







# SPREP

				
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Quarterly Newsletter of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme

## SPREP'S AHEAD IN 1991

*SPREP is moving ahead at a rapid pace and is well on the way to becoming the region's most important independent environment organisation, said Dr Vili Fuavao, Director of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), after two weeks of discussions in preparation for the Intergovernmental Meeting Noumea, New Caledonia, 3—12 July.*

*These Working Groups held in Noumea, 18-28 March 1991, attended by delegates from the member countries addressed major issues and formulated recommendations which focused on the financial and legal implications of an autonomous SPREP and a new more comprehensive Action Plan to meet the environmental challenges of this decade.*

*An independent SPREP is desirable to ensure greater efficiency, productivity and to enable SPREP to be recognised as the central environment organisation for the region.*

## *Legal and financial autonomy*

The tasks of the March Legal Working Group were to establish a central role for the IGM and the links between this body and the meeting of the parties to the SPREP Convention, to recommend to the meeting of the contracting parties to designate SPREP as a responsible secretariat agency for the SPREP and Apia Conventions and to develop additional legal instruments to give SPREP a full legal personality supplement these conventions.

After three hard days and nights, the Group under the chair of **Mr Brian Koningi** Papua New Guinea and with the assistance of the SPREP legal consultant **Ms Mere Pulea** considered in detail five possible options for SPREP as a separate legal identity.

The meeting agreed to put forward two of these options to the July Ministerial Meeting. These were a revised draft legal instrument for the 'separate legal agreement' option and a draft legal instrument for the 'Canberra Agreement Auxiliary body' option.

The Finance Working Group under the chair of **Mr Robin Yarrow** from Fiji with the assistance of SPREP financial consultant **Mr John Leonardo** and SPC Finance Manager **Mr Ray Hunt** faced the difficult task of making recommendations for an appropriate financial basis for SPREP as an independent legal identity.

Rapid forecast expansion of SPREP in terms of staff, funding and programmes generated a number of organisational and logistical issues for consideration by the IGM. These include office space for SPREP at SPC or an alternative venue or location, the development of a Corporate Plan as an operating and administrative basis for SPREP and a comprehensive independent financial system to suit the needs of SPREP with SPREP having its own Finance Manager.

## *Environmental issues*

The brief of the Action Plan Working Group included a review of the 1982 SPREP Action Plan to ensure a new version would adequately address current and future environmental issues in the Pacific.

The Secretary-General of the South Pacific Commission, **Mr Atanraoi Baiteke** in opening the meeting highlighted a number of issues for consideration. Issues such as climate change, and potential sea level rise and disposal of hazardous waste should be incorporated into the new Action Plan.

With several global negotiations on environmental issues going on, including the Climate Change and Biodiversity Convention and the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), SPREP's role as a co-ordinating and advisory unit are crucial if the rest of the world are to take heed of the Pacific concerns, he added.

On a conservation side, Mr Baiteke expressed the view that there should be greater emphasis in identifying traditional knowledge and ways of protecting our natural resources. There is also a need to increase environmental participatory opportunities for indigenous people particularly women and youth. Furthermore if the materials produced by SPREP are to reach the grassroots level then more emphasis must be given to producing them in vernacular language with simple, clear and concise messages.

The Action Working Group under the chair of **Mr Muliagatele Iosefatu Reti** from Western Samoa took heed of these and other concerns raised by delegates in preparing a more comprehensive Action Plan to present to the Inter-governmental Meeting in July.

## *Ministerial declaration on the environment*

Regional input to the 1992 UNCED Conference in Brazil was discussed and the role of the SPREP Secretariat in co-ordinating these preparations was supported. It was decided that SPREP would assist the member countries in the preparation of a Ministerial Declaration on the Environment to be discussed at the July IGM and to be presented at UNCED.

**Dr Fuavao** concluded that these recommendations from the March Meeting Groups, when discussed and ratified by the IGM would set the scene for the launching of a new more efficient Secretariat and programme to serve the environmental needs of the South Pacific member countries.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



In light of the recommendations calling for an independent SPREP by the Third Intergovernmental Meeting on the SPREP Action Plan in September 1990 and the subsequent endorsement of these recommendations by the South Pacific Conference in its Meeting in October 1990, it is therefore most appropriate and timely to devote this issue of our Newsletter to 'The NEW SPREP'. Your programme is starting the new year with a new identity, additions of new staff, making new friends in the donors communities, expanding its collaborative networks, and, more importantly, lifting its profile in co-ordinating the participations and inputs of the South Pacific region to the regional and global negotiations on environment issues (which are likely to have great impacts on our very existence) such as loss of biodiversity and the threats of climate change and potential sea level rise.

It is not my intention here to cover all aspects of our work as this would be brought to you in details in latter issues of our newsletter. Accordingly, the structure of the organisation is not discussed pending the decisions of the Ministerial Meeting.

Rather this column is aimed at giving you some ideas of the activities currently undertaken by the Secretariat and possible future directions of SPREP. I will not attempt to include all the facets of our activities.

### *Activities*

The activities of SPREP in recent years can be divided into eleven major components namely:

(i) Natural resource management, (ii) Protected Area Management and Species Conservation (Biodiversity), (iii) Coastal and Marine Activities, (iv) Research and Control Pollution in coastal and open waters, (v) Land and Freshwater Pollution Prevention, (vi) Environmental Education and Training, (vii) Environmental Information, (viii) Environmental Planning and Administration, (ix) Climate Change and Sea Level Rise, (x) Meetings, Workshops and Training Courses, and (xi) Programme Administration.

Obviously our activities engulf the wide spectrum of environment and I do not foresee major changes in the next SPREP biennium. Our work programme for 1991/92 comprises of over 150 national and regional projects. More emphasis will be on SPREP role as a clearing house for environmental information and co-ordination of environmental activities in the region.

### *Staff*

One of SPREP central functions is to assist and provide for the environment needs of the governments of the region. This has been undertaken in many forms including project implementations, training courses, production of materials and providing advice to governments on matters relating to natural resource management. To enable SPREP to meet these functions and the ever increasing demands from its members, the SPREP IGM endorsed a total of eleven new positions to be filled by extrabudgetary contributions.

The Secretariat has approached, with great success, UNDP, New Zealand, France, Greenpeace, AIDAB and other donors seeking resources to fill these positions bearing in mind the implications of the expansion on the operating cost of the organisation. Positions likely to be filled this year are Deputy Director, Information and Publi-

cations Officer, Finance Manager Environmental Impact Assessment Officer, Contaminant Officer, Community Development Officer, and Finance Manager.

