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FORUM
SECRETARIAT

South Pacific Regional Environment Programme



REPORT OF THE
SECOND MEETING OF THE SPREP STEERING COMMITTEE

Port Vila, Vanuatu, 13-14 September 1989

South Pacific Commission
Noumea, New Caledonia
September 1989

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42. The United States observer noted the concern of his government about the withdrawal by UNEP from the SPREP Coordinating Group at the last Intergovernmental Meeting, and expressed the view that SPREP continue to be affiliated with UNEP's Regional Seas Programme. SPREP was initiated as part of the Regional Seas Programme, and, in the U.S. view, the continued involvement of UNEP is essential to the achievement of SPREP's objectives. The United States expressed the hope that the Steering Committee would recommend that the next South Pacific Conference clarify the relationship of SPREP and UNEP, and communicate the desire of the governments of the region that SPREP continue to be a joint programme and a part of the Regional Seas Programme.

43. The delegate of Australia/New Zealand expressed sympathy with the United States' view, also noting the importance of the SPC and hoped SPREP would be able to benefit fully from the experience and expertise of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme.

44. Further discussion ensued regarding the status of SPREP in relation to members of the former Coordinating Group. The SPREP Co-ordinator, on behalf of the SPC, stated that the SPC had already written to UNEP advising that it still considers SPREP a joint programme with UNEP, ESCAP and the Forum Secretariat.

45. The meeting agreed that a letter, under the signature of the Chairperson of the Steering Committee, be sent to UNEP expressing the desire of the governments of the region to work in close partnership with UNEP and that SPREP would continue to operate as a component of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme.

Agenda Item 8 - Date and Venue for Next Meeting.

46. was agreed that the next Steering Committee Meeting be held in Vanuatu in September 1989 to coincide with the Fourth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas.

Agenda Item 9 - Adoption of Meeting Report.

47. Meeting adopted the report.

Agenda Item 10 - Closing of Meeting.

48. The meeting was closed amid expressions of thanks to delegates; the Chairperson; the SPC, as host, and the SPREP Secretariat for the valuable and constructive work undertaken by this, the first of SPREP's Steering Committee Meetings.

ANNEX 1

SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

**FIRST MEETING OF THE SPREP STEERING COMMITTEE
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 29-31 March 1989)**

A G E N D A

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Chairperson
3. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda
4. The Role and Functions of the Committee
5. Decisions by the Twenty-eighth South Pacific Conference on Recommendations from the Second Intergovernmental Meeting on the SPREP Work Programme 1989-90.
6. Major Programme Activities Planned for 1989
7. SPREP Financial Report for 1988
8. Date and Venue for Next Meeting
9. Adoption of Meeting Report
10. Closing of the Meeting

SPREP/Steering Committee I/Report

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SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

SECOND MEETING OF THE SPREP STEERING COMMITTEE

(Port Vila, Vanuatu, 13-14 September 1989)

REPORT

SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

SECOND MEETING OF THE SPREP STEERING COMMITTEE

(Port Vila, Vanuatu, 13-14 September 1989)

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INTRODUCTION

1. At the first meeting of the SPREP Steering Committee held in Noumea, New Caledonia, 29-31 March 1989 it was agreed that the second Steering Committee meeting should be held in Vila, Vanuatu in September 1989 to coincide with the Fourth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. The objectives of the Steering Committee meeting were to provide guidance to SPREP in the continuing implementation of its 1989-90 Work Programme; to examine the future for SPREP; and to develop a regional viewpoint on the issue of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise for presentation by the South Pacific delegation to the forthcoming Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) meeting in Geneva, 2-6 October 1989.

AGENDA ITEM 1 - OPENING OF THE MEETING

2. In the absence of the Steering Committee Chairperson, Dr. Eliuel Pretrick from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Vice-Chairperson and representative of New Zealand/Australia, Dr Wren Green, acted in this capacity.

3. Under the Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee, sub-group representation is rotated between countries in alphabetical order, each sub-group representative participating in that role for the two-year period between Intergovernmental Meetings. However, where a country is alphabetically due to participate it is possible, in consultation with other members of the sub-group, to renounce this participation in favour of another country. Thus, New Zealand represented the Australia/New Zealand sub-group; the United Kingdom represented the France/United Kingdom/United States of America sub-group; Palau represented the Micronesian sub-group; Vanuatu represented the Melanesian sub-group and American Samoa represented the Polynesian sub-group, replaced by Tonga part way through the meeting. A participant's list appears as Annex 2.

4. A message from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was conveyed to the meeting expressing appreciation of the decision of the First Steering Committee Meeting to recognise SPREP as a joint programme with UNEP, sponsored by UNEP, as the South Pacific component of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme. Due to a previous commitment, the UNEP representative regretted he was unable to attend but requested that the meeting be advised of their Governing Council's decision to assist SPREP with US\$ 300,000 in the forthcoming biennium, 1990-91.

5. The observer from France advised the meeting that the Prime Minister had recently announced his country's intention to commence procedures towards ratification of the 'SPREP' Convention.

6. The agenda was adopted with two modifications; i) to include an additional item for discussion on the role of Non-Government Organisations (NGO's) and their relationship to the Steering Committee and ii) inclusion of discussion of the Montreal Protocol to follow the related agenda item on Climate Change and Sea Level Rise.

7. It was agreed that in discussions of the item on climate change, full participatory status be accorded to 'observers' to assist in the development of a South Pacific region-wide viewpoint for presentation to the next meeting of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to be held in Geneva 2-6 October 1989. The revised agenda appears as Annex 1. A full list of working papers appears as Annex 4.

AGENDA ITEM 2 - THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS IN RELATION TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE.

8. Non-Government Organisation representatives to the Fourth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas submitted a resolution inviting the Steering Committee to consider how a representative of the NGO's could most usefully be associated with its work.

9. Considerable discussion ensued relating to possible NGO representation in Steering Committee meetings and whether or not such participation should have 'advisory' or 'observer' status, reference being made to the 'advisory' role accorded the Association of South Pacific Environmental Institutions (ASPEI).

10. Concern was expressed over whether one voice could represent the various NGO positions. Further, it was pointed out that the NGO's present at the Fourth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas who had developed the resolution, represented only one sector of NGO's and one part of the SPREP's Work Programme.

11. The meeting, whilst recognising the importance of NGO's working co-operatively with SPREP, agreed that determination of their participation in Steering Committee meetings should be a matter for the next Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM). It was agreed that the SPREP Secretariat should prepare a working paper to the IGM outlining details of the envisaged role of NGO Steering Committee participation and considering possible 'pros' and 'cons' of such involvement.

AGENDA ITEM 3 - CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE
AGENDA ITEM 4 - MONTREAL PROTOCOL

(These 2 Agenda items were discussed together with later reference also made to the Montreal Protocol under Agenda Item 12 - Other Business).

12. The SPREP Co-ordinator referred delegates to Working Paper 6, the intention of which was to provide a brief for the Steering Committee regarding decisions taken by the Intergovernmental Meeting on Climatic Change and Sea Level Rise in the South Pacific (Majuro, Marshall Islands 17-20 July 1989). At the Majuro meeting delegates had decided that in addition to the nomination of New Zealand already endorsed by the South Pacific Forum, a strengthened Pacific "voice" should be present at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to be held in Geneva, 2-6 October 1989. Consequently delegates to the Majuro meeting agreed that representatives of the governments of the Marshall Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu should also attend the IPCC meeting with New Zealand as the leader of their delegation.

13. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) pledged financial support to the 3 Pacific Island participants to attend the IPCC provided they were representing a "regional viewpoint" and the Second Steering Committee Meeting provided a practical opportunity for the development of such a viewpoint.

