Legal Working Group to consider the requirements necessary for SPREP to obtain the full formal legal status which the IGM agreed upon, including SPREP's separate legal personality and the capacity to fully manage its own affairs.
13. The Legal Working Group considered two options for the separate legal identity of SPREP:
 - a) the conclusion of a separate legal treaty or 'Agreement', and
 - b) a 'Resolution' of the South Pacific Conference based on the 1947 Canberra Agreement.

The group developed a draft 'Agreement' and 'Resolution' for consideration by the IGM and also developed draft Terms of Reference for the SPREP Director, draft Financial Regulations and draft Rules of IGM Procedure for review by the IGM. Both options ('Agreement' and 'Resolution') were judged to be legally valid by the March Working Group.

14. The Chairman of the Finance Working Group reviewed the financial issues which the 1990 IGM had requested it to address. He highlighted the issues considered, including the need:
 - to have the Secretariat's primary functions fully funded from members' contributions;
 - to focus on response to needs expressed by countries;
 - for augmentation of members' contributions and inclusion of administrative costs in project funds;
 - to have a small budget surplus each year; and
 - for a secure financial foundation for an autonomous SPREP.
15. The Chairman of the Finance Working Group noted that it had developed recommendations regarding finance, management and operational effectiveness and had considered various budget scenarios. Recommendations regarding long-term funding considered the need to continue members' contributions and establish a wider financial base. The legal aspects of financial arrangements and problems with voluntary contributions were also considered. Difficult financial issues regarded by the March Finance Working Group needed the consideration of the IGM, including the costs of accommodation, language policy and Secretariat relocation.
16. The Chairman of the Action Plan Working Group reviewed the background to the 1982 Action Plan and the need for a revision of the Plan in the light of emerging environmental issues, entry into force of the "SPREP" and "Apia" Conventions and the move towards autonomy for SPREP. A revised Action Plan was developed by the Group and included the definition, goal and objectives of the Action Plan.
17. The revised Action Plan included nine major programme areas, which reflected SPREP's work programme and priorities, and a strategy for implementation. It further considered the roles and responsibilities of the SPREP Secretariat and the IGM.

18. Overview discussion following the reports of the three March Working Groups noted the importance of a range of factors including programme effectiveness, cost efficiency and political considerations in addressing the two options identified by the Legal Working Group. Several Pacific Island Countries expressed strong support for total independence for SPREP; others recognising at least the need for autonomy to enable it to effectively discharge its mandate. Some delegates also expressed the need for caution and care in ensuring that SPREP was able to be sustained even through 'rough seas'. Reference was also made to the possible value of drawing on the experience of regional precedents. The meeting endorsed the need for establishing clear priorities in implementing SPREP's Work Programme.

Item 7: Report of the Legal Working Group

(a) Option 1 - 'Agreement' Establishing SPREP

(b) Option 2 - 'Draft Resolution' of the South Pacific Conference

(These two items were discussed together.)

19. The two options recommended by the Legal Working Group were discussed; Option 1, a separate 'Agreement' establishing SPREP, and Option 2, a 'Resolution' of the South Pacific Conference, which would establish SPREP as an auxiliary body. Delegates clearly expressed a preference for Option 1, an 'Agreement' establishing SPREP.

(c) IGM - Draft Rules of Procedure

20. The meeting referred the review of the draft Rules of Procedure for the Intergovernmental Meeting (WP.8) to the Legal Working Group. Subsequently, the IGM agreed that the draft Rules of Procedure be referred back to member governments and discussed at a future regional meeting.

(d) Discussion Paper on Legal Options

21. A Working Paper on Legal Options (WP.17) was presented as background information under Agenda Items 7(a) and 7(b).

(e) Draft Terms of Reference for the Director of SPREP

22. The draft Terms of Reference for the Director of SPREP (WP.13) were referred to the Legal Working Group. Subsequently, the IGM agreed that these draft Terms of Reference should be reconsidered after the adoption of the Treaty.

(f) Draft Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Parties

23. It was considered that this Item should more appropriately be considered by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the SPREP Convention.

Legal Working Group Deliberations and Recommendations

24. The Legal Working Group, chaired by Dr Eteuati (Western Samoa), and also comprising representatives of Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, France, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, held several meetings over the period 3-5 July to consider various issues referred to it by the Officials Meeting. Chief amongst these, following the preference of Plenary for a Treaty to establish SPREP as a separate, fully independent organisation, was the issue of the transitional arrangements that might be required to facilitate autonomy for SPREP pending the entry into force of this Treaty.
25. On this issue, the Group began by considering the historical and political background to SPREP's association with the SPC. It was suggested that, whether or not SPREP was part of the SPC, there was a need for a resolution of the South Pacific Conference to give SPREP legal identity in the meantime. There was eventual consensus that SPREP should be treated as being in transition, with the *status quo* otherwise maintained, until the Treaty took effect. It was also noted that the 1990 South Pacific Conference had adopted a resolution which set out arrangements for SPREP to be able to operate more independently.

[Secretariat Note:

In the interests of making progress on the large agenda, it was necessary to discuss some items outside the agreed agenda order. However in this Report, the agenda order is followed. Thus, for clarity's sake, the reader is informed at this point that an offer by the Government of Western Samoa to host SPREP was accepted. Details of these deliberations appear under Agenda Item 8(b).]

26. Following consideration and acceptance in Plenary of the offer by Western Samoa to host SPREP, further consideration was given by the Group to the implications of the transfer of SPREP to Apia, and associated arrangements being made by the Government of Western Samoa, for the resolution of the autonomy issues during the transitional period. The Chairman noted that the immediate establishment of an independent organisation under Western Samoa law was one option; the other was to maintain SPREP's links with the SPC in the meantime, pending a Treaty. It was considered that the latter option was the most straightforward in terms of facilitating a rapid and smooth transfer from Noumea to Apia. No practical difficulties in maintaining those links after separation were identified, although the Group considered the South Pacific Conference should be made aware of, and asked to agree to, the maintenance of the association between the two bodies after the transfer had taken place. There would be a Letter of Agreement between SPREP and the SPC regarding the details of how these links would be maintained in the interim.
27. The Group considered that the draft Treaty text prepared for the meeting should be referred to the IGM for consideration of the Treaty as it stood, and for indication of when negotiations might begin.

28. Accordingly, the Legal Working Group made the following recommendations:

- (i) that, in light of the consensus of the Meeting to establish SPREP as a separate, fully independent regional organisation by Treaty, the IGM ask members to indicate by 15 September 1991 whether they were able to enter into negotiations on a Treaty in order for a timeframe to be established for the commencement of such negotiations;
- (ii) that, in respect of arrangements for the relocation of SPREP from Noumea to Apia, SPREP continue, pending a Treaty, to maintain its links with the SPC;
- (iii) that the South Pacific Conference, taking note of its decision at the Thirtieth South Pacific Conference (paragraph 31 of the Thirtieth South Pacific Conference Report), endorse the recommendation in paragraph (ii) above;

Item 8: Report of the Finance Working Group

(a) Recommendations

29. The Chairman of the March Finance Working Group reviewed progress on implementing the recommendations of the Finance Working Group (WP.3).
30. An open-ended Finance Working Group (comprising French Polynesia [Chair], Australia, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Niue, Tuvalu and United States of America) was established, and met on several occasions to consider certain Working Papers and to report and make recommendations to the IGM on the:
 - revised budget for 1991;
 - revised indicative budget for 1992;
 - best means of implementing the language policy decision made by the IGM;
 - financial and operational implications of the decision to transfer the SPREP Secretariat to Western Samoa; and
 - draft financial regulations contained in WP.9.

(b) Office Space Alternatives - Financial Evaluation

31. In September 1990, the Forum Sub-Committee on SPREP discussed the likely expansion of SPREP by an additional 8 - 9 new staff positions. In October of the same year, the 30th South Pacific Conference further discussed SPREP matters and received assurances from the SPC that it could meet the accommodation and service needs of SPREP. However, in the period from the 30th South Pacific Conference to the 14th Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA) in May 1991, the staff needs of SPREP had been estimated by the Secretariat to be 21 by mid 1991, with potential to grow to 41 by early 1992. The staff needs of other SPC programmes had also grown in this period. Thus the SPC was now not in a position to fully meet the office accommodation and support service needs for SPREP.
32. Extensive investigation of various options (including sites and costing) was undertaken to provide the Meeting with the fullest possible information on which to base its deliberations, in an attempt to find a solution to the problem of accommodation associated with the rapid expansion of the SPREP Secretariat.