## Training

In our continuing endeavour to strengthen the national counterparts of SPREP, training remain one of the main emphasis of SPREP. We are also looking for resources to enable us to offer short/long terms attachments, undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships for regionals to attend institutions in the region and overseas on environment management. Strengthening national levels is an integral part of our mandate and I believe it is vital to the effectiveness of SPREP in providing the services that we have been mandated to carry out. We have made some strides forward in this area thanks to the assistance of the AVA volunteer organisation enabling us to put a person at the environment sections in Solomon Islands, Western Samoa and Vanuatu. A lot need to be done in this area and will be pursued with conviction in the near future.

## Climate Change

You may be aware that AIDAB funded Climate Change Officer (CCO) for the Forum Secretariat has been transferred to SPREP. This is in recognition of our new independent status and in line with the declaration of SPREP IGM in its Meeting last year that SPREP is the most appropriate organisation to co-ordinate all environmental activities in the region. It indicated also an enormous goodwill and co-operation spirit prevailing on the parts of both AIDAB and Forum Secretariat. Dr. Chalapan Kaluwin of Papua

New Guinea has been appointed as the CCO, and he will be on board SPREP on 11 March. He will see to it that information from the Australian funded project on Sea Level Monitoring is timely disseminated to you in the most effective manner. Further, he will be available to provide advices on this issue and take over the co-ordination of this component of our

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POUR LA RENDERE  
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Work Programme. We will continue to co-ordinate and provide technical advice on the negotiation on Climate Change Convention. Trainings, awareness activities, co-ordination of regional input to the negotiations of the Convention and in country studies on potential impact of climate changing, and organise a regional conference as follow up to the Majuro Meeting on Climatic Change and Sea Level Rise in 1989 will be the focus of our activities in this area this year.

Our role as clearing house for information on climate change

and potential impacts of sea level rise has proven successful, despite some hiccups beyond the control of the Secretariat. We will endeavour to streamline information to you within the constraint of our resources.

## Sustainable development

SPREP must play its role in the development of the region. Sustainable development is the flavour of the international communities. It is widely accepted now that for economic development to be sustainable, environment and natural resource management aspects can no longer be ignored. In recognition of this, SPREP has launched a regional project with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), UNDP, AIDAB, World Bank and in close consultations with participating governments to prepare and formulate a National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS) where all aspects of developments and their relations to environment and natural management are considered. We are also cognizant of the fact that the successes of this project lie with the adaptations and implementations of the NEMS and not merely in producing documents for the shelf. We are gearing ourselves up to meet the challenges of assisting the countries in implementing the NEMS and generally with their development needs resources are being sought and person power, both local and international, are being identified to assist the member governments in putting NEMS to practice.

SPREP anticipates that a regional strategy will emerge from NEMS which would provide us with long-term planning strategy, in addition to our ad hoc functions as responding to the immediate and usually short-term requests from member countries.

## UNCED

Our roles as advising and co-ordinating unit for regional inputs to international gatherings and negotiations were reaffirmed by IGM last year. They are enormous tasks, considering the international agenda for environment this year, which we set out to undertake with determination and conviction. The first of such challenges is our preparations for the UN Conference on Environment and Development being scheduled for June 1992 in Brazil. National reports have to be produced by July 1991 with regional input by December 1991.

With the assistance of ADB/UNDP/DASETT, Mr Gerald Miles will be with SPREP for 18 months to co-ordinate our region inputs for the 1992 UNCED. Obviously there are a lot of hard work to do within a short time, but we are determined to make an impact in Brazil.

## New initiatives

The emphasis of the programme remains with trainings, coastal management activities, conservation, co-ordinating researches on marine pollution, climate change and potential sea level rise, and environmental education/awareness campaigns the role. Role of 'grassroots' NGOs with particular reference to women organisations are being identified as viable mechanism to assist in our awareness programme. We are moving ahead with the trainings and formulation of a 'Contingency Plan' in case of Oil Spill or major marine accidents in our region.

## Collaboration

The implementations of the SPREP Work Programme have been successfully carried out with the assistance and collaborations of individuals and institutions in the region and overseas. These collaborations will continue to flourish. We are always on look out for new collaborators and to make certain that we get the best possible results out of our limited resources. The SPREP network is expanding and, I believe, it will prove quite advantageous in the long-term. We are forever endeavour to use local expertise where available. This trend will continue with a view of establishing a roster of regional experts in the environment matters.

*Nineteens is a decade of challenges for the Secretariat as SPREP organisation continues its evolvement to full autonomy and expansion to meet the expectations of the member countries. SPREP has to be authoritative, outward looking and be able to work in partnership with any institution as only then that SPREP will be able to meet the challenges and to cope with the ever increasing complexities of environment issues.*

*SPREP strength has been that we keep in touch with you regularly. I will make sure that this aspect does not evaporate into thin air with our new identity and the expansions associated with it. Further we will continue to look to you for our project priorities and would resisted any deviations. We are looking forward to the challenges of playing a pivot role in the development of our region while being mindful not to jeopardize the chances of our children to a good life.*

## WHO'S WHO AT SPREP

**Vili Fuavao**  
Director SPREP

**Lesley Murdoch**  
Project Officer (Environmental Education)

**Paul Holthus**  
Project Officer (Scientist)

**Peter Thomas**  
Protected Areas Management Officer

**Dave Sheppard**  
Team Leader / RETA (Regional Environmental Technical Assistance)

**Gerald Miles**  
Project Officer / Pacific Preparation for UNCED

**Chalapan Kaluwin**  
Climate Change Officer

**Neva Wendt**  
Team Leader / National Environment Management Strategies

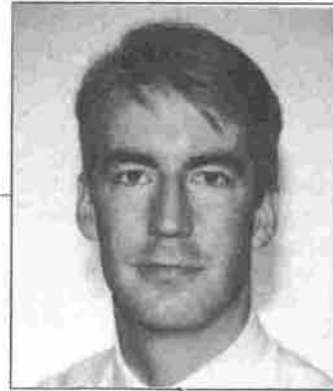
**Lisa Weaver-Gosselin**  
Administrative Assistant

**Marie-Thérèse Bui**  
Secretary

**Tekura Manea**  
Office Assistant

**Graziella Shiu**  
Office Assistant

# COUNTDOWN TO UNCED



The first-ever "Earth Summit" - the United Nations Conference on Environment and development (UNCED) - will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 1 to 12 June 1991.