14. To assist in the development of this regional viewpoint, two working papers were presented to the Steering Committee; a first by the representative of the Association of South Pacific Environmental Institutions (ASPEI) based on the work of the ASPEI regional task team on climate change and on the SPC/UNEP/ASPEI Majuro meeting, and the second by a New Zealand advisor on climate change. Both of these presentations explained the rationale for adopting climate change as an issue of concern to the region and both gave detailed information on which delegates could base an informed region-wide view.

15. Participants were referred to a cabled statement from the government of Tuvalu expressing that country's growing concern over the climate change and sea level rise issue and referring to their role as victims of its impact. Tuvalu stated that it strongly supported furtherance of scientific research into monitoring and possible remedial measures.
16. The representative of Tokelau read a statement from his government giving an impassioned plea for help to be given to low lying atolls and for consideration of the importance of the human dimension of the issue.
17. The representative of the Cook Islands suggested that the "Statement by the SPC/UNEP/ASPEI Intergovernmental Meeting on Climatic Change and Sea Level Rise in the South Pacific" developed at Majuro be incorporated into the regional viewpoint.
18. In order to develop a strong, unified statement incorporating both the Statement already developed at Majuro and the 'heartfelt' concerns and pleas of low-lying Pacific island countries, the Steering Committee established a working group made up of representatives of Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Cook Islands, Guam, New Zealand, ASPEI and the SPREP Secretariat specifically to address the issue.
19. The working group developed, and the Steering Committee approved, the attached Statement by the South Pacific delegation for presentation to the Response Strategies Working Group (RSWG) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Geneva, 2-6 October, 1989. (Annex 3).
20. The working group's approach involved agreement to submit the 'Majuro Statement' with a short preamble to put the development of this regional view into perspective. This is followed by a Pacific Island statement which will be read out by one delegate in the early stages of the IPCC to give a clear indication of the region's concerns. The early presentation of this statement to the Geneva meeting was important, in order to ensure that the Pacific Island view received attention from the IPCC meeting's outset. A written version of this statement will also be distributed at the IPCC. An additional part of the regional view is the presentation of papers developed in line with the Response Strategies Working Group's draft agenda.
21. With reference to the report of the Majuro meeting, the Secretariat advised that it was awaiting clearance from the Chairman of that meeting before proceeding with publication. Hopefully this would soon be received and publication completed in time for the South Pacific delegation to the IPCC to take it with them to Geneva in October.

22. Faxed messages, relating to IPCC attendance, were received from the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and conveyed to the Steering Committee meeting. The original representative proposed by their government, Mr. Jiba Kabua, who was unfortunately now unable to attend, would be replaced by Ambassador Wilfred Kendall. The South Pacific Island delegation to the IPCC Geneva meeting would now comprise the following:

Mr Sione Tongilava of Tonga
Mr Ernest Bani of the Republic of Vanuatu
Mr Wilfred Kendall, Marshall Islands, Ambassador to USA

23. Considerable discussion ensued relating to the composition of the South Pacific delegation and over how best to ensure that the special concerns and South Pacific island "voice" could be heard at this important meeting. This discussion included consideration of a suggestion from the representative of Tonga relating to SPREP participation in the delegation, to which the SPREP Co-ordinator stated that time constraints on the Secretariat would unfortunately preclude their participation.

24. The New Zealand advisor on climatic change, assured the meeting that the New Zealand delegation to the IPCC would be willing to assist delegates from the region in ensuring that they are given the opportunity to express the region's concerns on this issue. Also, a report from the IPCC meeting will be produced by the New Zealand delegation and submitted to SPREP for regional distribution.

AGENDA ITEM 5 - IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1989-90 WORK PROGRAMME

25. The SPREP Co-ordinator introduced Working Paper 1 - Implementation of the 1989-90 Working Programme: A Progress Report outlining the progress in implementation of the one hundred and sixty (160) project proposals which were submitted to the Second Intergovernmental Meeting and adopted as SPREP's work programme for the 1989-90 biennium. Details of the six major programme elements, their mode of implementation and funding support were presented for discussion by the meeting.

26. The representative of New Zealand/Australia stated that, with the large number of project proposals and relatively limited funding support, the need existed for development of a system of ranking of project proposals and prioritisation. Australia considers SPREP/POL as a high priority, particularly since water quality is an important issue to the region and an area of work that could attract UNEP funding contingent upon regional support.

27. In response to a question from the representative of Polynesia, the SPREP Co-ordinator outlined possible funding sources, with specific reference to the strong indication of support from Japan and the plans for SPREP and CIDA to sign a Memorandum of Agreement in the near future. He referred participants again to the pledge by UNEP to support SPREP/POL and climate change projects.
28. The representative of New Zealand/Australia sought clarification on the fact that the Marine Turtle Project, which has been given indication of strong support at the Fourth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, did not feature highly in the existing work programme.
29. The SPREP Co-ordinator referred participants to the importance of the Steering Committee in guiding the Secretariat to make adjustments to its Work Programme in between IGM's in accordance with indications of re-prioritisation of projects. The Marine Turtle Project was one that received limited mention in the Work Programme but which had, since 1988, become of high priority to member governments.
30. In response to a question from the representative of Polynesia regarding addition of projects to the Work Programme when there already existed a number of activities requiring financial assistance, the SPREP Co-ordinator explained that the last IGM had recognised the migratory nature of marine turtles and had agreed that a regional turtle programme be developed.
31. The representative of Micronesia requested that the Palau Marine Turtle Hatchery Project, already in the SPREP Work Programme, be co-ordinated with the larger project proposal developed at the Fourth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas.
32. The representative of New Zealand/Australia congratulated the Secretariat on the work undertaken and referred specifically to the Protected Area work undertaken in the last year.
33. In response to a question from the representative of France/United Kingdom/United States of America relating to the fate of un-funded projects, the SPREP Co-ordinator explained that it is possible to defer some activities if funding is not forthcoming. Attempts have been made to encourage governments to prioritise projects, and it was hoped that member governments could themselves assist by trying to attract bi-lateral aid.

AGENDA ITEM 6 - INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT (6 months)
AGENDA ITEM 7 - REVISED BUDGET FOR 1989

(Both items discussed simultaneously)

34. The SPREP Co-ordinator introduced Working Paper 3 - Proposed Revised Budget for 1989 which incorporated the Income and Expenditure Statement for the six months ended June 1989. He drew participants' attention to the need to increase the budget by US\$ 204,400; to reflect savings and excess of income over budget totalling US\$ 99,900 for some programme activities; to reflect an overall need to raise a total of US\$ 104,500 (shortfall) to implement the 1989 Work Programme and to amend the 1989 Work Programme accordingly.
35. He reiterated a view expressed to previous meetings of the difficulties associated with the "voluntary" nature of country contributions. This source of funding is the one from which the day-to-day running costs of the Secretariat are covered and yet the level is not consistent. Some countries find difficulty in some years, often due to circumstances beyond their control, in meeting this "voluntary" payment.
36. The Secretariat appreciates recent increases to "voluntary contributions" by the governments of the United States of America and New Caledonia but referred to the fact that, although the suggested level had been increased in 1985, some countries were still paying at the 1983 level.
37. The observer from the Cook Islands stated that his government's contribution to SPREP was probably now being processed as their National Budget was only passed in last August.
38. The representative of New Zealand/Australia relayed a message to the meeting from the Australian Government's Department of Arts, Sports, Environment, Tourism and Territories (DASETT) in which it indicated that the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB) would look favourably on requests for extra-budgetary funding in this financial year of AIDAB.
39. The meeting approved the revised budget (see Annex 5) and agreed that, in order to assist the Secretariat in securing its "voluntary" country contributions, a polite reminder letter be sent to member governments who have not yet made their contribution, under the signature of the Acting Chairperson of the Steering Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 8 - PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1990

40. The SPREP Co-ordinator introduced Working Paper 4 on the Proposed Budget for 1990 stating that this should be seen as indicative only due to the uncertainty of SPREP receiving the full complement of "voluntary" country contributions in any one year and the difficulty in predicting precise funding from "other" sources. He indicated that this budget should be reviewed and revised in mid-1990.