33. The delegate of Western Samoa reiterated his Government's offer, originally made at the third IGM, to host SPREP in Apia. The Western Samoan delegation was granted plenipotentiary powers for the purposes of the Fourth SPREP IGM, and tabled a Working Paper (attached as Annex II) outlining details of the offer by the Government of Western Samoa to host SPREP.
34. In discussing this offer, various advantages were outlined relating to Western Samoa's centrality to small islands, lower location costs and good airline connections. Concerns about the adequacy of telecommunications were dispelled by assurances of effectiveness assisted by the provision of a \$14 million French-funded Telecommunications Project. Some delegates expressed the need to be cautious and to consider fully the financial and logistical implications of such a move and how this would affect the effectiveness of the Programme. The delegate of Western Samoa provided further advice on these points.
35. After general discussion, a consensus emerged to accept the offer of Western Samoa. In the true spirit of regional co-operation, the intention to offer to host SPREP by the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga was withdrawn as a token of its respect to Western Samoa's offer. The Government of the Marshall Islands also withdrew its offer. The delegates from France and New Caledonia, having expressed a wish to try to continue to accommodate SPREP within New Caledonia, graciously acceded to the wishes of the other Island Countries, thus joining the consensus to accept the offer of the Government of Western Samoa.
36. The delegate of Western Samoa expressed his Government's deep gratitude to Island Governments for their support, and especially thanked the Governments of the Kingdom of Tonga and the Marshall Islands for the spirit of regional co-operation they showed. He also thanked the Government of France for its most accommodating stance and New Caledonia for its generous approach given the importance that New Caledonia attached to SPC. Finally, the delegate gratefully extended to the Chairman his heartfelt thanks for the excellent manner in which he had conducted the debate to arrive successfully at a consensus to accept Western Samoa's offer to relocate SPREP's Headquarters to Apia.

(c) Draft Corporate Plan

37. The Finance and Action Plan Working Groups meeting in Noumea during March 1991, recommended the preparation of a draft Corporate Plan for SPREP for consideration by the IGM. Accordingly, the Secretariat had engaged the services of Mr Savenaca Siwatibau to produce a draft Corporate Plan as the first stage in a process of detailed discussion, consideration and advice by Member Governments, Administrations and the Secretariat.
38. The Director of SPREP stated that the first working draft, in English, was available, while the French version would be sent out as soon as possible. He encouraged delegates to instigate an in-country process of detailed discussion and input by their Governments and Administrations.

39. Delegates gave support to the concept of development of a Corporate Plan, specifically supporting the Secretariat's comments (contained in the Working Paper) relating to the need for inter-linkage with the Action Plan and Work Programme. As well, the view was expressed that the Corporate Plan should provide for a lean organisation appropriate to the region's culture and economic circumstances, and embody modern management principles, including a flat hierarchy and delegation of responsibility as far as possible, while ensuring that the IGM retained overall control.
40. Delegates expressed their gratitude to Mr Siwatibau for his assistance, which the Secretariat announced, ensuring that the IGM retained his services at no cost. They agreed that as much reaction as possible should be sought on the Corporate Plan before October 1991 when SPREP would take advantage of the UNCED Regional Workshop as a suitable occasion at which to gain additional feedback, prior to submission to the Fifth IGM in 1992 for final approval.

d) SPREP Language Services

41. The Director of SPREP presented an overview of SPREP's language services (WP. 6), highlighting the options for SPREP language policy:
 - 1) complete bilingualism;
 - 2) partial bilingualism;
 - 3) monolingualism; or
 - 4) options yet to be identified.

The financial implications of the different options were pointed out. The Meeting was invited to choose an option and define SPREP's language policy.

42. General discussion on the language policy emphasised the need to keep it separate from discussion on SPREP's location. The delegate of France indicated his Government's wish that SPREP continue to operate on a bilingual basis. However, he noted that there were practical considerations on the level of interpretation/translation service possible and that important meetings and documents should definitely be covered and as much as possible beyond that. The representative of New Caledonia stated the desire of French-speaking territories to participate actively at all levels of the SPREP programme and that this required a bilingual programme to the extent possible.
43. Interventions by a number of other delegations indicated general support for continuation of the existing language policy of SPREP. The meeting therefore agreed to maintain SPREP's policy of bilingualism.
44. Further discussion highlighted the practical aspects of providing language services and the need for more information on the possible alternatives for implementing the policy. The Finance Working Group was requested to consider the financial implications of various arrangements for, and levels of, language service for use by the IGM in its budget deliberations.

(e) Financial Regulations and Guidelines for the Administration of SPREP

45. The Director of SPREP introduced the draft Financial Regulations which had been developed by drawing on the collective experience of financial regulations for other regional organisations; namely the South Pacific Commission (SPC), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC). Delegates' attention was drawn to Regulation 15, outlining the establishment of a Capital Fund which it was envisaged could provide a 'cushion' while the Secretariat awaited reimbursement for expenditure undertaken on a promised reimbursement basis.
46. Delegates referred to the need to change the current form of the Budget to reflect both administrative and operational costs and those associated with Work Programme activities, thus giving a more transparent picture which would enable ready identification and assessment of SPREP's progress. A budget format showing links to the Action Plan structure and reflecting the budgetary principles recommended by the Finance Working Group, was also regarded as appropriate.
47. The development of a Trust Fund was highlighted as an important point for consideration by the Finance Working Group, as was the need for SPREP's contributions to be made on a firm and timely basis. Delegates' attention was drawn to the fact that the issue of 'assessed' versus 'voluntary' contributions had been first raised at the 1986 IGM and that, at the ensuing 1988 IGM, most countries had supported the concept of contributing on a 'firm and assessed' basis.
48. Useful historical information was provided to assist delegates in their deliberations, particularly as regards the basis on which the level of country voluntary contributions to SPREP had originally been formulated. The Director of Programmes noted that, in the SPC's experience, a system of 'assessed' contributions was more effective at obtaining funds than a system of 'voluntary' contributions.

(f) Widening SPREP's Financial Base

49. The Director of SPREP and the Financial Advisor introduced the information on widening SPREP's financial base (WP.7), highlighting the possible expansion of funding by forging new contacts with additional organisations and governments and pursuing corporate sponsorship. The meeting generally supported the Secretariat efforts to widen SPREP's financial base.
50. In response to several interventions, the Director and the Financial Advisor clarified the operation of a Trust Fund, which required a large enough amount of capital to be invested so that the interest could be used to undertake Work Programme activities. Although details for this Fund were not yet specified, it was envisaged that a board of trustees would be formed to administer the use of the funds.
51. The Meeting supported the Secretariat's efforts to obtain finance from beyond the region, and from entities other than governments, for example, NGOs and corporations. It was pointed out that the governments would assist SPREP in these efforts during their interactions with other governments and organisations. The representative of France offered to assist the SPREP Secretariat in pursuing European Community funding through contacts with its representative in Noumea.

52. The Meeting encouraged the Secretariat to develop guidelines for pursuing corporate sponsorship. However, it was noted that policies and guidelines for SPREP interaction with corporate sponsors should be prepared for acceptance by the IGM, before being adopted by the Secretariat.

Finance Working Group Deliberations and Recommendations

53. The Meeting endorsed the Guiding Principles of Financial Management provided by the Finance Working Group (Annex IV), approved the Directives to the Director and the Secretariat Functions (Annex V). The Financial Regulations were not able to be fully considered due to time constraints.
54. With relation to the financial and other implications of relocating to Western Samoa, (details of which appear as Annex VI), the Meeting endorsed the following recommendations that:
- (i) the Director proceed to develop a fully costed relocation plan and to implement this in a manner that caused the least possible disruption to the Work Programme and Budget;
 - (ii) a sum of US\$200,000 be provided in the 1992 indicative Budget to cover the once only costs of relocation;
 - (iii) all countries promptly pay outstanding members' contributions for 1991 and pay 1992 contributions early in 1992.
55. The Finance Working Group looked at various options for language services, bearing in mind the IGM's wish to continue with the level of translation and interpretation services at present provided to members. Two options were investigated:
- (i) A 'mixed service' involving core permanent staff of two (one a translator/liaison officer, the other a bilingual secretary/translation assistant) together with contract services for key meetings. Estimated cost was US\$197,000;
 - (ii) a full contract service for status quo maintenance, i.e., translation of important documents plus full interpretation/translation service for key meetings, e.g., the IGM and one other two-week meeting. Estimated cost was US\$150,000.
56. The Meeting endorsed the recommendations that:
- (i) for 1992 the full contract option be adopted; and
 - (ii) at the end of 1992, this option be reviewed and that, if it were found to be unsatisfactory. Option (i) be considered for 1993.
57. The Meeting appreciated attempts by the Finance Working Group to provide a new Budget format which would be built upon and further improved in the future. A Revised Budget for 1991 was approved and appears as Annex VII.

58. A revised indicative Budget for 1992 (Annex VIII) was presented by Finance Working Group based on the assumption that SPREP would be located in Western Samoa as an autonomous body bearing the full costs of its operation. The preparation of this budget was also based on an assumed increase in annual members' contributions to US\$500,000 as recommended by the March 1991 Finance Working Group.
59. Delegates recognised the need for an increase in annual members' contributions.

Item 9: Budget Estimates for 1991-92 Biennium

60. This Item was discussed under the previous Agenda Item and was also referred to the Finance Working Group. (See paras 57-59 above).

Item 10: Report of the Action Plan Working Group

(a) Action Plan

61. The Chairman of the March Action Plan Working Group reviewed comments received on the draft Action Plan. The Meeting adopted the draft Action Plan with revisions, for presentation to the Ministerial Meeting.

(b) Criteria to be Used for Assessing and Prioritising Projects in the SPREP Work Programme

62. The Director introduced the paper on 'Criteria to be Used for Assessing Projects' (WP.16) which had been prepared following a recommendation from the Action Plan Working Group meeting in March, 1991. It was considered that establishing an agreed set of criteria which could be employed to assess projects for inclusion in the Annual Work Programme would assist the Secretariat in priority-setting and facilitate fund-raising.
63. The Meeting endorsed both the Criteria for Assessing Projects and the Guidelines for the Small Grants Scheme. Delegates also endorsed the Director's suggestion that a comprehensive policy paper be prepared for the next IGM containing consideration of modalities for project proposal submission by NGOs and regional institutions.