"The primary goal of the Summit will be to lay the foundation for a global partnership between developing and more industrialized countries, based on mutual need and common interests, to ensure the future of the planet", states Maurice Strong, Secretary-General of the conference. "We need to find a viable and equitable balance between environment and development".

## *Background*

The relationship between economic development and environmental impact was recognized at the Stockholm Conference in 1992. It was also the focus of *Our Common Future*, the 1987 report of the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development.

However, between 1972 and 1987, too little was done to integrate, in practical terms, concerns for development and the environment in economic planning and decision-making. Progress was made in specific instances but overall the environment of the planet deteriorated.

Ozone depletion, global warming and other major environmental problems grew more serious.

In December 1989, the United Nations called for a conference that would take steps to reverse trends and establish the basis for a sustainable way of life on the planet as we move into the twenty-first century.

## *The issues at stake*

In an effort to maintain the quality of the environment and achieve environmentally sound, sustainable development in all countries, the Conference will address:

1. protection of land resources (combating deforestation, soil loss, desertification and drought);
2. conservation of biological diversity;
3. protection of freshwater resources;
4. protection of oceans, seas and coastal areas, and the rational use and development of their living resources;
5. environmentally sound management of biotechnology and hazardous wastes (including toxic chemicals);
6. prevention of illegal traffic in toxic products and wastes;
7. improvement in the quality of life and human health;
8. improvement in living and working conditions of the poor by eradicating poverty and stopping environmental degradation.

The Conference will look at underlying patterns of development which cause stress to the environment. Poverty in developing countries, levels of economic growth, unsustainable patterns of consumption, demographic pressures and the impact of the international economy are development issues that will be addressed.

### *Earth summit objectives*

The Conference is expected to produce:

1. an Earth Charter that will embody basic principles which must govern the economic and environmental behaviour of peoples and nations to ensure "our common future";
2. Agenda 21, a blueprint for action in all major areas affecting the relationship between the environment and the economy. It will focus on the period up to the year 2000 and extend into the twenty-first century;
3. the means to carry out the agenda by making available to developing countries the additional financial resources and environmentally sound technologies they require to participate fully in global environmental co-operation and to integrate environmental considerations into development policies and practices;
4. agreement on strengthening institutions in order to implement these measures;
5. Conventions on climate change, biological diversity and, perhaps, forestry may be negotiated prior to the Conference and signed or agreed to in Brazil.

### *The road to Brazil*

A Preparatory Committee, open to all Member States, has been established to oversee preparations for the 1992 Conference, under the chairmanship of Ambassador T. Koh of Singapore. Following an organizational session in March 1990 in New York, the Committee held its first substantive session in August in Nairobi, Kenya. Two Working Groups have been set up to assist the Committee and a third is to be established.

In preparation for the Conference, meetings are also being held regionally. The first took place in Bergen, Norway, in May 1990 for European countries. This was followed by a gathering in Bangkok, Thailand, in October 1990 for Asia and the Pacific. A meeting will take place in Mexico City in March 1991 for Latin America and the Caribbean. Others, with time and place still to be finalized, will take place in Africa and Western Asia.

### *National reports*

As part of preparations, reports are being prepared by Member States to reflect national experiences and perspectives on environment and development. Guidelines for the national reports were adopted by the Preparatory Committee in August 1990.

Non-governmental organisations (NGO's) and citizens groups are expected to participate in the preparation of the reports, which should be submitted to the UNCED secretariat no later than July 1991.

*Will Women Have a Say  
in Deciding the Fate of the Earth  
at the United Nations Conference  
on Environment and Development  
in Brazil in 1992?*

**Yes!**

*Support and participate in the  
World Women's Congress  
for a Healthy Planet  
November 8-12, 1991  
in Miami, Florida*

*Write: Congress Coordinator  
Women's Foreign Policy Council  
845 Third Avenue, 15th floor  
New York, NY 10022, USA*

In 1991, the Preparatory Committee and the Working Groups were convened from 18 March to 5 April will meet again and will meet again from 12 August to 6 September, in Geneva. The final session will take place in New York in February/March 1992.

HARGG!!



TROP TARD!

Since the IGM, discussions between SPREP, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), UNCED Secretariat and UNDP have highlighted the need for collaboration to assist PIDCs in preparing for UNCED. The ADB and UNDP have subsequently mobilised sufficient funds to enable SPREP to provide the necessary technical assistance.

The First Steering Committee Meeting, 29-30 January 1991, Suva, comprising SPREP, ADB and UNDP discussed the objectives and modalities of the technical assistance.

The objectives of the technical assistance are to:

- (i) assist PIDCs in the preparation of National Reports for UNCED
- (ii) expand the UNCED report guidelines to encompass the analysis of national and regional economic policies in the South Pacific.
- (iii) analyse the required inputs for effective and timely implementation of recommended environmental management measures and related economic policy adjustments.

National Reports on environment and development will be prepared by each participating country with the assistance of SPREP and these reports will form the foundation of regional preparations for UNCED in the South Pacific. The reports will be based on information available from country environmental profiles, environment action plans, Tropical Forest Action Plans, national conservation strategies, state of the environment reports, national

# THE PACIFIC VOICE

***At the last SPREP Inter-Governmental Meeting, Noumea 25-28 September 1990, member governments of SPREP reached a consensus on the importance of UNCED and supported the strategy for South Pacific input to UNCED as proposed by the Secretariat. This strategy involved providing technical assistance to Pacific Island Developing Countries (PIDCs) for the preparation of National Reports and from these preparation of a Regional Report on Environment and Development in the South Pacific for presentation to UNCED.***

development plans, sector strategies and strategies of international agencies and funding organisations, as well as topic studies to be prepared under the technical assistance. The National and Regional Reports will also identify the areas in which the environment and development issues at the national and regional levels affect, or are affected by, conditions at the regional and global levels - areas which are expected to be addressed by UNCED.

National Task Forces will be established to co-ordinate the preparation of National Reports. The composition of these Task Forces should reflect the cross-section of environment and development interests within the country including community groups. National Workshops will be held, as appropriate, with the assistance of SPREP to finalise the National Reports before 31 July 1991.

Regional Workshops will be held to bring together the National Reports and to draft the Regional Report. Donors and interested international agencies will be invited to participate in the Regional Workshops. The first of these is intended to be held in Suva 4-6 June, 1991. From this Regional Workshop an indicative outline of the Regional Report will be presented to the SPREP Ministerial Meeting in Tahiti, July 1991.