41. A 34.5% increase over the revised 1989 budget was envisaged, being made up of a 5% increase expected in SPC salary adjustments in 1990 and an increase in costs of implementing work programme activities.

42. He requested participants to note that although the full complement of voluntary country contributions was US\$ 468,800, this amount was actually approximately 40 per cent more than the average usually received from member countries, hence there would be the need to raise an additional US\$ 187,520.

43. He suggested three options to raise the necessary funds to meet this shortfall; namely firm contributions by member countries, increased level of voluntary country contributions and an administrative fee on extra-budgetary funded projects. He called on participants to consider these and to suggest any other possible measures to meet this shortfall.

44. The representative of New Zealand/Australia suggested that the various work programme activities be packaged into regional projects as a means of attracting extra support, this view being built upon by other participants who suggested an assessment of projects to determine whether they could be proposed in a format suitable to agencies like the World Bank.

45. The representative of France/United Kingdom/United States of America, whilst recognising the importance of the wide range of work programme activities, reiterated his earlier suggestion of a less ambitious and more manageable programme concentrating on activities of countries. Following explanation from the Secretariat regarding the difficulties in prioritising projects and yet still maintaining a well-balanced programme, the representative suggested that this does imply a need for an increase in Secretariat staff numbers.

46. Reference was made by participants to possible approaches to the private sector, the Secretariat indicating that it had not yet done so but would be keen to learn more about such mechanisms. The Secretariat stated that it did recoup some of its publication costs through sale of material to recipients from outside the region. It was agreed to further investigate possible fundraising under the next agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 9 - FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

47. The SPREP Co-ordinator introduced Working Paper 5 outlining Fundraising Efforts by the Secretariat in attempting to raise the necessary financial support to implement the 160 projects currently on the work programme. Many of these projects, now grouped under six project areas in an attempt to more effectively package them for submission to the donor community, had also received considerable in-kind contributions from member governments themselves, from the regional institutions who collectively form the Association of South Pacific Environment Institutions (ASPEI) and from other organisations working in collaboration with SPREP. He requested participants to note these efforts and to consider additional means of possible support to the programme.

48. The representative of New Zealand/Australia congratulated the Secretariat on its fundraising efforts and referred to the number of organisations which were poised to make contributions to SPREP, some indications of which had been made to the preceding Fourth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas.

49. The recent message received from UNEP indicating its support for SPREP was reiterated and participants expressed their appreciation of this support.

50. Participants indicated they were encouraged by the information in Working Paper 5 regarding the proposed support from CIDA, Japan and AIDAB. They called upon the Acting Chairperson of the Steering Committee to write to UNDP (relating to Japanese funds being channelled through that organisation) and to AIDAB to lend additional emphasis to these moves to support SPREP financially.

51. The observer from the Forum Secretariat suggested that the South Pacific delegation to the IPCC may use the opportunity to seek financial support for activities associated with climate change and sea level rise. He further suggested that the Secretariat may wish to approach funding organisations of the Federal Republic of Germany who were increasingly showing interest in financial assistance to projects within the region.

52. The proposed budget was adopted as an indicative estimate of the financial requirement of the Programme for 1990 with recognition of the difficulties that could be experienced in raising sufficient funds. It was indicated that there would be a need to review and possibly revise this budget at the next Steering Committee Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 10 - WHAT FUTURE FOR SPREP

53. The SPREP Co-ordinator introduced to the meeting the very comprehensive Working Paper No. 7, What Future for the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme in which he outlined the Secretariat's viewpoint on the objectives, structure, and operation of the Programme. Details included 1) the mission and approach of SPREP; 2) the structure of SPREP; 3) the functions and Organisations of SPREP; and 4) its Image and Outreach.

54. The paper opened for discussion the important and critical consideration of the future identity and status for SPREP, noting that if the programme was to remain effective in its response to the needs of its membership, there would have to be an expansion of the SPREP Secretariat. However an expanded Secretariat would require additional space to accommodate it within the SPC and, more importantly, increased financial contributions from the membership to support its operation.

55. This raised the issue of whether or not SPREP should be relocated and be restructured as an independent organisation or as an agency such as the Forum Fisheries Agency or CCOP/SOPAC.

56. The SPREP Co-ordinator stated that it was highly desirable that, should SPREP become independent, it continue to have access to the South Pacific Forum and the South Pacific Conference. Once the SPREP Convention is in force the Meeting of the Parties should be the ultimate sovereign body, with the Steering Committee continuing to provide guidance to the Programme in the interim period between the Meetings of the Parties.

57. The representative of Polynesia (Tonga) made a strong statement relating to this important issue supporting the view that SPREP had evolved to the point where, to continue to effectively serve the interests of the South Pacific, it should become independent. This view was supported by the representatives of Melanesia and Micronesia.

58. The observer from the United States stated that his government regarded it as important that SPREP continue to be guided by member governments and suggested the major issue of financial assistance be pursued at the next Intergovernmental Meeting.

59. The representative of Melanesia, in supporting an independent role for SPREP, suggested that such a role would probably strengthen SPREP's ability to attract funding sources otherwise not available to SPREP in its existing structure.

60. The ASPEI advisor stated that the concept paper developed by the Secretariat was good but required further expansion in the following areas:

- 1) The nature of the technical/ professional staff expansions,
- 2) the need to explore the views of UNEP and other organisations,
- 3) the future relationship of SPREP to the scientific and technical institutions such as ASPEI,
- 4) to whom SPREP would be responsible, and
- 5) the future relationship to the South Pacific Commission.

The ASPEI advisor suggested these issues be addressed in an expanded paper to the next Intergovernmental Meeting.

61. The representative of Micronesia supported this view and suggested SPREP start to move towards developing this position.

62. The SPREP Co-ordinator agreed with the ASPEI advisor that the paper was presented at this time as a means of 'testing the waters' and stated that what was envisaged was a continuation of the present relationship with UNEP and other founding members of SPREP and that there would be no change in the current effective working relationship with ASPEI, the proposed increase in SPREP staff having no effect on that partnership. He further recognised the need to seek views of other agencies which should be included in an expanded paper.

63. The representative of the United Kingdom/USA/France also regarded the paper as one for 'testing the waters' and called upon the Secretariat to encourage input from donor agencies. He sought clarification on the selection procedure that would be undertaken in replacement of the SPREP Co-ordinator and on possible processes to encourage member governments to pay their contributions.