Item 11: Draft Ministerial Declaration on the Environment

64. The Director of SPREP introduced the draft Ministerial Declaration developed at the SPREP Regional Workshop by PO/UNCED in Nadi, June 1991. The importance of this Draft Declaration was stressed, its purpose being to adopt the 1991-95 SPREP Action Plan, promote the further recognition of SPREP as the regional organisation responsible for environmental co-ordination, protection and management for the South Pacific and to endorse a South Pacific Statement to the Third Meeting of the PREPCOM for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to be held in Brazil, 1992.

65. Whilst regarding the draft Ministerial Declaration as providing a valuable basis for reflection of the region's environmental concerns, delegates expressed the wish that additional points be discussed for possible incorporation. Delegates also agreed that, in light of the complementary nature of the Declaration and Statement to UNCED, these two documents be reviewed together. A Drafting Group, comprising the delegates of New Zealand (chair), American Samoa, Australia, France, Kiribati, Tonga and United States of America, was created for this purpose.
66. With the possibility of an environmental declaration being prepared by the South Pacific Forum Secretariat, the representative of that organisation stated this in no way competed with the Ministerial Declaration under discussion as it involved a particular area of environmental concern. He stated that the Forum clearly recognised SPREP as the focal point for environmental issues in the region.
67. The revised draft Ministerial Declaration and revised draft South Pacific Statement to the Third Meeting of the UNCED Preparatory Committee were endorsed by the IGM for submission to the Ministerial Meeting for adoption. These are attached as Annexes IX and X, respectively.

Item 12: Regional Preparations for UNCED

68. The paper outlining Regional Preparations for UNCED was introduced by the Director, who explained that the strategy included provision of technical assistance to Pacific Island countries for the preparation of National Reports, production of a Regional Report and Secretariat co-ordination, both of these reports, and of Pacific Island participation at regional workshops and PREPCOMs, culminating in eventual high-level Pacific Island representation in the 1992 Brazil Conference.
69. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had generously mobilised sufficient funds to enable SPREP to effectively co-ordinate South Pacific UNCED preparations.
70. In recognition of the importance of being well-prepared for UNCED, and drawing on the example of preparations for the 1984 FAO World Conference on Fisheries, discussion ensued relating to the overall strategy to be undertaken and the role to be played by the SPREP Secretariat at both PREPCOMs and the Brazil UNCED. Delegates agreed that SPREP had a fundamental background role to play in assisting and briefing delegates but that member governments would represent their own views. Delegates also recognised that SPREP itself would be under a degree of international scrutiny given its success as a regional environmental organisation, especially relating to its comprehensive approach. The suggestion that a 15 - 20 minute video be produced, depicting the region's environmental issues, was strongly endorsed as a viable tool to enhance South Pacific presentation in Brazil.

71. The Secretariat outlined specific preparation for PREPCOM III to be held in Geneva, 12 August - 6 September 1991. Airfares would be provided for one representative from each Pacific Island Country through the UNCED representative in the South Pacific, namely UNDP, Suva. The Secretariat called for government-endorsed nominations as early as possible to enable it to organise the issuing of tickets. Per diem was being provided through an UNCED Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the region, namely Vanuatu, Western Samoa, Kiribati and Tuvalu. Per diem, estimated at approximately US\$4000 - US\$4500 per person for the four week period, was still needed to be found for all other countries.

Item 13: Progress Report on Implementing the Work Programme for 1991-92

72. The Director of SPREP introduced the SPREP Work Programme Progress Report (WP.14) which outlined activities undertaken in the nine-month period since the report to the Third SPREP IGM in September 1990. In line with a recommendation from the Action Plan Working Group Meeting in March 1991, activities had been integrated and reported under nine major programme elements.

1. Conservation of Biological Diversity
2. Global Change
3. Environmental Management and Planning
4. Coastal Management and Planning
5. Prevention and Management of Pollution
6. Planning and Response to Pollution Emergencies
7. Environmental Education and Training
8. Environmental Information
9. Regional Environmental Concerns

73. Under the Work Programme element on *Conservation of Biological Diversity*, delegates acknowledged the significant achievements and congratulated the Secretariat on obtaining considerable financial support under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Conservation of Biodiversity Programme. Reference was made to the importance of this area of SPREP's work. The meeting noted that the coming into force of the Apia Convention would assist the GEF Biodiversity Programme in its work.
74. Specific thanks were given to SPREP, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the East-West Center (EWC) for the production of the Western Samoa Ecosystem Survey which provided a valuable basis for future planning for terrestrial and marine protected areas.
75. The meeting acknowledged the significant and extremely important contribution made to this area of the SPREP Work Programme by Mr Peter Thomas, the Protected Areas Management Officer, who was soon to leave the Secretariat. His recruitment by TNC was welcomed as reinforcing the valuable linkage between TNC and SPREP.

76. Under the programme element on *Global Change*, delegates welcomed clarification from the Association of South Pacific Environmental Institutions (ASPEI) and from SPREP on the status of the 'Preparatory Mission for Climate Change Response Programme'. It was reported that one country activity had been undertaken and that funding from UNEP had recently been received enabling planning to commence for the continuation of this activity. Western Samoa specifically called for the implementation of the Western Samoan study as early as possible. The UNEP representative stated that ASPEI was able to use experts from non-ASPEI institutions to carry out the studies.
77. Delegates were informed about the forthcoming 'Conference on South Pacific Environment', to be held in Auckland, 2-6 September 1991, the agenda of which contained a significant component on Climate Change.
78. The announcement that the Government of France was making available approximately US\$100,000 for the convening of the Second Regional Conference on Climate Change in Noumea was welcomed by the meeting. It was pointed out that the proposed early 1992 date for this activity might need to be reviewed in light of the move of SPREP to Apia but that it should, in any case, be before the UNCED Brazil meeting.
79. Acknowledgement was made of the valuable financial contribution by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand and by UNDP in enabling SPREP to co-ordinate Pacific Island participation in the global negotiations on the Biological Diversity and Climate Change Conventions.
80. It was noted that recruiting more staff would enable the Secretariat to use more easily its existing in-house expertise in the area of *Coastal Management and Planning*.
81. The Meeting was informed that Australia would continue to provide assistance to SPREP and thus to the Region, through the services of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority in Planning and Response to Pollution Emergencies.
82. The Secretariat was advised that, under the *Environmental Education and Training* element, the 'Environmental Education "Grassroots" Workshop' proposed for Vanuatu should still be included on the SPREP Work Programme. Thanks were given for producing Marshallese posters and stickers under the *Environmental Information* Work Programme element.
83. Under the Work Programme element on *Regional Environmental Concerns*, it was suggested that the Secretariat look at additional funding sources to accommodate the increasing cost of information handling and dissemination associated with SPREP's expanding role as a clearing-house.

84. In response to an enquiry relating to SPREP's interaction with other regional organisations, it was stated that SPREP had become a member of the South Pacific Organisations Co-ordinating Committee (SPOCC). Other organisations involved in SPOCC included:

- Pacific Islands Development Programme (PIDP)
- Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)
- South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)
- South Pacific Forum Secretariat
- South Pacific Commission (SPC)
- University of the South Pacific (USP)

The Director noted the closer interaction that SPREP was developing with these organisations and that, where elements of SPREP's Programme could be better or more appropriately handled by other SPOCC members, this was being arranged.

85. It was suggested that SPREP, in its newly autonomous role, consider what structural and legal arrangements it might wish to establish with its original founding organisations; namely the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Forum Secretariat, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the South Pacific Commission (SPC). For example, these might include entering into Memoranda of Understanding.

Item 14: SPREP Computer Services Manager

86. The Director outlined the situation regarding computer services and the need for a computer services manager. Delegations generally supported the need to provide adequate computer services, but advised a prudent approach before creating a new post. The Meeting agreed that SPREP should identify a consultant to evaluate the computer services needs and develop a plan for addressing those needs, taking advantage of the experience of other regional organisations, and noting the growth of SPREP and the change in Secretariat location. The Secretariat undertook to report back to the next IGM on these matters.

Item 15: Other Business

Date and Venue for the Fifth SPREP IGM

87. The Meeting endorsed the offer by Western Samoa to host the Fifth SPREP IGM in September 1992, precise dates as yet to be identified, taking into account timing of other regional meetings.