Mr Gerald Miles from Canberra Australia is the Project Officer for South Pacific Preparations for UNCED. He has many years of professional experience in resource management and more recently the United Nations System. As one of the most recent additions to SPREP, he is looking forward to meeting and working with you all as we prepare for Brazil 1992. ■



# RETA RIDES ALONG



**South Pacific Countries are unique and share a number of common characteristics. On the one hand they generally have a small land area which is sensitive to ecological disturbance and on the other hand these countries have an economic dependence on the use of natural resources.**

**T**hese countries are now facing problems of increasing populations, rising material expectations and demands for economic growth, and the gradual depletion or degradation of their already limited renewable natural resource base.

There is an increasing awareness amongst Pacific Island governments of these problems and that environmental management and economic development are inextricably linked. Economic development activities in the region have increased in momentum with significant environmental effects on the limited resource base of island ecosystems. Many development projects for tourism, urban expansion, industries, forestry and agriculture have had major environmental impacts that could have been minimised or avoided by the use of environmental planning and management methods.

### *The Need for a Pacific Response*

There is increasing understanding, both in the Pacific and throughout the world, that environmental management needs to be addressed in a systematic manner and that it also needs to be linked closely with economic development. There is also a recognition that any response to environmental issues needs to be tailored to the

unique social and environmental conditions that exist in the Pacific

Most Pacific countries have responded by developing legislation and establishing government agencies with responsibilities for environmental management. However, these agencies are often small, underfunded and at the periphery of government decision making, particularly in relation to economic development projects. Countries need assistance to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of their evolving programmes and to ensure that policies and programmes are addressing priority environmental issues. There is also a need to build up in-country skills in the area of environmental management through training in such areas as Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

### *The Response - The Regional Environmental Technical Assistance (RETA)*

A Regional Environmental Technical Assistance (RETA) has been developed to address these and other issues in the Pacific. This is a two and a half year project which is funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), with other inputs from SPREP, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and the East-West Centre.

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An important principle in the implementation of RETA is ownership - that the governments and people of each country have to be closely involved in the process and the specific activities of RETA. The RETA must adequately reflect the needs and aspirations of each country.

Implementation is now well underway. The Team Leader RETA, Mr David Sheppard, has now started at SPREP. Dave was previously Manager, Natural Resource Management Division NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. He has visited all of the RETA countries and detailed Workplans have been developed for each country setting out tasks, responsibilities and timeframes. The focus of RETA in 1991 will be on the development of NEMs in each country, the focus in 1992 and 1993 will be on the implementation of training programmes and environmental projects.

**NB: A similar project has recently been initiated under UNDP funding to cover other countries. This will involve the preparation of National Environment Management Strategies for Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Samoa.**

**Team Leader is Ms Neva Wendt who is well known throughout the region through her previous involvement with SPREP. ■**

The objectives of RETA are to:

- \* develop National Environment Management Strategies for the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands and Tonga.
- \* provide appropriate training to support planning and implementation of environmental management programmes in Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands and Tonga, Vanuatu and Western Samoa.
- \* strengthen the capabilities of SPREP to provide support to member governments in the environmental management area.

Implementation of the RETA will involve a number of steps in each country. These will include: establishment of a high level Taskforce; the employment of Local Consultants; preparation of a State of the Environment Report; preparation of Sector Reports; review of the adequacy of existing environmental legislation; review of infrastructure requirements for environmental management; implementation of National Seminars; and the preparation of a National Environment Management Strategy (NEMS).

The major outcome from the RETA will be the preparation of a NEMS for each country. This document will set out the primary environmental issues in each country and practical programmes for addressing them. It will also identify priorities for environmental management training which will be implemented as part of the RETA.

## EDUCATION ON THE MOVE



**Education and training are an essential component on the SPREP Action Plan. Learning about the environment is a lifelong process and involves all groups in the community, not only those involved with formal education. Increased knowledge and understanding of environmental issues will enhance the management of resources and environment in the region.**

**S**PREP's new Environmental Education Officer Ms Lesley Murdoch was Community Education and Information Officer for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in Townsville, before joining SPREP early this year.

The major focus of the Education Programme in 1991 will be the organisation of a number of in-curriculum workshops to assist in teacher training for environmental education funded by ICOD, AIDAB and UNEP. Preparations are well on the way for Vanuatu in August and Western Samoa in September. Workshops in Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Marshall Islands are also being planned.

Following the successful regional media workshop held in Western Samoa July 1990, in-country follow up workshops are planned for FSM and Marshall Islands in October and Cook Islands later this year. Another media regional workshop is planned for early 1992 February/March dependent on donor funding. Countries interested in hosting this should contact SPREP.

SPREP will also continue to support the development and publication of materials on environmental issues, particularly resources on climate change which is the focus on this year's World Environment Day. New initiatives are being considered for raising community environmental awareness through the arts, theatre, music and the media.



# CLIMATE CHANGE



Scientists who assisted and advised the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), have stated, with certainty that human-induced emission of greenhouse gases will result in global warming. The consequence of this phenomena does concern the whole of the South Pacific region, especially the rise in sea level and concomitant loss of low-lying costal areas, changing patterns of rainfall, an increase in the frequency and severity of events such as tropical cyclones and the possible extinction of species.

In addition, agriculture, forestry, economic activities, health and water quality will be vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise. Due to the physiographic, ecological and socio-economic characteristics of the South Pacific Islands, the Climate Change could pose more serious impact here than in other parts of the world.

Additional global changes, such as earthquakes, volcanoes and tectonic plate movements may have implications for the region.

In March this year, 1991, the SPREP secretariat welcomed on board its Climate Change Officer, funded by Australian International Development Assistant Bureau (AIDAB) Australia, Dr Chalapan Kaluwin from Papua New Guinea. Dr Kaluwin lectured in the chemistry department at the University of Papua New Guinea for 5 years and has been actively involved in the SPREP programme re-

garding environmental pollution activities, issues and management for 4 years. The climate change officer's position is to co-ordinate activities of the AIDAB funded "South Pacific Climate Change and Sea Level Rise monitoring project". In addition the officer is responsible to all SPREP member countries and territories concerning Climate Change and other related activities.

It is the aim of the SPREP Secretariat (Climate Change Officer) to develop and implement a regional programme and objectives to assist, avoid or mitigate the potential adverse impacts of global environment changes, especially climate change and sea level rise. The secretariat will contribute to all international efforts to limit human-induced climate change through necessary measures.