64. The Chairman of the Steering Committee referred delegates to the proposed 'reminder' letter that delegates had agreed be sent under the signature of the Acting Chairman of the Steering Committee to those countries with outstanding contributions.
65. The South Pacific Commission advisor outlined the recruitment procedure that would normally be used to select a successor to the SPREP Co-ordinator. The South Pacific Commission Management Committee, made up of the Secretary-General, the Director of Programmes and the Deputy Director of Programmes makes such a selection, the announcement of the vacancy having already been widely distributed to member governments who had, in turn, been requested to further advertise this position.
66. The representative of New Zealand/Australia was sympathetic to the goal of independence for SPREP in the longer term, but noted that this issue had not been discussed with Australia and that the issue needed wider discussion at the Intergovernmental Meeting level.
67. The observer from France recognised the importance of the Secretariat's Working Paper, regarding the discussion as crucial for the future of the Programme but questioned whether the Steering Committee was empowered to make decisions on this matter.
68. The South Pacific Commission advisor fully endorsed the Secretariat's paper, referring to its importance in developing a long-term structure for SPREP and its work in environmental protection of the South Pacific islands. He suggested that a constructive way to proceed would be to refer this matter for discussion by the next Intergovernmental Meeting.
69. The SPREP Co-ordinator brought to the Committee's attention the point that, prior to the Intergovernmental Meeting, there would be another Steering Committee meeting at which an expanded paper could be presented.
70. The meeting agreed that the Secretariat should further develop its paper for presentation to the next Steering Committee meeting (March 1990) before presentation to the next Intergovernmental Meeting (September 1990).

AGENDA ITEM 11 - DATE AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

71. The SPREP Co-ordinator advised the meeting of the Secretariat's proposed major meeting plans for 1990 commencing with the Fifth Consultative Meeting of Research and Training Institutions to be held at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji during June, followed by the Third Intergovernmental Meeting on the SPREP Action Plan to be held in Noumea during September.
72. He outlined suggestions for feasible timing and venue of the next Steering Committee meeting, bearing in mind the need to co-ordinate with other South Pacific Commission meeting schedules for interpretation/translation purposes, with schedules of other organisations and with financial considerations.
73. The participants agreed that the Steering Committee should meet well before the Fifth Consultative Meeting to be held in June and again immediately prior to the Intergovernmental Meeting in September.
74. Participants agreed that the venue for the Third Meeting of the SPREP Steering Committee should be Noumea, New Caledonia and the most appropriate timing, subject to further discussion with other organisations, would be late March 1990.
75. Participants expressed the desire to have distribution of papers six weeks prior to the meeting, not only to the sub-group representatives, but to all governments to enable prior discussion of issues by countries with their sub-group representative, copies of related correspondence, where possible being transmitted to the Secretariat.
76. The issue of notification of meeting dates and venue to the most appropriate person in-country was raised and participants were requested to assist the Secretariat by ensuring that their nominated Focal Point was in a position to effectively pass on information. This matter is outside the control of the Secretariat, it being a communication problem that can best be rectified by the efforts of Steering Committee members in their home countries.

77. Participants agreed that the precise role of the Steering Committee, still a relatively new initiative, was not clear to many countries and that there was a need to distribute the Steering Committee Terms of Reference as a means both of reminding governments of this new direction and in the interests of ensuring the Steering Committee's effective operation.

AGENDA ITEM 12 - OTHER BUSINESS

78. The Secretariat outlined to the Steering Committee a recent development following the SPC/UNEP/ASPEI Intergovernmental Meeting on Climatic Change and Sea Level Rise (17-20 July, Majuro, Marshall Islands) in which UNEP suggested that SPREP coordinate a global task team on the effects of climatic change and sea level rise on coral reefs to the South Pacific Region. The Secretariat felt there was merit in SPREP administering this effort, and requested the Steering Committee to address whether this was appropriate for SPREP as it would involve scientists and institutions outside the South Pacific Region.

79. Following input from the ASPEI Advisor, the Steering Committee agreed that SPREP should pursue development of this project area with UNEP, with the following provisions:

- 1) that UNEP make adequate financial resources available to SPREP to undertake the activity,
- 2) that coral reef scientists within the South Pacific Region be fully involved, and
- 3) that case studies are undertaken within all the sub-regions of the South Pacific Region.

80. The representative of Polynesia (Tonga) raised the issue of membership to the SPREP Steering Committee and suggested that this may need to be reviewed as he perceived there may be an imbalance between the island and metropolitan countries. The SPREP Co-ordinator advised the meeting that this could be a matter for consideration by the Intergovernmental Meeting. The meeting suggested the representative of Polynesia could have this placed on the agenda or raised during the IGM.

81. The ESCAP advisor draw the attention of the Committee to the Ministerial level conference on the Environment in Asia and the Pacific to be held in Kuala Lumpur in May 1990 and of its relevance to the next Steering Committee meeting and IGM. Preparation of documents was underway and environmental problems in the Pacific will be projected. Special arrangements were being made to support the participation cost of island developing countries. A provisional agenda of the meeting was tabled.

82. The New Zealand advisor on climate change reported to the meeting about a regional meeting held in Tokyo, May 1989, on the Montreal Protocol at which Australia and New Zealand were represented. Unfortunately it appears that invitations to attend were not extended to other South Pacific nations. Reference was made to the implications of Article 4 of the Protocol and the wish of the Tokyo meeting that as many countries as possible should accede to it. In this regard it was indicated that New Zealand's offer to provide a legal advisor to assist countries with the ratification of the SPREP Convention could possibly be extended to the provision of advice on the steps necessary for countries to accede to the Montreal Protocol.

83. The New Zealand advisor on climate change also referred to a forthcoming meeting of the IPCC, Response Strategies Working Group (RSWG) Coastal Zone Management sub-group meeting on Tropical and Island Coastal Areas to be held in Australia in February 1990. It was envisaged that input from island nations of the South Pacific would be co-ordinated by SPREP.

84. The observer from French Polynesia informed the meeting that his government was committed to its support of SPREP and would be shortly paying its 1988-89 contribution and possibly the outstanding 1987 contribution.

85. The representative of the United Kingdom expressed the appreciation and gratitude of the full meeting to the work of the SPREP Co-ordinator over the past four years in strengthening the SPREP and raising its profile and capacity to serve its member countries.

AGENDA ITEM 13 - ADOPTION OF THE MEETING REPORT

86. The meeting adopted the report.

AGENDA ITEM 14 - CLOSING OF THE MEETING

87. The representative of Polynesia (Tonga) referred to the valuable assistance given to Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia by Mr Iosefatu Reti, SPREP Co-ordinator, over the past four years. He extended heartfelt thanks and appreciation and hoped that, on his departure from the SPREP Co-ordinator's post, Iosefatu Reti would hold a soft spot in his heart for SPREP and that the programme would continue to expand and prosper.

88. Thanks were also extended to the Steering Committee Chairperson, to the SPREP Secretariat and South Pacific Commission support staff for their assistance in ensuring that the meeting proceeded very effectively.

SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

**SECOND MEETING OF THE SPREP STEERING COMMITTEE
(Port Vila, Vanuatu, 13-14 September 1989)**

A G E N D A

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. The Role of NGO's in relation to the Steering Committee
3. Climate Change and Sea Level Rise - The development of a regional viewpoint for the next meeting of the IPCC
4. Montreal Protocol
5. Implementation of the 1989-90 Work Programme
 - a) Achievements to date
 - b) Planned activities for 1990
6. Income and Expenditure Statement (6 months 1989)
7. Revised Budget for 1989
8. Proposed Budget for 1990
9. Fundraising Efforts by the Secretariat
10. What Future for SPREP
11. Date and Venue for the Next Meeting
12. Other Business
13. Adoption of the Meeting Report
14. Closing of the Meeting

SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

**SECOND MEETING OF THE SPREP STEERING COMMITTEE
(Port Vila, Vanuatu, 13-14 September 1989)**

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SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

**SECOND MEETING OF THE SPREP STEERING COMMITTEE
(Port Vila, Vanuatu, 13-14 September 1989)**

SOUTH PACIFIC STATEMENT TO IPCC

1. Statement by South Pacific Regional Meeting on Climatic Change and Sea Level Rise

The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), on behalf of its member governments, organised an Intergovernmental Meeting on Climatic Change and Sea Level Rise in the South Pacific which was attended by representatives from 13 Pacific Island governments and from Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States. The meeting was sponsored by the South Pacific Commission (SPC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Association of South Pacific Environmental Institutions (ASPEI) and was hosted by the Republic of the Marshall Islands from 17-20 July 1989.