Item 16: Agenda for the Ministerial-Level Meeting

88. The draft Agenda is attached as Annex III.

Annexes

Annex I: Meeting of Officials (Noumea, New Caledonia, 3-5 July 1991)

Agenda

Chairperson: Fiji

1. Official Opening
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Election of Drafting Committee
4. Hours of Work
5. Director's Annual Report (WP.11)
6. Broad presentation of Working Group Reports
7. Report of the Legal Working Group (WP.1)
 - (a) Option 1 - 'Agreement' Establishing SPREP
 - (b) Option 2 - 'Draft Resolution' of the South Pacific Conference
 - (c) IGM - Draft Rules of Procedure (WP.8)
 - (d) Discussion Paper on Legal Options (WP.17)
 - (e) Draft Terms of Reference for Director of SPREP (WP.13)
 - (f) Draft Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Parties
8. Report of the Finance Working Group (WP.3)
 - (a) Recommendations
 - (b) Office Space Alternatives - Financial Evaluation (WP.4)
 - (c) Draft Corporate Plan (WP.5)
 - (d) SPREP Language Services (WP.6)
 - (e) Financial regulations and guidelines for the administration of SPREP (WP.9)
 - (f) Widening SPREP's Financial Base (WP.7)
9. Budget Estimates for 1991-92 Biennium (WP.12)
10. Report of the Action Plan Working Group (WP.2)
 - (a) Action Plan
 - (b) Criteria to be used for assessing and prioritising projects in SPREP Work Programme (WP.16)
11. Draft Ministerial Declaration on Environment (WP.15)

12. Regional Preparations for UNCED (WP.10)
13. Progress Report on the Implementation of Work Programme for 1991-92 (WP.14)
14. SPREP Computer Services Manager (WP.18)
15. Other Business
 - Date and venue for the Fifth SPREP Intergovernmental Meeting
16. Agenda for Ministerial-level Meeting

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Annex III: Western Samoa's Offer to Host SPREP

1. At the Intergovernmental Meeting held in Noumea in September 1990, Western Samoa made a formal offer to host SPREP.
2. Some basic information on this offer follows:
 - (i) The Western Samoa Government will make available to SPREP, immediately, office space and amenities, sufficient and adequate for its office requirements projected for the next 12 months.
 - (ii) The office space will be provided by Government without cost to SPREP.
 - (iii) The offices are located in Government owned buildings on the Apia Airport West Coast Road some 5 minutes drive from Apia.
 - (iv) The Government has also identified land on which the SPREP office complex can be built.
 - (v) Similarly, Government has identified land on which SPREP can build homes for its staff, if it so wishes.
 - (vi) The land will be provided by Government at no cost to SPREP.
 - (vii) SPREP, as an Intergovernmental body will be recognised as an international organisation under Western Samoa laws and would be granted full privileges, immunities and rights as provided for international organisations.
3. Should SPREP wish to rent office space in Apia in preference to office accommodation offered by Government, suitable office space is available for rent at modest rates. Government can assist in locating and negotiating the terms for such rented offices.
4. Staff members are expected to rent accommodation privately, but if there are problems initially, Government could consider assisting with Government housing.
5. In comparative terms, the cost of operating in Apia is low. In our own estimates, the cost of administration alone for a fully operational SPREP headquarters in Western Samoa would be, at a conservative estimate, some 40-50% lower than a self-administered SPREP at current rates.

Recommendation:

Delegates are invited to consider the content of this Working Paper and, if deemed appropriate, to:

- (i) accept the offer by Western Samoa to host SPREP in Apia;
- (ii) direct the SPREP Secretariat to start making arrangements for its relocation to Western Samoa, such a move to be completed by the next Intergovernmental Meeting.

Annex IV: Ministerial-Level Meeting (Noumea, New Caledonia, 8-9 July 1991)


Provisional Agenda

Chairperson: Fiji

1. Official Opening
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Election of Drafting Committee
4. Hours of Work
5. Country Statements
6. Director's Annual Report
7. Legal
8. Finance including budget for 1991-92
9. Action Plan
10. Regional Preparations for UNCED
11. Draft Ministerial Declaration on Environment and regional statement to PrepCom III
12. Progress Report on Work Programme for 1991-92
13. Statements by Observers
14. Date and Venue for the Fifth SPREP Intergovernmental Meeting
15. Other Business.

Annex V: Guiding Principles of Financial Management

Endorsed the following principles of financial management as a basis for developing budgets and identifying resource requirements and reporting on income and expenditure.

- (i) that in identifying the personnel and financial resources required by the Secretariat the functions of the Secretariat (as detailed in the draft Action Plan) should be considered under headings of:
 - primary functions (core functions including servicing the IGM, seeking funds,  coordinating activities, and providing information to members);
 - project management functions (management of donor funded projects on behalf of members and donors);
 - project implementation functions (implementation of donor funded projects on behalf of members and donors excluding the project management function).
- (ii) that the most cost effective solutions should be identified which are consistent with the 1990 IGM decisions;
- (iii) that in identifying resources necessary to enhance SPREP's capacity a strong focus should be maintained on delivery of services to Pacific island members to address their environmental concerns;
- (iv) that to the maximum extent possible the costs of both project implementation and the full costs of project management should be met from project funds from donors;
- (v) that the basic functions of the Secretariat should be achieved by a lean and efficient Secretariat funded as far as possible from members' contributions and any interest revenues, so that the members clearly retain full control of SPREP's priorities and operations and a secure financial basis exists to maintain continuity of operations of the organisation;
- (vi) that the budget should provide for a small operating surplus derived from funds received for both project management and the primary functions of the Secretariat;
- (vii) that a conservative view should be taken of the likely income available;
- (ix) that the budget should be structured to make it possible to review the budgetary implication of any change in function of the Secretariat in later years;
- (x) that a secure foundation should be provided for the first full year of operation as an autonomous organisation.
- (xi) that the Secretariat collate data on costs in a form which allows for its presentation under both the functions listed in subparagraphs (i) above, and under the Action Plan Programme headings.

Annex VI: Directives to the Director of SPREP and Secretariat Functions

The Meeting directed the Director of SPREP to:

1. establish a comprehensive, independent, financial management system including the development of financial regulations.
2. establish separate bank accounts as soon as feasible.
3. proceed with the immediate recruitment of a Finance Manager utilising UNDP support.
4. acquire an office vehicle and other operating assets as funding permits.
5. prepare a draft Corporate Plan to be considered and noted by the 1992 IGM. The Plan to address among other things, SPREP's mission, management philosophy, principles and objectives, organisational structure and implementation strategies.

The Meeting approved:

1. The establishment of up to 7 positions in 1991 and 1992 to carry out the **primary functions** of the Secretariat to be funded from either member contributions or from donor funds specifically allocated to this function;
2. The Director accepting the responsibility for managing and implementing additional projects including the establishment of positions to carry out the **project management functions** and the **project implementation functions** of the Secretariat provided that:
 - (i) funds are available from donors for all costs including salary, ancillary costs including housing, office accommodation, travel, secretarial support and all other costs;
 - (ii) acceptance of this responsibility does not adversely impact on the capacity of the Secretariat to carry out and manage the Work Programme approved by the Intergovernmental Meeting.

The Meeting agreed:

1. That the IGM retains sole authority to approve an increase in the staff capacity of the Secretariat devoted to the primary functions of the Secretariat.
2. That a comprehensive review of SPREP personnel matters be conducted based, in part, on the experience of other regional organisations, and that the existing SPC personnel terms and conditions be maintained until new terms and conditions are agreed.
3. That the 1992 IGM review progress in implementing these recommendations to ensure that:
 - (a) sound personnel procedures have been established;
 - (b) the Primary Functions of the Secretariat are adequately supported by members contributions; and,
 - (c) that the Secretariat has sufficient guidance from the IGM.

4. Before the time when the SPREP relocates in Western Samoa that the SPC and SPREP cooperate to maintain at least the current level of SPC translation/interpretation services to SPREP.
5. That the current guidelines for determining the members' contributions be retained (Annex IV to WP3).
6. That Financial regulations and guidelines for the administration of SPREP be prepared by the Secretariat for checking by appropriate audit authorities and for adoption by the [Finance Implementation Group] which will exercise the authority of the IGM in this technical matter.

Annex VII: Implications of Relocating SPREP in Western Samoa

Introduction

1. Following the decision by the IGM officials to relocate SPREP in Western Samoa, the Finance Working Group was asked to report on the financial and other implications of the move.

General Approach and Timetable for Relocation

2. The Finance Working Group recognised the need to minimise the impact of the move on the work programme, staff and budget and for consultation with existing SPREP staff to minimise the personal costs of the relocation. The Director would work closely with SPC management to see if those staff who chose not to move could be transferred to other work programmes.
3. It is proposed that:
 - (i) the move be made during the Christmas/New Year period when work on the programme is traditionally quiet (although budget constraints might require a later date);
 - (ii) any appointments of new staff be made to Western Samoa, although some might spend time in Noumea on a temporary basis;
 - (iii) following the move, one Administration Officer maintain a SPREP office in Noumea until July 1992 (this would help reduce the demands on the Director and maintain continuity in the workload);
 - (iv) the Deputy Director should have special responsibilities for the establishment of the office in Western Samoa and could be located there before existing staff transferred. Alternatively, another staff member could move earlier to Western Samoa and fulfill this responsibility.

Working Relationship with Western Samoa

4. To reduce the impact of relocation, and to establish a co-operative working relationship with the Western Samoan Government in the management of the exercise, the following steps are suggested:
 - (i) The Director and possibly one support staff to visit Western Samoa as soon as practical to inspect the offices offered, to give consideration to alternative office space in Apia, and to assess actions to be taken before staff can move into offices.

- (ii) The Director to discuss with the Western Samoan Government possible actions that could be taken by that Government to facilitate the relocation including:
- availability of Government housing;
 - temporary secondment of staff to SPREP in Western Samoa;
 - provision of telephones and other services for the office including any necessary refurbishment;
 - the possible establishment of a liaison group within the Western Samoan Government during the transition phase.