The following activities for the programme are planned for 1991 - 1992.

- **Preparatory country missions**

8 preparatory country missions have been financially approved by UNEP and include, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Palau, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Western Samoa. The ASPEI scientist/consultants will take the lead in these missions.

- **Advice to the National Environmental committee of Vanuatu on Specific policies plans etc. of Climate Change**

- **Site specific studies on Tonga**

The study of the potential Impacts of climate change in Tonga.

- **Public awareness Seminar**

Public seminars will be conducted in SPREP regions which are not included in the preparatory missions. The time table will be co-ordinated through the focal points in their respective countries.

- **SPREP Workshop on climate change activities to be held in Noumea, early January/February 1991**

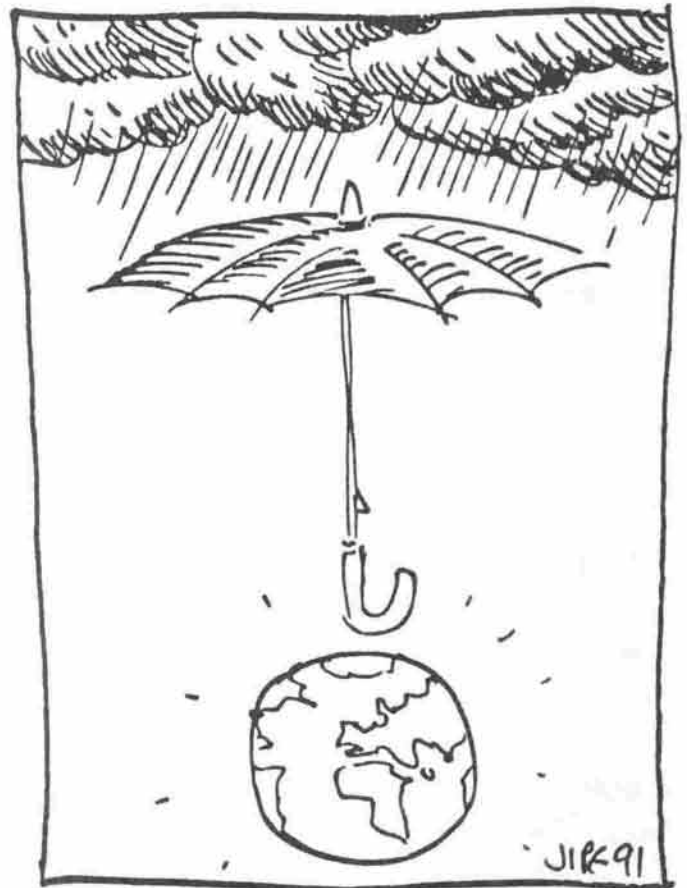
This is an international workshops where by international, regional and country participants will be invited to take part. The workshop will run closely to the programme of the International Programme of Climate Change (IPCC) with application to the South Pacific Islands.

The workshop is targetted at the policy makers and planners for the governments of the SPREP region.

To anyone interested or concerned about the global change consequences on the Pacific region, publications are available on request from SPREP. The following have already been distributed distrited to SPREP Focal Points in each country.

**A Climate of Crisis - Global warming and the Island South Pacific** - by Peter Hulm (ASPEI) 1989.

**Implications of expected climate changes in the South Pacific region: an overview** - edited



PROTEGEONS NOTRE PLANETE

by Pernetta, J.C. and Hughes P.J., 1990.  
**Potential Impacts of Greenhouse gas generated climatic changes and projected sea-level rise on Pacific states of the SPREP region** by ASPEI task team, 1988.

**Impact Assessment of Climate Change - IPCC**, Report of working group II, 1990.

**Climate change, the IPCC Response Strategies** - IPCC report of working group III, 1990.

**Climate change, the IPCC Scientific Assessment** - IPCC report of working group I, 1990.

**Global warming - related effects on Agriculture and human health and comfort in the South Pacific** - prepared by ASPEI task team, 1990. ■

# MOSTLY MARINE



Mr Paul Holthus, the SPREP Project Officer (Scientist) started with the programme in early 1986, a time of renewed efforts to firmly establish the presence and scope of the young programme as the region's environmental co-ordinating unit and clearinghouse. With a background in marine ecology and coastal resource management, specialising in coral reefs, Paul relinquished a PhD programme at James Cook University, (Townsville, Australia) looking at the effects of terrestrial sedimentation on coral reefs to join the SPREP team under its then-new co-ordinator, Iosefatu Reti. Having been raised in and around the Pacific (Hawaii, California, Philippines), Paul had previously completed a Master's degree at the University of Hawaii and came to the programme with a background of field research and studies in Hawaii, Tuvalu, FSM, Guam, Kiribati, Tahiti and Fiji.

The post of SPREP Project Officer (Scientist) was established in the early days of SPREP with the support of the UNEP Oceans and Coastal Areas Programme, which was at that time providing the bulk of the project support funding for the programme. Much of the early focus of the scientific aspect of SPREP was on coastal and marine pollution research and monitoring, as this was the emphasis of UNEP's support to the region. However, in keeping with the catalytic role of UNEP's involvement in the programme, the areas covered by the scientific officer have expanded considerably and the position is now part of the core SPREP staff supported by contributions from SPREP member governments. This reflects the efforts of the SPREP Secretariat staff to broaden the scope of the programme's activities to implement the comprehensive mandate of the SPREP Action Plan.

Paul has thus been covering SPREP programme areas of coastal management and planning, climate change and sea level rise, marine pollution monitoring and control, pollution emergency response and planning, environmental impact assessment and environmental contaminants. Three of these important areas Climate Change, Environment Impact Assessment and Environmental Contaminants will have additional staff officers appointed to SPREP this year.

In covering so many bases for SPREP, much of Paul's effort has been juggling activities and priorities to keep all of these portions of the programme moving. At the same time, considerable attention has been given to generating the technical and financial resources to more fully develop these areas into throughout, fully operational aspects of the programme. In particular, this has included liaison with the universities and research institutions in the region and fund raising and joint programming with international agencies and donor countries.

In keeping with the view of the SPREP Secretariat as a technical secretariat to the region, Paul also continues to provide his expertise to the governments through SPREP. This includes undertaking marine environmental field surveys for coastal planning and marine park development, developing coastal management plans with government departments, conducting preliminary Environmental Impact Assessments of development projects and organising and conducting training courses in coastal management planning and EIA.