The meeting objectives were:

- (a) to consider the potential impact of expected climatic change and sea level rise on ecosystems as well as socio-economic structures and activities of Pacific Islands;
- (b) to review the possible policy options and management measures for the mitigation of the negative effects of climatic change and sea level rise;
- (c) to develop a programme of further studies and assistance to the governments of the region which would enhance their response capabilities to the expected impact of climatic change and sea level rise.

In addition to addressing these objectives, the meeting adopted the following statement to reflect the seriousness, urgency and need for responsible action that the South Pacific Region attaches to the threat of climatic change and sea level rise:

**STATEMENT BY THE SPC/UNEP/ASPEI INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON
CLIMATIC CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC**

(Majuro, Marshall Islands, 17-20 July 1989)

In line with the objectives established by the organizers of this meeting, and taking into account the direction by the South Pacific Forum for countries of the region to take decisive action to draw the world's attention to the impact on South Pacific countries of climatic changes caused by global warming,

the first intergovernmental meeting on climate change and sea level rise in the South Pacific, held in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, 17-20 July 1989 under the auspices of the SPC, UNEP and ASPEI, having been briefed comprehensively by the regional task teams on all aspects of this environmental problem,

concluded that the impacts of climate changes caused by global warming on South Pacific countries are potentially catastrophic, threatening in the long term the very existence of low-lying island countries,

and agreed also that these problems have been predominantly caused by the activities of developed industrial nations outside the South Pacific region.

The meeting calls on all nations to take immediate and effective steps to reduce the level of emission of greenhouse gases.

The meeting, in accepting that South Pacific people are innocent victims of the consequences of the activities of others, and recognizing also that small island countries have neither the human and financial resources nor the scientific and technological expertise to fight the adverse consequences of global warming,

calls on the developed industrial States to provide the South Pacific island countries with financial, scientific and technological resources to monitor and deal comprehensively with this problem.

The meeting considered that in view of the seriousness of this threat to the countries of the South Pacific and in recognition of the global nature of the problem, it is imperative that the international community take account of the region's concerns in developing global responses.

In this connection, the meeting welcomed the offer by UNEP to facilitate the participation by three representatives/delegates from island countries of the region to take a full part in the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

While it is apparent that the South Pacific countries are themselves alone unable to provide solutions the meeting agreed that, to respond to the threat of global warming South Pacific countries should:

develop and strengthen national environmental management plans, having regard for the impacts of climatic change, including rainfall patterns, frequency and intensity of storms, and sea level rise;

examine means of limiting their own emissions of greenhouse gases, in a manner which does not inhibit sustainable development, bearing in mind their negligible contribution to total emissions worldwide;

support and strengthen the research being carried out in this area by ASPEI, SPREP, UNEP and other agencies;

co-operate regionally and internationally in the collection of more data on changes in sea level, atmospheric pressures, rainfall patterns and all other climatological data;

ensure that there is effective regional coordination and dissemination of information of relevance to climate change, in a form which is comprehensible to national policy makers and would assist them in the formulation of policies;

develop appropriate public awareness programs to educate their citizens about the potential impacts of climate change; and

promote educational opportunities for the specialized training of nationals of South Pacific island countries in areas related to climate change.

2. Resolution by the Fourth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation

The Fourth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas was recently held by SPREP at Port Vila, Vanuatu (4-12 September 1989). The conference was attended by over 100 participants representing governments in and around the South Pacific, international development banks, United Nations organisations, academic institutions and international and Pacific Island non-government organisations.

The issue of climatic change and sea level rise in relation to the conservation of natural resources for sustainable development was addressed in the following resolution:

IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVATION IN MITIGATING GLOBAL WARMING

The Fourth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:

noting that the build-up of greenhouse gases and the resultant global warming is of great concern to the people and Governments of the South Pacific, as expressed in the Communique of the 20th South Pacific Forum and the Report of the 1989 Intergovernmental Meeting on Climatic Change and Sea Level Rise in the South Pacific held in Majuro;

further noting that prime responsibility for decisive remedial action in relation to greenhouse gases lies with industrialized countries, the major generators of greenhouse gas emissions which are the principal cause of the problem;

considering that measures taken by Governments in the region in their own countries to mitigate the global warming effect will strengthen the moral force of any appeal which the South Pacific Forum and Conference may make to the rest of the world to curb the emissions of greenhouse gases;

recognizing the vital role of healthy coral reefs in absorbing excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and in maintaining the capacity of the coastal zone to adapt to sea level rise;

acknowledging that clearance of forest land contributes to global warming;

further acknowledging that the establishment of nature conservation areas, and of implementation of ecologically sustainable land use practices, can make a major contribution to the conservation of both coral reefs and tropical forests in the South Pacific, thereby reducing global warming;

accepts the need to work towards the establishment of a comprehensive system of protected areas to ensure the maintenance of the region's biological diversity in the face of the impacts of global warming;

resolves to afford high priority to the safeguarding of coral reefs and tropical forests and the implementation of wise land use practices, and to give these matters prominence when seeking national and international support for the conservation of nature in the South Pacific and invites the governments of the South Pacific Region to recognize the inter-relationship between global warming and nature conservation;

therefore recommends that governments in the South Pacific Region refer these matters to the South Pacific Forum and the South Pacific Conference with a view to developing a Pacific-wide commitment to action;

invites the Forum to convene meetings with Forum Dialogue Partners on assistance for establishing conservation areas and sustainable resource uses, especially in relation to coral reefs and tropical forests;

further invites the Forum and Conference to convene meetings of member governments and Dialogue Partners involved in the Pacific tropical timber trade, together with timber producers, NGO's and international agencies, to discuss measures, including trade measures, to encourage sustainable practices in the timber industry in the South Pacific Region.

**STATEMENT BY THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGION DELEGATION
TO THE
MEETING OF THE RESPONSE STRATEGIES WORKING GROUP
OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

(Geneva, 2-6 October 1989)

Recognizing that the implications of the greenhouse effect are of great concern to the peoples of the 22 island governments of the South Pacific Region, and that the Pacific Ocean is the largest body of water in the world, with thousands of islands, many of which are only 2-3 metres above sea level and could be drowned if sea levels rise, our people, who live in predominantly rural and subsistence communities, will be among the first to be affected by this potential crisis.

Noting that, like all other people, Pacific islanders are proud of their customs, cultures and lands and that for many years, we have lived happily in harmony with the environment of our beautiful islands, we fear the loss of our island identity and culture and it is truly frightening to think that our ocean will turn against us.

Aware that we have been sustained by the ocean for two millenia and that it has been bountiful and continues to yield to us its bounty, we have now learned that this harmony could be interrupted by the actions of nations very distant from our shores and we hope that this appeal from the peoples of the Pacific can help convince the industrialized nations to discontinue their profligate contamination of the atmosphere.

Cognizant of the fact that, along with the rest of the world, we have come to enjoy the benefits of modern industry and technology based on fossil fuels and have found comfort in the chemical coolants in our refrigerators and air conditioners, we now know these are some of the pollutants causing the greenhouse effect.

Recognizing that man is capable of controlling or even discontinuing the use of these harmful chemicals which cause this atmospheric pollution, we call upon the world to attack this global sickness with determination before the fateful and cruel consequences become obvious.