Financial Implications of the Relocation

5. The financial evaluation in WP. 20 and previous work done for the location of SOPAC are considered to give a realistic picture of the financial implications of a move to Western Samoa. The current net benefits (based on a cash flow over three years) of a move to Fiji (US\$580,000) are considered by the Financial Advisor to be "slightly more" than a move to Western Samoa.
6. While in the medium term the financial benefits are clear, in the short-term there are significant one-off costs that must be met. These are conservatively estimated at US\$140,000 covering such matters as freight, airfares, temporary staff, additional travel and winding up leases in Noumea) and US\$60,000 for fully furnishing the offices in Western Samoa. It is expected that half these costs would be met by project donors through the project management function.
7. The 1991 budget does not provide for these one-off costs and could not without specific extra contributions from members. Furthermore, on current indications of cashflow, the costs of relocation may not be able to be met early in 1992. Timing of the relocation is therefore dependent on the condition of SPREP's budget and would be assisted by the prompt and full payment of members' contributions for 1991 and for 1992.

Financial Management

8. The relocation in Western Samoa will require the establishment of an independent financial management system. To maintain continuity and facilitate the transfer, it is considered that prompt action should be taken on the appointment of the Finance Manager. In addition, some means might be found to continue the services of the Financial Advisor during this transitional period. Consideration also needs to be given as to whether a transfer from the SPC financial management system should be made as soon as possible.

Working Relationship with SPC

9. The need for good support from SPC management to facilitate the relocation was recognised. This is important in dealing with staff, financial and other matters, including the physical shift. This matter should be discussed between the Director and SPC.

Advice to Donors

10. The relocation will be of considerable interest to donors. They should be advised of the relocation and of implications for their projects. Because the move has long-term cost benefits for projects, it was considered that some donors may be encouraged to assist with the short-term costs.

Specific matters to consider

11. The Working Group recognised that it is difficult to be precise at this point about the implications of the move and there is a need for the Secretariat to carefully work through these implications as more information is obtained. The following specific issues were raised during discussion:

- termination payments to Noumea support staff;
- termination of housing leases;
- freight of personal effects and office equipment;
- transfers of Noumea staff and dependents;
- additional travel and temporary accommodation of new staff in Noumea;
- temporary staff appointments in Western Samoa;
- office refurbishing in Western Samoa;
- installation of telecommunications - telephones, faxes;
- additional furniture for Western Samoa;
- translation/interpretation service (covered separately);
- computer facilities;
- photocopiers;
- new addresses, letterhead, stationery;
- facilities for meetings, seminars, etc.;
- IGM conference facilities - a conference facility does exist in Apia;
- purchase of a vehicle;
- review of staff allowances;
- notification to applicants (for new positions) of SPREP's new location.

Long-term issues

12. It is assumed that initially SPREP will be housed rent-free in the office accommodation offered by the Western Samoan Government (or possibly in alternative offices in Apia) and that staff will be housed in privately rented or government-owned accommodation. In the long-term, there is the possibility of both permanent office accommodation and permanent housing being built. The implication of this needs further consideration.

Annex VIII Revised Budget 1991

1991	MEMBER'S		DONORS		PARTIES		ANNEX
	VOL. CONT		PROJECT	PROJECT	SPREP CONV	APIA CONV	VIII
	PRIMARY		MGMT	IMPLEMENT.	SECT	SECT	TOTAL
	FUNCTION		FUNCTION	FUNCTION	FUNCTION	FUNCTION	
REVENUE							
MEMBER'S CONTRIBUTIONS	285000						285000
DONOR PROJECT FUNDS			326500				326500
DONOR INST'L SUPPORT FUNDS	304500				10000	5000	319500
INTEREST RECEIVED							0
TOTAL REVENUE	589500		326500	0	10000	5000	931000
SALARIES & ANCILLARY COSTS							
PRESENT STAFF							0
DIRECTOR	56000		24000				80000
PROJECT OFFICER (SCIENTIST)	46700		23300				70000
PROT. AREAS MGMT OFFICER	41300		20700				62000
ENV. EDUCATION OFFICER	41300		20700				62000
TEAM LEADER/RETA							0
PROJECT OFFICER/UNCED							0
CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICER							0
TEAM LEADER/NEMS							0
ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.	23000		8000				31000
SECRETARY	20000		6000				26000
OFFICE ASSISTANT (3 each)	42000		21000				63000
FUTURE STAFF (END OF 1991)							0
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	7000		15000				22000
FINANCE MANAGER	9500		9500				19000
EIA OFFICER							0
ENV. CONT. OFFICER							0
INFO & PUB OFFICER							0
COMMUNITY DVPT OFFICER							0
ENV. LAW OFFICER							0
TRAINING OFFICER							0
COORD. GIS							0
TECHNICAL OFFICER (GIS)							0
TECHNICAL OFFICER (GIS)							0
COORD. GEF (BIO-DIVERSITY)							0
PROF. STAFF (GEF)							0
PROF. STAFF (GEF)							0
PROF. STAFF (GEF)							0
OFFICE ASSISTANTS (11 each)							0
UN VOLUNTEER							0
VISITOR/CONSULTANT(S)							0
OPERATING EXPENSES							0
OPERATING COSTS	80000		77000				157000
DUTY TRAVEL	30000		70000				100000
IGM/BIENNIAL MTG. OF PARTIES	135000				10000	5000	150000
INTERPRETATION							0
TRANSLATION							0
SMALL PROJECTS SCHEME							0
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	531800		295200	0	10000	5000	842000
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE							
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	51000		27000				78000
GENERAL	6000		4000				10000
INTERPRETATION BOOTH							0
MOTOR VEHICLE							0
OFFICE FURNITURE							0
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	57000		31000	0	0	0	88000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	588800		326200	0	10000	5000	930000
SURPLUS	700		300	0	0	0	1000

Annex IX Proposed Budget 1992

1992	M.V. CONT	DONORS		PARTIES		ANNEX IX
	PRIMARY FUNCTION	PROF MGMT FUNCTION	PROJ IMPL. FUNCTION	SPREP CONV FUNCTION	APIA CONV FUNCTION	TOTAL
REVENUE						
MEMBER'S CONTRIBUTIONS	50000					50000
RELOCATION CONTRIBUTION	100000	100000				200000
DONOR PROJECT FUNDS		380000				380000
DONOR INST'L SUPPORT FUNDS	74500	115500				190000
INTEREST RECEIVED	150000					150000
TOTAL REVENUE	824500	595500	0	0	0	1420000
SALARIES & ANCILLARY COSTS						
PRESENT STAFF						
DIRECTOR	56000	24000				80000
PROJECT OFFICER (SCIENTIST)	46700	23300				70000
PROT. AREAS MGMT OFFICER	41300	20700				62000
ENV. EDUCATION OFFICER	41300	20700				62000
TEAM LEADER/RETA						0
PROJECT OFFICER/UNCED						0
CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICER						0
TEAM LEADER/NEMS						0
ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.	18000	6000				24000
SECRETARY	15000	4000				19000
OFFICE ASSISTANT (2 each)	20000	12000				32000
FUTURE STAFF (END 1991)						
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	22000	44000				66000
FINANCE MANAGER	28500	28500				57000
EIA OFFICER						0
ENV. CONT. OFFICER						0
INFO & PUB OFFICER						0
COMMUNITY DVPT OFFICER						0
ENV. LAW OFFICER						0
TRAINING OFFICER						0
COORD. GIS						0
TECHNICAL OFFICER (GIS)						0
TECHNICAL OFFICER (GIS)						0
COORD. GEF (BIO-DIVERSITY)						0
PROF. STAFF (GEF)						0
PROF. STAFF (GEF)						0
PROF. STAFF (GEF)						0
OFFICE ASSISTANTS (11 each)						0
ADDITIONAL STAFF						
COMPUTER SERVICES MANAGER		19000				19000
ASSISTANT FINANCE MANAGER	24000	24000				48000
FINANCE CLERICAL						0
OPERATING EXPENSES						
OPERATING COSTS	60000	88000				148000
DUTY TRAVEL	30000	70000				100000
IGM/BIENNIAL MTG. OF PARTIES	85000					85000
LANGUAGE SERVICES	150000					150000
RELOCATION	70000	70000				140000
SMALL PROJECTS SCHEME	50000					50000
TOTAL EXPENSES	757800	454200	0	0	0	1212000
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE						
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	10000	10000				20000
GENERAL	10000	10000				20000
MOTOR VEHICLE	8000	8000				16000
OFFICE FURNITURE	30000	30000				60000
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	58000	58000	0	0	0	116000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	815800	512200	0	0	0	1328000
SURPLUS	8700	83300	0	0	0	92000

Annex X: Draft Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development

We, the Ministers and representatives of the 27 members of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), meeting in Noumea from 8 to 9 July 1991;

Recalling the *1972 Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment*, and reaffirming our continuing commitment to its principles; in particular, that international protection and improvement of the environment should be handled in a cooperative spirit by all countries, big or small, on an equal footing;

Reaffirming the principles espoused in the *1982 Rarotonga Declaration on the Human Environment in the South Pacific*;

Stressing the particular importance to our region of *UNGA Resolution 43/53* which recognised climate change as a common concern of humankind, *UNGA Resolution 44/206* on the particular vulnerability of small island states to the possible adverse effects of sea level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas;

Recalling the *1989 Majuro Declaration on Climate Change*, the *1989 Male Declaration on Global Warming and Sea Level Rise* and the *1990 Declaration of the Second World Climate Conference*;

Having regard to *UNGA Resolution 44/228* concerning the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and stressing the importance of South Pacific participation in this Conference;