With the ever growing attention being given to environmental issues in the region and around the world, SPREP staff have increasingly been called upon to provide the liaison and co-ordination for the South Pacific with international de-



velopments. For Paul, this has meant a considerable commitment of time and effort in organising, administering and backstopping the representation of the region at meetings on climate change, marine pollution and coastal and marine resource management in particular. In addition, along with

the SPREP officers who have been with the programme for a while, the Project Officer (Scientist) has been closely involved in the efforts to further the overall development of SPREP and realise its potential in addressing the region's environmental needs. ■

# CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT



**Peter Thomas first came to the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme in 1985 when he organised the Third South Pacific National Parks and Reserves Conference in Apia 1985. He has a BCA Victoria University and a MSc Resource Management Canterbury University.**

**H**e spent 17 years working in natural resource management in New Zealand including time with the Nature Conservation Council and the National Parks and Reserves Authority.

He returned to SPREP in August 1986 to handle the Biodiversity Conservation Programme of SPREP. In addition he deals with governmental management planning policy and the development of National Conservation Strategies.

Currently Peter is working on the Implementation of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas developed at the Fourth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas held in Port Vila in September 1990 which was attended by governments, NGO's and international conservation organisations.

One important task is the implementation of the Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme which has been supported financially by ICOD and the Australian government.

This involves developing a regional data base, organising a three year programme of survey and tagging in selected Pacific countries and promoting education and conservation management at the national level.

Other programmes being developed include the regional programme on avifauna and the regional Marine Mammals Programme

Specific species conservation projects underway in the region are the Cagou in New Caledonia, and the Kakerori Project in Cook Islands.

Working with UNDP, a major programme for the Conservation of the Bio Diversity of the South Pacific is being developed for funding under the Global Environment Facility. They will give much needed impetus to these activities in the region.

In the Solomons, we are working to provide policy and legislation recommendations for the management of the wildlife trade in that country. SPREP has an Australian Volunteer, Ms Tanya Leary, working with the Environment and Conservation Division for this purpose.

Other Volunteers with SPREP are located in Western Samoa and Vanuatu. Steve Brown who is working on environmental education, National Park Management and assessment of the status of species in Western Samoa.

Jenny Whyte, working with the Environment Division in Vanuatu, is assisting with the co-ordination of the Vanuatu National Conservation Strategy being developed this year. ■



# REGIONAL REVIEW

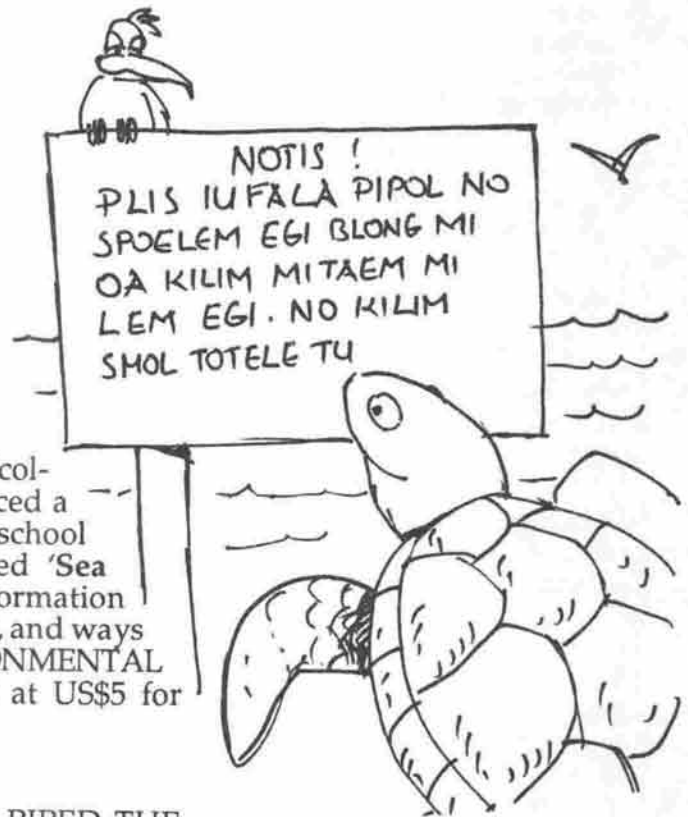
## TURTLES

### Turtle Survey Training Programme

In March, two trainees from Papua New Guinea (Mr Rai Vui) and the Solomon Islands (Mr Peter Romohia) attended a two week training Programme at Herron Island on the Great Barrier Reef. This was organised by Mr Peter Thomas from SPREP in conjunction with Dr Col Limpus from the Queensland Department of Environment and Conservation.

### News Alert on Sea Turtles

The South Pacific Action Committee for Human Ecology and the Environment (SPACHEE) has produced a News Alert on Sea turtles aimed at secondary school students and the general public as well. Entitled 'Sea Turtles: Endangered and Exploited' it contains information on the life style of turtles, threats to their existences, and ways to save them. Available from the SPACHEE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE CENTER, P.O. Box 1168, Suva, Fiji at US\$5 for buyers overseas, F\$2 for local students.



### ON LELATA BRIDGE RIVER, THE DAY THEY PIPED THE WATER FOR HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER

#### Lament

##### Part I

*I remember you  
dawdling down, dragging  
your pebble-heavy feet:*

*We used to slide down  
your flat slippery chest  
wiping your sweat  
off our faces  
rippling with joy:*

*Sometimes I'd take  
some of your pebbles  
home, or the firewood  
you brought  
just to please  
my parents.  
The trees and rushes  
giggled at your  
cool touch!*

*I never guessed  
your age; perhaps  
only the sad-eyed  
rocks that time  
your path could tell*

##### Part II

*Today I attended  
your funeral:  
I watched your body  
crammed into  
your iron tomb;  
but alas,  
our friends  
the trees, the shrimps and fish;  
and the pebbles  
have fallen on the way  
and could not make it  
here with me!*

*The thirsty and hungry  
have perished;  
The link in nature  
shattered.*

*The flowers, perfume to  
your rolling innocent face  
drowned  
in the valley of bitching iron pipes  
and shame!*

*Oh how I wish  
I had understood  
you are life  
to the trees,  
the pebbles, the fishes.*

*the birds, the earth  
and I,  
drifting away  
in the rushing development  
storm of modern man!*

**Ruperake Petaia**

Samoan Observer  
7 November 1990.

## KOMARINDI

"A concept plan for an integrated hydro-electric development scheme and conservation reserve for the Komarindi River Catchment Area, Guadalcanal Province Solomon Islands".