Committed to averting this global crisis and to working with the other nations of the world to find the solutions we are all seeking, we, the peoples of the South Pacific Region, therefore appeal to you in a common voice, the voice of those who may become the first victims of global warming, to recognize the seriousness of our predicament and to help us secure the future of our islands for ourselves and our children.

The South Pacific Region delegation to the IPCC Response Strategies Working Group thus calls upon this meeting to strongly support the efforts required to ensure the survival of our cultures and our very existence and to prevent us from becoming 'endangered species' or the dinosaurs of the next century.

**SOUTH PACIFIC REGION DELEGATION
BRIEFING DOCUMENT
FOR THE
IPCC RSWG MEETING**

(Geneva, 2-6 October 1989)

This document contains the brief for the South Pacific Region delegation to the meeting of the Response Strategies Working Group (RSWG) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as developed during the Second Meeting of the SPREP Steering Committee (Port Vila, Vanuatu, 13-14 September 1989). The information covers the background of the South Pacific Region situation in relation to climate change and sea level rise and required response strategies in four main topic areas:

- (1) Public education and information measures,
- (2) Technology transfer and development,
- (3) Economic (market) and financial measures, and
- (4) Legal measures.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION MEASURES

Background

The South Pacific Region is characterised by the number of small island nations and territories with diverse cultures scattered over a vast ocean, ranging from Melanesia in the west, to Polynesia in the south and Micronesia in the north. The region is undergoing dramatic changes due to outside influences. These changes are taking place at different rates in each country and often pose problems when trying to reach a region-wide audience to address important global issues such as climatic change and sea level rise.

Educational development, both formal and non-formal, for a large majority of people in the South Pacific Region is very limited, even at the elementary levels. Quite a number of the island countries have a low proficiency in English or French, the two languages widely used in the region. However, there are many vernacular languages, for example, in Papua New Guinea alone there are more than seven hundred (700) different languages. Throughout the region many schools lack teachers and resource materials or suitable curricula that could be effectively used to educate the younger generation. Many languages lack an accepted orthography. Communication is extremely difficult and the transmission of information is further complicated by the lack of an effective system to reach the majority of the populations which live in rural areas.

Not every country has television, newspaper, enough books or other forms of printed information material that could be used to inform people about the problem. Radio may be the only effective means in reaching the large population if the broadcast is conducted in English, French, Pidgin or a common language.

The environment of the South Pacific Region is equally diverse. Some island countries are very small and therefore highly susceptible to increased population pressure on their limited resources. Appropriate education will be required to inform South Pacific peoples of the phenomena of climate change and sea level rise, the potential impacts on island culture and environment and appropriate technologies of resource management and conservation.

Response Strategies

It is very important to bear in mind that due to the variability of educational standards and the language and communication difficulties referred to above, it will not be possible to provide a uniform information package. Information must be transmitted in the standard and vernacular languages of the region, and in a variety of media.

Relating the realities of the expected impact to these islands and their people can only be done through an effective public awareness programme. Financial assistance from outside will be needed to establish both regional and national education programmes. Utilisation of local expertise with support from outside experts will be essential to produce the most appropriate information and materials for the peoples of the South Pacific Region.

The co-ordination and dissemination of this information will have to be conducted through an efficient clearing house or organisation within the region. The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) could well serve this need but would need to be financially and technically supported to undertake this important task.

Summary

Formal educational programmes and the efficient, wide-spread transmission of information in the small nations and territories of the South Pacific Region are not well developed.

The development of materials in the appropriate formats and in the many languages of the region requires significant financial assistance. Such development will require both local and outside experts, and could be co-ordinated by SPREP.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND DEVELOPMENT

Background

Many factors limit the development, introduction and application of modern technology appropriate to Pacific societies. These include: geographic isolation, limited financial resources, limited infrastructure (e.g. reliable power and water supply), small markets for high technology products and the lack of technology supply and maintenance services. New technologies which are being developed to assist governments and communities to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climatic change and sea level rise will also be subject to these constraints when they are transferred to the Pacific Region.

Response Strategies

Technologies are being developed to reduce the increase of atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases by preventing the emission of these gases or increasing the possibilities for their absorption. Although the Pacific Region contributes very little to greenhouse gas emissions, governments are ready to take action to reduce this contribution by employing new technologies. These include phasing out CFC's, improving energy use efficiency and developing alternative energy sources. However, these actions and technologies must be considered in light of the economic disruption they may cause to small and fragile Pacific Island economies. Appropriate technology for increasing reforestation, forest conservation and the protection and enhancement of the capabilities of the Pacific's coral reefs and ocean waters to absorb CO₂ should also be developed and transferred.

A variety of technologies are required to assist Pacific Island peoples to adapt to climatic change and sea level rise (i.e. to protect against the negative impacts or lower vulnerability to these impacts). Many Pacific Island economies are based on the primary production of a limited number of subsistence food or export crops. New varieties of these crops may need to be developed which are adaptable or resistant to projected environmental changes associated with the greenhouse effect (e.g. drought, temperature rise, increased salinity). As fresh water resources become more limited due to changing rainfall patterns or ground water salinisation, new technologies may be required to maintain and better utilise freshwater supplies for human consumption and agricultural production, especially on atolls. In addition, changing coastal and oceanic conditions may require technological advances to maintain or enhance the supply of marine food resources.

The increased migration of outer island 'ecological refugees' to Pacific Island population centres will strain urban infrastructures that are often already inadequate or over burdened. Standard and innovative technologies may have to be employed to maintain food and water supply, waste disposal and other essential urban infrastructure and support systems. Technologies to adapt the planning, design and construction of buildings to sea level rise, particularly in relation to coastal structures (ports, harbours, breakwaters, seawalls) are especially valuable to the South Pacific Region. The development and application of planning methods to respond to sea level rise, such as coastal buffer zones for construction purposes and retreat from the shoreline should be made available to Pacific Island governments. Multi-disciplinary approaches to maintaining the biological diversity, functions and values of natural ecosystems, especially those contained in protected areas, may also be applicable to the South Pacific Region.

Summary

The technologies required by Pacific Island countries and territories may be different from those suited to other regions. However, the research and development capabilities of the South Pacific Region are very limited. Therefore it may be necessary to explicitly identify and support the development of those technologies which will be applicable to the Pacific Island context.

As these technologies to respond to climatic change and sea level rise are developed, they should be made available for adaptation to the needs of the Pacific Region at low, or no, cost wherever this is possible and appropriate.

ECONOMIC (MARKET) AND FINANCIAL MEASURES

Background

The small islands of the South Pacific Region are net importers of goods and services. The economies are primarily subsistence, based largely on agriculture and fisheries. Tourism is also a significant industry. The likely economic impacts of climatic change and sea level rise are all negative. A reduction in land area, the loss of coastal zones (including lagoons and coral reefs) impacts on agricultural crops will increase indebtedness and reliance on outside financial support. At worst, climatic change could result in the complete failure of some national economies and a complete loss of economic independence.

The economies and infrastructure are, of the South Pacific Region, characterised by small isolated nations and territories which are dependant on air and sea links. A number of these countries and territories currently have high population growth rates. Unfavourable trade balances are common and exports are often based on a single commodity (usually crops or mineral products) which is susceptible to market changes. In general the governments of the region are net importers of food, and have little in the way of financial reserves.

The region contains a large number of indigenous groups that have distinct cultural and social needs and are very closely linked to their land and nearshore marine areas. The economies cannot be separated from these cultural and social aspects. Climate change could therefore impact significantly on cultures and lifestyles as well as increasing balance of payments deficits. Unlike the economies of developed countries, the effects of climate change cannot be accepted just as a reorientation in economic direction. In the South Pacific Region climate change will fundamentally alter cultural and economic values.