Recalling the communique of the *Twenty-first South Pacific Forum (1990)* in which regional heads of government recognised that sustainable development is the key to the protection of the region's resources for future generations;

Welcoming the statements from the *Twenty-first South Pacific Forum* and *Thirtieth South Pacific Conference* on the need for strengthening cooperation in the region, including through the region's institutional arrangements, to address environmental concerns through enhanced capacity for SPREP;

Recalling also the *1990 ESCAP Ministerial Declaration on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*; and noting the *1991 Declaration of the Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific*;

Emphasizing the uniqueness of the South Pacific region, its small land masses dispersed over the largest marine area in the world; its high degree of ecosystem and species diversity and vulnerability to natural disasters; the high degree of economic and cultural dependence on the natural environment; its diversity of cultures and languages, traditional practices and customs which are integral to the close and special relationship of Pacific peoples with their environment;

Recognising that actions taken in one country or region should not adversely affect the environment of other countries or regions;

Deeply concerned about the vulnerability of the South Pacific to serious environmental threats, including climate change and sea level rise, threats to marine living resources, and pollution which might result from nuclear testing, and importing, transporting, storing or destroying toxic and hazardous wastes or weapons, and, in particular, such threats generated from outside the region;

Stressing the urgency of reaching international agreement on measures to address these threats;

Emphasizing the common concerns among countries of the region and those of small island States in other regions;

Welcoming enhancement of the capacity and autonomy of SPREP;

Recalling the *1985 South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Rarotonga Treaty)*;

Welcoming the entry into force in 1990 of the *1976 Convention on the Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific (Apia Convention)* and the *1986 Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (SPREP Convention)* and related protocols, which between them form the framework for a comprehensive legal regime to protect the regional environment;

Noting with satisfaction the entry into force in 1991 of the *Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing with Long Driftnets in the South Pacific (1989 Wellington Convention)* which reflects strong concerns about this unsustainable fishing practice;

Recognising the valuable assistance that many governments and international organisations, in particular UNEP through its Regional Seas Programme, have given to the protection of the South Pacific environment;

Committed to ensuring the continuation of the harmony which characterises Pacific island peoples' relationship with their environment;

1. **Declare** our commitment to work individually and collectively, including through SPREP, to achieve sustainable development in the South Pacific region, in particular by making every effort to:

- meet the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- promote equity in participation in ecologically sustainable development
- minimise any adverse environmental impacts of economic development through integrating environmental considerations with economic and sectoral planning and policies
- formulate resource use and development planning policies based on the precautionary principle;

2. **Adopt**, as an integral part of this declaration, the *1991-1995 Action Plan for Managing the Environment of the South Pacific Region* and undertake to work individually and collectively for its full implementation, in particular by:
 - promoting ecologically sustainable resource use practices
 - conserving biological diversity of the region and protecting critical ecosystems
 - ensuring the ecologically sustainable use and conservation of terrestrial, freshwater and marine resources
 - preventing, controlling and managing pollution and wastes
 - assessing the environmental impact of development projects
 - co-operation in international efforts to find solutions to pressing global environmental problems;
3. **Recognise** the importance of socio-economic factors in national and regional resource management activities and shall therefore endeavour to:
 - adopt population policies and promote consumption patterns which foster sustainable development
 - integrate health and nutrition considerations into development planning by taking steps to alleviate the impact of environmental degradation on community health and nutrition
 - ensure the retention and use of traditional knowledge and practices which foster sustainable development
 - increase, through education and training and information dissemination, the overall awareness and understanding of the environment and cultural heritage, to promote positive community attitudes towards the environment
 - facilitate the transfer of affordable and appropriate technology, along with the associated development of human resources, skills and training, research and information sharing
 - ensure effective application of funding from within national budgets and international sources to the protection of the environment and the achievement of ecologically sustainable development in the region
 - explore opportunities for private sector contributions to implementing ecologically sustainable development in the region;
4. **Affirm** the right of individuals and non-government organisations (NGOs) to be informed about environmental issues relevant to them, to have access to information, and to participate in the formulation and implementation of decisions likely to affect their environment;

5. **Declare our commitment** to work together, including through SPREP, to develop further, as needed, the legal framework for protecting the regional environment, to facilitate the implementation of relevant regional conventions, and further enhance regional and national capacities for sustainable development;
6. **Call on** the international community to:
 - respect the right of the people of the South Pacific, as custodians of our fragile environment, to protect our region for present and future generations
 - adopt additional measures to protect the environment, particularly in the areas of climate change, sustainable fishing practices and technologies, conservation of biological diversity and protection of marine areas from pollution from all sources
 - support activities in the region to understand the global climate system
 - co-operate in and assist regional and national efforts to implement sustainable development in the South Pacific
 - recognise SPREP as the regional organisation responsible for environmental co-ordination, protection and management for the South Pacific;
7. **Call on** the UNCED Preparatory Committee to take full account of the concerns expressed in the *South Pacific Regional Statement to the Third Meeting of the UNCED Preparatory Committee*.

Annex XI: South Pacific Regional Statement to the Third Meeting of the UNCED Preparatory Committee

The members of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) welcome the opportunity provided by the UNCED and the work of the Preparatory Committee to contribute to global understanding and achievement of ecologically sustainable development.

As part of their contribution, and pursuant to Paragraph 13 of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 44/228, the SPREP members have undertaken regional preparations for UNCED, including a regional intergovernmental meeting at Ministerial level and the preparation of a regional report, to develop their views and perspectives on the issues on the Prepcom agenda.

The unique environment and cultural resources of the Pacific island countries have been noted at earlier meetings of the Preparatory Committee. This Statement elaborates on our earlier contributions to Prepcom and will be further elaborated in our individual National Reports, and in a Regional Report to be presented to the fourth meeting of the Preparatory Committee.

This Statement provides the SPREP Regional perspective on what are, for us, the key issues under consideration.

As a region we can be characterised as islands and groups of islands sharing a common thread of evolutionary and human history. Many of us occupy some of the smallest habitable land masses on earth. As islands we share a unique vulnerability to natural and human-induced perturbations of both the local and global environments. We are also bound by our dependence on the physical characteristics and biological resources of the sea and the land and by our common reliance on local, and mostly vulnerable, supplies of freshwater.

As islands, mostly isolated from each other, by hundreds if not thousands of kilometres, our people have developed unique cultures and attitudes of self reliance. Our diversity as a region is a source of strength, but like all islands we are vulnerable to environmental changes which can have catastrophic effects. The recent human history of the South Pacific contains examples of entire islands rendered uninhabitable by human environmental destruction. Unsustainable development threatens not only the livelihoods of island people but also the islands themselves and the cultures they nourish.

These considerations naturally draw us together to seek international action on global environment issues which threaten countries in our region. Climate Change, potential sea level rise and climatic disruption are issues of grave concern to the region. Similarly, our reliance on the biological resources of our region is threatened by the patterns of large scale exploitation of marine and terrestrial living resources. Concern to conserve our wealth of species and ecosystems underlies our interest in negotiations towards a global convention on the protection of Biological Diversity.

Our drive towards economic self-reliance is central to social and economic development of the region. However, many countries are already dependent on development assistance and we recognise that achieving our goal of a sustainable Pacific will require the ongoing assistance of the international community.

The following sections present our views and needs, focusing on international actions required.

1. Oceans

1.1 The Pacific is the world's largest ocean, covering one-third of the planet's surface. The health of the marine environment and its resources are integral to the very existence of Pacific communities.

1.2 To this end, it is essential to:

1.2.1 recognise and respect the absolute dependence of Pacific Island countries on the ocean for their very existence;

1.2.2 cease unsustainable fishing practices, particularly driftnet fishing

1.2.3 prohibit the dumping of toxic, hazardous and nuclear substances in the Pacific;

1.2.4 prevent, reduce and control pollution which might result from nuclear testing, and from importing, transporting and storing or destroying toxic and hazardous wastes and weapons;

1.2.5 implement and endorse existing conventions covering marine pollution, international shipping and fisheries conservation and management;

1.2.6 recognise the environmental and social impacts of industrial scale fisheries and destructive fisheries practices on local coastal communities and fisheries activities;

1.2.7 use management systems based on ecosystems, rather than single species approaches;

1.2.8 assist Pacific island countries to prevent, minimise and control land-based sources of marine pollution;

1.2.9 recognise the role of the ocean as a carbon sink;

1.2.10 support efforts at international and regional levels towards management of high seas fisheries.

1.3 SPREP members are committed to strengthening national and regional capabilities to plan and manage ocean issues through:

1.3.1 the implementation of the 1991-1995 SPREP Action Plan;

1.3.2 the development of National Environmental Management Strategies in SPREP members;

1.3.3 marine pollution monitoring and control (SPREP-POL) and oil pollution contingency planning at national and regional levels;

- 1.3.4 coastal management planning projects (marine park development and resource inventories) and the development of appropriate EIA procedures and capabilities;
- 1.3.5 completing ratification of, and implementing the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific (SPREP Convention) and related protocols.

2. Land Resources

2.1 The South Pacific is a region of thousands of islands, representing less than 0.4 percent of the world's land resources, spread over one tenth of the world's surface. For most South Pacific societies, land resources are the basis for the majority of subsistence and commercial production. High population growth rates and the displacement of traditional land management systems by introduced agriculture, mining and forestry development have placed serious stress on land resources and communities which depend on them. Such trends are particularly serious on smaller islands, especially atolls, with limited land areas, poor soils and limited mineral and other resources. Because land based activities also directly affect coastal and marine ecosystems, the promotion of environmentally sustainable land use practices must be seen as integral to sustainable coastal and marine resource development.