In April 1991, SPREP, following a request from the Solomon Islands Government (Ministry of Natural Resources) to prepare a concept plan for the Komarindi Catchment Area implemented its separate Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Conservation, New Zealand, and the New South Wales (Australia) National Parks and Wildlife Service government and assembled a small planning team. The team comprised Mr Peter Thomas, SPREP's Protected Areas Management Officer, Mr Neil Clifton, Manager Protection and Use, Department of Conservation, Hokitika, New Zealand and Mr Graeme Worboys, Regional Manager South-Eastern Region, New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service, Australia.

The team was assisted by Mr Nick Rogers of Tonki and Taylor International Ltd, the consulting firm which developed the feasibility study for the hydro-electric scheme.

The Komarindi Catchment is located well inland from Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands, and is part of the catchment of Guadalcanal's largest river, the Lungga river. The remote location of the site necessitated the planning team to use both helicopter and foot access. The team was impressed by the rugged beauty of the tropical forest landscape of Guadalcanal as well as the fauna present. The concept plan they prepared recommends a conservation reserve, nature tourism initiatives, and a close working relationship with the hydro-electric scheme development works



## CONGRESS ON COASTAL AND MARINE TOURISM

Do the environmental and social costs of tourism development outweigh the related economic gains? The challenges inherent in balancing resource conservation and economic development were the focus of the First International Congress on Coastal and Marine Tourism, held during 25-31 May, 1990, at the East-West Center, in Honolulu, Hawaii. The Congress was sponsored by four U.S. based institutions including: The University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Programs, the East-West Center, the National Coastal Resources Institute and the Pacific Basin Development Council.

Over one hundred and forty papers were presented by individuals from more than 30 countries, including representatives from government agencies, academic institutions, non-governmental organisations, private-sector businesses and private citizens. More than 200 participants exchanged ideas and shared examples of various activities and approaches used for managing coastal and marine resources within the tourism sector, from operating resorts and recreation businesses to establishing parks and protected areas.

The Congress concluded that the major approaches to balancing resource conservation and economic development through coastal and marine tourism comprised the following:

- 1) developing new models to establish limits of acceptable environmental and social change;
- 2) involving local communities in the national tourism planning process;

- 3) incorporating educational activities in all phases of tourism development; and
- 4) establishing parks and protected areas along with management guidelines to limit use impacts.

Current trends in global coastal and marine tourism development identified by the Congress included:

- 1) the emergence of "eco-tourism" in newly developing countries;
- 2) an increase in cultural and environmental sensitivity displayed by visiting tourists;
- 3) an expansion of high-quality and speciality tourist attractions;
- 4) a shift by some corporate developers toward developing tourist attractions which protect, rather than destroy natural resource bases;
- 5) a proliferation of non-governmental organisations involved in environmental protection as a result of past inadequate governmental management of tourism growth; and
- 6) an increase in governmental control of tourism development to protect fragile environments and to avoid destructive impacts witnessed in the past.

The proceedings will be available from Dr. Marc Miller, Institute of Marine Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195.

Meriweher Wilson-Molina  
Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia

MA PETITE PLANETE ...

JE T'AME ..  
BEUCOUP ..  
à LA FOIE ..



91. 1989

## WWF'S NEW SOUTH PACIFIC PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR



"I must go down to the sea again" is probably the quote that best sums up Peter Hunnam, the new Co-ordinator of WWF International's South Pacific Programme, outposted to Sydney, Australia. For most of his adult life, Peter Hunnam has been working and studying by, on and under the sea.

Having obtained a BSc in biology at the University of East Anglia, UK, he went on to work as an ecology tutor at the Dale Fort Field Centre, specialising in inter-and-subtidal ecology, and planning marine nature reserves.

He helped to found the Marine Conservation Society which mobilised scuba divers as a body of underwater naturalists throughout Britain.

Gaining a Churchill Fellowship in 1974 allowed Peter Hunnam to take a four-month trip studying marine conservation programmes in the US, the Caribbean, Hawaii and Japan. This was followed by five years with a private consulting firm, working in the Middle East on ecological surveys, water quality projects and setting up public aquaria. He used this experience to write a book in 1981, "The Living Aquarium", describing the technology and ecology of fresh-and-seawater aquaria.

Getting back to the sea in a practical way, Peter Hunnam then joined the 'Sindbad Voyage' - sailing a replica tenth-century Arab dhow along the old trade route from Oman to China. He stayed for part of the journey co-ordinating scientific projects in Sri Lanka and Sumatra.

In 1982, Peter Hunnam moved to Australia to work for the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, and he has spent the last six years based in Cairns, managing the northern part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, the offshore islands and the coastal, rain-forested National Parks.

Peter Hunnam is looking forward to the challenge of his new post. "The South Pacific region covers a huge area of the world's surface-mostly seawater, and this maritime aspect fascinates me, of course, but it also contains an enormous diversity of cultural, political,

biological and geographical elements. I'll have the chance to foster conservation in some 20 countries with a great spread of habitats".

He also feels he has joined WWF at an important time. "The South Pacific is still unspoilt. The next few years will be critical for encouraging conservation, and WWF is in a very good position to mobilise effective projects in the region"

Reprinted from WWF Features February 1991

"Sea Fever" takes over the South Pacific, by Jenny Shepherd. ■



# WWF

# NEW ENVIRONMENT POSTERS

## • CORAL REEF POSTERS

SPREP has produced a new series of its popular poster, PROTECT OUR CORAL REEFS. THEY ARE IMPORTANT TO OUR WAY OF LIFE, in a number of island versions including Palau, Marshall Islands, Tokelau and for Papua New Guinea, Motu and Pidgin message. These posters have been sent directly to the SPREP Focal Points in each country for local distribution.

## • FIJI'S NATIONAL HERITAGE POSTERS

Fiji has launched its heritage poster series based on a landscape and wildlife theme, with four stunning full colour bilingual posters featuring Taveuni Island, Manucas Islands, Sigatoka Sand Dunes and the Crested Iguana. Each school, government and non-government agencies in Fiji will receive copies and the balance will go on sale in retail outlets to fund future topics in the series, including the marine environment. For further information please contact Stuart Chape Dept. of Town and Country Planning, P.O. Box 2350, Government Buildings, Suva, Fiji.