The countries and territories of the South Pacific Region are unlikely to benefit from the industries which will inevitably develop to produce the goods and services needed to counteract climatic change. Technological development and high tech research and solutions are likely to come from the countries that have been the main greenhouse gas contributors. These are the economies that will benefit. The cost of substituting equipment to mitigate greenhouse gas production will add an increased burden to South Pacific governments. As the cost of agricultural production rises, exports will be less competitive. The South Pacific Region is therefore facing the prospect of shrinking economies and increased balance of payment deficits - a pessimistic scenario, but nevertheless the most likely one.

Response Strategies

Although the South Pacific Region is little responsible for the build-up of greenhouse gases, its economies will probably be amongst those hardest hit. The opportunities to diversify economies are limited. The introduction of a pollution levy or restricted emission standards that reduce the impacts will have limited benefits or even negative impacts for governments of the South Pacific Region.

The major economic issue associated with climate change will be to determine who provides the funding and technological assistance to restructure the economies of the affected countries. In particular, compensation for the historical pollution that has caused the problem needs to be addressed. Unfortunately previous generations and administrations cannot be levied for the impact of their contribution to the pollution of the global atmosphere.

It is therefore proposed that any international fund that is set up to mitigate the impacts of climate change must also be used to address the restructuring of economies and the resettling of island peoples, including the maintenance of their political and social integrity. Support should not just concentrate on engineering and technological responses to reduce the immediate physical impacts. In addition to the establishment of a fund, emphasis should be given to reducing trade barriers and granting preferential treatment to produce from countries most affected by climate change as a positive means of stimulating the economies concerned.

Summary

Economies of the South Pacific Region are likely to be among the hardest hit by significant climate change impacts.

There are unlikely to be any benefits that accrue to South Pacific Island governments from the production of new greenhouse gas mitigation technologies or other preventative systems - these are likely to benefit the industrialised nations.

Restructuring of economies, meeting cultural and social concerns and mitigation of physical impacts will largely depend on funding assistance from outside the South Pacific Region.

Pollution levies should be applied to socio-economic restructuring as well as to the abatement of greenhouse gas production and the development of physical protection measures.

LEGAL MEASURES

Background

The South Pacific Region covers an area greater than 31 300 000 km² and contain 22 nation states, territories, and dependencies, with different political and legal systems serving over 5 million inhabitants. In some areas customary laws (e.g. land and sea tenure) predominate and legal expertise is often poorly developed. The government's right to eminent domain is not allowed for in some constitutions. Legislation based on the United States system is practiced in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Palau and American Samoa. Both English common law and French law can be found in other nations and territories. In addition, the political status of some states are changing. For example, Vanuatu formerly had a legal system based on both French and British law and now has adopted the latter. Land use zoning and planning and environmentally related legislation and expertise are often poorly developed or non existent in the region.

Climate change and sea level rise are expected to have profound effects on the social, cultural, economic and political life of islands in the South Pacific Region. Moreover, the land base and the extent of the EEZ of each state are likely to decrease in size. On atoll islands, the majority of which are less than 1.5 meters in height, rising sea level will force the migration of peoples to the higher islands of the Pacific and elsewhere. In islands where customary law predominates and government lacks the right of eminent domain (e.g. Yap), ecological refugees may not have access to land and may be forced to live in squalid and crowded conditions which, because of the lack of zoning and related legislation, may present public health problems. In rural areas, the enforcement of conservation and environmental protection laws may be impossible, and result in a decrease in the sustainability of island environments.

The land courts of governments of the South Pacific Region are crowded with conflicts over land and resources. Forced migration and relocation will greatly impact on traditional land tenure and ownership practices. Given the relative lack of land survey records and that the transfer of land from generation to generation is still largely based on oral history, conflicts over land are likely to increase with the effects of climate change and sea level rise.

Response Strategies

The ocean is an important resource base for Pacific Island governments. As presently defined, a state's boundaries and exclusive economic zone is determined by distance to its peripheral territories. Thus EEZ's may be reduced in size if a part of a state's territory disappears. Boundary disputes between adjacent and competing states are a distinct possibility. Thus it is imperative that an international legal instrument which recognises the sovereignty of a state's future territory must be established on the basis of its present territorial claims, and be free from future claims by more powerful states.

Climatic change and sea level rise is a multifaceted global problem which may require the adoption of an appropriate convention. Such a convention must foster sustainable development within the context of conservation and take into account the situation in the South Pacific Region; including the relative lack of natural resources, the dependence on a subsistence economy and the significance of the natural environment to the culture of the region. This convention would require co-operation between parties, harmonization of policies, innovative monitoring mechanisms, new principles on liability and burden sharing and appropriate institutional arrangements.

International research and development efforts need to be shared with the South Pacific Region and the issue of intellectual property rights modified to meet the needs of the region. The development of appropriate legislation will be required to address this issue.

Response strategies must recognise the presence of different political and legal systems, the existing boundaries of Pacific Island states, the place of customary land tenure and laws and the lack of appropriate environmental legislation and expertise. Of paramount importance is the development of a cadre of legal experts familiar with island customs and rights, which vary from island to island as well as within an island. Aid in the development of such a cadre and conventions/protocols would be required.

As mini-states with little industrialization, the Pacific Island countries and territories are insignificant contributors to the global increase of 'greenhouse' gases. At the same time, the forests of the South Pacific Region and adjacent reefs and waters are actively removing these gases. Although climate change and sea level rise will adversely affect many parts of the world, the impacts will be greatest on those who can least afford it, the South Pacific Region. We need legal mechanisms that recognise and address these liabilities.

Summary

The small islands of the South Pacific Region have a diversity of legal systems, including customary law. Legal expertise and environmental legislation are poorly developed.

Climate change and sea level rise will have significant impacts on the islands. Legislation to minimize conflicts over resource issues and boundaries between and within states will need to be developed. Customary laws based on tenure and an unwritten history of land ownership must be incorporated within a modernised context.

Aid for the development of legal expertise and legislation relevant to environment and the problem of sea level rise and climatic change is required.

SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

**SECOND MEETING OF THE SPREP STEERING COMMITTEE
(Port Vila, Vanuatu, 13-14 September 1989)**

LIST OF WORKING PAPERS

- Working Paper 1 - Implementation of the 1989-90 Work Programme
A Progress Report**
- Working Paper 3 - Proposed Revised Budget for 1989**
- Working Paper 4 - Proposed Budget for 1990**
- Working Paper 5 - Fundraising Efforts by the Secretariat**
- Working Paper 6 - Climate Change And Sea Level Rise: The South Pacific Delegation
to the Meeting of the Intergovernmental Panel on
Climate Change (IPCC)**
- Working Paper 7 - What Future for the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme**

ANNEX 5

SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

SECOND MEETING OF THE SPREP STEERING COMMITTEE
(Port Vila, Vanuatu, 13-14 September 1989)

REVISED BUDGET FOR 1989

Table 1

BUDGET REVISION: SUMMARY

	BUDGET	EXPENDITURES AS AT 30 JUNE '89	PROPOSED REVISION
1) PROJECT PERSONNEL	266,000	126,116	266,000
2) STAFF TRAVEL	50,000	25,178	50,000
3) CONSULTANTS	90,000	79,118	197,000
4) PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES	303,000	32,575	303,000
5) GROUP TRAINING & MEETINGS	275,500	115,542	347,900
6) EQUIPMENT	5,000	1,317	5,000
7) REPORTING COSTS	40,000	32,795	65,000
TOTAL US\$	1,029,500	412,641	1,233,900