2.2 It is essential to:

- 2.2.1 recognise the integral relationship between land, freshwater and marine resources in the Pacific region;
- 2.2.2 take into account the impacts of land development and resource extraction projects on other resource users and environments;
- 2.2.3 recognise the value and role of forests as carbon sinks and in ameliorating the impacts of climate change;
- 2.2.4 promote sustainable agricultural and forestry practices. Existing programmes should be changed to ensure they are environmentally sound;
- 2.2.5 recognise and respect the rights of traditional land owners and users;
- 2.2.6 adhere to and further develop codes of conduct for transnational corporations operating in the region;
- 2.2.7 recognise the impact of unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in industrialised countries;
- 2.2.8 ensure the proper management of mining so as to minimise the environmental impacts and maximise the local social and economic benefits;
- 2.2.9 recognise the critical contribution of subsistence agriculture to the real incomes and quality of life of many South Pacific communities, and its role in providing a basis for self reliance;

2.2.10 recognise the need for development projects, including tourism and industry, to be undertaken in a manner considering proper environmental controls.

2.3 SPREP member countries are committed to strengthening national and regional capabilities to plan and manage land resources through:

2.3.1 the implementation of the 1991-1995 SPREP Action Plan;

2.3.2 the development of appropriate EIA procedures and capabilities;

3. Freshwater

3.1 Water is critical to ecologically sustainable development, and freshwater resources are a major source of subsistence and cash incomes for many communities. Moreover some small islands have no surface water and extremely limited and fragile groundwater resources which, along with rainwater, are critical to sustainable settlement. Many are totally dependent on local resources with no options for importing water. These water resources are vulnerable to pollution, overuse and salinisation due to increasing population, modern development and urbanisation and changes in climatic patterns due to global climate change.

3.2 It is essential to:

3.2.1 recognise the constraints placed on development by limited freshwater resources and the vulnerability of such resources to contamination;

3.2.2 supply appropriate technology for reticulation and conservation of fresh water;

3.2.3 assist in development and conservation of the resource, including groundwater and surface water;

3.2.4 take account of South Pacific concerns in the design and maintenance of international water programmes;

3.3 SPREP members are committed to strengthening national and regional capabilities to manage and protect freshwater resources through:

3.3.1 the implementation of the 1991-1995 SPREP Action Plan;

3.3.2 the development of appropriate EIA procedures and capabilities;

3.3.3 pollution prevention and management programmes.

4. Biological Diversity

4.1 The Pacific region is one of the world's centres of biological diversity. The western Pacific has the highest marine diversity in the world. Up to 3000 different species may be found on a single reef. The many thousands of islands are surrounded by a rich complex of coastal ecosystems including mangroves, seagrass beds and estuarine lagoons. The evolution of island biogeography has led to a high endemism in terrestrial species, particularly on larger islands which can also have high biological diversity. Although some of the smaller islands have extremely low diversity and little or no endemism, they nevertheless have a high rate of species endangerment. Islands, in addition, are particularly vulnerable to the impact of introduced species. The maintenance of the region's biological diversity is critically important to ecologically sustainable development throughout the region and the world.

4.2 It is essential to:

- 4.2.1 recognise the fundamental importance of their biological resources to the peoples of the South Pacific;
- 4.2.2 conclude a comprehensive biological diversity convention, taking into account the unique characteristics and needs of the Pacific region;
- 4.2.3 provide funding and technical assistance to Pacific island countries to meet provisions under existing international agreements, e.g., CITES;
- 4.2.4 assist Pacific island countries to identify and assess their biological resources;
- 4.2.5 recognise that the maintenance of biological diversity is important not only in undisturbed terrestrial and marine ecosystems, but also in agricultural and urban areas;
- 4.2.6 assist the region to develop agricultural, forestry and fishing practices which encourage the maintenance of the region's biological diversity;

4.3 SPREP members are committed to strengthening national and regional capabilities to plan and manage these issues by:

- 4.3.1 the development of an *Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific*;
- 4.3.2 implementation of the 1991-1995 SPREP Action Plan in accordance with the Action Strategy above;
- 4.3.3 completing ratification of, and implementing, the *Convention on the Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific (Apia Convention)* and the *Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific (SPREP Convention)* which are now in force;
- 4.3.4 regional programmes for the conservation of marine turtles, avifauna and marine mammals;

- 4.3.5 implementing an umbrella biological diversity programme to provide the means to implement the Action Strategy.

5. Climate Change

5.1 The islands of the South Pacific are especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change and potential sea level rise, a problem to which the region's contribution has been negligible. This vulnerability is a result of the following characteristics:

- 5.1.1 low-lying islands and atolls;
- 5.1.2 concentration of populations, development and infrastructure on the coastal zones of larger, higher islands;
- 5.1.3 historic and current high risk to extreme natural events (e.g. cyclones, droughts, other climatic variations, earthquakes and tectonic movements);
- 5.1.4 dependence on limited areas of arable soil for agriculture production;
- 5.1.5 dependence on coastal marine resources;
- 5.1.6 limited potable surface and groundwater resources.

5.2 SPREP members call for immediate action to reduce significantly greenhouse gas emissions and to conclude urgently an effective Convention on Climate Change.

5.3 It is essential to:

- 5.3.1 ensure that Pacific island countries do not bear disproportionate costs associated with global climate change;
- 5.3.2 provide funding and technical assistance for the implementation of measures that will enable island countries of the Pacific Region to cope with sea-level rise and changes in climate patterns which will have detrimental effects on agriculture, water quality, health, marine and terrestrial living resources;
- 5.3.3 provide financial assistance to enable Pacific island countries to participate in international discussions on climate change and response options;
- 5.3.4 assist with monitoring climate change and sea-level rise;
- 5.3.5 promote activities related to better scientific understanding of the issues, including the Tropical Ocean and Global Atmosphere - Coupled Ocean Atmosphere Response Experiment (TOGA-COARE) of the World Climate Research Programme;
- 5.3.6 promote appropriate energy efficient technologies;

- 5.3.7 provide assistance in designing rational response strategies to address environmental, social and economic impacts;
- 5.4 SPREP members are prepared to make a contribution to international efforts to limit the effects of climate change by:
 - 5.4.1 controlling emissions of greenhouse gases;
 - 5.4.2 managing their national resource base on a sustainable basis;
 - 5.4.3 cooperating in international efforts to monitor climate change in the Pacific; and,
 - 5.4.4 implementing development strategies and policies which take into consideration climate change factors.

6. Wastes, Toxic and Hazardous Substances

- 6.1 The physiographic characteristics of Pacific Islands, the oceanic nature of their location, and dependence on a marine and limited terrestrial resource base, including limited availability of freshwater, makes them highly vulnerable to contamination by toxic and hazardous wastes and chemicals, and radioactive materials. The history of waste disposal in the region has led to a growing appreciation of the dangers this poses to the Pacific environment and its communities. SPREP members reject the perception that the region should continue to be used as a dumping ground for such materials. This position is reinforced by the acknowledged past and current impacts on the health and welfare of our island peoples resulting from such action by countries and corporations from outside the region.
- 6.2 It is essential to:
 - 6.2.1 prevent, reduce and control pollution which might result from nuclear testing and from importing, transporting, storing and disposal of toxic and hazardous wastes and weapons and implement the relevant international conventions;
 - 6.2.2 cooperate in the implementation of the prior consent procedure for the export of toxic chemical substances to the region as provided for in the London Guidelines;
 - 6.2.3 provide technical, legal and administrative resources for the adoption of clean production technologies, the prevention of pollution and management of wastes;
 - 6.2.4 generate and disseminate information on the sources, levels, amounts, kinds, trends and effects of pollution and waste within the Pacific Region; and,
 - 6.2.5 strengthen the capabilities of national and regional institutions to carry out pollution monitoring and research and to formulate and apply pollution prevention, control and abatement measures;
 - 6.2.6 address the consequences of past activities which have generated toxic and hazardous waste products that have damaged the health and livelihood of island peoples.

6.3 SPREP members are committed to strengthening national and regional capabilities to plan and manage these issues through the following measures:

- 6.3.1 developing and implementing appropriate legislative and administrative measures for the prevention, control and monitoring of pollution and management of wastes at national and regional levels;
- 6.3.2 cooperating on a regional basis for the prevention, control and monitoring of pollution and hazardous wastes; in particular to ensure that the *Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region* (the SPREP Convention), including its Protocols on dumping and pollution emergencies, are ratified and implemented by respective members;
- 6.3.3 minimising the amount of waste produced as a consequence of increased industrialisation by members of the region, and maximising recycling of such wastes; and,
- 6.3.4 cooperating in international efforts to generate and disseminate information on the sources, levels, amounts, kind, trends and effects of pollution and waste within the region.

7. Cross Sectoral Issues

7.1 Financial Resources

Most countries in the region are highly dependent on development assistance. While achieving a high level of economic independence and growth is the objective of all countries, the achievement of ecologically sustainable development will require both new types of international funding and adjustment of national development policies. This assistance and these policies must be based on a clearly defined set of individual island needs.