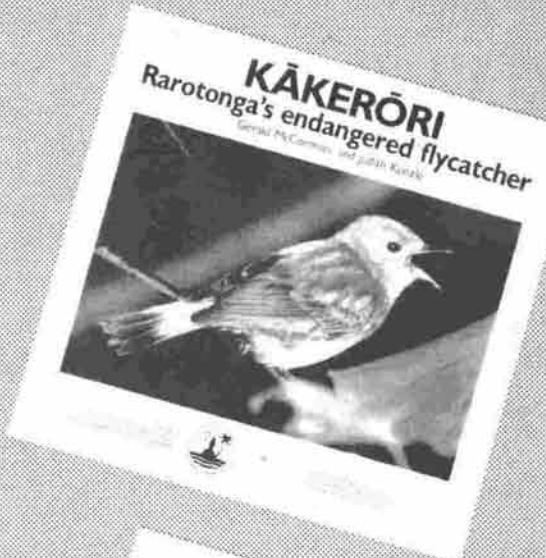
## • NATIONAL HERITAGE SERIES - COOK ISLANDS

Three publications on the Cook Islands Wildlife, funded from a grant by SPREP, were launched in February this year. They consist of a colour booklet on Rarotonga's endangered fly catcher, the Kakerori and informative posters covering sea birds of Takutea and Suwarrow atolls, and Rarotonga's Cloud Forest. Produced by artist Judith Kunzle and Wildlife Officer Gerald McCormack, proceeds from the booklet and posters go into the National Heritage Fund trust to assist with further developments concerning the Cook Islands Wildlife, including other publications.

## Seabirds of Takūtea and Suwarrow



Two seabird species, the booby and the frigatebird, are the only seabirds to nest on the ground. The booby is a large bird with a long neck and a hooked beak. The frigatebird is a large bird with a long neck and a hooked beak. Both species are found on the islands of Takutea and Suwarrow. The booby is a large bird with a long neck and a hooked beak. The frigatebird is a large bird with a long neck and a hooked beak.



# CONFERENCES

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES FOR EDUCATORS**

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Cairns Environmental Education Conference  
31st May - 3rd June

Introduction to Environmental Education, an integrated approach, values clarification, teaching techniques and strategies, practical resources, teaching controversial issues, computer conferencing, women and the environment.

John McIntyre  
Dept of Education  
P.O. Box 65  
Smithfield 4878  
North Queensland  
Australia  
Ph. 070 559300  
Fax 070 521064

## **THE PACIFIC CHILD : BUILDING BRIDGES FOR THE FUTURE**

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8th Annual Pacific Educational Conference Majuro, Marshall Islands  
July 29, 30, 31, 1991

Hosted by the Marshall Islands Ministry of Education co-sponsored by the college of the Marshall Islands, the Ministry of Interior and Outer Island Affairs, Majuro Local Government, Majuro Chamber of Commerce, and the Pacific Region Educational Laboratory (PREL), a nonprofit corporation for educational research and improvement, serving Pacific children and educators in American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap), Guam, Hawaii, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau.

PREL CONFERENCE  
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1409  
Honolulu, HI 96813 USA  
Fax: (808) 532-1922

## **ASIAN PACIFIC CO-OPERATION AND CONSTRAINTS IN THE YEAR 2000**

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East-West Center Association  
July 17-20 1991 Bangkok

The role of women in regional development global environmental and resource issues, communication and cultural change, challenges for education and training.

East-West Center Alumni Office  
1777 East-West Road  
Honolulu  
Hawaii 96848  
Ph. 808-944-7201  
Fax. 808-944-7970

## GARDENS BY THE SEA

---

National Marine Educators Conference  
August 4-10, 1991

Rutgers University  
Cook Campus  
New Brunswick  
New Jersey

Science, technology and society, aquaculture, marine fisheries, artificial reefs, habitat conservation, environmental problems.

Mary K. Masterton  
45 Emerson St  
Carteret  
NJ07008  
USA

## SOUTH PACIFIC ENVIRONMENTS : INTERACTIONS WITH WEATHER AND CLIMATE

---

Conference Centre, University of Auckland, New Zealand  
Meteorological Society of New Zealand  
2-6 September 1991

NB. Participants from small island States in the South Pacific may be eligible for some degree of financial assistance.

Mrs Ria Boeinghoff  
Environmental Science  
University of Auckland  
Ph. (649) 737 999  
Ext. 8437  
Fax: (649) 302 0259

## CONSERVATION BIOLOGY IN AUSTRALIA AND OCEANIA

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University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia  
September 30th to October 4th 1991

Hosted by the Centre for Conservation Biology, University of Queensland and Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Ecosystem conservation, land degradation and restoration, marine conservation, habitat fragmentation, introduced species, genetic resources and taxonomy conservation biology in Oceania.

Dr Peter Hale  
Centre for conservation biology  
University of Queensland  
Australia 4072  
Ph. 07-3651391  
Fax: 07-3651655

## CARING FOR OUR COASTLINES - FROM KELP TO CORAL

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Sydney University October 4th-7th 1991

Marine Education Society of Australasia

MESA Conference  
P.O. Box 114  
Queenscliff 3225  
Victoria  
Australia  
Ph. (052) 520111  
Fax: (052) 520270

**JOINING HANDS FOR QUALITY TOURISM : INTERPRETATION,  
PRESERVATION, AND THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY**

---

Third Global Congress of Heritage  
Interpretation International

Honolulu Hawaii 3-8 November 1991

Ray Tabata  
University of Hawaii  
Sea Grant Extension Service  
1000 Pope Rd  
HL 96822  
Ph. (1-808) 956-8191  
Fax: (1-808) 956-2558

**REGIONAL SEMINAR ON PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM  
DEVELOPMENT IN PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES**

---

Tourism Council of the South Pacific 18-24 November Fiji.

Integration of tourism development and environment protection, socio-cultural impact of tourism.

Mr Malakai Gucake  
Director  
Tourism Council of the South Pacific  
P.O. Box 13119  
SUVA  
Fiji  
Ph: 679 - 315277  
Fax: 679 - 301995

**WESTERN PACIFIC REGIONAL ACOUSTIC CONFERENCE**

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Brisbane November 26, 27, 28, 1991  
Host: Griffith University

Progress in Acoustics  
Stream 1 - Acoustics Research and Development  
Stream 2 - Management of the Acoustic Environment Administration and Management of Community, Occupational  
and Transport Noise.

Conference Convenor  
P.O. Box 155  
North Quay  
Queensland 4002  
Australia  
Ph. (07) 227 6802  
Fax (07) 229 1575

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Original text : English

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