Table 2

SPREP BUDGET FOR 1989

Proposed Expenditure ('000 US\$)

	<u>SPREP</u>	<u>UNEP</u>	<u>SPC</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>1) PROJECT PERSONNEL</u>					
Coordinator	0	0	60.5 (32.7)	0	60.5 (32.7)
Environment Education Officer	47.5 (20.9)	0	0	0	47.5 (20.9)
Scientific Officer	46.0 (25.9)	0	0	0	46.0 (25.9)
Protected Area Officer	0	0	0	49.0 (23.1)	49.0 (23.1)
Secretaries (2)	63.0 (23.5)	0	0	0	63.0 (23.5)
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	156.5 (70.3)	0	60.5 (32.7)	49.0 (23.1)	266.0 (126.1)
<u>2) STAFF TRAVEL</u>					
	25.0 (10.3)	0	10.0 (9.0)	15.0 (5.9)	50.0 (25.2)
<u>3) CONSULTANTS</u>					
Environmental Education Material	0 (5.7)	0 (14.9)	0	25.0 (20.3)	25.0 (40.9)
Legal Officer	0	0	0	20.0 (0)	20.0 (0)
Specific Country Requests	40.0 (38.1)	0	0	5.0 (0)	45.0 (38.1)
Sub-contracts	0 (8.4)	0	0	0	0 (8.4)
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	40.0 (52.2)	0 (14.9)	0	50.0 (20.3)	90.0 (87.4)

Table 2 (Continued)

SPREP BUDGET FOR 1989

	<u>SPREP</u>	<u>UNEP</u>	<u>SPC</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>4) PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES</u>					
SPREP POL	20.0 (0)	122.8 (27.6)	0	39.2 (0)	182.0 (27.6)
Protected Areas and Species	20.0 (0.036)	0	0	51.0 (0)	71.0 (0.036)
Waste Management	10.0 (0)	0	0	0	10.0 (0)
Resource Management and Planning	10.0 (0)	0	0	5.0	15.0 (0)
Environmental Education	15.0 (0)	0	0	10.0 (5.0)	25.0 (5.0)
and Information					
	75.0 (0.036)	122.8 (27.6)	0	105.2 (5.0)	303.0 (32.6)
<u>5) GROUP MEETINGS</u>					
1st Meeting of SPREP Steering Committee	6.0 (6.3)	0	0	0	6.0 (6.3)
EIA Workshop	5.0 (5.3)	0	0	90.0 (79.3)	95.0 (84.6)
Meeting on Climate Change	10.0	60.0 (48.8)	4.0	0 (7.8)	74.0 (56.6)
4th South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas	10.0	0	4.0	80.0 (4.1)	94.0 (4.1)
2nd Meeting of SPREP Steering Committee	6.5	0	0	0	6.5
	37.5 (11.6)	60.0 (48.8)	8.0	170.0 (91.2)	275.5 (151.6)

Table 2 (Continued)

SPREP BUDGET FOR 1989

	<u>SPREP</u>	<u>UNEP</u>	<u>SPC</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
6) <u>EQUIPMENT</u>					
Expendable Equipment	2.0 (1.2)	0	0	0	2.0 (1.2)
Non-expendable Equipment	2.0 (0)	0	0	0	2.0 (0)
Operation and Maintenance	1.0 (0.135)	0	0	0	1.0 (0.135)
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	5.0 (1.335)	0	0	0	5.0 (1.335)
7) <u>REPORTING COSTS</u>					
Printing	15.0 (20.4)	0	0	0	15.0 (20.4)
Mailing of Reports	10.0 (3.6)	0	0	0	10.0 (3.6)
Communication	15.0 (8.7)	0	0	0	15.0 (8.7)
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	40.0 (32.7)	0	0	0	40.0 (32.7)
TOTALS	379.0 (178.5)	182.8 (48.8)	78.5 (41.7)	389.2 (145.5)	1029.5 (456.9)

Table 3

DETAILS OF REVISED BUDGET

	<u>SPREP</u>	<u>UNEP</u>	<u>SPC</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1) <u>PROJECT PERSONNEL</u>					
Coordinator	0	0	60.5	0	60.5
Environment Education Officer	47.5	0	0	0	47.5
Scientific Officer	46.0	0	0	0	46.0
Protected Area Officer	0	0	0	49.0	49.0
Secretaries (2)	63.0	0	0	0	63.0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	156.5	0	60.5	49.0	266.0
2) <u>STAFF TRAVEL</u>					
	25.0	0	10.0	15.0	50.0
3) <u>CONSULTANTS</u>					
Environmental Education Materials	6.0	36.0	0	25.0	67.0
Legal Officer	0	0	0	20.0	20.0
Specific Country Requests	60.0	0	0	15.0	75.0
Sub-contracts	15.0	0	0	20.0	35.0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	81.0	36.0	0	80.0	197.0

Proposed Expenditure ('000 US\$)

Table 3 (Continued)

DETAILS OF REVISED BUDGET

	<u>SPREP</u>	<u>UNEP</u>	<u>SPC</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>4) PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES</u>					
SPREP POL	20.0	122.8	0	39.2	182.0
Protected Areas and Species	20.0	0	0	51.0	71.0
Waste Management	10.0	0	0	0	10.0
Resource Management and Planning	10.0	0	0	5.0	15.0
Environmental Education and Information	15.0	0	0	10.0	25.0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	75.0	122.8	0	105.2	303.0
<u>5) GROUP MEETINGS</u>					
1st Meeting of SPREP Steering Committee	6.3	0	0	0	6.3
EIA Workshop	5.3	0	0	85.0	90.3
Meeting on Climate Change	10.0	49.0	4.0	7.8	70.8
4th South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas	0	0	4.0	150.0	154.0
2nd Meeting of SPREP Steering Committee	6.5	0	0	20.0	26.5
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	28.1	49.0	8.0	262.8	347.9

Table 3 (Continued)

DETAILS OF REVISED BUDGET

	<u>SPREP</u>	<u>UNEP</u>	<u>SPC</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
6) <u>EQUIPMENT</u>					
Expendable Equipment	2.0	0	0	0	2.0
Non-expendable Equipment	2.0	0	0	0	2.0
Operation and Maintenance	1.0	0	0	0	1.0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	5.0	0	0	0	5.0
7) <u>REPORTING COSTS</u>					
Printing	40.0	0	0	0	40.0
Mailing of Reports	10.0	0	0	0	10.0
Communication	15.0	0	0	0	15.0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	65.0	0	0	0	65.0
TOTALS	435.6	207.8	78.5	512.0	1233.9

Table 4

CONTRIBUTION TO SPREP AS AT AUGUST 1989

VOLUNTARY COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION

	<u>US\$</u>
1. Australia	63,560
2. Federated States of Micronesia	2,949
3. Fiji	3,451
4. France	41,530
5. Marshall Islands	3,300
6. New Caledonia	4,701 (50% of due)
7. New Zealand	19,672
8. Niue	2,125
9. Papua New Guinea	6,487
10. United States of America	100,000
	247,775

Table 4 (Continued)

CONTRIBUTION TO SPREP AS AT AUGUST 1989

EXTRA-BUDGETARY CONTRIBUTIONS (Receipts and Pledges)

	<u>US\$</u>
1. South Pacific Commission	70,500
2. United Nations Environment Programme	78,541
3. Asian Development Bank	70,000
4. AIDAB (ISSS)	19,395
5. AIDAB	85,000
6. CITES	20,000
7. Commonwealth Secretariat	32,479
8. ESCAP	10,000
9. United Kingdom	16,239
10. East-West Center	8,000
	410,154

TOTAL	<u>657,929</u>