SPREP members seek from the international community a recognition that all development assistance, whether new or ongoing, should be directed towards ecologically sustainable forms of development. Development assistance should also provide for the protection and restoration of sensitive or threatened environments. This could be achieved in part by donor governments applying environmental guidelines to assistance projects which are consistent with their own national environmental guidelines.

The region also urges greater coordination between donors and implementing agencies in seeking to meet priority regional needs.

One specific funding requirement which needs to be addressed by UNCED is the provision of technical assistance to developing countries of the region, on request, to enable them to accede to and implement existing international environment agreements.

The South Pacific region through SPREP is actively seeking to identify and coordinate new and additional financial resources for the implementation of ecologically sustainable development.

7.2 *Transfer of Technology*

The Pacific island countries are not well endowed with the technical infrastructure necessary to promote and achieve the effective transfer of new or novel technologies. Even in established technologies, many countries lack the necessary capabilities to provide on going maintenance and repair. In many cases, the major requirement for technology in the South Pacific is in the area of management and technical expertise relevant to the ecologically sustainable development of natural resources. Other specific areas of need for environmentally sound technologies include combating pollution, coastal engineering, freshwater reticulation and quality control and energy production.

The Pacific island countries require international assistance in building local capacity to assess, apply, adapt, absorb and maintain environmentally sound and appropriate technologies.

The Pacific island countries would also welcome increased technical cooperation with developed countries as well as with developing countries, particularly in the fields of traditional technologies and on their experiences in adapting and adopting new forms of environmentally sound technology.

The SPREP members are actively engaged in the development of local education and training institutions which can form the basis of increased international efforts in the field of technology transfer.

7.3 *Institutions and Legal Issues*

The legal and institutional framework for the achievement of ecologically sustainable development in the Pacific island countries largely exists in the current multilateral and regional conventions and organisations. In particular the framework for environmental protection at the regional level exists in the form of the SPREP and Apia Conventions and in the SPREP Secretariat. SPREP members see regional cooperation as crucial for addressing environmental concerns in the South Pacific and have accordingly taken steps to enhance the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme and give it appropriate status.

The likelihood of successful ecologically sustainable development would be significantly enhanced by improved coordination among UN agencies and NGOs dealing with the coastal and marine environment. This should include improved working relationships among UNEP, Unesco, the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC), IMO, FAO, IAEA, and the UN Law of the Sea Secretariat. This coordination should be reflected on a regional level and include regional Pacific organisations.

7.4 *Energy*

Because of the absence of proven fossil fuel reserves in all Pacific island countries, except Papua New Guinea, increasing dependency on imported fossil fuel is seen as a major constraint to ecologically sustainable development. The region's dispersed population and the long distances between major population centres make efficient energy production and distribution a fundamental problem for the region. The development of renewable energy alternatives and energy conservation is therefore a priority.

The link between existing forms of energy production, current world consumption levels and the onset of climate change is not lost on the countries of the South Pacific. Our greatest need is for economically sustainable, clean, renewable, moderate scale energy production technology to initially complement, and eventually replace, existing energy sources.

We recognise that a coordinated global effort to develop and disseminate the appropriate technology is an urgent need, not just for the Pacific, but for all developing countries. Combined with a new approach to energy planning, demand management and pricing, the issue of new energy technologies is one of the most fundamental issues of ecologically sustainable development.

7.5 Population and Environmental Degradation

The Pacific island countries have a culturally diverse and highly dispersed population. Population problems are generally highly localised and often associated with urbanisation and growth in established centres. In some countries the local population is supplemented with large numbers of tourists, placing additional pressure on local infrastructure and the environment. Population density and population growth rates in some countries of the region are as high as those anywhere in the world. Other countries are suffering from a different problem: substantial loss of population through emigration to metropolitan centres creating severe human resource shortages.

The Pacific island countries look to the international community to continue to provide guidance and programmes in the area of population planning.

For their own part the SPREP members have adopted, as part of the SPREP Action Plan 1991-95, a commitment to providing information and access to international population programs for those Pacific countries which are suffering the adverse effects of population pressure.

7.6 Traditional Practices

Many traditional Pacific island resource management practices were relatively sustainable. They were based on renewable inputs, the maintenance of biological diversity, were non-polluting and did not require imported energy inputs. Despite widespread monetisation of Pacific island economies, these systems still provide the bulk of the real income of most rural, and a significant proportion of urban, communities. In short, there exist alongside one another, communities of almost entirely monetised and those which still enjoy a high degree of subsistence affluence obtained from traditional resource management systems.

The international community, and in particular the developed countries and transnational corporations which have dealings with the region, need to recognise that these two cultures, a western style economy and a traditional society, exist side by side, and in dynamic tension, in the Pacific island countries.

Sensitivity is required to ensure that developments imposed or fostered from outside the region meet the needs take account of South Pacific cultures.

Developments which are compatible with traditional practice and knowledge are, in the Pacific, more likely to be sustainable than those which take a narrow economic, albeit environmentally sensitive, approach.

7.7 Poverty

The link between poverty and the environment is being addressed here for the first time at a regional level. Poverty is an emerging issue in a number of Pacific island countries but needs to be understood and addressed against the background of traditional lifestyles and economic change. While conventional economic and social indicators demonstrate that a significant percentage of Pacific island populations are at poverty level, the true picture is clouded by the fact that a high proportion of people still live subsistence lifestyles. For many of our people it is the health and general social indicators of poverty which tell the real story, not the purely economic indicators. As has already been stated many communities still enjoy a high degree of subsistence affluence obtained from traditional resource management systems.

Indeed, it appears that urbanisation and the shift to a monetary economy are part of the problem. Threats to viable subsistence lifestyles, such as the rapid depletion of natural resources through over-exploitation, are apparent in many countries. This is contributing to the emergence of poverty in our region. International action to address the linkage between poverty and environmental degradation must address the impact of unsustainable economic development on traditional, subsistence cultures.

The issue of equity, both within and between generations, is central to the environment and development debate for SPREP members. Any set of general principles on ecologically sustainable development must contain an expression of this concept.

7.8 Environmental Health

Small isolated communities are particularly vulnerable to the rapid spread of infection and to the adverse effects of local environmental degradation. In the Pacific island countries, environmental health problems are strongly linked to the supply and quality of freshwater and to the introduction of toxins into the general environment. High incidences of nutritional disorders and nutrition-related non-communicable diseases, due to the deterioration of traditional wildfood and agricultural systems is also seen as a major environmental health issue.

SPREP members stress that the international community has an obligation to developing countries of the region in relation to the control of hazardous substances. It must ensure that those who would propose to introduce or produce in the region substances potentially damaging to human health, provide to the people and governments of the region sufficient information on those activities so that informed decisions can be made. Further, proponents of potentially hazardous activities must accept an obligation to eliminate any potentially negative effects on the people of the region and accept liability for unforeseen negative effects which might occur.

SPREP members emphasise that the region is neither a dumping nor testing ground for toxic and hazardous substances nor for outmoded technologies which generate such substances.

SPREP members also emphasise that the international community must support development which promotes traditional food system management and maintenance and minimises the import and promotion of nutritionally inferior foods, the increased consumption of which appears to be the main causal factor in nutrition related poor health.

7.9 Education and Public Awareness

The need for education on environmental issues in order to raise public awareness and motivation is common to all Pacific island countries. Education also has an important role in building upon the skills of indigenous people in the area of environmental and natural resource management. All countries of the region have a need for more education about environmental issues, both at a grassroots level and through the formal education system. The training of technicians, scientists and decision-makers to enable them to deal with the issues of ecologically sustainable development is also an important educational requirement.

The 1991-1995 SPREP Action Plan emphasises the importance of, and need for, access to environmental information for all groups, in particular women and youth. This will enhance the management of resources and environment within the region.

Pacific island countries need the support of the international community, particularly in these areas of education and public awareness.

It is also essential that the international community is made aware of the unique perspectives and problems of the Pacific island countries. This is seen as an integral part of the process towards achieving sustainable development for the people of the South Pacific.

Annex XII: List of Meeting Documentation

Information Papers

1. Information Paper on the SPREP/GEMS/UNITAR/ADB Project to Strengthen Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Data Capabilities in the South Pacific
2. The Role of the Apia Convention in the Regional Environmental Framework

Working Papers

- WP.1 Report of the Legal Working Group
Option 1 - Agreement establishing the SPREP
Option 2 - Draft Resolution of the SPREP
- WP.2 Report of the Action Plan Working Group
- WP.3 Report of the Finance Working Group
- WP.4 Office Space Alternatives - Financial Evaluation
Also submitted to CRGA14.WP25
- WP.5 Draft SPREP Corporate Plan
- WP.6 SPREP Language Services
- WP.7 Widening SPREP's Financial Base
- WP.8 IGM - Draft Rules of Procedure
- WP.9 Draft Financial Regulations
- WP.10 Regional Preparations for UNCED
- WP.11 Director's Annual Report 1990-91
- WP.12 Budget Estimates for the 1991-92 Biennium
- WP.13 Draft Terms of Reference for the Director of SPREP
- WP.14 SPREP Work Programme Progress Report
- WP.15 Draft Ministerial Declaration
- WP.16 Criteria to be used for Assessing Projects
- WP.17 Discussion Paper on Legal Options

WP.18 SPREP Computer Services Manager

WP.19 Capacity of the South Pacific Commission to Meet SPREP Needs

WP.20 Temporary Premises Alternatives - Financial Evaluation

WP.21 Western Samoa's Offer to Host SPREP